

# The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

**No. 99    Part II**

**[friendsoflafayette.org](http://friendsoflafayette.org)**

**December 2023**



AFL members gather in front of the Wren Building, located on the historic campus of the College of William and Mary. Constructed in 1695-1700, the Wren Building is the oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States and was visited by Lafayette in 1824.

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# Remembering Lafayette in Dutchess County

Based on a talk given by Bill Jeffway at Fishkill, New York

September 19, 2024 will mark the 200th anniversary of Revolutionary War Major General Lafayette's visit to Fishkill, part of a late-in-life "Farewell Tour" that lasted 13 months and included all 24 States. The question is: *should we recognize next year's anniversary, and if so, why?*

Let us consider an answer, through the lens of local history, where we find that admiration for Lafayette transcends not just centuries, *but social and economic class, faith, gender and race*. He inspired not only George Washington, but Indigenous Peoples, free and enslaved Blacks, the working class, women, defenders of Irish Catholics, US soldiers, generals...and US Congressmen. Let me explain.

In the nearby image of Daniel Nimham [a memorial statue], you see the face of an Indigenous Person who fought for the American cause. Lafayette was known for earning the trust and engaging the Oneida during the war. They called him, *great warrior*, in their native language, as a sign of respect.



*Daniel Nimham monument, Fishkill, New York*

For generations, many parents named their newborn son in honor of Lafayette. In 1783 Fishkill's Captain Comfort Ludington and wife Elizabeth named their newborn son, deLafayette Ludington. In 1827, Thomas and Jane Williams, a free Black couple in Union Vale named their newborn son Lafayette Williams. Lafayette Williams grew to serve, and die, in the Civil War in 1865, in the US Colored Troops. He is buried at the national cemetery in City Point, Virginia.

In 1854, two decades after Lafayette's death, Lafayette's name was invoked by voices for and against Catholic immigrants. The well-known historian, Jared Sparks with Hyde Park family ties, strongly asserted in national press that he knew from personal observation having lived with him for some time at his home, LaGrange, in France, *that Lafayette was tolerant of all faiths*.

In 1914, Red Hook's Victor Chapman joined what came to be called the Lafayette Escadrille, serving as a pilot in the early and emerging practice of armed airplanes at the outbreak of World War One. His untimely death in battle over Germany led to a eulogy at Lafayette's grave in Paris on July 4, 1916 – where Chapman's name was specifically linked to Lafayette as representative of the “good feeling between the sister republics.”

One year later – again at Lafayette's grave in Paris – on July 4, 1917 – US General Pershing and American troops rallied an American public skeptical of the recent US declaration of war on Germany – with the call that became the dominant theme in the war: “*Lafayette we are here!*” Poughkeepsie's American Legion Post is today called the Lafayette Post. It was founded and named by C. Fred Close upon his return from service in France in World War One.

In September 1918, women seeking a national right to vote assembled at Lafayette's statue in Lafayette Square across from the White House and got national attention saying, “*Lafayette, we are here! We, the women of the United States, denied the liberty which you helped to gain, and for which we have asked in vain for sixty years, turn to you to plead for us. Speak, Lafayette!*” By 1920 the amendment was adopted.

In 1958, local Congressman Hamilton Fish III created and led the *Order of Lafayette*, to recognize those who served as officers in France – in either the First or Second World War. Family members today report that Fish proudly told the story (especially to young people) that he had shaken the hand of his grandfather, who had shaken the hand of Lafayette during Lafayette's national tour.

For all the big plays on the global stage, as a hero of two worlds of both the American and French Revolutions, I believe what makes Lafayette distinct is his lifelong, persistent, intimate gestures: a tip of a hat, a bow of respect, a handshake, penning a letter of support, a gift as remembrance.

He kissed the hand of Marie Antoinette and calmed an angry crowd, at least for a time. Lewis Hayden credits his transition from enslaved Kentucky boy – to becoming a leading national Black abolitionist – to the recognition Lafayette bestowed on Hayden during his national tour.

Here in Fishkill, we find among the most beautiful examples of these intimate gestures, the desk Lafayette gave to the Brinkerhoff family during his 1824 visit, to thank them for nursing him from near death in October 1778. You can see it exhibited at the Van Wyck Homestead and Museum on weekends. I highly recommend it.





*Referred to as the “Lafayette desk” by the Brinkerhoff family who donated it to the Fishkill Historical Society in 2013. Recent research by both the Fishkill and Dutchess County Historical Societies tends to confirm the accuracy of what had prior only been oral tradition in the family: that it was a gift to the family from Lafayette during his September 1824 visit as a thank you for taking care of him during a life-threatening illness in October of 1778.*

I recently joined the American Friends of Lafayette, a historical and patriotic organization dedicated to the memory of Lafayette in the United States and France, and we are in the beginning stages of developing plans for the Bicentennial of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour. Please contact Arnold Restivo or me if you would like to be involved.



*DCHS Executive Director Bill Jeffway (left) and French Consulate of New York Deputy Consul General Damien Laban stand in front of the wreath placed at the Fishkill Lafayette monument during ceremonies. Contact Bill Jeffway or Arnold Restivo if you are interested in planning for the September 2024 bicentennial of Lafayette’s local visit.*





## **What's Wrong with this Portrait? (Lafayette at Yorktown by Le Paon)**

by John C. Becica

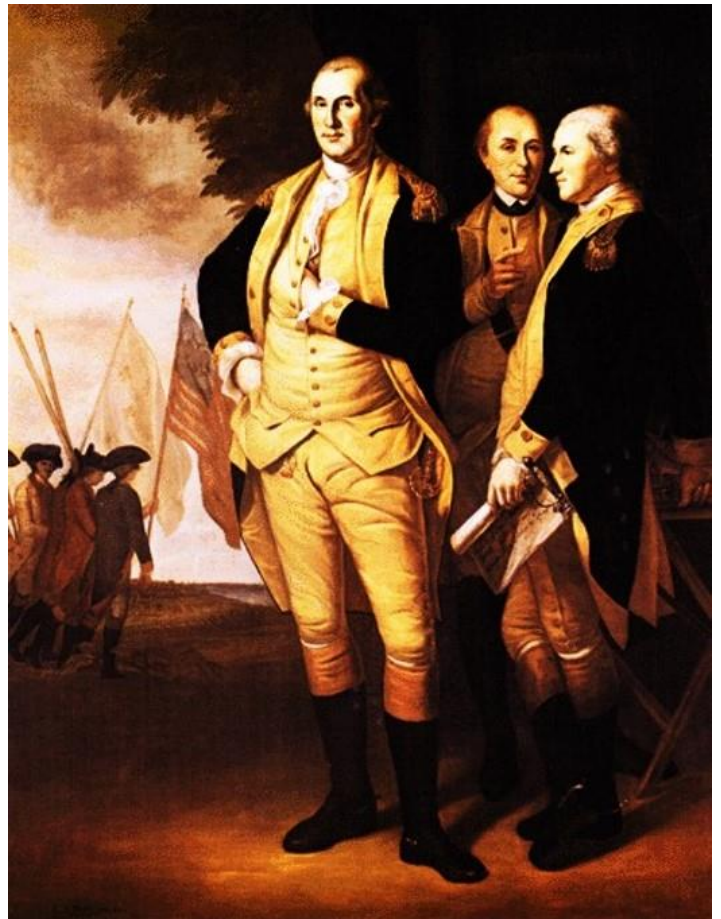


*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



There has been much recent discussion as to whether the black gentleman in this painting, *Lafayette at Yorktown* c. 1782 by Jean Baptiste Le Paon, is supposed to be James, an enslaved man in the William Armistead household in New Kent County, Virginia. James served as Lafayette's double-agent spy at Yorktown. While hundreds of authors out there claim it is James, an extensively researched article in this *Gazette* by David Felsen (No. 93, November 2020, pp. 97-101) found no primary evidence to support this. The man most probably was meant to depict a fancily dressed groom, and not James.

That issue aside, there is a larger, much more concerning problem with this painting. Take a look at the two portraits below. Compare the Le Paon work with *Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown* by Charles Willson Peale, 1784. Do you see the glaring problem with the Le Paon painting? The three figures in the Peale work are all wearing the buff and blue uniform of the Continental Army. The painting attributed to Le Paon depicts Lafayette in a uniform which did not even exist in 1782 when the work was supposed to have been created. (See Frick Collection provenance, below.) It is the French uniform of the Paris National Guard, a unit formed seven years later in 1789! Given that Le Paon died in 1785, four years before the uniform was designed and came into use, he could not have painted Lafayette wearing this uniform.



Regarding the French National Guard uniform: “Newly appointed commander Lafayette knew that imposing order on his militia was the first step to reestablishing order in Paris and he understood the role uniforms could play in that process. His elected Military Committee adopted a uniform as one of its earliest decisions, on 27 July [1789]. Parisian guardsmen would wear a blue coat with scarlet high collar, white cuffs, lapels and facings, scarlet piping and gold-colored buttons. Vest and breeches were white and a red, white, and blue cockade adorned the hat.”<sup>1</sup>



*French National Guardsman, 1789*



*Lafayette in his French National Guard Uniform*

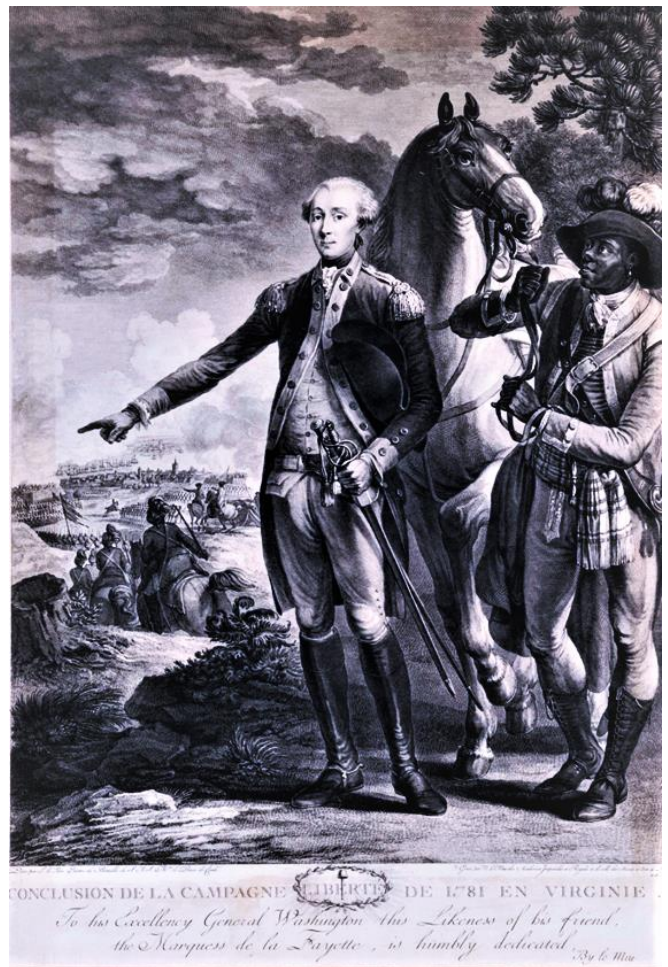
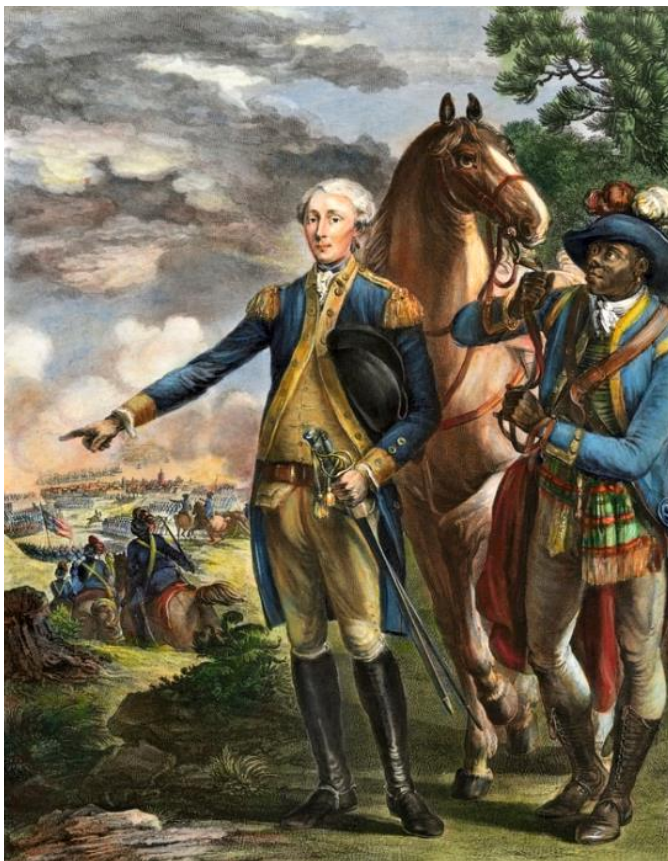
Obviously, Le Paon could not have painted Lafayette in a uniform which was not designed until after his death. Why would anyone, even a French painter, want to depict Lafayette, a Major General in the American Continental Army, at the Yorktown victory in French garb to begin with? Thus, we need to look at the provenance of this painting which has been recorded at the Frick Art Reference Library, part of the Frick Collection in New York City:

<b>Title</b>	Lafayette.
<b>Author/Artist</b>	<a href="#">Le Paon, Jean Baptiste, 1738-1785.</a> >
<b>Creation Date</b>	1782
<b>Description</b>	Graphic reproduction(s) with documentation of a painting. 30 1/2 x 29 in. oil on canvas.
<b>Provenance</b>	(h) Mlle de la F... (h) Douthitt Gallery; (h) M. Pierre de Nolhac; (h) sold by him to Mr. Rodman Wanamaker, Philadelphia (died March 9, 1928); (h) bequeathed by him to his son, Capt. John Wanamaker; (h) presented by him to a relative; (h) Mrs. John Hubbard, New York; (h) Lafayette College, Van Wickle Library, Easton, Pennsylvania.
<b>Current Repository</b>	Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, United States, public.
<b>Images</b>	Photograph, Ira W. Martin 18235 spoiled Frick Art Reference Library, New York (FARL) negative
<b>Sources</b>	(h) <a href="#">Information from Frick Art Reference Library Photoarchive.</a>



How did such an egregious error occur? Is this the original Le Paon painting, commissioned by Lafayette, or is it a copy? Is there an original stored away in a dusty attic somewhere (probably in France) that has not surfaced? Is there an original that has been destroyed? Did some clueless conservator overpaint this work with the wrong uniform? Could the painting have been intentionally altered to place Lafayette in his National Guard uniform?

Shown on the right below is an engraving by Noël Le Mire, dedicated to George Washington, that sources say was patterned after the original Le Paon painting. Notice the shape of the uniform in the black and white engraving. It conforms to the uniform of the Continental Army, most notably lacking the collar style of the National Guard Uniform. On the left below is shown a colored attempt at a duplicate of the Le Paon / Le Mire image by an unknown painter. In this case the artist depicts Lafayette in the correct uniform, but uses artistic license and alters the colors of the black servant's clothing.



*Le Mire engraving inscription enlarged to show detail*

Unfortunately, we will probably never know the answers to these questions concerning the painting that is supposed to be the original by Le Paon. Suffice it to say that, sadly, this image, as it has been depicted all over the internet, is historically incorrect.

And while we are at it, why is Lafayette holding two swords in all of these depictions?

### About the Author:

John Becica is a graduate of Lafayette College, a Life Member of the AFL, a Member of the Lafayette Alliance, Treasurer for the Lafayette Trail, Inc., and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Lafayette Alliance in LaGrange, Georgia recently published his 488-page book *Trail Tales, Chronicling Lafayette's Adventures During His 1824-1825 Triumphal Tour of America*, a fundraiser for the Alliance. It is available at [www.lafayettelagrange.org](http://www.lafayettelagrange.org)




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<sup>1</sup> Clifford, Dale L., "Can the Uniform Make the Citizen? Paris, 1789-1791," *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 3, *French Revolutionary Culture* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Spring, 2001), p. 369.

# Lafayette's Portrait in the Old Kentucky State Capitol at Frankfort

by Dale Henley

In preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to Lexington, I became acquainted with his life-size portrait which hangs in the House of Representatives Chamber of the Old State Capitol in Frankfort.

Lafayette's return visit to the United States was the grandest event ever witnessed in the country, and everyone wanted to see him. Resolutions of Kentucky's General Assembly in 1824-1825 not only invited the legendary Lafayette to Kentucky, but authorized then Governor Joseph Desha to request that he reserve time for a portrait to be painted by Matthew Jouett, then a well-known artist from Harrodsburg, Kentucky who had studied for several months under Gilbert Stuart at his studio in Boston. In a letter to Lafayette dated February 3, 1825, the Governor assured Lafayette that Jouett's "talent for painting, which is equaled only by the purity of his mind and urbanity of his manners, leaves no room for doubt, that should you yield to the wishes of the State, he will do ample justice to his subject."

While writing to Lafayette, the Governor also penned a letter of the same date to Jouett informing him that he was authorized to employ him to execute the portrait "as early as practicable," and suggesting that he travel to Washington where Lafayette was expected to remain through March. Jouett traveled to Washington only to miss his subject. Lafayette, always the courteous gentleman, presented a note to his good friend Henry Clay in which he apologized to Jouett and suggested that he begin the painting by studying a portrait of him (then exhibited in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol) which had been painted about 1819 by Ary Scheffer (1797-1858), a well-known Dutch-French artist and personal friend to Lafayette. Scheffer had gifted his work to the American Congress in honor of Lafayette's historic visit to America in 1824. In fact, the painting was brought to America aboard the *Cadmus*, the same American packet ship which earlier had returned Lafayette to America on August 15, 1824. Lafayette further promised Jouett that he would sit for him when he arrived in Kentucky so that he could "touch it up."

On Tuesday morning, May 17, 1825, subject and artist met in Lexington for about an hour. The finished painting shows Lafayette wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and gray fur coat while holding a hat and cane in his right hand. His left hand is neatly tucked into a pocket. His somber gaze is fixed ahead, and his body is slightly turned to his right. For background, Jouett placed Lafayette at Washington's tomb, a location which he visited on his return trip to Kentucky. The Jouett and the Scheffer paintings are very similar with the most notable difference being the background which, in the Scheffer painting, is unidentified and non-descript. And rather than simply "touch it up," as Lafayette had suggested, Jouett wrote to Governor Desha on November 15, 1825, that he had corrected "whatever had been superinduced by time, change of health, or other circumstances" while adding that, "The painting I could have made more splendid, had I preferred artifice to truth, or ornament to nature; but a master had gone before me, and I was determined to follow."



Jouett delivered his enormous painting measuring 72" by 104" in late November 1825. He was paid \$1,500 by the Kentucky Legislature. Jouett himself bought the frame. Lafayette's portrait hangs in nice company – with those of Washington and Daniel Boone. The Scheffer painting has hung continuously in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol since January 20, 1825, as so directed by Henry Clay.



*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

The author acknowledges the assistance and resources provided to him by the staff at both the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort and the Lexington Public Library (Kentucky Room).

### **About the Author**

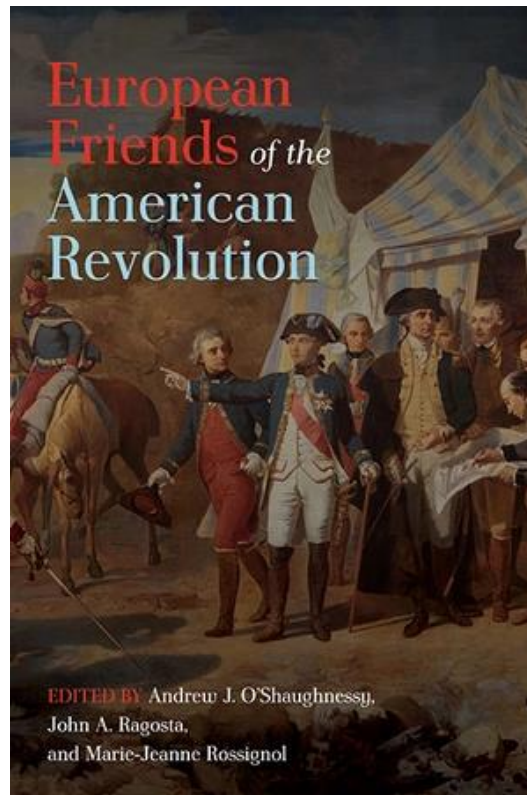
AFL member Dale Henley is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association's Ethics Committee and an Ethics Hotline Lawyer. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, and formerly General Counsel for East Kentucky Power where he worked for thirty years. He is a Vietnam War veteran and retired Navy Commander. His naval service includes serving as Assistant Naval Attaché in the US Embassy located in Rabat, Morocco.

Dale has a special interest in French General Lafayette's significant participation in America's War of Independence. He is the immediate past President of the Lafayette Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in Lexington, Kentucky.

## “Lafayette and the More Perfect Union”: Robert Rhodes Crout’s Mount Vernon Paper

by Alan R. Hoffman

*European Friends of the American Revolution*, edited by Andrew J. O’Shaughnessy, et.al. and published in 2023 by the University of Virginia Press, is a compendium of scholarly papers delivered at the Fred W. Smith National Library at Mount Vernon, Virginia in 2015. The conference was sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution, and the topic, “The Marquis de Lafayette and the European Friends of the American Revolution,” was selected to honor the arrival of the replica ship *Hermione* in America.



There are but two papers which are specific to Lafayette and his career. The more important one was written by Dr. Robert Rhodes Crout, the AFL’s President Emeritus. Titled “Lafayette and the More Perfect Union: Strengthening America in the Confederation Era, 1783-1789,” the paper addresses, and brings fresh insights to, Lafayette’s role in support of American interests in the period between the American and French Revolutions.

In his essay, Crout discusses both Lafayette’s support of American commercial interests in France, which the General saw as a means strengthening both countries and cementing their friendship, and his aggressive push for constitutional reform in America, in particular for a stronger, more effective central authority than the government under the Articles of Confederation. Into each of these arenas of Lafayette’s advocacy, Crout brings fresh insights and, in the latter case, fresh materials to bolster his case.

### **A. American Commerical Interests**

At a banquet held in Lafayette's honor in the unfinished rotunda of the University of Virginia on November 5, 1824, the fourth month of the Farewell Tour, Thomas Jefferson had his speech read for him due to his frail health. In it, Jefferson described Lafayette as "my most powerful auxiliary and advocate" in the effort to cement the friendship between the two nations when Jefferson represented America in France from 1784 to 1789. Famously, Jefferson said, with regard to the successes of American diplomacy, "I only held the nail, he drove it."

To nail down his point that during this period Lafayette was a persistent and effective lobbyist for American commercial interests, Crout cites materials accumulated in a lifetime of research and study of Lafayette. He begins with the 1783 memorandum that Lafayette addressed to French Foreign Minister, Vergennes, and the French Finance Minister. In it, Lafayette advocates for decreasing impediments to American trade in France and for opening up several French ports to American goods on a duty-free basis. Crout proceeds to detail Lafayette's continuing and persistent efforts, which were successful in whole or in part, to facilitate American trade in the critically important whale oil industry, as well as the American timber and tobacco industries. He also points out that Lafayette played a role in keeping in place the packet boat system of communication between the two countries and in securing reduced export fees on brandies and wines.

With regard to such accomplishments, Crout quotes Jefferson's 1786 letter to the Confederation Congress: "The assistance of M. de la Fayette in the whole of this business has been so earnest and so efficacious that I am in duty bound to place it under the eye of Congress, as worthy [of] their notice on this occasion."

### **B. Constitutional Reform in America**

Lafayette's experience with the frailty and ineffectiveness of the Confederation Government during the American Revolution made him, along with fellow Revolutionary leaders like Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Henry Knox, a strong supporter of reforming the American governmental structure so that it could effectively address issues of currency and international trade and, perhaps most importantly, internal and external security. The problem was, as Crout points out, that under the Articles of Confederation, which required unanimity for concerted action, sovereignty was invested in the states, not the central authority.

In his paper, Crout notes that "little has been written on Lafayette and his efforts to reform the American constitutional system." One reason for this is that "the fixation on Lafayette's role in the French Revolution has tended to miss his important role between the American and French Revolutions." In order to "address that lacuna," Crout offers a plethora of material on Lafayette's six-year campaign to encourage Americans to reform their constitution to strengthen the central authority, while confirming the human rights for which many of them fought.

The first shot in Lafayette's campaign was a private letter to American Secretary of Foreign Affairs Robert Livingston on February 5, 1783. "Let me tell you that our Articles of Confederation ought to be revised and measures immediately taken to invigorate the Constitutional union." In a letter to Greene, he called for what was in effect a constitutional convention. "I wish the states would appoint proper persons with instructions to meet in a few months, then to propose whatever amendments would insure a state of union, vigor, and independence." In a contemporaneous letter to Washington, one of many that Lafayette wrote to his paternal friend on the subject of constitutional reform, he urged him to use his influence "to strengthen the federal union."

During his four-and-a-half-month victory lap through ten states in 1784, Lafayette advocated for a stronger union among the states. This effort culminated in his address to the Confederation Congress in Trenton. There he said, in part, "I am happy to observe that prevailing disposition of the people to strengthen the Confederation, preserve public faith, regulate trade, and in a proper guard over Continental magazines and frontier posts, in a general system of militia, in foreseeing attention to the Navy, to insure every kind of safety."

In the years 1785-1787, Lafayette continued pressing his campaign in letters to Greene, Washington, Benjamin Franklin, who had returned to Pennsylvania, and John Jay. He also wrote John Adams, who was Minister to England, a letter in which he expressed a cautionary concern that the effort to strengthen the union would not encroach "on those rights which it is proper to leave within states so far distant, and so differently circumstanced." Crout describes this comment as "the first time Lafayette expressed concern for a balance."

Lafayette's plan to return to America in the Spring of 1787 – a trip on which it is likely he would have continued his effort to nudge his adoptive land to reform its governmental structure – was shelved when Louis XVI called for an Assembly of Notables. Therefore, Lafayette had to confine his continuing efforts to the mail. In 1787 when the Constitutional Convention met, he corresponded with Jay, Washington, Knox, and James Madison. Both Washington and Knox sent Lafayette a copy of the proposed constitution.

Lafayette had two serious concerns with the document. First, he believed that the position of president was too powerful. Second, the omission of a "declaration of rights" was problematic. He suggested that the American people could add a bill of rights to the document.

During the ratification process, Lafayette told Massachusetts Governor James Bowdoin and Jay that the constitution should be accepted before seeking amendments. He continued to press his friends for a "few amendments," perhaps prefiguring the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Crout concludes: Lafayette "had a significant though distant influence on the outcome [of constitutional reform] between 1783 and 1789. For six years, he had reminded Americans of what was at stake in reforming their government and strengthening their trade relations as well as their overall relationship." The evidence of Lafayette's advocacy with his influential friends and other Americans provides ample support for Crout's thesis.



# John Becica's *Trail Tales*, a Brief Book Review

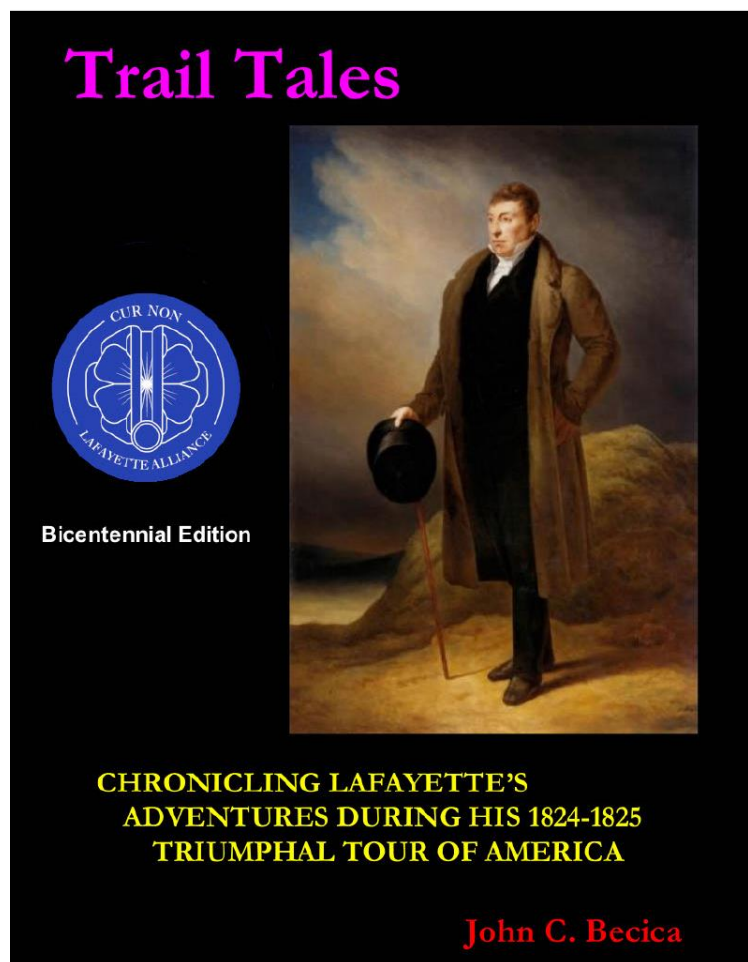
by Marilyn Hoffman

John Becica's new book, *Trail Tales Chronicling Lafayette's Adventures during his 1824-1825 Triumphal Tour of America*, weighs five pounds. Originally, I thought I would browse this large volume and read a few "Tales" and "Tidbits." However, I was so intrigued that I read the entire book – all 459 pages – in a week during my July vacation.

This book is delightful. It is chatty, anecdotal, and entertaining. It is perfect for today's reader, especially for the younger generation, because each story is short – one to five pages, with lots of visuals. Moreover, with large-print type, it is easy reading for seniors.

Becica has done a remarkable job of researching primary and secondary sources. In particular, he has located contemporaneous newspaper articles about Lafayette's visits as well as images for almost all of the people and places mentioned. The illustrations bring each "Tale" to life.

Together, these lively anecdotes of Lafayette's tour leave the reader, whether novice or expert, with a strong understanding of Lafayette's character, beliefs, and accomplishments. They also capture the many adventures on his remarkable tour of 24 states. I highly recommend this book to read, both for the pure fun of it and for the chance to seriously learn more about our favorite founder, Lafayette.



## About the Author of the Book Review

Marilyn Hoffman is a former art museum director, most recently of the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire. She currently is the Principal of Museum Search & Reference, a consulting firm that recruits museum directors and curators nationally. She is also the First Lady of the AFL.

## New Book Announcement

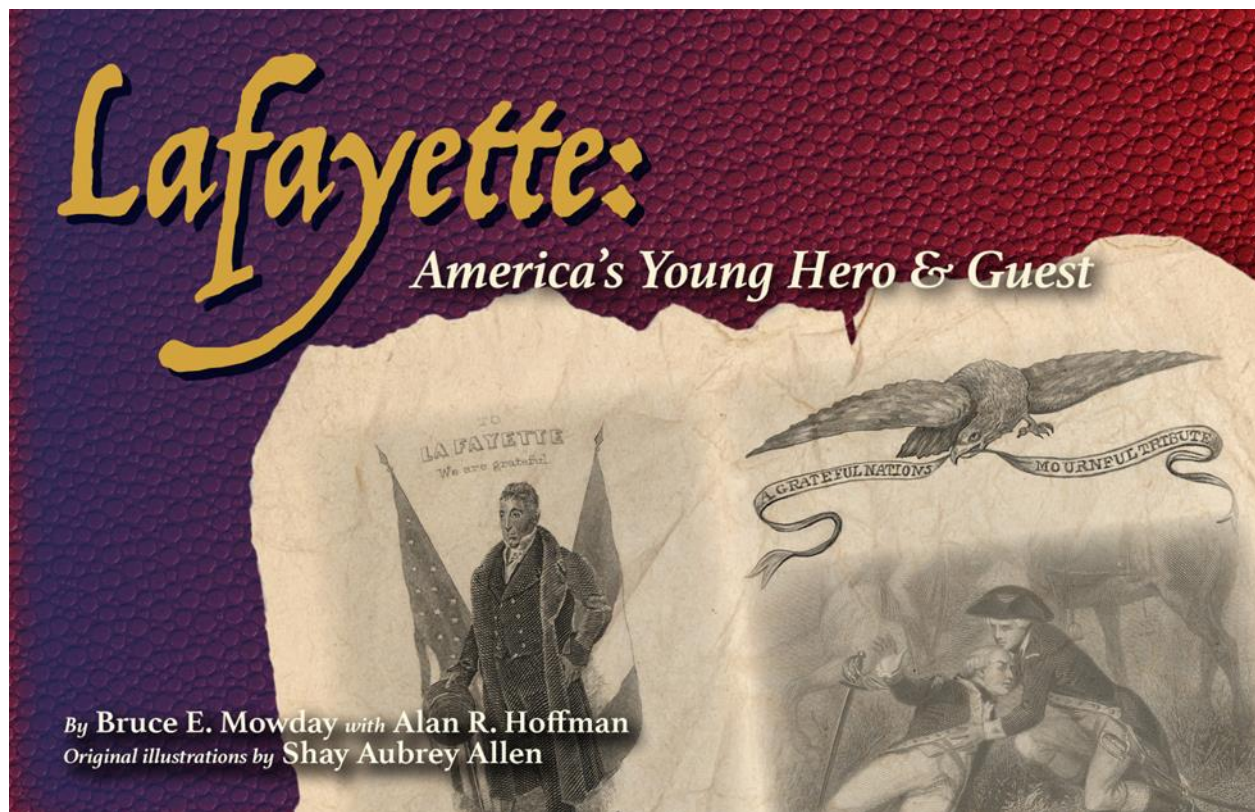
### *Lafayette: America's Young Hero & Guest*

by Bruce E. Mowday

More than a year ago, the Lafayette Bicentennial Brandywine Committee discussed ways to highlight Lafayette's life and importance to American freedom. During these discussions, it was noted that a non-fiction book on Lafayette's life was not readily available for students and young adults.

The committee decided to publish a book and contacted Alan Hoffman and Chuck Schwam of the American Friends of Lafayette concerning the project. The project was endorsed. My book *Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero* and Alan Hoffman's translation of Levasseur's *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825* were used to develop the text.

Also, Brandywine artist Shay Aubrey Allen contributed original sketches for the book. On April 28, 2023, the book *Lafayette: America's Young Hero & Guest* was released.





*Gilbert and Adrienne Lafayette – original illustrations by Shay Aubrey Allen*

The costs of the design and printing of the book were advanced by the publisher, Squire Cheyney Books and will be repaid from book sales. A majority of the profits, \$2 per book, is being returned to the AFL to be used to defray the costs of the bicentennial celebration.

The book has received many glowing comments. One adult reader wrote that she learned a lot about Lafayette!

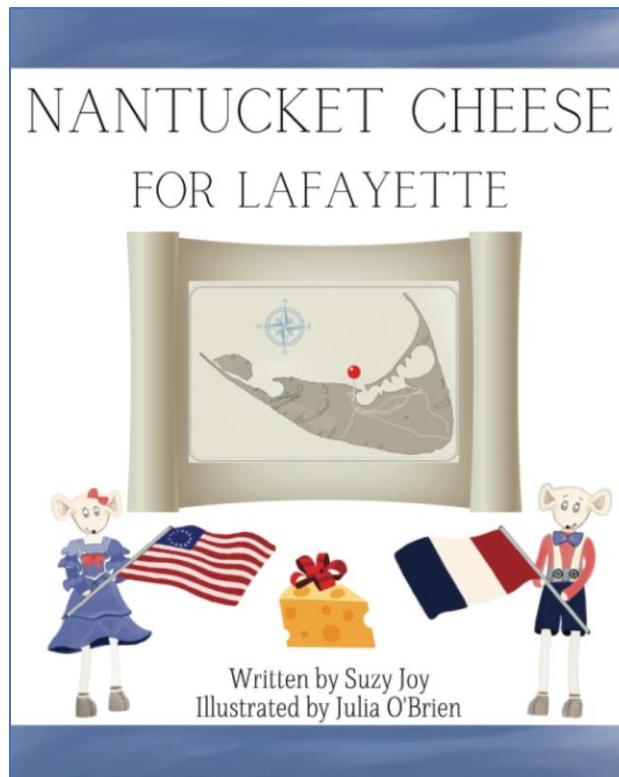
Several chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution are placing the book in school libraries and making it available to students. The authors thank the DAR for their support and are looking forward to working with other chapters and organizations.

The book's price is \$15.00. A discount is given for bulk purchases. For more information and to order books, contact Bruce Mowday at [mowday@mowday.com](mailto:mowday@mowday.com)



## *Nantucket Cheese for Lafayette*

by Susan Joy



I, Susan “Suzy” Joy, a longtime AFL member, was on a mission after AFL president, Alan Hoffman, shared with me one of his favorite stories about Lafayette. It’s a remarkable true story, described below, about how the people of the island of Nantucket thanked Lafayette with a 500-pound cheese! The story had previously been told in a children’s book in the 1950s. Unfortunately, the book has been out of print for many years with only a few copies in existence. After numerous, frustrating attempts to have the book republished, I decided to write my own version. And this time, with the help of a doll maker, I created Adrienne and James, the “house mice,” who narrate the story.

With the help and encouragement of fellow Lafayette authors including Libby McNamee, I decided to self-publish through KDP Amazon instead of hoping to get a contract with a publisher. My biggest hurdle then was finding an illustrator who could capture my vision in an educational book that would not only tell the story but also teach about the American Revolution and Lafayette’s early life. Thankfully, my niece, Julia O’Brien, who was attending the University of Wisconsin to earn her master’s degree while also working three part time jobs, agreed! Julia spent her midnight hours for three months straight to create the magical, whimsical images! Oh, to be young again! Together with the doll maker to design and produce the mice in record time, Julia and I made this incredible story even more delightful and ready for the lead up to the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour and America 250. At the last minute, I decided to use my childhood nickname “Suzy,” and I smile each time I sign a book for a child in my childhood name.

Lafayette saves the Island of Nantucket! The small Island of Nantucket depended on the whaling industry to support its economy. Unfortunately, its primary customer of the whale oil was Great Britain, so the American Revolution made sales nearly impossible and the island was destitute. Thankfully, after the war, Lafayette established favorable trading terms between America and France, and this allowed for the sale of Nantucket's whale oil to light the lamps of Paris! But how do you thank a Marquis and Major General of the American Revolution? Well, with a 500-pound cheese, of course, made from 100% Nantucket cow's milk donated by the islanders and then shipped to France to Lafayette and his wife Adrienne! Historical fiction told by two adorable House Mice! A book for all ages. Available at [www.LafayetteSavesNantucket.com](http://www.LafayetteSavesNantucket.com).



*Suzy Joy and Julia O'Brien  
at Sankaty Head Light, Nantucket*



*The House Mice, James and Adrienne*

### **Author's Note**

I was so fortunate to have my mother-in-law who is a retired NYC educator edit the book word-by-word and Alan Hoffman to fact check! I was thrilled to get an endorsement from other prominent authors and scholars including Diane Shaw, Martha Hall Kelly, and Stephanie Dray! *A labor of love and one that will benefit the AFL since a portion of the proceeds will go to fund the kickoff of the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour!*



## Dr. Colleen Shogan, Archivist of the United States

by Chuck Schwam

On September 11, 2023, AFL member Dr. Colleen Shogan was sworn in as the Archivist of the United States. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the National Archives. AFL members Bonnie Fritz, Chuck Schwam, and Rob Raffety were in attendance. Congratulations Dr. Shogan!!!



*Dr. Colleen Shogan is sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.  
Her husband, AFL board member Rob Raffety, looks on.*



*First Lady Dr. Jill Biden introduces Dr. Colleen Shogan as Archivist of the United States.*



*Bonnie, Colleen, and Chuck*



*Dr. Shogan addresses the attendees.*

# Member Spotlight: Jim Dillard

by Joyce Dillard and Chuck Schwam

Jim and his wife Joyce met in high school and dated for four years, getting married when he was 21. Joyce soon realized that Jim is an upbeat person who has a very strong will to succeed.

At age ten, he had to face life without a father when his dad died suddenly. Adding to that, he has battled being dyslexic, a condition which makes reading and math a life-long struggle. Jim beat the odds and graduated from William and Mary and went on to get his master's from American University. He continued to add to his knowledge by attending classes during the summers at Columbia, Emery, and Oxford in England.

After graduation, Jim became a Social Studies teacher in Fairfax County. In 1965, Jim was asked to enter the political arena and run for delegate to the Virginia General Assembly. Fairfax County was a single district then, and he came close, but lost by 96 votes out of 40,000 cast. He spent a total of \$569 on that campaign! He won the next time he ran in 1972 and served for over 30 years between that date and 2005.



*Chuck Schwam with Jim Dillard  
at Allman's Bar-B-Que in  
Fredericksburg, Virginia*



*Jim Dillard and his cat the  
Marquis de Lafayette*



*Jim Dillard was the AFL's  
honorary flagbearer at the 2023  
Yorktown Patriotic Exercises.*





*Jim Dillard addresses the gathered for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. AFL members Bob Kelly, Katherine Kelly, Robert Kelly, Bonnie Fritz, Chuck Schwam, and Christy Chen attended. They were joined by dignitaries including the former Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe!!!*

In 1966, Jim and Joyce moved to Georgia. Given a three-year grant, Jim was one of five teachers chosen to be a regional director for the Foreign Policy Association. He held workshops for teachers in 16 states promoting the study of foreign policy in high schools. After the grant ended, he returned to teaching Government in Fairfax and served as Chairman of the Social Studies Department.

In 1992, Jim suffered a stroke, but he continued his legislative duties while in the hospital and back in his office. He was determined to do this and was successful with the help of a great staff. The following is a list of only a few of the bills Jim pursued successfully which became law:

- The Soil Erosion Bill
- Virginia finally getting A Small Claims Court
- The Child Safety Seat Law
- Law Putting the General Assembly under The Freedom of Information Act
- The Bond Issue for Virginia State Parks

While in the Virginia General Assembly, Jim served as Chairman of the Education Committee and Chairman of the Education Subcommittee of Appropriations. He was on the Rules Committee, a conferee on the budget, and on the Privileges and Elections Committee.

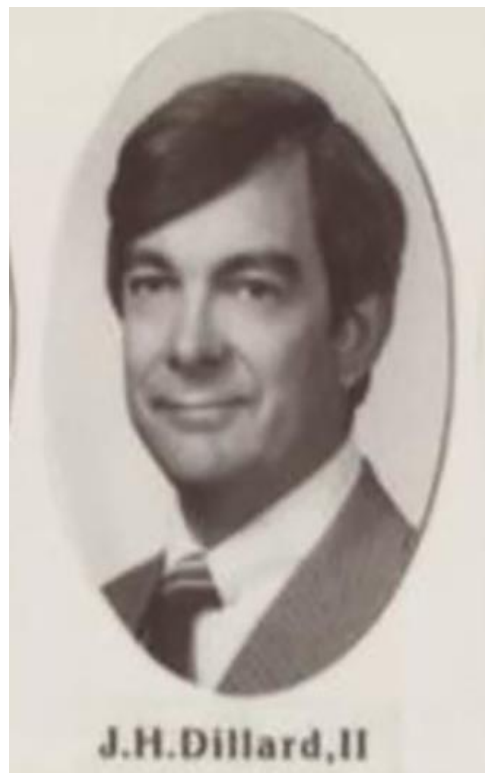
Most of you might not know that Jim loves sailing! (He has a tie that says “I love my wife, but OH THAT BOAT.”) He learned to sail as a kid, and it has remained a big part of his life. He still races his 19-foot Lightning. He also learned to sail the square-rigged ships of Jamestown, needing to learn the names and location of 119 lines. He still volunteers to help keep the three ships in Jamestown in good shape.

Jim has explored many parts of the world by sea on his cousin David's boats. In the Pacific he sailed to Tahiti, Auckland, Tonga, Hawaii, Palau, New Caledonia, and Japan. When sailing the Mediterranean, he visited Istanbul. And if that was not enough, he crossed the Atlantic with a reduced crew of just three guys.

Jim is the chairman of a group presently working with Senator Marsden to get the State of Virginia to provide sustainable funding for our wonderful state parks in the 2024 session of the General Assembly which will convene in January.

Jim Dillard's contributions to the American Friends of Lafayette are numerous. He was instrumental in making sure that Virginia school's curriculum included Lafayette and the Franco-American Alliance during the Revolutionary War. He is also a major contributor on Virginia Lafayette Day (annually on March 14), securing access to the State Capitol building for our ceremony. He also helps with planning of and fundraising for the Farewell Tour Bicentennial commemorations in Virginia. Thank you, Jim!!!

Jim Dillard turned 90 years young on November 19, 2023. He is still very active and travels with his wife Joyce. They boast four successful and wonderful daughters, all of whom are (of course) sailors. Jim and Joyce enjoy being great-grandparents and sharing their home with their new cat, the Marquis de Lafayette.





## Letter from Scott Rayl, American Legion, Paris Post 1

Friends, Fellow Members, and Comrades,

I am not certain how my journey with the American Friends of Lafayette started. I think I was researching pieces in the Pershing Hall Art Collection and happened upon the organization. I almost immediately fell in love with the mission, purchased seven memberships for my family, and that is just the beginning. I recently gave the AFL another check as my organization instantly saw the value in becoming an “Institution Lifetime Member” of the AFL.



I am the Historian, Membership Chairman, and Special Projects Liaison (Etats-Unis) of Paris Post 1, the “Mother Post” of the entire American Legion, one of the first to be chartered and one of the last posts abroad, the last in France. We are on the front lines of Remembrance! The evolution of our membership since March 1919 has impacted Franco-American relations in ways few could compete with. We have been actively participating in and leading commemoration operations with a special emphasis on France to include working directly with the Lafayette family for generations.

My goal in joining your community has always been to transform Paris Post 1 into the premier location for AFL members who are or want to be affiliated with the American Legion. I want to address a few things on the way. First and foremost, if you are already committed to another post and they are serving your needs, then that is probably exactly where your membership should stay. I am speaking primarily to the “at-large” members and those who may have a post but feel no personal connection to it.



Almost anyone within two generations of a veteran is eligible, and I’ll use our current AFL President as an example. His father was in the Army Air Corps and Alan’s children who were both adopted from outside the United States are likely all eligible based on the service Larry Hoffman provided in 1944-45. Alan makes a perfect example, but I don’t want to confuse you with the idea that he is endorsing anything other than me using him as an example of eligibility.



The home of Paris Post 1 is Pershing Hall in Paris, France, located very near the Arc de Triomphe. That said, there are several more things you should know: proximity to France is not required, as only about a third of us live in Europe; proficiency in French is not required, as many of us know very little; and active participation is not required, as most of our members simply pay their annual dues and wish us well. These things are a huge bonus, and I would love to solidify the association between Paris Post 1 and the AFL by growing our operations at Picpus Cemetery, the Lafayette family gravesite, but all of our members are equally important.

Imagine the commemorative operations at Normandy American Cemetery to commemorate the D-Day Invasion. We participate in these events, but we also fill the requests from the hundreds of towns and villages that celebrate their liberation through the service and sacrifice of American soldiers. Our mission is beyond the scope of possibly all other Legion posts. If Lafayette is the historical face of the 250-year-old Franco-American Alliance, then Paris Post 1 has served as the physical embodiment of that relationship for most of the last century.

Pershing Hall was dubbed the “Second Embassy” by the American Ambassador to France Myron T. Herrick. This is appropriate, as Paris Post 1 has acted as an additional diplomatic team since its founding. Although a memorial to the American “Doughboy,” Pershing Hall also contained commercial space. This is a small list of the former tenants: The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), The United Service Organizations (USO), Democrats and Republicans Abroad, and several universities and news agencies.

Consider becoming a member of [Paris Post 1](#) and discover our rich tradition of participating in the greater remembrance community. Look for me at AFL events, I'll be the one wearing the American Legion cap. Make no mistake; many of our members have already joined your ranks and we are often talking about what more we can do to improve upon the Franco-American profile and elevate everyone who shares in our mission.

The AFL is already a tremendous source of inspiration for us, and I suspect they will continue to be one of our leading partners well into the future. I will never be able to thank the AFL enough for allowing me to be a member of your community and grow the platform first established by our hero, Lafayette.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to me directly. I work in 12 time zones and have no concept of weekends, holidays, or sleep. I am happy to entertain a conversation whenever it suits you as I am blessedly retired, working in my sole occupational ambition contributing to the field of Remembrance. You can also connect with me on Facebook or LinkedIn where I only highlight the community's efforts. Together we will transform "America 250" into what I am calling "Franco-America 250." Our journey begins with the Lafayette bicentennial tour next year which I plan to participate in as an extremely enthusiastic supporter.

Scott Rayl  
Paris Post 1 "The Mother Post"  
+1 (405) 550-9530  
[usaliaison@parispost1.fr](mailto:usaliaison@parispost1.fr)



# Breaking News! U.S. Teachers Love Lafayette!

by Patti Maclay and Chuck Schwam

AFL exhibited at the National Council for the Social Studies held in Nashville, Tennessee on December 1 – 2, 2023. The booth turned out to be one of the busiest sites visited on the convention floor as hundreds of teachers stopped by to learn about Lafayette, the Farewell Tour, and the Bicentennial. The message created a buzz among attendees since it focused on Lafayette, both as the historical hero of two worlds, as well as an international advocate for human rights. Teachers agreed that Lafayette's story was the perfect way to talk about human rights, democracy, and universal equality with their students.

AFL's mission is education. Our tremendous success with American teachers is due to Lafayette being the awesome person he was! He sold himself!! The AFL members who staffed the tables were merely delivering his message!



*L-R: AFL members, Selene Castrovilla, John Scurich, Leslie Rainy, and Patti Maclay expertly ran the AFL booth at NCSS.*



*AFL Education Committee Chair Marcie Thoma (L) with Selene Castrovilla at AFL's NCSS booth.*

Other AFL members have had great success at their state conferences as well, including Graham Brent and Patti Maclay in Pennsylvania, Paul Larson in New Jersey, and Peter Feinman in New York. Lisa Meunier and Jim Dillard attended a similar event in Virginia. Spreading the word among teachers certainly helps our mission to educate the public and ensure that Lafayette's legacy stays in the minds of the American people beyond our lifetime.



*The official booth of the American Friends of Lafayette at the annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies. Most attendees indicated that the AFL's booth was the "best" both in design and in the enthusiasm of the AFL team who staffed the booth. All four volunteers traveled at their own expense. We are grateful for everything that Selene Castrovilla, John Scurich, Leslie Rainy, and Patti Maclay did. The AFL thanks you. Lafayette thanks you!!!*

# Why Should Young People Learn About Lafayette?

by Lindsay Behan

Most of the kids in my school think learning history is just boring dates and events, and do not care about how, why, and what happened then and why it's important to learn about it. And if they do not care about history in general, why would they care about Lafayette? There are a lot of reasons that a person should learn about history and Lafayette, like when I heard someone say, "The key to the future is the past."

When I last learned about the American Revolution in school, the only mention of Lafayette was in a textbook with a small box giving a quick explanation of who he was. If I weren't already interested in Lafayette and history, my love of Lafayette and history would never have started because of the lack of information and emphasis on his importance to the American and French causes. If kids could have a more exciting way of learning about history, it could excite more people and make them become more interested in learning.

Lafayette also can inspire younger people to do what they are passionate about. Lafayette was only 19 when he left France, his family, and basically everything, and disobeyed the king, just because he was passionate about the American cause. If younger people could see all that he did when he was a similar age, they would feel like they could do whatever they put their mind to and look up to Lafayette as an inspiration. "The moment I heard of America I loved her; the moment I knew she was fighting for freedom I burnt with a desire of bleeding for her; and the moment I shall be able to serve her, at any time, or in any part of the world, will be the happiest of my life." - Lafayette to Henry Laurens. Along with that, Lafayette can inspire others to fight for what they believe in and what they think is right. He fearlessly fought for the ideals of freedom and equality for others in both the American and French Revolutions, which provides a perfect example for younger kids to follow. Lafayette's determination serves as an example to all to fight and stand up for what is right and to make a difference, just like he did.

Another noteworthy aspect of Lafayette's life is that he persevered through his adversities. He was told 'no' so many times during his life, but he refused to throw away his shot for glory. This serves as an inspiration for younger kids like me to not give up on their dreams. Kids have big dreams and big plans for their lives, but depending on who is around them and how much support they are given, they could give them up easily. Reading about how persistent Lafayette was in pursuit of every one of his dreams, no doubt inspires me to overcome difficulties I face, so it can help others too, to do what they want to do in life. The younger generation is the key to their future. They will be the ones to lead, they will make changes, they will determine everything, and if they don't have someone to look up to, it could be an opportunity missed to be someone great.

Lafayette was a strong believer in abolishing slavery, equal rights for all men, and freedom of religion. He worked throughout his life to promote the ending of slavery and one example is when he brought land in the French colony of Guyana at Cayenne, to free enslaved people, hoping others would see what he was doing and follow his actions. He even tried to convince Washington to free his slaves saying:



Now, My dear General, that You are Going to Enjoy some Ease and Quiet, Permit me to propose a plan to you Which Might Become Greatly Beneficial to the Black part of Mankind—Let us Unite in Purchasing a small Estate Where We May try the Experiment to free the Negroes, and Use them only as tenants—Such an Example as Yours Might Render it a General Practice, and if We succeed in America, I Will cheerfully devote a part of My time to Render the Method fascionable in the West indias—if it Be a Wild scheme, I Had Rather Be Mad that Way, than to Be thought Wise on the other tack.

He helped free James, an enslaved man in the household of William Armistead, who helped gather information from the British during the war. Once freed, James took “Lafayette” as his last name to honor his hero. Lafayette also said, “I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America if I could have conceived that thereby I was founding a land of slavery!”

Learning about Lafayette wanting equal rights for all helps kids start to treat everyone around them with respect, empathy, and dignity no matter where they come from and who they are. Once again, the younger generation is in charge of their future, and with this understanding of the unfairness and inequality of the past and using Lafayette as an example, they can help make a more equal and peaceful world for people to live in by rejecting the oppression of the past.

Since the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Hero's Farewell Tour is coming up, we could use the celebrations and events to inspire everyone, especially a younger audience, to learn about Lafayette and participate in the events. Learning about him can have a greater effect on all and give a brighter future. *Cur non?* There is no better time!

### About the Author

Lindsay is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Holly Springs, North Carolina who enjoys reading history books, traveling to Colonial Williamsburg, and playing the trumpet. Discovering Lafayette in 2021 has inspired her to learn everything she can about Lafayette and the Founding Fathers.



# USS *Lafayette*

by Chuck Schwam

On June 29, 2023, at the George C. Marshall Center in Paris, the Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, announced that a future Constellation-class guided-missile frigate will be named USS *Lafayette* (FFG-65). Then on July 3, 2023, he did so again at Mount Vernon with French Ambassador Laurent Bili, his wife Sabine Raczy-Bili, and many AFL members in attendance.

During remarks in Paris, Secretary Del Toro said: “Just think, were it not for the Marquis de Lafayette’s willingness—along with that of tens of thousands of his compatriots—to fight alongside our Continental Army and Navy during our Revolutionary War centuries ago, we might not be here together this evening.”

Three previous Navy vessels have been named in honor of Lafayette: a sidewheel ironclad ram, a transport ship (AP-53), and a ballistic missile submarine (SSBN-616).

USS *Lafayette*, the fourth of our new Constellation-class frigates, is scheduled to commission in 2029. The other ships in the class are USS *Constellation* (FFG-62), USS *Congress* (FFG-63), and USS *Chesapeake* (FFG-64).



*L-R: Mount Vernon President and CEO, Doug Bradburn; Ben Goldman as Lafayette; Dan Shippey as George Washington; Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro; Ambassador of France to the United States, Laurent Bili; and the sponsor of the USS Lafayette, Sabine Raczy-Bili*





USS *Lafayette* and her sister ships bring with them increased lethality, survivability, and the capabilities that our Joint Force requires to conduct operations around the world with our partners and allies.

“*Lafayette* died almost 250 years ago; USS *Lafayette* and her crew will stand ready to answer our Nation’s call to defend our shared principles around the world, ensuring that our global maritime commons remain free and open for all who wish to use them for lawful activities,” said Secretary Del Toro.

The Constellation-class guided-missile frigate represents the Navy’s next-generation small surface combatant. This ship class will be an agile, multi-mission warship, capable of operations in both blue-water and littoral environments, providing increased combat-credible forward presence that provides a military advantage at sea.

The Constellation-class will have multi-mission capability to conduct air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare, and information operations.

Specifically, the class includes an enterprise air surveillance radar, Baseline Ten Aegis combat system, a Mk 41 vertical launch system, communications systems, Mk 57 gun weapon system countermeasures, and added capability in electronic warfare and information operations with design flexibility for future growth.





*L-R: AFL Executive Director, Chuck Schwam; AFL member and Navy Captain Paul Higgins (who was the Commanding Officer of the Lafayette Submarine SSBN-616); Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro; and AFL member and distinguished Navy Veteran Jim Dillard*



*US Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro announces that a future Constellation-class guided-missile frigate will be named USS Lafayette at the George C. Marshall Center in Paris. This is the same room where AFL members were entertained during their trip to Paris in 2015.*

# Lafayette Trivia Gone But Not Forgotten!

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

With a delegation from the American Friends of Lafayette in attendance, the US Navy named its newest frigate the USS *Lafayette* (FFG-65) on July 3, 2023 at Mount Vernon, Virginia. She is the fourth in the Constellation-class of guided missile frigates. Since the American Civil War, the US Navy has honored the legacy of Lafayette by naming four vessels USS *Lafayette*.



*Constellation-class USS Lafayette (FFG-65). US Navy photograph.*

The third US Navy vessel named for Lafayette was the lead ship in Lafayette-class of fleet ballistic missile nuclear submarines: USS *Lafayette* (SSBN-616). She was christened by Jacqueline Kennedy in 1962, commissioned in 1963 (*Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette* #26 page 2), and decommissioned in 1991. When she was commissioned, the AFL placed a Lafayette plaque aboard the vessel. The *Gazette* over the years has had over twelve articles about the USS *Lafayette* (SSBN-616) including the ceremony when AFL member Paul Higgins relinquished command of the submarine.



*USS Lafayette (SSBN-616) in 1991 off Norfolk, VA. US Navy photograph.*





*Commemorative Decommissioning Patch SSBN-616 USS Lafayette  
"Gone But Not Forgotten"*



*First Day Cachet of Commissioning of USS Lafayette at Groton, Connecticut on April 23, 1963*





*USS Lafayette (SSBN-616) Hat Patch with US Navy Submarine Warfare Service Insignia*



*USS Lafayette Uniform Shoulder Rocker Patch*



*Naval Crest Patch of USS Lafayette (SSBN-616)*



*The USS Lafayette (SSBN-616) was a force both on sea and land!*



*Inactivation cachet of the SSBN-616 on February 23, 1991*



The second US Navy vessel named after Lafayette was the USS *Lafayette* (AP-53). She was launched in 1935 as the French ocean liner SS *Normandie* and seized from German-occupied France in New York Harbor in 1941. She was partially destroyed by fire during conversion to a troop ship in New York Harbor and sold to a US scrap merchant in 1945.



*The SS Normandie ocean liner was renamed the USS Lafayette (AP-53) in 1941.*

The first USS *Lafayette* (1848) was built in 1848 as the *Aleck Scott*. She was purchased by the US Navy on May 18, 1862 and renamed *Lafayette* on September 8, 1862. She was converted into an ironclad gunboat ram which participated in the Battle of Vicksburg and Red River Campaign. She was decommissioned in July 1865. In order not to cause confusion among all the USS *Lafayette* vessels, the US Navy gave the ironclad the hull number of 1848.



*Engraving of the USS Lafayette ironclad gunboat ram  
Collection of the Mariner's Museum and Park, Newport News, Virginia*



## Lafayette Trivia

### One Admiral: Two Graves!

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

In the May 2023 issue of the *AFL Gazette*, AFL member Morgaine Beck described her “Paris Experience” with her husband Derek. The day before they renewed their wedding vows in Paris, they attended a French Mass at the Church of Saint-Roch. This was the parish church of Lafayette’s in-laws, the Noailles family, where Adrienne and her sisters attended services.

On departing the service, they found “Manna from heaven.” It was the burial site and dedication plaque of Admiral de Grasse donated by the Society of the Cincinnati on October 19, 1931, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the surrender at Yorktown: “François Joseph Paul, Comte de GRASSE, Marquis de TILLY, des Princes d’ANTIBES. Lieutenant Général des Armées Navales.”



*Miniature Portrait of Admiral de Grasse by French artist M. Geslain  
after an unidentified French original, ca. 1796-1802  
Collection of The American Revolution Institute, Society of the Cincinnati*

Admiral de Grasse’s fleet gained control of the Chesapeake Bay thereby preventing the British fleet under Admiral Graves from reenforcing or evacuating the British Army under General Cornwallis at Yorktown. De Grasse’s naval victory at the Battle of the Capes on September 5, 1781 ensured the American and French victory at Yorktown. The British surrender in Yorktown on October 19, 1781 is honored annually by the AFL.

It's interesting to note that not all of Admiral de Grasse is buried at the Church of Saint-Roch. After he died suddenly at his townhouse in the Saint-Roch quarter of Paris on January 14, 1788. According to his wishes, he was buried in its parish church on January 16, 1788, and his heart was removed and interred in a leaden shell at the Church of Our Lady in Tilly on February 15, 1788.

When the reconstruction of the Church at Tilly started in 1900, a marble slab was found on an interior wall stating the Admiral de Grasse's heart was buried under the high altar. The original heart-shaped leaden reliquary decorated with fleurs-de-lis was discovered

A vault was prepared in the new church to receive the reliquary, which was then placed in a wooden coffin. A ceremony was held at de Grasse's former château on April 25, 1928, with American Ambassador Myron T. Herrick delivering the memorial address. A French and American Navy color guard returned de Grasse's heart to its final resting place in the church.

#### Authors' Note

We have not been able to determine the whereabouts of Admiral de Grasse's heart from 1900 to its reinterment in 1928. It may be that the Admiral's heart was brought to his château for safekeeping during the reconstruction of the church.

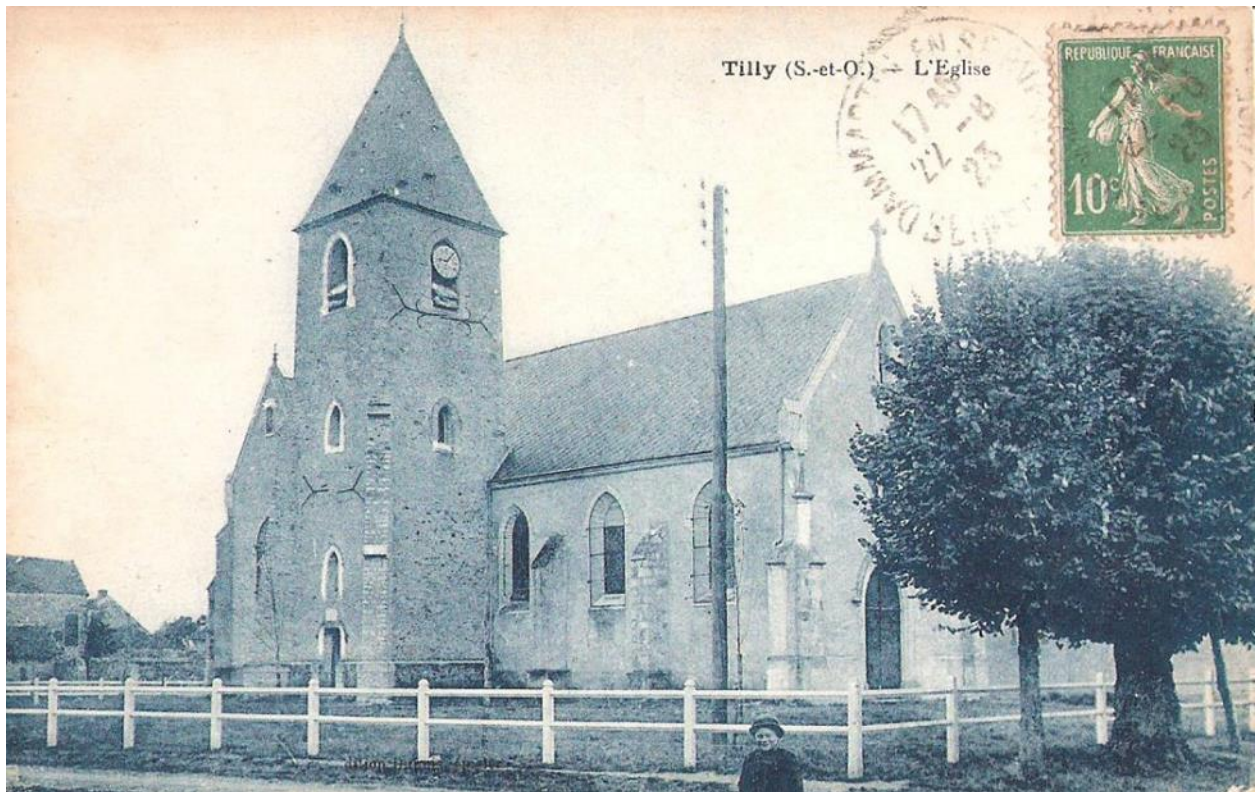


*Transfer of Admiral de Grasse's heart, following a memorial service, from his château to the Church at Tilly, April 25, 1928. Photograph by Captain R.D. White, USN.  
From a 1945 Naval Institute Press book, Admiral de Grasse & American Independence, by Charles Lee Lewis.*





*Château de Tilly, Heritage Museum of France. Source: museedupatrimoine.fr*



*Postcard: Church of Our Lady, Tilly, France, canceled August 22, 1923.  
Admiral de Grasse's heart was reinterred at the church on April 25, 1928.*



# Lafayette's “Adopted Father” is Named a Marshal of France!

by John C. Becica



*George Washington as  
Marshal of France - 1783  
Print (After a painting by  
John Trumbull): Yale  
University Art Gallery and  
The National Portrait  
Gallery, Smithsonian  
Institution (underline added)*

It is not a well-known fact, but during the American Revolution, King Louis XVI of France bestowed the title of *Maréchal* of France on George Washington. The story of how this came to be is enlightening.

Lafayette's biggest contribution to the "Insurgents" winning the American Revolution may have been his trip back to France in 1779 to lobby the King and his ministers for significantly more aid in the form of troops, supplies, and money. This successful lobbying on the part of Lafayette would later enable the victory over Cornwallis at Yorktown, the last major battle in the American Revolution.

During the negotiations in France, it was agreed that George Washington should be supreme commander of both the American and French forces. This made sense, first, because the war was being fought for the American people on American soil, and, second, because Rochambeau, who it was decided would be second in command and not a co-commander, did not speak English, and had to rely on an interpreter.

To make this concept work, both for the Americans and the French, some adjustments would be necessary in the titular hierarchy of both armies. Rochambeau was elevated to a new title as "Lieutenant General." Since the Continental Army had no such title, this placed him above Major General Lafayette, and the other Major Generals in the hierarchy of Washington's army.<sup>1</sup>

As a new Lieutenant General in the French army of the time, Rochambeau would report to only one higher position, other than the King. That position was called *Maréchal* of France. Accordingly, Louis XVI would eventually have to bestow the title "*Maréchal* of France" on Washington, so, that as overall commander, he would hold the highest rank in both armies.

Interestingly, it appears that this directive from the King did not actually take place, until August of 1781, a year after Rochambeau and his troops had landed at Newport, Rhode Island on July 11, 1780. An article in the September, 1781 issue of *Town and Country Magazine*, published in London, gives us evidence of this fact:

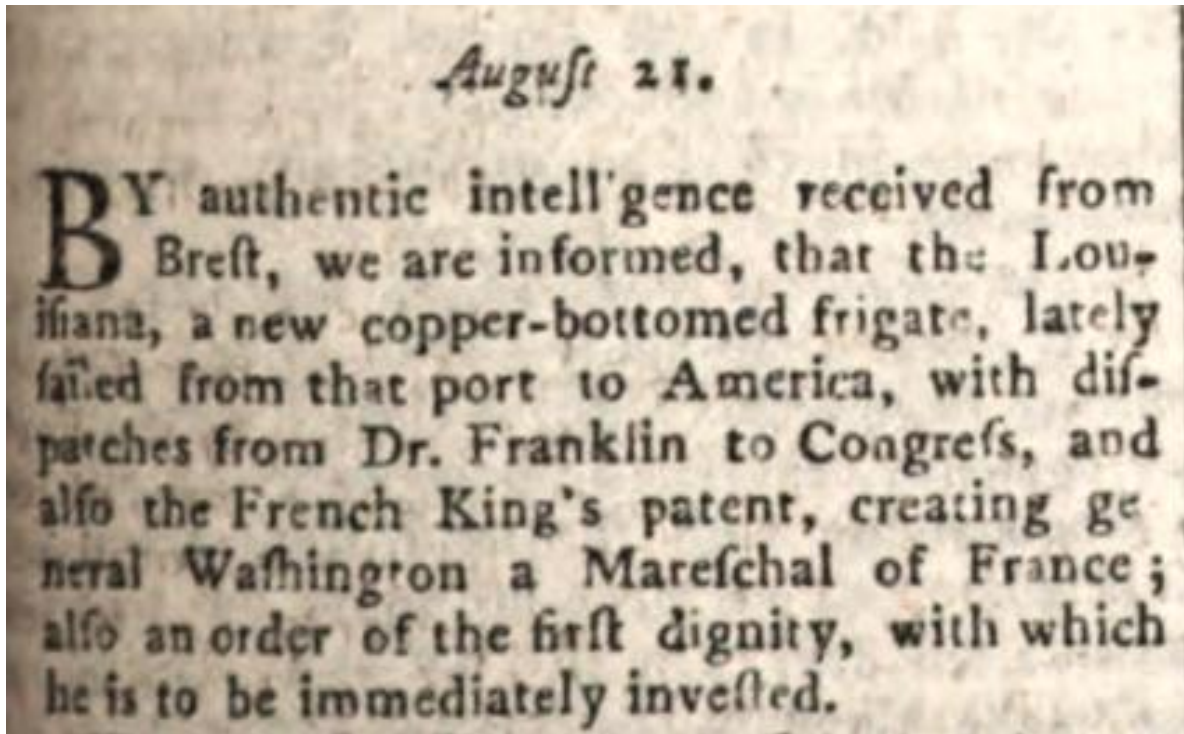
***Town and Country Magazine***

Volume 13, September, 1781, Page 499

Domestic Intelligence, London

August 21

"By authentic intelligence received from Brest, we are informed that the Louisiana, a new copper-bottomed frigate, lately sailed from that port to America with dispatches from Dr. Franklin to Congress [*sic*], and **also the French King's patent creating general Washington a Mareschal [*sic*] of France: also an order of the first dignity, with which he is to be immediately invested.**"  
[Emphasis added.]



George Washington, never a man to desire, covet, or flout titles, evidently did not wish to be addressed as Marshal, which is probably why few in the populace knew of the French honor he had received.

Over 75 years later a gentleman gained possession of a porcelain mug with the image of Washington on horseback and the title, "Marshal of France." He pointed this out to the *Frederick Examiner* newspaper, which prompted inquiries to the aging George Washington Parke Custis, a grandson of Martha Washington and her first husband. It will be recalled that Custis became friends with George Washington Lafayette, during the latter's stay at Mount Vernon during the French Revolution, and that he had hosted Lafayette's visit to Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon during the Triumphal Tour in 1824. Custis was also the individual who lent General Washington's tent for ceremonies at Fort McHenry, Washington City, Alexandria, Yorktown, and Richmond during the Tour.

On August 18, 1857, Custis replied to the inquiry in a letter from Arlington House, the home he had built years earlier. (The house remains standing today on the land of Arlington National Cemetery.) Custis attributes the actual conferring of the Marshal title to John Laurens who arrived in France as special ambassador on March 9, 1781. Upon hearing that the only title that Rochambeau could report to was *Maréchal* of France. He urged the French authorities to make Washington one, and they finally did! (Custis was to die at age 76 in October of 1857, several months after he wrote his informative letter.)

The 1857 article in the *Frederick Examiner*, including the text of the Custis letter, was copied by the *New York Daily Times* on August 24, 1857, page 6. It is shown on the next page.



New York Daily Times (1851-1857); Aug 24, 1857;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times with Index  
pg. 9.

### Gen. Washington a Marshal of France.

*From the Frederick Examiner of Aug. 19.*

Some weeks ago, in a conversation in the *Examiner* office, a gentleman of this city remarked that he had in his possession an old porcelain mug, with an effigy of Gen. WASHINGTON on horseback, and the inscription beneath, "GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq., General-in-Chief of the United States Army and Marshal of France." A discussion thereupon arose as to whether WASHINGTON had ever received the *baton* of a Marshal of France. To resolve the doubt, Col. A. KIMMEL said he would address the venerable G. W. PARKER CUSTIS, the surviving member of WASHINGTON's household, on the subject. He did so; and received in reply the following letter, which has been handed us for publication, on account of the important historical fact to which it refers. Mr. CUSTIS's letter is dated:

ARLINGTON HOUSE, Thursday, Aug. 13, 1857.

"MY DEAR COL. KIMMEL: Your very acceptable letter came duly to hand. In regard to WASHINGTON as Marshal of France, I have in this hour 'proof as strong as holy writ,' in an engraving of NAPIER of MARCHISTOWN, the celebrated inventor of the Logarithms, which was presented to Washington by the Earl of BUCHAN, a relative of the philosopher, with this indorsement in the handwriting of the Earl: 'To Marshal General WASHINGTON, with the respects of BUCHAN.' Now, BUCHAN lived in the age of the Revolution, and was the associate of Courts, and certainly would not have addressed to one he so loved and admired, as he did to the Chief, a title to which the Chief had no claim. Lord NAPIER, on a visit to Arlington House, was greatly gratified by a sight of a reminiscence of his ancestors treasured among the relics of WASHINGTON.

The history of the American, a Marshal of France, is simply this. When, in 1781, Colonel LAURENS went to France as special ambassador, a difficulty arose between him and the French Ministry as to the command of the combined armies in America. Our heroic LAURENS said: "Our chief must command; it is our cause, and the battle is on our soil." "C'est impossible," exclaimed the Frenchman; "by the etiquette of the French service the Count DE ROCHAMBEAU, being an old Lieutenant-General, can only be commanded by the King in person, or a *Mareschal de France*." "Then," exclaimed LAURENS, "make our WASHINGTON a *Mareschal de France*, and the difficulty is at an end." It was done.

A friend of mine heard WASHINGTON spoken of as *Monsieur le Mareschal* at the siege of Yorktown. Our beloved WASHINGTON never coveted or desired rank or title; but it is beyond a doubt that, from the force of circumstances just related, the rank and title of *Mareschal de France* was conferred upon the General-in-Chief of the combined armies of America and France.

Believe me, my dear Sir, truly and faithfully your obliged friend and servant,

GEORGE W. F. CUSTIS."

*New York Daily Times, August 24, 1857 (From Frederick Examiner, August 19 1857)*

Nineteen years later, the topic was again resurrected when the *Galveston Daily News*, ran a story on September 19, 1876, page 4. It was substantially copied from the earlier newspaper articles.

In addition to the mug found by the gentleman, there is a bowl in the Smithsonian's collection with the same transfer image of Washington astride a horse, and the same caption.



*Bowl – National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution*



### **Bowl Transfer Prints and Inscription**

The outside of the bowl is decorated with five different transfer prints. First is a depiction of George Washington on horseback on a background battle scene caption “His Excellency General George Washington **Marshal of France** / & commander in chief of all the North American Continental Forces.”

### **Transfer Print Identification**

The equestrian print of Washington on this bowl is based on a 1775 mezzotint published by C. Shepherd of London.





*Porcelain Mug Displaying the Same Transfer Print and Inscription*



George Washington,  
1783, Engraver Unknown

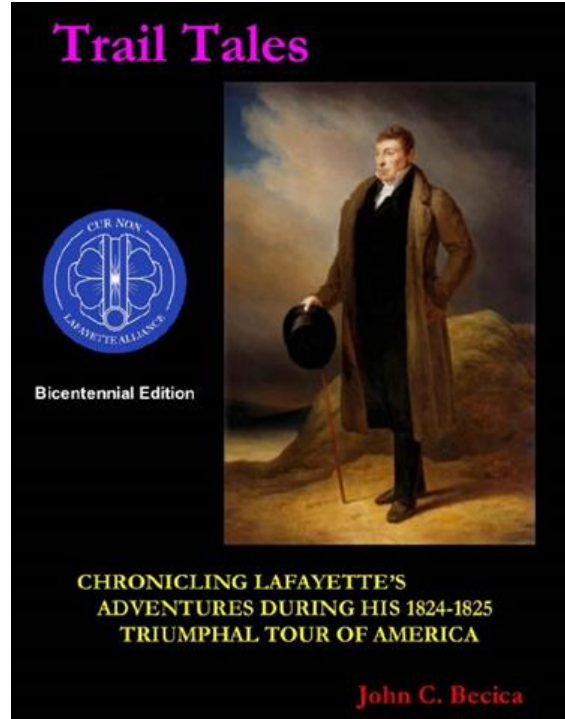


George Washington by John Trumbull  
Painted from Memory, 1780

The engraving on the left of Washington in his late 40s was one of a number that were patterned after Trumbull's famous portrait. However, it is the only one that this author has found describing Washington as a Marshal of France. In fact, it was my discovery of this print online that lead to my further research, and the writing of this article.



<sup>1</sup> Louis Gottschalk, *Lafayette and the Close of the American Revolution*, p. 68



### About the Author

John Becica is a graduate of Lafayette College, a Life Member of the AFL, a Member of the Lafayette Alliance, Treasurer for the Lafayette Trail, Inc., and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Lafayette Alliance in LaGrange, Georgia recently published his 488-page book *Trail Tales, Chronicling Lafayette's Adventures During His 1824-1825 Triumphant Tour of America*, a fundraiser for the Alliance. It is available at [www.lafayettelagrange.org](http://www.lafayettelagrange.org)

# A Flag for Picpus Cemetery

by Julie Pearson

Last year, a crazy idea came to me as I was visiting Mount Vernon. What if we could bring a piece of Mount Vernon to Lafayette? I knew that soil from Bunker Hill was spread on Lafayette's grave in Paris. While I could not bring American soil to France, I started thinking about other options. Washington and Lafayette used to exchange gifts over the years and across the Atlantic Ocean. What gift could bridge that distance again?

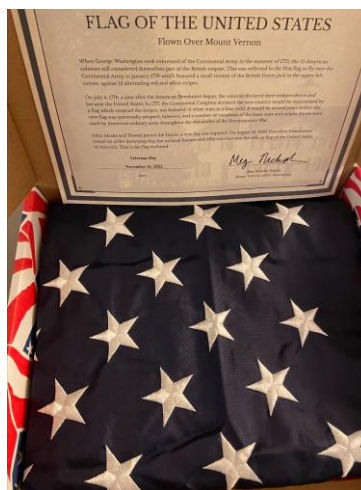
Washington's flag was the answer. Lafayette gets a new American flag every summer at Picpus Cemetery. Bringing him the flag from his friend, flown at Mount Vernon, would be a special touch and a way to reinforce the Franco-American friendship. It took us over a year, but we did it! We bought a flag from Mount Vernon from their online store. We didn't choose the date it was flown, but ours was the flag used on Veterans Day 2022! What a perfect coincidence. I kept the flag in its box on my desk in my home in northern Virginia for six months. My husband Max, a US Air Force Brigadier General, met with Colonel Pepper, the Defense Attaché at the US Embassy in Paris, in December 2022. The embassy team was delighted to help us get the Mount Vernon flag to Lafayette. Max, our daughter Claire, and I flew to Paris in June, and handed the flag over to Colonel Pepper for the July ceremony. Mission accomplished!

The flag did a tour de France before going to Paris. We took it with us to Toulon, in the south of France, where we stayed with our friend French Navy Rear Admiral Jean-Emmanuel Roux de Luze. Then we took the flag to Corsica by boat to see family. We stayed in the land of Pasquale Paoli (and Napoleon) for a few days, then flew to Paris to get to the Embassy. Pasquale Paoli's Corsican constitution was an inspiration during the American Revolutionary War. I think Washington and Lafayette would have approved of this detour through the Mediterranean.

We are so happy we were able to bring this special gift to Lafayette and Adrienne. Maybe we can make it a yearly tradition! *Vive Lafayette!*



*Julie and Claire Pearson*



*The Mount Vernon Flag*



*Brigadier General Max Pearson and Colonel Pepper*

## Picpus Cemetery Ceremony on July 5, 2023

by Dale Henley and Chuck Schwam

At 11:00 on the morning of July 5, 2023, Dale Henley, an AFL member and immediate past president of the Lafayette Chapter, SAR in Lexington, Kentucky, laid a beautifully decorated red, white, and blue AFL wreath on the tomb of Lafayette and his wife, Adrienne, in the Picpus Cemetery in Paris. The senior official was the American Ambassador to France, the Honorable Denise Bauer. Also present for the ceremony were three direct descendants of Lafayette including his 7th great-granddaughter, Sabine Renault-Sablionière.



*AFL member Dale Henley lays the ceremonial AFL wreath at the annual ceremony at Lafayette's grave on July 5, 2023, at Picpus Cemetery in Paris, France.*





*Military personnel and dignitaries march to Lafayette's grave from the Picpus courtyard.*



*Flowers adorn the graves of Lafayette and Adrienne.*



*The United States Military personnel change the American Flag over Lafayette's grave.*





*Susan Joy Minker filming a video in front of the graves of Lafayette and his devoted wife Adrienne after the ceremony*

Following the ceremony, several AFL members including Susan and Marc Minker, Kathryn Tone, Augie Huber, and Dale and Linda Henley adjourned to the Irish Pub for the traditional conviviality with their AFL French counterparts including Myriam Waze and husband Allan, and Joyce Good.



*L-R: AFL members, Augie Huber, Julia O'Brien, Susan Joy Minker, and Myriam Waze enjoy time together after the ceremony.*

# Lafayette at the French Embassy's Garden Party

by Chuck Schwam

On Friday, September 15, the American Friends of Lafayette partnered with the official host, the French-American Chamber of Commerce, to hold a Garden Party at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. It was a beautiful evening with hundreds of Francophiles in attendance. The AFL showed up in force.

Lafayette (Mark Schneider) interacted with partygoers all evening and the General's birthday was celebrated with cake and a song. The AFL sold Lafayette-related merchandise throughout the evening. The AFL also displayed its traveling exhibit panels, much to everyone's delight.

I'd like to express my gratitude to AFL Vice President Robert Kelly and AFL member Denis Chazelle, who is also the Executive Director of the French-American Chamber of Commerce. Their efforts, along with help from AFL members Patti Maclay, Jennifer Kowalski, Lucy Dale, and Bonnie Fritz, made for a magical evening.



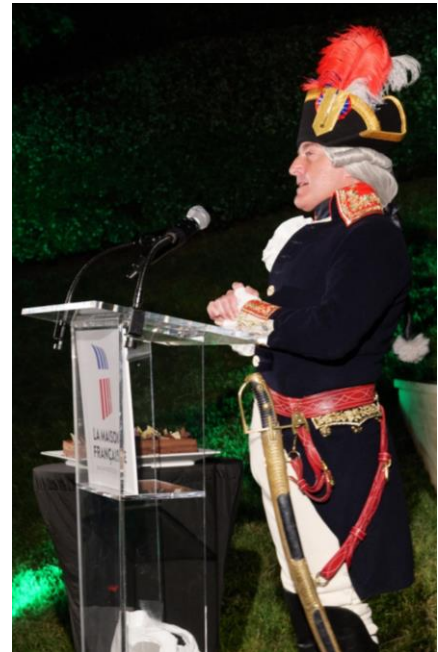




*AFL Executive Director, Chuck Schwam, addresses the partygoers.*



*AFL member Scott Rayl enjoys a refreshment.*



*Lafayette (Mark Schneider) welcomes everyone to the Garden Party.*



*AFL member Denis Chazelle (L) stands with Lafayette at the French Embassy.*



*AFL member Greg Acuzy is looking dapper on French soil.*



*The French Ambassador discusses the importance of Lafayette's legacy with Lafayette himself (Mark Schneider).*



*Patti Maclay works diligently at the AFL merchandise table.*



*Lafayette enjoys a light moment with Ambassador Laurent Bili and AFL Board Member, Patti Maclay.*



*Chuck Schwam needs to get out of the way so that the partygoers can learn about Lafayette.*



*AFL member Laura Heydt gives partygoers an impromptu opera concert.*



*After an evening at the AFL merchandise table, AFL Secretary Bonnie Fritz deserves a glass of champagne.*



# Yorktown Day 2023

by Babeth and Richard Santander



How time flies! A year ago, Babeth and I came to the Yorktown Victory festivities for the first time. We were accompanied by four other people like us, members of *L'Association Hermione – La Fayette*.

We took part in all the ceremonies, and I even had the honor of laying the AFL wreath at the French cemetery.

## October 18:

This year, it's just Babeth and I, and at Gloucester Point, we had the pleasure of reuniting with Chuck Schwam and many of the people we'd spent time with last year, who spontaneously came up to us to welcome us and ask us questions about *Hermione*. We had the pleasure of meeting Alan Hoffman and Robert Kelly, AFL officers.

At the end of the afternoon, we attended the inauguration of two interpretive panels on the Battle of the Hook and the Duc de Lauzun by Thierry Chaunu, Souvenir Français, and Admiral Frédéric de Rupilly, French Navy.



*Unveiling the interpretive panels at Abingdon Park, Gloucester, Virginia*





*From left to right: Richard Azzaro, Général De Kytspotter, Lonny LeGrand, Thierry Chaunu, Nicole Yancey, Robert Kelly, Admiral de Rupilly, Robert Selig, Mark Schneider.*



*Richard Santander with Lucie Poirier and Alan Hoffman*



*Mark Schneider as one of the Hussards de Lauzun and Général De Kytspotter*

The Battle of the Hook is really only known to specialists, and we're not. So, it was a discovery of our history that Robert Kelly, Dr. Robert Selig, and Mark Schneider taught us about this battle. On October 3, 1781, in the greatest cavalry action of the American War of Independence, the Duc de Lauzun's Legion and Lieutenant-Colonel John Mercer's militia battalion defeated Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton's British Legion and a detachment of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. This action involved up to 1,300 soldiers. It stifled the possibility of Cornwallis retreating across the York River.

The annual dinner was held at the Museum of the American Revolution in Yorktown. It was an opportunity to make new acquaintances.



*Chuck Schwam, Babeth Santander, Blanche Hunnewell, and Richard Santander at the Museum of the American Revolution, Yorktown*

### **October 19 – Yorktown Day:**

Early in the morning, there is a ceremony at the French cemetery. Wreaths are laid in front of the tomb of the unknown soldiers by various associations and societies. The emotion and contemplation are solemn in this large clearing in the middle of the forest, next to the battlefield, as the Last Post (taps) is sounded.



*Wreath Laying Ceremony at the French Cemetery, Yorktown*



After the ceremony at the cemetery, it was time to move on to the French Monument. Directly opposite the Museum of the American Revolution is a granite wall where, on one side, the names of the regiments and soldiers are engraved, and on the other, the ships and sailors who died during the siege of Yorktown. Here too, the ceremony at the monument is solemn. Lieutenant-Colonel Mathieu Brulais paid tribute to these soldiers and sailors, and wreaths were laid. Admiral de Rupilly, on behalf of France's President Macron, decorated Thierry Chaunu with a National Order of Merit medal.



*Ceremony at the French Monument, Yorktown*



*Thierry Chaunu receiving the Order of Merit medal*

Next up for Babeth and me, “LE JOUR DE GLOIRE EST ARRIVE” (THE DAY OF GLORY HAS COME). Accompanied by Marietta and Steve Madden, Lisa Ingegnieri, and Casey Criswell, all members of the AFL, we proudly carry the banner of *Hermione* down Main Street as part of the American Friends of Lafayette marching group. General Lafayette, in a convertible car, precedes us with a French flag. The welcome is huge and warm: “Long live la France, long live *Hermione*, long live Lafayette,” and applause breaks out as we sing “la Marseillaise,” France's national anthem.





*Lafayette leading the way*



*With French Army officers at the Yorktown Day Parade*

Another great evening follows at the AFL Famous Cocktail Party. We enjoyed every moment as if we were at a big family reunion. It's great to feel all the energy of this association, and Chuck Schwam certainly had a lot to do with it.



*AFL "Famous Cocktail Party"*

### **October 20 – Our Last Day in Virginia's Historic Triangle**

We attended the rendezvous at Williamsburg Winery to unveil Lafayette's wines. Here too we feel the enthusiasm for General Lafayette, which was still going strong even after three days of events. Chuck Schwam is always there to galvanize the troops. I thank him for allowing me to hand out flyers for *Sauver L'Hermione*.



*With Marietta and Steve Madden  
and Gloria and Frank Womble*



*With Williamsburg Winery owner Patrick Duffeler,  
Marc Minker, and Suzy Joy Minker*





And we enjoyed the wine, especially the red and white.

A wonderful evening, and it was time to say goodbye and see you next year.



*Richard and Babeth with Bonnie Fritz and Chuck Schwam*

## The AFL Celebrates the Franco-American Alliance and Commemorates the Battle of the Hook in Gloucester, Virginia

by Robert Kelly

Gloucester County, Virginia, was the home of AFL co-founder Stuart Wells Jackson during his retirement years. Gloucester is also the location of the largest cavalry battle during the American Revolution – the 1781 Battle of the Hook. On Wednesday, October 20, 2023, Gloucester County dedicated two interpretive signs at Abingdon Elementary School telling the battle's fascinating story. The location for the new signage was selected due to its proximity to the core battle area as determined by a 2021 resource study published by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service.

The yearlong signage project was made possible through a partnership between Gloucester County, the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, and the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association. The project committee was composed of historians, members of the French Army and Navy, and advocates for local history. The committee members include Lt. Colonel Mathieu Brulais (French Army), Johnny Carawan (NPS), Thierry Chaunu (American Society of Le Souvenir Français), Warren Deal (Gloucester Historical Society), Robert Kelly, P.J. Lambert (President of the Williamsburg-Yorktown American Revolution Round Table), Rear Admiral Frédéric de Rupilly (French Navy), Colonel Aymeric Tardieu de Maleyssie (French Army), Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D., and Nicole Yancey.

The dedication program was attended by over 80 guests (including many AFL members) and included a short program by actor-interpreter Mark Schneider and a keynote address by Brigadier General Vincent de Kytspotter from the French Army and Head of Military and Defense Mission at the United Nations.



*The Gloucester team that installed the new signage*



*Keynote speaker Brigadier General  
Vincent de Kytspotter, French Army,  
Head of Military and Defense Mission, UN*





*Prior to the start of the dedication ceremony*



*Unveiling! Left: Thierry Chaunu  
Right: Rear Admiral Frédéric de Rupilly*

## ***Lauzun Comes to Virginia***

In late-September of 1781, the allied armies of Americans and French joined with Brigadier General George Weedon's militia near Gloucester Courthouse. Lauzun was to assist Weedon in his efforts to reduce British foraging. In a letter to Weedon, General George Washington instructed allied troops in Gloucester to "endeavor to perform, with all your Diligence, without precipitating your Troops into too great Danger." Combat and danger, however, was just what Lauzun was looking for.



*The Sawmill Incident, October 3, 1781.  
Acrylic on canvas by David Wagner (b. 1940). Courtesy of the Gloucester Museum of History*

*A portion of the new signage*

# Cur Non?

by Chuck Schwam

## South Carolina Bicentennial Committee



Joe Volpi and Brooks Lyles

AFL member and Lafayette Bicentennial in South Carolina Farewell Tour Bicentennial Chairperson, Joe Volpi, poses with AFL member Brooks Lyles in Camden, South Carolina. Joe was holding a committee meeting at historic McCaa's Tavern.

Joe is making great progress planning bicentennial commemorations in the Palmetto State. Lafayette was in South Carolina from March 6 to March 18, 1825, so there is much to plan. He has formed a committee that includes AFL President Emeritus, Robert Crout.

Thank you Joe !!

Brooks has been traveling around the United States with a set of our Lafayette travelling exhibit panels. Displaying the traveling exhibit at Sons of the American Revolution events has proven to be a very effective way to promote Lafayette's legacy and our bicentennial plans.

Brooks is a fantastic liaison between the AFL and SAR. His efforts have helped forge a partnership that will help with the bicentennial and beyond.

Thank you Brooks !!



## Alabama Bicentennial Committee

AFL member Bev Baker is the Co-Chair of the Lafayette Bicentennial in Alabama Committee with Lynn Tate. They both are doing phenomenal work planning bicentennial events, recruiting new members, and spreading “Lafayette Love” around the state of Alabama. Bev has been travelling around Alabama giving talks about Lafayette. Below are photos from a presentation she gave at the Alabama Charter Chapter, US Daughters 1812. She was invited by Connie Grund, who is the President of the Alabama Charter Chapter, USD 1812, who is also an AFL member.



L-R: Carolyn Drennen, Audrey Armstrong, Connie Grund, Bonnie Baker, Renée Shelfer, Bev Baker, and Lucy Willis



Bev Baker and Connie Grund



Bev Baker gave a program to the Fielding Lewis DAR Chapter in Atlanta with 87 members in attendance.

## Meeting at Lafayette College

The American Friends of Lafayette went to Lafayette College for a summit with the Special Collections Department at Skillman Library. We discussed a variety of topics including an exhibition at the college during the bicentennial as well as an event to kick it off. The meeting was significant and fun.



L-R: AFL President Alan Hoffman, Co-Director of Special Collections & College Archives Ana Ramirez Luhrs; Lafayette College Student and library intern Chris Byrnes\*; Distinctive Collections Librarian and AFL-Lafayette College liaison, Pamela Murray; AFL Executive Director, Chuck Schwam; AFL Lafayette Bicentennial in Philadelphia chair, Graham Brent.

\*Chris Byrnes has become a Student Member of the American Friends of Lafayette.

Lafayette College is slated to host the one and only vice-presidential debate next year. The debate at Lafayette College is the fifth presidential or vice-presidential debate the state of Pennsylvania has hosted and would be the first outside of Philadelphia. Details about the scheduled Sept. 25, 2024, event, its moderators, and its format will be announced next year.



## Opera Lafayette



Opera Lafayette kicked off their 2023/2024 season at the Residence of French Ambassador, Laurent Bili. Robert Kelly and Chuck Schwam were in attendance. The musicians (L-R) are celloist, David Bakamjian, harpsichordist, Christophe Rousset, and bass baritone Jonathan Woody.

## New Jersey Bicentennial Committee



Lafayette Bicentennial in New Jersey Committee Chair, Paul Larson (far right) gives a Lafayette talk to a packed house. Paul Larson has been spreading “Lafayette Love” all over the Garden State.



## Naval Academy Ceremonies

On September 28, 2023, the United States Naval Academy held their annual Franco-American Alliance Ceremony. This event celebrates the historic accord struck between France and the American Colonies during the American War for Independence. AFL members Patti Maclay and Chuck Schwam were in attendance.



The AFL Wreath



Consul General of France, Caroline Monvoisin



Honored Guest: General Rochambeau



United States Navy Color Guard



## Newport, Rhode Island Event

On July 11, 1780, a French army of 5,300 men and 450 officers under the command of General Rochambeau landed in Newport. Every July, Newport celebrates this event with reenactors, ceremonies, and revelry. It's a great weekend to celebrate the Franco-American friendship.



The Marquis de Chastellux with Dr. Iris de Rode



Norm Desmarais with Chuck Schwam



Ben Goldman looking great as Lafayette



President Alan Hoffman and General Rochambeau

## Lafayette Teaser Video

This past August, the American Friends of Lafayette hired Journey Seven Media to produce a two-minute promotional video to garner excitement for our upcoming bicentennial commemorations. With Mark Schneider as Lafayette, the shoot took place in Yorktown. James Lee filmed and directed the shoot with Ashley Glasco and Kat Smith assisting. Robert Kelly and Chuck Schwam were the producers.

The film has been viewed by tens of thousands of people on social media. AFL members are using it to help raise funds and awareness. Some businesses are showing the video on a loop within their establishment. To say that the video was a success is an understatement.



George Bennett with Mark Schneider in George Bennet's 1960 Morgan with James Lee filming



James Lee films "Lafayette" on a Segway while a family passing by looks on.



James Lee focuses on Mark Schneider at the Little York Confectionery in Yorktown.



Is that a Light Saber? Is Lafayette a Jedi too? Watch out Darth Cornwallis!!!





The film crew in Yorktown included (L-R): Robert Kelly, James Lee, Mark Schneider (as Lafayette), Kat Smith, Chuck Schwam and Ashley Glasco.

### Robert Selig Honored



AFL member, Dr. Robert Selig was honored in November with the prestigious La Médaille d'Or des Valeurs Francophones, which recognizes the contributions of those who have devoted themselves to the continued development of the bond between France and other Francophone nations as well as nations which French culture has had an impact on, including the United States. Above is a photo of Dr. Selig at the Residence of French Ambassador, Laurent Bili.

## Lafayette at Holly Grove Middle School

On Friday, September 29, 2023, AFL Vice-President Robert Kelly delivered four educational outreach programs that engaged over 120 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Holly Grove Middle School in Holly Springs, North Carolina. Each session lasted 60 minutes and incorporated guided discussion, exploration of primary source documents, and the opportunity for students to handle Lafayette artifacts. This opportunity was facilitated and supported by AFL members Dana and Lindsay Behan. Lindsay is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Holly Grove Middle School.



Lindsay Behan displays an award certificate indicating that she was the top social studies student at Holly Grove Middle School this year.

The theme of the program, General Lafayette's Life and Legacy, focused on Lafayette's military career, his involvement in helping establish the Franco-American Alliance, and his lifelong commitment to human rights and the abolition of slavery. The students watched and discussed two videos - "Guns and Ship," a short excerpt from the musical *Hamilton*, and the AFL's 2023 teaser video featuring Mark Schneider as General Lafayette. The students also examined and discussed the 1974 Lafayette commemorative plate series, *Collection Le Patrimoine de Lafayette*, that features plates showing different scenes from Lafayette's life. The students especially enjoyed handling these artifacts and sharing their thoughts about the stories that each plate represents.



Lindsay and Robert



Robert Kelly teaching Lafayette



Robert, Lindsay, and her mom Dana



## Statue of the Little Prince

A new statue of the “Little Prince” sits near central park and gazes up at the stars. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote and illustrated much of the beloved novella while living in New York in the 1940s.

Since its publication in 1943, *The Little Prince* has become one of history’s best-selling texts. The novella follows a young boy from a tiny, faraway planet who stops by Earth while traveling across the universe.

Born in France in 1900, Saint-Exupéry was a military pilot and a traveler as well. Now, to mark the tale’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, a new statue has been unveiled on the Upper East Side of Manhattan: a four-foot-tall bronze statue of the titular character.

The statue sits on a wall outside the Fifth Avenue headquarters of Villa Albertine, a French cultural institution. AFL member Thierry Chaunu, President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, played an instrumental part in the statue’s placement. The Morgan Library and Museum holds the original manuscript and drawings just a few miles from the statue.

*The Little Prince* has sold more than 200 million copies in hundreds of languages, becoming one of the most translated books in the world. It explores themes of love, loss, friendship, responsibility, and childhood wonder.



Catherine Colonna, the French minister for Europe and foreign affairs, and Olivier d’Agay, grand-nephew of Saint-Exupéry, unveiled the Little Prince statue on September 20, 2023. French Ambassador Laurent Bili is on the far left, and AFL member Thierry Chaunu is far right.



Thierry Chaunu (L) and Chuck Schwam pose with the Little Prince

## Bicentennial Steering Committee Meets



The Steering Committee for Lafayette's Bicentennial gathers at the Branch Museum of Architecture and design in Richmond. L-R: Chuck Schwam, Robert Kelly, Lisa Meunier, and Patty Maclay. Steering Committee members missing from this photo are Jan O'Sullivan and Alan Hoffman.

## Massachusetts, Kentucky, and Indiana Bicentennial Activities



AFL member and Massachusetts Bicentennial Committee Chair, Peter Reilly is on the left with local militia on Muster Day at Old Sturbridge Village.



Bonny Wise poses with Lafayette with the *Belle of Louisville* in the background. Bonny is doing great work preparing for Lafayette's Bicentennial in Kentucky and Indiana.



## Lafayette in West Chester, Pennsylvania



On Saturday, July 29, Lafayette Day was celebrated at Thornbury Farm in West Chester, Pennsylvania. This event was a wonderful way to kick off the celebration of the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in Chester and Delaware counties (Pennsylvania).

AFL member Bruce Mowday, author of *Lafayette at Brandywine*, helped organize this event and is chair of the local Bicentennial Committee. In his speech, Mowday said that the celebrations help to educate, while showing the sacrifices that Lafayette made.

Chuck Schwam represented the AFL at this event. He displayed the traveling exhibit panels and gave a brief talk. In attendance was First Lady "Elizabeth Monroe" (Pamela Bastings on the left above), and "Adriene de Lafayette" (Alisa Dupuy on the right above). They performed a short, well-received program for the hundreds of attendees.



President Hoffman's grandson Miles Cisneros (L) and Executive Director Schwam's grandnephew Rhys King (R) prepare to join the Pennsylvania militia at Thornberry Farm.

## American *Friends* of Lafayette



The very best part of being an AFL member is the relationships we form. So many AFL members have gone from simply being members to becoming friends. It's been an amazing thing to witness. Sure, Lafayette is important, but seeing the camaraderie that has developed among our 800 members is a joy to behold. I've been told that there is no other organization like the AFL. I agree wholeheartedly.

The above photo represents one of those relationships. Robert Kelly (no hair) and I (lots of hair) have become the closest of friends. We work hard together. We've become a formidable team. We play hard together as well, always having fun up and down the eastern seaboard.

I'm ending this *Cur Non* article with this thought: with Lafayette guiding us, together we can do so much. Celebrate, Commemorate, and Educate all over our country. You can also make friends along the way. *Cur non?*



# *Vive Lafayette!*

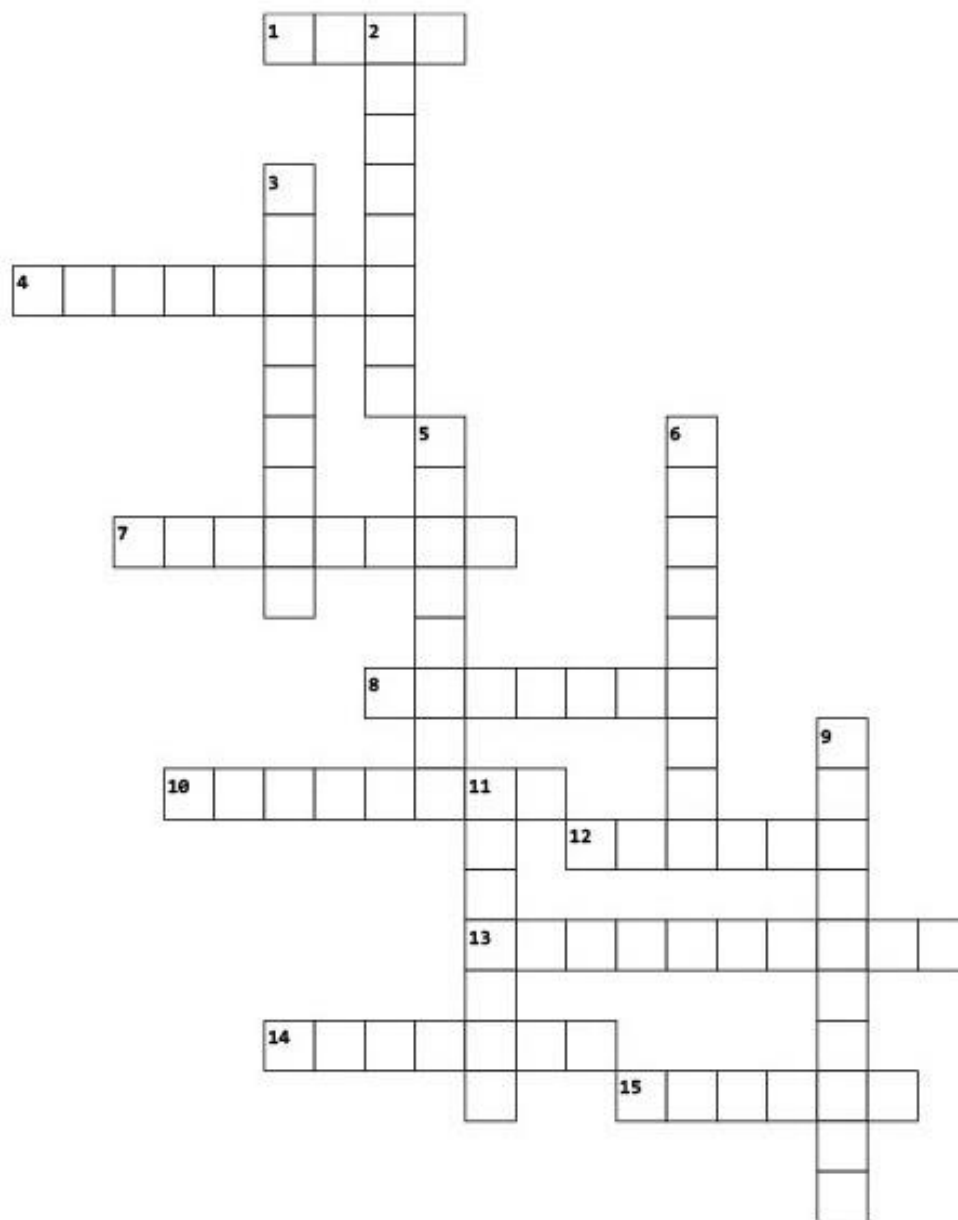
A Word-Cross Puzzle by Kathryn Tone

## Across

1. Month of Lafayette's arrival in America
4. Name of Lafayette's wife
7. Ship Lafayette bought to come to America
8. French royal family line
10. Final home
12. Burial place
13. Battle in which Lafayette was wounded
14. Country which imprisoned Lafayette
15. Last place Lafayette was imprisoned

## Down

2. Age when Lafayette sailed to America
3. Name of Lafayette's first child
5. Lafayette's final battle in the American Revolution
6. Birthplace
9. Lafayette's father figure
11. First name



*Answers on page 179*

## ***Gazette* Distribution – 2023**

by Alan R. Hoffman

The delivery of the May issue of the *Gazette* was delayed this year, principally because our printer was in the process of moving to a new location and installing new equipment.

Quarterbacked by Distribution Chair Deedy Jensen, our team met on October 12 and 13 to address and stuff envelopes and then transport 429 *Gazettes* to the Bulk Mail post office in Manchester, New Hampshire. Another 80 were distributed in person in Yorktown on October 19.



*The Distribution Team: David and Deedy Jensen, Sarah Gillens, and Alan Hoffman*

Bulk Mail, which we discovered in 2022 is considerably less costly than Media Mail, which we had used for years. The cost per piece this year was \$2.58 compared to \$4.68 for Media Mail. The resultant savings of \$900 are available for other AFL purposes, including Farewell Tour Bicentennial events in 2024.

Great thanks to our team – Deedy Jensen, her husband David, and Sarah Gillens – for their hard work and dedication to the AFL. Take a bow!



*The RAV-4 loaded for the second trip to the Post Office*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



## Letters to the *Gazette*

Alan, what a wonderful bit of research in defending Lafayette's reputation in your article in the recent *Gazette*. Very impressive and very well researched and written! –Bill Poole

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Thank you, Chuck. I had the pleasure of receiving my welcome packet yesterday and just wanted to thank you for the effort and attention you and your team put into such a wonderful publication. It was a genuine pleasure to read. I look forward to wearing my AFL pin on my suits, and very much look forward to what the next future issue holds. Take care, Omar Adel

---

Hi Alan, Chuck & Peter

Great job on the recent AFL *Gazette*. I am still reading the 2nd volume, including the fun discussion of the Aug. 1824 Lafayette Dinner menu at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston.

I especially enjoyed Peter Reilly's fine contributions about the visit to Worcester County and the last-minute poem by Henry Ware Jr. (April 21, 1794 – September 22, 1843) of the 2nd Church in Boston. On the Worcester section, I note that the Lancaster Church was designed by Charles Bulfinch rather than John Bulfinch. Just a heads-up in case you can fix that in time for the printed version.

I also appreciated seeing the (c.1784?) portraits of Lafayette and Adrienne that I hadn't seen before. It is amazing how much is still to be dug out about Lafayette et al. I plan to get together an article on Eustis and Lafayette for the next AFL *Gazette* in time for the 2024 events.

Regards, Rick Detwiller

Editor's Note: Rick's helpful correction is reflected in the official online and printed versions of the *Gazette*.

---

WOW! What an edition of the *Gazette*!!! Almost overwhelmingly rich in information about so many things and details!

I had to chuckle about your and Matthew's tour to what for you must have been the "wild west", i.e. St. Louis and surroundings. Cahokia Mound was sort-of down the street from us (we lived 90 miles north), we sometimes took out-of-town visitors there...

The organization is brimming with energy! Amazing. Greetings to everyone!

Almut Spalding

## Letters to the *Gazette* (cont'd)

GORGEIOUS GAZETTE!!!!!! ❤️

Another job WELL DONE!!!  
Patti Maclay :)

---

...and this text from Dr. Richard Ingram from LaGrange, Georgia to AFL President Alan Hoffman....

Alan,

I have only this evening had occasion of an undistracted moment to study your essay, "Was Lafayette's Sale?" Distracted moments given to such work is an indignity, perhaps worse than sporting a clip-on bow tie.

The logic of the essay, the detail of dates, and the primary source evidence make it compelling. This is good reading.

Now, take a respite, but not too long, and aim your chisel to August 4, Edmund Brice, 180 pounds, and "your Black servant."

You are performing civic duty; pay no mind to naysaying nabobs who dismiss forty years of lawyering as a wander in the wilderness. It was all preparation for serious work.

Best,  
Richard







*E. Henne, Captivité de La Fayette (early 19<sup>th</sup> century). Engraving, Skillman Library, Lafayette College*

## ***Vive Lafayette!***

Answers to the Word-Cross Puzzle by Kathryn Tone on page 175

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. June        | 15. Olmitz     |
| 4. Adrienne    | 14. Austria    |
| 7. Victoire    | 13. Brandywine |
| 8. Bourbon     | 12. Picpus     |
| 10. La Grange  | 11. Gilbert    |
| 12. Picpus     | 9. Washington  |
| 13. Brandywine | 6. Chavaniac   |
| 14. Austria    | 5. Yorktown    |
| 15. Olmitz     | 3. Henriette   |
|                | 2. Nineteen    |
- Across**                      **Down**



Be sure to visit our special dedicated website for the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour, [www.lafayette200.org](http://www.lafayette200.org).

This is where you can learn about upcoming events, watch the famous promotional video, and shop for Lafayette-related merchandise!

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