

# The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

No. 81

February 2015



ABOVE: New AFL member Dr. Robert Selig conducts the morning ceremony at the French Cemetery on Yorktown Day. Going forward, this annual observance will be co-hosted by the American Friends of Lafayette and the Friends of Rochambeau.

BELOW: French and American flags fly over the Yorktown Day festivities. The American Friends of Lafayette plays an important role during this annual celebration held every October 19th.

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## 2015 Annual Meeting

The AFL will be holding its annual meeting on June 4th to 7th at Virginia's Historic Triangle (Williamsburg / Yorktown / Jamestown). The highlight of this meeting will be an AFL-specific and private tour of the *Hermione* on Saturday morning !!!

As usual, we will have a welcome reception on Thursday evening, June 4th...with informative guest speakers and other fun activities. On Friday, June 5th we have planned an exciting motor coach tour of Lafayette-related sites in Williamsburg and Yorktown. We will be holding our business meeting in the afternoon.

On Friday evening we will hold our annual banquet with our keynote speaker being none other than AFL member Marc Jensen. Being the Maritime Director of the *Hermione* project, Marc will be on the *Hermione* as she sails from Rochefort to Yorktown. We can't think of a more appropriate keynote speaker to address the AFL as he recounts his adventures after only a day or so on land.

On Saturday morning, June 6th we will have a private and guided tour of the *Hermione* in the morning. This tour will be limited to 100 individuals and only AFL annual meeting attendees. After our tour of the *Hermione*, we will schedule another motor coach tour of Lafayette related sites in Williamsburg and Yorktown.

Like last year in Fayetteville (Pig Picking), we will offer a bonus function for all AFL members Saturday afternoon. This year's festivities will be specific to the Virginia Tidewater Area and we're calling it "Picking and Shucking over Yonder"! AFL members David and Rene Bowditch will host us for a seafood feast at their estate "Yonder" very close to Yorktown. We will be sending a separate registration for this event (and separate fees will apply).

It's still too early to provide specific itinerary details...although the *Hermione* is booked. It is also too early to quantify costs, but our hope is to keep the individual member cost for all activities as close to \$150 as possible. The seafood feast aka "Picking and Shucking over Yonder" should be about \$35 (if you choose to attend).

On both Friday and Saturday, transportation between our hotel and all AFL functions will be provided...to include the "Picking and Shucking over Yonder" event. Transportation between the airport (or train station) and our hotel will be the attendees' responsibility.

Our hotel for this weekend will be the Fort Magruder Hotel & Conference Center. Located at 6945 Pocahontas Trail in Williamsburg, Virginia,...this hotel is in the heart of Virginia's Historic Triangle. We have reserved rooms for the AFL here and I urge you to reserve your rooms soon. At \$99 per night (including breakfast), this is a fantastic deal for our members.

The best way to reserve these rooms is either by phone (757-220-2250) or online (<http://www.fortmagruderhotel.com>). When making your reservations please note: Our group is known as "AFL" but the code for the \$99 rate is "LAF".

Our hope is that members will stay all three nights (Thursday, Friday & Saturday) as we have many activities planned. Although we have nothing planned for Sunday, our hotel is only minutes from Jamestown, Yorktown and Historic Williamsburg for individual sightseeing.

The AFL planning committee is looking for feedback please. The first weekend in June promises to be a VERY busy weekend in Virginia's Historic Triangle. The *Hermione* is generating a great deal of interest around the country. Since the *Hermione* tour is limited to 100, we would like to get a head count of interested members.

If you are interested in attending the annual meeting from June 4th to 7th, we are asking you to email Bonnie Fritz at [bonniefritz@mac.com](mailto:bonniefritz@mac.com) (if you have not already done so). Please include the names of attendees and their contact information (phone and email). Your response will help us understand attendance and plan the logistics of this very exciting weekend.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 240-676-5010. Thank you and Vive Lafayette !! -Chuck Schwam

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends of Lafayette:

It is a pleasure to report to you that the AFL has experienced another influx of new members. As of August of last year, we had 207 separate addresses of members. Five months later, we have 232. This total is composed of 174 individual memberships, 53 family memberships and 5 institutional members. If one assumes two persons per family membership, our total roster is approximately 285! Having consulted with our venerable secretary, Phil Schroeder, I can state unequivocally that this is a record high in the modern era. We now have members in 36 states, Canada (Quebec) and France. Since the publication of the last Gazette, we have added Georgia, Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico and Wisconsin.

To what can we attribute the meteoric rise in membership in the last several years? First, we have a great product – the life and career of Lafayette, our annual meeting and October meeting on Yorktown Day and our publications. Second, with the anticipated arrival of the *Hermione*, interest in Lafayette is growing. Third, our electronic presence has been significantly enhanced. Our website, financed by a grant of the A.P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation, Inc., is considerably improved and continually updated by Daniel Fitzpatrick. Our Facebook page, managed by Vice-President, Janice Wolk, now has over 400 followers (“likes”), compared to 200 last June. Finally, with the addition of PayPal, members can join or renew electronically, and 21 new members have joined using PayPal since July, 2014.

To further enhance the membership experience, and improve communication among members outside of a formal gathering, we are in the process of creating a membership directory and “Listserv.” See Vice-President Rob Raffety’s article below.

This spring the AFL plans to greet the *Hermione* in Yorktown when it arrives in early June. See article by Treasurer Chuck Schwam about our 2015 Annual Meeting. We are delighted to be able to report that a private, behind-the-scenes, below-deck tour of the Frigate for our group on Saturday, June 6 has already been arranged. Our Yorktown Committee, headed by Yorktown Day Representative Lea Gryck and George Bennett, have been hard at work planning what I am certain will be a superb long weekend during which we can honor and commune with the General.

We are also encouraging our members to participate in events in various ports closer to their homes as the *Hermione* heads up the Coast.

So, in sum, with the arrival of Lafayette’s ship, the *Hermione*, at Yorktown and its several stops in populous East Coast ports, 2015 promises to be a huge year for Lafayette and the AFL. Please plan to join us at Yorktown or at another port of call as we celebrate together the life and career of General Lafayette.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

Alan R. Hoffman, President

## Dues & Membership

Greetings from the American Friends of Lafayette, Membership Chairs. A new year has begun, and with it comes the request to renew your AFL membership for 2015. If you have already renewed your membership for 2015, thank you! If you are a Life member, thank you even more, and please disregard this notice. For anyone else, please take this as a reminder. AFL membership dues are the following:

- 1 Active Member- \$30 Annually
- 2 Sustaining Member- \$40 Annually
- 3 Family Membership- \$50 Annually
- 4 Individual Life Membership- \$200

### **There are two ways to renew your membership:**

**Option A** - paying dues online via PayPal/ credit card:

Go to [www.friendsoflafayette.org/get-involved.html](http://www.friendsoflafayette.org/get-involved.html)

Step 1) Complete the online form, please indicate in the section "Additional Remarks" that you are renewing for 2015, and click "Submit".

This step will only send an email notification to AFL officers for identification; it has no effect on payment.

Step 2) Click "Donate" below to pay membership dues or donations.

This step will open the AFL PayPal page for making a payment via Paypal or all major credit cards.

You must complete both Steps 1) and 2) for this to work. Experience has shown that glitches with online payments are usually due to missing one of these steps.

**Option B** - paper check sent through the mail:

Write a traditional hard copy check, please indicate "renewal/dues 2015" in the Memo line, and send the check to:

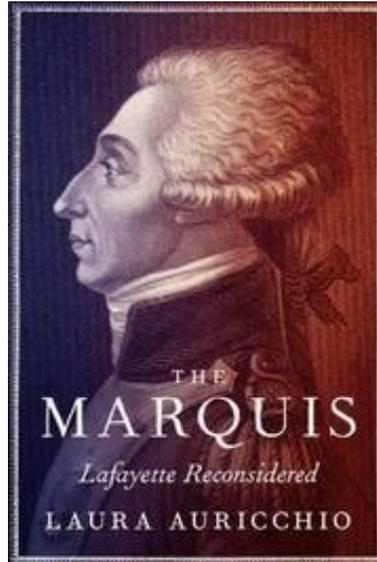
The American Friends of Lafayette  
Farinon Center- PO Box 9463  
Lafayette College  
Easton, PA 18042- 1798

If you don't remember if you are paid up, or have other questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,  
Almut Spalding, AFL Membership Co-Chair  
[aspaldi@mail.ic.edu](mailto:aspaldi@mail.ic.edu)

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered* by Laura Auricchio, Considered



At one of the early stops on her book tour at the Lexington (MA) Historical Society – billed as a conversation between Laura Auricchio and me – I asked the author why she gave her book the title *The Marquis* since Lafayette renounced his title during the French Revolution, never resumed using it during the Napoleonic Era or the Restoration and since his enemies in the Chamber of Deputies used his former title as a term of derision, as in “le Marquis!” Her reply, made half-way through my question, was “I didn’t do it; it was my publisher.” I asked her what her original title was. It was *Lafayette Reconsidered*, now the subtitle. Auricchio then said, only half tongue-in-cheek, that she thought her publisher’s title might increase sales as readers might confuse Lafayette with another 18<sup>th</sup>-century French marquis, the Marquis de Sade. Caution: the book contains several racy prints linking Lafayette with the despised Marie Antoinette, part of a relentless campaign to besmirch Lafayette’s reputation. She also pointed out, correctly, that during the American Revolution Americans referred to Lafayette as “The Marquis” or “Our Marquis.” I concluded by stating that some of the members of the American Friends of Lafayette would be put off by the title as they still haven’t forgiven Lafayette College for “Marquis Hall.”

In the summer of 2008 at the New York Historical Society, Auricchio and I were co-presenters to three different elder-hostel groups. On the first of these occasions, after giving a version of my “Lafayette and the Farewell Tour” talk, I stayed to listen to her talk. As we left together, I commented that “I thought you were a little hard on the old boy.” Her talk had focused on Lafayette’s role in the French Revolution and that revolution did not end well. With this backdrop, I began reading *Lafayette Reconsidered* with a mixture of anticipation and trepidation.

Auricchio is an excellent writer, and the biography proceeds in a fast-paced, novelistic manner. In her treatment of Lafayette’s early life and his role in the American Revolution, Auricchio gives Lafayette his due. She notes his classical education, his reading the literature of the Roman Republic and his early membership in a Masonic Lodge where liberal aristocrats congregated and conversed about Enlightenment ideas. She does not quote the part of Lafayette’s letter to Adrienne written on the *Victoire* in which Lafayette waxes eloquent about the purity of his motives and the meaning of America.

As the defender of that liberty which I adore, free myself beyond all others, coming as a friend to offer my services to this most interesting republic, I bring with me nothing but my own free heart and my own good will, no ambition to fulfill and no selfish interest to serve; if I am striving for my own glory, I am at the same time laboring for its welfare. I trust that for my sake you will become a good American; it is a sentiment made for virtuous hearts. The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind; she is destined to become the safe and venerable asylum of virtue, of honesty, of tolerance, of equality, and of peaceful liberty.

Nonetheless, it is clear that, for Auricchio, Lafayette's idealism was a significant motivating factor impelling him to sail to America in 1777.

His love of glory was a part of the equation too. Auricchio defines glory as it was defined in French Dictionaries of the era: a "reputation" garnered through "virtue, merit, great qualities, good actions and beautiful works." Synonyms include "honor, esteem, praise." Thus, to say that someone was a glory-seeker was not a pejorative statement, and Lafayette clearly sought glory. Auricchio also makes the point that Lafayette came to America at a time when his career choices in France were limited and his chosen profession as a soldier was at least temporarily blocked since he had been furloughed with many other officers as part of an austerity campaign. Thus, she sees Lafayette's coming to the aid of the United States in 1777 as uniquely and quintessentially American: he came to get a fresh start.

As for his service, both military and diplomatic, during the American Revolution, Auricchio gives Lafayette the credit that he deserves. However, in my opinion, she slights the Virginia Campaign which paved the way for the siege and victory at Yorktown, omitting several significant actions that Lafayette took in the spring and summer of 1781. His purchase of cloth and other items for his ragtag troops on his own credit in Maryland and his enlistment of the ladies of Baltimore to sew shirts for the troops exemplified his generosity and charisma. Lafayette's leadership ability was displayed in the speech he gave to the troops, who were contemplating a mass desertion, in which he persuaded them to soldier on by giving them leave to leave. Finally, Auricchio does not mention the act that best demonstrates the 24-year-old Lafayette's growing maturity. After the French West Indian Fleet had arrived in late August 1781 and Admiral de Grasse had landed 3,000 marines to augment Lafayette's forces to be the equal of Cornwallis' 7,000 regulars, de Grasse, impatient to return to defend French interests in the islands, urged Lafayette to attack Yorktown. Lafayette demurred. Notwithstanding the opportunity that was presented to achieve a large share of the "glory" for himself, he was determined to wait for Generals Washington and Rochambeau and the numerical superiority that combining their forces with his would create. He owed it to both his General and to his troops, who would no doubt have suffered substantial casualties in a battle of equal forces, to forbear. He was no longer the impulsive and impatient officer that he had been at times from 1777 to 1780.

According to Auricchio, the *raison d'être* of the book was to explain why the French see Lafayette in a very different light than we Americans do. For Americans, at least those of us who remember Lafayette, he is universally admired. With many, if not most, Frenchmen he is not. Indeed, when President Sarkozy's government proposed in 2007 to disinter Lafayette and bury him in the Panthéon with other French heroes, a controversy arose in *Le Monde* with dueling Op-ed pieces, the naysayers accusing Lafayette of treason and of abandoning the Revolution.

Auricchio's reportage of the early stages of the French Revolution up to the zenith of Lafayette's influence and power on July 14, 1790, the Fête de la Fédération on the Champ de Mars, is balanced and generally complimentary. Reading on, I was relieved to find that *Lafayette Reconsidered* also contains a fair appraisal of Lafayette's role after July 14, 1790. Although the steady drumbeat of negative propaganda in the radical press and in the arts – those pornographic prints, Auricchio says, were probably financed by the

Duke d'Orléans, Philippe Égalité, who was a rival to both Louis XVI and to Lafayette – and the King's flight to Varennes while ostensibly under Lafayette's control at the Tuilleries had severely damaged Lafayette's reputation, the "Massacre at the Champ de Mars" in July of 1791 struck it a blow from which it has not yet recovered in France. In describing this critical event, Auricchio gives each side its due and acknowledges that we do not know today what really happened there. She points out that the mob had already killed two men and impaled their heads on pikes before the main event. She gives Lafayette's version – that a hailstorm of rocks and a pistol shot from the mob prompted the National Guard to fire warning shots into the air, and that it was only after the mob redoubled its attacks and killed two chasseurs that the National Guard fired into the crowd "in earnest." Auricchio also offers the Jacobin version which placed the blame squarely on Lafayette. The number of deaths resulting is still in dispute, she notes. Regardless of what happened on that fateful day, Lafayette's reputation in France was irreparably damaged; and his moderate position in support of a constitutional monarchy based on representative government was no longer viable. The French Constitution enacted in September 1791 was dead on arrival.

In an author's note at the end of the book, Auricchio describes a conversation she had with one of the sisters who attend the Chapel at Picpus Cemetery, and this interview may be the best explanation of why the French see Lafayette differently than we Americans do.

I posed the question that had been on my mind for three years. Would she agree, I asked, that Lafayette is not widely admired in France? Yes, she said. Only Americans visit his grave, and an American flag flies over it. I paused and asked if she had any idea why. She thought for a moment, then gestured to the names on the walls [of the 1,300 guillotined nearby during the Terror]. 'The French Revolution was a complicated time,' she said, 'and Lafayette was a complicated man. People like simple stories; simple stories get remembered. Lafayette's story isn't simple.' I nodded. She was right.

Auricchio pays scant attention to the later stages of Lafayette's post-French Revolutionary life. The time after Lafayette's return from exile, including his role during the Hundred Days of Napoleon's return, his career in the Chamber of Deputies, the Farewell Tour of 1824 and 1825, the Revolution of 1830 and his death is covered in 30 pages. Moreover, she gives insufficient notice in my view to Lafayette's post-revolutionary human-rights work – his continuing anti-slavery activities, his support of revolutions and revolutionaries in Europe and South America, his efforts to expand suffrage in France and his public positions on solitary confinement and the death penalty.

I also found a few minor errors. During the run-up to the Battle of Rhode Island, American troops and French marines did not assemble at Newport (p. 73-74). Retaking the city of Newport from the British was the object of the campaign and American troops invaded Aquidneck Island and reached the ramparts of Newport alone. General Benjamin Lincoln did not command a division in Virginia before Washington's army arrived (p. 91). He led Washington's Army to Virginia. The first time Lafayette was elected to the legislature after the Estates General was in 1815 as a representative of Brie during the Hundred Days and not in 1818 (p. 294). Ary Scheffer did not create one of the last portraits of the living Lafayette (p. 306). The portrait that hangs at LaGrange, a copy of the original 1819 portrait, was made in 1822. Another copy was delivered to the U.S. Congress in early 1825. Numerous Americans painted Lafayette during the Farewell Tour, and several other French artists did so after his return to France.

In conclusion, *Lafayette Reconsidered* is a great read that offers a measured and fair appraisal of Lafayette the man who *was* the Hero of Two Worlds. As Daniel Webster said to Lafayette during his Bunker Hill oration on June 17, 1825: "Heaven saw fit to ordain that the electric spark of Liberty should be conducted through you, from the New World to the Old;" and it was. Laura Auricchio is a worthy contributor to Lafayette's legacy.

Alan R. Hoffman

## Lafayette's visit to Fort Monroe in 1824 as *Guest of the Nation*

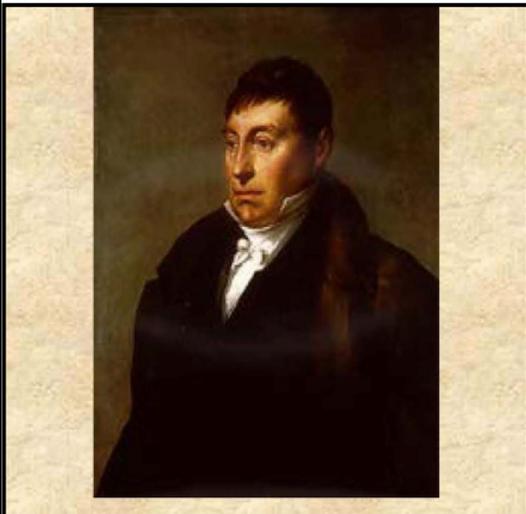
*Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier*  
(6 September 1757 – 20 May 1834)

By

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In 1824 President James Monroe, the last of the founding-father Presidents, invited the Marquis de Lafayette, the last surviving major general of the Revolutionary War, to visit the United States, as an official "Guest of the Nation." Forty-eight years had passed since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and forty-three since the British surrender at Yorktown. As the generation of Revolutionary War veterans passed away, fewer and fewer Americans remembered the bloody struggle for liberty and freedom from England. President Monroe recognized that it was a crucial time in the country's history. He felt it was important for the younger generation to recognize that freedom and democracy had come at a great cost. The President looked to Lafayette, the hero of both France and America to return and remind Americans of the sacrifices and heroism of the time.

In the summer of 1777 wealthy French aristocrat Lafayette, captivated with the ongoing American struggle for independence, used his personal wealth to purchase a ship and sail to America. Volunteering in the Continental Army, the nineteen-year-old Lafayette soon earned the command of a division and the high respect of his American soldiers. He was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine in 1777, accompanied General Washington at Valley Forge that winter, escaped capture by Lord Cornwallis at Richmond and was with Washington during the decisive Yorktown campaign in 1781. By the age of twenty-four, Lafayette had earned the reputation as a fearless leader and had become one of General Washington's most trusted officers and devoted friend. Following the War, Lafayette returned to France and Americans recognized the significant role that he had played in securing victory against England. 20<sup>th</sup> century Lafayette biographer Martha Foote Crow capsulated his career succinctly as "the boy Cornwallis could not catch, the man Napoleon could not intimidate."

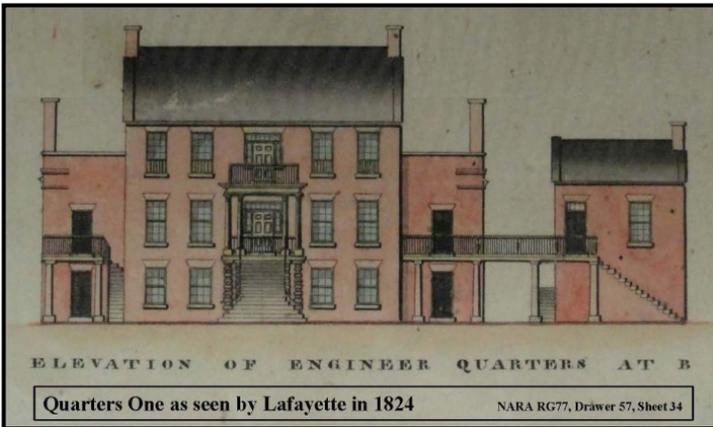


Portrait of General Lafayette in 1825  
by Matthew Harris Jouett  
National Portrait Gallery

Lafayette's return to America in 1824 lasted thirteen months during which time he visited all twenty-four states, traveled an estimated 5000 miles and was hosted by the cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. He was hosted by former Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and by Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams and by future President Andrew Jackson. He was accompanied by

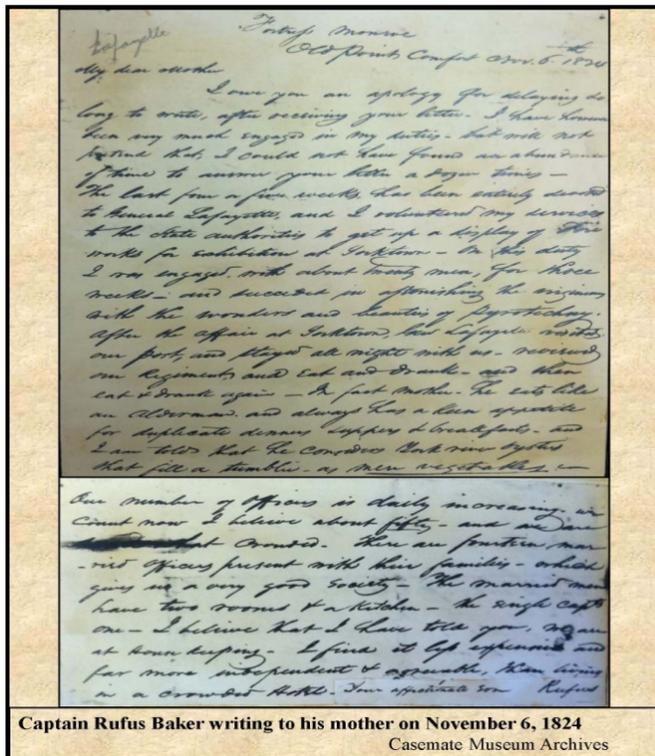
his only son, 45 year old George Washington Lafayette, his secretary Auguste Levasseur and his personal servant. Treated with immense admiration and reverence, Lafayette was given a hero's welcome everywhere he visited. Lavish parties, cotillions, concerts, parades and speeches were a regular occurrence that celebrated his heroism, fame and legacy. On one such occasion when addressing and welcoming Lafayette in the New York Senate Chamber on September 13, 1824, Mayor of Albany, Ambrose Spencer proclaimed, "Franklin, the wisest man of the age, pronounced you the most distinguished he ever knew, Washington, the illustrious hero of the new world, honored you with friendship the most sincere and with confidence the most unlimited..."

Lafayette spent eight days in the Tidewater of Virginia, October 18-25, 1824 one of his longer stays in a single geographical area. After visiting Yorktown, Jamestown, Williamsburg and Norfolk, General Lafayette arrived at Fort Monroe on Sunday October 24, 1824. The *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*



{October 27, 1824} which covered his visit extensively stated, "...the general left here {Norfolk} on Sunday afternoon for a visit to Fortress Monroe where he was received with highest military honors." The General was escorted throughout Fort Monroe by Colonel Abraham Eustis, the commanding officer. Later in the evening, Colonel Eustis received Lafayette at Quarters No. 1 where he partook of a "handsome cotillion party and spent the evening." The next morning he received the troops and officers of Fort Monroe and after taking breakfast with Colonel Eustis visited the adjacent fortifications of Castle

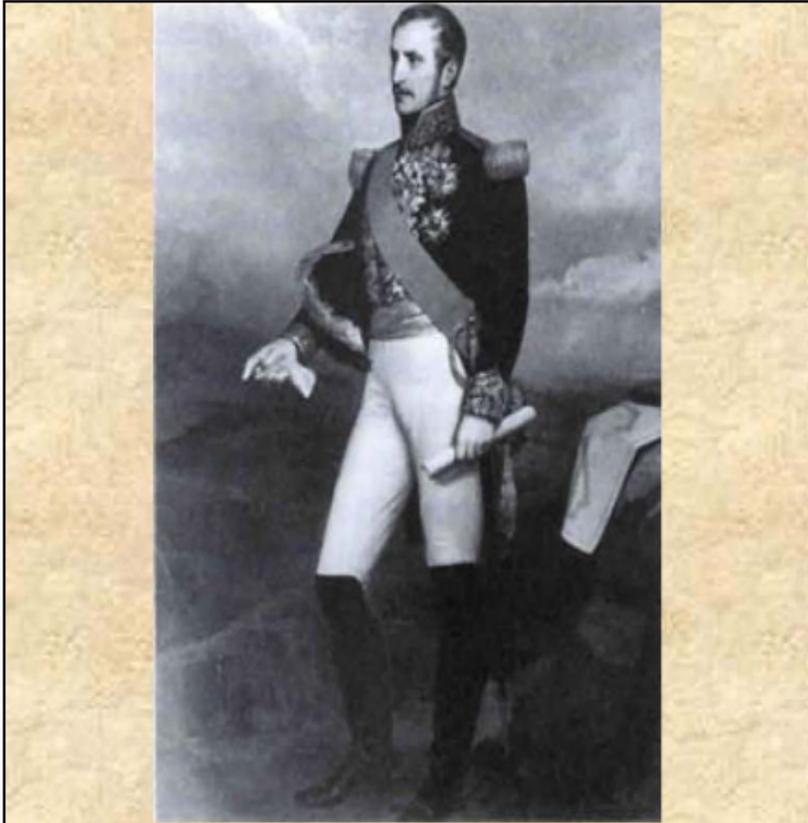
Calhoun (Fort Wool). Captain Rufus Baker, an army engineer at Fort Monroe, described Lafayette's visit in a letter to his mother penned just a few days after his visit.



*"Gen Lafayette visited our post and stayed all night with us – reviewed our Regiments and eat and drank, and then eat and drank again. In fact Mother, He eats like an Alderman and always has a keen appetite for duplicate dinners suppers and breakfasts and I am told the he considers York River Oysters that fill a tumbler as mere vegetables."*

Garrisoned only fifteen months prior to Lafayette's visit, Fort Monroe was still under construction. According to 1824 U.S. Army Engineer drawings, the water battery on the east side of the fort had been completed and the majority of the stone walls erected. However, the moat remained incomplete, the brick-faced casemates unfinished, only a handful of permanent buildings completed and plans for a hospital only recently finalized. The parade ground had been leveled and graded only two weeks prior on October 6, 1824 in preparation for his visit.

Lafayette would have had more than a passing interest in the engineering of the fortifications at Fort Monroe and Castle Calhoun. President Madison had appointed French born engineer Simon Bernard to design Fort Monroe and Castle Calhoun on the personal recommendation of Lafayette. In a letter to President Madison on November 11, 1815 Lafayette concluded, "I am so sensible of the value of Genl.



**Portrait of General Simon Bernard  
Casemate Museum**

Bernard that I will feel highly happy to hear his proposal has obtained your approbation." One year later on November 16, 1816, Bernard was appointed assistant engineer with the rank and pay of brigadier general of United States Army engineers. Bernard would eventually design some of the United States' most important and impressive fortifications including Forts Monroe, Adams, Hamilton, Macon and Morgan. Bernard's service to America and his fortifications are a standing testament to Lafayette's sphere of influence in the defense and preservation of American freedom.

Lafayette's triumphant return to America concluded the following year when he departed Washington for France aboard the newly commissioned frigate *Brandywine* on September 7, 1825. When Lafayette died in France on May 20, 1834, President Andrew Jackson proclaimed that, "the same honors be rendered on this occasion at the different military and naval stations as were observed upon the decease of Washington..." Today, on the main floor of Quarters No. 1 adjacent to

the "Lincoln Bedroom" is the "Lafayette Room" where Lafayette presumably spent the Sunday night of October 24, 1824. It now serves as the office of the Executive Director of the Fort Monroe Authority and will eventually transfer to the Fort Monroe National Monument to be managed by the National Park Service.

Lafayette personified courage, honor and victory to early Americans, but most importantly, he represented freedom. Today, Fort Monroe epitomizes all aspects of American history including the pursuit for freedom and the arc of slavery for African Americans. As the Casemate Museum transitions from an army museum to responsibility of the Fort Monroe Authority, it is important to keep the fort's legacy alive and to continue interpreting its rich history. We are at a juncture where we look to figures such as Lafayette for inspiration in the hope that we may continue our forefathers' dream of opportunity and the preservation of freedom for all. October 24, 2014 marked the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lafayette's visit to Fort Monroe. This special occasion allows us to stop and consider where history has taken us, where it may lead us and how we are the ultimate stewards of Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum for the future generations. Please visit Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum on the web at [www.visitfortmonroe.com/casemate](http://www.visitfortmonroe.com/casemate).

# **THE AFL CONTINUES TO GROW!**

## **AFL Members New Since the August 2014 Gazette**

### **Annual Memberships**

Suzanne Allen, Athens, GA  
Laura Auricchio, New York, NY  
Elizabeth Beck, Gibson Island, MD  
Stephane & Mary Kay Bosshart, Paris, France  
Rona & Charles Butler, Baltimore, MD  
Zen Cayao, Washington, DC  
Liza DeBlis, Millburn, NJ  
David Dibrell, Dallas, TX  
Suzy Fatzinger, Kempton, PA  
John & Susan Henley, Fayetteville, NC  
David Jensen, Contoocook, NH  
Leland & Cheri Kulland, Mount Pleasant, WI  
Paul & Frances Monroe, Fayetteville, NC  
William & Maureen Poole, Chelmsford, MA  
Robert Selig, Holland, MI  
Bart Shaw, Bethlehem, PA  
Wayne Strasbaugh Family, Philadelphia, PA  
Janet Sutton, Export, PA

### **Life Memberships**

Allen Cleghorn, Washington, DC (upgrade to Life)  
Bill Cipra & Cindy Duke, Overland Park, KS  
Guy Elzey, Haddonfield, NJ  
Frederick L. Van Horn, representing Georgia Military College  
Robert Kelly, Hampton, VA  
Pierre Larroque, Bethesda, MD  
W. Ronald Schooler, Fayetteville, NC

## Friends of Hermione-Lafayette Gala



ABOVE: Gala Co-Hosts Miles Young and Pascale Richard

On October 14th, 2014, the Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America held a fundraising gala on the *Intrepid* in New York City's West Side. The soiree was attended by several AFL members including Laura Auricchio, Sallie T. de Barcza, Susan Cucchiara, Jerry Meekins, Ursula Reed, Chuck Schwam and Diane Shaw.

The below article was written by David Lincoln Ross. Mr. Ross is the Editorial Director for the Friends of Hermione-LaFayette in America. This article is posted as a blog on FOH-LA website.

If you could not attend the Gala, but would like to donate to this worthy cause, please visit the website ([www.hermione2015.com/](http://www.hermione2015.com/)) and click on SUPPORT THE HERMIONE VOYAGE 2015 in the center of the home page. Please consider helping this worthy cause. Thank you, Chuck Schwam

October 14th, 2014

Under the generous corporate sponsorship of Moët Hennessy, Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America (FOH-LA) held its first GALA for more than 600 diplomats, dignitaries, guests and Francophile supporters from across the globe on board the USS *Intrepid* Air & Space Museum in New York City last night, October 14, 2014. Funds raised from the GALA will help support the voyage of the *Hermione*, “Freedom Frigate”, during its triumphal tour of ports from Yorktown to Boston in 2015.

The assembled guests received a message from Gérard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United States, who wrote: “I wish to express how much the French Embassy and the French Consulates all over the United States are committed to supporting the *Hermione* project.” Present at the Gala was Bertrand Lortholary, Consul General of France in New York, as well The Honorable and Mrs. Craig R. Stapleton, former U.S. Ambassador to France.

To begin the evening’s ceremonies, the first-ever Friends of Hermione-Lafayette In America Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Henry A. Kissinger by FOH-LA President Miles Young. Later after several tributes to the *Hermione* project, including a video direct from France by *Hermione* Captain Yann Cariou, Gala guests listened intently to a wide-ranging conversation between Emmy-award-winning

journalist Charlie Rose and Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, who ably addressed all the major political, economic and diplomatic issues of the day.

It was also a glittering evening of festivities, featuring a menu inspired by the culinary heritage of Poitou-Charentes curated with the help of Ariane Daguin, CEO, D'Artagnan, and Chef Philippe Bertineau, a native of Poitou. The main course featured “Poulet Grand Mere” with roasted fingerling potatoes, autumn squash, button mushrooms and Heirloom carrots in a Pineau des Charentes light liqueur sauce.



ABOVE: Jerry Meekins and Chuck Schwam at Hermione Gala

For *Hermione* supporters there were delicious libations, wines and Cognac Hennessy courtesy of Moët Hennessy; an auction conducted by Robbie Gordy of Christie's; an inspired speech from French commentator and author Bernard-Henri Lévy on the lasting friendship between France and America; and music from French jazz guitarist Stephane Wrembel and his trio, who channeled the gypsy rhythms and songs of Django Reinhardt.

With Gala Co-Hosts Miles Young and Pascale Richard presiding over the evening's ceremonies, the Gala was a great success for all involved!

Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America also wishes to thank the following Gala Chairs: P. Miles Young, Pascale Richard, Irwin Gotlieb, Sir Martin Sorrell, and The Honorable and Mrs. Earle I. Mack.

In addition, FOH-LA again thanks all its generous supporters and followers to make this Gala a genuine celebration of enduring French-American friendship and Lafayette's "Cur Non", Why Not, "Pourquoi Pas" spirit. FOH-LA also thanks Restaurant Associates for all their wonderful help in making the Gala a truly memorable event.

## “Lafayette, A Source of Inspiration:”

Symposium at Lycée Français de New York

Jerry Meekins

A panel discussion took place at the Lycée Français de New York, on Dec. 9, 2014. The moderator was Pascale Richard, Director of the Cultural Center of the at Lycée Français de New York. The participants consisted of our very own AFL members, Laura Auricchio, author, “The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered” and Diane Shaw, Director of Special Collections and College Archivist, Lafayette College. Also, Laurent Ferri, Curator of the pre-1800 Collections in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, aka “RMC”, of Cornell University was a panelist.

Due to the personal nature of the panelist’s responses to the moderator’s questions, I have decided not to recap the discussion in a prose format. It would do them a disservice. I instead decided to highlight the moderator specific questions and bulletize the details of the responses. Fortunately, the entire 85-minute event can be viewed on vimeo.com. Google Lafayette, a Source of Inspiration. I highly recommend watching this. It’s not only very informative; it’s extra-special to hear the panelists themselves discuss this very interesting topic. They are experts on the subject matter. Indeed, both the moderator and the panelists did an outstanding and professional job. I enjoyed the evening very much.

Prior to Pascale’s introduction of the panelists, the *Hermione* 2015 video was shown. Pascale spoke about the *Hermione*’s upcoming visit to the United States.

The following is a synopsis of the panel discussion:

Laura was asked why write a book now in 2014, and what was your inspiration?

- Specialty is 18th century French history and art.
- Studied a woman artist of the French Revolution era.
- It’s a story about the people in the middle, moderates.
- Lafayette was a hero in America, not in France.
- He was a human being.

Pascale mentioned Lafayette’s first trip to America in 1777 on the *Victoire* at 19, and then his second trip in 1780 on the *Hermione*.

The panel discussed Lafayette’s role and contributions in the American Revolution.

- Various letters and Lafayette quotes were discussed.
- His military experience and aspirations.
- Washington/Lafayette relationship, both influenced.
- His idealism, energy and accessibility.
- Unpopular at Versailles, popular in America.

Next, Pascale, read a passage from Laura’s book. It was a letter that Lafayette wrote to Washington in 1787 from France. He talks about the reforms he envisions for France.

The discussion shifted to Lafayette’s role in the French Revolution.

- Fall of the Bastille.
- France's Washington, liberty and freedom.
- Constitutional Monarchy, a moderate, a centrist.
- National Guard.
- Laura read another passage from her book, regarding an event on Oct. 5, 1789, describing the women's march to Versailles and the famous Marie Antoinette balcony scene.

Pascale then asked why would the French like Lafayette?

- Once again, Lafayette caught in the middle. Success and failure, neither accepted.

Declaration of the Rights of Man. How did it get accepted?

- Enlightenment, political atmosphere in France.
- Personalities; Thomas Jefferson and Gouverneur Morris.
- Comparison to the United States Declaration of Independence. Tie-in to the words: French ideas back to France.
- Gold copy of the US Declaration of Independence in his Paris home next to an empty frame, awaiting the French version.

Slavery and Abolition.

- Diane announced an upcoming exhibition scheduled for 2016/2017 at the Grolier Club Library in New York.
- Cayenne – French Guiana.
- Lafayette's rare departure from his values, regarding slave compensation.
- Washington to Lafayette letter.
- 1824-1825 tour, American Blacks and the Creek delegation.
- Lafayette's descendants promoted anti-slavery.
- American Indians.
- Another passage from Laura's book, 9/14/1824, Castle Garden.

Why was Lafayette not a hero in France?

- Lafayette wanted too much. The people's hero and the Monarchy's protector.
- Champ de Mars massacre – grudge.
- Laura's encounter with an American asking about the massacre.
- Inconsistency.
- Bourbon Restoration.

Why was Lafayette a source of inspiration?

- Laura quoted another passage from her book. Lafayette says, "One would, indeed, never try anything extraordinary if one despaired of success".
- Lafayette College – Cur Non.
- Courage, admirable figure, zest for life and a complex human being.
- Present day politicians, both American and French refer to Lafayette. They refer to special quotes, documents and correspondence: such as 1824 Congressional speech and the letter to Washington referring to the key to the Bastille.
- Symbol of freedom and liberty.

The last comment before the Q & A, was made by Pascale. She used the upcoming *Hermione* project and voyage as an example of the continued Franco-American relationship. Lafayette was an ambassador then, and possibly, will be now.

Q & A from the audience:

#1 - Laura was asked about any French reaction to her book? Was there any French translation? (None, that she was aware of.)

- Laurent pointed out that during the 1989 French Bicentennial there was little reference to Lafayette, nor a centrist position.
- Laura's book reference to the Houdon bust and the Versailles curator who wanted to know "Why should we have a bust of Lafayette?"

#2 - A general question on how to keep the political balance?

- Lafayette was an instigator, moderation and truth.
- Right/ left, no center.

#3 - Students associated with the New York Historical Society asked about Lafayette and the abolition movement?

- Lafayette was an abolitionist, in favor of gradual emancipation.
- African Free School visit in 1824.
- Thomas Jefferson offered Lafayette Governorship of Louisiana and a plantation. He refused.
- Washington's will frees slaves at Martha's death.

#4 - Did you like him? (Yes!)

- He was flawed, human and admirable.
- He was a womanizer.
- He was a complex person.
- He was an individual on the world stage.
- He left a legacy.

#5 - The issue of being a centrist.

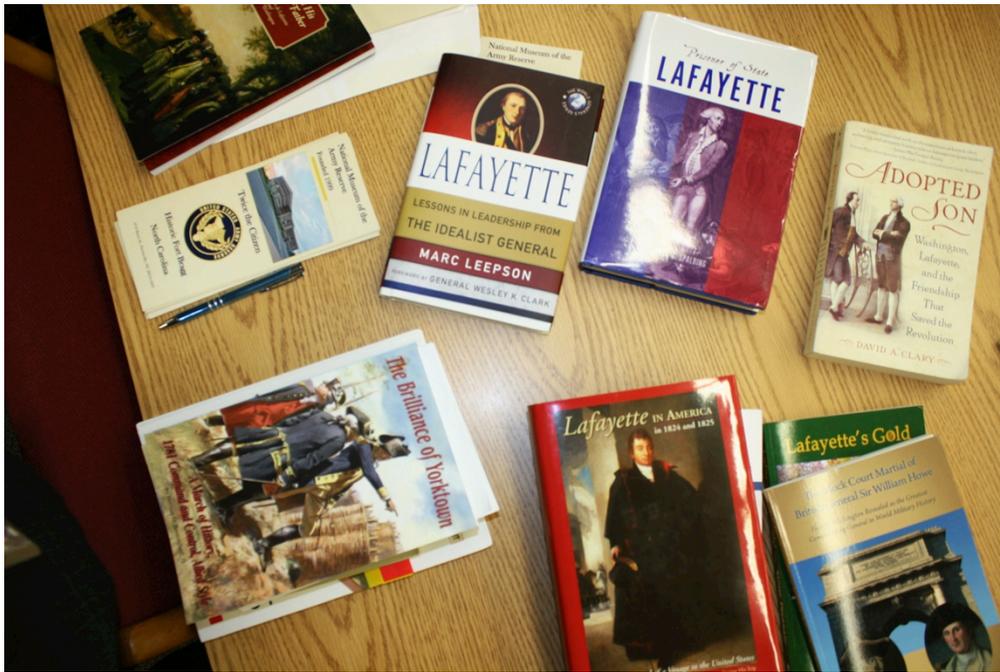
- In 1776 he was not a radical. He created a stir.
- As stated before, he was a proponent of gradual emancipation.
- The Rights of Man.

Except where specifically mentioned by name, all three panelists contributed to the responses.

I was also fortunate to meet and talk with Marc Jensen, Director of Maritime Operations, Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America. As most of you may know, he is a crew member sailing on the *Hermione*, on her historic maiden voyage to the United States. I look forward to meeting with him again in June, in Yorktown, VA, onboard the *Hermione*.

## Fayetteville, North Carolina School Receives Inaugural Presentation of Lafayette Book Collection

On November 13, a collection of books on Lafayette was presented to students at the Alger B. Wilkins High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The American Friends of Lafayette established the Lafayette Book Collection in 2014 in order to make it easier for high school students to learn about the French hero of the American Revolution and about the contributions to our independence made by France. Each year, a high school located in a city or county named for Lafayette, or even a school named for him, will receive this literary tribute to Lafayette. Also, it should be a school that serves “at risk” students.



In June 2014, the American Friends of Lafayette celebrated its 83<sup>rd</sup> year with the annual meeting and banquet in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the first city named for Lafayette (1783) and the only namesake city he actually visited (1825). The success of that meeting and the hospitality shown by their hosts, the Lafayette Society and the city of Fayetteville, inspired the AFL leadership to select Fayetteville as the first city for the book project.

The Alger B. Wilkins High School incorporates the “Community in the Schools” concept of strong personal relationships between students and staff combined with an intense focus on academic achievement. Their students have dropped out of a traditional school or are at risk of doing so, but have the potential to thrive in a supportive learning environment. The book presentation was made to an assembly of students and their history teachers and principal by the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville on behalf of the American Friends of Lafayette. Colonial historical interpreters and historian Bruce Daws, dressed in the 1825 uniform of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, talked about Lafayette’s contributions to our freedom and his visit to Fayetteville. Dr. Frank Till, Cumberland County Superintendent of Schools, made a surprise visit and participated in the event. After the formalities, students were invited to try on a tricorner hat and examine replicas of implements carried in the field by Continental soldiers. The real readers in the class made a bee line for the books and flipped through the pages excitedly.



ABOVE: Pictured left-to-right are Alger B. Wilkins High School seniors Infinity Times and Elias Briley, Lafayette Society president and AFL member Hank Parfitt, Cumberland County School Superintendent Frank Till, Principal Mrs. Vernon Lowery, curator of the Museum of the Army Reserve Chris Ruff, and Fayetteville's own Adrienne interpreter Abby Mullis.

The American Friends of Lafayette are very grateful to the authors, many of whom are members of the AFL, who made this project possible by donating their books. The AFL also appreciates the work by the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville in coordinating the book presentation with the county school superintendent and staff and arranging for the historical interpreters and newspaper coverage.

*Mr. Hoffman,*  
The students and staff of Alger B. Wilkins High School would like to express our gratitude for the literature given and presentation conducted at our school.  
Thanks for all you do!  
Mrs. V. Lowery  
Principal ABWHS

## AFL's FACEBOOK PAGE



Remember the 80's, when you had to have an 800 phone number or you weren't "official?" Then in the 90's you had to have a website, or no one took you seriously. Then the new millennium demanded a link to You Tube from your website with purchasing power. Well, now we've entered the social media age. Apparently no one can be more than a foot away from a computerized video device. So that is why the American Friends of Lafayette has a Facebook page. Facebook (FB) is an app that actually paves the road for potential members to find our website. Increased online visibility, via Facebook posts and the website, has enabled more folks than ever to join the AFL. Don't think "Yellow Pages" think "Google." And Facebook posts help friendsoflafayette.org get above the fold of the Google screen.

The AFL Facebook page launched in July 2011 with a link to the website "27 Reasons we should honor Lafayette." Janice Wolk has managed the page since then, and lately Peter Brunner and Bonnie Fritz have added photos and comments when they can.

The key to FB is frequent updates, with members and guests commenting (aka posting) whenever the feeling comes along. Please feel free to add posts and pictures related to our hero, upcoming events related to our interests, and local chapter information.

Here are some stats according to FB:

- Of our 408 Fans\* 36% are women, 63% men. And more men than women comment or share our posts.
- The preferred language of FB, besides American English, is: 17 UK English, 16 French, and one each Finnish, Italian, Vietnamese, Dutch, Spanish (Spain).
- Philadelphia has more Fans (11) by one...Fayetteville (10), then NYC (9), DC (7), Boston (6).
- We have 19 Fans from France, 2 from India, Philippines, Belgium, Australia, UK, one each from Venezuela, Ireland, Canada.
- Our overall top posts: Happy Birthday Lafayette 9/6/14 - 718 people; Chavaniac pictures 7/15/14 - 587 people; Yorktown Day parade pictures 10/19/14 - 534; New book about Lafayette post 10/15/14 - 400; Picpus pictures 7/4/14 - 362.
- Janice's call to join post on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 reached 327 people.

\*These people "liked" our page, which means they get email notification when there are updates on our FB page.

- Bonnie Fritz

# A Tale of Two Houses- Benjamin Ring, Gideon Gilpin and Lafayette At the Battle of the Brandywine

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The Battle of the Brandywine- in what has been called the Philadelphia Campaign- was a pivotal event in the American Revolution. Most people don't realize that a couple of peace-loving Quaker farmers played a role in the largest land battle in America up until the Civil War. One offered the use of his home to the American commander, the other provided a friendly reception to a young French nobleman who had joined the fight for liberty. The two Quakers- Benjamin Ring and his closest neighbor Gideon Gilpin- had front row seats as this epic event unfolded. While the Ring house has garnered the greatest recognition as the place George Washington visited, the home of Gideon Gilpin is also significant due to its connection with Lafayette. A thorough study of available evidence has revealed fascinating details of Lafayette's link to this historic home. As Gilpin's dwelling has been closed to the public, it is hoped that renewed public attention will help to re-open this important site.

In the Summer of 1777, the Marquis de Lafayette arrived in Philadelphia after a long journey and volunteered his services to assist George Washington's Army. Although the Continental Congress at first turned him away, he was granted the status of Major General- but without pay or command. Lafayette was undaunted, saying when he finally met Washington: *"I come here not to teach, but to learn."* Thus began the most important friendship of the American Revolutionary War. This bond would be forged at Brandywine and grow in intensity over the following years.

Early in the morning of September 9<sup>th</sup>, Washington started moving his troops toward Chadds Ford after receiving intelligence showing British General Howe was moving north from the Chesapeake Bay. Benjamin Ring's farm in the rolling hills east of Brandywine Creek must have appeared an attractive site for an encampment, allowing the possibility of food, sustenance and a vantage point from which he could inspect potential battle lines. The choice likely presented a contradiction to Washington, as he knew Ring's foundation in faith was a dedication to non-violence. While many Quakers were openly against the war, a high percentage actually sided with the Continental Army, who could be their only protection against pillaging at the hands of the British invaders. Noted Chester County historian Gilbert Cope stated *"...if the preferences of those Friends who violated the discipline of the Society by taking up arms is any indication of the prevailing sentiment, we might conclude that at least ninety per cent of Friends secretly favored independence."*<sup>1</sup> One of Washington's top officers at Brandywine- General Nathaniel Greene- was a practitioner of this faith. He was called "the fighting Quaker" by his countrymen. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Battle of the Brandywine raged around Chadds Ford and to the North near the Birmingham Meetinghouse, where the colonials were routed by forces under British General Howe. Although Washington was defeated at Brandywine and Lafayette was wounded, the Army survived to fight another day.

No written evidence of this period exists indicating that Washington actually spent the night in Ring's home, but Washington's journal mentions his visit. A letter by Ring's grandson describes how the family hosted the General, Lafayette and other officers there for a meal.<sup>2</sup> As the weather was extremely hot, it's possible Washington simply stayed outside (in his tent) for the two nights he was there, but made use of items like Ring's writing desk. As Benjamin Ring had at least a dozen people in his household (including his many children, wife and a servant)<sup>3</sup>, it is unlikely he relocated his entire family when Washington arrived. Instead

<sup>1</sup> Gilbert Cope, "Chester County Quakers During the Revolution", Proceedings of the Chester County Historical Society, November 20, 1902

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Ring letter concerning the Battle of the Brandywine, 1859, Brandywine Battlefield Park archives

<sup>3</sup> Margartet B. Munier, "Washington's Headquarters At the Battle of the Brandywine: A Reconstruction of the Benjamin Ring Farm", Master's Degree Thesis, West Chester State College, June 1955

he probably gave Washington access to his property to allow him to formulate his strategy for the battle ahead. Even if Washington and several aides-de-camp spent the night inside the Ring home, space limitations would have prevented his Generals (including Lafayette) from staying in the same house.

Typically officers lodged in the vicinity, within a short distance of his headquarters- and for good reason. In case of a surprise attack by the enemy, it would be catastrophic for them all to be together.<sup>4</sup> Ring's home has been recognized as "Washington's Headquarters" and although it burned down in 1931, the structure was meticulously reconstructed to closely resemble the original house which stood when Washington was there. Ring's nearest neighbor Gideon Gilpin swore an "oath of allegiance" to the colonial government which was waging war against the British.<sup>5</sup> Gideon openly supported the war for independence; he was later asked to leave his Quaker congregation due to this "transgression". Gilpin is listed on the rolls of the Chester County militia during the war, so clearly he supported the patriot cause. His home stood only a few hundred yards from the Ring house and has been referred to over the decades as "Lafayette's Headquarters". In recent years, there has been uncertainty as to whether Lafayette ever stayed in the Gilpin house. As with Washington's visit to the Ring farm, no written evidence of Lafayette spending the night in the Gilpin home has been uncovered, yet several facts do support the likelihood that he was Gilpin's guest before this historic battle.



Above: Gilpin House

Courts of law typically rely on the testimony of eyewitnesses to help determine the facts of a case. One witness who provided a written account of this battle was Joseph Townsend, who saw the British troops marching on September 11th toward the Birmingham Meetinghouse where much of the fighting raged. In his journal (published in 1846), Townsend states that "*General Washington had his headquarters at Benjamin Ring's, who resided near the east side of Chadds Ford and General Lafayette was near at hand in the neighborhood...*"<sup>6</sup> That neighborhood was likely Gilpin's property or his home, immediately adjacent to Ring's land. Townsend goes on to state that the British soldiers "*inquired what sort of a man Mr. Washington was. My brother, who had a knowledge of him by being with him at Chadds Ford, replied that he was a stately, fine looking man of great ability...*"<sup>7</sup> Townsend and his brother William had a first-hand view of the events on that day. It's helpful to note where Washington's officers actually camped throughout

<sup>4</sup> Carl Closs, "Living Biographer" of General George Washington, personal communication March 29, 2014

<sup>5</sup> Concord Monthly Meeting records, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Townsend, "The Battle of Brandywine- Some Account of the Adventures of One Day- the Memorable September 11, 1777"

<sup>7</sup> Joseph Townsend, *ibid.*

the Revolutionary War. At Valley Forge- the next major encampment for the Continental Army- Washington lodged at the home of Isaac Potts; Lafayette and other officers stayed in houses nearly 1- 1 ½ miles away.<sup>8</sup> Another indication of the likelihood of Lafayette lodging with Gideon Gilpin concerns Gilpin's first cousin, George Gilpin, who was an early supporter of the fight for independence as a member of the Fairfax County militia in Virginia.<sup>9</sup> It is unclear whether Gilpin later joined the Continental Army, but as an aide to Washington, he is mentioned in several battles of the Revolution, one source listing his service at the Battle of the Brandywine.<sup>10</sup> George Gilpin became so close to Washington personally, he was asked to be a pallbearer at Washington's funeral.<sup>11</sup> Because of this close relationship, it has been speculated that when the Army was in Chadds Ford, George Gilpin could have arranged for Lafayette to stay nearby with his cousin Gideon.<sup>12</sup> The Gilpin and Washington families were actually related going back to the year 1292 with intermarriage between the two clans, but it is not known whether Washington knew this when he arrived near the home of Gideon Gilpin in 1777.<sup>13</sup>

Numerous authors over the last two centuries have commented on this battle and Lafayette's later triumphant return trip to America. When Lafayette visited the Chadds Ford area in 1825, his aide Auguste Levasseur- who was with him at the time- noted in his journal "*At Chadds Ford, the General learned that one of his companions-in-arms, Gideon Gilpin, at whose house he had passed the night the evening of the battle, was now bedridden by age... the General hastened to go to the old man... Gideon Gilpin recognized him as soon as he entered and showed him by tears of gratitude and affection how greatly this visit spread charm on his last moments...*"<sup>14</sup> Several newspaper accounts of the period detail this meeting between Lafayette and Gilpin.<sup>15</sup> It is highly unlikely Lafayette would have stopped to see a man he never met before, with his enormously busy schedule visiting literally hundreds of people in 24 states. Levasseur's use of the term "*companions-in-arms*" is important. This indicates that Lafayette recognized this man who supported the cause and helped him before a critical battle. Many observers of this trip noted that Lafayette's memory at the time was extremely sharp, as he recalled the exact places where the battle raged. Clearly Lafayette remembered Gilpin and was pleased to see him. To this author, Levasseur's account of this visit with Gilpin appears highly credible.

Another man who travelled with Lafayette- the Marquis de Chastellux differs in his account of where Lafayette may have stayed before the battle, describing a trip Lafayette took in the latter stages of the Revolutionary War. When the two men visited Chadds Ford, Chastellux states: "*...it was already late when we came within reach of the field of battle and as we could see nothing until next morning... we had to separate into two divisions... Lafayette attended by the other travelers went further on to ask for hospitality from a Quaker named Benjamin Ring at whose house he had lodged the night before the battle...*"<sup>16</sup> There are a few problems with this account. We know that during the war, Washington's officers generally *didn't* stay in the same house as the commander, so the Ring house is unlikely to have been where Lafayette had lodged. Chastellux wasn't physically with Lafayette when he departed, so he never witnessed Lafayette actually visiting Benjamin Ring. It's possible he confused this house with the Gilpin house nearby. Even if we accept the possibility that Lafayette spent one night at the Ring house with Washington, the Army was in Chadds Ford for **two** nights before the battle. Where did Lafayette stay the *other* night?

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<sup>8</sup> Valley Forge National Historic Park map from website, March 2014 (public domain)

<sup>9</sup> John H. Gwathmey, "Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution"

<sup>10</sup> John W. Jordan, "Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania"

<sup>11</sup> Mount Vernon Library, George Washington's Pallbearers

<sup>12</sup> "The Gilpin Home, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania", [www.Rootsweb.com](http://www.Rootsweb.com)

<sup>13</sup> Mary Eakins and Susie Clugston, "History of the Gilpin Family in Great Britain and America"

<sup>14</sup> Auguste Levasseur, "Lafayette in America in 1825 and 1825", translation by Alan Hoffman

<sup>15</sup> The Village Record, August 1825

<sup>16</sup> Marquis de Chastellux, "Travels in North America in the Years 1780- 1782"

Another mention of Lafayette in Chastellux's journal seems to contradict his assertion that officers like Lafayette would have stayed at the Ring house. In a section describing meeting Washington along with his top officers at one of Washington's headquarters during the war, Chastellux states "*About nine o'clock the general officers withdrew to their quarters, which were all at a considerable distance...*" In this same description, there is also a statement by Chastellux which leads the reader to believe that either his memory was sometimes suspect or his descriptions were inaccurate, as he mentions General Washington: "*M. de la Fayette was in conversation with a tall man, five foot nine inches... of a noble and mild countenance. It was the General himself.*"<sup>17</sup> Chastellux was wrong. Washington stood six foot, two and a half inches in height—almost a half-foot taller than his description. These contradictory and confusing assertions by Chastellux raise questions about the accuracy of his account of Lafayette's visit to Chadds Ford.

Numerous historical summaries from the mid-1800's through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century also support the contention that Lafayette met Gideon Gilpin before the battle and on his return visit in 1825. The account by Joseph Townsend is delineated on a surveyed map of the battlefield showing where Lafayette stayed, which was published with Townsend's first hand description.<sup>18</sup> Benjamin Ring's grandson Samuel Ring wrote some comments about the battle in his letter to family descendants in 1859. In it he describes the mayhem and Washington's troop movements. "*Grandfather and three of his neighbors mounted horses and by crossing the fields succeeded in keeping out of the way of the marching columns... two men who had mounted horses in the morning... were still in company... Grandfather rode up to Washington... 'Friend Washington, if thee crosses the country in this direction... thee can cut off near two miles...'*"<sup>19</sup> Ring's closest neighbor was Gideon Gilpin. It is possible that Gilpin was there with Ring as he tried to show the commander a travel route, Lafayette likely nearby.

Notable Chester County historians J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope mention Lafayette's travels in 1825: "*About a mile from the ford the general stopped and alighted from his carriage to see Gideon Gilpin, a very aged man, confined to bed, at whose house he had made his headquarters before the battle. The sick man was gratified at the sight of the veteran, who pressed his hand cordially and wished him every blessing...*"<sup>20</sup> Lafayette's tour included a night with the du Pont family near Wilmington, Delaware. He later stopped in West Chester, where he was met with a grand parade and feasted at the home of a local dignitary.

One event seems to indicate that a subsequent owner of the Gilpin house believed Lafayette had stayed there. In a ceremony attended by many prominent historians in 1910, the Delaware County Historical Society placed a bronze plaque reading "Lafayette's Headquarters" on a large boulder in front of the Gilpin house. The owner of the house—Dr. Arthur Cleveland—did the unveiling. It was the Cleveland family who later moved out of the house when the property was turned into a state park. A booklet published by the state of Pennsylvania shortly after the park came into existence states "*Gideon and his family were... quite willing to have his home used by the Marquis de Lafayette at the time of the Battle of the Brandywine... Gideon and Lafayette were on the best of terms...*"<sup>21</sup>

Lafayette didn't have command of troops at Brandywine, so later publications corrected the moniker of "Lafayette's Headquarters" to simply read "Quarters". The perceptions of some people may have been negatively affected due to this unfortunate error. Nonetheless, the Gilpin house continues to be an important historical artifact. The state devoted \$600,000 and the Pew Trust invested roughly \$120,000 to refurbish the

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<sup>17</sup> Marquis de Chastellux, "Travels in North America in the Years 1780- 1782"

<sup>18</sup> "Map of the Battle of the Brandywine, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1777, based on a Map compiled from an actual Survey made during the Summer of 1846"

<sup>19</sup> Samuel Ring letter concerning the Battle of the Brandywine, 1859, Brandywine Battlefield Park archives

<sup>20</sup> J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, "History of Chester County", 1881

<sup>21</sup> "The Brandywine Story", 1952

structure.<sup>22</sup> This sizable investment of \$720,000 in the early 1950's (not including later improvements) indicates the significance of the Gilpin house both to the historical community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

All the available evidence indicates that Lafayette *did* stay on the Gilpin property and likely spent time in Gilpin's home before he laid his life on the line for the American cause. Like the Ring House, this home represents a connection to our past; its importance cannot be understated. As it is the only one on the battlefield with its original structure intact, the Gilpin house should be maintained for generations to come. At present, the home is closed to the public, but its value related to Lafayette and this battle is a clear reminder of why we need to open it again. Over the decades, Lafayette has grown in stature due to his numerous contributions in procuring our liberty. Willingly risking his life and fortune, he is truly a "Founding Son" of the American Revolution. Although we may never know the exact details of Lafayette's stay here, the Gilpin house represents a critical link to that late Summer day in 1777 when Washington's fragile army struggled against the British and two Quaker men helped secure the blessings of independence for our nation.



Above: Ring House

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<sup>22</sup> Pennsylvania State Archives

# Ceremony at Lafayette Escadrille Monument

By Joyce Good

NOVEMBER 11th 2014

Under beautiful sunny skies but on a bit crispy autumn morning many officials, dignitaries, men, women and children gathered together at the Lafayette Escadrille Monument to honor our brave pilots who fought and died for the cause of Liberty during the Great War 1914 -18. Ms Uzra Zeya, representing the US Embassy in Paris, especially encouraged the children when she said: “The Future is yours...let’s keep trying to build a more peaceful world but never forgetting those who gave many sacrifices before.” Many wreaths were laid by various associations followed by a moment of silence as well as the playing of French and American taps. We were then invited to descend into the crypts where the local chapters of the Boy and Girl Scouts gave a very moving silent tribute by laying a rose on each tomb while it was announced: “Mort pour la France et la défense de la Liberté”.

Just over the hill in the American Cemetery in Suresnes overlooking Paris, another ceremony was taking place where Mr. Munsel, the cemetery superintendent, was also encouraging the young Scouts to never forget what these soldiers had given here.



TOP: Mr. Munsel speaks to Scouts.

BOTTOM: Ms. Uzra Zeya and husband, representing the US Embassy in Paris.

## French Frigate *La Fayette* Visits Yorktown



ABOVE: Superintendent Dan Smith presents the captain's letter and coin to Betty McPherson during our annual Yorktown cocktail reception October 19th. Also present (L-R) Chuck Schwam, Jerry Meekins, Lea Gryk and Phil Schroeder.



On board, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

Dear Dan

While the "La Fayette" is leaving to go to Norfolk naval station, I want to congratulate you and to thank you for the wonderful ceremony that you organized this morning at the Yorktown Victory Monument.

The way people from Yorktown welcomed us was absolutely unbelievable. Obviously the crew and I were quite proud and very happy to be part of the ceremony. I am convinced that it will definitely be an unforgettable moment.

This kind of event reminds us how deep the relationship between France and the United States of America is. As I said, the name of La Fayette is one of the most precious symbols representing the precious friendship that links our two countries.

Once again, thank you very much. This ceremony wouldn't have been doable without all your support and the one of your team.

Yours faithfully

Captain Serge Bordarier,  
Commanding officer of FS « La Fayette »

DESTINATAIRE :  
Mr Smith  
Superintendent of National Park Service

ABOVE: Letter to Dan Smith: On Monday, June 2nd the French frigate *La Fayette* visited Yorktown Virginia. Above is a letter from Captain Serge Bordarier to AFL member Dan Smith (the Superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park)



Front of coin: Accompanying the letter was this handsome coin which will be deposited with Lafayette College for safekeeping.

Back of coin: Images and references to the modern frigate *La Fayette* adorn the back of this coin along with General Lafayette's motto: CUR NON?

## Update on AFL Membership Directory and Listserv

By Rob Raffety

At our 2014 Annual Meeting, I agreed to lead a standing committee to explore options for creating an AFL Membership Directory. Other members of the committee included Gayle Randol, Arleen Fields, and Dan Fitzpatrick. After much discussion, the standing committee forwarded the following recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- 1) To establish an opt-in AFL email listserv for use by any member. The purpose of the listserv is to facilitate general information sharing of Lafayette-related news and events. To ensure that no member of the listserv posts extraneous content, it will be moderated by Dan Fitzpatrick. AFL Members in good standing may join and exit the listserv at their convenience. To join, please email Dan Fitzpatrick at [dfitzpatrick32@gmail.com](mailto:dfitzpatrick32@gmail.com)
- 2) To establish an opt-in AFL Membership Directory. The purpose of the Membership Directory is to share contact information with members of the AFL and facilitate communications between and among the members of the club in-between our annual meetings. AFL Members in good standing may agree to have their personal contact information included in the directory, to include: name, address, phone number, and email. Note: due to the administrative challenges involved with creating and maintaining the directory, participants must include all fields of information (no picking and choosing what to share). Hard copies of the AFL Membership Directory will be distributed at our next Annual Meeting in Yorktown, and a PDF of it will be circulated via email to all members of the club. This is an opt-in directory – only members who affirmatively consent to sharing their personal contact information will be included. To include your information in the directory, please click the following link and submit the form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JLMPD7D>
- 3) Opt-in forms to join the directory will be circulated multiple times via email to all the members of the club, with an opt-in deadline of March 31, 2015. To accommodate those members who do not have email but still may want to be included in the directory, please fill out and mail the postcard-sized attachment contained in this edition of the Gazette. The post card must be submitted by post-mark date March 31, 2015.
- 4) Update the AFL Membership Application to include an opt-in box for new members to affirmatively consent (or not) to having their personal contact information included in the AFL Membership Directory.

The Executive Committee adopted the above recommendations unanimously. I look forward to executing the next steps for both creation of the AFL Listserv and Membership Directory. On a personal note, I would like to thank and commend Gayle Randol, Arleen Fields, and Dan Fitzpatrick for their excellent work and cooperation in developing these recommendations. Given the concerns of identity theft, scam artists, and telemarketing, the issue of personal privacy was at the forefront of our deliberations. We believe the opt-in approach will best enable our club to maintain a shared directory while protecting the privacy interests of those members who would prefer not to share such information. I look forward to distributing the first AFL Membership Directory at our annual meeting in Yorktown!

## AFL Membership Directory Sign-up Form

The AFL is creating a membership directory that will be OPT IN only. If you do not wish your contact information to be published and distributed to other AFL members, please disregard.

If you would like to have your contact information published annually in the AFL Membership directory please email Almut Spalding at [aspaldi@mail.ic.edu](mailto:aspaldi@mail.ic.edu) OR, fill out the below form and mail to:

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

This information will not be published to nonmembers. The information that will be included in the directory is your name, mailing address, and email address.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to have my contact information published in the AFL's annual membership directory. This includes my name, mailing address, and email address.

\_\_\_\_\_ AFL Member Name

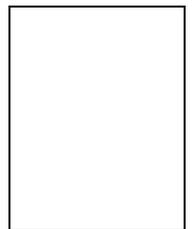
\_\_\_\_\_ AFL Member Signat



**THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE**

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

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



First Class Mail

