



Lafayette College, June 2017

Inside This Issue

President's Message- pg. 2
Annual Meeting 2017- pg. 3
Annual Meeting 2018- pg. 4
AFL at the Governor's Mansion- pg. 5
Lafayette in Baltimore- pg. 6
Yorktown Victory Celebration- pgs. 7-9
Statue Plaques- pg. 10
Lafayette Visits Goat Island- pg. 11
Lafayette Trivia- pgs. 12-13
Methodist University Lafayette Collection- pgs. 14-15
Lafayette Birthday Celebration in Fayetteville- pg. 16
New Members- pg. 16
Lafayette Trail Expansion- pgs. 17-21
Three Days Chasing Lafayette- pgs. 22-32
Possible Lafayette Symbol Found on Battlefield- pg. 33
Morse's Portrait of Lafayette- pg. 34

Lafayette's Favorite Brioche- pgs. 35-36
Lafayette in the White House- pgs. 37-38
Bust of Lafayette in White House- pg. 39
Escadrille Ceremony- pg. 40
Lafayette Sightings- pg. 41
Chez Rochambeau- pg. 42
Museum Château of Blérancourt- pg. 43
Green Spring Battlefield- pg. 44
Picpus Cemetery Ceremony- pgs. 45-47
AFL at Picpus Cemetery Ceremony- pgs. 48-49
Lafayette Festivities in Chavaniac-Lafayette- pgs. 50-53
Lafayette & Liberty- pg. 54
Portrait of "The American Lafayette"- pgs. 55-73
Lafayette Trivia (answers)- pgs. 74-76
Announcements- pg. 77

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friend of Lafayette,

This year, 2017, continues to be an important year for the commemoration of Lafayette and his legacy and for The AFL.

Since the publication of No. 86 of the *Gazette* in May, 80 AFL members celebrated our hero with a wonderful annual meeting in Bethlehem, Easton and Philadelphia, PA. Our special thanks to Diane Shaw and Pam Murray of Lafayette College for organizing and hosting our group. At the meeting, the membership approved the sites for 2018 and 2019, leaving it to the Board of Governors to determine the order. Chuck Schwam and I advocated for Annapolis/Baltimore and Savannah/Edisto Island respectively for 2018. After a spirited debate conducted respectfully and without charges or countercharges, the Board by majority vote approved Annapolis for 2018 and Savannah the following year.

AFL members participated in a number of other important events from June to October. These were the US Embassy's Picpus Cemetery event held this year on June 30, 2017 where Augie Huber placed the AFL wreath, our own Picpus ceremony on the traditional date of July 4, a wreath-laying at the Baltimore Lafayette equestrian statue, which is 100 years old, on Lafayette's birthday, September 6, and a ceremony to inaugurate the placement of equestrian statues of Generals Lafayette and Pershing in the town of Versailles, France in early October.

Still to come are the Yorktown Day festivities from October 18 to 20 – see Chuck's article for details – and a visit to the Governor's Mansion in Richmond on the anniversary, October 27, of Lafayette's visit there. Governor Terry McAuliffe is expected to greet our group.

As you know, 2024 is the bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. At our annual meeting in June, I appointed Rob Raffety as chair of the planning committee with Peter Reilly of Massachusetts and Julien Icher, our young French friend, as vice-chairs.

As many of you also know, Julien worked for the Consulate General for New England as an intern from March to July and documented the Lafayette Trail throughout the New England states. See Julien's article and go to his website – www.thelafayettetrail.com.

We are in partnership with Lafayette College to support Julien in his quest to expand his work to all 24 states that Lafayette visited. The College and The AFL have applied for three grants to date, and we expect to apply for several more grants before the end of the year. AFL member and Lafayette alumnus John Becica has already made a *substantial* pledge to jump-start the campaign. We will be affording our entire membership the opportunity to support this important project shortly.

Best regards,

Alan R. Hoffman
President

Annual Meeting 2017 Bethlehem / Easton / Philadelphia



Hank Parfitt presents Deedy Jensen with a bust of Lafayette won in a raffle much to the delight of Charles Alan Cleghorn who pulled the winning ticket.



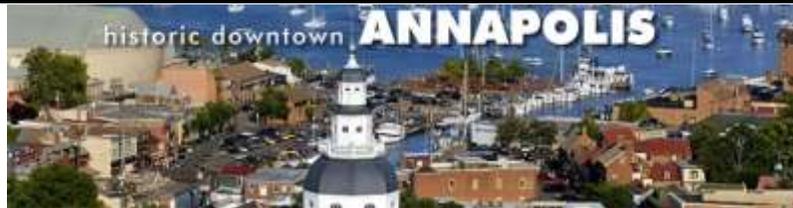
Myriam & Allan Wazé (right) present two new additions to Diane Shaw's Special Collection at Lafayette College



Lafayette College President Alison Byerly addresses the American Friends of Lafayette. Ms. Byerly is the college's 17th president and the first woman to hold the title.



President Hoffman (left) and his aide-de-camp Chuck Schwam pose in front of the Daniel Chester French statue of Lafayette.



**The 2018 Annual Meeting of
The American Friends of Lafayette
will be in Annapolis, Maryland
June 7th to 10th**



Historical Marker in Annapolis



The Annapolis waterfront



Lafayette's friend and comrade Baron Johann De Kalb stands proudly in front of the Maryland Statehouse in Annapolis.



Our headquarters hotel is the Maryland Inn which is one of the oldest continuously run inns in America. Situated in the heart of downtown Annapolis, the Maryland Inn is attached to the Treaty of Paris Restaurant where this important document was ratified by the Continental Congress.

AFL at the Governor's Mansion

By Chuck Schwam



On October 27th, 1824, General Lafayette was in Richmond, Virginia, visiting the state capitol and being feted by Governor James Pleasants at the eleven year old Executive Mansion. Now, 193 years later, the American Friends of Lafayette will commemorate Lafayette's visit to Richmond with an invitation from current Virginia Governor, Terry McAuliffe.

Governor McAuliffe has invited the AFL for a visit at Virginia's Executive Mansion in Richmond at 9:30 am on Friday, October 27th, 2017. We will have an audience with the Governor and a private tour of the mansion that Lafayette visited nearly two centuries before.

After the mansion tour, we have arranged for a private tour of the Virginia State Capitol Building a mere block away. This magnificently historic building (1785) was also visited by Lafayette on October 27th 1824. The building's interior features a domed rotunda containing Jean-Antoine Houdon's famous bust of General Lafayette and a full figure of General Washington.

In addition, we have organized a luncheon walking distance from the statehouse at Bistro Bobette. The AFL has reserved a private room at this lovely French Restaurant and will be served a buffet lunch. The sumptuous meal will include several authentic French dishes.

Lafayette in Baltimore

By Chuck Schwam



On Sept. 6, 2017 at 11:00 am, the American Friends of Lafayette laid a wreath at the statue of our hero in Baltimore, Maryland. Graciously hosted by the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, the wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Lafayette statue in Mount Vernon Place. This magnificent statue is one of only a handful of equestrian statues of Lafayette in the United States and is appropriately situated mere footsteps from Baltimore's Washington Monument in a historic part of town.

The groundbreaking of the Lafayette statue in Baltimore took place on May 14, 1917, just weeks after the United States entered World War I. The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy hosted a Centennial commemoration of the groundbreaking for the Lafayette statue on May 16, 2017.

Dr. Lance Humphries, the Executive Director of the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, commented: “We are pleased to have the American Friends of Lafayette with us, as we continue to commemorate the events of 1917. The addition of the Lafayette statue in 1917 physically transformed Mount Vernon Place into what we have today. It also added to the meaning of the Washington Monument, which honors the founder of our country, but also celebrates American national independence. The Lafayette statue honors centuries of Franco-American relations, and its genesis in 1917 essentially makes it a World War I memorial.”



YORKTOWN VICTORY CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 18th to OCTOBER 20th

By Chuck Schwam

The American Friends of Lafayette is excited to announce that we expect over 100 members to attend the Yorktown Victory Celebration festivities this October 18th to 20th. This email serves as a logistical guide for these three days. It contains important information which should be read carefully to ensure that you maximize your fun while in Yorktown. Feel free to print and bring it with you. All activities are à la carte as you can attend whatever you please.



1 Wednesday, October 18th

Lafayette Statue unveiling (323 Water Street, Yorktown). Free parking available in the parking deck across the street (330 Water Street, Yorktown)

11:00 am Lafayette Statue unveiling ceremony at the waterfront. This ceremony is free and open to the public

11:55 am Lafayette Statue unveiling luncheon at the Freight Shed directly next to statues (331 Water St, Yorktown). This reception is free and open to **AFL members and special guests only**.

"Lafayette Day" at the American Revolution Museum (200 Water Street in Yorktown - $\frac{2}{3}$ mile from the statues - steep hill and driving is recommended). Free parking is available on museum grounds. You will need to pay an entrance fee to enter the museum (\$12) as the remainder of the day's activities will be at this venue. During your time at the museum, please enjoy the extensive exhibits and/or attend one of the following lectures (open to the public):

1:30 pm AFL President Alan Hoffman presents "Lafayette's Grand Tour of 1824"

2:15 pm Historian, geographer and AFL member Julien Icher presents "The Lafayette Trail" project expansion

3:00 pm Outdoor cannonade ceremony honoring General Lafayette

4:00 pm AFL Curator Diane Shaw presents "Lafayette and Human Rights"

5:00 pm AFL member and museum curator Kate Gruber provides a private tour of the special exhibit "AfterWARD" highlighting five Revolutionary War heroes: George Washington, Henry Knox, Alexander Hamilton, James (Armistead) Lafayette and the one and only General Lafayette.

6:30 pm Annual Yorktown Day Dinner, This event is sold out (your RSVP and \$55pp check should have been received by now). This is a "cocktail attire" affair as most men wear a coat and tie (I don't dare suggest women's attire here). The culinary theme is French, and the entertainment promises to be Lafayette-centric.

Please note: Feel free to leave the museum sometime during the day to go back to your hotel and change (nap, freshen up or whatever). Just be back by 6:30 pm for an elegant evening of camaraderie and fun

- **Thursday, October 19th**

- Yorktown Victory Celebration (open to the public).
 - **IMPORTANT LOGISTICAL NOTE:** Every October 19th, thousands of people gather in the tiny hamlet of Yorktown to celebrate this decisive and ultimately war-ending victory. Streets are closed and parking is impossible. The good news is that the AFL has been given a limited number of parking passes for this event. I'll be handing out parking passes the day before, but we will need to car pool. AFL members staying at the Embassy Suites should coordinate ride sharing amongst themselves.
 - **8:00 am** we will gather at Surrender Field (on Surrender Road in Yorktown) to motorcade to the French Cemetery as the cemetery is deep in the woods. The road to the cemetery is narrow (no buses), and the cemetery is difficult to find. The only way to attend this event is join the motorcade at 8:00 am at Surrender Field. Although our time at the cemetery is short, it is a moving and meaningful ceremony on hallowed ground.
 - **9:15 am** the motorcade will then move to the French Memorial for another ceremony commemorating France's involvement in the American Revolutionary. This ceremony is full of pomp and circumstance with dignitaries from both countries attending.
 - **9:45 am** is when AFL members who have signed up to participate in the parade will peel off and park on Buckner Street and meet the parade organizers there. The rest of us will then park at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitors Center (1000 Colonial Parkway in Yorktown) and then walk $\frac{1}{3}$ mile to...
 - **10:30 am** gather at the Hornsby House Inn (AFL member David Bowditch's B&B located at 702 Main Street in Yorktown) to watch the parade. The AFL will have reserved and private lawn seating.
 - **11:30 am** we will walk across the street to the Yorktown Monument for the Patriotic Exercises. The AFL will have a designated seating area (front right) for this wonderful ceremony which will be highlighted by President Hoffman's keynote address. Then we will walk two minutes over to...
 - **12:30 pm** Customs House Luncheon located at (410 Main Street in Yorktown) This event is sold out (your RSVP and \$35pp check should have been received by now).
 - **After lunch,** feel free to explore the quaint and historic town (or go back to your hotel and rest) as our next event is not until...
 - **5:00 pm** AFL's famous cocktail party back at the Hornsby House Inn (located at 702 Main Street in Yorktown). This is a casual, AFL members only event and we will collect \$10 at the door. Most streets will be open by this time and parking will be available around the house. Three AFL members will be bringing Lafayette-related artifacts for everyone to see. Channing Hall will again bring the surgical instrument that was used to remove the musket ball from Lafayette's calf after the Battle of Brandywine. We will also welcome Jay Gaidmore, who is the Director of Special Collections at William & Mary college. Mr. Gaidmore will also share some Lafayette-related items for us all to enjoy. Thomas Nelson will also join us, bringing an artifact from his family's rich history.

- **Friday October 20th**

- Tour of Fort Wool
 - **8:15 am** we will board the Miss Hampton II for a private cruise to Fort Wool. Free parking is available at Crowne Plaza Hampton-Marina Hotel located at 700 Settlers Landing Road in Hampton, Virginia (40 minutes from Embassy Suites in Williamsburg). The Hampton II is docked in the marina next to the hotel. Coffee and pastries will be served. I will be collecting \$25 per person for this cruise and tour at the marina. Please bring cash or check. The boat leaves at 8:30 SHARP, please don't be late.
 - **9:00 am** we stop at Fort Wool (an island fort in the Chesapeake Bay that Lafayette visited on his farewell tour). Historian Mike Cobb will give us a private, one hour tour of this little known, rarely visited gem.
 - **10:45 am** we arrive back at the marina on the Miss Hampton II
- Brunch at Fort Monroe
 - **11:30 am** AFL members Robert & Katherine Kelly will again host us for a delicious brunch in their home at 20 Bernard Road in Hampton, Virginia (15 minutes from the marina). They live within the walls of Fort Monroe which is another site Lafayette visited during his farewell tour. This wonderful fort (with a moat !!!) was built in the early 19th century and has a very rich history.
 - **12:30 pm** Robert Kelly is the museum historian and will show us Quarters No. 1 which was the first permanent structure erected by the US Army on Fort Monroe. This structure is in the process of being completely renovated and is where two very famous individuals spent time: President Lincoln (1862) and General Lafayette (1824). Members are encouraged to tour the fort and museum on their own as well.

Also....

- **Exhibits in Three Yorktown Venues to Honor General Lafayette**

- AFL member and Yorktown icon, Bill Cole has established a three-part exhibition of Lafayette-related materials. Each exhibition venue has many unique items including ceramics, documents, newspapers, books, coins and currency, souvenir items, commemorative items, ephemera, and more, so a visit to all three sites will provide a view of a plethora of "Lafayetteiana" without a great deal of duplication. Items vary in age from 1781 to mid-20th century. Each item has a brief descriptive text stating its name, age, and maker, along with its connection to Lafayette's life and career as it relates to the American story and particularly to Yorktown. The places and dates of each of the three parts of this free exhibition are:
 - York County Library-Yorktown from October 2nd to 30th
 - York County Museum (York Hall) from October 8th to 31st
 - Gallery at York Hall from October 1st to 23rd

Statue Plaques

On October 18th, 2017, when the Lafayette statue joins Washington & de Grasse on the Yorktown waterfront, two new plaques will now be in place at their feet. Below is the text from these plaques which the AFL and York County drafted.

General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette traveled to America on board *L'Hermione* in April 1780 with news that General Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau and the French Expeditionary Force would be dispatched to America to assist the allied ground forces commanded by General George Washington. Having entrapped General Charles Cornwallis and his troops in Yorktown during the Virginia Campaign in the summer of 1781, Lafayette and his troops participated with Washington's Northern Army and French forces under Rochambeau in the siege of Yorktown, with assistance by the French Fleet commanded by Admiral François de Grasse. Lafayette met with de Grasse aboard his flagship, *Ville de Paris*, twice – on September 26, 1781 and again, with Washington, on October 21, 1781. Lafayette saw the Yorktown Campaign as a victory in the continuing international struggle for what he called the “Rights of Mankind.”

This tribute to Lafayette was made possible by members of
The American Friends of Lafayette with special thanks to:

The Celebrate Yorktown Committee of the Yorktown Foundation,
The County of York, The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati,
and members of the Ordre Lafayette.

Sculptor – Cyd Player, York County, VA

Two of the most significant Revolutionary War leaders at Yorktown were General Washington in command of the allied ground forces, and Admiral de Grasse in command of the French Fleet controlling the nearby waters. While the Washington-commanded allied ground forces, with assistance from General Lafayette's troops and French forces commanded by General Comte de Rochambeau, laid siege to General Cornwallis and his troops, de Grasse and his French Fleet blockaded any escape by water. While Washington and de Grasse were closely linked by their leadership roles, they met only twice. Both meetings were held on de Grasse's flagship, *Ville de Paris*. The first was on September 20, 1781 to complete planning for the attack on Yorktown and the other was on October 21, 1781, after Cornwallis' surrender on October 19, 1781, to explore future operations in the south.

This tribute to Washington and de Grasse was made possible by the Yorktown Foundation
with special thanks to:

The Celebrate Yorktown Committee, The County of York, VA,
Ms. Margaret Cook, Yorktown, VA,
and Dominion Virginia Power

Sculptor – Cyd Player, York County, VA

Lafayette Visits Goat Island at Niagara Falls

by Ernest and Janet Sutton



If one looks closely, the footsteps of Lafayette can still be seen on the 75-acre rocky prominence of Goat Island between the American Falls and Horseshoe Falls at Niagara Falls visited by him June 5, 1825. By 1817, a tourist toll bridge had been built to Goat Island. The owner also permitted Tuscarora Indians to live there and sell native crafts to the tourists. Both the Oneida and Tuscarora warriors served under Lafayette at the Battle of Barren Hill on May 20, 1778.

According to Lafayette's secretary, "We remained for nearly half an hour on the edge of the gulf, contemplating the rapid fall of the water in silence and as if dumbfounded by the sound of its terrible water . . . whose noise makes itself heard during the calm of the night, they say, for 20 miles." (Alan Hoffman's translation, "*Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825*", page 476-478.)

Lafayette's guide Augustus Porter, the owner of Goat Island, provided a personal 2-hour tour of the island. When Lafayette learned the island was for sale for \$10,000, "he regretted greatly that the distance from France did not let him acquire it." In 1885 Goat Island became America's first state park.



Overlooking Niagara Falls from Goat Island (USPS 1922)

AFL 2017 Fall Gazette Lafayette Trivia (1 of 2):

By Ernest and Janet Sutton



Question: Why did Lafayette detour from the Erie Canal to the Five Finger Lakes during his 1825 Grand Tour of New York?

As Lafayette journeyed from Erie, Pennsylvania along the coast of Lake Erie, he planned to disembark in Buffalo then travel to Lewiston, the largest town in western New York and portage around Niagara Falls. Then he planned to make a short visit to the Falls, Fort Niagara and the Tuscarora Indian Nation before boarding a comfortable “packet” boat at Lockport for the voyage to Albany on the way to Boston for the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument with Daniel Webster on June 25, 1825.

Historians of Lafayette’s grand tour often ask, “Why did he unexpectedly disembark from the comforts of the Erie Canal at Rochester to come to Geneva and then by way of Lake Cayuga embark at Syracuse?” Geneva which is located at the northern tip of Lake Seneca, one of New York’s Finger Lakes, is a coach ride of 124 miles. Geneva was the only public celebration held on this side tour.

Today Geneva is in the heart of New York’s wine country and known as the Trout Capital of the World. On an overlook before the final descent to Lake Seneca and Geneva is the famous Lafayette Tree. This is where local legend has him greeted by thousands of citizens leading him down to Geneva’s Pulteney Park through two large flowered arches: “Welcome La Fayette” and “Washington and La Fayette”.

With the discovery of a bound copy of the contemporary newspaper of Geneva, the “Palladium”, of June 8 and 15, 1825, the story of the Lafayette’s side trip becomes clear. Upon arrival in Buffalo on June 4, 1825, he received a special messenger with an invitation from James Rees and the citizens of Geneva for a public ceremony. Lafayette immediately responded “Yes”. In Rochester, he was met by Rees who accompanied him to Geneva by way of Lake Canandaigua, a journey of 45 miles. What was the relationship of Lafayette to James Rees to cause him to make such a significant departure from the Erie Canal?



Erie Canal Sesquicentennial (USPS 1967)

ANSWER ON PAGE 74

AFL 2017 Fall Gazette Lafayette Trivia (2 of 2):

By Ernest and Janet Sutton

Question: Was Lafayette Threatened by an Oneida Indian on the Erie Canal?

After visiting with his close friend James Rees in Geneva, New York, at the apex of Lake Seneca, Lafayette continued by coach all night along the New York Finger Lakes Route to Syracuse, a major hub on the Erie Canal. After boarding his packet, a canal boat (80' x 14') designed to carry passengers, he proceeded on a planned, leisurely, 128-mile journey at 4 miles per hour to Rome, Utica and the final terminal at Schenectady then by coach to Boston. At Utica, he met with three of the Oneida Nation chiefs whom Lafayette knew from the Revolutionary War. His tight travel schedule did not permit him to lay the cornerstone of the grave monument to his former comrade-in-arms General Baron von Steuben.

The bridges on the Erie Canal were frequently so low that a traveler sitting on the packet's cabin roof needed to lie down to pass under a bridge then set up his chair once again. On occasion, a traveler would stretch his/her legs by jumping on to a bridge, walking along side of the packet then jumping back on at the next bridge.

After leaving Utica and the Oneida Nation on June 10, 1825, an Indian warrior was seen racing alongside the packet to the next bridge. After leaping onto the packet roof after it passed under the bridge, he cried "Where is Kayewla? I want to see Kayewla." As observed by Lafayette's private secretary, all his companions immediately pointed to Lafayette. Kayewla "Great Warrior" is the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) name for Lafayette. The warrior was pleased and announced, "I am son of Wekchekaeta." Lafayette grasped his hand, and sat down with him to talk. Who was Wekchekaeta? (Alan Hoffman's translation, *Lafayette in American in 1824 and 1825*, pages 484-486)



ANSWER ON PAGE 76

Methodist University Celebrates 50 years of the Lafayette Collection

By Arleen Fields

In 1967, Methodist College was persuaded by Mrs. Margaret McMahan and other local history scholars to purchase a collection of Lafayette memorabilia from Schindler's Antique Shop in Charleston, South Carolina. On September 8, 2017, Methodist University celebrated "Fifty Years of the Lafayette Collection" at Davis Memorial Library. Archives Librarian Arleen Fields let the acquisition records of the collection tell their story, from the dramatic last-minute purchase of the collection from the clutches of a private buyer, to the year-long saga of ordering the perfect oriental rug for the Lafayette Room, to a cryptic 2013 email from Methodist University alumnus Gene Dillman in which he offered to donate a significant number of Lafayette items to the collection but asked that "we keep this highly confidential for the time being." Since then Mr. Dillman has donated over fifty items to the collection, most of them related to Lafayette's grand tour of 1824-1825.



The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Mr. Dillman's most recent donation: a letter written by Lafayette to President James Monroe. Dr. Robert Crout (Adjunct Professor of History, College of Charleston) has noted that "February 12, 1825" and "Gen La Fayette" are written in Monroe's hand. At first glance, the letter seems to be a routine piece of social correspondence:

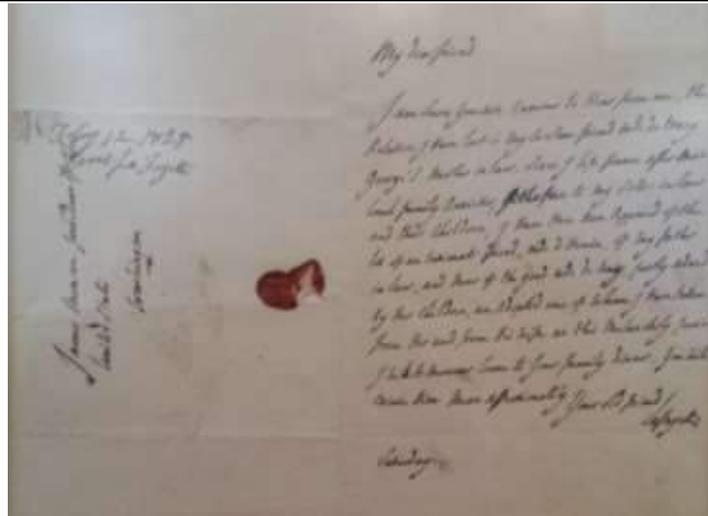
My dear friend

I am sure you are anxious to hear from me: The relative I have lost is my excellent friend Mde de Tracy, George's mother in law. Since I left France after most cruel family anxieties relative to my sisters in law and their children, I have here been apprised of the loss of an intimate friend, Mde d' Henin, of my father in law, and now of the good Mde de Tracy, justly adored by her children, an adopted one of whom I have taken from her and from his wife at this melancholy period. I will tomorrow come to your family dinner. You will excuse him. Most affectionately.

Your old friend

Lafayette

Saturday



Placed in historical context, however, Lafayette's response becomes far more than a simple reply to a dinner invitation. The letter was written just a few weeks before Lafayette arrived in Fayetteville, North Carolina (on March 4th), and only three days after President James Monroe hosted a gala reception for president-to-be John Quincy Adams which was attended by Andrew Jackson and Lafayette. Instead of discussing the volatile political climate, however, Lafayette shares his sorrow. Why such an intimate note? In the spring of 1794, when Lafayette was being transferred from captivity in Prussia to imprisonment in Austria, Monroe was the United States minister to France. At the same time, Lafayette's wife Adrienne was brought to prison in Paris and in fear of her life. Elizabeth Monroe, James Monroe's wife, visited Adrienne, and used her influence to have Adrienne released. Monroe and Lafayette had forged a friendship during the American Revolution, and this event must have served only to strengthen the bond between the families.



In the tradition of Lafayette merchandising and the spirit of Fayetteville's military culture, everyone who attended the presentation received a commemorative Lafayette coin.

American Friends of Lafayette members have a standing invitation to visit the collection – feel free to contact Arleen Fields (afields@methodist.edu or 910-630-7412.7412) any time you're passing through Fayetteville!

Lafayette Birthday Celebration in Fayetteville



Left: New AFL members Marge and Bill Loscalzo from Williamsburg, Virginia, attended North Carolina's official Lafayette Birthday Celebration in Fayetteville on the weekend after Labor Day. In addition to viewing an exhibition of Lafayette letters and artifacts at Methodist University on Friday night, they went on the Lafayette Trail Tour the following morning and retraced Lafayette's visit of March 4-5, 1825. Standing with them is tour guide Major Bruce Daws, Commander of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry. Founded in 1793, the F.I.L.I. is the second oldest private militia in continuous existence in the Southeast, and it was the official escort for Lafayette during his visit. The Lafayette Trail includes an insider's tour and lunch in the Phoenix Masonic Lodge (pictured here), where Lafayette was welcomed as a fellow Mason in 1825.

AFL New Members since May 1, 2017 (as of Sept. 15, 2017)

New Members, Benefactors

Richard L & Janice Ingram GA

Upgrades to Life Membership

John & Susan Henley NC
 Dorothea & David Jensen NH
 Michel Laudier VA
 Andrew Natale AZ

New Members, Individual & Family Memberships

Pearl R. Adamson & V. Cassel Adamson Jr. VA
 Janet Burnet NY
 Lucy Dale VA
 Carol Dobson Devon, UK
 Wendy Dockray & Robert Trobe CT
 Olga Anna & Jozef Duhl NJ
 Mary Idzerda Perko NC
 Susan Joy FL
 Leandros Katsareas VA
 Rudy & Sue Knepper VA
 Jan O'Sullivan CT
 Jeffrey L. Platte MD
 Marcia Rock DC
 Catherine Steever CO
 Michalah Troutt IL
 Edward Van Finn NJ
 Leslie Viccellio VA

New Members, Students

Mackenzie Fowler TX
 Molly Leech NJ
 Leann Thieu KY

The Lafayette Trail to Expand Beyond New England

By Julien Icher

Started on March 1st, the Lafayette Trail aims at creating an historic trail following Lafayette's footsteps in America during his 1824-1825 Farewell Tour. The Consulate General of France in Boston and French geographer Julien Icher joined forces to map the momentous tour and created the *Lafayette Trail* accordingly. It features an innovative web-based application accessible at the URL www.thelafayettetrail.com displaying the stops that Lafayette made as well as the routes he rode on.

From March 1st to July 31st, boots-on-the-ground research involving mostly outreach to historical societies, public libraries and archives was conducted to gather data about Lafayette's journeys across New England. In contemplation of the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in 2024, *The Lafayette Trail* is poised to venture out of New England and embrace the 24 states that Lafayette visited.

In this article, I will first tackle the functionalities of the mapping program entitled *The Lafayette Trail*. I will then explore the outcome of the Lafayette Trail in New England. Lastly, I will explain how The American Friends of Lafayette intend to support the project in partnership with Lafayette College so that it encompasses the 24 states shaping Monroe's 1824 Union.

How to Navigate Through the Lafayette Trail Mapping Program

After having accepted the terms and conditions of use, the map opens to a view including all of New England. Different segments of the route appear in different colors. The numbers in the circles indicate the number of stops made by Lafayette in that trail segment.

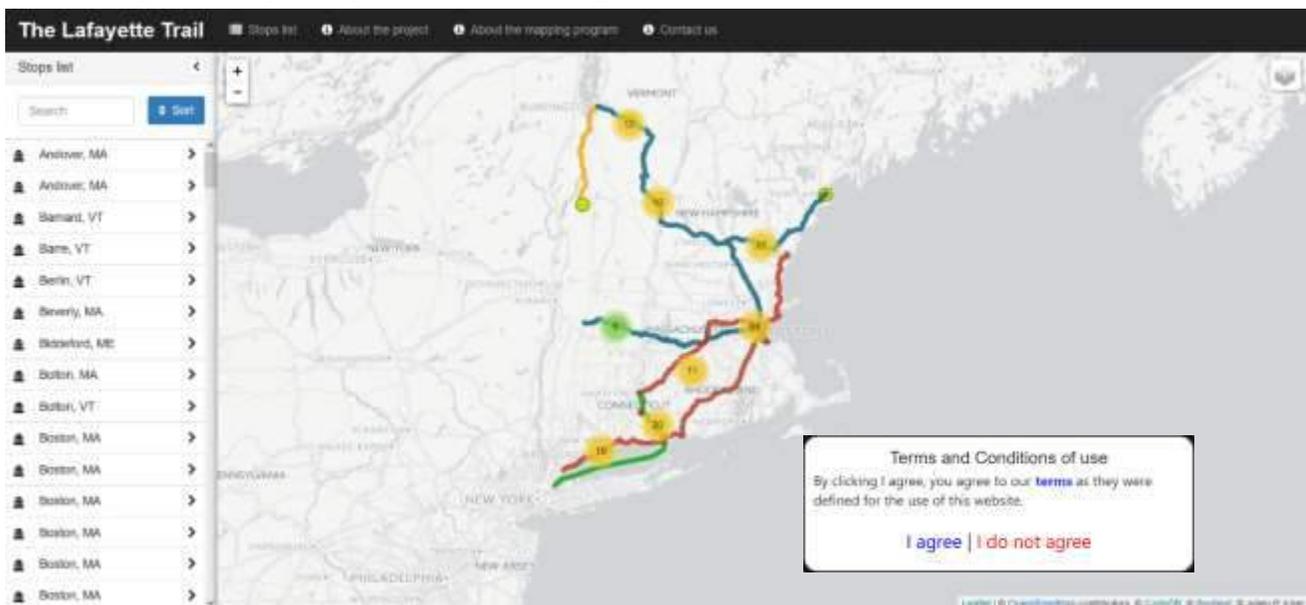


Fig.1 The Lafayette Trail. The map emphasizes New England. All the functionalities such as panning, zooming, interacting with the contents are explained in the "About mapping program" clickable button.

Explore the map by enlarging the view with the + sign and dragging the map across the screen with your cursor.

Enlarge the view enough, and individual unnumbered circles will appear designating individual stops. Click on a circle, and a pop-up image will appear with a description of what Lafayette did at that place. Once open, you can enlarge the image. Close the pop-up to continue exploring.

Alternatively, you may explore the stops Lafayette made by using the alphabetical listing of towns displayed on the side-bar. Click on "Stops List" at the top of the page to display or hide the list. The listing displayed will conform to the view you are looking at, therefore only the stops visible on the screen will be available in the list. Click on the location name to view the pop-up image and description of what Lafayette did at that place. You can also search for a place name in the listing by entering letters in the "search" box.

Click on the stack of layers in the upper right-hand corner, and a series of check boxes appears. You may control what is visible on the screen with the checkboxes: 1824 routes, 1825 routes, stops, and two steamboat voyages. For example, if you want to view the 1824 route only, uncheck all boxes except "1824".

Memorializing Lafayette's Farewell Tour Across New England

Crisscrossing throughout New England searching for evidences of Lafayette's journey, I frequently got in touch with local people involved in preserving their local history. As a pivotal moment of many local histories, Lafayette's visit is often referred to with excitement and enthusiasm.

The Rider Tavern, Charlton, MA, located on Stafford Street, which used to be the major thoroughfare connecting southern Massachusetts to Connecticut, was visited by Lafayette on September 3rd, 1824 as he was headed south to New York City, NY via Hartford, CT.



Fig.2 The Rider Tavern, Charlton, MA as seen from Stafford Street.

The Rider Tavern features an impressive collection of Lafayette-related artifacts pertaining to the Farewell Tour. One can peer into the case and see plates, books and gloves that reflect local excitement during the Farewell Tour while gazing at the portrait of the General overhanging the contents on display.



Fig.3 Collection on display in the Rider Tavern of Lafayette-related artifacts pertaining to the Farewell tour.

The Rider Tavern is the epitome of an American legacy whose history taps into Lafayette's memory. It embodies those taverns that would largely benefit from having an historic trail passing near their location. Many of the rural taverns located on secondary axes of communication have few opportunities to tell their history with sufficient visibility. A trail drawing visitors off interstate highways to drive into local history through interpretive signage is a good way of lifting the local economy.

The Lafayette Trail ultimately aims at reviving underappreciated territories by giving tourism operators more leverage to spread the word of their Lafayette-related history. As so, we think our message matches solutions decision-making political authorities should embrace to help rural communities throughout the United States.

The first step toward more visibility is to deliver lectures in as many places as possible, introducing the web-based application and the intended effects of the Lafayette Trail.

As part of my internship at the Consulate General of France in Boston, I delivered no fewer than 9 lectures in about two months across New England. The locations I went to stretch from local taverns to major academic institutions that have a tradition of supporting history-related endeavors such as Brown University, not to mention tourism operators such as Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

Fig.4

Lectures delivered across the United States as manager of the Lafayette Trail for the Consulate of France in Boston.

Date of the lecture	Name of the event	Location
19 May 2017	Massachusetts Lafayette Day	Union Club, Boston, MA
10 June 2017	AFL annual meeting	Lafayette College, Easton, PA
12 June 2017	Charlton Historical Society annual meeting	Rider Tavern, Charlton, MA
21 June 2017	Reception of Durga Tree International	Résidence de France, Cambridge, MA
26 June 2017	Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism meeting	Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, Boston, MA
5 July 2017	<i>Tracking Lafayette's New England Trail</i>	John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, RI
15 July 2017	<i>The Lafayette Trail in New Hampshire</i>	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH
20 July 2017	<i>Writers Series with Alan Hoffman and Julien Icher: Lafayette in America</i>	Partners Village Store, Westport, MA
26 July 2017	<i>The Lafayette Trail, from an economic asset to an educational tool</i>	Lafayette College, Easton, PA

As the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in 2024 draws closer, the natural pathway is to expand the project so that it encompasses the 24 states that Lafayette visited. Furthering this effort requires additional partners coming from both sides of the Atlantic. I will now explain our plans to enlarge the Lafayette Project while enjoying support from French and American institutions, associations and corporations.

Scaling up the Project

The *Lafayette Trail Project* will include the journeys Lafayette took across each of the 24 states, stretching as far south as Louisiana and as far west as Missouri. The map below depicts the state of the Union in 1824. The states part of the Union are colored in white.



Fig.5 Map of the United States in central North America from May 26, 1824, to May 6, 1828.

Lafayette College has expressed its interest in becoming the leading structure to take over from the Consulate General of France in Boston as the project expands beyond the boundaries of New England. The Bicentennial of the founding of the College in 1826 overlays that of the Farewell Tour.

The founding of Lafayette College in Easton, PA dates back to the Farewell Tour. Eastonians attending ceremonies in 1824 in Philadelphia to celebrate Lafayette came up with the idea of creating a college named after General Lafayette. It took them 2 years to have the college chartered and 6 more years to set up the first classes in 1832.

In addition to the already-existing web-based application, other mapping efforts will be carried out and a website will be implemented as an educational resource telling the stories of Lafayette and the latest developments of the Lafayette Trail across the country.

The Embassy of France to the United States and the Consulate General of France in Boston have offered to help raise funds for the project. Associations such as the Pennsylvania Sons of the Revolution, the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati and foundations such as the Dassault Systèmes U.S. Foundation have been contacted as part of the ongoing fund-raising effort. The American Friends of Lafayette is playing a major role by opening a fund for the Lafayette Trail Project and offering its non-profit status to further raise money.

Conclusion

The New England experience has exposed the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding General Lafayette across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The involvement of Lafayette College is a turning point in expanding the research further south and west. One of the next chapters will be exploring whether the commemoration of General Lafayette is carried out equally across the United States and if not, assessing the differences.

The specificity of the Lafayette Trail is to be found in its boots-on-the-ground nature. Gathering data is an ongoing process that requires going back and forth between historical sources and historical societies scattered across the country. As such, this bottom-up endeavor emphasizing local history matches decision-making public goals to revitalize underappreciated communities. We believe that the Lafayette Trail could fit into this effort.

From a broader perspective, the Lafayette Trail could be one of the next major milestones of the longstanding relationship between France and the United States. It could play a major role in raising people's awareness about Lafayette's achievements in America as the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour in 1824 draws near.

Lafayette Was Here - Probably

or

Three Days Chasing Lafayette

By Peter J Reilly

... there never was nor will be such a meeting in this or any country ,,,
Salem Towne, Junior, July 25, 1824

Burying The Lede With A Geographic Diversion

Stafford Street is one of those roads people who live in the area know about and use. It connects two of the main East-West roads in Central Mass - Route 20 and Route 9 – with only a couple of traffic lights. It crosses over the real East-West drag I-90 - the Massachusetts Turnpike. In these parts. Stafford Street runs NE/SW between Worcester and Charlton a bit less than eleven miles. There is not a lot to look at unless you pay attention.

Stafford street can be a little bewildering to people unfamiliar with the area. A couple of times on my walks in Rochdale one of those Massachusetts places that rates a post office, but is not its own town (Rochdale being part of Leicester), I have had to help out people trying to get to Connecticut. Frankly, I find it a little confusing myself sometimes.

I was just a little startled to learn that Stafford Street is a remnant of something that was once a big deal. The [Worcester Stafford Turnpike](#) connected Worcester and Hartford. Tolls were collected until 1835. So it was kind of the main drag. And that accounts for the marker just across Stafford street from the Episcopal church at the corner of Pleasant street.

The Markers

On September 3, 1824, General the Marquis de Lafayette was greeted by the people of the Town of Leicester, led by Captain Howe, Here, on the site of Stone's Tavern, a welcome was made by the Rev. Joseph Muenschner of the Episcopal Church, which was followed by an address to the crowd by Lafayette. If you are outbound from Worcester after passing through Rochdale, you will cross over the Mass Pike. A bit before that in Charlton you will see the [Rider Tavern](#). The Tavern is preserved and can be viewed by appointment. Across the street is an open field, which according to one of the monuments is where Charlton's militia drilled. Another plaque indicates that Lafayette also stopped there on September 3, 1824.

My New Obsession

Those two markers which I view pretty frequently, the one in Rochdale practically daily, developed a hold on my imagination. I began imagining that special day in 1824, although I have only a dim idea of what Charlton or Leicester militia might have looked like. Maybe like the older guy in this picture taken at

Old Sturbridge Village.



My primary interest in American history has always been the reform movements from 1830-1860, not that I can't get fanatical about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and World War II. At any rate, I spent quite a while obsessing about Adin Ballou, a rather odd figure, a Universalist turned Unitarian minister who became best remembered by Catholic peace activists in the 1960s. Then there was Thomas Wentworth Higginson, also a Unitarian minister, better known than Adin Ballou. He knew just about everybody who became part of the canon of 19th Century American literature, commanded a regiment of freed slaves in the



Late Unpleasantness and is best known in some circles as Emily Dickinson's mentor.

I read a large percentage of what Higginson wrote, which made it clear why he kind of missed being part of the canon himself. That led me to my obsession of the last decade. Higginson wrote a biography of Margaret Fuller. I really got somewhere with that one. At the upcoming [American Literature Association Conference](#) one of the sessions is: "Documentary Film on Margaret Fuller: A Preview," Jonathan Schwartz, Project Director; and Nan Byrne, Project Writer. I sparked that project and have been involved one way or another for several years. There is still a lot to be done with Margaret, but the groundwork for my new project should not interfere with that.

The new project is the bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour visit coming up in seven years. It is going to happen and it is going to be big. Before the progress report, though I should explain why I think it is so important.

About Lafayette

Lafayette is how we refer to him in America. Although sometimes it is Marquis de Lafayette, a title which he renounced. Or then there is the Marquis, because we really don't have any others. Anyway, the [first paragraph in Wikipedia](#) gives you the high points.

Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (French pronunciation: [marki də la fajet]; 6 September 1757 – 20 May 1834), in the U.S. often known simply as Lafayette, was a French aristocrat and military officer who fought in the American Revolutionary War. A close friend of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette was a key figure in the French Revolution of 1789 and the July Revolution of 1830.

The most important point I would add is that Lafayette, with help from Thomas Jefferson, was responsible for the [Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen](#).

About The Visit

Lafayette is altogether a fascinating guy with a fascinating biography, but he is mostly outside my primary area of interest. It is more what Lafayette came to represent and the profound effect that his visit had on the nascent democracy that intrigues me.

I scratch my head and can think of no event in American history that is comparable to Lafayette's visit. Everywhere he went crowds turned out for him sometimes waiting long into the night as he dealt with poor roads and unscheduled stops.

And they remembered. In the history of Ware, Massachusetts, you can read about a hurricane in the nineteen twenties that knocked down a venerable tree that was dubbed the Lafayette Elm, because Lafayette stopped beneath it for lunch on his second trip to Boston.

In the nineteen thirties the Berkshire Evening Eagle ran a series for several years about notables of the area from previous centuries. Men who had served in the Revolution or War of 1812 and held important offices. In the series, we learn about Phineas Allen (1776-1868) and Ezekiel Colt (1794-1860). Among the highlights of their lives: Mr. Allen was a member of the citizens committee which met Gen. Lafayette at the state line on the famous occasion of the visit to Pittsfield in 1825.

In June 1825 he (i.e. Colt) was of the escorting party which met General Lafayette at the state line on Lebanon Mountain on the occasion of his visit to Pittsfield. Majors Colt and EM Bissell has command of a troop of cavalry.

In 1870, the City of Pittsfield congratulating itself on the large number of citizens who had reached the age of 70, held a dinner to honor the old timers. Prof WC Richards presented a narrative poem outlining his notion of what such fellows might remember including the following two stanzas.

Tw'as a proud day for the village an' you seldom see a prouder
And never throats and bells and guns went merrier or louder
When we gave the hero welcome as means great Lafayette
Whose name like that o' Washington we'll never more forget

I think twas twenty-five he come an the soges went to meet him
An the county poured its thousands out old and young to greet him
For he draw'd his sword to help us when we'd a mighty foe
And gratitude's a sort of debt we pay _ but allus owe.

Lafayette's secretary wrote [an account of his travels](#), which has been translated by Alan Hoffman, President of the American Friends of Lafayette. Comprehensive as the account is you won't read about Leicester or Charlton or Ware in it.

Here is Levasseur's account of the day that Lafayette stopped in Leicester and Charlton: The first day in Bolton, we had stayed in the charming country house of Mr. Wilder, whose amiable hospitality will not be erased from our memory. The second day, we stayed at Stafford, after having attended the glittering festivities of Worcester, and on the 4th at ten o'clock in the morning, we arrived at Hartford,

The real story of the magnitude of Lafayette's visit is buried in local history.

Why?

Lafayette was invited by President Monroe to come and visit as the Guest of the Nation. It is well to remember that the American experiment with government by the people and civil equality was still very new. The people in the prime of life at the time were the first people to have spent their whole lives as citizens of the United States.

Lafayette, the only surviving major general from the Revolution, was a total hit with the veterans and the ceremonies surrounding the visit were as much a celebration of them as it was of him. One of the key events near the end of his tour was the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument.

The cause of self-government did seem to be prospering as the name of Bolivar was bruited about and we had the the Monroe Doctrine. There was even optimism about a solution to the contradiction of slavery with the establishment of Liberia, its capital being named for the President. Of course, people nowadays have not such a high opinion of the colonization effort, but it is well to remember that one of the rationales for the movement was that white people would not treat the freed slaves well. It is not as if the experience of Reconstruction proved the colonizers wrong.

All in Lafayette was an ideal person to embody the spirit of the new nation. He had not been involved in American politics which was then heading for a very divisive Presidential election, that would be decided in the House of Representatives for the first time. And he was not associated with any region of the country. And his work for democratic government and civil equality in France aligned with the idea that America was about ideas not ethnicity. And that they were ideas that would spread.

Back To Me

My notion about the bicentennial, which became more and more elaborate, was based purely on the two markers and my previous knowledge about the visit and Lafayette, which was pretty sketchy. So I figured I needed to do some research. For a recent biography I went with [Lafayette: His Extraordinary Life and Legacy by Donald Miller](#).

It was in reading the legacy part that I breathed a sigh of relief. I learned about the [American Friends of Lafayette](#). I became a life member. This is great. I'm not on my own when it comes to the bicentennial. I communicated with Alan Hoffman, who besides being a translator of Levasseur's account is the President of AFL.

And it is was my contact with Alan Hoffman that facilitated last week's road trip. He let me know about a graduate student in geography from France who was documenting Lafayette's stops in New England. I offered to host him when he was ready to take on the heart of the commonwealth.

Lafayette In Massachusetts

Lafayette made a point of visiting all of the then 24 states of the Union. He probably covered Massachusetts more thoroughly than any, Having originally landed in New York, he visited Boston twice - once early in his travels in August-September 1824 and nearly a year later to lay the cornerstone for the Bunker Hill Monument. His tour of the south and west was constrained by his need to get to Bunker Hill in time.

If we overlay modern roads on the map of 1824, we can imagine Lafayette jumping on I-95 to get to Boston via Providence and then heading back to New York by taking Route 2 to I-495 to I-290 to pass through Worcester where he would switch to Route 20 to pick up I-84 in Sturbridge to head to Hartford.

In 1825, he was coming from the Albany area and was in a hurry, but the Nation's Guest did not pay tolls ruling out the Mass Pike. He was mostly on Route 9 from Pittsfield to Worcester and then on Route 20.

After the dedication he headed north to visit New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont and did not touch Massachusetts on his way back to New York.

Planning Our Road Trip

So towards the tail end of my post-tax season vacation I get a phone call from Julien Icher.

Julien has a business card that identifies him as the Project Manager-Lafayette Trail for Republique Francais - Consulat Général de France á Boston. As we were chatting about his liking for the United States, I asked him what sort of document he was in the country on, and he told me that he had a diplomatic passport.

Julien called me on a Sunday when my covenant and I were on the tail end of our post-tax-season vacation. He was ready for my part of Massachusetts and wanted to get together on Wednesday. That severely cut into the time I had hoped to spend preparing. Since CV and I were traveling on Monday, I was left with Tuesday. CV was gracious about having an unanticipated house guest for three days.

Julien told me not to worry about the abbreviated prep time. He already had some things planned, and he had a "lucky star" that made things work out as he traveled around New England documenting Lafayette's stops. I managed to make a couple of the connections I had been hoping for. So we had a plan of sorts.

Julien has a bachelors in history, a masters in geography and is working on a second masters in geographical information systems. He speaks English very well with just enough of an accent to let you know he is French. He loves idioms. He is particularly fond of "pulling your leg". I furthered his education by teaching him a few idioms that cannot be used in polite company or repeated on this blog.

Julien is 23 just two weeks older than my son. He treated me with the same deference that my son treats me. That is regularly mocking the eccentric old man. I think that my insistence on [playing Ingress](#) at our stops might have been a factor.

Day One



Julien set most of the program for Day 1. He got to my condo in North Oxford around 9:00

AM. We started off by going down to Rochdale, where I showed him the marker that had gotten me started. We hit the nearby diner where I had a second breakfast and took Stafford street to Worcester reversing Lafayette's 1824 route.

That allowed us to do part of the 1825 route in reverse mostly on Route 9. We stopped in the Brookfield's town hall and local library. I just had to show him the Book Bear, one of my favorite bookstores. I thought we might score a good local history. But the lucky star only seems to work for Julien.

I had not yet caught on to the rapid research that is the hallmark of Julien's methods. His end product is a piece of software with a map on which you can close in to view details on Lafayette's stops. That's the Geographic Information Services master at work. I did, however, uncover the story of Ware's Lafayette elm.

As we were heading for lunch, we tried to follow directions to the site of the Lafayette elm, but did not have much luck. Julien was not that excited by it. He told me there are lots of Lafayette elms scattered around.

We ate at a Subway in Walmart. Subway is Julien's favorite fast food place, as it is relatively healthy. He went for the whole grain bread. My covivant would have approved. He talked about how well known Lafayette is in America. I told him he might be dealing with a sampling problem. I speculated that if we started asking the people in Walmart about Lafayette, we might come up empty,

After lunch it was off to Northhampton. I used my Garmon for the shortest route which is not Route 9. And that probably accounts for Lafayette apparently not having visited Amherst. So if the lack of Lafayette references in the poetry of Emily Dickinson has been troubling you, now you know why. Her being born in 1830 and all is not a sufficient explanation.

Northhampton was mostly the library. I should mention here that Julien was not keeping me informed on everything he found. I was more transportation and entertainment, of a sort. I'm pretty sure that I made it a point to show him where Jonathan Edwards preached.

We went back via Route 9 allowing Julien to see Amherst. He was mainly impressed by the college girls walking about. He is 23 after all.

Day Two

The second day is where my planning paid off. We were following Lafayette's 1824 route back to New York starting in Leicester again. As luck would have it Reverend DiBenedetto was about, and she was able to give us a tour of the church building which was newly built when Lafayette passed by.

The Episcopal Church was created to serve recently emigrated people from England who were drawn to the area due to the mills powered by the water resources. It had taken a while to get a permanent minister so she was not able to shed any light on the Rev. Joseph Muenschner who had greeted the general. She referred us to the church historian, with whom Julien is following up.

Next stop was Charlton for our appointment with Frank Morrill of the [Charlton Historical Society](#) for our tour of Rider Tavern. We were a little early so we hung out in the militia field, owned by the town, across the street.



I think I explained a bit about the militia to Julien. One of my favorite pieces of Lafayette trivia is that the reason we call our National Guard the, well, National Guard is because of Lafayette. On 15 July 1789 Lafayette was elected to be the commander in chief of the newly formed Garde Bourgeoise which was soon renamed la Garde Nationale. In 1824 with Lafayette's arrival the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Regiment of Artillery New York State Militia renamed itself the National Guard in honor of Lafayette. They started a trend which caught on. So if you are confused by us calling our state units national, you can blame it on Lafayette.

Frank Morrill arrived and took us inside the Rider Tavern which has a Lafayette room where the General dined on September 3



There is also a Lafayette ballroom upstairs. Frank told us about the difficulties of keeping local historical societies going and the work that has gone into preserving the Rider Tavern.

An interesting twist on the lack of integration between local and national history came as Frank mentioned that Lafayette stopped there on his way to Boston. Now, of course, you and I both know that Lafayette was on his way back from Boston when he stopped in Charlton. He had come up via Providence on his first trip and was further north on his second trip.

Julien saw it differently. He thought Frank was just testing us to see whether we were legit. At any rate, I have big hopes for the Rider Tavern in the bicentennial, but maybe some of the deeper pocket groups with an interest in the event should help them out a bit. I'm just the descendant of a Civil War veteran and an enlisted man at that so I don't have any pull with the [Society of Cincinnati](#), but maybe they should be looking at Charlton. Just saying.

Next stop was [Old Sturbridge Village](#) where I began to fear that Julien's lucky star had sunk. Reverend DiBenedetto had told us that the historian of her church worked at OSV, but he seemed to have taken the day off. We pretty much breezed through the various displays. As it happens there are quite a few Ingress portals in OSV. I kept trying to reach Michael Arnum the Director of Marketing whom I had spoken with on Tuesday.

Finally, we just walked over to the Administration Building and there he was. He had arranged with the librarian for us to see some Lafayette items. Included was the letter I quoted at the beginning of this piece. Salem Towne who seemed to have been on an extended trip was writing to his wife to encourage her to come to Boston to see Lafayette. There never had been nor ever would be anything quite like it was his prediction. And he was right.

We were then off to Hartford to visit the [Connecticut Historical Society](#). I don't know what Julien came up with there but he seemed satisfied. Traffic foreclosed us hitting the towns in between. We ended up eating at the [Publick House in Sturbridge](#). They have an elaborate story about there, be arrangements to have fine china on hand for Lafayette but his never getting past the tap room. The account is that he left Worcester at 2:00 so if he stopped to eat in Charlton it must have been pretty late when he got to Sturbridge.

Day Three

We got up relatively early on Friday for our final day. We took the Mass Pike out to Pittsfield so we could follow Lafayette's 1825 track. We spent the morning at the Berkshire Athenaeum, and I think I might have been finding my groove and contributed a bit more to the research effort. According to *The Hoosac Valley - Its Legends and Its History* by Grace Greylock Niles, Lafayette fell in love while in the Hoosac Valley, but Julien didn't take the claim very serious.



We had another museum stop in Pittsfield, but the place turned out to be mainly dedicated to Herman Melville who lived in Pittsfield for a while. I did, however, buy two t-shirts. One reads "Call me Ishmael" and the other "I would prefer not to". The second one is spoiled by giving the reference which you and I both know is to Bartleby the Scrivener, but you have to be considerate of others.

For lunch Julien just had to have another Subway. And the one he found was in a Walmart. I thought I could liven up the journey with some music so we went in the back to see if there was anything worthwhile. I passed by his suggestions and picked up Billy Joel. Julien really liked Billy Joel including "the Piano Man."

His lucky star had finally become obscured as we did not pick up much more on our stops. The selectman in Peru, Mass (pop 800) seemed a bit skeptical of our bona fides. We did, however, find a stretch of 149 that is designated the Lafayette Trail.

Eventually, we were back on Route 9 passing through Amherst so Julien could ogle the college girls again. We continued into Worcester to stop at [That's Entertainment](#). Julien told me that he had a liking for graphic novels and that is the place for them. We met up with CV at The Sole Proprietor.

Summary

I figure we drove about 400 miles and in the process, I don't think I did too much damage to Boomer/Millennial or French/American relations. We ended up in the various towns looking at the monuments which in part commemorate young Americans giving their lives to bail out France – or at least that was the spin I put on it - including in Vietnam. Julien told me that in France they blame Vietnam on us. Go figure.

I'm contemplating how much time I want to spend in the next few years in libraries hunting down stories about Lafayette's visit. We'll see.

Julien will be speaking at the [Lafayette Day](#) ceremonies in Boston. He figures he is the youngest person to ever have that honor. He'll do fine.

Update

I kept on having this regrettable tendency to call Julien Lucien which even crept into this piece which he was kind enough to point out to me and I have now fixed. He also insists that his lucky star shines as brightly as ever and that I neglected to mention how many M&Ms I consumed in the course of our road trip.

Has anyone seen this symbol in Lafayette-related contexts?

By Alain C. Outlaw

An intriguing object, shown actual size in a drawing below, was found in the Battle of Green Spring engagement area, near Jamestown, Virginia, where American forces under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette fought the British under Lord Cornwallis on July 6, 1781. It is an eighteenth century cast brass oval insignia, worn on the breast of the horse and commonly known as a martingale or, in France, as a portrail. Discovered in plowzone soils by the *Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc.* team I led in 2009, with funding from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), this object was shown during my AFL battlefield tour in 2015.

Decorated in relief, the martingale bears an elaborate fleur-de-lis superimposed by a marquis coronet. The coronet is decorated with alternating acanthus leaves and groups of three pearls in trefoil. I am interested to learn of similar symbolism or visual codes on Lafayette-related items such as seals, letterhead, bookplates, portraits, silver, ceramics, trunks, and firebacks. The French Revolutionary Constituent Assembly abolished the use of arms, sparking a “heraldic terror,” on June 19, 1790, which provides a date before which the symbol was used.

Lafayette was the only marquis on the battlefield, and his own account of having lost “my fine horse,” provides strong evidence that the martingale belonged to him. Nevertheless, additional supportive information would be helpful. The attribution to Lafayette and this event is driven by the Marquis’ own motto, “cur non” (Why Not?).



Morse's Great Portrait Of Lafayette

By Donald Miller

I am grateful to Almut and Paul Spalding for submitting a color illustration of a head study of General Lafayette by Samuel F.B. Morse that they saw at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and that appeared on page 25 of the May 2017 *American Friends of Lafayette Gazette*. They speculated that the study was for a full-length portrait in the New York City Public Library.

In fact, the head study was done for Lafayette's full-length portrait that the City of New York commissioned from Morse in 1825 for \$1,000. It was originally installed in the Governor's Room in City Hall and today hangs in the City Council Chamber in City Hall. It was painted in Washington, D.C., during Lafayette's thirteen-month triumphal tour of the United States in 1824-1825 as "the Nation's Guest."

Morse, who would later give up painting to become co-inventor of the Morse Code and the telegraph, was extremely impressed to be doing this portrait, as Almut Spalding noted in her 2017 "Lafayette Sighting" article. Morse delighted in describing Lafayette to his wife Lucretia. He posed the General standing magnificently in a high white cravat, black frock coat and lemon stirrup trousers.

The splash of a red-silk-lined, black cape lights Lafayette's left shoulder. His right hand rests on a stone railing holding busts of his heroes George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. The stylized rather than realistic face, much like the head study, looks wide-eyed to the right. The sky is both radiant and dark. Morse in his veneration created one of the most powerful images of the nineteenth century.

During the painting's course, Lucretia Morse died in New Haven, Conn. Morse was unable to reach her before she was interred. Lafayette, himself a widower, expressed his profound sympathies to the artist. Morse later visited the General in Paris, and they had a lifelong correspondence.

Morse's home, Locust Grove, is today a house museum overlooking the Hudson River. It is located a short distance north of the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site near Hyde Park, New York.



Portrait of La Fayette by Samuel Morse (1825)

Member Donald Miller, author of seven books, chose Morse's portrait for the dust jacket of his 2015 biography, *Lafayette: His Extraordinary Life and Legacy*. The Morse portrait is also found on the cover of the 1989 Queens Museum, Long Island, catalog *Lafayette, Hero of Two Worlds: The Art and Pageantry of His Farewell Tour of America, 1824-1825*.

Young Lafayette's Favorite *Brioche*: “Romans”

By Biruta Cap

While Gilbert was initiated into the Noailles household prior to his marriage to Adrienne, he very likely enjoyed a particular breakfast brioche, *Pogne de Romans*, which the Noailles called simply “*Romans*.” This rather simple muffin-like pastry was also featured among the extremely ornate dishes of Gilbert’s and Adrienne’s wedding feast. One is led to wonder why this humble pastry was included in the gala. If it was one of Lafayette’s personal favorite foods, then there would have been a reason for doing so.

Why would Lafayette have taken a fancy to these “*romans*”? Romans is a town on the Isère near its confluence with the Rhone. It is roughly on the same latitude as Chavaniac-Lafayette, but on the east side of the Rhone. *Pogne de Romans* seems to have been a regional pastry, but the “region” may very well have comprised both banks of the Rhone.

As a good Auvergnat, young Lafayette may have fantasized about the battles between the Romans and the Gauls, particularly the last stand of Vercingétorix, which took place in Auvergne. (Few French historians, mainly those of the 16th and 17th centuries, mention Vercingétorix, but Lafayette may have read about him or heard about him as a legend back in Auvergne.) And he may have liked to inflict some losses on the Romans in defense of his native Gaul.

Trying to find a recipe for this pastry was a challenge, necessitating some historical/geographic research, not to mention the difficulties of finding modern corresponding ingredients and figuring out their equivalent amounts, baking times and temperatures from the rare old—and very approximate—records available.

One of the baffling details was for *farine de gruau*, the type of flour to be used. *Gruau*? Twentieth century dictionaries are totally baffling on this word. Older sources reveal that the main ingredient for this pastry was **whole-wheat flour**. One would hardly expect that, since fine pastries were made with white flour. So much the better—and healthier! The second ingredient was *levain de pain*: sourdough starter. Just go to the nearest bake-shop and ask for 250 grams of it. Then, butter, eggs, sugar and salt are pretty straightforward. The last, *eau d'oranger*, may be more difficult to procure in our modern world. Back in the 18th century, it was the flavoring *de rigueur* for pastries! Martha Washington and our colonial ladies also used orange water in their baking.



Pogne de Romans

The 21st century adaptation of Romans (from Biruta Cap's Experimental Kitchen):

Recipe for 12 mini-*Romans* baked in a mini-muffin tin

½ lb. whole-wheat flour (1/4 of a 2-lb. bag) (250 g),
1 envelope yeast **for whole wheat**,
½ “brick” of butter, such as *Plugras* (125 g),
3 eggs,
1/3 c. of sugar (100 g),
½ tsp. salt (4 g),
1 tsp. orange water or orange oil (or 1 tsp. grated orange zest?)

Method:

Start your dough the evening before.

Have ingredients ready: eggs at room temperature, butter softening.

Slightly beat the eggs; soften butter to paste consistency (may be slightly melted).

Mix the ingredients in the following order:

1. Mix the yeast with ¼ c. warm water + ½ tsp. sugar; wait for it to bubble up;
2. Put the flour in the mixing bowl; make a well in the center;
3. Add the salt and orange water;
4. Add the butter and mix with a spatula;
5. Add the yeast mixture; continue mixing with a spatula;
6. Add 2 of the beaten eggs, continue mixing, slowly;
7. Mix, mix, mix;
8. Add most of the 3rd egg, beaten;
9. Add the sugar, LITTLE BY LITTLE, mixing;
10. Put the somewhat soft, custard-consistency mix in a greased bowl, cover with a towel and let it rise OVERNIGHT in a warm place, such as a microwave oven;
11. The next morning, uncover; let the dough fall; pat it down, let it rise again a little while you butter the muffin tin (and perhaps a couple more containers for excess dough);
12. Preheat the oven to 350°;
13. Fill the muffin tin, etc. by dropping the dough with a spoon;
14. Glaze tops with a bit of the 3rd beaten egg;
15. Bake for about 12 minutes for mini-*romans* (15-16 mins. for full muffin-size);
16. Enjoy for breakfast—warm or cooled—perhaps with currant jelly, its traditional accompaniment?

Bon appétit!

Lafayette in The White House (August 1 thru September 7, 1825)

by Barbara Ayers McJoynt

When Lafayette arrived from France on the *Cadmus* August 16, 1824 at Castle Garden in New York City, who could have possibly imagined the joyous welcome he would receive. His first visit after the battle of Yorktown was in 1784, when he visited ten states and was a visitor at Mount Vernon with George Washington. Forty-one years have now passed. All American generals and many of the participants from the American Revolution are deceased. The United States is made up of twenty-four states with a new capital called Washington in the District of Columbia.

Since his last visit of five months in 1784, Lafayette had a longing for America, but the French Revolution and the tumults of his five years of imprisonment stripped him of his fortune. Too, he is now 67 years old. Our country did not forget. With suggestions made to President James Monroe by Ambassador to France, Albert Gallatin, about a possible invitation to this long absent friend, Congress sent him an invitation. Lafayette accepted. His traveling companions were his son, George Washington Lafayette, his secretary, Auguste Levasseur, and his valet, Bastien.

An added word to the American lexicon at the time was “fayetted,” meaning an extensive or as some said an extravagant welcome began. There were banquets, visits to battlefields, to old soldiers, widows, parades and scores of other activities that delayed his arrival in the new capital city until October 12th. He stayed at Gadsby’s Hotel, reportedly the best accommodation in the world. Here he had the most visibility with all citizens; he was the first foreigner to speak before Congress; and he could observe the dynamics of an upcoming American presidential election. He left the comforts of the city and traveled to Mount Vernon, Monticello, Montpelier and Yorktown. Many of his friends lived in the local area and he visited them often.

In February 1825, he left Washington on an ambitious trip that included visits to all twenty-four states, using every possible conveyance available at the time. He continued to give more speeches, dedicated monuments, attended banquets, visited the revolutionary war widows, battlefields, Indians, and sought to acknowledge the blacks he remembered from the war. He slept on the ground with tree roots for pillows, stayed in the finest homes and hotels, and embraced every citizen with equanimity. Mementos like gloves, bonnets, paintings, plants and even animals (a favorite was a dog named Gist) were exchanged. Stories abound that relate interesting events wherever he visited. This tour, indeed, enhanced our country’s “era of good feeling.”

August 1, 1825, now a proven “Guest of the Nation,” found Lafayette back to Washington. From this place, he would make his plans to return to France. John Quincy Adams was now the new president. Lafayette had entertained John Quincy and his wife, Louisa in his Parisian home in France. He felt comfortable with the invitation from the Adams that he stay in the White House while his boat was being prepared at the Navy Yard. This boat would take him down the Potomac River to meet *The Brandywine* awaiting him in Hampton Roads. *The Brandywine* then would convey him home to France. Before this departure, a very interesting example is given of his varied experiences while traveling in the many states.

Crowds of people met each day in Lafayette Park (name changed from President’s Park in 1824) in front of the White House to see the President and Lafayette. On August 6, 1825, John Quincy Adams and Lafayette decided to visit ex-President James Monroe in Leesburg, Virginia before his departure. In order to avoid the crowds that assembled in front of the White House each day, they left very early in the morning. Their party of six travelled in two carriages. They rode northwest a few miles to Conn’s Ferry, which was the nearest ferry that crossed the Potomac River into Virginia.

Conn’s Ferry got its fame when President James Madison and many other citizens had to expeditiously

leave Washington when the British entered the city and burned it in August, 1814. The weather was very bad and it was impossible to cross the Potomac River. Madison had to spend the night sleeping in a shed that held supplies needed for operating the ferry. It was here he could see the flames coming from the White House and many other buildings that were burned by the British.

Move forward eleven years, and a new President, John Quincy Adams, with his dear friend, Lafayette arrived at this famous ferry. Rates for crossing rivers at different points were established by the Virginia Assembly. The rate for crossing Conn's Ferry was four (4) cents for each man and four (4) cents for each horse. A two wheeled coach which it appeared was the size used by our travelers was charged the same rate as two horses. The President paid the tolls, but as the toll-taker exclaimed when he caught up with the carriages moments later, "Mr. President you are 11 cents short." They conferred; the President paid the difference, and they continued their journey to Leesburg where they had a wonderful three-day visit with James Monroe. One day a child named Lafayette was being christened, and Lafayette participated in the services. On August 10, the two headed back to the White House.

On the return to Washington, the heat was so oppressive that one of the horses of the President's carriage fell down and died. The party sat down on the grass while a man servant went to fetch another horse. Travellers passed, glancing at the stranded party, unsuspecting that they were looking at the U.S. President and the "Guest of the Nation." A fresh horse having been obtained, they made it back to Washington and the crowds who were waiting for them.

While staying with the Adams in the summer of 1825, Lafayette also made his last visit to bid farewell to his friends Thomas Jefferson and James Madison at Monticello and saw other little Virginia towns and villages in the environs that add interesting memories to his thirteen-month visit. Now he is back at the White House with his dear friends, the Adams. He is scheduled to sail down the Potomac River on September 7, 1825 to *The Brandywine* that would take him and his many souvenirs back home to France.

The story of Lafayette's vast experiences while the Guest of the Nation is not finished. There are two very interesting vignettes that took place before the citizens of the United States would allow him to sail home on the *The Brandywine*. Stay tuned!



Present location of Conn's Ferry as depicted on a drawn map



Conn's Ferry Landing is located about 8 miles from the White House and is now a boat ramp at Riverbend Park, Fairfax, Virginia.

Second Bust of Lafayette in the White House



In a previous edition of this publication, we highlighted a particular bust of a young Lafayette above a door in the White House. In fact it was a porcelain reproduction of the 1790 Jean-Antoine Houdon original.

This past July, AFL member and Lafayette biographer, Laura Auricchio noticed a second bust of Lafayette during a private tour of the White House. She writes; "This one is very small, on a coffee table in front of the sofa in the library. I couldn't get close enough to take a good picture, but a lovely Secret Service officer sent me the photo above".

Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Day Ceremony

By Joyce Good

This year marks the centennial of the US entry in WWI. At Marne la Coquette many tributes were paid and wreaths laid to honor the young aviators who came to help France without asking anything in return. The ceremony consisted of the usual flyover, the French and American national anthems, speeches and final taps followed by a wine of honor. As one key speaker said, "Time will not diminish the Glory of their deeds"



Joyce Good & Myriam Waze at the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial



Flowers surround the Lafayette Escadrille's Insignia

Lafayette Sightings

Jean-Pierre and Biruta Cap



Above is the statue of Lafayette in La Grange, Georgia, sighted and admired by Jean-Pierre and Biruta on May 25, 2017. This lovely town is the county seat of Troup County in Western Georgia, pop.c.30,000. La Grange is near a lake and is the home of La Grange College. The bronze statue is proudly displayed with a commemorative plaque in a charming, wooded and nicely landscaped town square - actually a park with benches and flowers, where one can sit and leisurely admire the larger-than-life Lafayette. Recently, Dr. Richard Ingram of La Grange became a benefactor member of the AFL.

Alan Hoffman



This is a picture of the “Intersection of Great Men” in Brooklyn, NY. It is the second such intersection that Alan has seen. The other was in Hyannisport, MA. Please let us know if you have seen any others.

Chez Rochambeau

by Joyce Good

What a sumptuous evening....

We arrived along the lovely Loire River under an alleyway of linden trees only to be greeted by a chorus of men with hunting horns and to be received royally by the chatelaine, Madame de Gouberville, and soldiers dressed in 18th century ceremonial guard, the same as the soldiers from the Soissonnais regiment that were under the command of General Rochambeau in America. We then entered an inner courtyard where we had some of the most delicious and unusual hors d'oeuvres I have ever tasted: cubes of foie gras with sugar crystals that slightly crackled in your mouth when accompanied with a small glass of consommé; soft-boiled eggs in their shells with a mushroom sauce; gazpacho and cold mint pea soup in small tubes ... and this was only the beginning.

We then had a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate a troglodyte home recently hollowed out of the cliffs behind the castle. There we had a lovely dinner of foie gras and duck where I was asked to give the news concerning the statue of General Rochambeau which we hope will soon be erected on the banks of the York River along with the statues of Marquis de La Fayette, General George Washington and Admiral de Grasse. The fund-raising will start at the end of October. Hopefully the American Friends of Lafayette, the American Club of Paris, the American Chamber of Commerce, and other associations in Paris as well as the US will assist the les Amis de Rochambeau in obtaining the necessary funds needed for this project.

After the dinner there was an unveiling of one of the marble plates which are being restored to be placed on the Rochambeau mausoleum September 9, 2017 in the cemetery in the nearby town of Thoré-la-Rochette. Finally we were entertained by some short theatrical presentations on the life of Maréchal Rochambeau.

I want to thank Count Guy de Rochambeau, Mr. and Mrs. de Gouberville and Mr. Gerard Ernisse, President of Les Amis de Rochambeau, for organizing such a lovely evening in honor of Maréchal Rochambeau to whom we Americans owe so much.

The Opening of the Franco-American Museum Château of Blérancourt

By Caroline Lareuse

After 10 years of reconstruction and renovation, the Franco-American Museum Château of Blérancourt re-opened on June 14, 2017. The new Minister of Culture, Françoise Nyssen, spoke along with other dignitaries and presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony. A buffet luncheon was served on the lawn.

This museum is unique as it is the only French National Museum dedicated to Franco-American friendship.

As the museum was commemorating the entry of the US into World War I, a visitor could see a Ford ambulance used by the American Field Service, a fragment of US airplane cloth with the Lafayette Escadrille's emblem, and other objects.

In 1917 Anne Morgan used the château as headquarters for her committee CARD (American Committee for Devastated France) which brought assistance to the devastated regions of Picardy.

In 1919 she bought the ruins of the château with the idea of making it into a museum of French-American co-operation with memorabilia from the American Revolution, World War I and World War II. Over the years, the museum has become a research center with its library of some 6,000 books covering the artistic and historical relationship between France and the U.S.

As a member of the American Friends of Blérancourt for more than 30 years, I was invited to the opening and greatly enjoyed it.



New Marker on Green Spring Battlefield

AFL Life Member Alain C. Outlaw reports that he has finalized a new historical marker explaining the relationship of Church on the Main to the Battle of Green Spring, near Jamestown, Virginia. The Marquis de Lafayette led American Forces here in July 1781. This fall, the marker will be dedicated along a well used trail which traverses the church site, owned by the Historic Rivers Land Conservancy (formerly Williamsburg Land Conservancy). It will be near an existing stone memorial to American losses in the battle, sponsored by the Williamsburg Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and the table top tomb of the "Unknown Patriot Soldier" which Alain also designed for the James City County Historical Commission in 2016.

Battle of Green Spring July 6, 1781

"The General is happy in acknowledging the spirit of the detachment...he happened to be an eye-witness."



General Orders
Marquis de Lafayette
July 8, 1781

The Revolutionary War Battle of Green Spring took place in the open fields and woods that lie before you to the northwest on the afternoon of July 6, 1781. Church on the Main was the southern edge of the battlefield, where British forces under General Charles Cornwallis were encamped. The church marked the northern end of the camp, which extended from here to the Jamestown Island vicinity.

Prior to the battle, the Marquis de Lafayette, leading a small force of Americans, had followed the much larger British army from the Richmond area to nearby Spencer's Ordinary, six miles to the north, where a skirmish occurred on June 26, 1781. A short time later, the Battle of Green Spring took place as a result of a deliberate move by Cornwallis to trap and destroy the American forces under Major General Lafayette. The attempt failed. The Americans successfully withdrew following a bold attack led by Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, which temporarily halted a British advance before nightfall. After the battle, Cornwallis continued his move across the James River to Portsmouth and later, to Yorktown, where most of the combatants met again 16 miles to the east. There, the British surrendered to the French and American allied army and naval forces under General George Washington on October 19, 1781.

Church on the Main likely served as a field hospital for casualties from both sides and some soldiers may be buried in the surrounding church cemetery. Other casualties were interred where they fell by joint burial parties. The grave of one Patriot was found by archaeologists on the battlefield in 1978. He was reburied in this cemetery in 2016.



James City County Historical Commission, 2017



Annual Ceremony at Picpus Cemetery

By Augie Huber

After several missteps, the annual ceremony at Lafayette's tomb in Picpus Cemetery in Paris took place on June 30th, 2017. The American Embassy has been operating without an ambassador since the resignation of Ms. Jane Hartley in mid-January and this apparently delayed decisions on many issues concerning this ceremony. The date changed once, and then it was announced that the long tradition of moving pageantry including both French and American military bands would not be a part of the event. Nonetheless, there were still well over 100 eager participants.

The day was cloudy and overcast when the ceremony began with all proceeding from the outer courtyard into the actual cemetery. The opening remarks were made by the representative of the Society of Cincinnati. In the absence of a United States Ambassador, Ms. Uzra Zeya, the Chargé d'Affaires at the embassy delivered a very moving brief history of Lafayette's importance both in the United States and in France. In a misting rain, she remarked on the significance of the 100th anniversary of the United States coming to the aid of France by sending an initial contingent of 14,000 troops. At the occasion of this memorial on the Fourth of July, 1917, Colonel Stanton, aide to General Pershing, made the now famous statement, "Lafayette, we are here." (Her remarks are reprinted below.)

The ceremony included a drummer and bugler playing the *Marseilles*, *Aux Mort* (the French "Call to the Dead"), and then *Taps* as the previous American Flag was lowered by a joint group representing the Army, Navy and Air Force. Bouquets of flowers were placed on the tomb by the many groups represented, the Society of Cincinnati, The Sons of the American Revolution, The American Friends of Lafayette and others.

AFL members present included: Veronique Antoine, Philippe Boyere, Nicolas Brouard, Laurent and Frédérique Devin plus grandchildren, Jean-Marc and Claire Finet, August Lafayette Huber, Dominique and Madeleine Krisner, Pierre and Marie Thérèse Larroque, Robert Soulas, Kevin Anderson and Sarah Bergdahl, Nathan Waters, Casey Waters, Myriam Wazé, and Joyce Good.



AFL honorary wreath layer Augie Huber with Uzra Zeya, Chargé d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Paris

Remarks given by the Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
Uzra Zeya
Flag Changing Ceremony at the tomb of General Lafayette
June 30, 2017 at the Picpus Cemetery

Brigadier Général Grégo,
Mr. President of the Sons of the American Revolution,
Mr. President of the Society of the Cincinnati in France,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Today, we gather here on this hallowed ground to honor a great French leader and recognize the friendship between two nations that he helped build. As the annual celebrations that honor the founding of our respective republics approach, it is fitting that we take time now to remember a man who was instrumental in the birth of both countries.

General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, born into a renowned and noble French family, saw at a young age that the newly emerging United States and the ideals being put forward there were worth supporting, and he travelled to the New World to be part of it. After fighting alongside American Forces in two important battles and building strong friendships with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette returned to France to lobby for increased support of the American Revolution. He returned to the colonies with 5,500 French troops and 5 Frigates, assuring the Americans that more would be coming. His unwavering support and his inspired military leadership were instrumental in the success of the American Revolution, and it is safe to say that without his support and leadership, the United States of America might not exist as we know it.

After his return to France, General Lafayette played pivotal roles in both the French Revolution and the formation of the Republic. Inspired by the Constitution of the United States and assisted by his friend Tomas Jefferson, he wrote “The Declaration of the Rights of Man,” which was a core statement of the values of the French Revolution and has had a major and continuing impact on the development of freedom and democracy in Europe and Worldwide. General Lafayette was an inspiration for freedom and democracy in France and the United States, and across the globe. The bonds he helped created between our nations hold strong to this day.

One hundred years ago, France was under siege in “The Great War,” having already suffered three years of brutal combat on its own soil. In its time of need, France turned to an old friend, the United States, who answered the call.

With 14,000 US Troops arriving at Saint Nazaire and other locations in the summer of 1917, Colonel Charles Stanton, aide to General Pershing, came here to Lafayette’s Tomb to declare “Lafayette, we are here!” With those words, he signaled to France and the world that the United States was committed to democracy and freedom, and that it also stood ready to repay its debt to its closest ally.

Again and again, the United States would commit its sons and daughters and its national treasure to help our allies resist tyranny and oppression and to help free those already trapped by these evils.

As we remember General Lafayette's support to our new nation over 200 years ago, as we also remember the arrival of the first US troops in Saint Nazaire 100 years ago to aid France during World War One, it is fitting to reaffirm our mutual solidarity now and for the future.

Our nations stand united to combat the myriad challenges of the 21st century; our defense and security forces and organizations train together and work together at home and around the world every day, in defense of liberty. In Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific, and across Europe, French and US Forces train and fight alongside one another in total solidarity. This modern-day cooperation highlights the resilience of the partnership Lafayette started, indeed America's oldest alliance. We are committed to working with the nation of France and its people as friends and allies in the future as in the past, to ensure that our nations and our freedoms remain strong and secure.

Today, to echo the statement made here almost 100 years ago, we say "Lafayette, we are still here!"



AFL wreath

American Friends of Lafayette Ceremony at Picpus Cemetery, July 4th, 2017

By Augie Huber

Beginning in 2016, the traditional date of this annual ceremony was sadly changed from the Fourth of July, a more than 180-year tradition, to a near date better suiting the American embassy's calendar. For 2017, the official ceremony was held on June 30th and is discussed elsewhere in the *Gazette*.

Not to be discouraged, a small contingent of members of The American Friends of Lafayette arranged to have what could alternately be described as “the real ceremony” or as “a supplemental ceremony.” With the assistance of AFL board member Benoit Guizard and Jean-Jacques Faugeron, the conservateur of the “Fondation de l'oratoire et du Cimetière de Picpus”, the group met at 9:30 on the morning of the Fourth of July, 2017.

Although the pageantry was mostly absent – no military band or bugler – the group still carefully proceeded into the cemetery accompanied by recordings of *Aux Mort*, *La Marseillaise* and *Taps*. The flowers from the ceremony held 5 days earlier were still there and looked remarkably fresh and beautiful. Another wreath from the AFL was respectfully placed alongside its companion. A few remarks were made by some of the participants, and then Lowell Catlett, with the help of Monsieur Faugeron, arranged fresh American and French flags across the tomb. A rendition of the *Star-Spangled Banner* was played (from the same Jam Box furnished by Remi Huber).

Lowell Catlett also made the day memorable by giving out special medallions he had designed and had cast commemorating the 100-year anniversary of Colonel Stanton's remarks there, “Lafayette nous voila.” Everyone somberly departed the cemetery, and many met at a small bistro in the Place de la Nation, a block away.

AFL Participants

John Looper
Ruthann Looper
Gustav Looper
Gisela Looper
From Wallhalben, Germany

Augie Huber
Laura Huber
Remi Huber
From Kansas City MO

Lowell Catlett
Joni Gutierrez
From Las Cruces New Mexico

Joyce Good
From Paris FR

Rebecca Lowell and daughter
Laurie Hurley

Right: AFL members gather at Picpus to honor Lafayette on July 4th, 2017



Left: The conservateur of the “Fondation de l’oratoire et du Cimetière de Picpus”, Jean-Jacques Faugeron, places the French and American flags on Lafayette’s grave

The Lafayette Festivities in Chavaniac-Lafayette, Lafayette's Native Village from July 20 to July 23

By Myriam Waze

Had you been strolling in the village on July 20, you could have discovered the beginning of four fabulous days starting with an XVIIIth century dance course under the supervision of Hervé Canals, head of the Montisilio company who was invited for two days to teach and dance minuets and counterdances as you could have seen them at Versailles. The next day he showed his talents as "maître de danse" in the "Salon des Philosophes," one of the most beautiful rooms of Lafayette's castle, lent by the Conseil Départemental of Haute-Loire for the Lafayette Festivities.

Under the gilded decorations and the eyes of the most famous XVIIIth century philosophers whose busts adorn this reception room, the Salon d'Adrienne de Noailles de Tessé, one of Lafayette's aunts, was held, welcoming the illustrious Madame Geoffrin and her friends, amongst whom you could have easily recognized the Countess Louise Julie Constance de Brionne as well as the Marquises Emilie du Châtelet and Marie du Deffand, and some other famous educated ladies. Their male friends accompanied them: Jean-François Marmontel, Helvétius, as well as our dear Abbé Raynal. Benjamin Franklin apologized for his absence as he was back to America for a while.

This nice assembly presented poems, evoking the pleasures of love and seduction but also the sadness of the age coming such as the moving "Adieu au monde" or the more enthusiastic one "La nécessité d'aimer" or celebrating the happiness of drinking with "Le Flacon" or of smoking with "La Pipe." We have to confess that this slightly libertine repertory delighted the audience.

This show was not only devoted to poetry. Some songs sang by Anda Peleka-Martin, a soprano, accompanied by the harpist Antony Castin, offered the musical part of the program featuring famous composers, forgotten nowadays : Gretry, who had been Queen Marie-Antoinette's music master, and Onslow and Dauvergne, local composers from Auvergne. Thus, the music played at the Court of Versailles until the Revolution could be heard and revived for, unfortunately, only a single evening.

The dance part of the program offered marvellous examples of the XVIIth and XVIIIth dances: minuets, and counterdances but also a quadrille brought us back to that elegant time before the Revolution, recreating the atmosphere Adrienne and Gilbert had known. With a hint of imagination, you could even have seen them here sharing with us this beautiful artistic moment.

Reenacting Lafayette in his Native Castle and Village

On Saturday and Sunday the performance "Lafayette par monts et par vaux" or "Lafayette over hill and dale" took place in the Honor Court of the castle. It consisted of a Sound and Light show composed of different artistic forms such as songs, dances and playlets, illustrating some important parts of Lafayette's life. Simultaneously, one could hear the telling of his story and see lots of pictures which were projected on two large screens located on each side of the stage in front of the castle facade.

This show gave the audience the opportunity to discover how important Lafayette had been despite the minor place to which French history assigns him. The image presented was one of a simple man, neither a Marquis nor a military man but one who was close to the people of his native place.

Lafayette, a Child of Auvergne

The part he played in his village and the environs as the local landlord was emphasized as well as the local culture of the XVIIIth century by the means of folk dances and music. The music was played with the instruments used at that time, and the dancers, dressed like farmers, gave the authenticity to their "bourrées," which is the name for the dances of Auvergne.

Lafayette's social interest and generosity was illustrated by scenes showing his involvement with Adrienne in their people's well-being – planning to create a weaving school to give work to the peasants during the winter season and giving his crops to them instead of selling them when the price of the wheat was at the highest. His efforts to modernize his land as a physiocrat, planting apple trees and introducing new breeds, were also mentioned later on and related to what he had seen in Monticello and Mount Vernon.

Lafayette, a Link Between France and America

The American part of his life and the influence it exerted on him was also a theme which was developed in the performance. The year 2017 is the 100th anniversary of two important events: the entry of the United States in World War I and the purchase of Lafayette's native castle by Americans. These provided two good reasons to introduce American voices to the performance by the means of an American Revolutionary song (thanks Alan Cleghorn for helping me with this part). Likewise, we could hear an American major honoring some soldiers from Auvergne who fought in the Independence War, mainly in Yorktown, thanking them for their service. The men were holding their French regiment's flag during the reading of their names. Three of Lafayette's letters read by Adrienne evidenced the admiration Lafayette had for the simple way in which Americans lived as well as his admiration for the reigning tolerance, and his affectionate links to Washington.

His tour as the Nation's Guest in 1824-1825 provided the opportunity to show that Lafayette was recognized as a "Founding Father" and an eminent character in the United States. Due to some members of The American Friends of Lafayette who agreed to have their voices recorded during my stay in Pennsylvania in June, 2016, some of the most symbolic toasts in honor of Lafayette were heard. I thank them for being present in this Lafayette performance from across the sea.



Lafayette's Political Role During the French Revolution

The part played by Lafayette to help non-Catholic people obtain the right to a civic identity, the part he had in the writing of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, based on Jefferson's Declaration of Independence, and his ceaseless fight for the abolition of slavery were also illustrated by different means.

When Luck Meets History and Art

I was lucky to meet Romual Kabore, a young African dancer living in Chanteuges, near Chavaniac; and he agreed to dance in the performance. He performed an original creation, having worked hard to learn about Lafayette and French history; and his efforts were rewarded when he gave a very moving performance as shown in the pictures. The result was really extraordinary and a perfect achievement with the music "Let my people go".

I also asked him to illustrate the Terror because it seemed to me easier to do by music and dance than by words. The music fit quite well the disorder and discordancy of that historical period. It had been written by one of my former students, Dimitri Tchesnokov, who has become a promising composer.

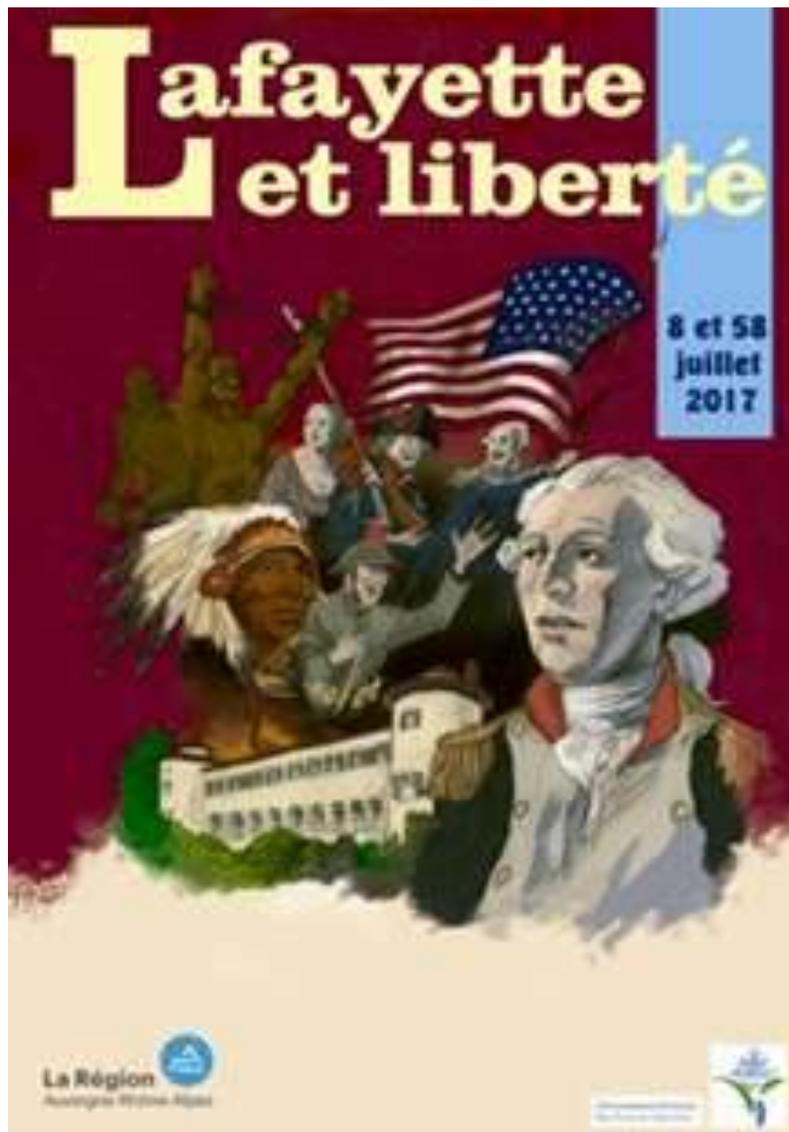


Luck was also on my side when Jean agreed to play the part of the Mayor of Lyon, where Lafayette travelled in 1829. In a sort of reprise of his American Tour, Lafayette expressed his feelings about French policy of his time. One year later, the 1830 Revolution proved Lafayette's foresight and acute analysis of the French government's restrictions on liberty. The fight for liberty motivated Lafayette his entire life. Jean's wife is Genèvieve, one of the great granddaughters of Lafayette. So let us say that Lafayette's spirit could be felt during the entire performance, which was a tribute to his memory. Words cannot convey the

emotions which pervaded the audience in the terraces. The photos might help one to imagine it, but the sound is missing.

We have had very good reviews in the media, and everyone was pleased, not only the audience, but also all the people of the village who helped us. I would like to thank Benevoles for the different costumes, André the carpenter who built the necessary accessories, the young and the adults who carried and set up the seats and the stage, and the friends who encouraged me and supported me, including my friend Philippe Boyaire who was in charge of the rehearsals and who did a great job with non-professional actors whose willingness made up for their inexperience. I would add special thanks to Joyce Good, an AFL member, who kindly came to Chavaniac to help us and organized a game for the children on Saturday afternoon, to my daughter Maylis who came to help us with the videos, and to my husband, Allan, who, as the new President of the Association Lafayette et Liberté, was in charge of the financial and logistic parts of the festivities. I would also like to thank Frederick Blier, who designed the poster and the flyer for the festivities.

This historical performance had an educational aim to convey a true understanding of the personality of Lafayette as a humanist. Why not have it played elsewhere, for instance in the places where the *Hermione* will stop in the years to come? *Cur Non!*



LAFAYETTE & LIBERTY

By Joyce Good

First, I would like to say “Chapeau!” to Myriam and her husband, Allan, for organizing such a magnificent weekend! (Chapeau = Bravo in English). Though I have about 20 or 30 books on Lafayette in my personal library, Myriam has about 200. There is very little she left out in her sound and light fresco on Lafayette’s life, starting with his killing of the mythical Gevaudan beast as a child to his last visit to the United States in 1824. At first I thought it would be a pedantic slide show, but she retraced his life with historical facts interspersed with lively scenes of the daily life, sea chants, music, local folk dances and a very poignant dance performance by Romuald evoking the slave trade which Lafayette was opposed to.

The first show I was asked to play in was the 1824 Lafayette visit, but having seen bits and pieces of the production all week, I wanted to see the entire performance from the audience side. For the final performance I was asked to hold the American Betsy Ross flag while the beautiful Latvian singer, Anda, sang *The Star Spangled Banner* to me. While holding the flag, I had a very hard time holding back my tears. I never thought about the words until I had to explain them backstage to Anda the night before.

I cannot finish this article without a few words describing the sumptuous evening that Myriam and her director, Philippe Boyaire, organized Friday night in the “Salle des Philosophes” of the château, itself. Everyone, including myself, dressed in period costume entertained by the lovely Anda accompanied by a harpist and a pianist, selected poetry and prose readings of the time along with dancers from the Montiliso dance troupe performing the minuet and other historical dances. Myriam, along with Philippe, magically put together this weekend involving the local population along with professional performers bringing to life our illustrious Lafayette.

A final “Chapeau” to Allan, who did a Herculean task of organizing the logistics for all three nights plus the weeks preceding the event and the clean-up crews afterwards. Hopefully there will be a DVD made of this weekend so all AFL members can buy and support the association Lafayette et Liberté whose President is Allan Waze.

Touching up the Portrait of “The American Lafayette”

By Jean-Pierre Cap

In biographies of Lafayette, facts are seldom the problem. Rather, it is the **interpretation** of Lafayette’s thoughts, actions and writing that is problematic at times. *Hic jacet lupus*, “this is where the wolf lies,” as the Romans said when they cautioned someone. I therefore propose to examine the interpretation of some aspects of Lafayette’s life, his actions and opinions, hopefully avoiding the wolf.

By now no one begins by stating that Lafayette was born an orphan. Born on September 6, 1757, he was almost two years old when his father was killed on August 1, 1759 at the Battle of Minden in Germany.

The next point is more problematic. Many persist in rehashing comments about Lafayette’s “ruggedness” due to his early upbringing in a tiny village of backward Auvergne.

Was Lafayette really an unpolishable “rugged” Auvergnat?

His mother was a sophisticated lady admitted at the Court of Versailles. She lived in Paris, but spent at least a month every year with her son at Chavaniac. In her absence, little Gilbert was in the care of his grandmother, a highly respected lady, and two aunts. These ladies were educated and capable of instilling the best of manners into little Gilbert who was also the pupil of Father Fayon, a well-educated Jesuit who taught Gilbert mostly Latin and history until he was eleven.

At age 11, Gilbert was taken to Paris where he lived with his mother and grandfather, the *comte de la Rivière*, a distinguished senior military officer who was also one of the wealthiest men in France. He had commanded the Black Musketeers, the King’s mounted guard. While less active at the Court than the *duc d’Ayen*, he had considerable standing. Even without the influence of the Noailles, Lafayette could have had a distinguished military career. For the family, the *comte de la Rivière* had an apartment in the **Palais du Luxembourg** on the second floor.

Gilbert was enrolled as a boarding student at the **Collège du Plessis**, about 300 yards away on *rue Saint Jacques*. With him he had his valet and Father Fayon, as well as private tutors. Marie-Antoinette probably thought his dance instructor should not have neglected the *quadrille*.

One thing is certain: his classmates brought him up to date on all that was *à la mode* in Paris for boys their age, and made him shed whatever “ruggedness” in his language and manners he might have brought from Auvergne. That is what French boarding schools did and still do. It is high time for biographers to cease bemoaning the ruggedness that allegedly continued to embarrass Lafayette after his stint at the Collège du Plessis. Furthermore, after eight years in Paris, Lafayette was definitely no longer a “provincial” and he did not need any polishing in order to adjust to life within the Noailles family. The *duc de Noailles* recognized his potential as a soldier and took a liking to him while the Duchess was soon charmed by Gilbert, and Adrienne was passionately in love with him. His brother-in-law, *vicomte* Louis de Noailles, soon became a lifelong friend.

After he had spent four years at the Collège du Plessis, at 14 Lafayette attended the **Académie de Versailles** where he receive better military training than most of his contemporaries thanks to serious tutoring from a former *maréchal des logis*, Antoine-Joseph Fourretton de Margelay, who had served in the *duc d’Ayen*’s company. At the Académie de Versailles Lafayette had the opportunity to meet the scions of the highest aristocracy. Louis XVI’s youngest brother, the future Charles X, was his classmate.

At the Court, Lafayette found the ambience artificial and uninteresting. It simply failed to engage him and he did not pretend that it did. One of his closest friends, Louis-Philippe *comte* de Ségur, noted that Lafayette “was temperamentally unsuited” for the Court. Therefore, it was not because of his early upbringing in Auvergne or for lack of good manners that the adolescent Lafayette did not fit in at Court. Lafayette was much too active and purposeful to take an interest in the dated and restraining rituals of Court life. One of his first acts of rebellion was to reject the opportunity to become a courtier. In 1779 Lafayette wrote to Vergennes “I am not of the court. I am even less a courtier; I pray the King’s ministers to look upon me as one emerging out of a guardroom.” In any case, as everywhere he went, at Court or in the army, in France and in America, Lafayette made many friends.

When he returned from America in 1779, he was found to be brilliant and delightful company at Court and in salons alike. Surely he had matured and now had something to talk about, but Valley Forge and the battlefields had not been finishing schools.

Another important question is: Why did Lafayette respond so enthusiastically to the Duke of Gloucester’s talk about the revolution in the thirteen American Colonies and the struggle of the Insurgents? In his *Mémoires*, Lafayette does not fully explain his momentous decision to join the Insurgents.

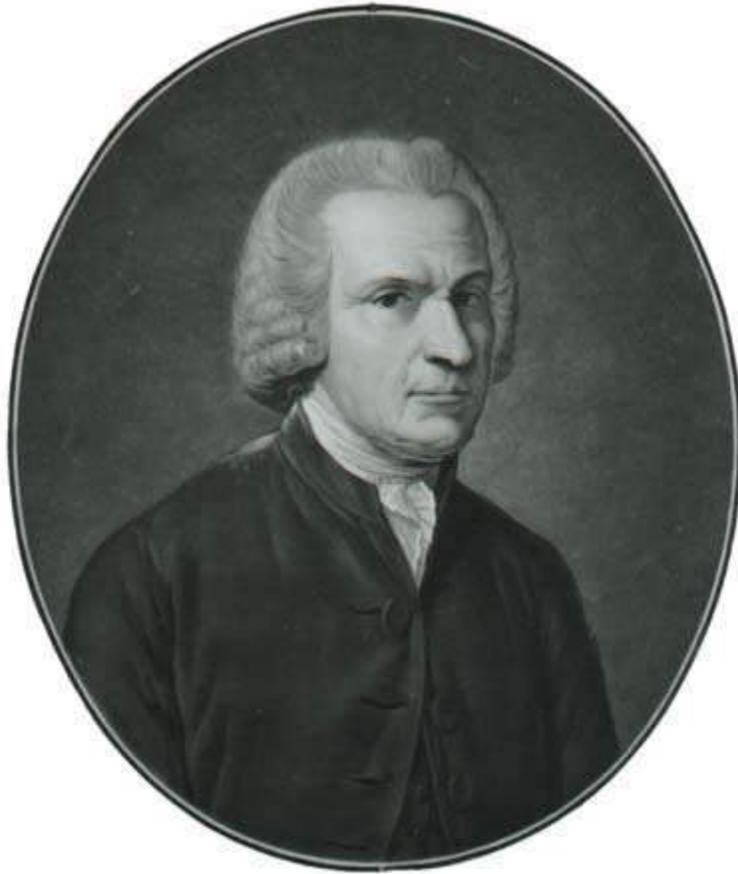


Washington and Lafayette in Valley Forge

What did he know about America?

Some biographers, Louis Gottschalk among them, who depended mostly on Lafayette’s letters and his *Mémoires*, have assumed the young marquis had read little and knew very little about America and what the American Revolution was about. Why this assumption? True, Lafayette did not write about such subjects in his letters. But that does not mean he had not read what most educated young people were reading. At the Collège du Plessis, in addition to the classics, students also read works by modern writers. Since 1773, when he published his *Histoire philosophique et politique des Etablissements and du Commerce Européens dans les deux Indes* (Amsterdam, 1773) [Philosophical and Political History of European Commercial Establishments in the Two Indies] l’**Abbé Raynal** had become the most popular writer and thinker in France. His *Histoire* had some 30 printings in a decade. There is no doubt that Lafayette read at least parts of Raynal’s six volumes, which he owned. He had even met the “**prophet of liberty**,” a title he would also earn. We also know that during his periods of service at Metz, Lafayette, like his fellow younger officers, was encouraged by his superiors to read contemporary writers. That is when he became acquainted with the

philosophes and *encyclopédistes*.¹ Lafayette was not as ignorant of political thought and major issues of his time as Louis Gottschalk took great pains to prove.



Guillaume Raynal

Who was Raynal?

Raynal was a Jesuit who had left the Church and had become a writer with a particular interest in political and economic thought. In 1773, overnight, after the publication of his *History* he became the toast of Masonic lodges—there were some **sixty** of them in Paris— as well as of intellectual salons. He was an *habitué* and a star at Madame de Necker’s very liberal and prominent salon. Lafayette was known to be a fan of Raynal’s as early as 1775, the year he trained at Metz, heard the Duke of Gloucester speak about the American Insurgents, and was initiated in Freemasonry.

Raynal’s *Histoire* was full of descriptions of natives living free and happy in the beautiful exotic nature of the new worlds. Alone, these glowing descriptions were capable of setting young adventurous minds a-dreaming. More importantly, Raynal contrasted these new worlds with the old, focusing on the effects of the clash of European civilization with the less developed native cultures.

Raynal generally considered colonialism as materially beneficial to Europeans and harmful to the native peoples. He viewed the domination of one people by another as wrong because it deprived the latter of its liberty. He was also one of the earliest and most vocal intellectuals in condemning slavery and the slave trade, which had become one of the most profitable businesses for Europeans. He probably contributed to the generally held belief in the France of the 1770’s and 1780’s that securing trading arrangements with

the “new worlds” was more advantageous than possessing colonies with the security and administrative obligations this entailed. This concept would influence French foreign policy. He condemned Christian missions, which he claimed caused natives to lose their way of life and their freedom. But he was a strong advocate of religious tolerance. Above all, he attacked despotism, proclaiming **the right of peoples to be sovereign**—to govern themselves. He advocated free trade and other reforms based on the right to **liberty**.

Raynal’s was an almost complete revolutionary program, which had a considerable influence on Lafayette. His *Histoire* helped Lafayette learn about the New World and understand the conflict between the American Patriots and the English. Raynal’s ideology seems to have contributed to Lafayette’s commitment to the American cause, soon to his fight against slavery, and to the reforms he advocated during the first two years of the French Revolution. For Lafayette as for Raynal, liberty was an absolutely fundamental human right. When asked who was the greatest writer of the century, without hesitation Lafayette answered: “the Jesuit Raynal!”²

Why is Raynal’s influence on Lafayette insufficiently recognized?

After having inspired many revolutionaries, Raynal became a critic of the French Revolution when it turned radically intolerant, violent, anti-religious, and specifically anti-Catholic—not because he was religious but because he considered religious freedom an essential right dangerous to repress. He severely criticized the revolutionaries’ excesses and refused their invitation to become a member of the National Assembly. He rejected them and they rejected him. Early French historians of the Revolution neglected to recognize Raynal’s contribution to the ideological development leading to the French Revolution; and historians of the American War of Independence also ignored him. But, Raynal either inspired or reinforced many of Lafayette’s ideas.

In the first two volumes of his original and fascinating *Les Hommes de la Liberté*,³ Claude Manceron has written extensively on Raynal, although from a somewhat biased perspective—in part because he based his discussion on the 1781 edition of the *Histoire*, in which Raynal had allowed Diderot to unburden himself of his most radical criticism of the *ancien régime* and religion—especially against Catholicism, the only religion persecuted by French revolutionaries. Diderot’s contributions were so seditious that this edition was condemned, publicly burned, and Raynal was banished from France. This is the edition that pleased admirers of the French Revolution in all its brutality. However, Lafayette read the first edition published in 1773, which had over 30 printings.

More recent biographers mention Raynal, but without delving into his influence on Lafayette as does Jean-Pierre Bois who wrote that during his training periods at Metz,

Lafayette finally discovered the ‘*encyclopedistes*’ and especially the writings of the Abbé Raynald whose six volumes on the Europeans’ establishments in the two Indies, published in 1773, makes of him the main promoter of the struggle against slavery and for liberty, as well as the prophet of the American Revolution.⁴

Thus, Raynal is significantly reintroduced into the discussion as well as the Marquis de Condorcet (1743-94) who was not only an important successor to the *philosophes*, but like Raynal, was engaged in the debate over colonization and the American Revolution. Shortly after Condorcet had published his short study *Révolution de l’Amérique* in 1781, Raynal proposed the subject for a debate, raising the question “*La Découverte du Nouveau Monde a-t-elle été un bonheur ou un malheur pour l’Europe?*” [Has the Discovery of the New World Contributed to Europe’s Happiness or its Unhappiness?] Condorcet responded with an essay entitled “*De l’Influence de la Révolution de l’Amérique sur l’Europe,*” [The Influence of the American Revolution on Europe], which he presented to Lafayette whom he named “*le bienfaiteur des deux mondes,*”

[the benefactor of the two worlds]— perhaps an even nobler title than “hero of the two worlds.” Being a man of action, Lafayette did not write an essay but intervened in and led the fight for the abolition of slavery, for free trade, and later the right of peoples to self- determination.⁵



Peale Portrait of Lafayette

Lafayette and Freemasonry.

Another aspect of Lafayette’s life which merits more attention is his strong life-long commitment to **Freemasonry**.

For the past two centuries French historians have tiptoed around the subject because of Freemasonry’s war against Catholicism, which began before the French Revolution and continued until World War II. Lafayette did not take part in this particular campaign, but he remained faithful to Freemasonry, which contrary to Gottshalk’s belief played a very important role in his life, beginning in its American phase.

In 1775, as Lafayette was discovering Raynal, together with Noailles and Ségur, he was invited by the *comte* Charles-François de Broglie, a grand master in the Freemasons who was their commander at Metz “to see the light”—to be initiated into Freemasonry. Lafayette found the principles and most of the objectives of Freemasonry essentially consonant with his own. He particularly liked the idea that Freemasons constituted **an international brotherhood**.

On Christmas Eve 1775, Lafayette was formally initiated at the Paris lodge of *La Candeur*. Although Father Fayon would be a life-long member of Lafayette’s family, religion did not seem to have played an

important part in Lafayette's religious upbringing. In early adolescence he experienced a two-year period of religious fervor while at the Collège du Plessis. But he did not recall when he parted with religious practice. His father-in-law, the *duc d'Ayen*, who was a militant atheist, might have been an influence. In any case, by joining the Masons, he definitively broke with Catholicism, for at the time becoming a Mason implied renunciation of Catholicism. Lafayette became and remained an ardent Mason, which helped him attain many of his goals.

However, Lafayette remained a staunch believer in religious freedom, in part because of his love for Adrienne. She was not merely a pious Catholic, but one who sought a deep understanding of her religion, one who read and reflected over Pascal's *Pensées* and serious theological works. Once the *Constitution civile du clergé*, which was a nationalization of the Church of France including its possessions and clergy, had been voted on July 12, 1790, and was condemned by the Pope on March 10, 1791, Lafayette realized that this would pose a spiritual problem not only for Louis XVI who was a pious man, but for his own wife. Like Raynal, he strongly opposed this attack on religious freedom, which would irremediably divide France and cause much suffering and damage.

Raynal's ideas and Masonic ideology not only contributed much to Lafayette's intellectual development, but in effect prepared him for the famous dinner of August 8, 1775, at which he heard the Duke of Gloucester speak about the Revolution in America and the valiant struggle of the Insurgents. Lafayette felt at ease with the Duke who was an important figure in British Freemasonry. Still, it seems doubtful that he embraced the American Revolution immediately after having heard the Duke, as he wrote decades later.

Once he had reached a decision, Lafayette had the tendency to execute it rather promptly. Yet, in this case, over a year elapsed before on November 6, 1776 he was introduced to Silas Deane as a Freemason to discuss the possibility of serving in America. A month later, on December 7, 1776, he actually enlisted in the American Army, an enlistment that was to be annulled and replaced.

By then, contrary to Gottschalk's opinion, Lafayette had learned a great deal more about the situation in America. He had doubtless heard of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, published in January 1776, which had a phenomenal success in the Colonies and soon also had an impact in France. Even more importantly, news of the **Declaration of Independence** reached France during the summer and created a powerful movement of sympathy and even enthusiasm for the American cause, which the French perceived as a **struggle by an entire people for justice and liberty**. Soon Franklin received in Paris a most friendly welcome. Upon meeting Lafayette, Franklin realized that the enlistment of an aristocrat with the wealth, status, and such contacts as the Marquis and his family had at the court could be of great advantage to the American cause. Furthermore, he thought that Lafayette had "engaging manners" which "made him the delight of all who met him". Franklin strongly endorsed Deane's enrollment of the nineteen-year old Lafayette as a major general in the Continental Army.

Why did Lafayette participate in the American War of Independence?

Some have claimed that, rather than because he had espoused the American cause about which he knew very little, Lafayette decided to go to America because being *réformé*, he could no longer be a soldier in France. On June 11, 1776, Lafayette had been "*réformé*," which then meant he was given reserve status in the army. As the *comte* de Broglie explained to him, being *réformé* meant he was temporarily free of obligation to the French Army. He could leave the country without incurring the risk of being a deserter. It did not mean that his military career was in jeopardy. The new policy being enforced by *comte* Claude Louis de Saint Germain could be changed and the minister dismissed, as he was on September 27, 1777 because his reforms were found to be impractical. Furthermore, Lafayette could always buy a regiment, as he did

upon his return from America. On March 3, 1779, he purchased *les Dragons du Roi* and was promoted *Mestre de camp*.

Like other officers, Lafayette was frustrated to be serving in a time of peace. As he wrote to his father-in-law before his departure for America and as he would famously tell Washington, he saw in America an opportunity to gain professional experience while serving a just and noble cause. He was not as eager, as some have written, to avenge the humiliation France had suffered in the previous war. Louis XVI disliked the very idea of revenge. There was a truer reason. The King emphasized the need to curtail England's current abuse of her dominance of the seas and her oppression of other peoples, especially the Americans. The nuance is important. It seems unfair, and most unlikely given his life-long commitment to the United States, to emphasize that Lafayette's decision was motivated by a desire to benefit France more than the United States, as Gottschalk and others would lead readers to think, thereby diminishing Lafayette's idealism and his merit.

What did Lafayette not know about the United States, about Americans, their sentiments and their motives?

As a consequence of old rivalry and wars, in the 1770's the French found themselves in the odd situation of seeking the alliance of two peoples who hated them. This is seldom stated frankly because hate is such an ugly sentiment.

Although formally allies for almost half a century, the Spanish resented the French for having surpassed them as a military power and for having allegedly "satellized" their country; and every new perceived offense provoked an outburst of hate. In truth, at times the French had a patronizing attitude toward Spain and they had not rushed to provide their military support when Spain wanted to attack Portugal, or when England occupied the Falklands. During the current war, every time the French did not provide Spain with military assistance, there was a violent anti-French protest. As it is difficult to admit being hated, the French would refer to the Spanish sentiments toward them as being "*de l'éloignement*:" literally a vague desire to stay away from them. In the end, at great cost, the French did succeed in attenuating the Spaniards' *éloignement*. But relations between the two countries were very difficult during the war and would not be good during most of the following two centuries.

The situation of France with regard to the United States was even worse. There was the old hatred of the Americans toward the French inherited from the British. France and England had been each other's "hereditary" enemies for centuries. There was also a religious cause. Like the British, Americans hated Catholics, barely tolerating them in certain areas. It was said that all religions were tolerated in England except Catholicism, which was seen as the principal enemy of Protestantism. As late as 1780, the extremely violent anti-Catholic Gordon riot in London caused over 800 victims and considerable damage. Voltaire would have been most amused to remark that this had occurred because the British were more religious than the French. In America, Huguenots who had fled France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 were particularly resentful. John Jay, a Huguenot, seemed to have been afflicted with an incurable and blinding hate of the French.

In addition, for about a century the French and their allies the Indians had been Americans' enemies. About ten thousand Americans had together with the British fought the French and the Indians in the Seven Years War, also known as the French and Indian War. Washington was one of them. He never liked the French and remained suspicious of them. He was also opposed to foreign entanglements, which meant that he did not share Vergennes' and Lafayette's hope for "an eternal alliance" between the United States and France. Washington was also one to support the policy that no foreign troops—meaning the French—should

be allowed to fight on American territory. This policy was most reluctantly changed when the situation of the Continental Army became desperate.

Not knowing that the Spaniards considered the Americans as English and that they intensely hated both, Washington would have much preferred an alliance with Spain. The alliance with France was viewed by him and many American leaders as a *pis aller* and they loathed the thought they would owe independence to the French. Washington also had an exaggerated notion of Spain's power. His closest foreign friend was probably the Spanish agent Juan de Miralles who had made his fortune in the slave trade. Washington spent the better part of a winter at Miralles' palatial residence in Philadelphia. While still most reluctant to have French troops on American soil, at Miralles' suggestion, Washington was willing to cooperate with Spanish troops in Florida, but Spain did not and persistently refused to recognize the independence of the United States.

Ironically, Washington's and America's dearest friend would be the Marquis de Lafayette, "**the only lovable Frenchman.**"

Again, it was so unpleasant to be hated that the French preferred to admit that Americans did not **like** them, and to hope that in time such feelings could be changed. Thanks to Lafayette's zeal for the American cause, the impeccable behavior of Rochambeau's troops, and the loyal and generous support of France, by the end of the war American Francophobia would indeed be attenuated, especially among common people.

Another disappointing aspect of the American situation of which Lafayette was unaware at first was **how deeply Americans were politically divided**. Indeed, only a third of the population supported the war for independence. An equal number remained loyal to the British Crown, while the last third was indifferent. Most Frenchmen including Vergennes were unaware of this lack of unity.

At first, Lafayette was surprised that Loyalists could freely express their opinion. Smiling, Washington explained to the young idealist that freedom of speech was a necessary aspect of democracy. Lafayette was to remember this and other lessons in democracy. During the French Revolution, when he had full control of police and military forces in Paris, respecting freedom of speech, at times he refused to use force even on violent mobs. His enemies would accuse him of being weak and naïve, and never forgave him for not having used force. Napoleon was admired for having promptly reestablished order, even though he did not hesitate to use cannons to control mobs.

Since French ministers merely wanted to be assured that the American break with England was definitive and that they would fight for their freedom, French spies did not inquire or report on other aspects of the situation in America.

Vergennes also did not seem to understand the Americans' opposition to the "intolerable" **Quebec Act**, which infuriated Americans because it granted freedom of religion to French Canadians and provided some protection to the Indians on the western borders by imposing some limits on **land speculations**, which was a major means of **enrichment for big players**—including some of the Founding Fathers. Thus, there was much more at stake than justice and liberty. Lafayette and most Frenchmen might have hesitated, had they known about these less than noble interests. This too deserves more inquiry.⁶

What did Lafayette immediately like in America?

Lafayette was first impressed by nature in America, which perhaps reminded him of Raynal's descriptions, and immediately touched by Americans' informality, their simple and friendly hospitality and generally the American way of life as it existed then. Major Benjamin Huger received perfect strangers into his house and then helped them reach Charleston safely. Neither in Charleston, nor in Philadelphia, nor in

Boston would Lafayette be annoyed by the sterile rituals he had so disliked at Versailles. Most of all, he was surprised and pleased by the friendly informality with which Washington, the Commander-in-chief of the American Army, himself greeted him and welcomed him into his military family. Of course, Lafayette was not aware of the fact that Washington had been informed of the Marquis' importance to the American cause by Franklin and Deane's recommendation, which reads as follows:

The marquis de Lafayette, a young gentleman from a powerful and very wealthy family, left for America on a vessel belonging to him, accompanied by several distinguished officers [actually 14] to serve in our armies. He is greatly loved and everyone wishes him well. We only [hope] that he will be received in such a way as to make the United States and its cause agreeable to him. Those who criticize his decision as frivolous will nonetheless applaud his motivation [*l'esprit qui l'anime*, the spirit that inspires him] and we would be happy if the consideration and the respect shown to him were useful to our cause here by pleasing not only his powerful relations at the Court, but the entire French nation.

Washington had the highest respect for Franklin's judgment. He therefore treated Lafayette with all the consideration recommended. Soon, however, he would have for the Marquis the affection deserved by the young man's personality and dedication to the cause.

Lafayette's extraordinary popularity in America.

Given the strong recommendation sent by the two American commissioners in France, from the beginning Lafayette was treated as an exceptional volunteer. It became known that he was very wealthy, that he had arrived on his own ship, accompanied by senior officers who—it could be imagined—were his escort, that he had left a glamorous way of life and his young wife in spite of opposition to serve the American cause for glory alone. These were all fabulous facts that travelled fast.

What soon impressed his American fellow officers and the troops was Lafayette's zeal for the American cause and his kind and effective leadership. He was one of very few officers in the American army to have received excellent military training. Although Congress had confirmed the commission as major general given to him in Paris by Deane, at first he was not given command of a division. Washington even hesitated to ask for it, given his age—the marquis was merely 20 years old and had no combat experience. But his character made a difference. He was unassuming, sincere, very friendly, likeable, generous to a fault, and zealously dedicated to the American cause. As a volunteer without a division, he could have been a spectator. Instead, he eagerly volunteered for duty including combat. Barely a month after he had joined the army, on September 11, 1777, fighting at Brandywine, he was wounded as he was rallying American troops.

Washington reported the event to Congress and somehow it reached *La Gazette d'Amsterdam*, where Lafayette's exploit was somewhat exaggerated. It was reported that he had routed a corps of some 2000 British troops! This was as impressive as it was unexpected news and most welcome in France.

His wound barely healed, in November Lafayette joined General Nathaniel Greene who gave him command of some 350 men with whom he was to attack a Hessian post near Gloucester, New Jersey. The Marquis forced the Hessians to retreat. Fearing that, unless he were given command of a division, Lafayette might become disgusted and leave, Washington asked Congress to act on the matter. By then Congress was aware of Lafayette's zeal for the American cause. It replied that "it is highly agreeable to Congress that the Marquis de Lafayette be appointed to the command of a division." Washington was happy to give Lafayette a division of Virginians that was rather poorly equipped. Lafayette partially remedied the situation with money out of his own pocket. Again, this was news that travelled fast and far. Lafayette acquired the reputation of being "the soldiers' general."

Whereas American generals often griped and criticized Congress for promoting foreigners over Americans, even a xenophobe like Sullivan applauded Lafayette being assigned a division. They all felt he deserved it. Gottschalk who was not there concurred that the promotion was probably deserved.

Since he was evidently close to the Commander-in-chief, many, especially foreign volunteers and fellow Frenchmen in particular would ask him to intercede in their favor. Lafayette would generously do so, and, when he deemed it necessary, he would even write to Congress where he soon became well known, and in time quite influential.

When in January 1778 Congress decided to launch another offensive in Canada, they appointed Lafayette commander of the expedition. Lafayette did not realize that this was part of the Conway Conspiracy against Washington. However, soon the expedition had to be cancelled for lack of resources. Nonetheless, while in Albany, Lafayette improved the situation of the post.

He also established contact with several Indian tribes. In memory of the old friendship between the French and the Indians, he attempted to persuade them to break away from the British and join the Americans. He doubtless became aware of the plight of the Indians whom Americans were fighting as they were dispossessing them of their land. The American war against the Indians continued during the American War of Independence. Lafayette seems to have been deeply concerned by the fate of the Indians. In 1784 and during his triumphal voyage of 1824-1825, he met with his Indian friends. His interest in the re-conquest of Canada seems to have been related to his intention to somehow improve the lot of the Indians. Information is lacking on this subject.

After he was assured that the failure of this expedition would not tarnish his record, Lafayette insisted on again serving directly under Washington's command.

On May 18, 1778 at Barren Hill with 2400 men, Lafayette managed to manoeuvre his troops in such a way as to prevent the British with 7000 troops from encircling and capturing his division. Washington was very impressed and congratulated him for a clever withdrawal.

On June 16, 1778, in anticipation of Vice-Admiral d'Estaing's arrival, Clinton was evacuating land troops from Philadelphia. Since Lafayette had argued in favor of attacking the withdrawing English, Washington ordered him to catch up with them and harass them with his forward unit until the arrival of the bulk of the army. The British were slowed by their huge convoy of transport vehicles. When Lafayette was about to attack them, Charles Lee, a senior general who had argued against the attack, requested that Washington allow him to replace Lafayette. The Commander-in-chief consented. Afraid as he was of British troops, Lee soon ordered American forward troops to take a defensive position. Had Washington not intervened at Lafayette's request, those troops would have been in a dangerous situation. Lee was subsequently court-martialed and never given any command again. Had Washington allowed Lafayette to continue to do what he was doing, the Americans might have had a happier day. During the night the British fled.

Lafayette's role in d'Estaing's expedition in North America.

A show of force by the French had been requested by the Americans. Vice-Admiral d'Estaing was dispatched to North America with a powerful squadron consisting of twelve ships of the line and five frigates in order to consolidate the Franco-American alliance and if possible, inflict a powerful blow on the British. Thanks to their spy, Dr. Edward Bancroft, who was working for the American representatives in Paris, the British were informed of French plans. Admiral Howe received orders to evacuate his fleet to New

York where it would be much less accessible while adding to the defense of England's main base in North America. To clear the passes, Admiral Howe had to partially unload his much smaller ships.

As the British had hoped, d'Estaing's larger ships could not safely go through the passes at Sandy Hook. After a number of American pilots refused to take the risk of guiding his large ships through the passes and after a French ship attempting to go through a pass had to be pulled from a sand bar with great difficulty, d'Estaing consented to participate instead in a combined sea/land operation with American forces against Newport. The French Vice-admiral's decision not to attack New York was not a "failure" as some still write since the operation was not even begun.

In Newport, General Sullivan had difficulty readying his troops, which included many poorly equipped militias, forcing him to postpone the attack twice. These delays caused d'Estaing to lose the opportunity to attack and probably capture Newport. For on the day the attack was finally to begin, Admiral Howe appeared with 36 ships. To avoid being trapped in the estuary and because he very much wanted to attack Howe's squadron, d'Estaing sailed after him as soon as he could, while Howe cut his cables and threw all non-essentials overboard in order to flee more rapidly. This flight is seldom reported by admirers of the British Navy. When the French were about to attack the British, a violent storm dispersed and severely damaged both fleets. Thus, after having been saved by the sandbanks in New York, Howe was saved a second time by a storm off Newport. He had no particular merit for having avoided d'Estaing. Yet, A. T. Mahan and other admirers of the British Royal Navy have lavished praise on Howe for his "diligence and generalship superior to d'Estaing." Washington had a better understanding of the situation.⁷

When d'Estaing returned to Newport with some severely damaged ships, low on food and water, his sailors exhausted and many ill for having been at sea for over four months, he could but very briefly help before leaving for Boston to have his ships repaired and resupplied. Sullivan, who was temperamental and a xenophobe—reprimanded by Congress for his bias—went into a most offensive rant against the French, accusing d'Estaing of desertion and betrayal. American officers were asked to sign a protest against the French. Lafayette refused to sign it. Sullivan knew that without the support of the French, his large number of troops—he claimed to have 10,000 men—would be unable to defeat the British. To prove to Congress that it was not his fault if the expedition against Newport would fail, Sullivan laid the blame on the French. His reaction was such that it could have jeopardized the alliance and even caused Lafayette's departure.

The United States would have probably been better served if Washington had put Lafayette in charge of the Newport operation instead of a general who did not get along well with foreigners.

In spite of the disappointment, d'Estaing and Lafayette remained committed to the American cause. Lafayette first asked Washington to order Sullivan to end his protest, which the Commander-in-chief did, rather mildly. Then, Lafayette himself persuaded Sullivan to modify his statement, which he did, admitting that d'Estaing actually had solid reasons for having acted the way he did. After having executed an orderly withdrawal of the American troops, Lafayette went to Boston to commiserate with d'Estaing who was mortified by the Americans' reaction.

At first, Bostonians were very hostile to the French. Twelve French sailors and an officer were killed in brawls. But thanks to John Hancock's intervention, good relations were reestablished between the Bostonians and the French. The ships were repaired, and d'Estaing and his officers were often invited to dine with the mayor. Hancock even gave a portrait of Washington to the vice-admiral who greatly admired the American Commander-in-chief.

Although d’Estaing had been very unlucky, as Mahan himself admitted, Lafayette had great admiration for him. Washington thanked the vice-admiral as did Congress, which also acknowledged Lafayette’s positive role and “prudence”.

In order to mend the alliance, Lafayette proposed an offensive against Canada by combined Franco-American forces. But, ever suspicious of the French, Washington opposed Lafayette’s proposal, and even warned Congress against it. He feared that once conquered, the French would want to keep Canada and would again be a threat to the United States. This was the only important and persistent disagreement between Lafayette and Washington. In effect, Washington preferred England as a neighbor to France, and that is what he got. However, he was wrong in his assessment of French intentions with regard to Canada. The French Council of Ministers had discussed the question and unanimously concurred with Vergennes’ opinion that it was **not** in France’s interest to recover Canada.

In any case, Washington did not trust the French. As soon as d’Estaing’s ships were repaired, he was advised to sail to the West Indies but was not informed of the large British troop transfer to that area. A British convoy was to transport 5000 troops from New York to the West Indies where they were to capture Santa Lucia. Both the British convoy and d’Estaing’s squadron left on November 4th. Had d’Estaing been informed of this very large transfer of troops, which was escorted by only five small ships of the line, he would have easily captured the entire convoy and its escorts. That would have been a great blow to England. That was the greatest opportunity of d’Estaing’s North American campaign—missed for an unexplained lack of cooperation. Americans must have known that the British were about to make this large transfer of troops. It would be interesting to know why they failed to inform the French.

Lafayette had been extremely discouraged by the resurgence of the Francophobia he had observed, especially among his fellow officers. He even imagined the possibility of returning to France with d’Estaing. This would have meant the end of the alliance. Fortunately, he was able to overcome his disappointment and save the alliance.



Lafayette Stamp

Lafayette preparing his return to France

Lafayette had come to the realization that the Continental Army was very weak and that to win the war it needed more than arms, ammunition and money. Washington felt all along that French naval support was essential, while he opposed the use of French troops on American territory. After Sullivan's debacle at Newport, Washington began to think that more than French naval support was necessary. Lafayette decided he needed to return to France to persuade Louis XVI and his ministers to send to the United States massive aid to strengthen the American army as well as troops, which could operate with the French navy in a decisive attack against a major objective.

Shaken by the outburst of hostility against d'Estaing and his squadron as well as the French in general including himself, having been accused of being an excessively patriotic Frenchman, Lafayette felt it necessary to write Congress a very strong reaffirmation of his commitment to the United States, of his American patriotism. It reads as follows:

The moment I heard of America, I loved her. The moment I knew she was fighting for freedom, I burnt with the desire of bleeding for her. And the moment I shall be able of serving her in any time or any part of the world will be among the happiest ones in my life. I never so much wished for occasions of deserving those obliging sentiments I am honored with by these states and their representatives, and the flattering confidence they have been pleased to put in me, that have filled my heart with the warmest acknowledgement, and most eternal affection.⁸

Rarely so moving a statement of love for this country has been made since. (As an immigrant I regret I have not expressed such feelings.) Yet, not everyone was moved by this beautiful expression of love of America and of her representatives. Gottschalk for one was not moved. His reaction was rather petty. "Lafayette was not exactly accurate," he began, admitting that he is not an admirer of Lafayette. Without any proof, he claimed that Lafayette was insensitive because that very day he had requested a leave from Sullivan. "If he received it, it was to be used to aid America, to be sure, but only incidentally." Primarily Lafayette would, as a French soldier, participate with d'Estaing in an invasion of Canada, which was intended to be the 14th state. Thus here, as in numerous other circumstances, Gottschalk undermines Lafayette's credibility. Then he debunks Lafayette's intention to challenge Lord Carlisle who had made disparaging comments about France. He refers to Lafayette as being a sensitive and quixotic Frenchman.

Regardless of later day scholars' opinion, the members of Congress had a heart and they were touched. Lafayette could face them with confidence. Not easily accepting defeat, before his departure for France, Lafayette presented to Congress his plan for the recovery of Canada. In spite of Washington's opposition to it, **all** factions of Congress found Lafayette's proposal acceptable. Franklin was instructed "to consult the Marquis de Lafayette on any difficulties that might arise; and refer the ministry to him." Carmichael wrote to Franklin that

it was a great triumph for Lafayette. No one but himself, he added, has known how to reconcile the clashing parties of this continent to his views [...] By this you may judge not only of his amiable character, but his discretion. The resolves and letters of Congress in his favor will show you their sense of his merit, and I do assure you, that the sentiment of the people at large, and of the army are the same."⁹

Congress' final instructions

placed Lafayette in a unique position. Franklin and Washington, America's two foremost citizens, were to consult and report to him on a project which some of the members of Congress hoped—even if only distantly [...] would win His Most Christian Majesty's approval because Lafayette supported it.¹⁰

This political success attests to the considerable influence Lafayette had gained in Congress in a little over a year. As with regard to many of Lafayette's stated intentions, Gottschalk attributed his plan concerning Canada to his "thirst for glory."¹¹ Although he was wrong to suspect the intentions of the French, Washington's objections to Lafayette's plan were realistic.

To succeed, he thought, [would] require such a fortunate coincidence of circumstances as could hardly be hoped and cannot be counted to be relied on."¹²

Before his departure, Lafayette was heartily thanked and highly praised by Congress, which sent to the King of France a most laudatory letter praising him "as one whom we know to be wise in council, gallant in the field, and patient under the hardships of war."

Lafayette thanked the representatives

for the glorious testimonials of confidence and satisfaction [...] His most fervent desire was, he said, soon to employ against the common enemy the sword which they intended to present to him. [...] That liberty, wealth, and concord may ever attend these United States is the ardent wish of a heart glorying with a devoted zeal and unbounded love for them, and the highest regard, the most sincere affection for their representatives.¹³

Gérard de Rayneval, Minister of France, wrote to Vergennes the following assessment of Lafayette:

*Je ne puis me dispenser de dire que la conduite également prudente, courageuse et aimable de M. le marquis de La Fayette l'a rendu l'idole du Congrès, de l'armée et du peuple des Etats-Unis. On a une haute opinion de ses talents militaires. Vous savez combien je suis peu enclin à la flatterie, mais je manquerais à la justice si je ne vous transmettais ces témoignages qui sont ici dans la bouche de tout le monde.*¹⁴

Translation: I cannot abstain from saying that the equally prudent, courageous and friendly behavior of the marquis de Lafayette made him the idol of Congress, of the army and of the people of the United States. His military talents are highly regarded. You know how disinclined I am to flatter, but I would be unfair if I did not transmit to you this testimony which is on everyone's lips.

Lafayette had earned such high esteem from the American people after less than a year and a half among them. Gérard also pointed out the unexpected: the high appreciation for Lafayette's military talents, something likely to surprise the French. Because of his illness and d'Estaing's departure for the West Indies, Lafayette's plan to attack Canada was postponed. The Marquis decided to go to France instead.

Lafayette lobbies for the United States at the Court of France.

Once in France, Lafayette was preoccupied by the need to send aid to the American Army. He was so persistent that Maurepas, the senior minister, said in jest that Lafayette would empty the Palace of Versailles of its furniture in order to aid the Insurgents. Actually, Lafayette was prioritizing American interest over that of France as he would in some other circumstances.

The case for more aid to the Americans was difficult to make. France had already sent large quantities of arms and other military supplies as well as substantial amounts of money. It was known that because of lack of discipline, rifles were often taken home by soldiers at the end of their enlistment or even sold to Loyalists by soldiers still on active duty. Louis XVI was shocked that Congress did not even provide its army with sufficient food.

More disquieting to the French was the inactivity of the Continental Army. American military valor was a major reason France had decided to form an alliance with the United States. They had since come to realize their error. Since the victory at Saratoga (October 27, 1777) until December 1779, a period of 26 months, the Continental Army had only had one significant encounter with the British — at Monmouth, which ended in a draw. Despite all the Patriots' talk about fighting, during the 48 months between the victories at Saratoga and Yorktown, the Continental Army was mostly inactive or being defeated. Congress was of course aware of the situation and embarrassed by it, and Washington was criticized for his defensive strategy. By the end of January 1780, the French had to realize they could not count on either the non-combative Spanish Navy or the inactive American Army. The decision was reached to end the war as soon as possible.

Once Washington had informed Lafayette that French troops would be welcome in America, he was able to persuade Louis XVI and his ministers to send an expeditionary corps to America, which at some point would operate with the French Navy. The strategy was as simple as that. Lafayette was disappointed not to be the commander of the expeditionary corps, but would do his best as a liaison between the French and the Americans.

Rochambeau's expeditionary corps arrives in Newport.

On July 11, 1780, an expeditionary corps of 5500, escorted by a squadron of seven ships of the line and two frigates arrived in Newport, which the British had abandoned in haste when d'Estaing intervened at Savannah. Over two months went by before Washington finally came on September 20 to meet and confer with Rochambeau at Hartford, Connecticut. It was a long enough wait for the French and especially for Lafayette to worry for he had promoted the idea of sending an expeditionary corps and guaranteed "on his head" that Americans would be anxious to put it to good use. By the time the conference took place, it was too late in the season to plan a combined land/sea operation. The war would be extended another year. In the meantime, at the head of his West Indies fleet, Admiral Rodney came to study the possibility of capturing or crushing the French expeditionary corps and its small squadron settled in Newport. After several weeks of hesitation he found the French position too well fortified, and like Howe in Boston in 1778, he decided not to attack. For the British this decision was a grave error.

Perhaps in anticipation of an attack against New York, on August 7, 1780 Washington gave Lafayette command of the elite riflemen division. But as the situation in Virginia became precarious, on February 20, 1781, Washington dispatched Lafayette to Virginia where, with a much smaller force he would fight against Cornwallis a brilliant campaign, which made Yorktown possible. The reason Lafayette was so effective was his widely recognized excellent leadership. Not only did he spend substantial amounts of his own money to clothe, equip and feed his troops, he would not hesitate to write to mayors and governors to

obtain supplies for his division. His troops knew he really cared for them and they were willing to do the utmost for him. Like his friend d'Estaing, he did not lead from behind. When general Chastellux, Rochambeau's chief of staff, a very experienced senior officer, visited Lafayette's division in November 1780, he marveled at the confidence the troops had in their young general and at how strongly they felt bonded to him. This relationship with his troops seemed most precious to Lafayette. It would enable him to demand so much of them. Chastellux's comments about the young major general are interesting:

What I find even more flattering for such a young man is the influence and the respect he had gained in [American] political and military circles. No one will deny that a mere letter from him often had more effect in some States than a request from Congress. Proof of his influence abounds. Washington himself often consulted him as he selected officers for assignments. General Mathieu Dumas, sent to [American] headquarters by Rochambeau was surprised by Washington's evident affection for his adopted son, the marquis de Lafayette, as the commander-in-chief looked at him with kindness and listened to him with evident interest.¹⁵

(Lafayette was 23 years old.)

After his arrival in the Chesapeake in August 1781, Admiral de Grasse disembarked *comte de Saint Simon's* 3200 troops he had brought from Saint-Domingue. The Admiral then pressed Lafayette to attack Cornwallis immediately. He was ready to provide a large number of sailors and intense artillery support. Lafayette would have all the glory and the Admiral could promptly return to the island where over 200 merchant ships awaited the escort he had promised to provide. Lafayette refused not only because he thought the British might oppose a greater resistance to the force he would have at his disposal, which would result in more casualties, but because he did not want to deprive Washington of the glory of presiding over the expected victory. Had his craving for glory been greater than his prudence and his loyalty to Washington, Lafayette might have given in to de Grasse's bold suggestion. Apparently, Lafayette's frequent and light mentions of his quest for glory unduly shocked practical Americans who imagined it to be an unreasonable passion. Happy, wealthy, successful, what would he desire other than recognition and fame for great achievements, which in eighteenth century France was glory?

After Washington and Rochambeau's arrival, Lafayette was sent to persuade de Grasse to remain in the Chesapeake until the end of the siege, a mission he accomplished. Thus, at Yorktown Lafayette played an important military and diplomatic role.

After Yorktown, Washington was not inclined to attack other important English positions as Lafayette suggested. Instead, he wanted Lafayette to request more French naval support, and Congress asked him to represent American interests in France. Except for some skirmishes, the American army remained inactive. The British withdrew their forces at their own pace.

Lafayette bade farewell to Congress where he received the sincerest expression of gratitude and a hero's send-off. Congress and the American people knew that from its preparation in France, to the beginning of this campaign and to its end, Lafayette had played an essential role in the decisive victory that had just been won. Lafayette was at the apex of his popularity in the United States. He was leaving with the intention of returning in the near future. Contrary to what some have written, he was not "an outcast with no career to reprise." In June 1779, he had been promoted *aide-major général des logis* and he was promoted again to *maréchal de camp* retroactive to October 19, 1781. Lafayette could expect to have a brilliant military career in the French army.

In France, Lafayette received a triumphal welcome.

Soon he resumed caring for American interests. Most importantly, he persuaded the French government to grant yet another large loan and a subsidy urgently needed by the government of the United States. American Commissioners were under the illusion that they had obtained it. They were not fully unaware of Lafayette's immense popularity in the United States and of the considerable decrease in Francophobia he and Rochambeau's expeditionary corps had brought about.

Adams and Jay continued to view Lafayette with the same suspicion they thought every Frenchman deserved and did not consult him as they had been instructed to do by Congress. On November 30, 1782, at the risk of jeopardizing French peace negotiations, they signed a preliminary treaty with England without even informing France as required by treaty and by Congress. After the signing of preliminaries by the United States commissioners, Lord Shelburne immediately hardened Britain's negotiating position toward France and Spain.

As A. T. Mahan clearly stated,

the strong inherited distrust [actually hate] of the French, which characterized the Americans of the revolutionary era, has been too much overlooked in the glow of gratitude, which followed the effectual sympathy and assistance then given.¹⁶

Actually there was very sincere gratitude expressed mostly to Lafayette, but not to France, although the French as a people had been exceptionally generous and loyal allies and had essentially defeated the British and forced them to recognize the independence of the United States as promised. Mostly unaware of the Americans' breach of treaty, the French people rejoiced that peace was finally at hand. French leaders in the know, especially Vergennes, concealed their disappointment and their grief in order not to admit Britain's diplomatic victory, which would cause France to be mocked even more by all of Europe for having made enormous sacrifices not only for virtually no gains, but in the end to be offended by their ally. As Austria's prime minister Kaunitz wrote, "France had won the war and lost the peace." Vergennes and Lafayette's expectation of an "eternal alliance" between France and the United States seemed doomed.

Because of de Grasse's defeat at Saintes (April 12, 1782) and Spain's failure to capture Gibraltar (September 13, 1782), France and Spain believed it necessary to deliver a heavy blow to England in order to improve their negotiating position. For that purpose a huge Franco-Spanish expedition was prepared in Cádiz. D'Estaing was appointed its commander, and he chose Lafayette as his second.

While in Spain, Lafayette decided to negotiate with Spain an improvement in the relations between Spain and the United States. When Carmicheal learned of Lafayette's presence in Cádiz, he asked him to try to persuade the Spanish to recognize him as a representative of the United States. Lafayette spoke with the King of Spain and negotiated with Floridablanca, his prime minister, for almost two weeks, and finally persuaded them that it was urgent to recognize the United States, especially since the King of England had already done so and that it was in Spain's interest to establish friendly relations with the United States. Floridablanca promised Lafayette that Spain would do so. But Spain was slow to execute. In two weeks, under different circumstances, Lafayette accomplished more than John Jay had in almost three years! Once more, Lafayette had demonstrated his remarkable talent for diplomacy. He reported on his mission to the President of Congress, Robert Livingston that

although the Spaniards would prefer that there not be a North American country, they frankly and seriously desire to maintain perfect harmony, to coexist in friendship as good neighbors of the United States.

This brief report was very optimistic considering the difficulty Lafayette had in persuading Charles III and Floridablanca. On April 12, Congress thanked Lafayette for his diplomatic intervention in Spain.



Lafayette at Metz in front of Palais Justice

Lafayette's victory lap.

As he had promised in 1781, Lafayette returned to the United States in 1784. It was a much shorter visit, lasting five months rather than his thirteen-month triumphal tour forty years later. But the shorter visit already prefigured the longer one. It included church bells ringing, cannon salutes, official welcomes in state houses, town halls, lodges, banquets, toasts, speeches and visits to friends.

Lafayette arrived in New York on August 4, 1784. He was officially received in Philadelphia on the 10th, then by Washington at Mount Vernon on the 17th, then at the town hall in Baltimore for a great dinner. He was in New York on September 12, at Albany on the 26th and 27th to attend a great reunion of Indian tribes where he evoked the friendly relations he had established with Indians in 1778. In the Northeast, he also visited Boston, Providence, Newport and Hartford. In November he headed south, stopping in Annapolis where he was made an honorary citizen of Maryland, before heading to Williamsburg and Richmond where Washington came to bid him farewell, and, as in several other cities, he shared in Lafayette's triumph. Washington was the most respected hero of the American Revolution, while Lafayette was the most loved.

On December 8, he was in Trenton where in Congress a representative of each of the Thirteen States formally paid Lafayette a special tribute. After having spent several days with his friend Nathanael Greene, on December 21, 1784 he departed from New York.

Lafayette was extremely impressed by the progress realized everywhere in only two and half years of peace and liberty. This victory lap essentially concluded Lafayette's career in America—what one might call "The American Lafayette." To be sure, this trip was overshadowed by the 1824-25 triumphal visit. But it was covered in the French press and other European countries as an important international event.

After having won the hearts of Americans for having secured the independence of the United States, and gained overwhelming popularity in France by age 24, Lafayette still had fifty-two years to make an impact on France and the world. Understandably, American historians tend to pay more attention to Lafayette's five American years than to the subsequent fifty-two. The opposite is true of French historians who devote twice, thrice or even more attention to the French and the Universal Lafayette, and many have judged his later years very severely. Etienne Taillemite, not one of the most severe, wrote that, during the War of American Independence, "Lafayette had undeniably served [well] and his action had been totally positive. It would never be so in future years." America was for Lafayette a kind of paradise for which he would be forever nostalgic.

The American Lafayette was the most fortunate, the most successful and the most **glorious**.

NOTES

- 1-Bois, Jean-Pierre. *La Fayette* (Paris: Perrin, 2015) 33.
- 2-Unger, Harlow Giles. *Lafayette* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2002) 16.
- 3-Manceron, Claude. *Les vingt ans du roi* (Paris: Laffont, 1972); *Le vent de l'Amérique*, 1974.
- 4-Bois, 33.
- 5-Ibid.
- 6-Paul, Joel Richard. *Unlikely Allies* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2009) 235-42.
- 7-Mahan, A. T. *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1927) 361.
- 8-Gottschalk, Louis. *Lafayette in America. III-Lafayette Joins the American Army* (Arveyres, France: L'Esprit de Lafayette Society, 1975) 276-7.
- 9-Gottschalk, 299-300.
- 10-Ibid. 300.
- 11-Ibid. 303.
- 12-Ibid. 307.
- 13-Ibid. 301-2.
- 14-Unger, 89.
- 15-Taillemite, Etienne. *La Fayette* (Paris: Fayard, 1989) 80-81.
- 16-Mahan, 509.
- 17-Taillemite, 96.

Lafayette Trivia: AFL Fall Gazette Geneva (1 of 2: Answer)

By Ernest and Janet Sutton

Answer: Why did Lafayette detour from the Erie Canal?

When Lafayette received the unexpected invitation in Buffalo from James Rees of Geneva, New York, he immediately recognized an old friend from Philadelphia. During Lafayette's first military engagement at the Battle of Brandywine, he was wounded on September 11, 1777. He was taken to Philadelphia and later to Bethlehem to recover. While in Philadelphia, he became a close friend of Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution. James Rees, then a young man, was a clerk of Robert Morris, and so remained until the Treaty of Paris in September 1783. Consequently, he also became a close friend of Lafayette. Later he was Robert Morris's agent during the Treaty of Big Tree negotiations in September 1797 to legally obtain Indian lands in western New York. Afterwards, he settled in Geneva.

Traveling with Rees to meet Lafayette in Rochester was also another special friend Monsieur Camus. He would accompany Lafayette from Rochester to Boston. Earlier in March 1825, he had opened a French language school in Geneva after presenting a personal letter of recommendation from Lafayette.

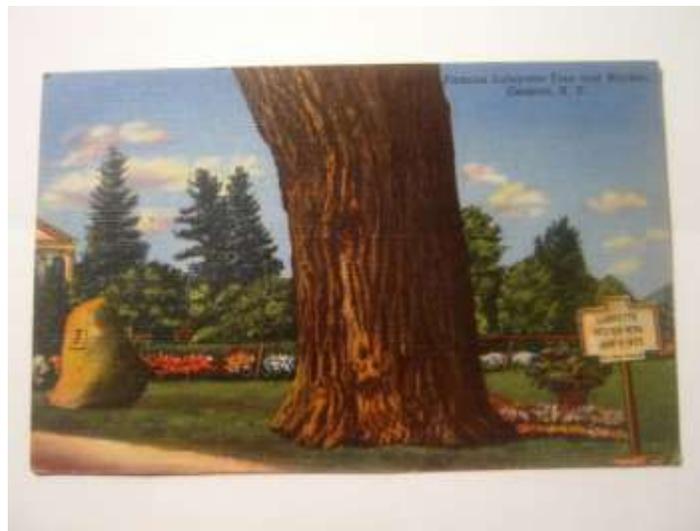
The "Palladium" article puts the local legend of Geneva's "Lafayette Tree" where 2,000 citizens of Geneva initially greeted Lafayette into serious doubt. After he left Rochester via Lake Canandaigua, he traveled to Ball Tavern on Seneca Turnpike which today is an antique store on US Routes 5 & 20 west of Flint. According to the editor of the "Palladium" who accompanied the welcome committee from Geneva to the tavern, the group went directly to Geneva with no stops at a special tree to greet citizens from Geneva. The apocryphal story of the "Lafayette Tree" appears to come from a letter published in the "Geneva Advertiser" on February 17, 1885, by the son of Colonel Bowen Whiting, the guest speaker at Lafayette's celebration dinner. Unfortunately, there are several permanent markers at this location. One is a boulder with an imbedded brass plaque placed by the DAR in 1922. With the cost to move the boulder quite high, the DAR decided to keep it at this grand vista of Bean's Hill overlooking Geneva and Lake Seneca.

A further story of Lafayette's dinner appeared in the "Geneva Gazette" on August 10, 1877, by a woman who 52 years earlier attended the dinner as a young girl. She related that at a cost of \$2, two cucumbers were obtained for Lafayette, but one was eaten before the dinner by the daughter of the table committee chairman causing "great dismay and anger on account of her boldness".

In Alan Hoffman's translation of "Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825", on page 481, Auguste Levasseur, private secretary of Lafayette, writes that the Finger Lakes "route succeeded in convincing us that no part of America, and perhaps the entire world, contains as many wonders of nature as the State of New York".



Postcard of Lafayette Tree, Geneva, New York cancelled 1906



Lafayette Tree with DAR marker on Bean's hill overlooking Geneva, New York, where 2,000 Citizens reportedly greeted Lafayette on June 8, 1825. Postcard is cancelled 1931.



Lafayette Tree removed in 1965 because of disease. The DAR Lafayette Tree Marker placed in 1922 remains along with two other markers.

AFL Fall 2017 Gazette: Lafayette Trivia (2 of 2: Answer)

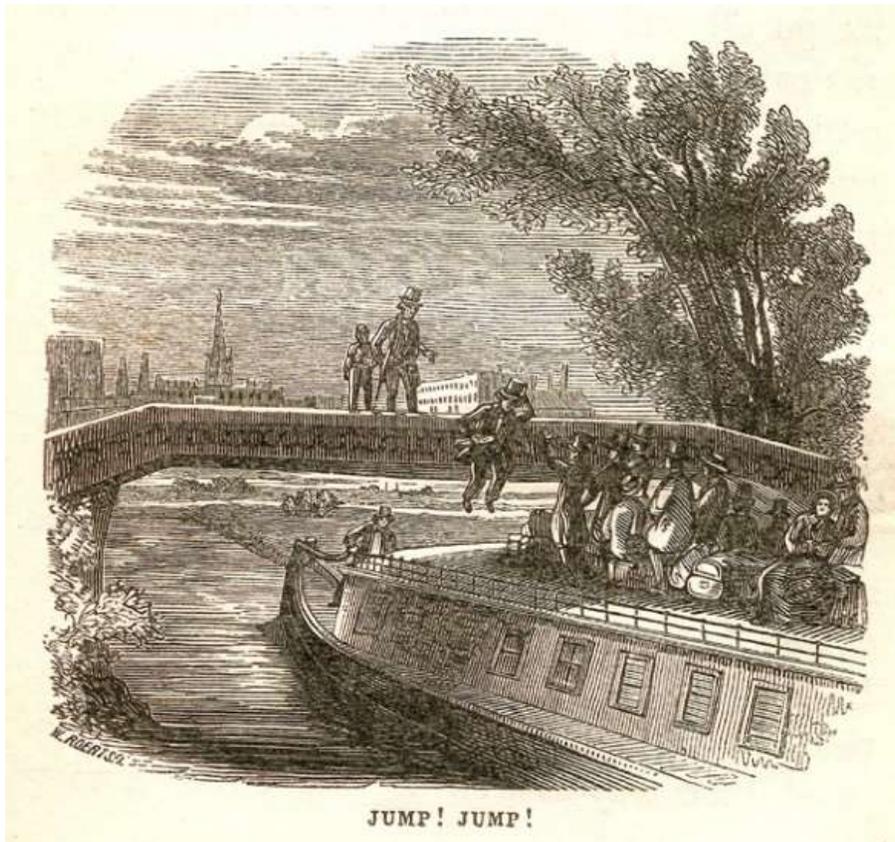
By Ernest and Janet Sutton

Answer: Was Lafayette threatened by an Oneida Warrior on the Erie Canal?

Immediately upon hearing that the Oneida warrior who leaped onto the packet after it passed under the bridge was the son of Wekchekaeta, Lafayette grasped his hand in friendship. When Lafayette first met him in 1784, Wekchekaeta was an Oneida boy aged 17 years. It took until 1786 before final approval was obtained from the Oneida to take him to France.

Lafayette's biographer Laura Auricchio writes that the boy had a French father and an Oneida mother and was named Peter Otsiquette. Lafayette called him Otchikeita and referred to him as "his favorite servant". Lafayette arranged for his education. Otchikeita never forgot his Oneida family he left behind. According to Lafayette, he eventually become disgusted with civilization and wanted to return to the wild forests of America. Upon his return in July 1788, the Oneida held him in high regard. In March 1792, he participated in a high-profile Six Nations' Chiefs visit to Philadelphia to meet with the President. Each received the Presidential Indian Peace Medal. Tragically, Otchikeita died during this visit, and was buried with full military honors. Contemporary newspapers reported that he died from pleurisy; others said he died from alcohol abuse.

After the unexpected visit of Wekchikaeta's son on the packet, Lafayette gave him several dollars which greatly pleased him. He left the packet in a single 10-foot leap to the canal towpath "with the nimbleness of a deer, and disappeared in an instant". (Alan Hoffman's translation, *Lafayette in America in 1824 to 1825*, pages 482-485.)



Macro Paul's Voyages & Travels, Erie Canal by Jacob Abbott, 1852, page 61

Lafayette Statue Donation

As we prepare to dedicate the statue of Lafayette in Yorktown (October 18, 2017) we continue to receive donations. Thank you Jenni Carpenter for your generous statue donation on May 26th, 2017.

Brandywine Memorial



AFL member David Schaff laid a wreath at this Battle of Brandywine Memorial on September 11, on behalf of the American Friends of Lafayette

Letter to the Editor

The newest edition of the Gazette was another spectacular success! There are always fascinating articles of a great variety. You are truly gifted! - **Rudy and Diane Cusumano**

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

Publisher: Chuck Schwam

Editor: Alan Hoffman

Layout Chief: Dan Fitzpatrick

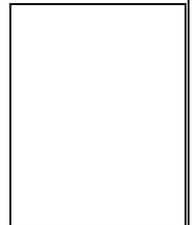
Distributed by: Phil and Barbara Schroeder



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

