

The construction of the ship Hermione continues at Rochefort, France. It is the ship upon which Lafayette embarked on March 21, 1780, to return to America. The American Friends of Lafayette have sent contributions showing our interest in the replica of the historic ship.

Address Change Requested



**The American Friends
of Lafayette**
Farinon College Center
Box 9463
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18042-1798

First Class Mail

PRESIDENT AND MRS. WILLIAM KIRCHNER ATTEND WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION TO GREET PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

WASHINGTON, DC – On the evening of November 6, William and Linda Kirchner were at the White House in response to an invitation to meet Nicolas Sarkozy, the president of France. Upon entering from the East Wing they passed by tables lined with flowers, various culinary delights, and a selection of wines. A small group of musicians were playing 18th century parlor music.

The Kirchners were ushered up a long flight of stairs into a room where President and Mrs. Bush, along with President Sarkozy, greeted them. Linda conversed with Mrs. Bush, who once was a librarian, and told the First Lady that she had been a school librarian in Georgia. Mrs. Bush informed Linda about a book she is writing with one of her daughters. William presented President Bush with a copy of the 75th anniversary *Gazette* and he and Linda shook hands with President Sarkozy.

The visitors were guided to an auditorium-like room which could seat about 200. The Kirchners were in the second row about 10 feet from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He presented her with a copy of the special *Gazette*.

The program featured appearances by Dean Malissa as George Washington and Benjamin Goldman, whom Kirchner described as “a convincing Lafayette.” Twenty-two members of the Army Chorus sang without accompaniment four numbers including “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “Vive l’amour.”

Three Library Congress items were on display: (1) Michel Capitaine du Chesnoy, aide to Lafayette; his manuscript map (c.1781) — camps and routes of Lafayette’s progress through the Virginia countryside and those of Lord Cornwallis and his forces. (2) a page from the French manuscript atlas of 1827, Frestel’s *Voyage du General LaFayette aux Etats-Unis in 1824-25*, which documents the cities and towns visited in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC area. (3) a Manuscript Atlas showing the Alexandria, Virginia encampment of the French Army of Rochambeau following Yorktown — the atlas was opened to “Camp at Alexandria 17th day July 1782.”

The Kirchners will always remember this particular evening and we were glad that the American Friends of Lafayette was included at this event.

MARKER IS DEDICATED TO COLLEGE FOUNDING IN BUSY CENTER OF EASTON

EASTON, PA – A three day celebration, the likes of which has never been observed before, occurred September 5-7 at Lafayette College. It combined three anniversaries that every member of The American Friends of Lafayette will remember forever.

They marked the 250th anniversary of the birth of Lafayette, the 175th anniversary of Lafayette College, founded in 1832, and the 75th birthday of The American Friends of Lafayette, founded in 1932 at the College.

The festivities began with the unveiling of a historical marker commemorating the founding of the College which was unveiled in the city’s Center Square where the Mayor of Easton, Philip B. Mitman, and Dr. Daniel H. Weiss, president of the College, made appropriate remarks.

The three days of other activities are reported in the articles throughout this edition of the *Gazette*, most of which took place on the campus of Lafayette College.

FRANKLIN PIERCE HISTORIAN WILL BE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY

LONDONDERRY, NH – Program Chairman Alan R. Hoffman has announced that Peter A. Wallner will present his talk about the nation’s 14th President, Franklin Pierce. Wallner is the author of a two-volume biography of Pierce — *Franklin Pierce: New Hampshire’s Favorite Son* (Plaidswede, 2004), and *Franklin Pierce: Martyr for the Union* (Plaidswede, 2007). This is the first scholarly biography of Pierce to appear in 75 years. The speaker is currently the Library Director of the New Hampshire Historical Society which owns the largest collection of Pierce Papers.

Prior to moving to New Hampshire to research the life of the state’s only president, Waller spent thirty years as a teacher and administrator in independent schools in Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. He holds a Ph.D. in History from Penn State University. He continues to teach part-time in the Doctor of Arts program at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire.

Waller is also the author of *Franklin Pierce and Bowdoin College Associates Hawthorne and Hale, Historical New Hampshire*, Volume 59, Number 1, Spring 2005.

**YORKTOWN DAY
CONTINUES TO
ATTRACT OUR
MEMBERS**

YORKTOWN, VA – More than a dozen members of The American Friends of Lafayette joined a gathering of Yorktowners at a reception held on Yorktown Day, October 19, at the residence of longtime member Betty McPherson.

She also hosted the 2007 reception and again made her visitors feel very much at home. During the past five or so years more and more of our members are attending the wonderful celebration in the picturesque village of Yorktown where Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army which brought to an end the costly American Revolution.

Attending the reception were William Cole, Lea Gryk, and Major James L. Adkins of Yorktown, William and Linda Kirchner of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Alan R. Hoffman, Esq., Londonderry, New Hampshire, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McDelaware of the W3R members informed the group that he had a Houdon sculpture of Lafayette which he would like to donate. Soon after the announcement, he returned to his residence in Paris (he also maintains a residence in Connecticut).

When Caroline Lareuse made her annual summer visit to Paris she met with Bossière for lunch at which she discussed the idea that he present it to the Society's collection on its 75th anniversary.

As Lareuse was leaving Paris a few days later, she put him in touch with Diane Windham Shaw and suggested that she follow through on this gift. Shaw retrieved the bust from Tuxedo Park, New York, and had it brought to the College. She invited the donor to attend the celebrations at the College, which he did.

Dr. Bossière traveled to Princeton, New Jersey, and Lareuse and Jean Hultgren brought him to Easton. He is serving as Chairman Emeritus of the W3R (Washington Rochambeau Bossière, Chairman Emeritus of the W3R Route), which has been marked with distinctive signs bearing "W3R" on the approximate routes over which the French army marched from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA.

Shaw announced the gift at the scheduled luncheon and invited the membership to view the Houdon bust in front of the Rare Collections Department in the Skillman Library. Bossière was delighted with its location as everyone could see it on entering the library.

Also present, Carleton Bennett, Esq., Virginia Beach, Virginia, Kim Burdick and Veronica Eid of Wilmington, Delaware, who where part of the W3R organization and traveled to Easton and were present at the presentation of the Houdon bust of Lafayette, the gift of Dr. Jacques Bossière, Chairman Emeritus of the W3R (Washington Rochambeau Route). We now count Bennett, Burdick and Eid as new members and welcome them to our Society. We look forward to meeting them at our annual meeting.

CARMINO RAVOSA CAN'T RESIST PLAYING PIANO

EASTON, PA – About 15 of us who had completed breakfast on the first morning we were at the hotel were aroused by some very good music coming from the dining room patio. Ticking the ivories was new member Carmino Ravosa.

Ravosa was singing at the top of his lungs words that were indeed a biography of the Marquis de Lafayette. We gathered around the gifted musician/singer encouraging him to go on. Eventually the dining room hostess requested that we stop, but not until we all sang the stirring words of *La Marseillaise*.

Will he repeat this wonderful addition to the meeting in New Hampshire? We hope so.

**HOUDON BUST OF LAFAYETTE DONATED
TO SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS**



Dr. Jacques Bossière and Caroline Lareuse at the presentation of the Houdon sculpture of Lafayette.

EASTON, PA – It seems that the members of The American Friends of Lafayette were on the go from one activity to another during the three day celebration of three birthdays.

One of the most unusual and wonderful gifts ever presented to the Society in recent years took place at the College's Skillman Library. Dr. Jacques Bossière, at a meeting in Delaware of the W3R members informed the group that he had a Houdon sculpture of Lafayette which he would like to donate. Soon after the announcement, he returned to his residence in Paris (he also maintains a residence in Connecticut).

When Caroline Lareuse made her annual summer visit to Paris she met with Bossière for lunch at which she discussed the idea that he present it to the Society's collection on its 75th anniversary.

As Lareuse was leaving Paris a few days later, she put him in touch with Diane Windham Shaw and suggested that she follow through on this gift. Shaw retrieved the bust from Tuxedo Park, New York, and had it brought to the College. She invited the donor to attend the celebrations at the College, which he did.

Dr. Bossière traveled to Princeton, New Jersey, and Lareuse and Jean Hultgren brought him to Easton. He is serving as Chairman Emeritus of the W3R (Washington Rochambeau Bossière, Chairman Emeritus of the W3R Route), which has been marked with distinctive signs bearing "W3R" on the approximate routes over which the French army marched from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA.

Shaw announced the gift at the scheduled luncheon and invited the membership to view the Houdon bust in front of the Rare Collections Department in the Skillman Library. Bossière was delighted with its location as everyone could see it on entering the library.

A GREAT CELEBRATION

We are grateful for the courtesies extended to us by Lafayette College, Dr. Daniel H. Weiss, President of the College, and the institution's Board of Trustees. We were guests at the reception and dinner on September 5 held at Marquis Hall. Members of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association were also present.

The evening was capped when the members moved to the Kamrine Gymnasium at the Allen P. Kirby Sports Center where a capacity crowd heard Pulitzer Prize author David C. McCullough, deliver the celebration's keynote address "Ties That Bind: America and France."

The second day began with a morning visit to the Williams Center Gallery where we viewed the exhibit entitled "*A Son and his Adoptive Father: The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington*," which was shipped to the College from Mount Vernon's new F. M. Kirby Foundation Gallery.

A guide then had us going from place-to-place absorbing and hiking everything we saw or heard. Alan R. Hoffman was our luncheon speaker observing Lafayette's birthday, September 6, with his topic "Stories of the Farewell Tour." Other happenings included talks from well-known authors on Lafayette, Prof. Lloyd Kramer and Prof. Paul Spalding.

On the third day our members assembled to hold its annual meeting which had been postponed from the usual June dates in order to be at Easton at this very special time.

**NEWS FROM/ABOUT
OUR MEMBERS**

Diane Windham Shaw, Lafayette College archivist, has announced that the entire run of *The American Friends of Lafayette Gazette* (February 1942 to 2007) is available on the

website – <http://www2lafayette.edu-special/home.php>. Members will find a lot of interesting articles as they read what the members have accomplished through the years. Our thanks to Diane.

On November 9 Janice Wolk addressed the Morristown, New Jersey Daughters of the American Revolution. She chose for her topic "Lafayette's Role in the American Revolution."

We have missed Lt. Col. Enoch Woodhouse, U.S. Army Air Corps (Ret.), a member for several years, and who has been active in our Society. He was unable to attend the Troy or Easton meetings. Col. Woodhouse is one of the World War II Tuskegee airmen who were honored by President Bush and Congress in March 2007.

Dr. Robert R. Crot of Hanahan, South Carolina, president emeritus of The American Friends of Lafayette, spoke at Lafayette College on October 11. His topic was: "Lafayette and Slavery: The Ideal, The Practical."

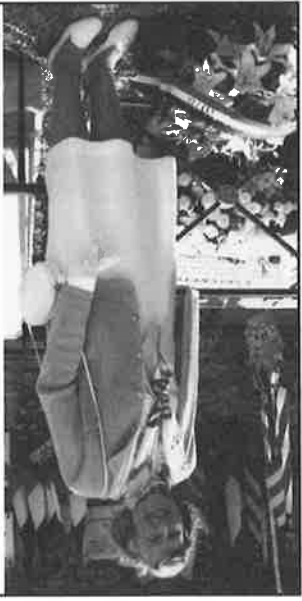
We were glad to see Captain Paul Higgins, USN (Ret.), a former command of the decommissioned USS Lafayette, with Mrs. Higgins and other members of the family at our gathering.

The visitor is pictured showing a medal with a badge that belonged to George Washington. His family had kept it for 48 years and it was to be auctioned on December 11 at Sotheby's.

The historic gold medal of the Society of the Cincinnati is an enameled patriotic badge created for Washington that was given to Lafayette in 1824 when he made a grand tour of the United States.

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS

EASTON, PA – Communication to our Society must now be directed to: American Friends of Lafayette, Farison College Center, Box 9463, Lafayette, PA 18042-1798. The *Gazette* is edited by Leonard J. Panaggio, 44 Old Beach Road, Newport, Rhode Island 02840-3349.



**CAROLINE LAREUSE
CONTINUES HER ANNUAL
VISITS TO PICPUS
CEMETERY IN PARIS**

PARIS – For several years Caroline Lareuse has made the journey to Picpus cemetery in Paris as a representative of The American Friends of Lafayette. She makes arrangements to obtain wreaths which she has placed on the grave of Rudy Cusumano, a member of our Society, also present for the event and took this picture of Caroline after she had placed the wreath at this patriotic cemetery.