

# The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

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On Saturday April 10, members of the American Friends of Lafayette gathered at the French Cemetery in Yorktown. It was our goal to spruce up this final resting place for the fifty French soldiers who died during the Siege of Yorktown.

The site was mowed, raked, and cleaned up. The planting bed was replanted with new red, white, and blue flowers (including iris, a.k.a. fleurs-de-lis). The American Friends of Lafayette (in partnership with the American Society of Le Souvenir Français) will continue to maintain this hallowed ground for years to come.

Above, please see our formidable team of gardeners (from left to right) Bonnie Fritz, Mark Schneider, Abbey Evans, Chuck Schwam, Robert Kelly, Lea Gryk, Dan Evans, Bob Kelly, and Bill Cole.

## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
President's Message	3-4
Lafayette's Farewell Tour Bicentennial	5-8
Lafayette as a Fictional Character	9-21
Masonic Lodges in the Days of Lafayette	22-26
Lafayette as Propagandist	27-30
Lafayette and la Frégate de la Liberté	31-38
Researching the Story of "Quiz," Lafayette's Little Dog	39-46
Virginia Lafayette Day	47-48
Two French Soldiers in Newport, Rhode Island	49-50
French Alliance Day – Valley Forge	51-52
Save the Date: October 18 and 19, 2021	53
The American Society of Le Souvenir Français	54-59
Lafayette Day in Maryland	60-62
Trivia Question: Lafayette Statue Made Prior to 1873?	63
Lafayette Unmasked!	64-72
Lafayette Sighting in Colonial Williamsburg	73-75
The Gloucester Museum of History: 400+ Years of History in an Old Tavern	76-80
Jackson, North Carolina Scores a Lafayette Trifecta	81-85
Lafayette Trail Marker – Suffolk, Virginia	86-91
Did the Martins Meet Lafayette in Kirby Township, North Carolina?	92-96
Lafayette Trail Marker – Downtown Fayetteville	97-98
Lafayette – The Nation's Guest Comes to Boston	99-103
How the Farewell Tour was Reported in London	104-106
Lafayette Square in Haverhill, Massachusetts	107-113
<i>In Memoriam: Allan Price Kirby, Jr.</i>	114-115
<i>In Memoriam: Philip Marion Bowditch</i>	116
<i>Lafayette at Brandywine – Book Preview</i>	117-119
Member Profile - Pierre Antoine, Marquis de Chambrun	120-123
Member Profile – Paul Higgins	124-126
My Connection with Lafayette – Lisa Guadagno	127-128
Shake My Hand	129-130
New Acquisition by Lafayette College	131
Trivia Answer: Lafayette Statue Made Prior to 1873?	132-134
General Lafayette, a Leopards Basketball Fan	135
Social Media is our Friend	136-137
Letters to the <i>Gazette</i>	138

## President's Message



Dear Friend of Lafayette,

The AFL has continued to thrive as we emerge from the worst pandemic in 100 years.

We discovered Zoom and used it for four programs in the last six months – “Lafayette as a Fictional Character,” Interview of Julien Icher, Interview of Mark Schneider, and “Taking a Ringside Seat on the Farewell Tour.” These programs, as well as the earlier “Character Matters: Perceptions of Lafayette and Lessons for our Time” are available for viewing on our website if you missed any of them. I want to congratulate Bonnie Fritz for the highly competent and professional way that she served as host and coordinator of these excellent programs.

I cannot pass up an opportunity to give a loud shout-out to our incredible Treasurer, Event-Planner extraordinaire, and COO of the AFL, Charles Schwam, aka Chuck. His indefatigable energy and competence have kept the AFL vibrant and relevant during these difficult times. With eleven articles in this *Gazette*, he has also become the AFL’s principal “staff” writer.

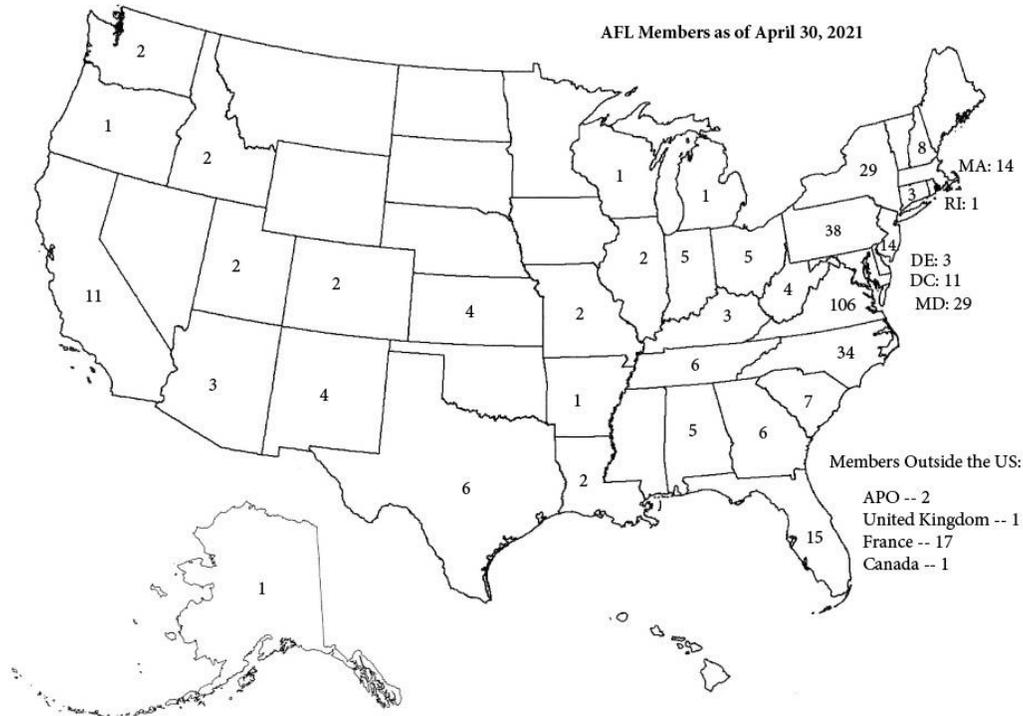
The AFL, with Chuck Schwam leading the charge, has ventured forth with three live events since March – Virginia Lafayette Day, French Cemetery cleanup day, and French Alliance Day at Valley Forge. Our annual meeting will be held in Virginia *live* with events in Gloucester, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Portsmouth from June 10 to June 13.

Chuck is also spearheading perhaps the most important project that the AFL has ever undertaken – a 13-month series of programs to commemorate Lafayette’s Farewell Tour of 1824-25. Working with Julien Icher of The Lafayette Trail and a committee of over 100 members, we hope to promote and participate in events in most, if not all, of the cities and towns that Lafayette visited, in each case on the day exactly 200 years after his Farewell Tour visit.

With great admiration and respect, and with much regret on my part, I have finally allowed four of our most loyal and dedicated members to leave their long-time posts.

Phil and Barbara Schroeder have been the distributors of the *Gazette* for *many, many* years. As the *Gazette*'s size has expanded and membership has increased dramatically, their "back of the house" operation became a tremendous burden. Phil and Barb, please accept the AFL's appreciation for all your hard work in seeing to it that our members have continued to receive their *Gazettes* all these years. As you can see from the last page of this issue, our new distributors are Dorothea and David Jensen and Sarah Gillens, three Granite Staters.

What can I say about our dedicated Membership Chairs Almut and Paul Spalding? They have managed our growing membership load for many years competently, efficiently, and skillfully. If the truth be known, Almut and Paul sought permission to be relieved of their duties over a year ago. However, I prevailed on them to gut it out for one more year, and they did, cheerfully and uncomplainingly. Thank you both so much. We welcome new Membership Chair Abbey Evans of Chesapeake, Virginia.



I will end this over-long missive with the content of the Spaldings' last report. In the six months beginning on November 1, 2020, the AFL attracted 23 new individual memberships, 5 family memberships, and 1 student member. Assuming two persons per each family membership, except where one family identified four names, the grand total of new members is 36. Thus, in the eleven months since June 1, 2020, our new member total has been 71! I believe our social media presence – see article by Mackenzie Fowler, our Social Media Coordinator – and the vigorous schedule of AFL virtual and live events are the principal reasons for this steady growth. The current total of AFL members is 414, an all-time high!

Best regards,  
Alan R. Hoffman

# Lafayette's Farewell Tour Bicentennial

by Chuck Schwam



I am extremely happy to report that the AFL Bicentennial Committee has been established. The committee is made up of 120 members, representing the 24 states Lafayette visited in 1824-1825 (with Washington, D.C. and West Virginia included as well). There will be hundreds of planned festivities, in large cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, and Savannah...but also in the multitude of small towns Lafayette visited that are still brimming with pride that America's favorite fighting Frenchman came through their municipality.

Beginning on August 15, 2024, we will start the thirteen-month bicentennial celebration of Lafayette's triumphant return to the United States. We will of course start in New York City (just as Lafayette did). We will then spend the next thirteen months following Lafayette's footsteps in the exact order as Lafayette did in 1824-1825. For example:

- August 29, 2024: we will gather in Quincy, Massachusetts just as Lafayette did when visiting John Adams.
- October 17, 2024: we will gather at George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon to commemorate Lafayette's somber visit there two centuries before.
- We will of course be in Yorktown on October 19, but in 2024 we will not only celebrate the victory of 1781, but also Lafayette's return on that very day in 1824.
- November 4, 2024: we will be at Monticello to honor Lafayette's visit with Thomas Jefferson.
- March 4, 2025: we will be in Fayetteville, North Carolina and rejoice with the only city Lafayette ever visited that was named after him.
- April 11, 2025: we will be in New Orleans.
- April 29, 2025: we will be in St Louis.

- Our 2025 annual meeting will most likely take place in the Niagara Falls area, where Lafayette visited on June 5, 1825.
- September 7, 2025: we will be in Washington D.C., bidding Lafayette farewell (again !!). We will board a boat, sail down the Potomac River, past Mount Vernon, just as Lafayette did 200 years earlier.

I am pleased to also announce that we will partner with The Lafayette Trail. Of course, you all know Julien Icher, President of The Lafayette Trail. Julien will be sharing his contacts with the committee this month. He will also help us develop a website and of course adopt a leadership role on the committee. We are thrilled to partner with The Lafayette Trail.

In April, the Bicentennial Committee received an official letter of encouragement from America250. This is a wonderful first step in becoming a full partner with the official federal commission that will organize the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding, in 2026. On two occasions I was honored to meet with the Director of Program Coordination and Outreach at America250. These were meetings full of ideas that left me very excited about our collaboration. Our goal is to work together towards 2024-2025 and the U.S. Semiquincentennial in 2026. Working with America 250 will not only help legitimize our bicentennial effort, but also give us the ability to make sure the Franco-American alliance is highlighted in 2026.

Probably the most exciting thing to come out of my conversation with America250 is the possibility of making Lafayette's tour of 1824-1825 into a National Historic Trail. We will be working closely with America250 as they kindly guide us in this regard. If this were to come to fruition, our efforts will have an effect that goes past 2025 or 2026.... past our lifetimes.

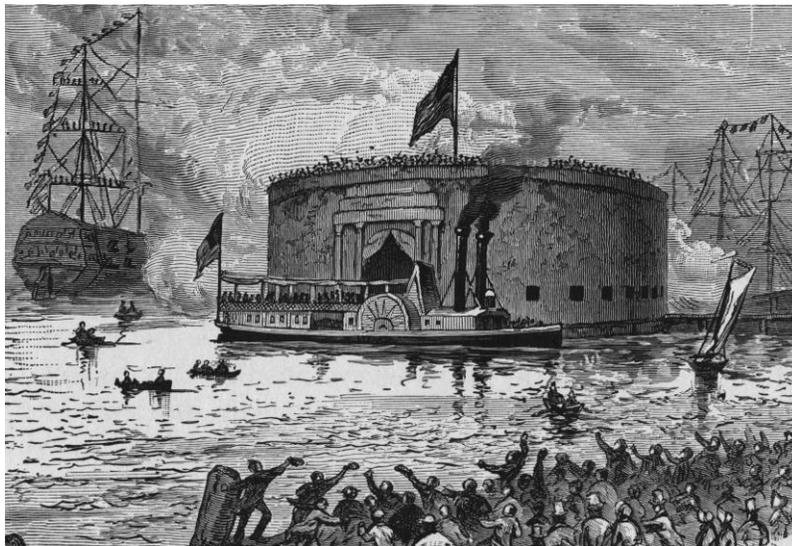


The committee is working on hiring a touring company to help with the travel portion of the event. This company would assist in arranging for transportation and lodging for the entire Bicentennial Tour. That way, if someone wanted to follow Lafayette's footsteps for a portion (or all) of the thirteen-month event, they could. It is important to focus on this travel aspect as many folks have shown interest in it. There are significant tourism opportunities, and we want to tap into these. Heritage Tourism will be an important part of this project.

It is essential that we recreate portions of our events exactly as they happened when Lafayette visited. Remember, Lafayette's visit to most cities or towns 200 years ago was one of the most important events of that time. In fact, in some cases, the most important event of all time. These places were brimming with pride when Lafayette came. The newspapers wrote extensively about the event and often published speeches, menus, and every other detail you can think of. There is plenty of data to be found to ensure that we recreate portions of each event properly.

The committee is charged with researching Lafayette's visits to these cities and towns. When we find the speeches, we will have them read. If there was a parade, we will have a parade. If there was a banquet or ball, we will find the menu and recreate it. If there were dignitaries there, we will find local folks to interpret them. We will not be simply throwing parties but rather showing the public what happened on that day 200 years earlier.

It will also be the committee's job to show that Lafayette is still relevant. An important aspect of these celebrations is to make sure the organizers and attendees connect the dots between past and present. For instance, the presidential campaign and election of 1824 was one of the most bitter of all time. Lafayette saw this firsthand and played a conciliatory role in bringing the two sides together. American citizens today think the political scene now is the most divisive and rancorous it has ever been. Showing them that this has also happened in the past is an important way to connect both time periods. Looking into the past helps us understand the present and view the future. There are many other links between 1824-1825 and 2024-2025 and we will accentuate these.



Lafayette's arrival at Castle Garden on August 16, 1824

The committee will make sure that we highlight Lafayette's attributes beyond his being a savvy general and capable diplomat. For instance, Lafayette was an avid abolitionist who saw slavery at its height in 1824-1825 in the United States. Lafayette wrote about his disappointment that the country he helped to gain freedom still permitted human bondage. Many Americans are not aware of Lafayette's abolitionists views, but we will make sure that they learn about his strong anti-slavery views.

Lafayette was a champion of religious rights as well. As a young man, he worked to expand the political and religious rights of Protestants in France. When in the United States, Lafayette saw religious freedoms in full display. He was also in some respects a protofeminist. He respected and admired strong women and befriended and assisted several of them including the author and abolitionist Frances (Fanny) Wright. While in France, Lafayette lobbied for women to have the right to divorce and the right to be educated. The committee will be charged with bringing these aspects of Lafayette to the forefront as well.

I will continue to provide updates on the committee's progress in future issues of this publication. When we start scheduling events, I will post a calendar for everyone to see. That way you can decide when and where you want to participate. Frankly, if you know when Lafayette was in your area in 1824-1825, you can bet we will be there 200 years later on the same date. We look forward to standing side by side with AFL members and all Americans in 2024 and 2025 as we celebrate the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour.



If you are interested in joining the Bicentennial Committee, please email me at [americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com) (we could use some help in Indiana and Mississippi). I promise this will be a fun project.

# Lafayette as a Fictional Character

## AFL Zoom Panel, Dec. 4, 2020

### Introduction by Alan R. Hoffman

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for this second remote panel discussion sponsored by the American Friends of Lafayette.

In an interview that appeared in *The New York Times Book Review* on October 25, 2020, British author Martin Amis referred to the pleasure principle first formulated by the poet John Dryden in 1668. “We read for delight and instruction, while bearing in mind that literature only instructs as it delights,” he said.

In a letter to the *Book Review*, published on November 8, a retired English professor pointed out that this pairing - the sweet and the useful - *dulce* and *utile* in Latin - was popularized in about 15 BC by the poet Horace in *Ars Poetica*, and was not particularly new even at that time.

She concluded, “The film adaptation of P. L. Traver’s *Mary Poppins* put it this way: “a spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down.” Who among us doesn’t recall with pleasure that wonderful song performed by the great Julie Andrews in the 1964 movie?

Our panelists – Stephanie Dray, Jenny Cote, Dorothea Jensen, and Libby McNamee – are all followers of Dryden’s canon. Avid lovers of history, they each delight in order to instruct. Their method is particularly important because the audience for which they write includes young adults and, in some cases, children.

If you read their books, I think you will find that our authors hew closely to the historical record. However, they use their imaginative powers to fill in spaces where the historical record is silent or inconclusive. For example, they imagine dialogue for which there is no primary or secondary source support. One way to look at these flights of fiction, skillfully employed by these award-winning authors, is that they are spoonsful of sugar to help the history—far from me to call it medicine – go down.

Each of our panelists has included Lafayette as an important character in at least one of their works of historical fiction. They will discuss how they came to choose Lafayette and what they learned about him when they did. They will also tell us about the importance of historical fiction and why they chose to work in this genre.

## Presentation by Stephanie Dray

### America Gets Lucky

I'm primarily known for writing about the American Revolution, and, when studying this historical era, it seems like we got really lucky.

- From a fortuitous fog in Long Island that helped Washington evacuate his army,
- To stumbling across the Hessians in Trenton,
- To the capture of British spymaster John André who had proof of Benedict Arnold's treason in his stocking,

the Founding Fathers caught some lucky breaks.

To me, America's luckiest break of all seems to have been the Marquis de Lafayette.

### Lafayette as a Character

Now I'm not a historian by training — I'm a historical novelist by profession. So, when I look at history, I look at it in terms of story and narrative and structure.

Lafayette doesn't fit any traditional human character archetypes. To a story-teller, he looks more like a wizard or minor deity who poofs onto the scene with guns and ships and an alliance with France, which makes him an enormously attractive figure to write about!

### *America's First Daughter*

Lafayette first appeared in one of my novels when I was writing with my co-author Dr. Laura Kamoie about Thomas Jefferson's eldest daughter, Patsy. What I hadn't realized when I began writing *America's First Daughter* was the way in which Lafayette played that role of lucky talisman in her personal story.

- Jefferson and Lafayette were friends, and so it's not surprising to find portraits of him at Monticello, but the last time I visited Monticello, the historians had placed a portrait of Lafayette in Patsy's private office over her desk, and the docents explained that she much revered him.
- When she was a little girl on the run with her father in Virginia, it was Lafayette who helped drive the British away.
- When she was a young woman in France, it was Lafayette who helped give her entrance to French society.
- Later in life, when her marriage was falling apart and she was faced with real doubt about the sacrifices she'd made for the nation, it was Lafayette's visit in 1824 that lifted her spirits and helped her make some important life decisions.

### ***My Dear Hamilton***

When Laura and I moved on to writing *My Dear Hamilton*, about the life of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton, wife of our first secretary of the treasury and current Broadway star, we were shocked to find Lafayette was a lucky talisman in her life too, appearing at crucial moments to give aid and comfort, with no expectation of any reward but friendship and good will.

### ***Ribbons of Scarlet***

In my next novel, *Ribbons of Scarlet*, about the women of the French Revolution, Lafayette again played a role. My heroine, Sophie de Grouchy, was allegedly in love with Lafayette. And her acceptance of the impossibility of that match, along with her marriage to the Marquis de Condorcet, changed the course of her life and established her as a revolutionary in her own right.

### **“Deus ex Lafayette”**

So for me, Lafayette is like a Forest Gump of revolutionary history, popping up in all my books and changing the plot line wherever he goes. I sometimes joke that instead of *deus ex machina* it should be *deus ex Lafayette!*

### **Lafayette and Women**

What’s more interesting is that I have yet to find any revolutionary figure who paid as much attention to the founding *mothers* of this nation as Lafayette did.

- Lafayette made a point of visiting the widows of his fallen comrades during his Farewell Tour.
- He acknowledged their contributions and wanted them at his side during public functions.
- And women returned the favor, because they have played a vital role in defending his legacy, as I show in my newest novel, *The Women of Chateau Lafayette*.

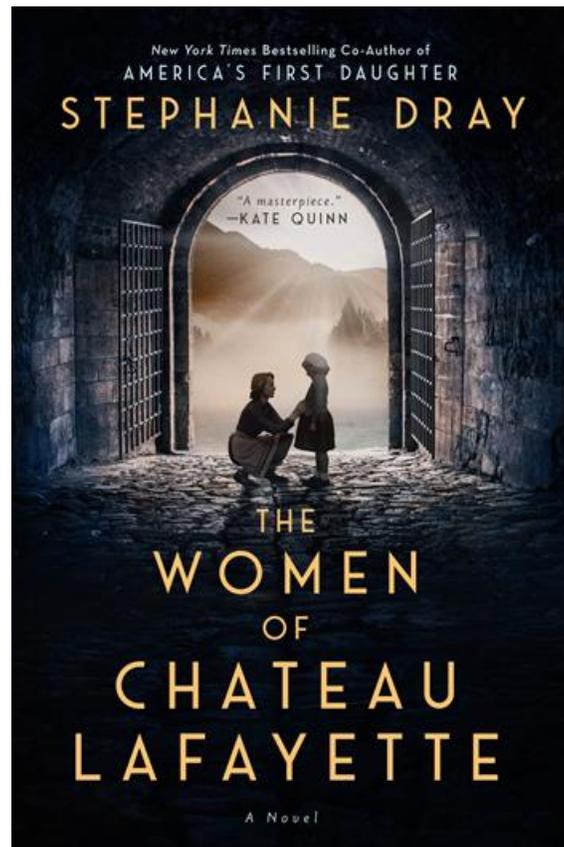
When I started working on this novel, I was excited to introduce readers to Adrienne’s remarkable story of love and courage. But I also wanted to make a more modern connection - to show that Lafayette’s humanitarian legacy doesn’t belong to a forgotten age of powdered wigs, but has been relevant in every century since, including our own.

That’s when I discovered something amazing. That Lafayette’s birthplace--a humble castle hidden deep in the mountains of France--had served as a hiding place for Jewish children during the Holocaust.

I have to admit that this discovery both shocked and moved me to tears. And I had to know how on *earth* that happened. What I learned is that the castle had been purchased and renovated by an American woman during the First World War to serve as an orphanage and medical facility for displaced and refugee children. That woman was Beatrice Chanler, an American starlet, sculptress and socialite, who became a decorated war heroine.

And I suddenly realized that the *real* story was about how Lafayette’s legacy served as a beacon of hope in three of history’s darkest hours: the French Revolution and both World Wars.

My challenge was to present Lafayette in flesh and blood during Adrienne’s story—as a flawed man and an unfaithful husband who was, nevertheless, worthy of her love—and also to show him as a living presence after his death that inspired the generations that came after him. Because that’s an important story too—and the most amazing and shocking bits of *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* are all true: secret tunnels, false identities, wartime love affairs, cloak-and-dagger resistance, stolen statues, hidden historical relics, and more. It’s a story that reminded me that the reason Lafayette is so compelling to write about is because his story is ongoing. It’s one that we can all be a part of.



### **Why did I choose to write Historical fiction, and do I think it’s important?**

I get this question a lot because I write adult fiction and my co-author is often Laura Kamoie who is a professor of history who has written non-fiction. We’re often asked “Why didn’t you write biographies?” There are a couple of answers. Part of the answer is “A spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down.” But our reach is wider. It’s rare for a biography to reach as large an audience as historical fiction. The other answer is that some of these stories can’t be responsibly told as a biography because we’re missing primary sources. Yet a life can be reconstructed and speculated about in a novel. I love to tell stories that can’t be told in other ways, and I’m very proud of that.

## Presentation by Dorothea Jensen

Alan asked us to address these questions: 1) Why and how have I used Lafayette in fiction, and 2) Why do I write historical fiction rather than nonfiction history.

The answer to the first is all about location because in the 1970s, we lived near Philadelphia in a town named for a hero of the Revolution, Mad Anthony Wayne. We took our kids to many Revolutionary War sites: Brandywine battlefield, City Tavern, Independence Hall, Carpenters Hall, and Valley Forge (where they learned to ride bikes).

In 1981, we moved back to Minnesota. I did not want our kids to lose the sense of history that they had known in Pennsylvania. Because of this I actually wrote my first historical novel for my own kids to help keep their sense of awareness of the past alive. A history book would not have accomplished this. A story was needed to engage their emotions and keep their interest.

Therefore, I started reading about the American Revolution in the early 1980s. It took me a long time to finish writing my story. It did not come out until 1989. Entitled *The Riddle of Penncroft Farm*, this historical novel for kids is about a boy who moves from Minnesota to an ancestral farm near Valley Forge, where he meets the “shade” of a boy who’d lived there during the American Revolution.

*The Riddle of Penncroft Farm* was named a Teachers’ Choice Selection by the International Reading Association (now the International Literacy Association). Ever since, it has been used in schools as a cross-curricular enrichment tool for studying the Revolution. It is still in print after more than 30 years since its release by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. (It is always a thrill to find it on school websites as a book choice along with Johnny Tremain and such.)

At that point, I knew very little about Lafayette. The closest I came to writing about him in *The Riddle of Penncroft Farm* was mentioning a nameless aide of George Washington’s during the Battle of Brandywine. (This could *not* have been Lafayette, however, as in my story this aide lent his horse to Mr. Brown, the local farmer who was forced to show Washington the way to Birmingham Road during the Battle of Brandywine.)

In 1991, we moved to New Hampshire, and in 1997, I went on a Jane Austen Tour of England. (I am also a life member of the Jane Austen Society of North America.) As I have related many times to AFL people, we spent a lot of time riding on buses, and we entertained each other by telling stories. It was a bit like the Canterbury Tales.

I related how my 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher had shaken hands with Geronimo as a girl, and then proclaimed that I had shaken hands with someone who had shaken hands with Geronimo. Someone then said that her great-grandmother had been kissed by Lafayette, and the kiss was passed down the generations to her. First I asked for a kiss. And got it. Then I got the full story: as a little girl, her great-grandmother had been chosen to present a posy when Lafayette went to

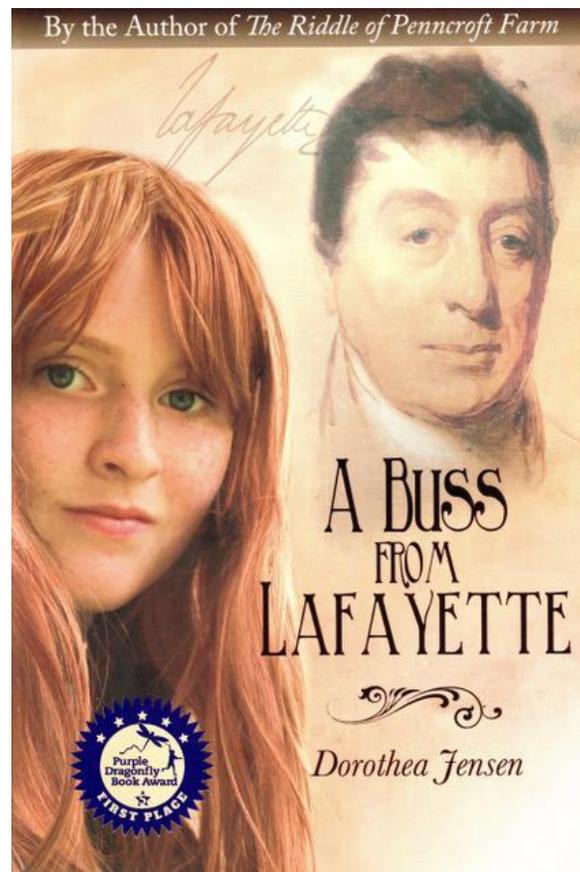
Northampton, Massachusetts in 1824 on his Farewell Tour. I'd never heard of this tour, but this inspired me to learn about it.

Eventually, I not only learned about the tour in general, but I found out that Lafayette had stopped in my town, Hopkinton, NH, a mile from where I live, on June 27, 1825. (A Lafayette Trail sign will soon mark that spot.) He had then come right past my house!

I knew my next novel was going to be about Lafayette, his Farewell Tour, and his role in the Revolution. (I also ended up writing a teacher's guide for this novel and later a *rhyming* nonfiction account of what he did for us.)

That was the "why" of using Lafayette in a historical novel, which brings me to the "how" I used him as a fictional character. Well, of course I couldn't write about him until I felt as if I knew him, at least as much as I could from books. I started reading about Lafayette then, in 1997.

I didn't feel I knew him well enough to write him into a story until I came to understand two important things about him: 1) his sense of humor (often self-deprecating), the most important male attraction there is, at least for me; and 2) his charm, which to me means showing genuine interest in and concern for others. Once I understood this about him, I was able to put him into my fictional story, which I called *A Buss from Lafayette*. (*Buss* is an old-fashioned word for *kiss*.)



A *Buss from Lafayette*, set in June, 1825, concerns a troubled 14-year-old girl who lives in Hopkinton, New Hampshire named Clara Hargreaves. Everyone around her is wild with excitement that Lafayette is coming to New Hampshire on his Farewell Tour, and during the course of the novel she learns all about the important role he played in our Revolutionary War.

Finally, on Sunday, June 26, 1825, she hears this at church:

*At the end of the lengthy sermon, the minister made an announcement somewhat at odds with his previous theme. 'I have heard that the great Nation's Guest is traveling back from Maine today and will be coming through our town tomorrow. There will be a formal reception in front of the Wiggins Tavern at about noon. I urge you all to come to the village to witness this historic occurrence. I hope you younger members of the congregation understand just how great a man General Lafayette is. You will never see his like again.'*

But the next day, when Lafayette is supposed to come through her town, Clara has other things to worry about: her much-resented stepmother has gone into labor. Because of this, the closest Clara gets to the reception of town residents waiting in Hopkinton Village in front of Wiggins Tavern for Lafayette is this:

*By the time I turned onto Main Street, I was so intent on reaching the doctor that I scarcely noticed the large crowd of people underneath the enormous elm in front of the Wiggins Tavern.*

Because of the emergency situation Clara is in, she can't stay to see Lafayette, so I had to figure out how she *could* meet him. It needed to be in a way in which I could show Lafayette's sense of humor and charm. I finally decided that it is when she is all alone, soaking wet, and sobbing, that she meets the great man.

*It was the Nation's Guest himself! After all I had learned about him and what he had done for my country, I was nearly overwhelmed with awe and excitement. Mixed in with these was a fair amount of embarrassment at meeting such a distinguished gentleman, dressed as I was in boy's breeches and a bedraggled dress pulled up to my waist, both completely soaked. Still, I had enough presence of mind to clamber to my feet to the side of the brook and curtsy, holding my dripping skirts out as well as I could.*

*He returned my curtsy with an elegant, courtly bow. 'But what are you doing here alone, sitting in a stream of water weeping?' he asked. He leaned forward to look closely at my face, a look of earnest concern on his own. 'Is it an affair of the heart?'*

*'Well, it is a lot of things, sir, but mainly it is an affair of the hair! I know it is silly, but it is important to me.'*

Lafayette then goes on to change how Clara sees herself, which changes how she sees her problems, her family, and her world. After reading about our dear Lafayette for 27 years, I truly believe this would not have been out of character for him to do exactly this.

As for the other question, explaining *why* I write historical fiction rather than nonfiction history, the answer is simple: because I read so much of the former when I was growing up. I was lucky because many classic historical novels came out when I was just the right age to love them. Reading these stories really spurred my interest and gave me an understanding of the past.

This was brought home to me recently when my husband happened to ask “How did the New England Puritans treat Quakers?” As soon as I heard his question, the phrase “Whipped at the cart’s tail” instantly came into my mind, along with a strong emotional pang. I realized that I was remembering something from *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, by Elizabeth George Speare, which came out in 1959 when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I found my old copy of this story and quickly found what had made me think of the cart’s tail.

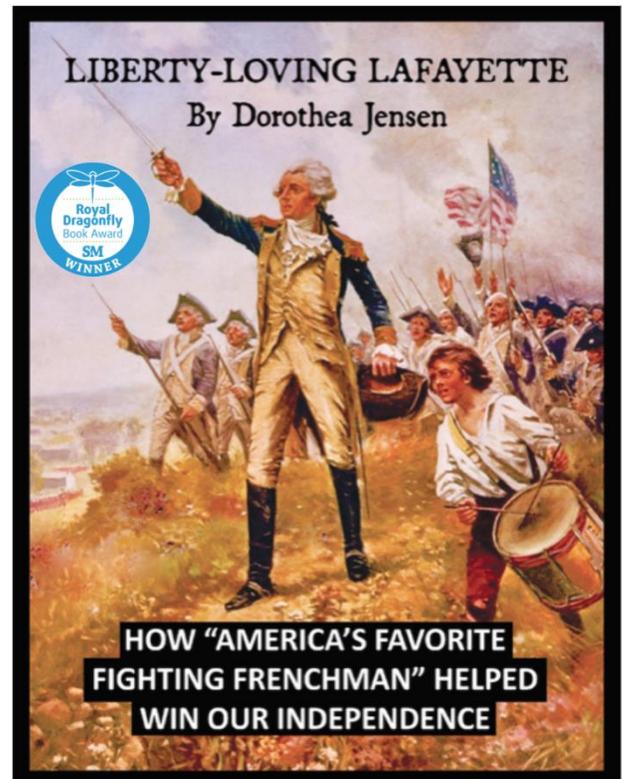
*She and her husband starved in jail for months in Massachusetts. Finally they were branded and tied to a cart’s tail and flogged across the boundary.*

This historical factoid was branded into my brain by an *emotional* connection to a fictional character. I still felt this connection *sixty* years after reading it the first time. *That* is the power of historical fiction. And that is why I write it.

And believe it or not, Aristotle agreed with me. I am convinced that what he said can easily apply to historical fiction:

*The artistic representation of history is a more scientific and serious pursuit than the exact writing of history. For the art of letters goes to the heart of things, whereas the factual report merely collocates details.*

Dorothea Jensen’s latest book is a beautifully illustrated epic poem entitled *Liberty-Loving Lafayette*.



## Presentation by Jenny L. Cote

How do you make kids care about history? You make it relatable. And you make it *fun*. What kid do you know would pick up Gottschalk's *Lafayette in America* to learn about Lafayette? I'm guessing NONE. Kids would most likely use that voluminous tome as a platform for launching action figures. But it's not the size of that book that turns kids off. Kids today love big, chunky books (thank you, J.K. Rowling!), and are not turned off by my 650-page novels. While we adult history geeks eagerly devour the driest of Lafayette biographies, kids won't touch them. If they're going to put down the game controller for printed paper—especially inked history—it has to meet them where they are, as kids.

So, I began my five-book American Revolution saga of books when the Founding Fathers were children, so they could relate and see how one generation of kids grew up to found our liberty-loving nation. And I put talking animals in the story that act as tour guides and agents in history to make it *fun!* The humans, of course, are clueless that these animals are working behind the scenes to change the course of history for the good of mankind. Kids always love it when adults are played.

My dear Lafayette-loving adults, although I think you will enjoy and learn a great deal from my books (half of my readers are adults!), I don't write for you. I write for kids. In an age where our children are barely taught our founding history, and where the Founding Fathers are maligned and misunderstood, I am passionate about showing the good, the bad and the ugly of our history. I hope kids will fall in love with America and her heroes like Lafayette, and that they will learn how priceless the jewel of liberty truly is. I wish for them to understand and avoid the mistakes of our young nation, and to find *their* place in history to perpetuate the good to improve our mature nation.

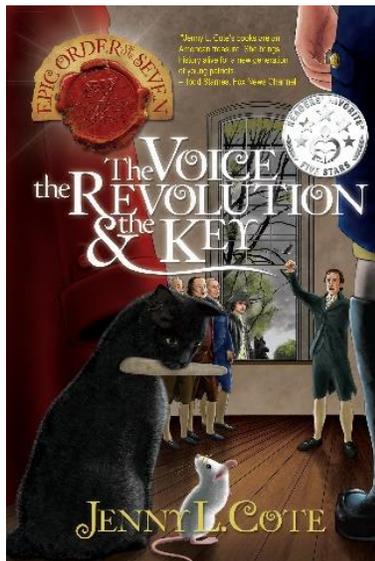
I've written eight novels to date, and my current work is a five-book saga on the American Revolution. It features the entire story of the birth of the United States of America, from the childhood of the Founding Fathers through the Constitutional Convention to Lafayette's 1824 return. The Marquis de Lafayette is included in the lineup of the Founding Fathers, and his story unfolds with greater prominence in each book. (See book summaries at the end of this article.) I chose Lafayette to be the lens through which I tell the incredible story of how we would not have won our independence without France. I will carry the thread of France and Lafayette's story beyond my Revolution books into my saga on WWII. Of course, I also chose to feature Lafayette because of his childlike enthusiasm and quest for all that is true and right and good. Kids need role models to emulate, and America's favorite fighting Frenchman gives them a Lancelot to gallop into their imaginations through true history.

One of the most important sections of each of my books is the Word from the Author. It is vitally important to me that I share background information on my research that fills the pages of my books, and the liberties I take to tell the stories. The genre I write is historical fiction fantasy, in that order. This means the first layer I begin writing is the *history*. This foundation layer must be rock-solid historically, down to the minutest detail. I exhaust my sources of books (over 300 Revolutionary books in my personal library), online research, site visits (I've been to most Revolutionary War sites in the U.S., London, Chavaniac, and Paris), and interviews with

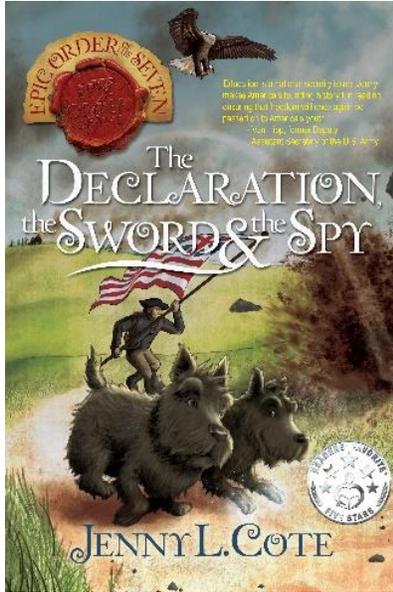
historical experts on people, places, and events. Once the bedrock history is laid, I then add the layer of *fiction*, which must be *plausible*. For instance, the fictional words I put into Lafayette's mouth, as well as his actions, must match his character and the cultural setting. Once the historical fiction is as pure as I can make it, I add the layer of *fantasy* where the animal characters come into play. I look for those "unknowns" in the story of things that did happen (but we don't know how or why) or that *could* have happened. I allow my animals to affect the events of the story without ever giving away their true identities, which makes it fun. For example, the reason the young Marquis de Lafayette never found the Beast of the Gevaudan when he bravely hunted for it is because a Scottish Terrier (Max) and a White Westie (Kate) were fighting off the wolves who were out to kill Gilbert and prevent him from ever growing up to be the hero of two worlds and to help America win her independence. Once all three layers are set, the book is an accurate, educational, enjoyable (I hope) read, intended to make history come alive for the reader.

We as historical fiction authors have a fierce responsibility to never perpetuate historical errors, myths or to mislead our readers on what really happened. The magnificent, true stories of history must be told so they will never be forgotten. To engage kids and those who (gasp!) do not like history, historical fiction is a tool to make that happen. As I visit schools and homeschool groups around the country, I share my crazy researching adventures in the quest for history to get the story right. Like dining with Lafayette's sixth great-grandson in Paris or like finding two old men to take me to North Island in a tiny boat on a freezing November day so I could see where Lafayette landed near Georgetown, South Carolina. I want kids to see not only the importance of learning the history but the fun of it as well, so *they* will want to teach the next generation. Whenever I ask kids whose responsibility it is to keep our history alive, do you know what they tell me? "IT'S OURS." So, if kids are willing to learn it, let's teach them! *Vive Lafayette!*

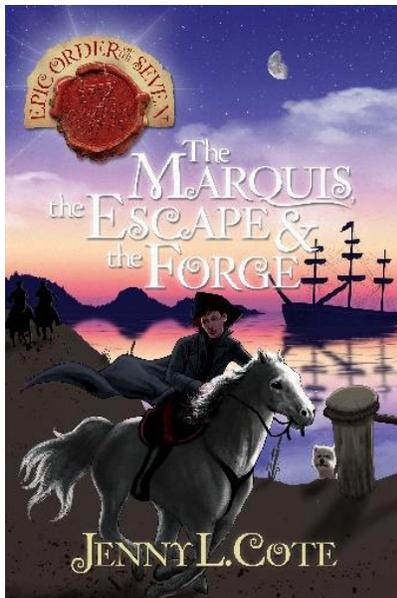
I appreciate the AFL for allowing me to share my passion and my books, and I hope you will check them out. But be careful. Once you get pulled into my world of talking animals swirling around Lafayette, you just may have too much fun.



Book one: *The Voice, the Revolution, and the Key* (2017): covers events from the year 1743 up through the eve of the Revolution in March 1775. Lafayette debuts with cameos as a toddler at Chavaniac and later as a young boy seeking to find the Beast of the Gevaudan.



Book two: *The Declaration, the Sword, and the Spy* (2020) March 1775-July 1776: covers events from Lexington and Concord through the Declaration of Independence. The story opens in Versailles at a masquerade ball where Lafayette intentionally insults the King's brother to escape the life of a courtier and follow in the footsteps of his military ancestors as a soldier. He hears of the American struggle for Independence at the fateful dinner in Metz and vows to join the glorious cause.



Book three: *The Marquis, the Escape, and the Forge* (2022) June 1776-June 1778: covers events from the Battle of New York with the arrival of British forces through Valley Forge. Lafayette's story takes center stage and relates his escape from France to sail for America, where he joins Washington and the Continental Army, and concludes with the Battle of Barren Hill.

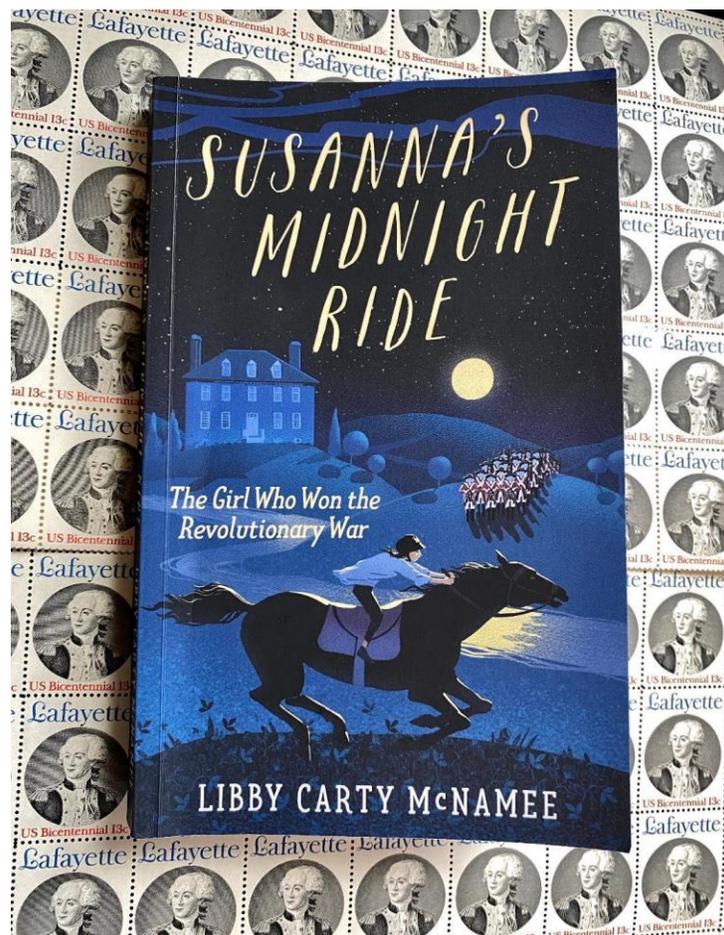
Book four: *The Blood, the Turn, and the Prize* (2024) June 1778-October 1781: covers the end of the northern campaign and the southern campaign through Victory at Yorktown.

Book five: *The Rise, the Fall, and the Jewel* (2026) October 1781-1865): covers the rise of the United States of America and the formation of the government through the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Revolutionary Saga catapults into the nineteenth century with liberty and justice for all and Lafayette's 1824 return to America, and then jumps to a summary end of the Civil War.

## Presentation by Libby McNamee

Learning about Lafayette was the highlight of my research for *Susanna's Midnight Ride: The Girl Who Won the Revolutionary War*. In late May 1781, General Cornwallis abandoned North Carolina and headed to Virginia, contradicting orders from General Clinton in New York. When he quartered at the home of sixteen-year-old Susanna Bolling, she overheard his plan to capture Lafayette in Richmond the next morning. Once the last campfire was out, she snuck away through a secret underground tunnel, canoed across the Appomattox River, and rode ten miles in the dark to warn Lafayette. Thanks to her warning, Lafayette managed to evade Cornwallis. This paved the way for the momentous Battle of Yorktown six weeks later.

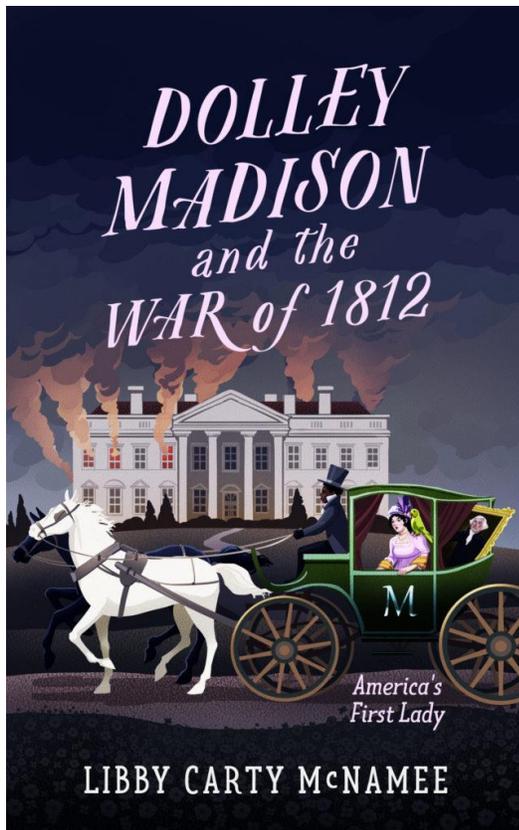
In writing my novel, Lafayette was such a gift. His tremendous respect for the female contributions to the Revolution made him a linchpin of the plot. A bit of a flirt himself, he recognized these “Petticoat Patriots” as the backbone of the war. And they were! They used the power of the purse to boycott tea and British goods for years on end. They conducted spinning bees, made their own thread, and wove homespun fabric on huge looms. Then they made uniforms, hats, and socks for the Continental Army. They ran their plantations with no training and even grew extra food to supply the Army. And of course, they raised their children alone with no protection from the enemy.



It was a joy to write about Lafayette. He was such a vibrant and earnest leader who exuded warmth and a wry sense of humor. When he first heard about the American cause for liberty, he was committed. It captured his strong sense of idealism and honor, so proud was he that his ancestors fought in the Crusades and alongside Joan of Arc. When Louis XVI refused to let him go, he had a ship built, aptly named *La Victoire*. At age 19, he snuck aboard under a fake name and set off for America, leaving behind his pregnant wife and learning English on the way. Despite being one of the richest men in Europe, he dug right into the war effort, sustaining a wound to his leg during his first battle at Brandywine, and never complained about the horrible conditions.

In 1780, Lafayette returned from France after convincing Louis XVI to provide yet more aid for the American cause. His reward? General Washington sent him to sleepy Virginia. I can only imagine his disappointment. After all, New York City was the center of all the action. But he soldiered on and masterminded the Battle of Yorktown, even waiting for General Washington to arrive from New York. And then he turned the world upside down. Huzzah!

I write historical fiction because it is both scholarly, creative, and fun. I love the intense research which builds upon itself. I am not much of a plotter, so I am happy to have history dictate the general parameters of the plot. However, I love the challenge of filling in the “black holes” of the historical accounts. Then I use my own imagination to shape events in ways that makes sense and remain true to history.



My second book, *Dolley Madison & the War of 1812: America's First Lady* and its study guide will be published on August 24, 2021, the 207<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the burning of Washington City.

## Masonic Lodges in the Days of Lafayette

by Cécile Révauger

*On recurring occasions, in articles published by the American Friends of Lafayette, the words “Freemasonry,” “Mason,” and “Masonic lodge” appear in relation to our hero Lafayette and prominent people he interacts with. Both in Auguste Levasseur’s journal of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour in America in 1824-1825 and in the countless documents unearthed by Julien Icher in his mapping of the farewell trip (The Lafayette Trail), Masonic lodges and Freemasons play a prominent role, being among the first to welcome and celebrate Lafayette wherever he goes.*

*Even if it is well known that both Lafayette and Washington were Freemasons, it does not quite explain what their Masonic affiliation meant, or what Freemasonry’s role, significance, and prevalence was during Lafayette’s lifetime. We asked Professor Cécile Révauger to write down her thoughts on this, exclusively for the American Friends of Lafayette and The Lafayette Trail. Professor Révauger’s biography appears at the end of this article.*

*~ Bruno Vaes, Lafayette 89 lodge, Grand Orient de France, Washington, DC; AFL member.*

The first Masonic lodges appeared in Boston and Philadelphia in the 1730s, a mere ten years after the Grand Lodge of England was founded (several historians now date the beginning of the first English Grand Lodge to 1721). Benjamin Franklin’s American edition of Anderson’s *Constitutions*, in 1734 was a landmark publication, not so much in terms of printing, but because the *Constitutions* conveyed the philosophical and moral principles of Freemasonry, directly inherited from the Enlightenment. Let us first examine those tenets, before focusing on Freemasonry during the American Revolution and in the early days of the Republic, and finally on the significance of Lafayette’s return to the United States in the 1820s. Meanwhile we shall see that the American lodges, although in many ways similar to European ones, had features of their own.

Significantly, one of the first heroes of American Freemasonry was a Francophile, Benjamin Franklin, who was several times the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (1734, 1749) and its Deputy Grand Master (1750-57), a champion of the liberty of the press, with the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, but also the founder of the Academy of Philadelphia (1749). In 1778 he presided over the prestigious French Lodge *Les Neuf Soeurs* (the Nine Sisters) in Paris and had the great honor of initiating Voltaire.

Who could better embody the ideas of the Enlightenment than Franklin and Voltaire? First of all, they exemplify the close links between France and America at the time. Those links were diplomatic and commercial as well as military. Several Masons traveled in those days for commercial reasons and were welcomed in the local lodges they visited thanks to their Masonic certificates. Along with famous Masonic philosophers such as Montesquieu, both Franklin and Voltaire argued that education should no longer be the privilege of clerics and aristocrats, but ought to be the steppingstone to man’s pursuit of happiness. The thirst for knowledge prevailed in early Britain thanks to the Royal Society, then composed of so many officers of the English

Grand Lodge, from Desaguliers to Martin Folkes, and was extolled in all the Masonic addresses of the time, in particular those given to the new initiates.

The main originality of Masonic tenets probably resided in their religious tolerance. English Masons overwhelmingly supported the principles of the Glorious Revolution which put an end to divine right monarchy and, in Locke's wake, supported both religious tolerance and a parliamentary monarchy. For the first time in early England, Church of England members could socialize with dissenters in the same lodges. Indeed, Anderson had taken great care to write in his *Constitutions* that men were no longer compelled to adopt the religion of their King, but could have their own religious beliefs, providing they were not atheists...In colonial America, where so many settlers had fled religious persecution, such words carried real weight. Jefferson, whose Masonic membership has never been documented, although many of his friends were Masons, considered freedom of worship as paramount, and he of course enforced it in his own state, Virginia.

Boston, the cradle of the American Revolution, was also the cradle of American Freemasonry, although Philadelphia and New York had very active Masons. Had you fancied a pint of beer in those days, one of the best places to go to was the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. You were bound to encounter some fascinating people, belonging either to the North End Caucus or the Sons of Liberty, two famous revolutionary associations, or to St. Andrew's lodge, as they all met there. Not everybody mixed socially, yet in St. Andrew's lodge you could meet very different characters, such as Paul Revere and Joseph Warren. Apart from his revolutionary activities, engraver Revere, who became famous for his Midnight Ride when Warren asked him to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams of the impending attack of Concord by the British troops, spent his time in his foundry making church bells and dental sets. General Joseph Warren, who died at Bunker Hill at the hands of the British, was another great figure of St. Andrew's. If the two men had not belonged to the same lodge, perhaps they would never have met or at least never trusted each other as they did.

No doubt the American patriots took some inspiration from John Locke's second treatise which encouraged people to rebel against a bad king, that is to say a king who no longer respected the initial contract, who placed himself in a "state of war" with his people. Masonic principles were perfectly in keeping with those enlightened tenets. Man was encouraged to respect the powers that be, but also to think for himself, and to fight for his liberties and natural rights. No wonder the main founding fathers were Masons...John Hancock, James Otis, Paul Revere, and of course George Washington. At least eight Masons signed the Declaration of Independence: Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, Robert Treat Paine, Richard Stockton, George Walton, and William Whipple. There were probably more, but documented evidence lacks for any others.

During the American Revolution, the number of lodges doubled, from roughly 100 to 200. Patriots and loyalists did not mix however and, significantly, patriotic lodges were much more numerous than loyalist lodges and lasted longer. In Boston, for instance, the Grand Lodge of St. John, to which loyalist John Rowe belonged, declined, and the Massachusetts Grand Lodge soon prevailed with Paul Revere as a Grand Master.

Revere, Washington, and Lafayette were made Masons very young, between the age of 18 and 21, which shows that Freemasonry was really a training ground for them, where they could practice their oral skills, meet people from different walks of life and train for democracy. Significantly, as they became more and more actively committed to the American Revolution, they attended lodges less regularly. However, Washington wrote to the lodges and kept in contact with them even after he became the first president of the United States.



Washington as a Freemason, Lafayette pictured at left  
Library of Congress

Military lodges attached to several regiments were very active during the war. The most prestigious one was American Union Lodge, attended by Washington himself. It is a well-known fact that Washington, initiated in Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia, in 1752, often selected his generals from among Freemasons. In 1783 he agreed to chair the Virginia State Society of the Cincinnati, a society for former officers and their descendants, a great number of whom were Freemasons. Other military lodges, also called “traveling lodges” because they followed the regiments during military operations, were active during the war. They were attached to the American Grand Lodges in different states, but also sometimes to British regiments. It was probably a military lodge under the aegis of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which initiated the first African American, Prince Hall, who founded African Lodge in 1784, a lodge originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of England (and not one of the two Grand Lodges of his home state, Massachusetts).

In the military relationship between Washington and Lafayette, it is difficult to ascertain how important their common Masonic affiliation was to them. Legend has it that Lafayette’s wife made Washington’s Masonic apron. Although this seems to be pure fiction, the emergence of this nice tale tends to prove that friendship between the two men was a fact. Lafayette was probably initiated in Metz, France, in 1775, although historians are still debating this point. One thing is certain, he was already a Mason in 1775 at the age of 18, and he was still an active one at the age of 67 in 1824, when he was officially invited by President Monroe and sailed back to America aboard the *Cadmus* packet ship.

Lafayette landed in New York City and was accommodated in the home of Daniel Tompkins, the former Grand Master of New York. He spent thirteen months in the United States, and was welcomed and honored in numerous states. However, his most sumptuous reception was organized in New York City by the Grand Lodge with a huge procession through the town and a lavish banquet on September 20. The 36 lodges of New York were represented, and a banquet of 500 people took place. Lafayette gave a speech to thank his American brethren in which he praised the pillars of Freemasonry, “wisdom, strength, and beauty,” strong deterrents for “envy, religious sectarianism, and despotism.”

For many New Yorkers, the celebrations which honored Lafayette revealed the importance of Freemasonry. For the first time they realized that many of the Founding Fathers were Freemasons and that lodges welcomed people of different walks of life: artisans, shopkeepers, officers, tradesmen...who belonged to different religious denominations.

### **About the Author**

Cécile Révauger is Professor Emerita of English Studies at Bordeaux University (France). She defended a doctoral thesis on the history of Freemasonry in the 18th century, in Britain and the United States. She has published several articles on British and American Freemasonry in academic journals and written several books on the history of Freemasonry as well as *The Abolition of Slavery: The British Debate, 1787-1833* (2008). She edited a biographical dictionary of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Freemasons, in collaboration with Charles Porset: *Le*

*Monde Maçonnique des Lumières*, published at Champion Editions, Paris, 3 vol (June 2013). She wrote *Black Freemasonry, From Prince Hall to the Giants of Jazz*, (Inner Traditions, 2016).

### **Editor's Note**

The unprecedented displays of admiration and affection for Lafayette during his thirteen-month pilgrimage across the United States in 1824 and 1825 gave a century-long boost to his reputation in America. This is exemplified by the 80 cities, towns, townships, and counties named for him or his château, La Grange.

This naming craze also permeated American Freemasonry. The extraordinary reception given to Lafayette by his brother Masons in many cities and towns popularized his long-term link to the Masonic order and enhanced his reputation as an important Mason. The result was a plethora of lodges chartered with the designation "Lafayette lodge." Most of these were chartered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some in the immediate aftermath of the Farewell Tour.

My sense of it is that Lafayette lodges number between 30 and 50. It would be interesting if someone took a roll call of Lafayette lodges and their date of charter for the next issue of the *Gazette*. Here are the names of several of them, picked at random:

Lafayette-Dupont Lodge #19, Washington, D.C.  
Lafayette Lodge #47, Cumberland, Rhode Island  
Lafayette Lodge #199, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, 1825  
Lafayette Lodge #83, Jacksonville, North Carolina, 1825  
Lafayette Lodge #79, Zanesville, Ohio  
Lafayette Lodge #48, Readfield, Maine

## **Lafayette as Propagandist: The Farewell Tour, Levasseur, and the 1829 French Tour**

by Alan R. Hoffman

*This paper was presented on December 17, 2020 as part of an online panel entitled “Lafayette’s Farewell Tour and North Carolina.” The panel was organized by The Lafayette Trail, Inc. with financial support from the North Carolina Humanities Council.*

On the invitation of Congress and President James Monroe, General Lafayette sailed from Le Havre, France on the American merchant ship *Cadmus* in July 1824 for the United States, his adoptive country. Although he had last visited these shores in 1784 after the Treaty of Paris formally ended the American Revolution which he had shared the glory of winning on the battlefield, this visit – 40 years later – produced a fervid outpouring of affection from the American people for the last surviving Major General of their Revolution. During his 13-month “Farewell Tour,” he visited all 24 states, where he was celebrated and honored on an almost daily basis. There were parades, festivals, banquets, speeches, balls, triumphal arches built to honor him, dedications of public monuments – he helped to lay the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, Massachusetts in June 1825 – and “meet and greets” with the people who came to pay their respects to and touch the “Nation’s Guest” as he was commonly called during his extended visit.

This trip was a unique event in our history, and perhaps the history of the world. You may think that this is hyperbole, but it was a view shared by his contemporaries.

Hezekiah Niles wrote in *Niles’ Weekly Register* on November 6, 1824: “The volumes of history furnish no parallel – no one like Lafayette has ever re-appeared in any country.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1830, Edward Everett wrote a review of Auguste Levasseur’s journal, *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825*, in the *North America Review*. Everett had welcomed Lafayette to Harvard College in August 1824 and was the principal speaker at Gettysburg 39 years later. His Gettysburg address was 60 times longer than Lincoln’s. In his review, Everett lavished praise on the book, Lafayette, and the Farewell Tour. About the latter, he wrote: “an event, taken in all its parts, unparalleled in the history of man.”<sup>2</sup>

Lafayette’s party consisted of Lafayette, his son George Washington Lafayette, a valet named Sebastian Wagner, and Levasseur, his private secretary. Who was Levasseur and why was he invited?

A military officer, Levasseur had served in the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment stationed at Neuf-Brisach.<sup>3</sup> In contemporary newspaper accounts of the 1824-1825 trip, he is sometimes referred to as “Colonel Levasseur.” In 1821, he had been involved in the Carbonari conspiracy against the French Monarchy. He participated in the Belfort plot, an attempt to subvert the garrison in the fortified city of Belfort in Eastern France.<sup>4</sup> Thomas Jefferson adverts to this aspect of Levasseur’s early career. In a letter to Lafayette shortly before he visited Monticello in 1824,

Jefferson writes: “[A]nd the revolutionary merit of M. leVasseur [sic] has that passport to the esteem of every American, and, to me, the additional one of having been your friend and co-operator, and he will, I hope, join you in making head-quarters with us at Monticello.”<sup>5</sup>

Levasseur’s revolutionary career was not over. He participated in the Revolution of 1830 which overthrew the Restoration Monarchy. According to Dr. Cloquet, Lafayette’s physician who also treated Levasseur: “This brave man [Levasseur] received a ball on the foot, which broke the bones of the tarsus in the attack upon the Louvre in the Revolution.”<sup>6</sup> Like Lafayette, Levasseur considered Napoleon the “Usurper”<sup>7</sup> and was extremely critical of Restoration France. Tellingly, he received the news of Louis XVIII’s death in 1824 from then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams without comment.<sup>8</sup>

The principal reason that Lafayette brought Levasseur in 1824 was to provide dispatches to liberal associates in France for publication in sympathetic French newspapers and journals. These dispatches included speeches, addresses and news articles. This was deemed necessary to fulfill the main purpose of the Farewell Tour – to revive the Liberals’ political prospects in France by publicizing the lessons that the successful American experiment in republicanism could teach Europeans.<sup>9</sup>

In his Journal, Levasseur includes a long editorial written by author and politician Auguste Hilarion Kératry that had appeared in the liberal newspaper *Courrier Français* during the Farewell Tour.<sup>10</sup> Kératry had been part of the Liberal bloc in the Chamber of Deputies with Lafayette.

After congratulating the Americans on their citizen-warriors who made the American Revolution, he writes this about Lafayette’s putative thoughts during the upcoming ceremonies at Bunker Hill.

[H]e will be thinking no doubt of his own country while helping you in discharging this obligation of yours: he will offer prayers for us; and, perhaps, without being envious of the prosperous condition that you owe to the civil and military courage of your citizens, he will respectfully ask Providence why it seems to withdraw from the French those beautiful days of which it had allowed them to glimpse the dawn....<sup>11</sup> No, in his religious grief, he will be silent for fear that the tombstone and the sacred bones that it protects would make a reply to him too severe for us, inhabitants of this old Europe,<sup>12</sup> where they pretend to liberty without sacrifices, to happiness without virtue!<sup>13</sup>

The publication of Levasseur’s dispatches and commentary such as Kératry’s in France further strained the relationship between the Monarchy and Lafayette. Upon his arrival at Le Havre in early October 1825, Lafayette proceeded by land to his home at Chateau La Grange. In Rouen, the Royal Guard and local gendarmes violently broke up an assembled multitude of Lafayette’s admirers who had gathered to celebrate his return.<sup>14</sup>

Lafayette was empowered by his reception during the Farewell Tour. He believed that the demonstrations of the success of the American experiment that he had seen firsthand and that

Levasseur had relayed to France would improve the chances that France would adopt “American doctrines.” He was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1827, and in the summer of 1829, he went on a tour of France.

For this discussion of Lafayette’s 1829 French tour, I am indebted to my friend and predecessor as AFL President, Robert Crout of the College of Charleston, and his paper entitled, “Lafayette’s Other Tours: America in 1784 and France in 1829.” This paper was published by the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era.<sup>15</sup>

Lafayette made a number of stops in cities and towns between Paris and his ancestral home in Auvergne, where events were held in his honor that mirrored his 1824-1825 American Tour.

At Brioude, his carriage was surrounded by a cavalry of young men and he was welcomed by a triumphal arch. Lafayette offered this toast at the banquet:

To the town and arrondissement of Brioude! My eyes were opened there in the middle of usurpations of privilege and arbitrariness; may they, before they close, see my land in the full possession of all its rights, in the full use of its benefits of pure and complete liberty!<sup>16</sup>

The *Ami de la Charte* of Clermont-Ferrand reported that 150 attended the banquet for Lafayette in Le Puy. This newspaper covered Lafayette’s tour extensively and published many of the speeches and toasts, which were republished in other newspapers.

At Grenoble, Lafayette was presented with a civic crown and was toasted as follows:

To the one who was at every time the sustainer of our liberties, of those liberties that we shall defend with as much constancy as they now seem to be gravely menaced.<sup>17</sup>

From Vizille, another stop, Lafayette wrote Levasseur on August 28 to congratulate him on the publication of his Journal which Lafayette saw as a part of his campaign to promote American doctrines in France. He commented: “The details of our trip... have been given in the *Ami de la Charte*, the *Precurseur*, and the *Courrier Français*.”<sup>18</sup>

As Lafayette’s tour approached Lyon, the Monarchy swung into action. The mayor issued an ordinance forbidding serenades, parades, and acclamations. According to the *Precurseur*, this ordinance only emboldened the people in their attentions to Lafayette.

Professor Crout writes:

Lafayette’s visit to Lyon was obviously the high point of the tour, lasting several days. His arrival into the city on 5 September was led by three hundred mounted young men, musicians on horseback, and several vehicles. The crowd was numbered by royal officials at 25,000; liberal newspapers numbered it at

60,000. In his banquet speech the following night he launched an attack on the double vote, reminding his listeners that already by terms of the Charter for every one hundred Frenchmen of eligible age, only one could exercise that right. In conclusion he offered his audience this toast: “To the department of the Rhone and the city of Lyon, ancient center of industry, courageous enemy of oppression! May its liberty, its dignity, its prosperity be solidly founded on the full enjoyment of the natural and social rights that it invokes in all times.”<sup>19</sup>

Having returned to his home at La Grange, Lafayette wrote Levasseur on September 14 that issues of three liberal Paris newspapers reporting the banquet at Lyon had been stopped in the mails and asked Levasseur to report this matter to the editors for further articles.<sup>20</sup>

Despite the antagonism of the Monarchy, Lafayette managed to address a new generation of Frenchmen in person and the general public via newspaper accounts of his tour. This public relations campaign of the “Apostle of Liberty” likely paved the way for the July Revolution in 1830.

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<sup>1</sup> Hezekiah Niles, “La Fayette Visits To The United States,” *Niles Weekly Register*, November 6, 1824.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. 30, No. 66, *North American Review* (Jan. 1830), pp. 216-237, 217.

<sup>3</sup> Neely, Sylvia, *Lafayette and the Liberal Ideal 1814-1824*, (Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1999), p. 257.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 195, 257.

<sup>5</sup> Peterson, Merrill D., ed., *Jefferson Writings*, (New York: The Library of America, 1984), letter of Jefferson to Lafayette, October 9, 1824, pp. 1497-1498.

<sup>6</sup> Cloquet, Jules, M.D., *Recollections of the Private Life of General Lafayette*, (New York: Leavitt, Lord & Co., 1836), I, pp. 41-42.

<sup>7</sup> Levasseur, Auguste, *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825*, translated by Alan R. Hoffman (Lafayette Press, 2006), p. 402-403.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 197.

<sup>9</sup> Neely, p. 257.

<sup>10</sup> Levasseur, p. 529-532.

<sup>11</sup> Kératry is likely referring to the early phase of the French Revolution which Lafayette referred to as the program of 1789.

<sup>12</sup> The tomb of Joseph Warren, who was killed during the Battle of Bunker Hill, stood on Bunker Hill prior to the monument.

<sup>13</sup> Levasseur, p. 531.

<sup>14</sup> Levasseur, p. 568.

<sup>15</sup> Crout, Robert Rhodes, “Lafayette’s Other Tours: America in 1784 and France in 1829.” In A. Mikaberidze (ed.), *The Consortium on Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, Selected Papers 2010*, Louisiana State University, Shreveport (2012), pp. 171-185.

<sup>16</sup> *Arrivée du Général Lafayette dans l’arrondissement de Brioude* (Clermont-Ferrand, [1829]), p. 8.

<sup>17</sup> *Banquet offert au Général Lafayette, le 18 août 1829, par les citoyens de Grenoble* (Lyons: Imprimerie de Brunet, [1829]), p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> Lafayette to Levasseur, 28 August 1829, Stuart Jackson Collection, Yale University, Beinecke Library, Box 2 (uncatalogued).

<sup>19</sup> Crout, p. 183.

<sup>20</sup> Lafayette to Levasseur, 14 September [1829], Stuart Jackson Collection, Yale University, Beinecke Library, Box 2 (uncatalogued).

## Lafayette and la Frégate de la Liberté

by Kim Burdick

*His good sense “enables Lafayette to comprehend perfectly whatever is explained to him and his agency has been very efficacious. He has a great deal of sound genius, is well-remarked by the king and rising in popularity. He has nothing against him but the suspicion of republican principles.” ~ Thomas Jefferson*

### Lafayette

In 1775, an eighteen-year-old French soldier was assigned to military maneuvers at Metz. Here he attended an official dinner where the Duke of Gloucester, younger brother of England’s King George III, was expounding upon the American Revolution.<sup>1</sup> Amazed by what he heard, Gilbert du Motier de Lafayette later wrote, “My heart was enlisted, and I thought only of joining my colors to those of the revolutionaries.”<sup>2</sup>

When Louis XVI forbade this young French soldier to go to America, Lafayette deliberately disobeyed orders, leaving France with Baron De Kalb and a dozen friends and colleagues. They set sail from Spain on Lafayette’s ship *la Victoire* on April 20, 1777, reportedly heading for Santo Domingo.<sup>3</sup> Landing in South Carolina, they made their way 650 miles to Philadelphia, where, on July 31, Lafayette was commissioned “Major General without pay.”<sup>4</sup> Lafayette’s first sight of the American troops came on August 8 when George Washington reviewed his troops.

A month later, at the Battle of Brandywine (September 11, 1777), a bullet filled Lafayette’s boot with blood. Now twenty years old, he spent the winter with Washington’s army at Valley Forge and in late May was the hero of some action in nearby Barren Hill, Pennsylvania. Other adventures followed at Monmouth and Rhode Island in 1778. With no new military orders, coupled with unhappy news from France about the death of his tiny daughter, and the loss of *la Victoire*, with which he had hoped to recoup his investment, Lafayette became restless. He requested a leave of absence to return briefly to France.

Modern scholars too often read Lafayette’s letters out of context, mistaking the language of 18<sup>th</sup>-century diplomacy and politesse for boyish gushing. Dr. Stanley Idzerda’s volumes of primary documents<sup>5</sup> related to Lafayette’s role in the American Revolution and Lafayette’s own writings<sup>6</sup> are extremely important tools in sorting out myth from reality. Studying Lafayette’s correspondence in relation to the French and American diplomats and government officials who were in communication with him clearly reveals his intelligence, common sense, and significant diplomatic accomplishments.

Monsieur Gérard, the French minister at Philadelphia, wrote ahead to the government in Paris, "You know how little inclined I am to flattery, but I cannot resist saying that the prudent, courageous, and amiable conduct of the Marquis de Lafayette has made him the idol of the Congress, the army, and the people of America."<sup>7</sup>

Lafayette's wife, Adrienne de Noailles de Lafayette, wrote, "Monsieur de Lafayette has returned, as modest and charming as when you last saw him, his sensibility undiminished... [He] is now in the king's disfavor and is forbidden to appear in any public place. We hope this will not last long...nor will he be able to leave for some time after the restriction ends since he must take advantage of the king's good will when it is offered to him."<sup>8</sup> Lafayette formally apologized to the king for having left France without permission,<sup>9</sup> and soon began lobbying him for ships and supplies for America. By March, 1779, Ben Franklin reported from Paris that Lafayette had become an excellent advocate for the American cause at the French Court. The following year, the success of Lafayette's efforts would be apparent.

On February 21, 1780, Lafayette wrote from Versailles "Observations on Matters Pertaining to the Navy for an Expedition to North America: The Frigate from Rochefort. It seems to be settled that on March 4, I shall find a fast-sailing frigate at Rochefort ready to take me directly to Boston. It will carry neither arms nor clothing but only a few packages of presents for my division. I shall provide a list of what should be carried over with me."<sup>10</sup>

About the same time, thirty-four-year-old Louis de La Touche was called upon to report to the mouth of the Charente River no later than Feb 20 to await specific orders regarding a mission from the Navy Minister. The aristocratic La Touche was the son of a naval officer, and a nephew of Charles de La Touche Tréville, squadron chief, and *L'Hermione* was one of the king's best ships. The ship's crew included a number of officers, a surgeon and a priest. About half the 313 working on board were sailors whose responsibilities were to maneuver the ship and man the cannons, but La Touche did not yet know what this mission would be.

March 5, 1780 was an important day for America. On that day, Louis XVI issued the orders: "Monsieur le Marquis de Lafayette will hasten to join General Washington whom he will secretly inform that the King will send at the beginning of spring, help consisting of six ships and approximately 5,000 infantrymen."<sup>11</sup> A list of the ships and supplies the French contemplated sending can be found in Idzerda in the correspondence between Chevalier de Fleurieu and French Minister of the Navy, Gabriel de Sartine (1729-1801), dated March 5 and 6, 1780.<sup>12</sup>

Lafayette was now authorized to communicate to Washington that the French troops "shall be simply auxiliaries, and with this title they shall come under the orders of General Washington. The French General shall receive the orders of the American commander in chief in all things except what pertains to the internal management of his own troops...In case operations by land should not require the concert of the squadron, it will be free to cruise at such a distance from thecoasts as the Commandant shall think best for doing the most harm to the enemy."<sup>13</sup>

The secrecy of the mission was communicated to the Commander of the Navy at Rochefort who received word that the details of the mission were not to be shared. M. de Sartine informed ship's captain La Touche that Lafayette was to have decent lodging on board *L'Hermione* and according to strict orders from the King, was to present the list of his four officers and eight servants to La Touche. No additional passengers were to be permitted on board. The password would be: "Saint Louis and Philadelphie."<sup>14</sup>

In the midst of the excitement, on March 9, 1780, Rochambeau's appointment to the American mission was announced. John Adams (1735-1826), from his diplomatic post in Paris, reported that Lafayette, unhappy at having been passed over for Rochambeau, made a silent statement of protest, bidding adieu to his monarch "in the Uniform of an American Major General." Adams noted that when Lafayette appeared before Louis XVI in American attire, his uniform "attracted the Eyes of the whole court." Adams was sure that the sword Lafayette was carrying that day was the one commissioned for him by Congress. It "is indeed a Beauty," Adams conceded, "which Lafayette shews with great Pleasure."<sup>15</sup>

Lafayette left immediately for Rochefort where *L'Hermione* was waiting for him in the river at Port-des-Barques. Final preparations took place on March 11. The four officers designated by Lafayette boarded, and a careful search of the decks was made to assure no unauthorized passengers had come on the ship. *L'Hermione* finally set sail for America on the night of March 14 or 15.<sup>16</sup>

Lafayette's autobiography states, "This expedition was kept very secret; Lafayette had preceded it on board the French frigate the *Hermione*; he arrived at Boston before the Americans and English had the least knowledge of that auxiliary reinforcement."<sup>17</sup>

Lafayette was now twenty-two years old, a husband and father of two surviving children. Captain Latouche wrote de Sartine: "I will have for M. le Marquis de La Fayette all the consideration and attention not only prescribed in your orders, but those that my heart dictates for a man whose actions have inspired in me a great desire to make his acquaintance....I will offer him the choice of my room or the one next to mine which previously served as Council Room."<sup>18</sup>

On March 20, stormy seas and wind resulted in damage to a piece of wood, and *L'Hermione* was forced back toward Ile d'Aix. A small boat was launched to retrieve a replacement part. La Touche took the opportunity to send word of La Fayette's good health and well-being on board *L'Hermione*. The repair was made, but now *L'Hermione* was further delayed by lack of wind.

Finally, once at sea, *L'Hermione* had an exchange of cannon fire with an enemy British ship. On April 10, a sailor died from a fever similar to typhoid. A few days later, a repair had to be made in the uppermost section of a mast, and a malfunction in a compass caused frustration. Finally, the American coast came into view on Thursday, April 27, and by 2:00 in the afternoon, *L'Hermione* found shelter in the small port of Marblehead, sixteen miles from Boston. La Touche noted: Brigadier General Glover came on board to see Monsieur the Marquis de La Fayette."<sup>19</sup>

Lafayette wasted little time in sending a communiqué to George Washington, alluding to Louis XVI's still-secret news:

Here I am, My dear General, and in the Mist of the joy I feel in finding  
Myself again one of your loving Soldiers I take But the time of telling you that I  
Came from france on Board of a fregatt Which the king Gave me for my passage—

I have affairs of the utmost importance that I should at first Communicate to You alone...and do Assure You A Great public Good May derive from it  
Lafayette (at Boston Harbor) to George Washington, 27 April 1780<sup>20</sup>

At 2:30 in the afternoon of April 28, 1780, *L'Hermione*, with French flag flying high, arrived in the port of Boston and saluted with thirteen cannon shots the American flag that was displayed at the fort on Castle Island. Word that the ship had been sighted spread through the city, and the wharves were lined with people. As Lafayette left the ship, he was saluted by La Touche and his crew.

La Touche wrote to M. de Sartine that day of the eventful crossing and the enthusiasm raised in Boston by the return of the young Major General. "Mr. the Marquis de La Fayette enjoyed good health throughout the crossing...He received the most distinguished honors of the people with bonfires and shouts of joy, respect no less shown by the officials of the State, their pleasure at seeing him again. On the docks the crowd demonstrated with cries of joy and musket fire. La Fayette went ashore at 1:00 stirring the level of celebratory noise even more."<sup>21</sup>

The arrival of Lafayette at Boston "produced the liveliest sensation, which was entirely owing to his own popularity, for no one yet knew what he had obtained for the United States. Every person ran to the shore; he was received with the loudest acclamations, and carried in triumph to the house of Governor Hancock, from whence he set out for head-quarters."<sup>22</sup>

The excitement was confirmed by Abigail Adams (1744-1818) in a May 1 letter to John: "Last week arrived at Boston the Marquis de la Fayette to the universal joy of all who know the Merit and Worth of that Nobleman. He was received with the ringing of Bells, firing of cannon, bon fires, etc."<sup>23</sup>

Lafayette left Boston on May 2 to travel to Washington's headquarters at Morristown, New Jersey. Festivities like those that had greeted him in Boston erupted in every town Lafayette passed through on the 250-mile journey. "It's to the roar of cannon that I arrive or depart; the principal residents mount their horses to accompany me," Lafayette wrote his wife Adrienne, (1759-1807), "In short, my love, my reception here is greater than anything that I could describe to you."<sup>24</sup>

On May 10, 1780, Lafayette arrived at camp in Morristown where he shared with General Washington the important news that a French Expeditionary Force and a small naval squadron would be arriving to support the war effort.<sup>25</sup>

From the harsh winter at Morristown, New Jersey, to the dwindling number of troops, to Benedict Arnold's censure for misdeeds while governing Philadelphia, things seemed to be going from bad to worse. The position of the army had, in fact, become desperate. There was no money, so the men had not been paid in months. There was no food. Clothing and shoes were almost nonexistent, and most of the men went about barefoot and in rags. Ammunition was in even shorter supply than weapons themselves.<sup>26</sup> 1780 had not started well, but Lafayette's arrival indicated that perhaps things would soon improve.



*The Alliance*, statue of Lafayette, Hamilton, and Washington on the Morristown Green

On May 13, 1780, Washington wrote to the President of Congress about Lafayette's return:

The Marquis de la Fayette will have the honor to deliver you this.

I am perswaded Congress will participate in the joy I feel at the return of a Gentleman who has distinguished himself in the service of this Country so signally—who has given so many & so decisive proofs of his attachments to its interests—and who ought to be dear to it by every motive. The warm friendship I have for him conspires with considerations of public utility to afford me a double satisfaction in his return.

During the time he has been in France he has uniformly manifested the same zeal in our affairs which animated his conduct while he was among us; and has been upon all occasions an essential friend to America.<sup>27</sup>

In Congress, May 16, 1780. "Resolved, That Congress consider the return of the Marquis LAFAYETTE to America, to resume his command in the army, as a fresh proof of the distinguished zeal and deserving attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause; and that they receive with pleasure, a tender of further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer."<sup>28</sup>

### ***L'Hermione: la Frégate de la Liberté***

On April 30, La Touche reported by letter to French Navy Minister de Sartine that there had been some minor damage to the ship but also proudly reported that the copper sheathing of the frigate was in perfect condition. *L'Hermione* put to sea again on June 2, 1780.

Although *L'Hermione* is most significant to American history for bringing Lafayette across the Atlantic with the crucial news that French reinforcements of troops and frigates, supplies and money and General Rochambeau were coming to our assistance, she was involved in the American Revolution until after Yorktown.<sup>29</sup> On June 7, 1780, soon after depositing Lafayette on our shores, *L'Hermione* battled the 32-gun British frigate HMS *Iris* just south of Long Island.<sup>30</sup>

The two ships exchanged a fierce cannonade for an hour and a half, during which Latouche was hit in the arm by a musket ball and *L'Hermione's* rigging was damaged. A year later, *L'Hermione* was one of three supporting frigates in the fleet of Admiral Destouches in a clash between the British fleet and seven French ships of the line.<sup>31</sup> On May 4, 1781, *L'Hermione* was in Philadelphia where the Continental Congress honored her service in the previous year's action up and down the coast. Shortly thereafter, she was then engaged in the naval battle of Louisbourg on July 21.



*L'Hermione*, detail from a painting of the Naval Battle at Louisbourg  
by Auguste-Louis de Rossel de Cercy

On Sept 28, 1781, as the allied American and French armies began establishing their siege lines around Yorktown, and ships of the French fleet began blocking the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay, *L'Hermione* arrived with powder and supplies. At the end of the battle, along with the frigate *Diligente*, and ship of the line *Romulus*, *L'Hermione* wintered near Yorktown, sailing home to France in February, 1782.<sup>32</sup>

The story of Lafayette and *L'Hermione* has captured the attention of French and American citizens.

The recreation of *L'Hermione* was conceived by members of the Centre International de la Mer in 1992, at almost the same time Americans began to seriously study French aid and historic spots along the Yorktown Campaign Route. Construction of *L'Hermione* began in 2007, and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R-NHT) was approved by Congress a few months later, in 2008. These international olive branches met, with the beautifully recreated French tall ship *Hermione-Lafayette* spending the months of June and July 2015 in America before sailing north from Yorktown to Nova Scotia, then back to France.



The reconstructed *L'Hermione* under sail in 2015

The reconstructed *L'Hermione* set sail from the mouth of the Charente River in Port-des-Barques where Lafayette boarded on March 10, 1780. Using 18<sup>th</sup> century technology, *L'Hermione-Lafayette* sailed to the United States, making landfall at Yorktown, Virginia, where the original had engaged in the blockade that led to the British defeat at Yorktown. The ship stopped at twelve historic ports along the W3R. Related festivities, hearkening back to Lafayette's 1780 voyage to America, brought both the story and the national historic trail alive.

- <sup>1</sup> At thirteen, Lafayette became a sous-lieutenant in the King's Musketeers. By seventeen he was a Captain in the Noailles Dragoons and later Captain of that group.
- <sup>2</sup> Quoted in James Gaines. *Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette and their Revolutions*. (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2007), 37.
- <sup>3</sup> Letter to Adrienne Lafayette from aboard la Victoire, June 1777. (Christine Valadon, translator). Cleveland State University Special Collections. Reel 23, Folder 202. <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/lafayette/documents/doc8.shtml>
- <sup>4</sup> Andreas Latzko. *Lafayette: A Life*. 1936. (New York Literary Guild. 1936), 52.
- <sup>5</sup> Stanley J. Idzerda, Editor. *Lafayette in the Age of the American Revolution, Selected Letters and Papers 1776-1790* [5 Volumes]. (Ithaca, NY. Cornell University Press. 1979).
- <sup>6</sup> Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette. *Memoirs of General Lafayette*. [EBook #7449. Samuel L. Knapp. Release Date: February, 2005]. <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/7449>
- <sup>7</sup> Rupert Sargent Holland. *Lafayette for Young Americans*. (POD reprint. Ulan Press. 1923. Paperback - August 31, 2012). <http://www.heritage-history.com/?c=read&author=holland&book=lafayette&story=washington>
- <sup>8</sup> Idzerda. 2:230. Idzerda notes: A nineteenth century note in the hand of Lafayette's secretary has a marginal note: "Upon Lafayette's first return it was thought that, in order to maintain the king's dignity, which Lafayette had greatly offended by his disobedience, he must be exiled for several days and forbidden to see anyone but his family."
- <sup>9</sup> Idzerda. 2:232. Lafayette to Louis XVI. Paris, February 19, 1779.
- <sup>10</sup> Idzerda. 2:355-356.
- <sup>11</sup> Summary translation by Glenda Cash, Poplar Forest Interpretation Assistant. Ship's Log of *l'Hermione*. 4.
- <sup>12</sup> Idzerda. 2:368.
- <sup>13</sup> Stephen Bonsall, *When the French Were Here*. (Garden City, and New York. Doubleday, Doran and Company. 1945). 15
- <sup>14</sup> *L'Hermione* was commissioned in May 1779 under the command of Louis-René Levasseur Latouche-Tréville, later to become the Comte de Latouche. A Rochefort born aristocrat, he later became a noted admiral during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, 1801. (Marsh & Clark. 2014)
- <sup>15</sup> Auricchio. 86.
- <sup>16</sup> Summary translation by Glenda Cash, Poplar Forest Interpretation Assistant. Ship's Log of *l'Hermione*. *Journal de la frégate du Roi L'Hermione*" de 32 canons, commandée par M. de La Touche, lieutenant de vaisseau: la campagne, commencée le 23 janvier 1780, finie le 26 février 1782: extraits 4.
- <sup>17</sup> Lafayette-Forgotten Books-251.
- <sup>18</sup> Ship's Log. 4. Summary translation by Glenda Cash, Poplar Forest Interpretation Assistant.
- <sup>19</sup> Ship's log of *L'Hermione*-6. Summary translation by Glenda Cash, Poplar Forest Interpretation Assistant.
- <sup>20</sup> Idzerda. 2:364-68; see also GW's draft letter to Samuel Huntington, 13 May 1780, DLC: GW., ALS, PEL)
- <sup>21</sup> Ship's Log of *L'Hermione*. 7. Summary translation by Glenda Cash, Poplar Forest Interpretation Assistant. 7.
- <sup>22</sup> Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert de Motier Lafayette. *Memoirs, Correspondence and Manuscripts of General Lafayette*. Vol 1. (Originally published New York and London. Published by His Family. 1837. Forgotten Books: Classic Reprint Series. 2012.) 251.
- <sup>23</sup> Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, 1 May 1780. Massachusetts Historical Society. [http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/doc?id=L17800501aa&bc=%2Fdigitaladams%2Farchive%2Fbrowse%2Fletters\\_1779\\_1789.php](http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/doc?id=L17800501aa&bc=%2Fdigitaladams%2Farchive%2Fbrowse%2Fletters_1779_1789.php)
- <sup>24</sup> Laura Auricchio. *The Marquis Lafayette Reconsidered*. (New York. Alfred A. Knopf. 2014) 86.
- <sup>25</sup> Idzerda. 3:11.
- <sup>26</sup> Olivier Bernier. *Lafayette: Hero of Two Worlds*. E.P. Dutton. New York. 1983. 93.
- <sup>27</sup> Idzerda. 3:11.
- <sup>28</sup> Journals of Congress. Library of Congress. 432.
- <sup>29</sup> March/April 2014 *Ships in Scale*. <http://www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com/LafayetteHermione.pdf>
- <sup>30</sup> Naval War College Blog. Newport, Rhode Island. [http://navalwarcollegemuseum.blogspot.com/2013\\_04\\_01\\_archive.html#uds-search-results](http://navalwarcollegemuseum.blogspot.com/2013_04_01_archive.html#uds-search-results)
- <sup>31</sup> Albert Durfée McJoynt. Virginia. "French Naval Leaders and the French Navy in the American War for Independence." <http://www.xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/marine.htm>
- <sup>32</sup> Jacques de Trentinian. "De Grasse's Naval Army (March 1781 – April 1782)" [http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/degrasse\\_fleet2.htm](http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/degrasse_fleet2.htm). Accessed March 28, 2015. see also: <http://www.nps.gov/waro/learn/news/upload/February-2015-Highlights-Final.pdf>. Accessed March 28, 2015.

## Researching the Story of “Quiz,” Lafayette’s Little Dog “Who Loved Me So Much”

by John C. Becica

In 1967 Jane Bacon MacIntire (1895-1984) wrote a book about the Farewell Tour entitled *Lafayette, Guest of the Nation*. Mrs. MacIntire spent most of her life in Newton, Massachusetts, and in 1944 had edited (not written) a book *Waban Early Days* about a section of the town she grew up in.

A member of The American Friends of Lafayette (AFL), she had served as an officer of that organization, and had been the editor, and occasional writer for the organization’s *Gazette* for over 20 years. In 1954 she is also listed as the editor of the *Letters of Lafayette, Stuart W. Jackson Collection* published by the AFL. Stuart Wells Jackson (1875-1957) was one of the principal founders of The American Friends of Lafayette at Lafayette College in 1932. He donated much of his Lafayette Collection to the AFL at that time for safekeeping at the College.

Written when Mrs. MacIntire was about age 72, *Lafayette, Guest of the Nation* was apparently the only book she ever authored. As such, it has a major flaw. Her purpose was evidently to tell a folksy tale about Lafayette’s adventures during the Triumphant Tour. Devoid of proper footnotes, and with a limited bibliography, it cannot be considered a scholarly work in any way.

Occasionally, she does quote a source in brackets after a passage, but with no detail. Many of these so-called reference works do not even appear in the bibliography. There are numerous misstatements in the manuscript, scrambled sequences of events, and some copy which is actually made up!

Her work contains the only references to “Quiz the little dog” that this author and others have ever seen in writings about the Tour.



*Jane Bacon MacIntire*

My curiosity piqued, I set out to try to prove the dog's existence. The pet is first mentioned on page 130 of MacIntire's book as Lafayette enters Washington, D.C. in December, 1824:

Lafayette's party was also swelled by a gift from Colonel and Mrs. Bumford – a little dog, name of "Quiz." A great mutual attachment was instantly established. From then on Lafayette absolutely insisted upon taking Quiz everywhere he went. She was his dog and where he went, his dog went too. One more care for harassed Bastien.

Nice storytelling, but how much is true? She infers an instant "mutual attachment." She makes up the statement that Lafayette insisted that the dog follow him everywhere, and she assumes that the dog was a burden to Lafayette's valet, Bastien.

My first step was to try to search online for Colonel Bumford. Getting nowhere, I tried Bamford and Bomford. For Bomford, I found a Colonel in the Ordinance Division of the U.S. army, but at the time of the Tour he was only about 44 years old. That would have made him too young to have been in the Revolutionary War with Lafayette. Disappointed, I kept searching. I found the Bomford name mentioned in *Social Life of the Early Republic* by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton on pages 206 and 207.

The passage that I found takes place during the Tour when Lafayette was in Washington, D.C. in December, 1824:

One especially attractive occasion was an evening at Mrs. Bomford's, when Lafayette visited her home informally. Mrs. Seaton explained that the Marquis had been intimate with Joel Barlow while he was in France, which was his reason for making an exception in favor of Mrs. Bomford, who was Mr. Barlow's sister-law.

'I found no company,' wrote Mrs. Seaton, 'but the families of Mr. Cutts, (brother-in-law of Mrs [Dolley] Madison) and General Dearborn, old friends of ours both; and we passed a most agreeable and charming evening, from whence we accompanied the General to the concert. We had much plain, pleasant conversation, in which the benevolent old hero participated with all the characteristic ardor of an accomplished Frenchman.'

The evening with General Lafayette was further corroborated in *William Winston Seaton of the National Intelligencer, a Biographical Sketch* pages 170-171 as follows:

December, 1824 . . . I was privileged a few days ago to enjoy an unusual opportunity of quiet converse with the 'nation's guest.' The Marquis was very intimate with Joel Barlow, and they passed most of their time together during the stay of the latter in France; consequently Mrs. Bomford (sister of Mrs Barlow, as you know) is a great favorite of the Marquis; and I am of Mrs. Bomford; and consequently, again, I received an intimation that he would spend a private *en famille* evening there, in which I needed no pressing to participate. William and the Mayor were to escort him there from the President's and I went solus. . . .

Desiring to know more about the Bomfords, I found the following essay online: *Guarded Pasts: The Lives and Offspring of Colonel George and Clara (Baldwin) Bomford* by Nancy Simons Peterson. From this genealogical essay, I found out that my original search results finding a Colonel Bomford were correct. Colonel George Bomford was married to Clara Baldwin Bomford, and they were the couple that entertained Lafayette in December, 1824.

A graduate of West Point, George Bomford developed a new type of cannon that he named the Columbiad, after the epic poem by Joel Barlow, his brother-in-law. Bomford continued in ordnance, where in 1832 he became the first chief of the Ordnance Corps. In 1844, in what was perhaps his greatest achievement, he developed the New Columbiad, the most scientifically designed heavy weapon of its time.

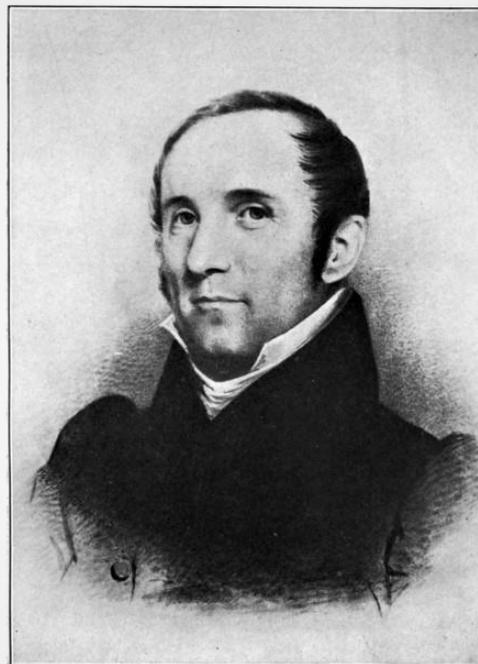
Clarissa “Clara” Baldwin, was George’s second wife. They were married on April 20, 1816 in Washington, D.C. Her older half-brother, Abraham Baldwin, was a framer of the Constitution and later a U.S. representative and senator. One of many “Connecticut Yankees” who moved south to Georgia, he helped found the University of Georgia. Another brother, Henry Baldwin, became a U.S. Supreme Court justice. Clara’s older half-sister, Ruth, married Joel Barlow, the well-known poet, philosopher, and international diplomat in whose honor George Bomford had named his 1811 invention.

The following source indicates that in 1824-1825, the Bomfords were living in a magnificent home in Washington, D.C. called Kalorama: *Records of the Columbia Historical Society Volume 13, 1910, The Story of Kalorama [Greek for Fine View]* by Corra Bacon-Foster, pages 112-113. This source contains images of both George and Clara, and I was able to find an online image of Kalorama from that time period as well. (The estate is long gone, but the area where it was located is today called the Kalorama neighborhood of Washington, D.C.)



CLARA BALDWIN BOMFORD

(From a photograph taken from a portrait in Paris, France, about 1812)



COL. GEORGE BOMFORD

(From original in Ordnance Department, U. S. A.)



***Kalorama, the Home of Colonel George and Clara Bomford, 1824***

At this point I had confirmed that Lafayette had spent an evening with the Bomfords at Kalorama, sometime in December, 1824. J. Bennett Nolan's *Lafayette in America Day by Day* states that Lafayette arrived in Washington, D.C. on December 1, left for Annapolis on December 16, visiting there from December 18 - 20, returned to Washington, and then visited Baltimore and Frederick from December 26 through New Year's Day. Thus, the Bomford gathering must have taken place during the period December 1 - December 15, or December 21 - December 25. Unfortunately, there is nothing in Nolan in these two date ranges indicating a visit to the President of the U.S. or attendance at a concert, so the exact date of the Bomford gathering remains undiscovered. We should also point out that there is nothing in these records about the gift of a dog named Quiz to Lafayette.

So where did the misnaming of Bomford as Bumford come from? It appears that Mrs. MacIntire found the following phrase in Edgar Ewing Brandon, *A Pilgrimage of Liberty*, page 251. Brandon is quoting the *Nashville Whig* of May 28, 1825, describing the shipwreck of the *Mechanic* on the Ohio River with Lafayette on board. (The *Nashville Whig* story was an eyewitness account. The editor was a passenger on the *Mechanic*.) The story references the loss of “. . . a favorite little dog, a present from Col. Bumford and Lady . . .”

Moving forward to her next mention of Quiz, on page 141, Mrs. MacIntire reports that Lafayette left Washington D.C. on the Steamship *Potomac*, February 23, 1825 for the Southern and Western part of the Farewell Tour. “A minimum of baggage was taken, but the little dog Quiz was not forgotten.” Given what I found later, I determined that this statement is correct, but only by inference.

The third mention of Quiz by Mrs. MacIntire on page 155 of her book turns out to actually come from primary source documentation. This is one of the places in her work where she does quote a source: *Goodspeed's The Month, October, 1946*. I found that Goodspeeds of Boston was a Rare Book Shop. The reference is to their catalog *The Month at Goodspeeds, October, 1946 Volume XVIII, Number 1, pages 18-22*. After researching used book sites on the internet, I found only one copy of that issue available, which I purchased.

Goodspeeds states, "At Savannah River, March 22, 1825 Lafayette wrote, in English, a two-page letter addressed to an unidentified colonel in Washington." (They were asking \$125 for the letter in 1946 – surely worth thousands today!)

The transcription of the letter includes: "I hope to find a letter from you at Pittsburg, don't forget, dear Colonel, the Boring Experiment: I set great value by it, and much wish, if it succeeds to take to LaGrange a man capable of giving me a fine run of water."

Since the "Boring" that is referred to consists of cannon experiments to heat water by friction, we have an indication that the letter may have been to Colonel Bomford, a cannon expert. In an article in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Volume LXVIII No 4, Winter, 1984 – "Lafayette's Tour of Georgia, the Observations of Auguste Levasseur" by Martha. L. Turner, page 564, there is further evidence about this letter. The author's footnote 15 states: "Lafayette to Bomford, March 22, 1825, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah."

Naturally, my next stop was to go to the Georgia Historical Society website. There I hit the jackpot and found the letter listed in their collection: Marmaduke Hamilton and Dolores Boisfeuillet Floyd papers, MS 1308, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia. Box 61 Minorcans in Georgia, continued; miscellaneous non-family papers:

Marquis de La Fayette to "My Dear Friends." Savannah, Ga., 1825 March 22, 2.0 p., plus typed copy. Regarding trip through Georgia and refers to Colonel George Bomford. This item includes an excellent example of Lafayette's seal.

The image shows a handwritten letter on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script, characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century. The ink is dark, and the paper shows signs of wear and discoloration. The handwriting is dense and fills most of the page. At the bottom right, there is a signature that appears to be 'Lafayette'. The letter is addressed to 'My Dear Friends' and discusses a trip through Georgia and refers to Colonel George Bomford. The letter is dated Savannah, Ga., 1825 March 22.

Unfortunately, the Georgia Historical Society Archives have been closed for some time for renovations, so access to the full letter is not available. Goodspeeds, however transcribes most of the letter and provides an image of the section referring to Quiz the dog.

The part of the letter, shown above, that Mrs. MacIntire copied from Goodspeeds reads as follows:

Quiz had become very fond of me, and on her account much trouble has been occasioned last evening. Whenever she sees a Crowd of People or a Body of Soldiers, she runs to it in Hopes to find me, and so she escaped, as we were going to embark from Bastien who was determined not to come on board without her, which necessitated delay and several messages, when Bastien, Quiz, and sometime after George and Le Vasseur, who had returned to the House where the dog had gone in quest of me, safely reached the Steam Boat . . .  
[There is also a concluding sentence, Lafayette's signature, and a postscript.]

The letter *was* written while ascending the river from Savannah, Georgia to Augusta, Georgia aboard the *SS Altamaha* on March 22, 1825. (Nolan, *Lafayette in America Day by Day*, p 279 – reported by the *Augusta Chronicle* of March 26, 1825).

Close examination with a magnifying glass of Lafayette's handwriting in the Goodspeeds excerpt confirms that the dog's name was Quiz.

So now we have primary source information that the dog Quiz existed. Once again, in *A Pilgrimage of Liberty*, Brandon quotes the primary source: *Nashville Whig* of May 28, 1825 as follows: “. . . a favorite little dog, a present from Col. Bumford and Lady. . .”

So far, we know from primary sources:

1. That a dog named Quiz existed
2. That Quiz was little
3. That Lafayette refers to “her,” so Quiz was a female dog
4. That Col. Bumford and Lady (Colonel George Bomford and Clara Bomford) had given the dog as a gift.

So far, we can also infer:

1. That, since the letter discussing the dog was written to Colonel George Bomford, he and his wife were truly the donors as stated in the *Nashville Whig*. (Why would Lafayette broach this subject with anyone else but the donors?)
2. That the gift of the dog was probably the result of the evening that Lafayette had spent with the Bomfords at Kalorama in Washington D.C. the previous December.

3. That, obviously, given the content of the letter from Lafayette to the Bomfords, the dog left Washington with Lafayette for the Southern and Western Tour.

The fourth mention of Quiz in Mrs. MacIntire's book on page 182 refers to the Shipwreck of the *Mechanic* on the Ohio River. Mrs. MacIntire states: "Lafayette's losses were his little dog Quiz, Mrs. Custis' Carriage. . . . The loss of Quiz upset him greatly. He said afterwards that this was the only flaw in his entire trip."

Lafayette's secretary, Auguste Levasseur does not mention the dog in his description of the shipwreck. The eyewitness account in *The Nashville Whig* of May 28, 1825, however, does mention it, as quoted in Brandon, *A Pilgrimage of Liberty*, page 251:

The carriage of Gen. Lafayette, a present from Mrs. Custis, and a favorite little dog, a present from Col. Bumford and Lady, were lost, together with a part of his baggage, including most of his papers.

The loss of Quiz in the shipwreck is also described in *It Happened in Nashville, Tennessee*, W.E. Beard Compiler, page 35, as follows: "The Marquis lost . . . a carriage presented to him by Mrs, Custis, and a little dog, the gift of Col. Bumford and lady."

Now we know that Quiz was somehow lost during the shipwreck.

Mrs. MacIntire's final reference to Quiz the dog is stated in her book on page 219. Lafayette states, "I have but one thing to regret in all my travels, and that is the loss of my little dog who loved me so much."

I found this exact quotation in another primary source, which was listed in Mrs. MacIntire's short bibliography: *Figures of the Past, From the Leaves of Old Journals* by Josiah Quincy, University Press Cambridge, 1883, page 148. Quincy wrote in 1883 using a diary he kept in 1825.

Several days after the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill monument, on June 22, 1825, Josiah Quincy, a recent graduate of Harvard, and an aide to the Governor of Massachusetts, had breakfast with Lafayette at the Boston home of Senator Lloyd. (Josiah Quincy IV would later become the Mayor of Boston like his father and grandson.)

Lafayette was about leave Boston for northern New England. During the meal, Lafayette made the "interesting observation" quoted above. Quincy also states that Lafayette "Gave us a pathetic account of his feelings when the animal was stolen during a passage up the Ohio."

We do not know whether little Quiz was swept away by the current of the Ohio River and drowned, or whether she was stolen or got lost. In any event, we do know that she was gone from General Lafayette's life forever and was greatly missed.

## Conclusion

Therefore, using primary source documentation, I have now been able to establish:

1. That the little dog did exist and was a present to Lafayette from friends Colonel George and Clara Bomford. (Brandon/*Nashville Whig*)
2. That the gift was made probably as a result of a gathering at the Bomford home Kalorama in Washington D.C. during December, 1824. (Seaton)
3. That the dog's name was Quiz and she was with Lafayette, lost and then found, during the Southern leg of the tour as Lafayette was about to board a steamboat from Savannah to Augusta, Georgia. (ALS\* Lafayette to Bomford)
4. That the dog disappeared during the shipwreck of the *Mechanic* on the Ohio River. (Brandon/*Nashville Whig*)
5. That her loss was very emotional for General Lafayette. (Quincy/*Figures of the Past*)

\*Autograph Letter Signed - A letter entirely handwritten by the individual.

As undocumented a work as Jane Bacon MacIntire's book *Lafayette Guest of the Nation* is, in the end she did get it right using an obscure letter from Lafayette, a discussion of the Ohio River shipwreck in a contemporary Nashville newspaper, and a reminiscence written by Josiah Quincy. It is apparent, however, that she never knew exactly who Colonel George and Clara Bomford were, or that they socialized with Lafayette in Washington D.C. in December, 1824, probably resulting in the gift of the dog.

Thus, on a very sad note, ends the documented story of Quiz the little dog, a pet that a bereaved Lafayette only had for a short time on his Farewell Tour, and as he expressed, "loved me so much."

## About the Author

John Becica is a Lafayette College Alumnus, a long-time AFL member, and Treasurer and Assistant Researcher of the Lafayette Trail, Inc.

# Virginia Lafayette Day

by Chuck Schwam



AFL members gathered in Yorktown, Virginia for the annual Lafayette Day in Virginia festivities on March 14. It was a wonderfully warm day as the ceremony was performed at the Lafayette Statue on the Yorktown Riverwalk. Previous celebrations took place in the Rotunda of the Virginia Statehouse in Richmond, but pandemic restrictions moved the event outdoors, sixty miles to the southeast.

The event was emceed by Chuck Schwam. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by The Honorable James Dillard. Attendees were treated to remarks by AFL members Robert Kelly and French Army Lt. Col. Alain Abad. The ceremonial wreath was laid by French Navy Commander Jacques Leroy.

After the ceremony, participants lunched overlooking the York River as they were entertained with a lecture from AFL member and historian, Edward Ayres.



AFL Vice President Robert Kelly speaks, with Treasurer Chuck Schwam looking on.



Lt. Col. Alain Abad's speech focused on 18<sup>th</sup> century French Engineers.

# Two French Soldiers in Newport, Rhode Island

by Chuck Schwam

I am honored to announce the American Friends of Lafayette's participation in the commemoration and grave marker dedication of two French Navy officers from the frigate *Hermione* who are interred in the Trinity Church Historic Cemetery in Newport, Rhode Island. The ceremony will take place on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 2pm as part of a weekend named by the City of Newport "Tribute to France."

Once again, we are partnering with the National Park Service, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as well as our newest collaborator, the American Society of Le Souvenir Français. After the ceremony, there will be a reception, and I promise to update AFL members with details as soon as they become clear.



Trinity Church in Newport, Rhode Island



Trinity Church Historic Cemetery

Trinity Church was built in 1725, and the adjacent cemetery is the final resting place for many veterans of the American Revolution, including French Admiral de Ternay, who died in 1780. The two men being commemorated currently rest without markers, but recent research has uncovered some information about them.

After serving several years in the French army, Major Pierre du Rousseau, Chevalier de Fayolle (1746-1780), left for the United States with Lafayette on the *Victoire* in 1777. After failing to receive a commission from the United States Congress, Fayolle volunteered with Vice Admiral d'Estaing's squadron in Rhode Island in 1778 before returning to France.

Fayolle returned to the United States with Lafayette in 1780 on the *Hermione* which arrived in Boston on April 28, 1780. Upon his arrival, Lafayette traveled by land to Morristown, New Jersey and Philadelphia to inform General Washington and Congress that a French Expeditionary Force was on the way to aid the cause.

Unfortunately, Fayolle died in an accident on June 7, 1780 in the harbor of Newport and was buried in Trinity Church cemetery. No indication exists as to the exact location of his burial site. A grave marker will be placed next to Admiral de Ternay's tombstone.

The *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven) of June 22, 1780 printed an item dated June 10 at Newport that described Fayolle as a "Major in the French service," who "died very suddenly last Thursday, as he was going off from the south part of this Island to the frigate *Hermione*; a Gentleman of a most amiable character, and whose death is greatly lamented by all his acquaintance."

Lieutenant Augustin Benjamin de Lavilmarais (1733-1780) was a lieutenant auxiliary officer on board the *Hermione* and was wounded during a naval battle against the British Navy frigate *Iris*. No indication exists as to the exact location of Lavilmarais' burial site. Again, a grave marker will be placed next to Admiral de Ternay's tombstone.



The two grave markers will be provided by the John Stevens Shop. Founded in 1705, the John Stevens Shop is a stone carving business in Newport, Rhode Island and is one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the United States.

Please stay tuned for more information.

# French Alliance Day - Valley Forge

by Chuck Schwam

Every year on the first Sunday in May, a tribute is organized in the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This commemoration is in accordance with General George Washington's instructions to hold celebratory services to thank France for its Treaty of Alliance with the United States signed in Paris on February 6, 1778 and ratified by Congress on May 4, 1778.

This year's event took place on Sunday, May 2, and several AFL members played important roles. AFL member and Honorary Consul of France in Philadelphia, Michael Scullin made poignant introductory remarks. AFL member and President of American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Thierry Chaunu gave a very moving speech as well. The whole event was filmed for viewing later this fall.

The official representative for the American Friends of Lafayette was Lorraine Marie Simonis. Ms. Simonis traveled from Haverford, Pennsylvania for her first official AFL event. She indicated that it was a lovely day and a very special occasion. Ms. Simonis will also represent the AFL in the upcoming film as she will be interviewed by the film's producer soon. I promise to share the film with the AFL membership once it has been released so we all can witness Ms. Simonis' movie debut. We are honored to have her represent us.



Thierry Chaunu inside the Washington Memorial Chapel



Lorraine Marie Simonis standing in front of the Chapel door with the Lafayette Plaque at her feet

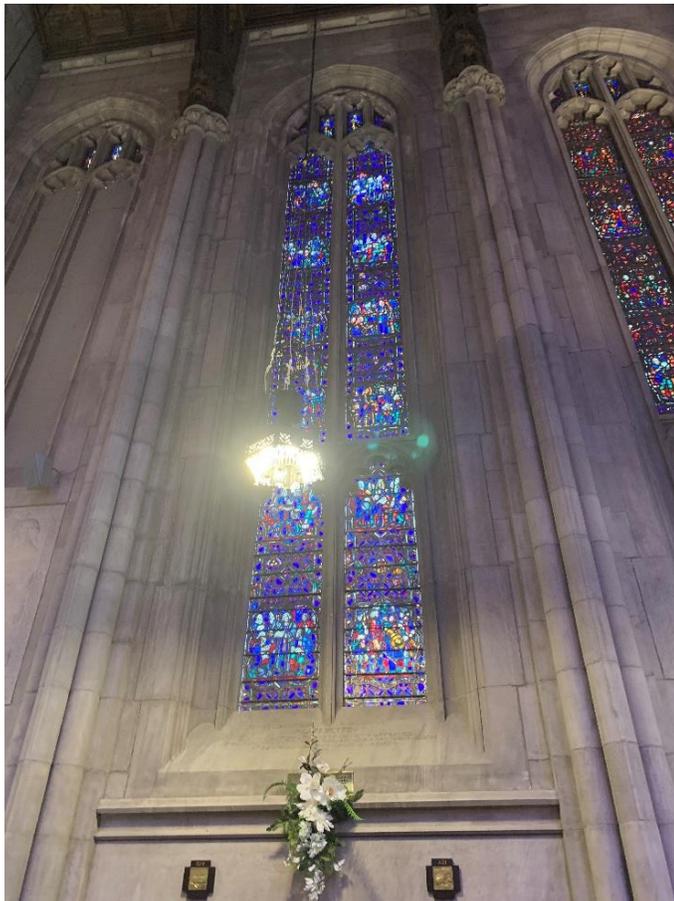


Closeup of the Lafayette Plaque

There are several references to Lafayette in the Chapel. The Lafayette plaque is in front of a door adorned with *fleurs-de-lys*. *But the most famous item is the Lafayette Window.*

The stained-glass window next to the Benjamin Franklin Window, and immediately to the right of the door to the “Porch of the Allies,” is the Lafayette Window. It bears the inscription: “To the Glory of God, in honor of Lafayette and in grateful tribute to Louis XVI of France and the French people through whom America won her freedom.”

It was given by Daniel Baugh, a Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist, in 1917, at the height of the First World War.



The Lafayette Window

Like all the windows in the Chapel, it has both a central theme, “The Window of Settlement,” and a companion text from the Bible. This text is from the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 7, “Knock and it shall be opened unto you.” (The entire verse reads, “Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.”) The predominant color of the window is blue.

The window consists of twelve medallions, each one depicting a separate, significant event in the settlement of America and highlighting the variety of religious beliefs and ethnic makeup of the early settlements.

We are pleased that AFL members played such important roles on French Alliance Day.

## Save the Date: October 18 and 19, 2021

by Chuck Schwam



Rochambeau in the artist's studio

On October 18, 2021, the American Friends of Lafayette along with les Amis de Rochambeau, the NPS, and W3R will be raising the statue of Rochambeau on the Yorktown waterfront. Joining the statues of General Washington, Admiral de Grasse, and General Lafayette, Rochambeau is the final piece of this statuary hall of fame.

After the statue unveiling, we will host a luncheon at the historic Yorktown Freight Shed, only steps away from the statues. I will email you details over the summer.

October 19, 2021 marks the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the surrender at Yorktown. The American Friends of Lafayette will again celebrate the annual Yorktown Day Victory Celebration that day. We will commemorate the victory with parades, ceremonies, patriotic exercises, and our famous cocktail party. The AFL will also host the annual observance at the French Cemetery (see the front cover of this issue).

We expect significant attendance for this two-day event, and, unlike years past, we will be providing a centrally located hotel option for AFL members. I will be emailing further information regarding this hotel in the coming months.



Patriotic Exercises at the Yorktown Monument

## The American Society of Le Souvenir Français

by Thierry Chaunu, President



Le Souvenir Français is originally a French association founded in 1887, which today counts more than 300,000 members in France and some 45 countries. It was born out of the desire to maintain the tombs of French soldiers buried in the then German-occupied provinces of Alsace-Lorraine, and evolved to encompass all the graves and memorials of French soldiers fallen in France and overseas.



*Thierry Chaunu (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) at the Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York*

In the United States, The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. is an American non-profit association whose mission is:

- To honor and preserve the memory of French soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives for freedom and who are buried in the United States.
- To promote the appreciation for French military heritage in the United States and the ideals that unite our two nations.
- To strengthen the long-standing historic bonds of friendship since 1778 between the American and French peoples, and to this end: erect or maintain memorials and monuments and encourage historical research, public presentations, and publications in the media.

Shortly after my election this past November as president of the American Society, one of our board members, Caroline Lareuse, who is also a member of The American Friends of Lafayette, introduced me to Chuck Schwam to discuss the project of dedicating two grave markers in honor of two French officers of the frigate *Hermione* buried in the historic Trinity Church cemetery of Newport, Rhode Island.

Shortly afterward, I received a call from the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, who asked for our participation in the Centennial of the US Unknown Soldier transfer from France to Arlington National Cemetery onboard the USS *Olympia* next October 25. Then came another call, from the United War Veterans Council, inviting us to attend Vietnam Veteran Day in Lower Manhattan, as several dual French-American national draftees are listed in the register of fallen New Yorkers.

To say that the journey on which I am embarking is both a profoundly moving and exciting adventure is an understatement.

It is not just about preserving the tombstones of valiant officers, soldiers, and sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the cause of freedom, although it is undoubtedly an essential fundamental sacred mission of ours.

Equally important, it is about preserving and transmitting the memory of their past deeds to the next generations, and beyond that, to continue the incredible love story that started on a particular morning of 1777, when the young Marquis de Lafayette first sighted the shores of America.

What I am about to write may sound a bit far-fetched, or exaggerated. However, it is, like all love stories (and quite similarly to Fragonard's depiction in his series of 18<sup>th</sup> Century paintings at the Frick Collection in New York), the direct result of Cupid's arrow - undoubtedly guided by the spirit of this great man we are honoring.

It is hard to imagine the level of excitement I experienced when I first came to the United States in 1973 as a young 16 ½-year-old American Field Service exchange student. I was then about to spend an entire school year in America, hosted by an American family I had never met

before, and eventually graduate from a senior class at Lake Forest High School in Illinois - in the heart of America!

The moment I set foot on what was very much "The New World," I immediately felt a deep sense of connection with its people, cities, customs, food, clothing. Maybe it was because I had grown up watching black-and-white TV series such as *Rin-Tin-Tin*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Captain Troy*, *Flipper*, *Mr. Ed*, *Bewitched*, *Mannix*, *Ironside*, *Columbo*, to name a few, I never for one second felt I was in a foreign country. Most assuredly, it was also thanks to the incredibly warm welcome that I received from my host family, teachers, and classmates.

Yes of course, there were many surprises and discoveries, some delightful, from my addiction to Reese's peanut butter cups (which has not abated since), and some quite vexing (the persistence of a French accent and the occasional gentle mockery for some of my mispronunciations, which very much endure to this day). I can categorically say that nothing, absolutely nothing, remotely negative marred the entire twelve months of my first sojourn in the United States.

Perhaps it is also partly because I grew up in a family whose memories of World War II were often recounted during the traditional French Sunday family dinners along with the debt of gratitude an overwhelming majority of Frenchmen owed to Americans, contrary to some clichés. My father himself was a survivor of a "Maquis"<sup>1</sup> at the age of 20 (he lost 76 of his comrades in a fight against a unit of the SS division Das Reich in the small village of Meilhan, located in the Southwest Department of Gers on July 7, 1944, and is now resting among them). He too would indeed have eventually succumbed if the Allies had not liberated France; my mother, while a bit younger at the age of 17, vividly recounted how the GIs gave her chocolate after the Liberation of Paris. When they married on June 1, 1946, her wedding dress was sewn from an American parachute made of white nylon, as there were no other textiles available!

My scholarship program obligated all AFS award recipients to return to their countries shortly after their prom night and graduation, and I had to wait a long, very long two years before attempting to return to America. As in every love story, the separation broke my heart. Although I was happy, of course, to see my parents again, I knew, deep inside, that I would, one day, one way or another, make my life here. This is what happened, as I later met my American-born wife as a college student in Paris, eventually married in Miami in 1980, moved to New York in 1987 where our two sons were born, and pursued a business career almost entirely on this side of the Atlantic ever since.

After this long digression, maybe one may better understand the profound love I have always felt for America, and the spontaneous kinship I feel for General Lafayette and the cause of freedom.

I do feel profoundly French, genetically, and culturally. I am proud to have served in the French Navy when the draft was still enforced in France at that time. However, I also feel like an adopted son of America. I will never forget the day when the judge told me, immediately after my naturalization ceremony decades ago: "From this day on you are as American as I am -

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<sup>1</sup> The Maquis was the underground resistance movement in France during World War II.

although I am also Irish, mind you!!”) or the tingling in my spine every time I hear the *Star-Spangled Banner*, *America the Beautiful*, or *Taps*.

Therefore, it is very natural for me to imagine what the young Lafayette felt when he first sighted the shores of the New World: the promise of the emergence of a New Man; the hope of liberty and the realization of all the promises of the Age of Enlightenment of French philosophers; the enthusiasm of glory on the battlefield; the service to his beloved King.

Although undoubtedly the most illustrious, Lafayette was not an isolated case. Even though the times and circumstances are quite different, I can identify with his enthusiasm for his adopted nation. When reading accounts from observers of the time, the sheer number of French volunteers, who often paid out of their pocket to fight the cause of freedom alongside the Insurgents stands out; one can only be humbled by their example and their sacrifice.

While the circumstances and the epoch are pretty different, the essence of this enthusiasm and love for America is essentially the same.

General Lafayette is the perfect definition of a classical hero; he showed us how his lofty ideals and determination to build a better world and foster human progress are embodied by America. This is as true today as it was then. I feel a sacred duty to contribute - at my humble station and with my limited capacity - to disseminate his work and contribution to French and American friendship.

Beyond its focus on Lafayette and the American Revolution, The American Society of Le Souvenir Français occupies itself with the tasks of preserving and honoring many exemplary French historical figures, as well as many humble soldiers, who rest in peace eternally in the United States.

Witness:

- The 20 sailors from a French navy ship of WWI who died of influenza in 1918 and who are interred in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.
- American hero Eugene Bullard, who fought in WWI and WWII in a French uniform and who was declared in 2008 to be the "first African-American fighter pilot ever" by the US Air Force, is interred in the lot reserved in perpetuity by the Federation of French War Veterans in Flushing Cemetery, New York.
- The two valiant French Navy Officers from the *Hermione* (the frigate which transported Lafayette to America with news of the incoming French Army) are buried in historic Trinity Church cemetery in Newport, Rhode Island. I take this opportunity to thank you again, dear friends of The American Friends of Lafayette, for your generous contribution to the National Park Service's grave markers. I am looking forward to September 10, 2021 when our two associations will stand side-by-side at the dedication ceremony.
- In the annual commemoration of the "French Alliance Day" ordered by George Washington on May 5, 1778, in Valley Forge, a wreath will be laid above the Lafayette memorial plaque on the porch of the Washington Memorial Chapel on May 2, 2021.

- The annual September commemoration of Rochambeau Day in Hartford, Connecticut.
- The annual commemoration of Vietnam War Veterans Day in New York City in March – yes, there were dual French-American nationals drafted at the time listed among the fallen dead.

The list goes on, and I am looking forward to other opportunities to show our utmost respect and gratitude for all these brave men who died defending the common cause of freedom.



*Commemorating the Battle of Flanders at DeWitt Clinton Park in Manhattan*

Indeed, there is no other example in the history of the world of two nations, in Henry Kissinger's words, "with the smallest of exceptions, one constant and mutually supportive alliance ever since." By honoring the tombs of some 5,000 fallen French soldiers in America, our organization pays tribute to this love story and hopefully will strengthen these bonds in an increasingly uncertain world.

Propagating ideals and educating younger generations is undoubtedly a common bond that unites our two organizations. May I join all of you in concluding by a resounding "Long Live Lafayette!" and "May God bless America and the French-American Friendship."



*Chuck Schwam and Thierry Chaunu  
Yorktown, Virginia*

# Lafayette Day in Maryland

by Chuck Schwam

As I participate in the annual Virginia Lafayette Day (March 14) and occasionally in Massachusetts Lafayette Day (May 20), I wonder why there is not a day of honor for Lafayette in my home state of Maryland?

During a Zoom happy hour with fellow Maryland residents Stephanie and Adam Dray (and my wife Bonnie), the subject of the absence of a Maryland Lafayette Day came up. I saw something in Stephanie's eyes. What I saw was steely determination. Then in unison we said, "Let's do it!!!"

I was determined to form a "super-committee" to join Stephanie and me in this effort. I called AFL members and fellow Marylanders Patti Maclay and Jeff Kaplan. Then I added President Alan Hoffman for his editing prowess, and historical knowledge and my Maryland Lafayette Day committee was formed. It proved to be a formidable, knowledgeable, and dedicated group of individuals.



Flag of the State of Maryland

This turned out to be a truly fun and educational collaboration. Numerous phone calls and scores of emails passed between us. The energy in this group was very impressive. After hours of deliberation, we finally felt that we had a presentable document. Then on March 12, Jeff Kaplan presented our cover letter and resolution to Senator Bill Ferguson's office (the President of Maryland's Senate).

A few days later, Senator Ferguson's office advised that he would not be moving forward with our initiative this year. They indicated that Senator Ferguson wishes to "maintain legislative focus on the era of Covid. He is not unfavorable to the idea of a Lafayette Day but thinks it would best be brought up at a better time, and we should be in touch with the liaison before next session in January."

We lost the first battle, but we will win the war. We will be reengaging with the Maryland legislators prior to next January and will keep you posted. If anyone reading this thinks that they can help with this effort, please let us know at [americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com). In the meantime, here is the draft resolution we presented in March:

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

### OFFERED

#### *Recognizing Lafayette Day*

WHEREAS, in 1777 during the American Revolutionary War, Gilbert du Motier, the young Marquis de Lafayette travelled from France to give aid to the colonies fighting for their independence, becoming one of George Washington's most trusted major generals; and

WHEREAS, during Lafayette's service, undertaken at his own expense, he proved to be indispensable to the cause of American independence both in his military and diplomatic roles; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 1777, five days after his twentieth birthday, Lafayette shed his blood for the cause of American independence at the Battle of Brandywine; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette chose to forgo the comforts of France and remain in Valley Forge during the bitter winter of 1777 - 1778 reflecting both his extraordinary friendship with George Washington, and his devotion to the Continental army; and

WHEREAS, in April 1781, Lafayette purchased articles of clothing and linens for his troops with his own funds, and the ladies of Baltimore served the American cause by sewing shirts for these said troops; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette conducted a campaign of skirmishes with British General Cornwallis and his Southern Army, ultimately trapping Cornwallis and his soldiers in Yorktown, Virginia, by August 1781; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Yorktown ended with Cornwallis' surrender and a decisive American victory that led the British government to acknowledge the United States of America as a sovereign Nation; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette was a lifelong evangelist for human rights, advocating for religious liberty, racial equality, and civil rights, relinquishing his noble title during the French Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette co-authored with Thomas Jefferson, France's *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen*; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette was an early and consistent voice against slavery in France with his membership in organizations including the *Société des amis des Noirs* and in America where he

constantly sought to persuade American friends, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, to eradicate this evil; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette supported women's rights in matters of education and divorce, and promoted the work of women activists; and

WHEREAS, during this lifelong work in support of human dignity for all, Lafayette visited Maryland which, in gratitude for his service and in recognition of his exemplification of the values enshrined in the constitution of Maryland, granted him and his male heirs natural born citizenship, in Annapolis on December 28, 1784; and

WHEREAS, in Baltimore, on October 7, 1824, during his triumphant return and Farewell Tour of the United States, Lafayette arrived at Fort McHenry on the steamboat *United States*, and was greeted by celebratory cannon fire and the original Star-Spangled Banner flying proudly overhead in his honor, and was then conveyed to George Washington's historic field tent to be received by officials and aging veterans of the Revolutionary War with whom he once served; and

WHEREAS, in Baltimore, on October 9, 1824, the University of Maryland chose to bestow its first ever honorary degree upon Lafayette and nearly 100,000 Maryland spectators caught a glimpse of "the Nation's Visitor" during his four-day visit here; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette chose to be buried in France, but in American soil that was transported especially for the occasion; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Maryland and its Legislators are constantly reminded of Lafayette's importance in Maryland and this Nation's history by the historic painting in the Senate Committee Room of the Maryland State house portraying Washington, Lafayette and Tench Tilghman receiving the Surrender of the British at Yorktown; therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Maryland House of Delegates, the Maryland Senate concurring, that the General Assembly hereby commend Lafayette for his dedication to and representation of the uniting bipartisan principles that comprise our state and national mission; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the General Assembly recognizes Lafayette's birthday of September 6, as Lafayette Day throughout the state of Maryland.



Lafayette Statue in Baltimore, Maryland

## Trivia Question: Is There Still a Lafayette Statue Made Prior to 1873?

by Janet and Ernest Sutton

The May 2018 issue of *The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*, Issue No.88, included a supplement, “A Listing of Statues with Pertinent Information Dedicated to the Honor of Lafayette.” In the list of 30 life-size or larger statues of Lafayette compiled by Andy Golbert, the statues date from 1873 to 2017, and the article includes a photo and description of each statue.

In the southwest corner of Pennsylvania along the National Road is Fayette County, named in honor of the Marquis de La Fayette. The county was created on 26 September 1783, from the division of Westmoreland County into five counties. Uniontown, the county seat, was founded by Henry Beeson on July 4, 1777. The Cumberland component of the National Road, now known as US Route 40, was completed from Cumberland, Maryland to Wheeling, West Virginia through Uniontown in 1818. Traveling on the National Road from Wheeling to Uniontown, Lafayette arrived at the courthouse on May 26, 1825 to meet his old friend former Ambassador to France and Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin. Today the courthouse holds a surprise for Lafayette fans.

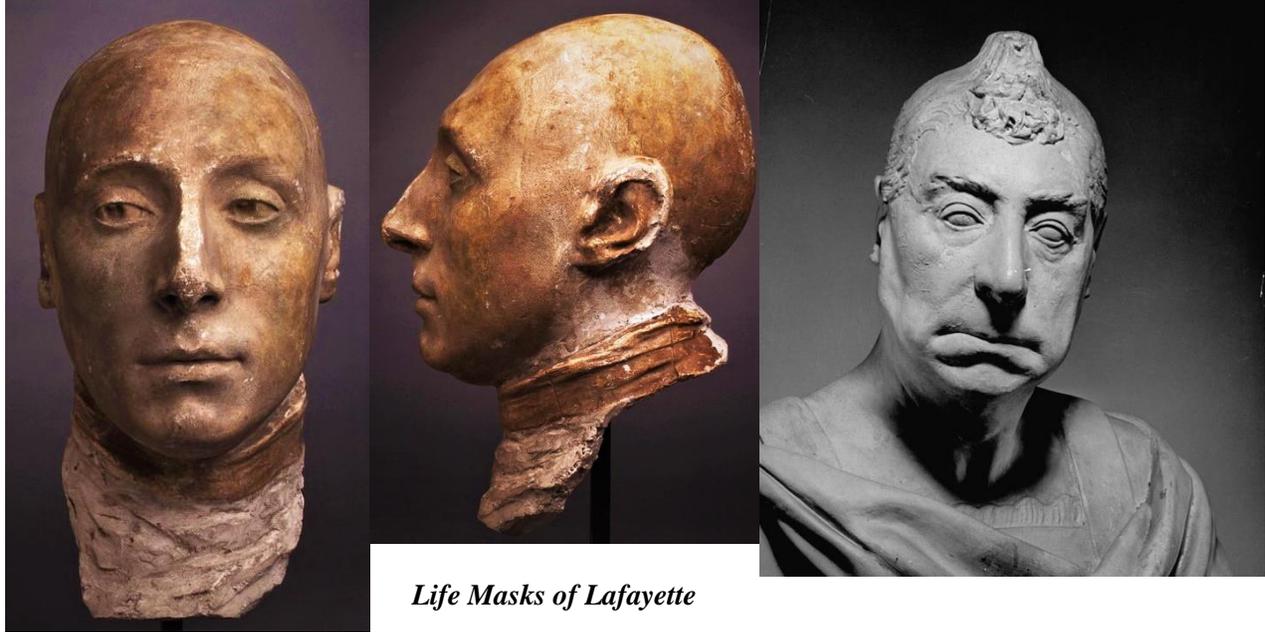
Could there still exist a larger-than-life size statue of Lafayette made prior to 1873?  
**Find the answer on page 132.**



Julien Icher, Founder of The Lafayette Trail, with the Fayette County Flag  
Photo by Ernest Sutton

# Lafayette Unmasked!

by John C. Becica



*Life Masks of Lafayette*

Have you ever wondered about what our hero, Lafayette the man, really looked like? I certainly have! There are so many oil paintings, engravings, busts and statues out there, and none are quite the same. Sometimes you even wonder if you are viewing the same person!



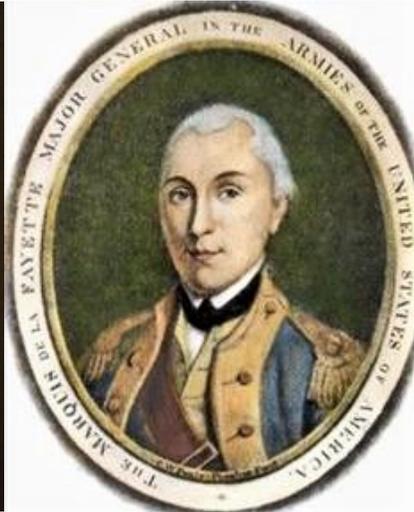
*Joseph Desire Court*  
1791 Age 34

*Charles Willson Peale*  
1779 Age 21

*F. Carpentier*  
c.1785 c. Age 28



*Unknown*  
*Blair House, Washington, DC*  
*1790 Age 33*

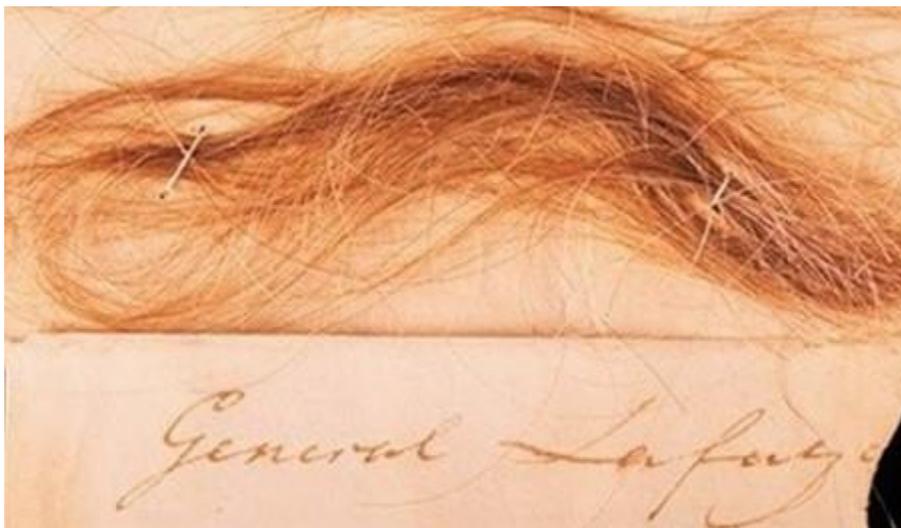


*Charles Willson Peale*  
*1787 (after his 1779 work*  
*at Age 21)*



*Joseph Boze*  
*1790 Age 33*

We do know a few facts, however. Lafayette had hazel eyes, a long nose, high forehead, and as a youth, strawberry blond hair.



*Lafayette's Locks, Courtesy of Mount Vernon*

There is an eyewitness account of his appearance as a young man during the Revolution. At the beginning of November 1778, Lafayette rode from Philadelphia on horseback through a heavy rain, arriving at Fishkill, New York to stay at the Brinckerhof Mansion. He would soon return to France to solicit army and naval forces to assist the Patriots. At Fishkill he lay ill with a fever for a month and almost died from the chilling effects of his ride. On November 27, 1778, toward the end of his convalescence, he was visited by Revolutionary War surgeon Dr. James

Thatcher. Thatcher later authored his book *Thatcher's Military Journal* in which he describes his visit with Lafayette:

I was received by this nobleman in a polite and affable manner. He is just recovering from a fever, and was in his chair of convalescence. He is nearly six feet high, large, but not corpulent, being not more than twenty-one years of age. He is not very elegant in his form, his shoulders being broad and high, nor is there a perfect symmetry in his features; his forehead is remarkably high, his nose large and long, eyebrows prominent, and projecting over a fine animated hazel eye. His countenance is interesting and impressive. He converses in broken English, and displays the manners and address of an accomplished gentleman.

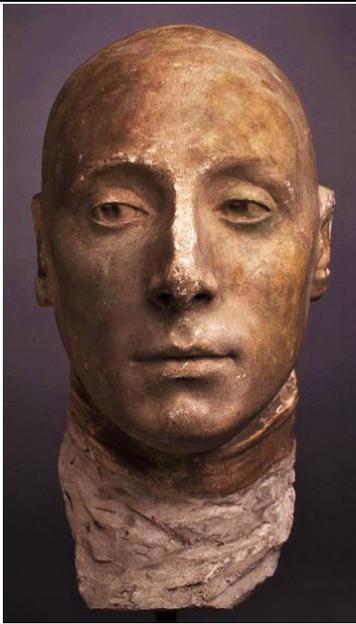
Fortunately, there are also two pieces of evidence telling us exactly the shape of Lafayette's features at age 28 and again later at age 67.

After the American Revolution in 1785, sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon took a life mask of Lafayette's face in Paris when the Marquis was age 28. The taking of a life mask created an exact mold of the face from which a realistic bust could be crafted.

The Virginia General Assembly sought to honor Lafayette after the victory at Yorktown in 1781. In 1786 the Assembly finally commissioned sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon to sculpt a marble bust. Using the mask as a model, Houdon fashioned two similar marble copies. One went to the State House in Richmond, Virginia, where it still resides. The other went to the Hôtel de Ville in Paris where it was evidently badly damaged or destroyed in 1792 during the French Revolution. If it still exists, its whereabouts are unknown. Based on a life mask of Lafayette's face, these Houdon busts clearly come closest to what he must have looked like as a young man.

Houdon also made other copies with slight differences. The Virginia Statehouse bust includes a drape around the uniform that is not seen elsewhere.

Because this life-sized bust is a beautiful piece of art, reproductions of it are available today for purchase in several different plaster finishes at the Caproni Collection [www.capronicollection.com](http://www.capronicollection.com).



*Houdon Mask, 1785*



*AFL Curator Diane Windham Shaw poses with a reproduction of the Houdon Bust located at the entrance to the College Archives, Skillman Library, Lafayette College.*



*Reproductions of the Houdon Bust in Plaster*

*On Lafayette's left lapel are the badge of the Society of Cincinnati and the cross of the Ordre de Saint Louis.*



Sculptor Houdon later (circa 1789-1790) created versions of his bust showing Lafayette wearing a wig, but the facial features in these do not resemble the life mask as closely as the earlier version.



*White House Collection*

*Lafayette College Admissions  
in Marble*

*City of LaGrange, Georgia*

***Reproductions of the later Houdon Bust***

As a graduate of Lafayette College, this author is heartened to know that the bust reproductions displayed on campus in Skillman Library (plaster), in Kirby Hall of Civil Rights (bronze), and in the Markle Hall admissions reception area (marble) are all Houdon or after Houdon, and are all fairly good approximations of Lafayette as a young man. The head and face of the Daniel Chester French full-length bronze outdoor statue of Lafayette on campus are also reminiscent of Houdon's work.

The same problem concerning Lafayette's appearance exists for depictions of him in later life. The paintings shown below, most done during the time period of Lafayette's Triumphant Tour of America in 1824-1825 at age 67- 68, range from Thomas Sully who, in his 1825 finished full-length work, makes the General look younger than his years, to Samuel F.B. Morse, who paints his face with unflattering wrinkles and blemishes. Wigs having gone out of style, it was well known that at this age Lafayette wore a hairpiece to cover his receding, thinning red hair.



*Thomas Sully 1824  
(Study)*

*Thomas Sully 1825*

*Ary Scheffer, 1822*

*J.P. Davis c. 1810-1820*

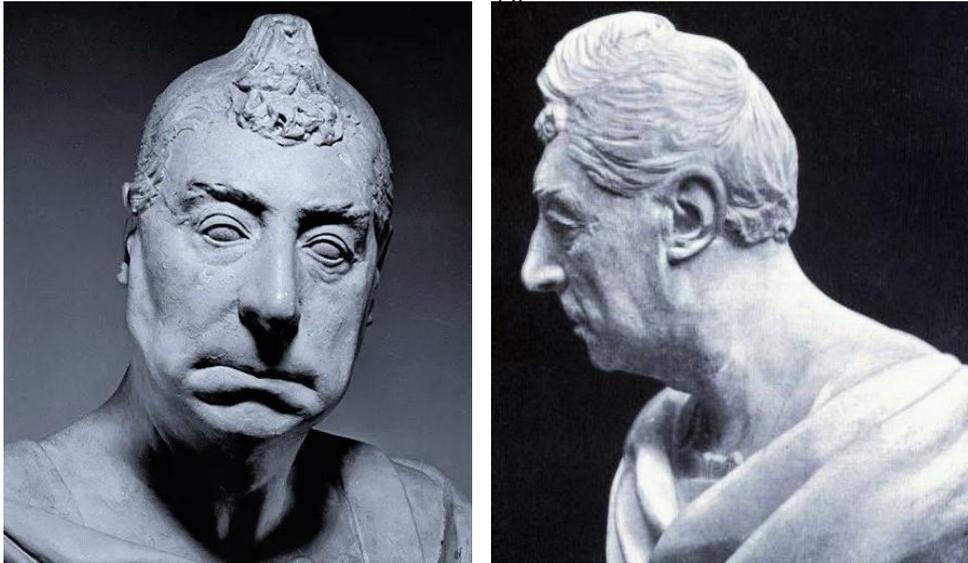


*Rembrandt Peale 1824 Charles C. Ingham 1825 Samuel F.B. Morse 1825*

In the Summer of 1825 during Lafayette's Farewell Tour of America, John Henri Isaac Browere cast another life mask of the General a few months before Lafayette turned 68. This mask was made for a bust of Lafayette's head and shoulders at the request of the Common Council of the City of New York. Lafayette, having returned to New York City from his second tour through New England, visited Browere's workshop at the rear of 315 Broadway to sit for the mask on Monday, July 11, 1825.

Browere was just about to remove the composition which had set on the General's face when the clock struck and Lafayette realized that he was late for his public dinner engagement. He became agitated, and as the plaster was quickly removed, a piece fell out from under his left eye, ruining the mask. During the following several days, Lafayette left New York, traveling through New Jersey to Philadelphia.

Arrangements were made to have him sit there at the newly refurbished Pennsylvania State House renamed Independence Hall, for a second attempt at the mask on Tuesday morning, July 19, 1825. By 4 PM of that day, Browere had completed his work.



*Two views of the 1825 Browere Life Mask*

Rembrandt Peale and Samuel Morse (two of the painters shown above) and several other people of note were very complimentary about Browere's mask technique and the true resemblance of the Browere bust to the General. In fact, these endorsements are credited for greatly accelerating Browere's career of crafting masks and busts of other famous people. His method employed a much lighter plaster mixture than previously used. Heavy plaster had been known to distort the features of the sitter. Today many examples of his work are displayed by the New York State Historical Association in a gallery at the Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York.



*Bronze Bust, 1940,  
Based on the  
Browere 1825 Life Mask  
Fenimore Art Museum  
Cooperstown, NY*

After this time, a number of busts of the General depicting him at this age were made, but few seem to closely resemble the life mask. Possible exceptions are these two by French artist Pierre-Jean David D'Angers sculpted several years later, which may have been patterned after the Browere mask. While Lafayette's face appears more virile and hardened, the features are similar.



*Pierre-Jean David D'Angers  
French 1829, Marble  
D'Angers Gallery, France*



*Pierre-Jean David D'Angers  
French c. 1828-1830, Marble  
US Capital Art Collection*

So, readers, what do you think?

For authentic images of the young Marquis de Lafayette, I vote for the Charles Willson Peale mezzotint portrait of 1787, and the Jean-Antoine Houdon marble bust crafted for the Virginia State House in 1786 and patterned after the Houdon life mask. (I have purchased reproductions of both of these to display in my home.)

For authentic images of the mature General Lafayette, I vote for the Ary Scheffer 1822 full-length oil painting or the Thomas Sully 1824 study for his 1825 full-length oil painting, and the John Henri Issac Browere bust patterned after the Browere life mask.

These are the representations that I feel best depict the man we admire.

**Author's Note:** In researching John Henri Isaac Browere, I found that most of his famous sitters did not find the mask making process too difficult. Thomas Jefferson, on the other hand, had a very bad experience at age 82. Browere let Jefferson's mask set too long, and removing it was so difficult that a mallet and chisel had to be used! Jefferson's relatives and servants were alarmed that he was being suffocated and murdered by the artist! As a result, upon hearing about Jefferson's experience Andrew Jackson refused to sit for a Browere mask.

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<http://rodama1789.blogspot.com/2015/12/houdons-lafayette.html>

### *Browere's Life Masks of Great Americans*, by Charles Henry Hart, Chapter IX

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### Video: "Browere Life Masks," Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?91692-1/browere-life-masks>

### "The Day Jefferson Got Plastered," (Browere's life mask of Jefferson)

<https://www.americanheritage.com/day-jefferson-got-plastered#1>

*Lafayette, Hero of Two Worlds, The Art and Pageantry of His Farewell Tour of America, 1824-1825*

Essays by Stanley J. Idzerda, Anne C. Loveland, Marc. H. Miller.

(Published in connection with a traveling exhibition organized by the Queens Museum, 1989)

# Lafayette Sighting in Colonial Williamsburg

by Frank Womble



*"The Marquis de Lafayette" by Samuel Lovett Waldo, 1824*

My wife Gloria and I made an unexpected discovery on a recent visit to Colonial Williamsburg. Seeking a socially-distanced outing on a cold February day, we decided to visit the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's two world-class museums - the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum and the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum. These co-located museums recently completed a 65,000-square-foot expansion<sup>1</sup> in 2020 and offer a superb visitor experience that we thoroughly enjoyed.

*The Shirley H. and Richard D. Roberts Gallery in the Dewitt Museum* currently houses an exhibit titled “Artists on the Move: Portraits for a New Nation.” The museum notes: “Today these portraits give us our only chance to see fellow Americans from the past in full color. If you could pick only one image to be remembered by, what would it be? On view are more than 30 portraits, some never before exhibited. Each portrait has a story to tell, whether it is the marriage of childhood sweethearts or an artist creating his own selfie. *Discover a painting that was made for a President* (my emphasis) and one that was rescued from the trash.”<sup>2</sup>

Imagine our surprise in finding a little-known portrait of Lafayette prominently displayed! The text alongside the painting explains its origins. “The early history of this portrait suggests that Lafayette commissioned it himself while in Washington, D. C. He chose London-trained Samuel Lovett Waldo, a well-known New York City artist and founder of the National Academy of Design. Intended as a gift for Monroe, Lafayette likely presented the painting during his visit to Oak Hill.<sup>3</sup> It purportedly hung in the Monroe family home and descended to the president’s daughter, Maria Monroe Gouverneur.”<sup>4</sup>

The painting’s formal provenance is quite interesting. “The portrait was painted by Waldo in Washington at Lafayette’s request as a gift for President Monroe. Work was completed while Lafayette resided at Gadsby’s Hotel where Andrew Jackson was also staying when Waldo painted his likeness. The Lafayette portrait eventually hung at Oak Hill, President Monroe’s Loudoun County, Virginia, home. It was inherited by his daughter, Maria Monroe. In 1850, her husband, Samuel L. Gouverneur, sold Oak Hill to Colonel James W. Fairfax. The sale included objects that had belonged to Monroe, among them the portrait of Lafayette. In 1870, Dr. George Quimby acquired the portrait from Colonel Fairfax, and it was subsequently purchased from Dr. Quimby’s estate by Augustus F. deForest. A letter dated 20 March 1934 from William Graves Perry of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Architects, speculates: “I believe there were two portraits painted by Waldo of Lafayette in 1824.”<sup>5</sup>

This depiction of Lafayette is notably different from two contemporary full-length portraits: the Ary Scheffer painting that hangs in the chamber of the House of Representatives at the U. S. Capitol, and the Samuel Morse painting at New York City Hall. If Lafayette indeed commissioned this painting as a gift to Monroe, one assumes that he considered it a good likeness.

Portraitist Samuel Lovett Waldo received his first formal art training under Joseph Steward in Hartford, Connecticut. After setting up shop there, he earned enough money from commissions to study art in London with Benjamin West and John Singleton. He also studied drawing at the Royal Academy.<sup>6</sup>

Waldo returned to the United States in 1809 and established a portrait studio in New York. He was in partnership there with artist William Jewett from 1818 to 1854, where they advertised themselves as Waldo and Jewett. As a two-man team, Waldo likely painted the heads and hands of their subject, while Jewett filled in clothing and draperies.<sup>7</sup>

If you plan on visiting Colonial Williamsburg, be sure to include these two impressive museums at 326 West Francis Street. There is ample paid parking just across the street. The numerous exhibits are well-organized and offer a fascinating glimpse into early American life. Wear comfortable shoes and allow plenty of time to enjoy the experience.

### About the Author

AFL member Frank Womble is a retired Army officer. He lives with his wife Gloria in Suffolk, Virginia.

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<sup>1</sup> Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, “Dewitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum,” [www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/locations/dewitt-wallace-decorative-arts-museum](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/locations/dewitt-wallace-decorative-arts-museum).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., “Artists on the Move: Portraits for a New Nation,” [www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/art-museums/current-exhibitions/artists-move-portraits-new-nation](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/art-museums/current-exhibitions/artists-move-portraits-new-nation).

<sup>3</sup> Lafayette visited former President James Monroe at Oak Hill in Loudon County, Virginia for several days in early August 1825. Auguste Levasseur describes this visit in his travelogue, but makes no mention of Lafayette presenting a portrait of himself to Monroe. August Levasseur (author), Alan R. Hoffman, (translator), *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, Journal of a Voyage to the United States* (Manchester, New Hampshire: Lafayette Press, 2006): 549-550.

<sup>4</sup> Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, “Portrait of The Marquis de Lafayette (Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier de Lafayette) (1757-1834),” [emuseum.history.org/objects/6252/portrait-of-the-marquis-de-lafayette-mariejosephpaulyves](http://emuseum.history.org/objects/6252/portrait-of-the-marquis-de-lafayette-mariejosephpaulyves).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Worcester Art Museum, “Samuel Lovett Waldo,” [www.worcesterart.org/collection/Early\\_American/Artists/waldo/biography/index.html](http://www.worcesterart.org/collection/Early_American/Artists/waldo/biography/index.html).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

## The Gloucester Museum of History: Experience 400+ Years of History in a 251-Year-Old Tavern

by W. Robert Kelly, Jr.  
Museums Coordinator  
Gloucester County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

During the summer of 1775 word came to prepare for a visit from the **Duke of Gloucester**, youngest brother of the British King (George III), who, with the Duchess, was traversing France on their way to Italy. Present at the dinner given at Metz on this occasion was the young **Lafayette** who listened in rapt admiration to the account the Duke gave of the uprising in the Colonies due, so the Duke averred, to the wrong policy of his brother in dealing with them. Then and there, so Lafayette tells us in his *Mémoires*, he formed the irrevocable determination, as soon as circumstances would allow, to join in the struggle waged by the Colonists against the Mother country.<sup>1</sup>

Prominently situated adjacent to the historic Gloucester Courthouse sits the 251-year-old Botetourt Building that now houses the Gloucester Museum of History. The imposing masonry structure dates from 1770 and first served as a roadside tavern.<sup>2</sup> It is one of the largest, as well as one of the few brick taverns surviving from the pre-Revolutionary period. Local tradition says the building was named for Lord Botetourt<sup>3</sup> Norborne Berkeley, Baron of Botetourt, sent from Gloucester, England to be Governor of Virginia.



A circa 1890 view of the Botetourt Hotel, now the Gloucester Museum of History

Despite many alterations, the surviving parts of the original structure incorporated many of the distinctive features found in late colonial taverns.<sup>4</sup> Measuring 77 feet by 23 feet, the two-story walls of the tavern are laid in Flemish bond above a high cellar. Over the years, the building was enlarged and modernized. It served as lodging for Gloucester's visitors from the 1770s through the 1950s, first as a tavern and later as a hotel.

On October 11, 1965, Gloucester County purchased the hotel property for \$35,000, and began planning its future use.<sup>5</sup> The county decided that the building would be restored to its eighteenth-century appearance and renamed the Botetourt Administration Building. By April 1, 1971, most of the restoration work was complete with the county having spent \$148,512.30 on the project.<sup>6</sup> In 1971, the county received the first Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities Award for Historic Preservation for restoring and finding a functional use for the building.

Following restoration, the Botetourt Administrative Building housed various county offices between 1971-2000.<sup>7</sup> After a considerable grassroots effort, the county's Board of Supervisors determined in 2000 that the building would become the Gloucester Museum of History. Today, the museum preserves and interprets the county's rich history through exhibitions, programming, and a 3,000-object collection.



A 2021 view of the Gloucester Museum of History from the northeast

When General Lord Cornwallis occupied Yorktown in September 1781, he dispatched a portion of his troops under the command of Colonel Banastre Tarleton to occupy and fortify Gloucester Point. Their mission was to secure the British Army's flank, protect a possible escape route, and forage for food and supplies.

General George Washington answered by sending a force that included Virginia militia and French troops. The French included Lauzun's Legion, under the command of the Duc de Lauzun. Washington appointed Brigadier General Claude Gabriel de Choisy of the French army as the overall commanding officer of the allies in Gloucester. This Allied army engaged with Tarleton's British forces on October 3, 1781, just a few miles north of Gloucester Point. The ensuing conflict, today known as the Battle of the Hook, was the largest cavalry battle of the war. Tarleton was wounded in the fighting, and the British eventually withdrew to Gloucester Point, making it impossible for Cornwallis to escape Yorktown via Gloucester. Cornwallis would eventually surrender on October 19, 1781. The museum features an extensive exhibition about the American Revolution and the Battle of the Hook that took place in 1781 near Gloucester Point.



*Sabre Au Clair*, translated "With Swords Drawn," depicts the charge of Lauzun's Legion during The Battle of the Hook. This David Wagner painting is displayed at the museum.

On Saturday, October 10, 2020, the museum commemorated the Battle of the Hook with a living history program. *Fire, Smoke & Muskets: Gloucester 1781* featured 40 reenactors, military music, colonial cooking, cannon and musket firing demonstrations, and first-person interpretation from Banastre Tarleton (Mark *Schneider*) and James Armistead Lafayette (Stephen Seals). The event was attended by over 160 guests, including dozens of school children.

Gloucester also played an important role during the American Civil War. Roughly 1,000 men, representing 20% of the county's population, fought for the Confederacy. Although there were no major battles fought within the county, the fort at Gloucester Point was an asset for both Confederate and Union troops. When Confederate troops evacuated Gloucester in 1862, the county was contested territory for the remainder of the war. As a result, homes, businesses, and mills were burned as Union troops foraged throughout the countryside looking for supplies and food. Following the war, it took many years for Gloucester County to rebuild.

From the earliest days when the Virginia Indians called the area home, to more recent stories related to Civil Rights, the museum interprets the county's complete history. One of the newest exhibits is "Awakening: The Life & Legacy of T.C. Walker" unveiled in February 2021. Featuring a reproduction of the impressive T.C. Walker mural from Main Street, the exhibit examines the life story of the first African American lawyer in Gloucester County. Born enslaved in Gloucester, Walker went on to graduate from Hampton Institute and would later serve as Superintendent for Gloucester Negro Schools and as a member of the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors. He lived through the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras and did great things to help African Americans in Gloucester and across the Commonwealth. Artifacts on display include a 100-year-old desk on loan from the Woodville Rosenwald School, documents from the archives of the Gloucester Museum of History, and objects from Bethel Baptist, Walker's home church. It is hoped that visitors will explore the stories from the mural, learn about the life of a local hero, and be inspired to make a difference in their community.



"Awakening: The Life & Legacy of T.C. Walker" is the museum's newest exhibit.

Additional exhibits are located on the museum's second floor. This space is particularly interesting as it retains considerable original historic fabric from the building's early use as a tavern. Original hardwood floors and window trim, and historically inspired paint colors within the large "ballroom," present an atmosphere reminiscent of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Colonial Williamsburg. The large basement contains additional exhibits featuring artifacts that tell the stories of Gloucester's agricultural history and the importance of the daffodil industry during the early 1900s.

To complete a visit to the museum requires experiencing the other museum properties within the historic court circle, located less than 100 feet away. The circle contains five historic structures: the 1766 Colonial Courthouse, two former Clerk's Offices, (the 1823 Clayton Building and the 1896 Roane Building), a jail constructed in 1873, and a debtors' prison that dates to 1824. The Colonial Courthouse, one of the oldest in Virginia, is still used for official county functions. In the future, all these building will be open to the public and provide interpretive programs for visitors.



Robert Kelly was appointed Gloucester County's Museums Coordinator in January 2020 and is responsible for the management and operation of the Gloucester Museum of History. In addition to these duties, Robert serves as President of the Fort Monroe Historical Society and Vice-President of the American Friends of Lafayette. Robert and his wife Katherine, an elementary school educator, reside within Fort Monroe, "on post," on (Simon) Bernard Road in 1875 quarters originally built for US Army officers.

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Kite, "Lafayette And His Companions On The 'Victoire,'" *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (March, 1934), 3.

<sup>2</sup> A tavern at this time served food and drink and offered lodging.

<sup>3</sup> "Lord Botetourt" was a popular governor of the [Colony of Virginia](#) from 1768 to 1770 and a member of the Board of Visitors of the [College of William & Mary](#).

<sup>4</sup> Carl Lounsbury, *The Courthouses of Early Virginia: an architectural history*, (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2005), 291.

<sup>5</sup> Bill Lawrence, *The History of the Botetourt Hotel*, (Gloucester: Gloucester Friends of the Museum, 2008), 59.

<sup>6</sup> Lawrence, *The History of the Botetourt Hotel*, 72.

<sup>7</sup> Lawrence, *The History of the Botetourt Hotel*, 76.

## Jackson, North Carolina Scores a Lafayette Trifecta

by Frank Womble

On December 8, 2020, the second Lafayette Trail Marker in North Carolina was dedicated in Jackson, the county seat of Northampton County. The cold morning did not deter the townspeople, visitors, and historians who gathered to witness Julien Icher, founder and president of the Lafayette Trail, and Jackson Town Councilman Jim Gossip dedicate the marker in the center of town on West Jefferson Street. Jim and his wife Judy prepared an impressive welcoming table that included a bust of Lafayette and gift bags for attendees.



*Jim and Judy Gossip at the welcome table in Lafayette Park, along with Lafayette*

In his remarks, Mr. Icher noted the importance of Lafayette's stop in Jackson, then known as Northampton Courthouse. Lafayette met the official North Carolina state delegation here.<sup>1</sup> Like Lafayette, they had been delayed by the poor road conditions and had therefore not met him and his party at the state line as originally planned.



*Julien Icher and Jim Gossip alongside the newly dedicated Lafayette Trail Marker in Jackson*

Auguste Levasseur did not mention the stop in his famous travelogue. The *North Carolina Free Press* reported the details of Lafayette's February 27, 1825 visit to Northampton Courthouse in its March 4 edition:<sup>2</sup>

We have been able to procure, for the gratification of our readers, an imperfect sketch of the arrival and reception of the NATION'S GUEST in North Carolina. The rapidity of the General's movement, and consequent bustle and confusion of the citizens must be our apology for any error or omission which may appear in the following statement.

On Saturday last the state deputation, consisting of Chief Justice Taylor,<sup>3</sup> Gen. Polk,<sup>4</sup> Gen. Daniel,<sup>5</sup> Gen. Williams<sup>6</sup> and Maj. Stanley, arrived at this place,<sup>7</sup> and having ascertained that it would be impracticable for them to meet Gen. La Fayette at the Virginia line, as originally contemplated, they deputed Robt. Potter,<sup>8</sup> Esq., who proceeded to Murfreesboro, where the General according to advices was expected to lodge that night. The General arrived at Murfreesboro shortly after Mr. Potter, who tendered him the respects and congratulations of the Governor, & explained the cause which had led to the detention of the escort and conveyance destined by the Executive for his reception. A courier was then despatched to inform our citizens that the General would in all probability be with them on the evening of the next day.

On Sunday the escort proceeded, accompanied by the carriages provided by the State for the conveyance of Gen. La Fayette and suite, to meet the Nation's Guest. At Northampton Court-house they were met by the General, who was addressed by Chief Justice Taylor:

*General La Fayette:* We are sent by the Governor to offer you a warm and affectionate reception in the State of North Carolina. Associated as your name is with that of the beloved father of our country, not less in the dark and dismal nights of the Revolution, than in the periods of its glory; we cannot but greatly rejoice at your arrival among us, that you may receive the grateful salutations of a free people, some of whom have witnessed your generous exertions in their cause, and all of whom have been accustomed to connect your name with whatever is just and elevated in sentiment, or praiseworthy and benevolent in conduct.

Consistently devoted as your life has been to the cause of rational liberty, and liberal institutions in two hemispheres, it must be a source of the purest gratification to you to survey in this, that fabric of political freedom which has grown up and flourished under the practical operation of principles, for which you have made so many sacrifices; to witness the powerful effects of a just government in expanding the moral energies of man, and laying deep the foundations of his happiness.

We rejoice, General, that after an interval of nearly half a century, you see the sons of those in whose cause you fought and bled, in the tranquil enjoyments of all those blessings, deeply sensible of their value, and firmly resolved to transmit them unimpaired to their children; and although in your long extensive tour through our country, you will of course see different degrees of improvement, and find some of our sister states more happily situated to give you a reception suited to the universal estimate of your worth, yet amid the thousands who hail your arrival, there are none to whom it affords higher satisfaction than to our fellow-citizens. Nor can a mind like yours view with indifference the improvements made in the state, since your former journey through it to join our army in the most hopeless crisis of the struggle. You will now see smiling villages and cultivated fields, and an industrious population, where before an almost trackless forest overspread the country. You will see a nation of farmers, unobtrusively cherishing the domestic virtues, practicing that of hospitality in its primitive purity, and gratefully feeling that a more fit occasion for its exercise never can occur than in welcoming to their hearts and firesides, the last surviving General of the Revolution, their venerable and beloved fellow-citizen, LA FAYETTE.

The reply of the General was short, pithy, and full of feeling and sentiment. The members composing the deputation were then presented to him. The salutation of our revolutionary worthy, Col. Polk,<sup>9</sup> was affecting in the extreme, and seemed to have an electrifying effect on all present.

The only significant fact missing from the newspaper account is that Lafayette also ate dinner at the Calvert Tavern<sup>10</sup> before continuing his journey to Halifax, where he would spend the night.

The dedication of the trail marker completes a triad of significant Lafayette commemorations in Jackson. This collection will likely exceed that of any other town of its size on the Lafayette Trail. Local artist Napoleon Hill's dramatic mural<sup>11</sup> of Lafayette's visit was installed in November 2019 on the exterior west wall of the Embassy Café at 127 West Jefferson Street. The mural depicts Chief Justice John Lewis Taylor, Lafayette, and Colonel William Polk standing together, along with the 1819 county courthouse, the Calvert Tavern, and Lafayette's carriage. The town also officially renamed the small city park on its main street Lafayette Park earlier in 2020. The compact venue is located on the site of the Calvert Tavern where Lafayette dined. It features an octagonal gazebo with seating and a beautiful freestanding clock by the Verdin Company. The park is set off by black fencing and attractive landscaping.



*Jim Gossip explains Napoleon Hill's mural depicting Lafayette's visit.*

Chief Justice Taylor's words echo down to twenty-first century Jackson and Northampton County. The area remains a hospitable place of villages, farmers, and cultivated fields with an industrious population. The town has not forgotten the famous visit by the Nation's Guest nearly two centuries ago, and rightfully celebrates him and his legacy today.

### About the Author

AFL member Frank Womble is a retired Army officer and a native of Northampton County.

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<sup>1</sup> J. Bennett Nolan, *Lafayette in America Day by Day* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1934): 275.

<sup>2</sup> "GEN. LA FAYETTE," *North Carolina Free Press* (Halifax, North Carolina), No. 50, Vol. 1, Friday, March 4th, 1825, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> John Louis Taylor (March 1, 1769 – January 29, 1829), was an American jurist and the first Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

<sup>4</sup> "Gen" is likely a typographical error, as Colonel William Polk was present. See Note 9 below.

<sup>5</sup> John Reeves Jones Daniel (January 13, 1802 – June 22, 1868) was Attorney General of North Carolina from 1824 to 1841, after which he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives from the Second District.

<sup>6</sup> William "Pretty Billy" Williams (February 2, 1771 – 1832), builder of Montmorenci Plantation in Warren County, North Carolina.

<sup>7</sup> Halifax.

<sup>8</sup> Robert Potter (June 1800 – March 2, 1842), was a lawyer, politician and Texas independence activist. He was a U. S. Representative from North Carolina and later a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and Texas Secretary of the Navy.

<sup>9</sup> Colonel William Polk (July 9, 1758 – January 14, 1834), was a North Carolina banker, educational administrator, political leader, and renowned Continental Army officer in the War for American Independence. Polk and Lafayette were at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777 and at the 1777/1778 winter encampment at Valley Forge.

<sup>10</sup> Dr. Thomas O'Dwyer, *Diary of 1825* (Winton, NC: Liberty Shield Press, 1996): 17.

<sup>11</sup> Frank Womble, "New Mural New Mural Commemorates Lafayette's Visit," *The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*, No. 92, June 2020, 88-90.

## Lafayette Trail Marker Commemorates Visit to Suffolk, Virginia

by Frank Womble

On December 3, 2020, the first Lafayette Trail Marker in Virginia was dedicated at the Suffolk Visitor Center on 521 North Main Street, formerly the Nansemond County Courthouse. Julien Icher, founder and president of the Lafayette Trail, was on hand to officially mark the occasion. He addressed a small crowd that included local historians, members of the American Friends of Lafayette, the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, and the Constantia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Suffolk Division of Tourism prepared an informative seven-page handout, “Who Was Lafayette, and Why Is He Important to Americans?” and made it available to attendees.

City Tourism Manager Theresa Earles noted that Suffolk has been visited by amazing people in the past, and that Lafayette was one of the most well-known visitors to the town. Sue Woodward, a former teacher and former director of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, said that most of the big events of the city during the time of Lafayette’s visit happened in the block around the former courthouse. She noted that none of the buildings he actually visited still exist, although some buildings in the town that he would have traveled past still stand.



*Julien Icher poses with DAR members at the newly dedicated Lafayette Trail Marker.*

Auguste Levasseur's travelogue account of Lafayette's visit to Suffolk is notable both for its complimentary tone and its brevity: "We left (Norfolk) on the same day (February 25, 1825) to dine at Suffolk, a very small town, where the General was awaited with all the bustling zeal and the benevolence that he had encountered at every turn up to then."<sup>1</sup>

"Bustling zeal" is an understatement. Suffolk's citizens had less than 24 hours to complete all preparations for Lafayette's visit. A town meeting was immediately called and a committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements. Dinner invitations were sent out by messengers. The men on the Arrangements Committee and their wives were up most of the night getting Castle Inn, where Lafayette would spend the night, and the banquet room of the courthouse ready for the next day. Servants, furniture, silver, crystal, china, linens, and even quilts for the guests' overnight stay, were all loaned and quickly gathered for the important occasion.<sup>2</sup>

Local sources provide much richer detail on the visit that Levasseur glossed over. The *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*, a wealth of information on Lafayette's activities in the Hampton Roads area, described the visit in its February 28 edition.<sup>3</sup>

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The General had been invited about three weeks ago, through our representatives in Congress, to a Dinner and Ball to be given him by the citizens of Suffolk; in consequence of not having heard from North Carolina he could not at that time inform Mr. Newton<sup>4</sup> with certainty of the period when it would be convenient for him to be in Suffolk; nor was it until Thursday evening at 6 o'clock that the citizens of Suffolk were appraised of it; so that they had but a few hours to prepare for his reception and accommodations. However, the time, short as it was, was well improved; a town meeting was instantly called, at which a committee was appointed and the proper arrangements made.

At 1 o'clock on Friday, the Committee of Arrangement, with several other gentlemen, set out with carriages &c. and proceeded towards Norfolk to meet their anxiously expected guest, which they did about 6 or 7 miles below Suffolk. On alighting he was greeted affectionately by the Committee, and addressed by JOSEPH PRENTISS, ESQ.,<sup>5</sup> in behalf of the citizens, in a short, but very neat and appropriate speech – to which the General returned a suitable reply. He was then, with his suite handed into the carriages provided for their further conveyance, and conducted to Suffolk, the whole party forming a quite respectable escort. They were received at the entrance to the town by that handsome company of Volunteer Infantry, the *Suffolk Columbians*, commanded by Capt. *Francis Charlton*, and a large number of citizens, who testified the upmost enthusiasm of feeling on beholding for the first time the venerated companion of WASHINGTON and the guardian Genius of our infant Republic. The military and citizens then formed a procession under the direction of four marshals, and the whole proceeded to the lodgings which had been prepared for the General at Mrs. Dickenson's boarding house,<sup>6</sup> where after a few minutes recreation, a number of the citizens were severally introduced to him until 6 o'clock, when dinner was announced. The General was then conducted to the spacious hall in

the second story of the Court House where he sat down to a most splendid & sumptuous dinner, ordered for the occasion, and prepared by Mr. *James Holladay*,<sup>7</sup> for which, considering the shortness of the notice, he deserves great credit. About thirty gentlemen sat down to dinner with the General; *Mills Riddick*,<sup>8</sup> Esq., President of the Board of Trustees of the Town presided; assisted by *Matthias Jones*<sup>9</sup> Esq. as Vice President. After drinking 13 regular toasts and several volunteers, the company separated in excellent order, and in fine spirits.

The General was then escorted back to his drawing room, where he received introductions to the ladies of the place and the vicinity, until about 11 o'clock, when the company having withdrawn, he was conducted to his chamber and retired to rest for the night.

In the morning the General was waited on by the Board of Trustees and the Committee of Arrangement, who breakfasted with him: and at half past 9 he took his departure with his suite, in the carriages provided for their accommodation by the Committee, for Murfreesborough, (N. C.) where he was expected to arrive about 6 o'clock the same evening. Four or five carriages, and several gigs, filled with citizens of Suffolk, accompanied the General on his way to Murfreesborough, intending to proceed on with him until they should meet on the way with the committee having understood to have been despatched from that place to escort him. About 6 miles on this side of Summerton,<sup>10</sup> they met with the committee from Murfreesborough, consisting of *Dr. O'Bryan*, and *Lewis Cowper* and *J. W. Southall*, Esqrs., who returned and accompanied the Suffolk escort to Summerton, where the General and the rest of his party alighted. The General was then introduced to the Murfreesborough committee, and addressed in an appropriate and handsome style by Doctor O'Bryan, which elicited a suitable reply from the General. At two o'clock the General sat down to an excellent dinner with the gentlemen who attended him, at the tavern of Mr. *Washington Smith*,<sup>11</sup> in Summerton (*sic*), after which he proceeded to Murfreesborough, accompanied by the committee from that town and the greater part of the escort from Suffolk.

We have sketched hastily, from such information as we have been able to obtain, the mere details of the progress of the Nation's Guest for the first two days of his Southern tour. It would be a difficult task for us to describe the lively feelings of joy which his presence everywhere excited. The little town of Suffolk, always alive to the impulse of patriotism, distinguished itself on this occasion, by the spirited manner in which it mingled its tributes with the offerings of the nation at the shrine of Gratitude. Nothing could exceed the joyful enthusiasm which pervaded all classes of its citizens.

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The newspaper was not finished reporting the details of Lafayette's visit, and printed this follow-up article in its March 4 edition.<sup>12</sup>

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The following are the Toasts that were drunk at the Dinner given to General LA FAYETTE, on Friday last, by the citizens of Suffolk. In noticing the Dinner in our Monday's paper, the number who dined with the General was erroneously printed as "thirty," – it should have been *eighty*, the actual number who sat down to that elegant banquet.

1. *Gen. George Washington* – The father and founder of the American Republic – the votary of the principles of Liberty, and magnanimity, which form the basis of sound policy, and durable glory.

2. *Gen. La Fayette* – Firm and unshaken, amidst the ruin of the Bastille, the Champ of the Federation,<sup>13</sup> and in the dungeons of Olmütz.

When this toast was given, Gen. Lafayette arose and expressed his thankful acknowledgments. He observed that during the Virginia Campaign, the town of Suffolk, and Nansemond County, had been an object of his peculiar and sympathizing concern, that amidst their late sufferings<sup>14</sup> and continued dangers, the patriotism of their citizens had never been damped. He also expressed his pleasure to have met at York the *Suffolk Volunteers*, and his gratitude for the affectionate welcome he was now enjoying, and concluded by offering the following toast:

"*The town of Suffolk, and Nansemond county* – May they forever enjoy all the blessings of Republican institutions, and prosperous industry.

3. *Bollman and Huger* – Intercessors (dear to every American patriot) to relieve from Austrian bondage,<sup>15</sup> the early friend of human Liberty.

4. *The Battle of Minden*<sup>16</sup> – The imperishable monument of the brave and venerated Ancestor of our Nation's Guest, the father of him who suffered with our fathers, for our sake.

5. *The Countess de La Fayette* – The bright ornament of the Court of Louis the 14<sup>th</sup> and the founder of the most important department of modern literature.<sup>17</sup>

6. *The Patriots of '76* – May the present and future generations revere and emulate their virtues and their valor.

7. *The 19<sup>th</sup> of October '81* – Let us honor the day which terminated the struggles, and sealed the independence of our country.<sup>18</sup>

8. *The Present Congress* – They have done their duty, by evincing the nation's gratitude, to the Nation's Guest.

9. *The President of the United States*, whose life has been spent in his country's service – Ease and happiness attend his remaining years.<sup>19</sup>

10. *Our Government* – Just in its original principles, and wise in the administration of them.

11. *The Army and Navy of the United States*.

12. *Gen. Simon Bolivar* – The patriot of South America,<sup>20</sup> and the dauntless friend of civil liberty.

13. *Our fair Countrywomen*.

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After the banquet, Lafayette was escorted back to his rooms at the Castle Inn. He received introductions to the ladies of the town in the drawing room until 11:00 p.m., then retired for the evening. While he slept, the townspeople continued celebrating their famous visitor at the inns and taverns of Suffolk.<sup>21</sup>

The “very small town” that Levasseur mentioned has changed dramatically since 1825. Suffolk merged with Nansemond County in 1974 and now encompasses 430 square miles, making it is the largest town by area in Virginia. The current population exceeds 94,000.<sup>22</sup> It includes a diverse combination of industrial, manufacturing, distribution, retail, and hospitality businesses, as well as active farming.

The courthouse that Lafayette dined in, the Castle Inn where he stayed, and the Holladay Hotel were all lost in the “Great Fire” of June 3, 1837 which destroyed 130 buildings in the heart of Suffolk.<sup>23</sup> Only the Washington Smith Ordinary in nearby Somerton still stands among the places he visited.<sup>24</sup> What has not changed is the town’s commitment to its history, which is admirably reflected in the recent addition of the Lafayette Trail Marker.

## About the Author

AFL member Frank Womble is a retired Army officer. He lives with his wife Gloria in Suffolk, Virginia.

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<sup>1</sup> August Levasseur (author), Alan R. Hoffman, (translator), *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, Journal of a Voyage to the United States* (Manchester, New Hampshire: Lafayette Press, 2006): 301.

<sup>2</sup> Marion J. Watson, “General Lafayette Visits Suffolk, Virginia, February 25-26, 1825” (Suffolk: Nansemond Historical Society, n.d.): 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*, “THE RECEPTION AT SUFFOLK,” Monday, February 28, 1825, Volume XXX, No. 4381, page 2.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Newton, Jr., (1768-1847) (Democratic-Republican Party) served in the U. S. House of Representatives from March 4, 1801, to March 9, 1830, representing Virginia’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=N000078>.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Prentis, II (1785-1851) was a lawyer and Surveyor of the Port of Suffolk from 1811 to 1838. He was Clerk of Court for Nansemond County from 1838 to 1851. (Waston, 3)

<sup>6</sup> Castle Inn on Main Street.

<sup>7</sup> James Holladay (1787-1855) was a farmer, businessman and proprietor of the Holladay Hotel, located across the street from the courthouse. Holladay was well-known for his Nansemond and James River oysters and fish dishes, as well as liquors from New York markets. (Waston, 3)

<sup>8</sup> Mills Riddick (d. 1844) was the grandson of Revolutionary War hero Colonel Willis S. Riddick and a captain of cavalry during the War of 1812. In 1819 and 1829 he served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing Suffolk and Nansemond County. [riddicksfolly.org/sample-page](http://riddicksfolly.org/sample-page).

<sup>9</sup> Matthias Jones (1771-1834) was a merchant and Harbour Master of Suffolk in 1797. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1814 to 1815. (Waston, 2)

<sup>10</sup> Somerton, a community in the former Nansemond County. It is now the Somerton Historic District, part of the city of Suffolk. Sarah C. McPhail (August 2008), “*National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination: Somerton Historic District*,” Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

<sup>11</sup> Washington Smith (1772-1835) was a veteran of the War of 1812. He and his wife Mary ran the Washington Smith Ordinary in Somerton. [findagrave.com/memorial/100954711/washington-smith](http://findagrave.com/memorial/100954711/washington-smith).

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<sup>12</sup> *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*, “FURTHER FROM SUFFOLK”, Friday, March 4, 1825, Volume XXX, No. 4383, page 2.

<sup>13</sup> The Champ de Mars in Paris was the site of the “Fête de la Fédération,” the precursor to Bastille Day, on July 14, 1790. It was also the site of a deadly confrontation between a violent mob and the National Guard of Paris on July 17, 1791 during the French Revolution. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champ\\_de\\_Mars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champ_de_Mars).

<sup>14</sup> Suffolk was burned by the British in 1779. It was totally destroyed after thousands of barrels of turpentine and pitch caught fire in warehouses along the river. <https://m.suffolknewsherald.com/2016/09/10/suffolk-and-the-revolution-part-three/>.

<sup>15</sup> Justus Erich Bollman, a German doctor, and Francis Kinloch Huger, an American, made a quixotic attempt to free Lafayette from prison in Olmütz. It failed; both men were arrested and imprisoned for eight months. [americanheritage.com/imprisonment-lafayette#5](https://americanheritage.com/imprisonment-lafayette#5).

<sup>16</sup> A major engagement during the Seven Years' War, fought on August 1, 1759. Lafayette's father was killed when he was hit by a cannonball in this battle when Lafayette was less than two years old. [military.wikia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Minden](https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Minden).

<sup>17</sup> Marie-Madeleine Pioche de La Vergne, comtesse de La Fayette (baptized March 18, 1634 – May 25, 1693), better known as Madame de La Fayette, was a French writer. She authored *La Princesse de Clèves*, France's first historical novel and one of the earliest novels in literature. She married François Mortier, a relative of Lafayette. [britannica.com/biography/Marie-Madeleine-Pioche-de-la-Vergne-comtesse-de-La-Fayette](https://britannica.com/biography/Marie-Madeleine-Pioche-de-la-Vergne-comtesse-de-La-Fayette).

<sup>18</sup> Date of the British surrender at Yorktown. The siege of Yorktown was the last major land battle of the American Revolutionary War in the North American region. The surrender by Cornwallis, and the capture of both him and his army, prompted the British government to negotiate an end to the conflict. [britannica.com/event/Siege-of-Yorktown](https://britannica.com/event/Siege-of-Yorktown).

<sup>19</sup> President James Monroe left office about a week after Lafayette's visit to Suffolk.

<sup>20</sup> Colloquially known as *El Libertador* (the Liberator), Simón Bolívar (1783 - 1830) was a Venezuelan soldier and statesman who led the revolutions against Spanish rule in the Viceroyalty of New Granada. He was president of Gran Colombia (1819–30) and dictator of Peru (1823–26). [britannica.com/biography/Simon-Bolivar](https://britannica.com/biography/Simon-Bolivar).

<sup>21</sup> Watson, 6.

<sup>22</sup> World Population Review, “Suffolk, Virginia 2021,” [worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/suffolk-va-population](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/suffolk-va-population).

<sup>23</sup> Virginia H. Rollings, “Fires Plagued Nansemond”, *Daily Press* (Newport News, Virginia), September 4, 1999, [dailypress.com/news/dp-xpm-19990904-1999-09-04-9909040048-story.html](https://dailypress.com/news/dp-xpm-19990904-1999-09-04-9909040048-story.html).

<sup>24</sup> Watson, 8.

## Did the Martins Meet Lafayette in Kirby Township, North Carolina?

by Frank Womble



*Rev. Carol Taylor stands beside the Lafayette Trail Marker at Zion Church.*

The first Lafayette Trail Marker in North Carolina was dedicated on December 8, 2020 by Julian Icher and the Rev. Carol Taylor at Zion United Methodist Church, two miles west of present-day Conway. About twenty attendees gathered in the churchyard at 9:30 on a chilly morning nearly 196 years after Lafayette's historic visit to witness history being made again.

No one had any trouble getting to the church that morning on today's modern asphalt roads. North Carolina, the "Good Roads State," boasts the largest state-maintained highway system in the nation.<sup>1</sup> Sunday, February 27, 1825 was significantly different. It had rained steadily all night on the 26<sup>th</sup>, so roads were muddy and the going difficult. The roads were so bad that Lafayette's arrival in Murfreesboro the night before was delayed when his horses became stuck in the mud up to their knees for nearly an hour just outside town.<sup>2</sup> Lafayette's tour of the Southern states was officially underway, along with the difficulties of travel on rain-soaked dirt roads.

Lafayette and his party departed Murfreesboro around 10:00 a.m. en route to Northampton Courthouse (present-day Jackson), some twenty miles away. He would meet the official North Carolina greeting party there. They had also been delayed by the difficult road conditions and therefore had not met Lafayette at the state line as originally expected.

Dr. Thomas O'Dwyer, a local physician, followed Lafayette's party from Murfreesboro to Northampton Courthouse and noted the stop at Zion Meeting House in his diary. This is probably the only extant primary source record. The stop is not mentioned in either of the two newspapers<sup>3</sup> that reported the particulars of Lafayette's journey through southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, nor in Levasseur's famous travelogue. The diary is in poor condition, and Dr. O'Dwyer's handwriting is difficult to read. A scanned image<sup>4</sup> of the relevant page is below.

... at 10. o'clock for St. Asaph (Hous) - then  
 ... stumbled at Zion M. House who came forward towards the carriage  
 ... got out & saluted & shook hands with several of them - after  
 ... little lantern one of the carriage horses fell when the ground was  
 ... had to get out when the horses were freed from the carriage  
 ... was conveyed to the road - The weather cold & frost & the roads very  
 ... Mr. West & Mr. Egan coming on to meet us - got to the C. H.  
 ... of when the Genl. Hail were received by the State Committee -  
 The Genl. was conducted in to the C. H. & addressed by Judge Taylor - after which  
 ... the Genl. Hail embraced in an affecting manner - we then went  
 to the Tavern where Dinner was prepared; after partaking of which the Genl.  
 Hail & left for Halifax, previous to which, I had the pleasure of shaking  
 him, his son, Col. Levasseur by the hands - They are pleasant agreeable men -  
 Had my horse put in the stable, but was prevailed by my company to tarry  
 till morn<sup>g</sup>, we got Mr. Baynes' room with 4 beds, where we staid together - Col. Le  
 ... went on to Halifax - Lay down at 9. o'clock - misting - Feb<sup>y</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Cold & cloudy - up at 6. o'clock - W. O. C. - The 4<sup>th</sup> - Had an early breakfast -  
 our bill to be paid by the state - set off in C. with Mr. Money & got home at 11. o'clock  
 No call - Intended to go to W. Court, but decline going till tomorrow - Mr. Money  
 called & sat awhile - Peter Henry, putting a rack & manger in the stable -  
 & also a plank floor - gave Venus a parcel of Herrings - Th: 48 at  
 12. o'clock - Looking over the papers - Called at the P. O. - Saw the Raleigh Paper  
 which says great preparations are making for the reception of Genl. La Fayette  
 Called on W. when this even<sup>g</sup> - we wrote to the Gov<sup>r</sup> of the Com<sup>ty</sup> to appoint  
 the morn<sup>g</sup> to draw up the proceedings respect<sup>ly</sup> Genl. La Fayette's reception &  
 - home & was sent for again & went to Mr. Nees where the gen<sup>l</sup> were collected  
 sat together till 10. o'clock & arrived to meet early in the morn<sup>g</sup> - The 4<sup>th</sup>

The first six lines read as follows, with extrapolated verbiage added in brackets. Question marks indicate unclear or missing words or letters.

[Se]tt off at 10 o.c[lock] for No[rthampton] C[ourt]house (?) [assem]bled at Zion M[eeting] House who came forward towards the carriage (?) the Gen[eral] got out & saluted & shook hands with several of [them?]. [After?] go[ing?] a little farther one of the carriage horses fell where the ground was (?) gent[lemen] had to get out when the horses were freed from the carriage (?) was conveyed to the road – the weather cold & moist & the road very (?).

I surmise that the final missing word is likely “bad,” “muddy,” or “rough.”

Why did Lafayette stop at Zion Church? Did the people who shook hands with him know he was coming, and were they simply waiting for him to arrive? If so, how did they know? Were some of my ancestors present, and did they meet Lafayette? An attempt to answer these questions requires combining Dr. O’Dwyer’s eyewitness account with the church’s oral history, the county’s census and land records, plus some educated guesses.

The few available facts are straightforward. Lafayette stopped at Zion Church en route to Northampton Courthouse; he shook hands with some of the people there; a problem occurred with his carriage when one of the horses fell; and one or more people present assisted in getting the horses and carriage back on the road again.

Zion Church is almost exactly halfway between Murfreesboro and Jackson. My first thought was that this was simply a logical place to stop in order to briefly rest both horses and men. There is no evidence, however, that the stop was planned or even contemplated.

Rev. Taylor related an interesting oral history.<sup>5</sup> Church lore holds that church members knew that Lafayette was coming that morning and had lined the roadway waiting for him to pass by en route to Northampton Courthouse. Women of the church had prepared refreshments. Either one of the horses fell causing a carriage wheel to come off, or a carriage wheel came off, which caused one of the horses to fall. Men of the church assisted with replacing the wheel and getting the carriage back on the road. This account is mostly in agreement with Dr. O’Dwyer’s diary entry.

Lafayette had been in the United States for over six months. His Southern tour was well-publicized and easily one of the most significant events in anyone’s memory. The advent of the telegraph was still twenty years in the future, so newspapers and simple word of mouth from local travelers were the most likely means of passing information. There was regular communication between Murfreesboro and Northampton Courthouse; anyone moving between the two towns passed right by Zion Church.

An article in the *North Carolina Free Press* indicates how church members could easily have received the most current information available on Lafayette’s movements. The official North Carolina state deputation was en route from Raleigh to meet Lafayette and had arrived in Halifax. They concluded that it would be impractical to meet Lafayette at the Virginia state line

as originally intended. On February 26, they sent local lawyer Robert Potter<sup>6</sup> to Murfreesboro, where Lafayette and his party were expected to stay the night. Potter met Lafayette in Murfreesboro, extended regards to him from Governor Hutchins G. Burton, and explained why his official state escort was delayed. A courier was then sent back to Halifax to inform the town's citizenry that Lafayette would likely arrive there on the evening of Sunday, February 27.<sup>7</sup>

Potter passed by Zion Church on his way to Murfreesboro, as did the unnamed courier on his way back to Halifax. This courier could certainly have relayed the crucial information that Lafayette's party would be passing by the church around midday the next day. Since the 27<sup>th</sup> was a Sunday, it is likely that members of the congregation would already be there.

For me, there is an intriguing personal mystery: Were any of my ancestors at Zion Church to witness and perhaps even take an active part in this historic occasion? Despite a disappointing lack of firm evidence, I like to think they were.

At the time of Lafayette's visit the area was known as Kirby Township. Conway was settled ten years later around 1835 and was originally known as Martin Crossroads.<sup>8</sup> The town took its name in reference to the Martin family, which owned land in what is now Northampton County since at least 1723.<sup>9</sup> In 1762, John Martin (my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather) received a Granville land grant<sup>10</sup> of 675 acres near the mill pond of Patty's Delight Creek,<sup>11</sup> today known as Doolittle Mill Pond. This mill pond is only about 2 ½ miles southeast of Zion Church.

In 1825, Thomas Martin, (John Martin's grandson), his wife Amy, and their eight children lived on a farm near Zion Church.<sup>12</sup> Thomas Martin had nine siblings, at least four of whom – including my great-great-great grandfather, Zaccheus Martin – were living in Northampton County along with their spouses and children in 1825.<sup>13</sup> At least thirty Martin family members lived on farms in the area, so it's easy to conjecture that some of them were likely present at Zion Church that day.

Lafayette's visit was most the significant event of the decade, one that generated significant national attention and acclaim. The celebrated hero and last surviving major general of the American Revolution was passing right through their community, so meeting him would be a simple matter requiring relatively little effort. It would be far easier than attempting to travel on rough roads to a major population center and competing with the large crowds that typified his visits. A reading of Levasseur's accounts of the number of people that routinely turned out just to catch a glimpse of Lafayette makes it difficult for me to believe that all of the Martins would have missed such a unique and important opportunity. Unfortunately, the historical record does not provide any definitive answers about who exactly met the Nation's Guest at Zion Church and shook his hand that day.

At the conclusion of the brief dedication ceremony, I returned to my warm car and turned onto the smoothly paved surface of U.S. Highway 158 for the ten-mile trip to Jackson to attend the second marker dedication of the day. As I considered the events of that cold morning nearly two centuries ago, my imagination converted the hum of my car tires on the pavement to the rhythmic clapping of horse hooves on dirt, the creak and jingle of leather harnesses, and the low rumble of carriage wheels. Perhaps some of the Martins donned warm coats, mounted horses or

climbed into carriages, and made the same trip to the county seat to continue their once-in-a-lifetime experience of witnessing Lafayette's official greeting to the state.

### About the Author

AFL member Frank Womble is a retired Army officer and a native of Northampton County.

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<sup>1</sup> *Our State* magazine, July 2014, [ourstate.com/good-road-state](http://ourstate.com/good-road-state).

<sup>2</sup> Auguste Levasseur (author), Alan R. Hoffman (translator), *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825: Journal of a Voyage to the United States* (Manchester, NH: Lafayette Press, 2006): 303.

<sup>3</sup> *The North Carolina Free Press (Halifax)* and the *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*.

<sup>4</sup> O'Dwyer, Thomas. *Personal Diary of Dr. Thomas O'Dwyer, Samuel Jordan Wheeler and Other Diaries, 1825. 1865-1876* Collection #00766, The Southern Historical Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina) [https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00766/#folder\\_1#1](https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00766/#folder_1#1). Folder 1, Volume 1, Thomas O'Dwyer Diary, 1825: Scan 17.

<sup>5</sup> Telephone interview with the Rev. Carol Taylor, January 15, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Lawyer, politician and Texas independence activist. Potter was a U. S. Representative from North Carolina and later a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and Texas Secretary of the Navy.

<sup>7</sup> "GEN. LA FAYETTE," *North Carolina Free Press*, Halifax, North Carolina, March 4, 1825, page 2.

<sup>8</sup> "Town of Conway: History," [townofconwaync.com/history.html](http://townofconwaync.com/history.html).

<sup>9</sup> Rebecca Leach Dozier, *Twelve Northampton County, North Carolina Families, 1650 – 1850* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 2004): 253.

<sup>10</sup> In 1663, King Charles II of England granted land in the Carolinas to eight men who had helped him regain the throne. Known as the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, they had the right to grant land to others. From 1748 to 1763, agents of John Carteret, 2nd Earl Granville made grants to vacant lands and collected rents.

[familysearch.org/wiki/en/North\\_Carolina\\_Land\\_and\\_Property](http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/North_Carolina_Land_and_Property).

<sup>11</sup> Dozier, 255.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 257.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 257-262.

## Lafayette Trail Marker Dedicated in Downtown Fayetteville

by Hank Parfitt

On March 5, 2021, a Lafayette Trail marker was placed at the Green Street entrance to Cross Creek Park in Downtown Fayetteville, North Carolina. Lafayette's statue stands in that park on the opposite side of Cross Creek. The red and blue marker was dedicated that afternoon by Julien Icher from France and Mayor Mitch Colvin, Cumberland County Commissioner Glenn Adams, and Lafayette Society President Hank Parfitt.



The unveiling

Lafayette, a French nobleman, was only 19 years old when he sailed from France to America in 1777 to help America win her freedom from England. He soon became George Washington's most trusted general and his leadership throughout the Revolutionary War was vital to the American victory. After his return to France, Lafayette served in the Assembly of Notables and in the National Assembly, where he advocated for liberal ideals such as Protestant freedom of religion and the abolition of slavery. He supported the struggle for independence in countries like Greece and Poland and became a world-wide symbol of freedom and hope.

On March 4 and 5, 1825, nearly 200 years ago, the 67-year-old Lafayette visited Fayetteville. President Monroe had invited him to tour America as the "Nation's Guest" in 1824. Cities like Philadelphia and New York welcomed him with crowds of 100,000 or more, but he visited many other cities and towns in all 24 states. His visit to Fayetteville was especially significant because it was the first city named for him - in 1783.

The Lafayette Trail marker is the result of an ambitious project by Julien Icher of France. Julien earned his two master's degrees in Human Geography and Digital Geographies with a focus on integrating spatial data into web environments from one of the prestigious Grande

Écoles called ENS in Lyon. He continued postgraduate studies at William and Mary in Virginia. There, he became inspired by Lafayette's story after meeting members of the American Friends of Lafayette. He then developed a computer program that maps out Lafayette's "Grand Tour," with routes traveled by Lafayette highlighted in color along with information about the numerous stops that he made. Julien also obtained a generous grant from the Pomeroy Foundation in New York to fund 175 markers. His Lafayette Trail Project will be complete by 2024-25, in time for America's celebration of the bicentennial of Lafayette's Grand Tour.



The Marker

Julien traveled from Virginia on March 5 to present Fayetteville with its marker. After short speeches thanking Julien and praising Lafayette, City and County officials joined him for the unveiling. Julien's videographer recorded the proceedings and interviews with local historians. He and Julien will produce a short video about Fayetteville as part of a series funded with a grant from the state of North Carolina.

The Lafayette Society of Fayetteville was founded in 1981 to promote awareness of the many contributions to America's freedom by the Marquis de Lafayette and to encourage his ideals of leadership, patriotism, generosity, and support of human rights for all. The organization also encourages the open-minded study of history as a way to equip oneself to understand and manage current events, through endowments at Fayetteville State University and Methodist College. Membership is open to all who feel inspired by Lafayette. For more information, visit [www.lafayettesociety.org](http://www.lafayettesociety.org).

## Lafayette – The Nation’s Guest Comes to Boston

by Peter Maguire

There has to be a solid reason why there are eighty cities, towns, and counties in America, including seven streets in Boston alone, named for a visitor from France. It is fitting that America has shown its love and respect for its hero, the Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette visited Boston on eight different occasions: five during the revolution, once during his return visit of 1784, and once each in 1824 and 1825. In February of 1824, President Monroe, following a joint resolution from Congress, sent a long overdue invitation to Lafayette to visit America. The letter expressed the “sincere attachment of the whole Nation whose ardent desire is once more to see you amongst them”. Lafayette departed France on July 13, 1824. He was accompanied by his son, George Washington Motier de Lafayette as well as his secretary, Auguste Levasseur. Throughout the journey, Levasseur documented Lafayette’s travels while recording fascinating observations of life in the United States.

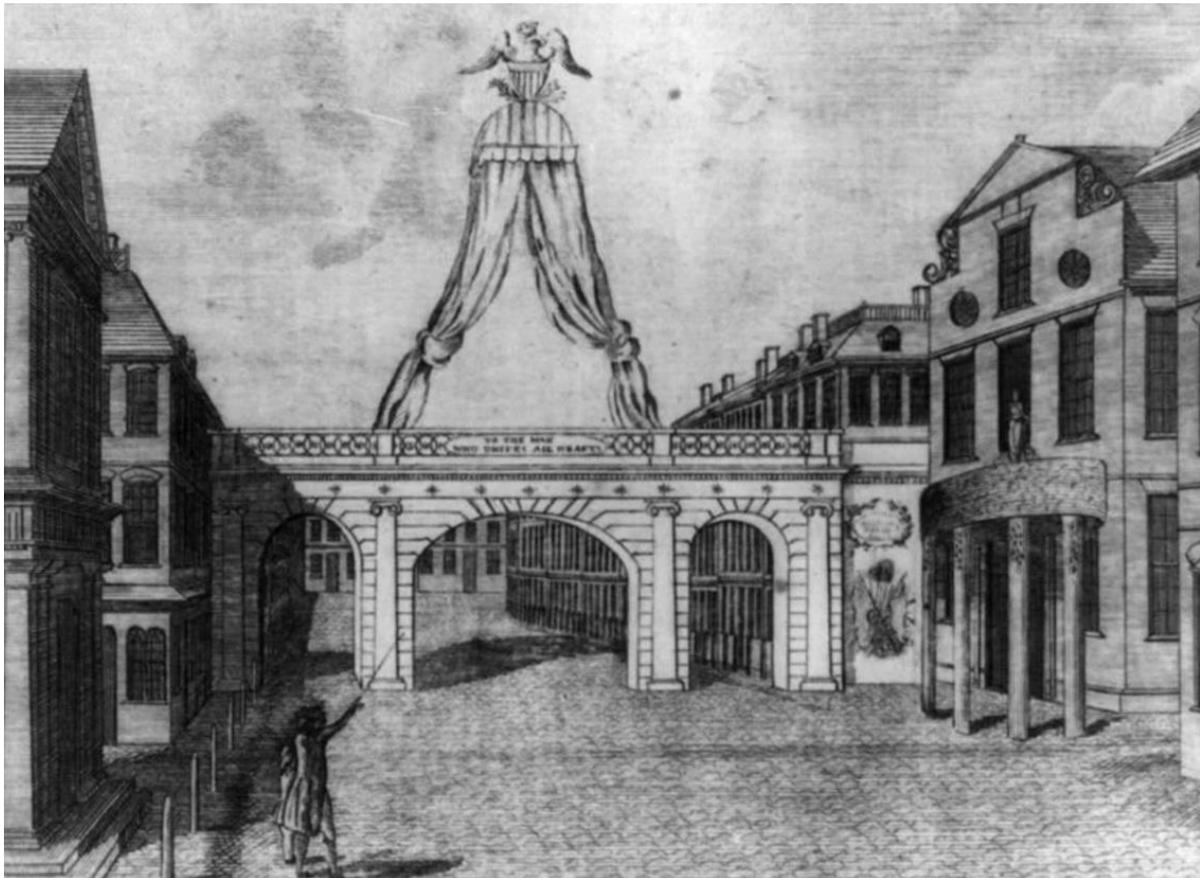
During his thirteen months in America, Lafayette visited all the states at the time including two separate visits to New England. During the visits, Levasseur kept a concise journal with a daily schedule along with comments concerning American history, society, politics, racial and religious peculiarities, and prejudices. His book, the source for most of the quotations in this piece, *Lafayette In America in 1824 and 1825, Journal of a Voyage To The United States*, is a fascinating read, as it is an observation of America and Americans by an educated European.

This article will concern Lafayette’s two visits to Boston with all the excitement that followed as the city continued to turn out to honor its Nation’s Guest. No matter where he went, he was treated as a hero, being the last surviving American Revolutionary major general. He left New York on August 20, 1824 and began his trip to Boston. He was escorted by the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati to the Massachusetts border. He arrived at the mansion of Governor Eustis in Roxbury. The next morning, there was a grand procession to Boston. “In front of the State House, upon an immense terrace, whence the sea might be discovered...was a long double row of girls and boys, from the public schools all decorated with *Lafayette badges*, uttering cries of joy.”



*Children’s Lafayette Badge*

The entourage entered the Senate Chamber where “all the public functionaries were collected.” Here Lafayette recognized his old military friend, former Governor John Brooks. Brooks, a Reading and Medford resident, hero of April 19, Saratoga, and Valley Forge, reached out to his old friend. Lafayette “at first sight, embraced him with great cordiality and affection.” After the festivities, the group left the State House, passed under Charles Bulfinch’s Triumphal Arch, and retired to a hotel for a respite.



*Bulfinch Triumphal Arch*

That evening, the entourage dined with Governor Eustis at the Exchange Coffee House where many toasts were offered. The French and American flags waved united. A toast to the memory of Louis XVI was given: “None of the friends of liberty should be forgotten although they might have worn a crown.”

Later in the evening, Lafayette met with Madam Hancock (widow of John). She and many other Boston women were wearing Lafayette gloves. Louisa May Alcott, in *The Jones 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Reader*, describes the meeting: “Lafayette bowed first to the Governor’s widow and kissed her hand... That was droll; for on the back of her glove was stamped Lafayette’s likeness, and the gallant old gentleman kissed his own face.”



*Ladies Lafayette glove*

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Lafayette attended the commencement at Harvard. Levasseur noted that the splendor of the ceremony “was considerably increased by the presence of a very great number of ladies, attracted by the desire of seeing Lafayette.” Levasseur described Cambridge as “one of the richest and most beautiful villages in New England.” He complimented Harvard by noting: “The citizens of Massachusetts are proud of its success and support it with a liberality which proves how much knowledge and education are esteemed in this state.” However, Levasseur was not above criticizing much of the hypocrisy he saw in Massachusetts and America. He noticed that the Massachusetts constitution bars non-Christians from holding political office. “We can scarcely comprehend how, in a society so free and enlightened, where the progress of philosophy

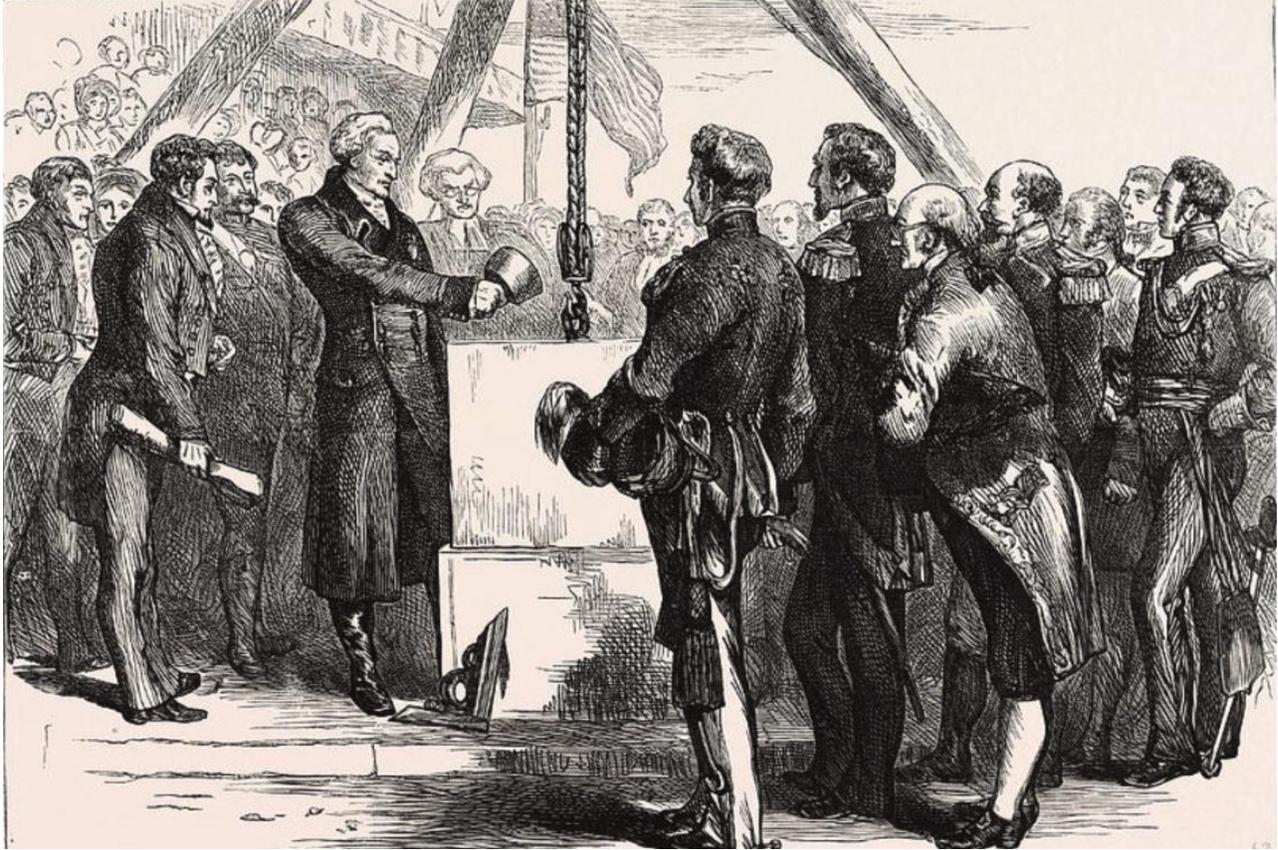
is every day evident, the state still can continue to refuse the services of a virtuous man, because the individual may be a Jew or a Mussulman.” As far as Native Americans were concerned, Levasseur was distressed with what he saw outside of Portsmouth: “Their dresses had no other character than that of misery....In a word it appeared to me that these poor wretches had only changed superstitions, and that civilization had brought them its vices without any of its benefits.” Levasseur condemned slavery. On his visit to Virginia in 1824 he wrote, “It appears to me, that slavery cannot exist a long time in Virginia, because all enlightened men condemn the principle of it, and when public opinion condemns a principle, its consequences cannot long continue to subsist.”

On August 27, Lafayette visited Bunker Hill. Levasseur mentions that Bunker Hill reminds all “of the noble struggles of liberty against tyranny and oppression. It was at Bunker Hill that the Americans first dared in a regular fight to brave the arms of their tyrants.”

Lafayette had maintained a friendship with John Adams and refused to leave Boston without visiting his old friend. On August 29, he set out for Quincy. The first thing Levasseur noticed was the simplicity of the Adams residence: “Our carriages stopped at the door of a very simple small house, built of wood and brick, and but one story high. I was somewhat astonished to learn that this was the residence of an Ex-President of the United States....During the whole of dinner time, he kept up the conversation with an ease and readiness of memory, which made us forget his 89 years.” Adams was very pleased to hear about the gratitude of his fellow citizens towards Lafayette. The next day, Lafayette left for New Hampshire.

After nine months visiting America, Lafayette returned to Boston on June 15, 1825. His return was met with sadness as Lafayette learned that his two good friends, Governors Brooks and Eustis had passed during his absence. Levasseur commented that these two companions had “seen our old general - we have lived long enough.” Lafayette was received at the State House where Governor Lincoln, the Senate, House of Representatives, and civil authorities were assembled to greet him. The Governor “rose, and in the name of the State of Massachusetts congratulated the Guest of the Nation on the termination of his long journey.”

According to Levasseur, “The sun of the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill rose in full radiance.” At ten o’clock, 2,000 Freemasons, sixteen companies of volunteer infantry, and a corps of cavalry assembled in front of the State House and marched to escort General Lafayette. The procession, numbering over 7,000, proceeded “to the sound of music and bells, in the midst of 200,000 citizens, collected from all states of the Union.” At the site of the monument, invited guests were seated. The survivors of Bunker Hill formed a small group and before them, in a chair, was “the only surviving general of the Revolution.” General Lafayette, being a Grand Master of the Masonic order, had been called upon to lay the cornerstone of the monument. After Daniel Webster’s oration, a banquet was held at the site. Lafayette rose to thank those for erecting the monument and concluded by offering a toast. Bunker Hill, “that holy resistance to oppression, which has already disenthralled the American hemisphere. The anniversary toast at the jubilee of the next half century will be, to Europe freed.”



*Lafayette laying the cornerstone at the Bunker Hill Monument*

Lafayette remained a few more days in Boston which included one last visit to his old friend, John Adams. On his way to New Hampshire and Maine, he stopped by Reading, the one-time hometown of his old friend Governor Brooks, and was treated to a celebratory luncheon at Skinner's Tavern.

Thus, the General left Boston for a final time with vivid memories of the population's appreciation for his service during America's quest for freedom.

### **About the Author**

Peter Maguire is a resident of Reading, Massachusetts and is a retired school administrator. Peter holds a master's degree in history from the University of Connecticut. In retirement, Peter was an educational volunteer for the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. Presently, Peter serves as both a tour guide and Secretary of the Doric Docents organization at the Massachusetts State House.

## How Lafayette's Reception on his Farewell Tour was Reported in London

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

On Sunday, August 15, 1824, Lafayette landed at Staten Island on the packet ship *Cadmus* as a "Guest of the Nation" to start his grand tour of the United States. During his entry parade into New York City the next day, the streets were lined with upwards of 50,000 cheering spectators (one-third of the population of the city). He was the rock star of the age as Sarah Vowell, author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, described his entry. This warm welcome continued throughout his 13-month 24-state tour. In the words of biographer Henry Dwight Sedgwick, "All the way was like the trail of a comet." The "Hero of Two Worlds" tour, however, was reported and interpreted in a London newspaper quite differently.

The following is a transcript of a London paper of the tour with original early 19<sup>th</sup> Century punctuation, grammar, italics and spelling, such as the "Order of the Garter." The Holy Alliance in the paper refers to the coalition linking the monarchist great powers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia. It was created after the final defeat of Napoleon and signed in Paris on September 26, 1815. The London report is ironic, but apparently more favorable to Lafayette than reports in other newspapers in Holy Alliance countries.



Commemorative plate showing the "Landing of Gen La Fayette" in New York in 1824  
The plate is in the DAR Collection, Washington, D.C.

The *Niles Weekly Register* was a nationally circulated weekly magazine published in Baltimore by Hezekiah Niles from 1811-1848.

*Niles' Weekly Register* Third Series Vol III (No.10) Baltimore, 6 November 1824, page 147: "It seems right that the following from a London paper, should be inserted. It is indeed in opposition to the language of the 'Courier' and other *holy alliance* newspapers, and will serve to shew that there are some in Europe who can estimate our proceedings as they should ---"

***La Fayette.*** We would not compare La Fayette's reception in American to the visit of his majesty to Ireland, because the Irish were grateful by anticipation, and the Americans by recollection: and every one knows that the expectation of favors to come is the warmest and most uproarious sort of gratitude.

Neither could we compare it to the duke of Buckingham's tour, in which he has 'honored the Western Isles by his presence' --- as it is written in the Scotch and English papers --- because La Fayette is not so great a man as the duke, having never been any thing more than a marquis --- a title which he has renounced (no doubt, because he did not feel himself worthy of it), never having been a knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, nor proprietor of boroughs, nor the patriarch of a tribe of place holders, nor any thing more than an honest, able and courageous man, who from youth to age has devoted himself steadily to what he conceives to be the improvement of mankind, spending fortune, health, comfort, ease, and receiving nothing in return but the approbation of his conscience, and of those who think well of him --- sowing and reaping not: a course of conduct very abhorrent from the notion of greatness.

Still, in his little way, La Fayette may be proud of his reception in America. Nearly fifty years ago, when a young man, he devoted himself, with his fortune, to the cause of American Independence. He now sees America independent, increased six fold in population and ten fold in wealth and power, and, though possessing what is, by the best authorities in this country, called 'no government,' or 'absurdity,' in fact, governing herself, yet fond, as Shakespeare expresses it, 'of her most filthy bargain.'

He is received now by the venerable survivors of those who fought with him --- the men who have made a small colony a great, and, as he and they imagine, a well constituted state.

It would have been much *greater* in La Fayette to have done much less for America, and to have done more for himself: he might then have had the satisfaction of being envied by a number of his hirelings instead of grateful freeman; he might have been covered with ribbons and contempt, and all titles, except that of the world's respect, and might have left a huge fortune to be dissipated or increased by a son as worthless as the father, and have been lauded by all the loyal journals throughout Europe.



*Lafayette and the National Guard*, by Ken Riley

Lafayette greets the militia (2d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> New York Artillery) on July 14, 1825. This unit had decided to adopt the title “National Guard” in honor of Lafayette’s celebrated *Garde Nationale de Paris*. “National Guard” was to become the name of the US militia.

## **What's in a Name?**

### **Lafayette Square in Haverhill, Massachusetts** <sup>1</sup>

by Todd F. Prough, PhD

George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, their names are synonymous with the American Revolution. Many New Englanders played pivotal roles in the War of Independence, among them Henry Knox, Paul Revere, Nathanael Greene, Ethan Allen, Israel Putnam, John Stark, and even the much-reviled Benedict Arnold. However, colonists were not the only ones who joined the struggle for liberty. They received direct military assistance from foreigners like the German Baron von Steuben, known as the “Drillmaster of Valley Forge;” Tadeusz Kosciuszko, the engineer from Poland; and probably the most well-known, the Frenchman, the Marquis de Lafayette.

Lafayette was born on September 6, 1757 in south-central France. Born into a wealthy military family, Lafayette joined the King's Musketeers at the age of fourteen. By late 1775, Lafayette had heard tales of the defiant Americans and their resistance at Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, and elsewhere. Imbued with a sense of liberty and the concomitant glory and excitement that would come with fighting for that ideal, Lafayette determined to travel to America to aid the rebel cause. In April 1777, using his own funds to purchase and provision a ship and a crew, Lafayette set sail for America.

By the time Lafayette landed in South Carolina in June 1777, the Americans had expelled the British from Boston, suffered the demoralizing blow of losing New York City, and had had successful forays into New Jersey at Trenton and Princeton. In July, Lafayette appeared before Congress in Philadelphia and received his commission as a major general in the Continental Army. Shortly thereafter, he met with Washington, with whom he forged a loyal and admiring relationship, and joined Washington's military staff.

Lafayette's idealism was confronted with the harsh realities of war during the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777. Washington's attempt to protect Philadelphia, the capital, was met with swift British resistance near the Brandywine River. The Continentals were outmaneuvered by the British, and during the ensuing retreat, Lafayette left his relatively protected post to turn the fleeing troops around to face the British and was shot through the leg. However, evidencing his bravery, he refused to be evacuated from the battlefield until he could oversee the safe removal of his troops. By the age of twenty his blood had been spilled for the American cause.



*Lafayette's Baptism of Fire*, print by E. Percy Moran, c.1909

Lafayette continued to serve nobly. In addition to relying on Lafayette's skills on the battlefield, Washington depended on Lafayette in the diplomatic arena. In early 1779, Lafayette returned to France to lobby King Louis XVI for financial and military aid for the Americans, including the use of the French navy and French land forces. In 1780, Lafayette's success brought him back to America. Five thousand French troops and a naval squadron eventually followed him and encamped in Newport, Rhode Island.

Upon his return to the colonies, Lafayette commanded troops in Virginia where, in mid-1781, he grappled with his nemesis from Brandywine, Lord Charles Cornwallis. By September 1781, Lafayette had Cornwallis's army cornered at Yorktown, Virginia, which is on a narrow strip of land jutting into the Chesapeake Bay. The arrival of the French West Indies fleet in the Chesapeake in late August and Washington's September arrival with French and American forces rendered Cornwallis's escape by sea or land impossible, and a siege ensued. Caught in the vice of troops and naval vessels, Cornwallis was forced to surrender on October 19, 1781, ending the last major battle of the war.

In December 1781, Lafayette departed for France from Boston on board a ship fittingly named *The Alliance*. Back in France, Lafayette worked with Thomas Jefferson and others to strengthen French-American relations. Fighting for freedom as he had, Lafayette became a proponent of abolition. He was appointed head of the National Guard of Paris and rescued the royal family from a mob during the French Revolution in 1789. For his efforts at trying to keep France from hemorrhaging during the revolution, the Jacobins banned him, and Lafayette fled over the northern border where the European monarchs rewarded him with a five-year stint in German and Austrian prisons. In 1797, his release was secured thanks to the intervention of Napoleon and several influential Americans. Lafayette returned to France, retired to La Grange, his wife Adrienne's family château east of Paris. He served in the Chamber of Deputies at various times after the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy.

In 1824, Lafayette accepted President James Monroe's invitation to visit the United States. He arrived in August with much fanfare to begin a grand thirteen-month tour of the then twenty-four states with his son, George Washington Lafayette; his valet; and his private secretary, Auguste Levasseur. A translation of Levasseur's journal by American Friends of Lafayette President Alan R. Hoffman provides a rich detailing of Lafayette's visit. Lafayette did not limit his excursion to urban centers or old battlefields to memorialize past deeds. Rather, he journeyed to areas in order to reciprocate the love and admiration he received from the American people, including those residing in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

On August 31, 1824, after spending several days in Boston giving speeches, attending parades, and visiting with the octogenarian John Adams, Lafayette and his entourage embarked for northern New England. North of Boston, they stopped briefly at Marblehead, Massachusetts where they heard speeches from schoolchildren expressing their admiration for the general. They continued on to Salem, Massachusetts where Lafayette's arrival was announced by booming cannons and clanging bells. According to Levasseur, "the streets were entirely filled with a throng which rushed headlong upon his passage, and which heaped benedictions upon him. We traversed the whole City at a walking pace in order to pass beneath a great number of triumphal arches which were decorated with emblems and inscriptions." After dining, imbibing, and cheering France, they departed for Newburyport, Massachusetts where they planned to rest for the night.

Despite arriving in Newburyport late in the evening, Lafayette was again greeted by throngs of well-wishers as he made his way to Tracy's Inn, where the group would stay the night. Levasseur wrote that the inn was of particular significance to Lafayette because it was where, "Washington stayed in 1789; the room which he stayed in had been preserved since that time with the greatest care; the furnishings had not been changed at all; and General Lafayette had the pleasure of resting in the same bed where, 35 years before, his paternal friend had rested."

The group departed the next morning to continue their tour for a brief stop in Portsmouth, New Hampshire before returning to Boston to resume their grand review of the remaining states. After a more than 5,000-mile whirlwind tour of America, Lafayette returned to Boston in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1825, where,

Levasseur wrote, “the joyous sounds of bells and artillery blasts greeted it with patriotic acclamations.” After the commemoration, Lafayette set out for the capitals of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont and a continuation of his distinguished tour of the states. On September 9, 1825, after much pomp and circumstance, Lafayette boarded the ship *The Brandywine* for his return to France.

Lafayette’s quest for liberty did not end upon his return home. He continued to advocate for democratic rule in France and played an important role in the Revolution of 1830. Much as he did for the Americans, he supported the rebels in Poland during their revolt against Russian despotism. This time, however, his assistance was limited to diplomatic and financial support, not military. A civil libertarian to the core, Lafayette persistently rallied for freedom for all persons, including the universal abolition of slavery. Lafayette continued to serve in the French parliament until his death from pneumonia on May 20, 1834. He was buried next to his wife Adrienne in a Parisian cemetery under dirt shipped over from Bunker Hill, fulfilling his desire to be buried in both French and American soil.

For those who had a role in the Revolution or who had felt its immediate impact, the significance of and admiration for Lafayette was easily understood. He was an individual who dismissed his provincial interests, left his motherland and wife and child, bargained with his fortune, and risked his life to fight for freedom. Americans paid tribute by christening counties, cities, streets, schools and parks in his name, including Fayetteville, North Carolina; Lafayette College in Pennsylvania; and Lafayette Square, just north of the White House. Additionally, Lafayette admiration societies sprung up around the country to promote the ideals and memory of the general.

One such group, known as the Lafayette Society, was formed in Haverhill, Massachusetts, a city of 65,000 people located 35 miles north of Boston on the New Hampshire border. In the early 1900s, plans were made to construct a fitting memorial to the general. As a result, Sargent Square was re-named Lafayette Square, and donations were sought to construct a monument in Lafayette’s honor. That goal was achieved on September 17, 1932. Contemporary accounts described a three-mile-long parade with bands, military companies, and city, state, and federal luminaries. The procession wound from Monument Square, past Bradford Common, across the Merrimack River, and ended at a review stand in Lafayette Square that was packed with 5,000 spectators surrounding a flag draped shrine. According to the *Haverhill Gazette*, city father James Boiselle laid the cornerstone to the monument and proclaimed, “May this memorial bear to all coming generations the message of devotion to liberty, and of sympathy and friendship between the beloved country of our forefathers, France, and the beloved country of our adoption, America.” Congressman A. Piatt Andrew paid homage by remarking that Lafayette’s, “sentiments, his personality, are interwoven into the very wool and fabric of our history. Few stories compare in romantic quality with the facts of the life of this young nobleman, whose soul was so inflamed by the news of the struggle of the American colonies for independence that he left wife and child, king and country,” to fight for liberty because it, “possessed his whole being, and was a light unto his pathway.” At the conclusion of the speeches, the brass band broke out into “Hail Columbia” as the flag was removed to reveal an equestrian statute of Lafayette with the inscription:

HE GAVE THE ILLUSTRIOUS SERVICE OF HIS YOUTH TO THE  
ACHIEVEMENT OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE; THE DEVOTION  
OF HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY <sup>2</sup>



For over seventy years, because of its prominence in the heart of Lafayette Square, motorists and passers-by were forced to look upon the statute of Lafayette, sitting astride his mount, facing east towards his beloved France, with his hat aloft in a gesture of warm regard, with either acknowledgement of who he was and the value of his sacrifices, or in wonderment of what the rider must have accomplished to merit such a tribute in the middle of a city intersection. However, in recent years, with the removal of the traffic rotary in Lafayette Square, for reasons of safety, the statute has been relegated to the sidewalk, out of the direct view of the cars and pedestrians that whisk by daily. The figure of a man dressed in eighteenth century military garb sitting atop a horse seems slightly anachronistic wedged in front of a convenience store.

As we approach the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British surrender at Yorktown this October, now may be the time to pull Lafayette from the periphery of the public's esteem back into the center of attention, where he has certainly earned his place. Honoring Lafayette not only honors the man who fought for freedom, but also the idea of freedom; that freedom is not free, but it transcends geography, citizenship, language, and other characteristics that may otherwise work to keep people or nations apart. Lafayette said it best when, during the Bunker Hill memorial in 1825, he spoke of fighting for freedom which, "some alleged sages of that era called *imprudence*, although resistance was a duty and a virtue and it has been the signal for the emancipation of the human race."



### **Editor's Note**

In 2004, on a hot August day, over 100°F as I recall, I attended a ceremony for the reinstallation of the Lafayette statue in Haverhill. The streets were closed to traffic, folding chairs were in place, and the high school band performed. A local official spoke about the French community's involvement in the original funding and placement of the statue in the traffic circle in the 1930s. Looking at the statue in its new somewhat incongruous location, he remarked with some passion, "It's not where you stand that counts; it's what you stand for!"

On March 29, 2021, I travelled from my home in New Hampshire to photograph the Lafayette Statue in its current location. I parked at a CVS which was at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Lafayette Square. After the photoshoot, I made a purchase at the drug store and commented to the clerk that the store was at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Lafayette Square and the statue was visible from the parking lot. She said, "You mean the statue

of the horse?” I said, “Well, the horse and his rider.” Her response was, “Yes! The horse with the man on him.” . . . We have a lot of work to do in northern Essex County. In any event, she recalled the day of the inauguration of the statue in its present location and said that she liked the prior location a lot better.

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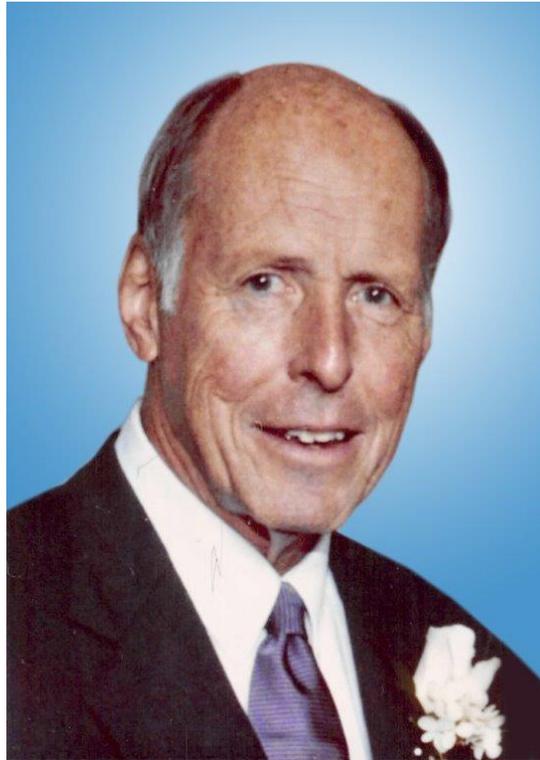
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<sup>1</sup> This is an updated version of an article written by the author that appeared in the *Haverhill Gazette* on September 28, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> This version by Italian sculptor Arnaldo Zocchi is a twin of a statute by Arnaldo and his father, Emilio, that sits in Fall River, Massachusetts.

***In Memoriam***  
**Allan Price Kirby, Jr., 1931–2020**



Allan Price Kirby, Jr., 89, passed away peacefully at his home in Mendham, New Jersey on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Mr. Kirby was a friend and benefactor of The American Friends of Lafayette for many years.

Mr. Kirby received the Lafayette Liberty Award at our Society's 70<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held at Lafayette College in 2002. The award was presented by AFL's President, Dr. Robert Rhodes Crout, who lauded Mr. Kirby's loyalty and generosity to the Society. In the next issue of the *AFL Gazette*, President Emeritus and *Gazette* Editor Leonard Pannagio wrote about Mr. Kirby's acceptance of the award in which he spoke powerfully about Lafayette's devotion to the ideal of Liberty, which, Mr. Kirby opined, succeeding generations of Americans should learn and heed for the sake of their nation.

Mr. Kirby attended Lafayette College and graduated in the class of 1953. While at Lafayette, he excelled in athletics and was a member of the Knights of the Round Table and Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He would remain devoted to and supportive of his alma mater throughout his life, and honored his father, Allan P. Kirby '15, by establishing the Kirby Art Study Center.

Soon after graduation from Lafayette, Mr. Kirby completed his Naval Reserve Officer Candidate School and served a tour of active duty on the USS *Winston*. Later, he and his wife Shelby established their home in Madison, New Jersey where they would raise their five children.

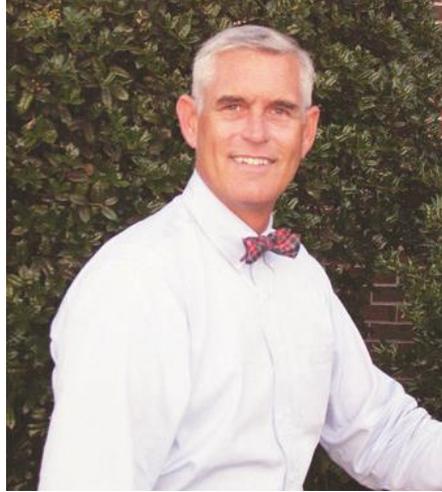
Mr. Kirby was an entrepreneur and well-respected philanthropist involved in numerous professional and philanthropic endeavors. His business career began at Reynolds & Company, Manufacturers Trust Company, and Liberty Square, Inc., a real estate investment company for which he was President. He also served as President of the Board and Trustees of the Morristown School, Trustee of Fred M. and Jessie A. Kirby Episcopal House, Inc., Chairman of the Executive Committee of Investors Diversified Services, Inc., and Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alleghany Corporation.

Mr. Kirby also served as a Trustee and Treasurer of the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Memorial Health Center. He chaired the A.P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation and the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes University, which promotes the firm belief that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness envisioned by the founders of the United States of America may be achieved, protected, and perpetuated through the free enterprise system and the active encouragement of entrepreneurship.

Mr. Kirby had a steadfast commitment to serving his community and country. His unwavering loyal and fierce patriotic spirit contributed to him establishing the Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C. in association with Hillsdale College.

Allan Price Kirby, Jr. is remembered by family, friends, and colleagues as a private, humble, and extraordinary ordinary gentleman respected by many, whose generosity and beneficence were not always disclosed. He is survived by his daughter, Jessie Kirby Lee, of Mountain Lakes, New Jersey; his sons, Allan P. Kirby III, of Morristown, New Jersey; Slater B. Kirby and his wife, Elizabeth, of Southport, Connecticut; Coray S. Kirby and his wife, Cynthia, of Newton, New Jersey; and Milan S. Kirby and his wife, Elizabeth, of Morristown. He was the proud grandfather of sixteen grandchildren.

*In Memoriam*  
**Philip Marion Bowditch**  
by Chuck Schwam



Our friend Phil Bowditch passed away on February 22, 2021. Just shy of his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday, Phil departed after a courageous battle with lymphoma cancer. Phil was the son of Willits Henry Bowditch and Marian Hornsby Bowditch. Although not a member of the AFL, Phil was always a fixture on Yorktown Day, specifically at the AFL cocktail parties. Phil could not be missed with his 6'6" tall frame, good looks, wonderful demeanor, and his ever-present bow tie. He epitomized the term "Southern Gentleman" through and through.

Phil's brother, AFL member Dave Bowditch, is very active in our organization. Dave and his wife René host many functions for the AFL at the Hornsby House Inn, including an upcoming dinner on June 12 during our 2021 annual meeting weekend. We will observe a moment of silence at this event in memory of Dave's brother Phil.

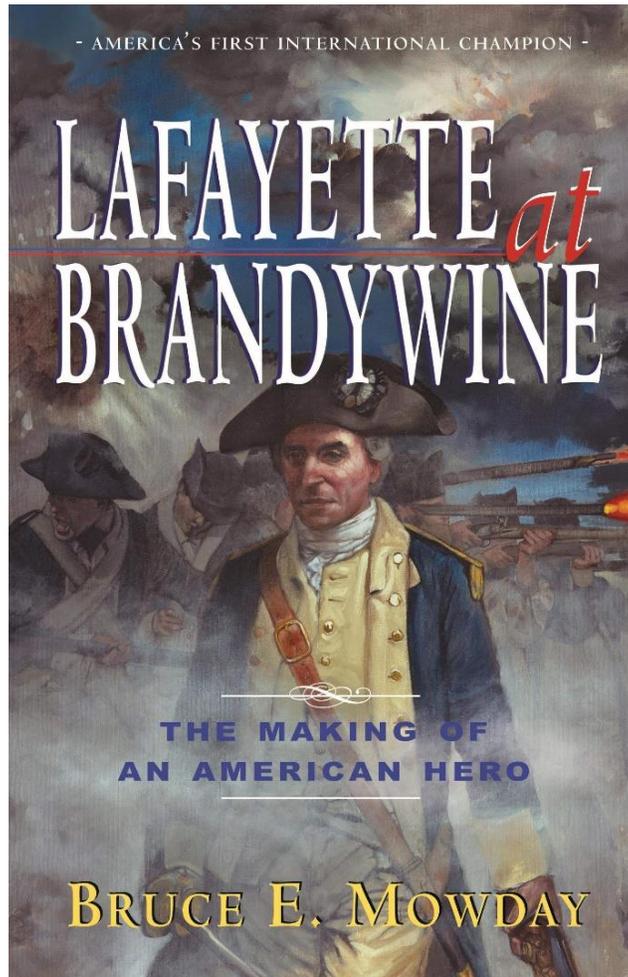
Phil and Dave turned their three-generation family home into a bed and breakfast in 2009. They both had worked tirelessly the previous year to convert the colonial-style home into a beautiful bed and breakfast facility. Now, the Hornsby House Inn has become the epicenter of socialization and hospitality within the Yorktown Village community.



Phil and Dave Bowditch in front of the Hornsby House Inn

## *Lafayette at Brandywine*

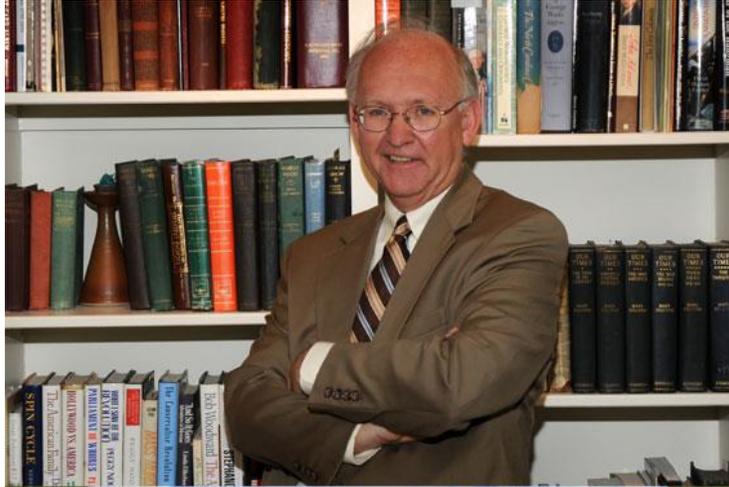
A book by AFL Member Bruce E. Mowday  
by Chuck Schwam



AFL member Bruce Mowday has written a book titled *Lafayette at Brandywine*. The book is scheduled to be released in October, and we hope to have Bruce present the book to us in Yorktown that month. I was afforded an advance copy of the book and I must say, it is wonderful. We will review the book in our next issue of the *Gazette*.

The American Friends of Lafayette played an important role in assisting Bruce with *Lafayette at Brandywine*. We can start with the cover itself (above). Artist Adrian Martinez did a magnificent job on it. Do you recognize Lafayette? That is none other than AFL member (and Lafayette interpreter) Ben Goldman.

President Alan Hoffman played an important role by reading the entire manuscript and suggesting edits. AFL Social Media Coordinator Mackenzie Fowler used her skills to help Bruce Mowday track down many historical facts. Diane Shaw consulted on Lafayette as an abolitionist, while Julien Icher answered queries regarding the Farewell Tour. President Emeritus Robert Crout's help was called upon as well. AFL member Kim Burdick at the Hale-Byrnes House played an integral part, helping with her extensive knowledge of the Brandywine River area.



Author Bruce Mowday

AFL Treasurer, Chuck Schwam was given the significant honor of writing the forward for the book, and we thought it might be interesting for you to read it a few months before the public does. Here is the forward for *Lafayette at Brandywine*:

### Forward

It is probably true that every author has at least one ideal reader in mind as he or she writes. For Bruce Mowday it was me. As I have been a “Lafayette-ist” for over a dozen years now, this book spoke to me in a way no other book has. It is not simply a biography or a description of events, but a detailed explanation of the genesis of Lafayette’s ascent to hero status.

It was enthusiasm that brought Bruce Mowday and me together. At first it was Lafayette’s enthusiasm that brought us separately to him. Then it was our joint enthusiasm for Lafayette that brought us together. After our first conversation, Bruce Mowday quickly became a member of the American Friends of Lafayette. It was like two kids realizing they both adored the same superhero.

This book certainly goes a long way in fulfilling our common goal: making sure that Americans understand that Lafayette and the Franco-American alliance were indispensable components of ensuring the United States’ independence from England. Sharing Lafayette’s legacy with the general public is a top priority of the American Friends of Lafayette. This extraordinary book clearly proves that Bruce has the same goal.

*Lafayette at Brandywine* does a perfect job of helping us understand what motivated a “Boy General” to put himself in harm’s way at his very first battle. He did not stay on the sidelines like most aristocrats of the day but went where musket balls and artillery fire whizzed by him. Not because he was told to be in the “thick of it,” but because he chose to be.

“Lafayette-ists” like me take great pride in the Battle of Brandywine. This is where our hero was born. This is where he legitimized himself at a mere twenty years of age. This baptism by fire is the start of fifty-seven years of involvement. Lafayette was never idle. Until his death, Lafayette was always involved in some way...for some cause.

However, *Lafayette at Brandywine* goes beyond the events of September 11, 1777. Bruce Mowday sets the stage perfectly. He helps us understand what led Lafayette to that fateful day. He also summarizes the events afterward deftly and succinctly. Like Lafayette, Bruce Mowday does this fearlessly. A complete biography of Lafayette would take many volumes (as most historians have figured out).

I am asked about Lafayette films quite often. My answer is that it would be impossible to cover his long, complicated, and fascinating life in a two-hour movie format. Maybe a ten-part mini-series could capture it all. *Lafayette at Brandywine* provides its readers with both detailed descriptions and broad overviews. The images at Brandywine that Bruce Mowday conjures up in the reader’s mind play out like a movie. Firsthand accounts place us in the middle of the action. The chapters leading up to the battle and the subsequent post-battle chapters round out his life like a mini-series might.

As I read chapter eight (“A Hero is Born”), I came upon a phrase that gave me goosebumps: “As Lafayette’s blood mingled with American soil.” Could this be the exact moment? Not in Silas Deane’s office, not on *La Victoire*, but here? Did Lafayette realize at that moment, as his boot was filling with blood, that he had found his purpose? As his blood seeped into the Pennsylvania battlefield, his fate was sealed, and a hero was born.

Sure, Lafayette was seeking glory, and possibly revenge, but certainly not riches. This book reinforces the notion that Lafayette’s enthusiasm was selfless. Major General Nathaniel Greene characterized Lafayette as having “noble enthusiasm.” I wholeheartedly agree with the great Revolutionary War General, who was not insinuating an aristocratic attitude, but rather an honorable one.

I would add that Lafayette’s enthusiasm was simply pure, just as Bruce Mowday highlighted perfectly in this book. Lafayette brought the purest enthusiasm with him in 1777 and, thankfully for the United States, just in the nick of time.

Chuck Schwam  
American Friends of Lafayette  
March 17, 2021

# Pierre Antoine, Marquis de Chambrun

by Joyce Good



Pierre Antoine today

The first time I met Pierre Antoine, Marquis de Chambrun was in 2007 at the American Club of Paris. I was on the Events Committee, and it was my suggestion to have a descendant of Lafayette come and speak to the Club. I was a bit miffed at the time, because I had wanted my friend, Gilbert de Pusy de La Fayette, to be the speaker. However, the President of ACP chose Pierre Antoine, who was her friend. Nevertheless, I must say it was a good choice. I always remember his presentation in which he told us that Louis XVI literally put his head on the chopping block when he sent soldiers to help us fight in the American Revolution, thereby depleting the coffers of France, which led to the French Revolution and thus the loss of his head. We so seldom give appreciation for what Louis XVI did for us.

After that I put Pierre Antoine on my “blind copy Lafayette list,” sending him, along with others, all the Lafayette information I collected along the way, including AFL news, Château de Chavaniac, Lafayette Escadrille, Picpus, *Hermione*, etc. He was one of the few who answered my emails often with many thoughtful remarks and photos of the Chambrun family’s connection to Lafayette. During the lockdown, I have been working weekly to help Pierre Antoine translate a book about his life, but for the moment he has decided not to publish it. I was amazed at how open and honest he was with me, even when I asked some very difficult and personal questions.

Although Pierre Antoine was born in Lozère in 1939, his father, having certain visual and hearing impairments, could not do his military service in WWII. Therefore, he evacuated his family to Lisbon, then to the United States in 1941. Pierre's mother told him before dying that he was on FDR's knee when he was only two years old. He was later baptized in St. Peter's Church in New York. However, he remembers being in Palm Beach, Florida during a hurricane with the house totally flooded. He lived in the US during WWII and came back to France to live with his grandfather in Lozère in 1947.



As a paratrooper in 1962

The Chambruns, an old aristocratic family, date back to 1450 with Scottish origins. A knight named Picton (changed later in France to Pineton) was the head of the Scottish guard for the King of England and King of France (Henri V and Henri VI). Picton married a lady Chambrun being the last of her family to carry the Chambrun name, thus authorizing Picton to take the Chambrun name. Another ancestor, Pierre de Chambrun, was the doctor of Henri IV, King of France.

In 1859, Charles Adolphe de Chambrun married Marthe Tircuy de Corcelle, the granddaughter of Virginie, the youngest daughter of Lafayette. Charles Adolphe, being a close friend of President and Mrs. Lincoln, had actually been invited to watch *Our American Cousin* in the presidential box at Ford's Theater the night Lincoln was assassinated. As Charles Adolphe would never attend any entertainment on Good Friday, he declined the invitation. He was informed later that evening of Lincoln's assassination.

The Chambrun family have always had close ties to the American government. Charles Adolphe and Marthe had three sons, Pierre, Aldebert, and Charles. Pierre, Pierre Antoine's grandfather, became a Senator, Aldebert became a General, and Charles became an Ambassador.

Pierre and Aldebert both married into the Longworth family, a wealthy family from Cincinnati, Ohio. Their brother-in-law, Nicolas Longworth III, was the Speaker of the House in Congress, and was married to Alice Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's daughter.

During WWI on April 15, 1917, Pierre Antoine's grandfather, Pierre, Marquis de Chambrun, joined Maréchal Joffre on an official mission to the US to determine precisely the military assistance needed for the American entry into the war against Germany which had occurred just eight days before.

Later in WWII, Pierre Antoine's father, Jean-Pierre, gave the US Navy highly important information about the German plans concerning their pig boats (submarines) and landing of German spies in Florida in case of war.

His second cousin, General de Chambrun's son, René de Chambrun, a captain in the French army, went to Washington D.C. on June 17, 1940 after the defeat in Dunkirk to convince FDR to supply England with all the US military equipment requested by his father in November 1939, but not yet delivered, to help the United Kingdom fight the Nazis. When FDR had asked General de Chambrun, "Are you going to win this war?" the General replied, "It very much depends on *you*."

Much has been said about René de Chambrun being well-known by Maréchal Pétain. Yet Pierre Antoine remembers going to his office on the Champs Elysées after the war, when René had become a very successful international lawyer, having had Coco Chanel as his first client when she tried to get back her patent for Chanel N° 5. An interesting footnote to all this is about the Château de La Grange where Lafayette spent the last 32 years of his life. In 1935, it belonged to Louis de Lasteyrie, a descendant of Louis de Lasteyrie and Virginie de Lafayette. For his marriage to Josée Laval, René de Chambrun bought it with a usufruct covenant (life tenancy) giving Louis de Lasteyrie, who had no children, the right to live there until he died. As a result, La Grange remained in the Lafayette family. Josée never liked Pierre Antoine's side of the family because his grandfather, Pierre, was a Senator in 1940 who voted against giving full power to Pétain. Josée and René dedicated the rest of their lives to restoring Château de la Grange which you can now visit only by writing a letter to the Josée and René de Chambrun Foundation.

Pierre Antoine, who grew up in Paris, did his military service as a non-commissioned officer paratrooper in Pau and even obtained a pilot's license. Having finished his 18-month military duty in the French army, he thought about asking for US citizenship under the Maryland Constitution that provides citizenship to all male heirs of Lafayette. Unfortunately, it was at the time of the Vietnam War, so he decided not to do it or otherwise he would have been sent to Vietnam, as the US embassy in Paris warned him. However, his father did obtain US citizenship, but that was long before.

In 1970 he actually lived on Place des États-Unis with a view of Bartholdi's Washington and Lafayette statue from his living room window. It must have been very inspiring to see this statue every day. Later he was sent to Bahrain for a while when he was working for B.A.I.I., an international investment bank.



The view of Lafayette and Washington from Pierre Antoine Chambrun's window on Place des États-Unis

He bought le Moulin de l'Isle (the Mill house) in 1973 and is very proud to have installed a turbine generator in 1979 to produce enough electricity and heat for the entire house (long before it became the fashion). In 1980, he married Vera Ann Christine Gullerud, a very talented nurse of Sophiahemmet Hospital, who had left Stockholm to become a top fashion model for Yves Saint Laurent. Their daughter, Clara de Chambrun has been a transactional and litigation attorney at the Paris Bar since 2010. Her practice focuses on family law and estate planning.

The last time Pierre went to the US, in 2001, was to raise funds to have Louis XVII's heart reunited with his parents, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, at the Basilica of Saint-Denis. Louis XVII died in prison at the age of ten on June 8, 1795. In a bizarre story, one of the doctors who performed the autopsy on Louis' body slipped his heart into his pocket. The heart was found many years later and finally authenticated by DNA and reunited with his parents on June 8, 2004 at the Basilica of Saint-Denis. Twenty thousand people attended the burial ceremony, including members of the Society of the Cincinnati and Buzz Aldrin.

In 2013, Pierre Antoine was instrumental in having the 12-meter-high statue "L'Envol" ("The Flight," made by the sculptor Paul Landowsky and given in 1919 by Americans as a tribute to the Wright brothers), erected on an island in the Sarthe river at le Mans. This represents the first flight in Europe of a US plane (The Flyer III) which took place near Le Mans in 1908. (Lafayette, himself was a député of the Sarthe county in 1818).

Pierre Antoine would like us to know that he feels he has spent all his life supporting the US, and doing whatever possible to help us, especially during the Cold War. I must say, now knowing him better, I wholeheartedly agree.

## Member Profile

by Paul Higgins

My affiliation with Lafayette, and the AFL, began in 1989 when I received orders to be the Commanding Officer of USS *Lafayette* (SSBN 616). The *Lafayette* was the lead ship in a class of strategic ballistic missile submarines. We connected with the AFL via Len and Monique Panaggio. They invited us to become members that year at a cocktail party they hosted at their Newport, Rhode Island home. What a wonderful couple they were!



*USS Lafayette*

My Naval career and my follow-on career precluded much interaction with the AFL until I fully retired. Nevertheless, in the ensuing years we enjoyed several memorable moments with the AFL, including a great 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration for Lafayette at Lafayette College in 2007. The presentations, meals, and keynote speech by author David McCullough were great, but what made the trip extra memorable was an impromptu sing-a-long with Carmino Ravosa, an AFL member and composer.

My mother and father, and my mother-in-law accompanied us to Lafayette College that weekend. No one loved a party more than those three! At one point, Carmino was sitting at the piano tinkling the keys. My mom and my mother-in-law were leaning on the piano - cocktails in hand - talking and laughing. Carmino said, "Ladies I'm composing a song about Lafayette," and he started to play it. Our mothers enthusiastically joined in on the chorus. This very song

prefigured the hit song “Guns and Ships” about Lafayette in the wildly popular play, *Hamilton*. It still makes me smile when I recall that moment.

I grew up in Massapequa Park, New York. Upon graduation from Archbishop Molloy High School, I attended the US Naval Academy. I met Mary Liz, my future wife, while at Annapolis, and we were married shortly after her graduation from Cabrini College.

My time in the Navy included nuclear power qualifications, progressively senior assignments on five different nuclear-powered submarines, and shore duty assignments in Virginia, Connecticut, California, and Naples, Italy. I had command of USS *Guardfish* (a fast attack nuclear submarine) as well as command of the USS *Lafayette*.

Mary Liz and I loved the opportunity to live on both coasts (several times) as well as in Naples, Italy. The moves, though sometimes inconvenient, were packed with new experiences and truly opened new worlds to us.



*Paul Higgins at Williamsburg*

Our two daughters (one born in San Diego, California, one in Hampton, Virginia) moved so often during their school years that they had trouble answering the “where are you from?” question. The “school hopping” did not hurt them. Both girls have gone on to highly successful careers. Our family has expanded over the years. We have acquired 2 sons-in-law and 4 1/2 grandchildren.



After retiring from the Navy, I joined Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a division of Battelle Memorial Institute. I was a program manager for work done supporting the US intelligence community for 23 years.

In 2019 I fully retired. Hey, it was time. We have had the luxury of enjoying and helping our families near and far, particularly our very busy daughters. Mary Liz and I have become avid Bridge players (online only during Covid). It helps keep the grey matter moving. Reading, golf, and involvement with the AFL were all on my bucket list in retirement; and so, it has been good to see these retirement dreams finally come home!

## My Connection with Lafayette

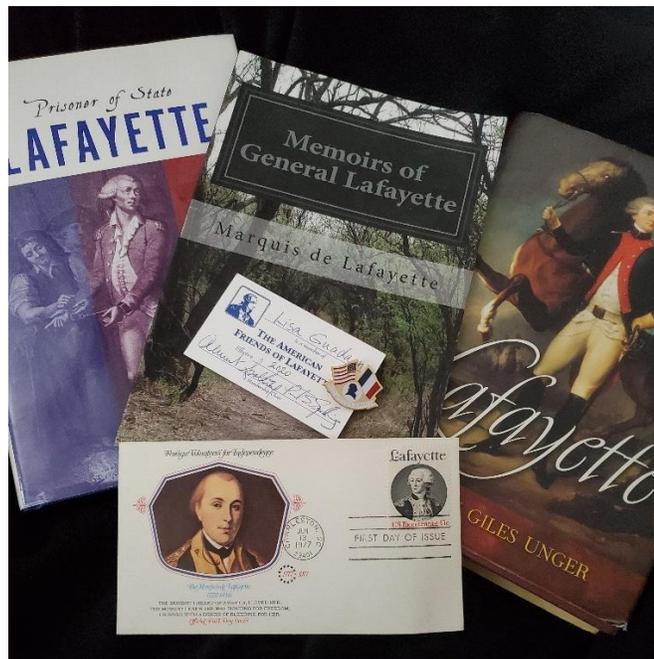
by Lisa Guadagno

Lafayette has been a part of my life since I encountered him in my seventh-grade history class. Although I now live in New York City, I grew up in two historical towns in Connecticut, Southbury and Woodbury. In Southbury, I lived down the block from where Rochambeau and his troops marched through on the route to Yorktown.

Of course, I attended the Rochambeau Middle School in Southbury. It was there in history class that I learned about the Revolutionary War for the first time. We learned about all the generals, but the one who stood out to me was Lafayette. We learned about the friendships he made with the colonists and how he had come to America to seek freedom for them. He was different from the other generals and soldiers, since he was only a teenager and already had a military career. To me, his being so different was intriguing, and I decided to study more about him.

I saw him on my favorite TV show on Saturday mornings, *Liberty's Kids*. I bought my first book about Lafayette when I was still in middle school, Harlow Giles Unger's *Lafayette*. Although I didn't understand most of it at the time, I recall looking at Lafayette's picture on the jacket and thinking, "He's so cool!" As I got older, I reread Unger's book and learned more about Lafayette's fascinating life.

I continued to read about Lafayette and became more knowledgeable. I started collecting plates and other items relating to Lafayette. I even dug up some dirt from Bunker Hill because soil from Bunker Hill was sprinkled on his grave in Paris. My prized possession is a Farewell Tour ribbon with Lafayette's face on it. Holding it has brought me to tears.



History was for a period of time an important part of my life. I participated in Connecticut's National History Day in 2007 and won first place at the New Haven Regionals. In 2008, I won second place.



Then, for a while in high school, I moved on to other subjects, especially art, but my love for Lafayette never ended as I continued to read about him and collect memorabilia. I even applied to Lafayette College, but chose art school instead. At that time, I did not want to become a historian – I actually found history boring.

However, when I visited Boston for the first time and saw John Hancock's outfit in a glass case, I cried. I knew at that time that history was part of me, and I wanted to study it as a career. I am currently studying history at Southern New Hampshire University online – history with a concentration on the American Revolution, and of course, Lafayette. I am also pursuing a career as a phlebotomist.

Living in New York is not ideal for American Revolution studies, since the two great museums are in Philadelphia and Yorktown, Virginia. However, I look for exhibits on the Revolution in New York museums. Fraunces Tavern had a Lafayette exhibit. My visit there was one of the best days of my life. On seeing the sash that contained Lafayette's blood from his wound at the Battle of Brandywine, I teared up again. I regret not taking a picture, since you never know when this item will be exhibited again.

In conclusion, Lafayette has changed my life and the way I view history. Among his values that I follow is his motto, *Cur Non*. Why not study to be a historian and be in a medical field?

I am now 27 and have a long way to go before I obtain a master's degree in history, which is my goal. I would love to write a book about the friendships and connections that Lafayette made in the Revolutionary War and how they impacted his later life. That way, I will continue to share his legacy with others in the future.

## Shake My Hand

by Joan Winder

“Shake my hand. You just shook the hand of the man who went to the hundredth birthday party of a woman who saw General Lafayette.”

I imagine it's not a very unique story, but it's the reason I became intrigued with Lafayette over thirty years ago when I heard those words and contemplated the unfathomable concept—that there existed only two people between the Marquis and my toddlers. That is how every visit began with my husband's grandfather, G. Philip Winder.

It was a ritual. Pa, as we called him, extending his hand, his eighty-year-old frame bending to meet his two small great-granddaughters. The girls dutifully extended their little hands on cue, at first hesitantly, cautiously, but as they grew older the familiar greeting was met with shy giggles and a glimmer of understanding. As I remember it, these exchanges were never followed with much conversation or requests for details. It was simply a given.

Pa was not very expressive or emotional. He was very reserved and a little hard to get to know, but he had an incredible memory. He could tell you exactly what time of day he had each subject in school, and recount the entire plot with character descriptions of his favorite book, *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Too bad we didn't pump him for more information about the party!

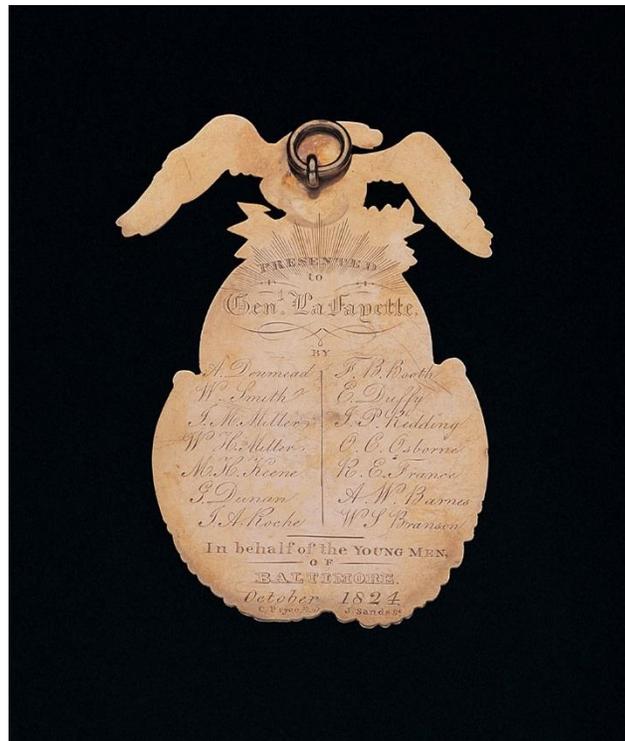
The birthday girl was born in 1817 in Baltimore, Maryland. Her name was Eliza Ann Green, and she was Pa's great-great-grandmother. We don't know exactly when or where she saw Lafayette, but it is probably a safe assumption that the seven-year-old was among the huge crowd that greeted him in Baltimore during his Farewell Tour in October 1824 or in January 1825. Details of Eliza's life are elusive, with census records having her moving between Baltimore and Accomack County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia where she lived after marrying James Broughton. She returned to Baltimore after her husband's death, but in 1916 at the age of 99 we find her back on the Eastern Shore living at The Arlington Inn in Cape Charles, Virginia. On October 30, 1916 she penned a rather sad and poignant letter to her great-granddaughter, Carrie (Pa's mother) on the hotel's stationery, "...well I will send you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgotten you, so there are not many minutes through the day that I am not thinking of my loved ones...I dislike writing so much and I have nothing to write about but myself so you need not expect me to write to you but seldom." She would move back to Baltimore County with her daughter a few months later.

In March 1917 she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a very special party, and 12-year-old Philip Winder was there for the celebration. Carrie would later write, "Eliza Ann Green Broughton died at the age of one hundred and one years, two months and seventeenth [sic] days on June 15, 1918."

The stories of people who greeted Lafayette during his Farewell Tour of 1824-25 are undoubtedly numerous. Those who saw him became a source of family pride for generations. How many descendants inextricably tied their ancestor's name to this beloved Frenchman? After seven generations, Eliza Ann Green Broughton would simply be known as the "woman who saw Lafayette." But Eliza Green was more than just a name. My husband's grandfather was our link to her, and his appreciation for his once-removed connection to Lafayette overcame his reserved nature to impart that sense of awe to his great-grandchildren. The Lafayette link was unbroken with the ritual of those handshakes, and what made this so impressive, at least to us, was that Pa actually *knew* "the woman who saw Lafayette" – one person between Pa and the Marquis, two between the Marquis and my daughters! At least that's how we look at it.

G. Philip Winder was 94 in April 2000 and no longer living independently. When my husband and I visited him that month, he talked about how he longed to go out to dinner again. I, particularly, was determined to honor this request so we made it happen. Afterward Pa wanted to ride around to see his town once more. He pointed out familiar places with great interest and then asked us to slow down. Much to our surprise and delight, he pointed to the house on Joppa Road where he attended that memorable 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, saying "that's the house, I remember the picture window."

It was a sweet moment. Pa died two weeks later. As so often happens, I wish I knew more.

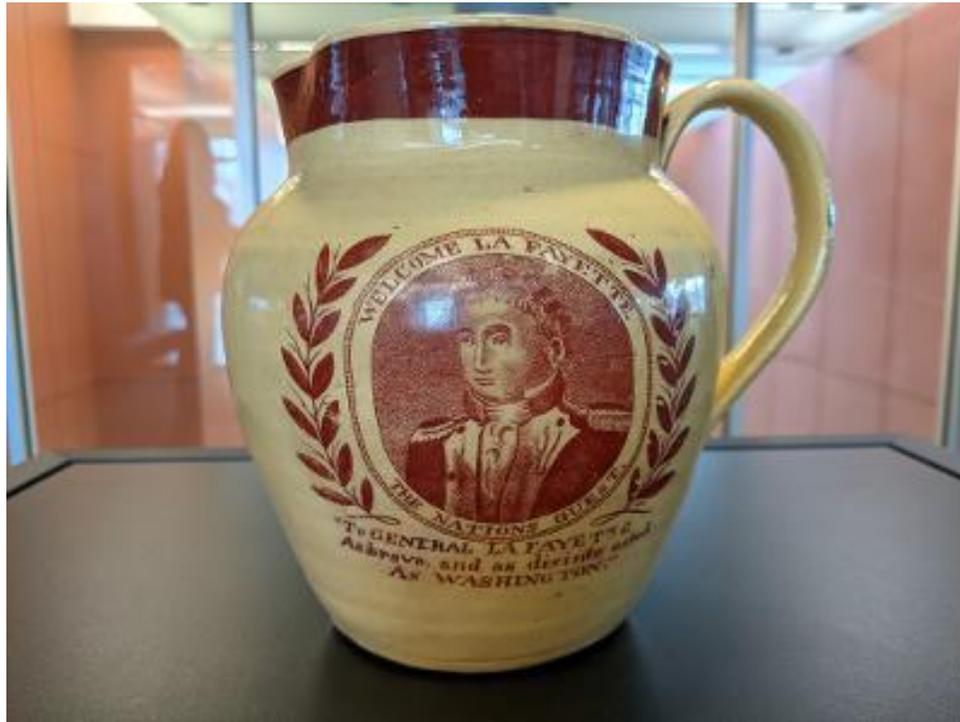


This medal was presented to General Lafayette on October 11, 1824 during his visit to Baltimore.

# New Acquisition by Lafayette College

by Chuck Schwam

Earlier this year, I received a call from AFL member Pam Murray regarding a new and exciting Lafayette-related item acquired by Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Pam Murray works at Lafayette College's Skillman Library and specifically in the Special Collections Department, which is appropriate as this new item is very special.



This above Lafayette yellowware pitcher (circa 1825-1830) is 6 ½" tall. It is made from ground clay with transfer prints and rust-line detailing.

One side displays a portrait of Lafayette with surrounding text that reads: "*Welcome La Fayette The Nation's Guest.*" Below the portrait, the text reads: "*To General La Fayette as brave and as distinguished as Washington.*"

The other side depicts an allegorical scene with classical ruins and an angel pointing to a document that reads: "*July 4 1776 America Declares Independence.*"

Due to the pandemic, this is the only Lafayette-related item purchased over the past year. Pam Murray will keep us posted on any additional acquisitions for our next issue of the *Gazette*.

## **Trivia Answer:**

### **Is There Still a Statue of Lafayette Made Prior to 1873?**

by Janet and Ernest Sutton

#### **Find the question on page 63.**

Sometime in the mid-1840s, officials in Fayette County, Pennsylvania commissioned a local artist, David Blythe, to carve a poplar wood statue of Lafayette to top the octagon shaped belfry of the county courthouse in Uniontown.

David Gilmour Blythe (1815 - 1865), a largely self-taught American artist, was born in a log cabin near East Liverpool, Ohio. Blythe at age 16 was apprenticed to Joseph Woodwell (1807-1899), a New York cabinetmaker and woodcarver of nautical figureheads and garden vases.

The statue for the Fayette County courthouse was carved during 1847 and 1848 out of two poplar planks joined together using a foot adze and chisel. The portrait of Lafayette by the Dutch-French artist Ary Scheffer (1795-1858) was the model. Perhaps Blythe used an engraving of the portrait that Lafayette handed out when he visited Fayette County for three days in May 1825. It is unknown whether Blythe ever met Lafayette. The tin hat held by the statue was made by local tinsmith Joseph Wylie. Originally the statue was painted by Joshua Speer of Uniontown in gun-metal gray. From a distance the statue appeared carved from stone. The 8-foot 2-inch wooden statue of Lafayette stood atop the Fayette County courthouse for more than forty years. When the new courthouse was constructed in 1890, the statue was removed to the courthouse lobby. In 1947 It was repainted in polychrome. It still can be seen today in the lobby of the courthouse in Uniontown.

Other wood carvings by Blythe have not been identified. His earliest artistic endeavors as an itinerant portrait painter were characterized as ungraceful and stiff. Blythe is best remembered today as an accomplished portraitist, a painter who satirically portrayed political and social situations, and as a poet. He is widely regarded as the Pittsburgh region's pre-eminent nineteenth-century painter and his genre paintings are held in permanent collections of many major museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and in notable private collections, including the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Unknown engraver after Ary Scheffer, Lafayette, Lithograph, H. 11.7, W. 8.5 cm.  
Similar engraving used by David Blythe for his model of the Uniontown Courthouse  
Lafayette statue. Copies were also sold in Boston and other cities that Lafayette visited.  
Special Collections and College Archives, Skillman Library, Lafayette College



Standing six feet tall, Julien Icher, Founder of The Lafayette Trail, views the David Blythe 8-foot 2-inch tall statue of Lafayette (1848) displayed in the Uniontown Courthouse, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.  
Photo by Ernest Sutton

**Sources:**

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Gilmour\\_Blythe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Gilmour_Blythe), accessed April 27, 2021

*Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture*. Photographs by Vernon Gay. Text by Marilyn Evert. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA. 1983

## General Lafayette, a Leopards Basketball Fan

by Chuck Schwam



The photograph above was taken on January 16, 2021 at Lafayette College's Kirby Sports Center during a Lafayette Leopards men's basketball game versus Loyola of Maryland's Greyhounds. Since pandemic conditions meant that fans could not attend the game in person, cardboard cutouts were placed in the seats instead.

Lafayette College Athletic Director, *Sherryta Freeman* tweeted: "*Can't have cutouts without @alisonbyerly and Marquis de Lafayette. Go Leopards!*"

Immediately after, Lafayette College President, Alison Byerly, (shown above on the right), retweeted Ms. Freeman's tweet with this comment: "*Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert and I never miss a game #AllezPards*"

Once again, the General was on the winning side as the Leopards outscored the Greyhounds 77 to 75 that afternoon.

## Social Media is our Friend

by Mackenzie Fowler

Hello, fellow Friends! My name is Mackenzie Fowler. I'm a twenty-eight-year-old Texan with an Associates Degree in American History and a "give 'em you-know-what" attitude. During my spare time, I love taking my dog Moose for a jog around the park, making additions to my Lafayette blog, and whiling away a few hours in my voice-over booth. Because being homeschooled meant varsity basketball wasn't in the cards, I spent the majority of my younger years learning stunt coordination and weapons training in place of physical education classes. This gave me the opportunity to create fight scenes for short films and theater - and to know how to appear to be very dangerous with a sword ("appear" being the operative word). Finally - as if I don't come across as hyperactive enough already - I also stream video games online several times a week for a meager audience of friends and fans.



Now, you may be asking yourself why I have given you a rundown of my calling card. For starters, it is my way of offering a hello! But I assure you, I have ulterior motives as well. What you have just read is something you would not have had to suffer through if you were on my social media page! A few minutes scrolling through Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram would have offered you photos of my adorable yellow lab/German Shepherd mix, the latest news on the video game I've just provided my voice for, and a montage of some of the fight choreography I've been a part of. It is a visual way to get to know one another, to take a peek at what's going on in the world when most of us have spent the last year apart from our loved ones. It's an excellent way to stay connected with the touch of a button.

I am, admittedly, thoroughly biased. As the Social Media Coordinator of the American Friends of Lafayette, it has become my happy duty to document the ins and outs of our group. Posts detailing the latest events, talks, and happenings are my jurisdiction. But I particularly love seeing submissions by AFL members! Perhaps you found an antique book detailing our intrepid hero's exploits or got to visit one of the many famous historical sites where Lafayette spent time. I'd like to take a moment to encourage you to share and submit your experiences to our social media pages!

The AFL has Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts where we provide the latest news and findings pertaining to Lafayette and our membership. It's a fun, fast way to get the word out to those who haven't heard of us! Over the past year or so, our Instagram alone gained over 200 followers. Some of these newcomers were already members, but a substantial portion were young people who are hungry for more information about Lafayette's life and legacy. These enthusiastic youngsters discovered Lafayette in a variety of ways, but having visual representations in media (*Hamilton*, AMC's *Turn*, and Williamsburg's online interviews of our friend Mark Schneider) seems to have been the catalyst for many. The result has been an onslaught of drawings, costumes, research, blogging, and general infatuation with the man we have all united around, and this infatuation has resulted in more AFL memberships.

I'm not much of a writer, so I'll try to sum up the purpose of this piece in a few words. If you are not on social media, I encourage you to join a platform. You do not have to be connected to every outlet to be involved! Setting up an account may seem daunting, but there are plenty of helpful, step-by-step tutorials on how to begin on sites like YouTube, and family members are a great resource to help you dip a toe in the proverbial waters. If you're already plugged into a social media account, participation is a sure way to boost viewership. "Like" our AFL posts! Comment and share! The more online interest we gain as a group, the more potential we have for members from all walks of life across the globe to join us in our mission. Lastly, don't be shy about sharing your own contributions. If you're an artist and have drawn a portrait of our dear Marquis, please share it and tag us in your work so that we can boost your fantastic skill! Have you written a book, article, poem, or any other work pertaining to Lafayette? Let us know! Have you and your friends been working on a school project with Lafayette at the center? Show us your work! Content is key to maintaining online interest and without you, I am limited to what I can find on my own. So, let us brag on you a little!

If you are still not convinced to join social media, that's okay! You can still help us by submitting your findings via email. Send your photos or delightful anecdotes to [marq.de.laf@gmail.com](mailto:marq.de.laf@gmail.com), and I'll happily share them to all of our pages. The goal is to connect with one another in a visual, online way, and by doing so with such good friends, we are sure to provoke the interest of others. Too much content sent my way is, to me, just enough content. Let's see your experience with the AFL amplified and shared!

## Letters to the *Gazette*

Great issue of the *Gazette*. Kudos to all.

- Jeffrey Ruthizer

Thanks for the awesome *Gazette*. It takes me a long time to read each edition (which is great)!

- Gayle and Randy Randol

This is the best *Gazette* issue ever! I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

- Frank Womble

Another great *GAZETTE* arrived, and I must say it is the best yet!!! Merci beaucoup.

- Al Oberst

Love it! Really well done especially with all the picture placements. Great article about the man holding the horse too!

- Dan Fitzpatrick

We look forward to the *Gazette* and are constantly amazed at the discoveries of new information and reminders of old stuff that people can endlessly contribute. Like many others we keep these available for continual reference and re-reading, even lending out to friends.

-Peggy & John Wynn

Thank you very much for the *Gazette* N°93 and for its excellent President's message and its contents regarding the Chambrun family links with USA.

-Pierre Antoine de Chambrun

Another great issue of the *Gazette*! It started as a flyer; it has become a tome!

-Robert Crout (Emeritus President – American Friends of Lafayette)

SUPER congratulations on the latest edition of the *Gazette* (We read it from cover to cover!). --  
Charlie & Ellen McCarthy

Last night I started reading the newsletter - very impressive!

-Thierry Chaunu (President, American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.)



## THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

Dedicated to the memory of Major General Gilbert Motier, Marquis de Lafayette



Photo by Adam Atkinson

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