
Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

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Easton, Pennsylvania

A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES

CHATTANOOGA, TN — William Kirchner, president of The American Friends of Lafayette, believes that many of our nation's communities are planning, or have already held, celebrations this year marking the 250th anniversary of Lafayette's birth. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association and Lafayette College have put together an outstanding traveling exhibit which opened earlier this year at Mt. Vernon. Titled "A Son and His Adoptive Father — The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington," we will have the pleasure of viewing it as it will be moved to the College by September 6th in time to mark the nobleman's birthday.

Lafayette College, founded in 1832, and this year marks its 175th anniversary.

A highlight of the college's 100th anniversary in 1932 was the establishment of The American Friends of Lafayette and this year is the Society's 75th anniversary.

No doubt there will be celebrations in different parts of our country which will honor George Washington and his 275th birthday!

HISTORIAN DAVID C. McCULLOUGH TO HIGHLIGHT OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Will Deliver Keynote Address to Begin Three Day Celebration

EASTON, Pa. — David C. McCullough, world-renowned biographer and historian, will deliver the keynote address honoring the 250th birthday of the Marquis de Lafayette. It is one of the Lives of Liberty Lectures 2007-08 sponsored by Lafayette College.

The Pulitzer Prize author's topic, "Ties that Bind America and France," is scheduled for 8 p.m., Wednesday, September 5th, at the Kamine Gym, Allan P. Kirby Sports Center. A reception from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

will take place at the Bergethon Room, Marquis Hall. A dinner will take place from 5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

The father of a Lafayette graduate and the recipient of an honorary doctor of law degree from the College in 1995, McCullough was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, by President George W. Bush in December 2006.

In addition to Pulitzers for biographies of *Harry S. Truman* and *John Adams*, McCullough's biography of *Theodore Roosevelt, Mornings on Horseback*, won the 1982 National Book Award for Biography and *The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914*, won the National Book Award for History in 1978. His most recent book, *1776*, was published in 2005.



Lafayette

TROY MEETING TURNED UP LAFAYETTE INTEREST

TROY, NY—The two-day annual meeting, the 74th of The American Friends of Lafayette, took place June 9-10 in this city which proved full of surprises for members.

The evening before found most checking in at two hotels, with headquarters established at the Franklin Square Inn & Suites. On such an assembly the members arrange to meet for dinner on what has been known as the "informal night." The choice was Fresno's, just across the street from the inn which provided dinners that earned praise from all. A recessed rectangular alcove comfortably seated the group in what may well have been one of the largest and busiest restaurants visited by our members.

On the morning of the 9th we traveled by automobiles to the Rensselaer County Historical Society where we were greeted by staff members and Stacy Pomeroy Draper. She had prepared a display of documentary illustrations which were explained to us. Draper, who is the Society's curator, next led us on a walking tour of Troy center. Her knowledge of every building, pathways between buildings, and those that we passed astounded us. One pathway led us to a building where the flag of France was flying.

About 15 minutes were spent at the seated statue of Emma Willard, founder in 1821 of the Troy Female Seminary. It later became the Emma Willard School, which became a prestigious school for girls.

A delicious lunch was served at the school in one of its rooms used for such a purpose. We went to another of the schools beautiful buildings where Nancy Iannucci, librarian and archivist, provided a tour of the archival library. She had

prepared a display of interesting artifacts concerning both Lafayette and Willard. Janice Wolk, our new corresponding secretary and historian, found a citation from volume 1 of Edgar E. Brandon's 4-volume treatise which paints a wonderful portrait of Lafayette's visit to the Seminary in 1824. The ladies of Troy greeted him. They had created an arbor "reaching from the street across the small park, to the front of the Seminary building."

Mrs. Albert Pawling addressed Lafayette noting that the students of the school "...are a living testimony to the blessings conferred by that Independence, which you, sir, so essentially contributed to establish, and in which our sex enjoy a prominent share."

The annual dinner was held at the Century House restaurant in Latham. A slide presentation about Troy, Lafayette's visit and impact on the city and its subsequent progress was given by Stacy Draper.

Janice Wolk said that she was honored to read a snippet from a poem entitled Lafayette at Schenectady by Harold A. Larrabee, and a lovely and sentimental World War I era commemorative poem about Lafayette.

President Kirchner called upon guest Donna J. Hassler, former Director of the Rensselaer County Historical Society, and upon Draper, for his presentation of the 1934 Lafayette medallions designed for our Society by John Flanagan to commemorate the 100th anniversary on May 20, 1934 of Lafayette's death. Hassler is an authority on Flanagan and gave time and expertise to Kirchner which was of great value in the Society's efforts to assess the importance and reputation of

the sculptor-medallionist who was a studio assistant of Augustus St. Gaudens.

The next morning our business meeting was held in the historic Franklin Plaza, a former bank now connected with the Franklin Inn & Suites. Inn management provided a comfortable meeting room with tables on which were vases of flowers and pitchers of ice water. Of interest in this building was the Monitor Room which has been preserved because of its historic association with the Civil War. It was in this room that plans and financing were put in place to build the USS Monitor, the ironclad "Cheesebox on a raft" that served the Union during that war.

ROAD TO YORKTOWN EXHIBIT GETS A MODIFIED REPEAT SHOW

NEW HAVEN, CT—The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University repeated the successful 1992 exhibit of the "Road to Yorktown" in a modified presentation in June 2007. The exhibit was built around the Library's collection of Rochambeau papers.

It was done in conjunction with the University celebrating the centenary of Paul Mellon who donated the papers. The special booklet that was prepared for the 1992 exhibit was reprinted for the occasion.

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WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU ROUTE MARCHERS MADE PRINCETON STOP

PRINCETON, NJ — The detachment of the Washington-Rochambeau marchers for part of the New Jersey route to Yorktown, passed through this historic city on August 29th, 2006. They laid a wreath on the Washington-Rochambeau Commemorative plaque that Jean Lareuse did for the American Society of the Souvenir Francais which was dedicated on May 23, 1998.



l-r: Michael Fitzgerald, David Fogerberg, not identified, David Hallaway, Lt. Mathieu Petitjean. Petitjean representing the French Army - President of the American Society of the Souvenir Francais.

The plaque marked the passage of Washington and Rochambeau's troops through Princeton and represents the 21st campsite of the army of Louis XVI of France, commanded by General Count de Rochambeau, August 31, 1781, during their march to victory at Yorktown.

Caroline Lareuse, Jean's wife, chaired the impressive ceremony at Princeton's Borough Hall on May 23, 1998.

YORKTOWN DAY ATTRACTS MORE MEMBERS EACH YEAR

YORKTOWN, Va. — A move was made a few years ago that more of our members should attend the patriotic exercises at Yorktown on October 19th. About half a dozen responded to the first call and each year finds a few more joining the group.

The 2006 meeting was attended by President William Kirchner and Linda Kirchner, Jean Hultgren, Enoch Woodhouse, Alan Hoffman, Janice Wolk, Barbara and Albert McJoynt, Ann Hazen, Betty McPherson, John Scotton, Phillip and Barbara Schroeder, Caroline Lareuse with her husband Jean and a grandson Jean David, and Sallie de Barcza, a member of the New Jersey Daughters of the American Revolution and a new life member of our Society.

Betty McPherson, who is The American Friends of Lafayette's representative on the Yorktown Day Committee, hosted a reception at her residence which President Kirchner described as "a little more or less than a football field's length from the 1881 Yorktown Monument."

Caroline Lareuse served as the Society's honorary flag bearer during the traditional and impressive wreath-laying ceremony at the monument.

The festive three days began with the annual dinner for members of the 13 organizations making up the Yorktown Day Committee which took place at Fort Eustis.

HISTORIC MOLAND HOUSE RESTORATION CONTINUES

WARWICK TOWNSHIP, PA We have been informed that the restoration of Moland House continues to move along as their budget allows. A grant from the Kirby Foundation, one of its most faithful supporters, was used primarily for the crafting and installation of doors for the original house.

The Well House work is scheduled for completion by January 2008. The ca. 1850 outbuilding was used for food preservation and storage, as well as protection for the well that provided water for the owners and farmhands of the Moland property.

LLOYD KRAMER DELIVERS LECTURE ON HIS LATEST BOOK AT CHATTANOOGA LIBRARY

CHATTANOOGA, TN — On March 13, 2007, a large audience heard Prof. Lloyd Kramer deliver a lecture about Lafayette at the Downtown Library in this city. The speaker is the Dean Smith Distinguished Term Professor and Chair of the History Department at the University of North Carolina. His presentation was the Library's inaugural Chain Distinguished Public Lecture. His latest book, "Lafayette in Two Worlds" was the title of his presentation.

William Kirchner, president of The American Friends of Lafayette, was a member of the planning committee which arranged the program.

Kramer drew upon his book which offers a unique interpretation of the cultural and political significance of the career of the Marquis de Lafayette, which spanned the American Revolution, the French Revolution of 1789 and 1830, and the Polish Uprising of 1830-31.

The speaker, a member of our Society, stated that Lafayette's experiences reveal how public figures can symbolize the aspirations of a society as a whole.

Kirchner arranged an exhibit with items from his own collection pertaining to the French nobleman. Diane Windham Shaw, archivist of Lafayette College, sent the flag owned by the Society which flew over Lafayette's grave during 1982 at Picpus Cemetery, Paris, along with additional appropriate objects. Philip Schroeder sent a Flanagan medal to the display.

Kramer will be at Easton, Pennsylvania and will give an address at the College's September gala which will feature an outstanding exhibit about Lafayette.

**CAROLINE LAREUSE
ATTENDS LAFAYETTE
GRAVE CEREMONY**

PARIS — Caroline Lareuse again represented The American Friends of Lafayette in Picpus Cemetery on July 4th.

She reported that the day was extremely hot and uncomfortable which resulted in an abbreviated ceremony. She said that "Although the American Ambassador was present, he did not make a speech, only the Duke d'Ayen, president of the French Sons of the American Revolution."

Her sixteen-year old granddaughter, Alexandra Beckemeyer, accompanied her and was delighted to see this impressive ceremony for the first time.

Mrs. Lareuse, who has served as Honorary Consul of France for New Jersey, has attended the Picpus ceremony for many years.

Rudolph Cusumano was also present at the ceremony.

**DR. ROBERT R.
CROUT STARS ON
HISTORY CHANNEL
LAFAYETTE SPECIAL**

EASTON, PA — Dr. Robert R. Crout appeared on the History Channel's one hour of six hour-long programs about the generals who served with George Washington. Crout was introduced on the program as President Emeritus of our Society and as an expert on Lafayette, "The Hero of Two Worlds."

The program cut to him several times as the story of Lafayette's service in the Revolutionary War was revealed. On those occasions Crout would narrate the segments to a nationwide audience.

The TV special was seen by many of our members at different times across the country on December 30th.

**ALAN R. HOFFMAN'S
BOOK ABOUT
LAFAYETTE AVAILABLE**

EASTON, PA — Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825 by Auguste Levasseur, General Lafayette's Private Secretary during his trip, has been translated by AFL member Alan R. Hoffman and is available. The hardcover book, which contains an introduction by Hoffman, is 572 pages in length and includes 13 black-and-white illustrations.

In the words of Diane Windham Shaw, Special Collections Librarian at Lafayette College, "Alan R. Hoffman has done a masterful job of reacquainting us with a classic text that deserves wider recognition. Levasseur's account of Lafayette's visit to America in 1824-25 is a ringside seat at one of the great events in American social and cultural history. Through this fine new English translation, we are able to come along as Lafayette travels to all twenty-four states in the Union, accepts the adulation of a nation, and has adventures aplenty, including a harrowing shipwreck. What makes the account all the more valuable as a commentary on America is that it reveals how very fitting Lafayette's soubriquet 'The Nation's Guest,' as he insisted on spending time not just with the country's elite, but also with ordinary citizens, African-Americans, and American Indians."

The book is available for \$30 plus \$5 shipping (\$24 for 10 or more copies) by writing to Alan R. Hoffman, Lafayette in America, Order Department, 45 Hardy Road, Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053, or by email: atarhesq@aol.com.

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS**

EASTON, PA — During the past recording session we welcomed the following to membership:

Faith W. and Chris Gross, Yorktown, Virginia; Alan R. Hoffman, Londonderry, New Hampshire; Dimitri Villard, Los Angeles, California; Michael J. Mendenhall, Monterey, California and David Poplar, Philadelphia.

We look forward to meeting and greeting them at our two annual functions — the annual meeting usually held in June and the assembly at Yorktown in October.

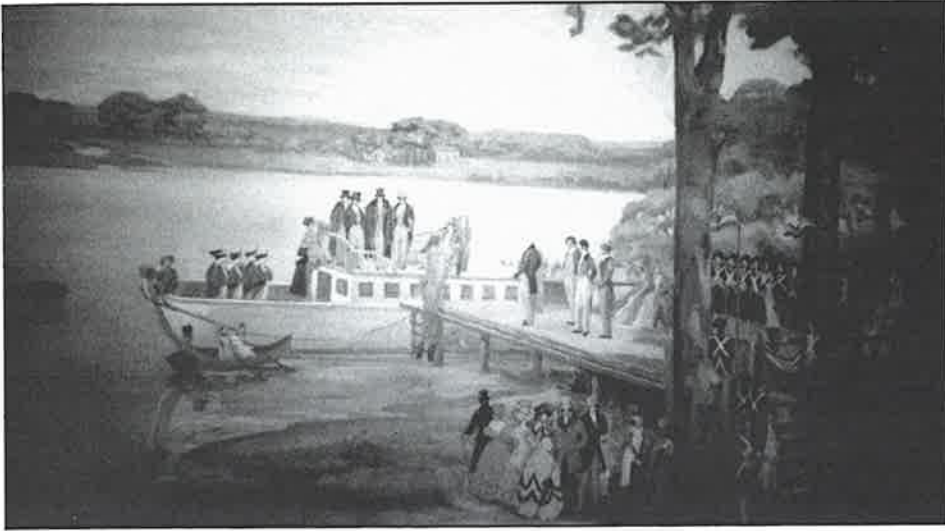
**REGISTRATION
FOR SEPTEMBER
MEETING AT EASTON,
PENNSYLVANIA**

The American Friends of Lafayette registration fee for this year's September 5-7 meeting will be the same as last year — \$95 per person, which will cover dinner on Wednesday, lunch and dinner on Thursday, and other AFL expenses related to the meeting program and events. Please send your check for \$95 (per person) payable to "The American Friends of Lafayette" to Philip Schroeder, 394 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA 18064.

If you have any problems getting accommodations, you may call Mr. Schroeder at (610) 759-0551.

**ANNUAL MEETING
HEADQUARTERS WILL
BE AT BETHLEHEM, PA**

The Lehigh Valley Hotel and Conference Center will be our headquarters hotel at Bethlehem, PA September 5-7. It is located at the junction of routes 22 and 512, about 15 minutes from the College. Reservations ~ (610) 866-5800 and mention you are a member of The American Friends of Lafayette.

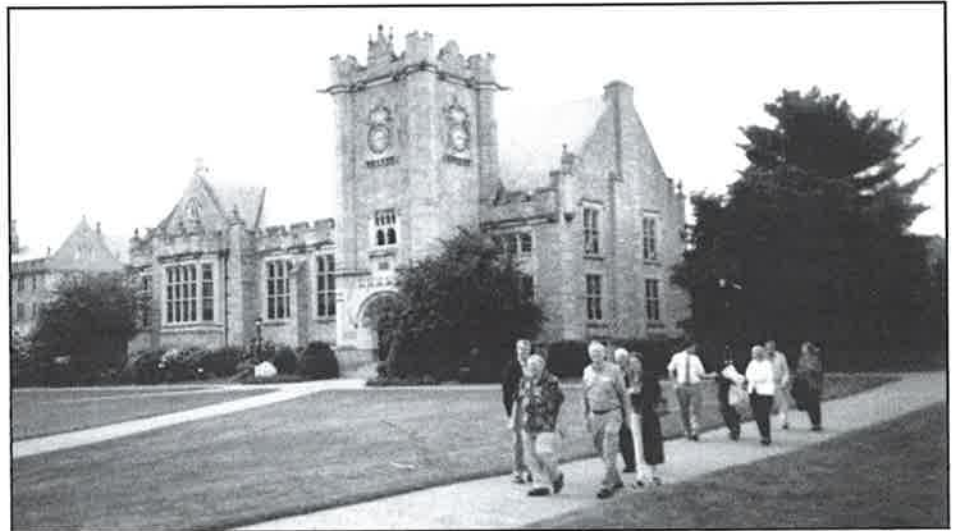


In an alcove at the Emma Willard School were two murals depicting the arrival of Lafayette at Troy on September 18, 1824. He arrived aboard a boat on which were Gov. Yates and former governors DeWitt Clinton and Morgan Lewis. Members of the Masonic Lodge held a parade which passed under an arch lettered "Welcome La Fayette." The distinguished visitor was a Mason.

(Leonard J. Panaggio photo)

A very pleasant and informative visit was made to the exclusive Emma Willard School which Willard founded in 1821 as the Troy Female Seminary. The beautiful buildings and the manicured campus commanded the attention of the members.

(Leonard J. Panaggio photo)



The Century House restaurant in Latham, New York, was the setting for the annual dinner meeting. The group came from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Tennessee.

(Photo submitted by Pat Panaggio)

