

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

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From Left to Right: Tima Zamaray, Ruslan Zamaray, Iona Dorfler, Stephanie Dray, Albina Lozitski, Nataliya Moubray, Chuck Schwam, Debbie Larroque, Bonnie Fritz, Charles Howell, Ellen McCarthy, Mark Holland, Patti Maclay, and Pierre Larroque



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Ukraine: What Would Lafayette Do?

by Chuck Schwam (with Jenny Cote, Stephanie Dray, and Alan Hoffman)



In early April, I received an email from AFL members Jenny Cote and Stephanie Dray. Like all of us, they were watching a democratic country being invaded by a dictatorship. They asked me, “What would Lafayette do for the Ukrainians?” Lafayette would come to their aid of course!!!

We know this because of his incredible and sustained response in favor of the Poles before and after the Russians crushed the Polish Revolution of 1830. Lloyd Kramer has written about this in his book, *Lafayette in Two Worlds*. To summarize, Lafayette swung into action. After failing to persuade the ministers to give diplomatic and material support to the Polish Nationalists, he got involved in two organizations that today we would call NGOs.

The first, The French-Polish Committee, organized in early 1831, with Lafayette as President spearheading the fund-raising effort, raised an amazing 420,000 francs, which would be over \$3,000,000 today. The second, formed by American expatriate James Fenimore Cooper, was called the American-Polish Committee. Lafayette endorsed their work and assisted in their fund-raising efforts. After the Polish Revolution was defeated, the money raised by these organizations was used to support Polish refugees.

Lafayette couldn't abide empty words. In the 18th century, when he stood around at countless parties and balls in the opulence of Versailles, his friends accused him of being aloof and disinterested. I believe that's because he *was*. Lafayette wasn't interested in hollow words on shallow subjects of fashion or idle gossip. However, if topics like liberty or injustice were discussed, *THEN* he wouldn't be quiet.



Lafayette wasn't a man of words; he was a man of *action*. All it took was one conversation at a dinner party in Metz for the young Frenchman to become so passionate about a people fighting for their freedom that he offered his sword to fight for them before dessert was even served. Then he put his money where his mouth was. He didn't bat an eye to give away a massive chunk of his wealth for the cause of freedom for people he had never met. He didn't bat an eye to defy his king and family and escape France to fight on the front lines for their freedom.

In WWII, after the fall of France, the AFL governing council voted unanimously to send a telegraph message to President Roosevelt reaffirming their belief in the ideals which motivated Lafayette and requesting that immediate and full aid be extended to the Free French Forces fighting with General De Gaulle.

Here's an excerpt from the AFL Gazette dated February 1942:

We are obviously not a political organization, but the members of the council felt that the present crisis represented a fundamental challenge – not of politics, but of basic ideals. The Council unanimously voted to send a telegraph message to President Roosevelt reaffirming our belief in the ideals which motivated Lafayette and requesting that immediate and full aid be extended to the Free French forces fighting with General de Gaulle. Copies of the resolution were communicated to the principal news agencies and to the New York headquarter of the Free France movement.

M. Jacques de Sieres, personal representative of General de Gaulle in the United States, replied in part, under date of September 2: “the General, informed of your noble gesture, has sent us the following cable:

FOR MR. MESSMORE KENDALL: I ASK YOU TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFYETTE FOR ITS DEMARCHE WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AND TO EXPRESS TO THE COUNCIL MY GRATITUDE FOR ITS ACTION IN FAVOR OF THE FREE FRENCH FORCES.

Your act fills us with the deepest gratitude...An encouragement such as the resolution passed by your Executive Council adds to our ever-increasing confidence in final victory...Please extend to the members of your organization my heartfelt thanks for their great assistance. At the present moment, we can only thank those, such as you, who seek to encourage us, but a time will come when we prove that we are worthy of the faith entrusted in our leader and our cause.”

Here's an excerpt from the *AFL Gazette* dated February 1944:

The Lafayette Ambulance, presented to the American Field Service by Lafayette College and The American Friends of Lafayette in March, 1943, has served through the desert campaigns and is now in Italy. More detailed news is lacking at this time. So reports Mr. Stephen Gallati of New York, Director General of the American Field Service. We may be assured that this ambulance, bearing the name of Lafayette, is doing its part with honor in the war.



An ambulance drives through Kharkiv, in eastern Ukraine, responding to reports of casualties at the site of Russian strikes on April 27.

Members of the American Friends of Lafayette have a long tradition of giving aid to struggling democracies in honor of our French hero. During WWI, Beatrice Chanler, who became an early AFL member, founded The Lafayette Fund, an extraordinarily successful organization that rallied public support and donated kits, medical equipment, and other supplies to France under siege, ultimately securing the purchase of Lafayette's birthplace in Chavaniac to care for child war refugees. In keeping with this proud tradition, we hope to direct our charitable efforts with laser focus on the current crisis in Eastern Europe.

So, what would Lafayette do today about Ukraine? What would he do if he were privy to a newscast of a tyrant destroying the freedom of a people he'd never met? Or a Facebook post with pictures showing destroyed homes and hospitals, orphaned children weeping in a bomb shelter, or weary refugees carrying all their remaining worldly possessions in a backpack? He wouldn't just say, "Oh, how terrible! Those poor people," and do nothing. He'd be the first to whip out his checkbook and immediately send aid.

The American Friends of Lafayette did exactly what Lafayette would do. Our fundraiser was a huge success with 75 members donating, plus an AFL match of \$1,000, for a total of \$21,205.24!!! (We received an additional \$500 after the check on the cover was printed).



Maryna Baydyuk, the president of nonprofit United Help Ukraine, protests the Russian invasion of Ukraine in front of the White House.

The American Friends of Lafayette chose United Help Ukraine, based in Gaithersburg, Maryland, as the recipient of these funds. United Help Ukraine is an American registered nonprofit vetted by Charity Navigator which spends more than ninety percent of the money collected on direct program services.

United Help Ukraine is filling much the same role as The Lafayette Fund did during the WWI, helping to raise awareness of what is at stake for western democracy, and, like the AFL in the WWII, donating ambulances. Our donation will purchase two used ambulances from Poland for use in Ukraine.

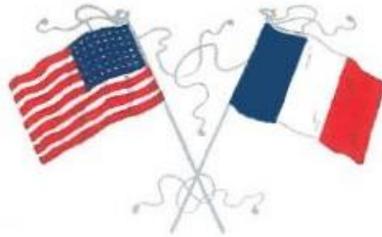
On April 15, AFL members presented the check to United Help Ukraine board members (see cover photo). Over a lunch of traditional Ukrainian food, we discussed the ongoing crisis with these Ukrainian-Americans who find themselves involved on a daily basis. All of the board members have family members back in Ukraine (some of whom are actually involved in combat).

Thank you all very much for participating. Thank you, Stephanie Dray and Jenny Cote, for coming up with this important and wonderful idea. It's initiatives like this that make the AFL not just another historical organization. We are doers. Lafayette's legacy guides our actions and will continue to do so.

The Founders of the American Friends of Lafayette

In Recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the AFL, May 20, 2022

by John C. Becica



The American Friends of Lafayette

From the 50th Anniversary Pamphlet Published by the AFL in 1982

The Back Story

September 22, 1824 found a delegation of about 200 citizens from Easton, Pennsylvania beginning a journey to greet Lafayette at his first visit to Philadelphia during his Triumphal Tour of America. Lead by prominent lawyer James Madison Porter, they floated and rowed down the Delaware River for two days in Durham boats.

After the conclusion of September 28, 1824 ceremonies at the Pennsylvania State House (renovated and renamed Independence Hall for the occasion) “all the people were permitted to file before the Nation’s Guest in order to shake his hand.” When Porter and the Easton delegation were presented to Lafayette, the General, with his excellent memory, recalled Porter’s father and uncle having fought at the Battle of Brandywine during the American Revolution. Thoroughly elated by Lafayette’s good wishes for his family, Porter returned to Easton. Later that Fall he accompanied a young relative to be enrolled at the Military Academy at Norwich, Vermont (Currently Norwich University). It was there that the idea of forming a college in Easton came to Porter’s mind, an idea solidified by his subsequent visit to Dartmouth College, across the river in New Hampshire.

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

The enthusiastic Mr. Porter later placed an advertisement in the local newspaper calling a meeting to consider establishing a college at Easton. The gathering took place on Monday evening, December 27, 1824 at 6:30 PM at “Chippy” White’s Easton Hotel on the north side of the town square. At that meeting it was decided to move ahead and name the proposed institution La Fayette College. It took more than a year to receive a charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on March 9, 1826. Six more years passed before George Junkin agreed to move his Manual Labor Academy from Germantown, Pennsylvania to Easton and take up the Charter. Classes began on May 9, 1832 with George Junkin as President of the fledgling college, and James Madison Porter as Chairman of the Board.

Founding of The American Friends of Lafayette

In May of 1932 Lafayette College celebrated the centennial of its founding – 100 years since the first classes had commenced. A series of events, lectures and displays were carefully planned and executed to mark the occasion. It was most probably the biggest celebration ever held on campus before or since.

A group of 52 avid Lafayette enthusiasts and scholars from the United States and France were asked to participate at the invitation of Lafayette College president William Mather Lewis.

The formation of an historic and patriotic society to honor the Marquis de Lafayette had been initially envisioned the year before in 1931 by Stuart Wells Jackson of Gloucester, Virginia, and Judge Walter Pennett Gardner of Jersey City, New Jersey. They had come to know each other as the country’s leading collectors of Lafayette documents and memorabilia.

The organizational meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette convened on the Lafayette College campus on May 20, 1932, the 98th anniversary of Lafayette’s death. Jackson and Gardner were to become the official founders of the society.

A committee of thirteen founding members was chosen to organize, write by-laws for, and name the new organization. They were:

William Mather Lewis, President of Lafayette College
 Professor A. H. Gilmer
 Professor M. D. Steever
 John F. Gough
 Professor George H. Allen
 John H. Allen
 J. Bennett Nolan (Two years later he would publish *Lafayette in America, Day by Day.*)
 Philip H. W. Smith
 William H. Richardson
 J. Alexis Shriver
 Walter P. Gardner
 Stuart W. Jackson
 Theodore E. Norton, Lafayette College Librarian

The initial officers chosen were:

Judge Walter Pennett Gardner, President
Stuart Wells Jackson, Vice President
College Librarian Theodore E. Norton, Secretary



The thirteen founders of The American Friends of Lafayette gather around the Daniel Chester French statue on the Lafayette College campus, May, 1932.

During the first six years, the society flourished as a non-dues paying organization with a membership of over one thousand people. This was due mainly to the enthusiasm and dedication of Judge Gardner, who constantly sought out Lafayette enthusiasts to join the society.

Who Was Judge Walter Pennett Gardner?

Walter Pennett Gardner (1869 – 1949) was a jurist and banker from Jersey City, New Jersey. Born in Jersey City, he married Rebecca Catherine Horstman and they had one son, Arthur.

Among other interests, he was at one time President of the New Jersey State Bankers Association, a member of the Jersey City Masonic Lodge, and a member of the New Jersey Historical Society. At the time of the formation of The American Friends of Lafayette he had just turned 63 years old.

Gardner became interested in Lafayette by happenstance. The Title company he worked for decided to open a bank in Jersey City and name it “Lafayette Bank”. This event began his interest in our hero. He tells the story:

Wishing to have some trademark on our bank checks, I hunted around for a portrait of Lafayette, appropriate for reproduction. My friend Wm. H. Richardson told me of a painting owned by the Pennsylvania Historical Society of Philadelphia in which Lafayette was portrayed as a young man and in the uniform of an American Major General. I secured a photograph of the portrait, had a cut made, and used the picture on our bank checks. Finding myself rather ignorant of just what part Lafayette had played in the American Revolution, I took up some research work in that field.

On June 27, 1925, the Judge, his wife, and his 24-year-old son, Arthur, left the United States for a grand tour of Europe. He later said that the highlight of that trip was their visit to Lafayette’s grave at Picpus cemetery in Paris.

Two years later on March 29, 1927, Gardner and his wife commenced a six-week Mediterranean cruise. Part way through the tour, a group of ten, including the Gardners, left the ship to tour Europe by land. While in Paris, Gardner called on the US Ambassador to France. During the conversation he told the Ambassador that he had a letter from Lafayette, written in French at the time of the Farewell Tour, that he needed to have translated. This letter was the very first acquisition in what was to be Gardner’s extensive collection of Lafayette memorabilia. The Ambassador immediately telephoned Lafayette descendent the Marquis de Chambrun who invited Gardner and his wife to lunch at his home. When Gardner expressed interest in seeing Château de la Grange-Bléneau, Chambrun drove them in his car to spend a day with Lafayette descendent Comte de Lasteyrie who was in residence there. Later, in 1934 during a trip to mark the 100th anniversary of Lafayette’s death, Gardner visited the de Pusy branch of the family as well.

The letter described above commenced fifteen years of collecting an archive which Gardner called “Washington and Lafayette their lives, times and contemporaries” - 52 loose leaf volumes containing 8560 items. Lafayette letters and documents numbered 232, Lafayette family documents 24, photostats 826, and portraits 200.

On June 9, 1933, Judge Walter Pennett Gardner, President of The American Friends of Lafayette, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Lafayette College.

Judge Gardner spent the first two years of his AFL presidency being active and successful at having many events scheduled around the country and in France to mark the 100th anniversary of Lafayette's death on May 20, 1834.

In 1942 Judge Gardner sold his collection to George A. Ball of Muncie, Indiana, also an AFL member. The hopes were that Ball would eventually donate the collection to the AFL for safekeeping at Lafayette College. It was not to be. Today Judge Gardner's memorabilia is housed at the Lilly Library, Indiana University.

Who Was Stuart Wells Jackson?

Stuart Wells Jackson (1875 - 1957) of Montclair, New Jersey, and later of Gloucester, Virginia was born in Richmond, Virginia. Owner of Stuart W. Jackson, Inc. a New York City insurance firm founded in 1915, he had married Elizabeth Underwood Cox in 1905. The couple did not have any children.



Stuart Wells Jackson

Jackson's interest in Lafayette was familial. Here is the story in his own words:

My maternal grandfather, Hall Neilson, was a joint owner with his brother, William, in a vessel named *The Paragon*. In April, 1825, during Lafayette's last visit to our shores, and while on his way north, the vessel on which he was travelling *The Mechanic* was wrecked in the Ohio River about one hundred miles from Louisville. It was midnight. All hands were fortunately rescued. My grandfather's boat, which happened to be passing on the way to New

Orleans early the next morning, turned back and safely carried Lafayette and his party to Louisville. From this incident arose a friendship among Lafayette and my grandfather and his brother, William, who was aboard *The Paragon* at the time [per Auguste Levasseur, he had also been aboard the shipwrecked *Mechanic*]. Family tradition has it that their friendship and correspondence continued until Lafayette's death nine years later. However, only one letter, if such a correspondence existed, has survived.

This letter was the first and formed the basis of the collection begun about forty years ago [about 1914] and now numbers several hundred letters and documents, covering nearly every year from Lafayette's first arrival in America in 1777 to within a few weeks of his death in 1834.

A few years ago, the collection was enriched by a letter describing the shipwreck written by the old General on board *The Paragon* to a friend in Paris. It was for me a highlight in what is called 'collectors luck.'

The study of these letters and the meeting with others who were also interested in the great contributions of France in the American Revolution led to the formation of The American Friends of Lafayette nearly twenty years after the first Lafayette letter came into my possession. And so, to paraphrase an old adage, a lofty oak from a small acorn grew.

According to Jackson's friend Jane Bacon MacIntire, he was the proud owner of a silver match or snuff box, a gift from Lafayette to the Neilsons which had been passed down through the family.

About 57 years old at the founding of the AFL, Jackson would donate some 20-plus Lafayette letters to the AFL collection. In 1954 they were published by the AFL in a booklet titled *Letters of the Marquis de Lafayette in the collection of Stuart Wells Jackson* (Easton, Pa. American Friends of Lafayette, 1954). The booklet was edited by AFL member Jane Bacon MacIntire.

Previous to that, Jackson had also published *La Fayette; a bibliography, compiled by Stuart W. Jackson. With a foreword by Brand Whitlock* (13 editions published between 1930 and 1968)

Jackson was president of Institut Français de Washington, an organization dedicated to promoting the study of French civilization, history, literature, and art in the United States.

In 1954, France awarded Stuart Wells Jackson the decoration of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Again, hopes that the bulk of his collection would come to the AFL did not materialize. Today his memorabilia may be found at the Yale University Archives.

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Walter P. Gardner, *The Gardner Family: Pioneer Settlers in Salem, Massachusetts, Nantucket Island, Vassallborough, Maine, Paulus Hook, (Jersey City), N.J.*, (W. P. Gardner, 1943, reprinted by Forgotten Books in 2018).

Gardner Collection, Lilly Library, University of Indiana
<https://archives.iu.edu/catalog/InU-Li-VAE2148>

Jackson history and archives at Yale

<https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/12/resources/3166>

Jackson Family history introduction

Stuart W. Jackson, *Letters of the Marquis de Lafayette in the collection of Stuart Wells Jackson*. (American Friends of Lafayette, Easton, Pa., 1954).

Stuart W. Jackson's birth and death dates at Find a Grave

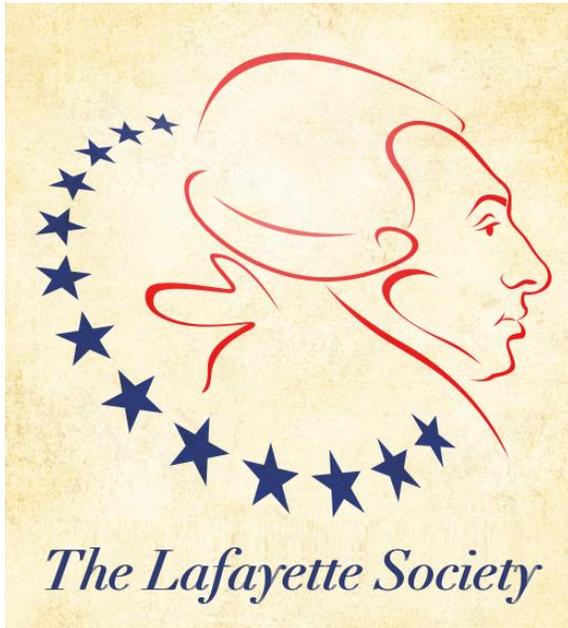
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105669908/stuart-wells-jackson>

Silver Box gift to Neilsons from Lafayette

Jane Bacon MacIntire, *Lafayette the Guest of the Nation*, (Jane B. McIntire, 1967), p. 184.

The AFL's Important Partnerships

by Chuck Schwam



As many of you know, The American Friends of Lafayette is not the only “game in town.” There are other organizations that celebrate the legacy of Lafayette as well. Two of these organizations have become wonderful partners with our national efforts. The Lafayette Alliance was founded by AFL member Dr. Richard Ingram of LaGrange, Georgia in 2017. The Lafayette Society of Fayetteville, North Carolina was founded by Ms. Martha Duell in 1981. AFL Vice President, Dr. Hank Parfitt was president of the Lafayette Society for the past many years, but recently passed the baton to the very capable Bud Lafferty (also an AFL member).

The American Friends of Lafayette held their annual meeting in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 2014. The Lafayette Society did a magnificent job hosting us, and it was one of the most memorable events the AFL has ever held. It was a four-day affair of history, education, fun, and delectable cuisine, including a bona fide pig pickin’!

In 2023, the Lafayette Alliance will host the AFL’s annual meeting in LaGrange, Georgia. This meeting will no doubt be another unforgettable meeting, and plans are already underway. The Alliance promises an informative and enjoyable weekend with a huge dose of southern charm.



*Lafayette Alliance Chair and Founder
Richard Ingram*



*Lafayette Society President
Bud Lafferty*

The Lafayette Alliance and the Lafayette Society may not have the national footprint of the AFL, but they have an equally important role. Local organizations can influence a community, and both of these organizations have done just that. Making local citizens aware of Lafayette's legacy in a place named after him (or his home) is incredibly important. The pride that these two cities have regarding their namesake is palpable when you are there.

The Lafayette Alliance and the Lafayette Society have made significant strides with making civic improvements, partnering with minority entities, and educating their residents on the importance that Lafayette as a role model plays in the 21st century. As the AFL seeks to explain Lafayette's importance on a national level, these two organizations have already accomplished this on a local level (populations of 31,000 in LaGrange and 350,000 in Fayetteville).

Both organizations have members that attend AFL events regularly. It is not surprising to see at least a dozen Fayettevillians at any AFL function. The AFL happily promotes events hosted in both Fayetteville and LaGrange, and of course these organizations reciprocate when the AFL presents public events. The guidance and dedication of both the Lafayette Alliance and the Lafayette Society have been simply amazing to behold.

This dedication was on full display when both decided to make sure that all of their officers and board members became full-fledged members of the AFL. This remarkable display of solidarity was executed in 2021 and will continue for years to come. The influx of new members is certainly much appreciated, but more important is the type of new member the AFL has welcomed. These are hardworking and devoted individuals who share our common mission. The AFL is a much better organization with these folks involved.

Partnership is not the only reason the Lafayette Alliance and the Lafayette Society had their leaders join the AFL. Having their officers and board members receive the world-famous *Gazette* and other forms of communication on a national level will benefit them as well. With the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour only two years away, and our annual meeting in LaGrange only one year away, understanding the national picture is crucial. Keeping abreast of national news and events pertaining to Lafayette will be important for both of these organizations.

The American Friends of Lafayette is extremely grateful for these partnerships and looks forward to working with these societies for the many years that lie ahead. Both the Lafayette Alliance and the Lafayette Society have many members who are not officers or directors but are currently members in the AFL. Below is the list of just the officers and directors from each organization who are now members of the American Friends of Lafayette:



Lafayette Alliance of LaGrange, GA

Richard Ingram (Chair & Founder)
 Linda McMullen (Vice-Chair)
 John Cipolla (Treasurer)
 Alex Hughes (Secretary)
 Shannon Johnson (Nominating Director)
 Zeke Weldon (Nominating Director)
 Jake Behr (Director)
 Raylene Carter (Director)
 Kathren Fogg (Director)
 Murray Schine (Director)
 George Henry (Director)
 Zelda Jones (Director)
 Bethany Miller-Urroz (Director)
 Mandi Nash (Director)
 Christiane Price (Director)
 Joe Thompson (Director)
 Carlos Urroz (Director)
 Kerri Vice (Director)



Lafayette Society of Fayetteville, NC

Bud Lafferty (President)
 Arleen Fields (VP/Secretary)
 Rick Suehr (Treasurer)
 Hank Parfitt (President Emeritus)
 Betty Goolsby (Executive Committee)
 Jamie Ammons (Director)
 Julie MacRae (Director)
 Gwenesta Melton (Director)
 Ron Schooler (Director)
 Rob Taber (Director)
 Robin Wiggs (Director)

Lafayette's Farewell Tour Bicentennial Update

by Chuck Schwam



With two years to go, I'm happy to report that our plans to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour are moving along exceedingly well. As committee members gather, the excitement and momentum are building.

Committees are currently very active in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. New England is shaping up nicely as well. I've attended dozens of committee meetings via Zoom. The enthusiasm is strong, and the planning is extensive.

The New York City committee is a veritable who's who of Lafayettists with Stephen Parahus as chair. This committee has the honor of welcoming Lafayette on August 16, 2024. They hope this event will take place at Castle Gardens just as it did exactly 200 years earlier. As we recreate Lafayette's first time on American soil in forty years, this will be a celebration not to be missed.

The best part of this project is the fun organizers are having. Not just planning celebrations, but also making sure educating the public is the main goal. Not just getting ready to party, but making sure that Lafayette's legacy is at the forefront of everything. Not just honoring Lafayette, but celebrating his ideals and explaining how they are relevant today.

If you have volunteered as a committee member, thank you. If you have not heard from me for a while, you will soon. I'm working across the country getting the committees started and energized, and I promise that your geographical area will be contacted by me in the coming months.

The AFL is working with an app developer, TravelStorys, on a unique travel component that will highlight stops on Lafayette's Tour. This app will give folks with smart phones or other mobile devices, as well as any computer, the ability to learn more about many stops on Lafayette's journey in 1824 and 1825. President Alan Hoffman has spearheaded this effort, and is applying for necessary funds and developing content. He's surrounded himself with a skilled committee of AFL scholars and a professional grant writer.

The app is specifically a GPS self-guided audio tour that will recognize locations that Lafayette visited. The audio launches automatically (hands-free) as travelers approach Lafayette-related sites. What happened at that specific location will be explained via audio in approximately 465 words, with text and supporting images popping up simultaneously. The app can be downloaded as well, so no Wi-Fi or cell service will be needed at the site being visited. With this multi-device format, we will also be able to learn about the sites sitting at our home computer. This app will certainly enhance everyone's experience in 2024-2025 and beyond.

Speaking of travel, Peter Reilly and I have been in contact with Globus Group Voyagers, a travel company that specializes in heritage travel and custom tours. Imagine several mini tours that would offer motorcoach service and hotel accommodations following Lafayette's footsteps. As an example, we envision a New England tour, a Virginia tour, a New York tour, a tour of the Carolinas, and hopefully a boat tour from New Orleans to St. Louis (and beyond). The possibilities are endless, and we will be working on specific itineraries in 2023.

We are very proud of the incredible work that Julien Icher and The Lafayette Trail are doing in so many places. (See the Lafayette Trail Update article.) The AFL played a major role in launching the Lafayette Trail project in 2017-2018; consequently, these two organizations are a natural fit for the bicentennial initiative. We look forward to working together on the bicentennial.

The AFL has already started partnering with many other wonderful organizations for the bicentennial including the Lafayette Society (Fayetteville), the Lafayette Alliance (LaGrange), the Massachusetts Lafayette Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, the W3R, and America250.

During the Battle of Baltimore on September 13-14, 1814, the American flag (15 star) that was flown measured an astonishing 30' x 42'. This was the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that became the US national anthem.



When Lafayette visited Fort McHenry on October 7, 1824, officials pulled out the original “Star Spangled Banner” and flew it in his honor. This flag now resides at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. However, when they can, the National Park Service now occasionally flies a replica of this 30’ x 42’ flag. In order to do so, the winds need to be high as the flag is very heavy. The most common flag flown currently at Fort McHenry is 17’ x 25’.

On Saturday, April 23, I attended a meeting with the National Park Service at Fort McHenry along with the Baltimore Farewell Tour Committee. Plans for a bicentennial event at Fort McHenry are coming along beautifully and include the loan of George Washington’s dining and sleeping tents from the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. Lafayette saw these tents on display on October 7, 1824, and we will be treated to this reenactment 200 years later.

While at the fort, the wind picked up and I saw a twinkle in NPS Ranger Tim Ertel’s eyes. He looked at us and said, “Let’s put up the big flag!” Ranger Ertel asked us and everyone visiting the fort for help in bringing down the 17’ x 25’ flag and hoisting up the mammoth 30’ x 42’ flag. This was one of the most patriotic moments of my life as I watched fellow Americans of all shapes and sizes, of different ethnicities and ages work together to make this happen. Words and images can’t fully describe this moment.



I encourage you to go out and visit the sights that Lafayette did. Start making connections. Start generating excitement. I did and something magical happened. We will all make even more magic in 2024 and 2025!

Examining Lafayette's Life Using Primary Source Documentation – Two Cases in Point

by John C. Becica

The study of history is an interesting field, and theoretically the human species learns from it and does not repeat the same mistakes. Unfortunately, what is put out there as historical fact can sometimes just plain not be true. Even more unfortunate is the fact that once incorrect information is produced, it starts being repeated and disbursed as gospel - a problem exacerbated by the lightning-fast ability to communicate in our electronic age. Just as we talk about “fake news” in modern society, there is also “fake history.”

Everyone loves a great story, so such unsubstantiated information must be true, right? WRONG! It is for this very reason that this author greatly dislikes historical fiction. Parts of the story that are made up by fiction writers become accepted as fact.

Careful scholarly historical research, on the other hand, requires the use of primary sources, relying only on documents produced at the time the history occurred. What are such documents? Some commonly used ones (among others) are diaries, military records, estate and property records, tax records, letters, and newspaper and magazine accounts published at the time being examined.

Ferretting out information from primary sources is hard work and extremely time-consuming. I have learned this by watching my colleague Julien Icher as he searches for verified information to be displayed on the Historical Markers of The Lafayette Trail, Inc. The signs are crafted using only statements that can be proven using primary source documentation.

Recent biographers of our hero are faced with a dilemma. Do they spend years and years of careful scholarly research, or do they copy accepted information from each other in the quest to make a buck selling books? Unfortunately, sometimes the second choice is taken to one extent or another.

Lafayette and Freemasonry

As a first example of using primary resources, let us examine the question of when the young Marquis de Lafayette was initiated into Freemasonry. Masonic scholars and Lafayette biographers have debated this point for decades.

There is a school of thought in America that Lafayette was inducted during the Winter at Valley Forge by a traveling lodge. Others claim that he was inducted during one of the two Winter Revolutionary War encampments at Morristown. Unfortunately, supposition and probability are used to come up with these theories, not hard primary documentation. As such, they are not even worth detailing here.

The only so called “hard” evidence that has been put forth is a purported statement by Lafayette that he believed his relationship with George Washington had improved by his being

initiated, and that his induction influenced Washington to give Lafayette his first military command. This is the main evidence that American Masonic scholars use to claim that Lafayette was made a Mason at Valley Forge.

The facts, however, indicate that this purported statement by Lafayette does not make sense. Why? Because after recuperating in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania from his leg wound received at Brandywine, Lafayette returned to the Continental Army and was given a command under General Greene to attack Cornwallis' Hessian forces at Gloucester, New Jersey. With that success, Washington made the momentous decision to ask Congress to give Lafayette the command of a Division. The resolution by Congress to that effect is dated December 1, 1777. The Army did not arrive at Valley Forge for the Winter until December 19. Thus, it is impossible for a Masonic initiation at Valley Forge to have influenced Washington's decision to give our hero a command.

The assertions concerning Lafayette's initiation can get even more ridiculous. I have found a source that claims that General Lafayette was initiated into Freemasonry in Philadelphia during his 1824-1825 Triumphal Tour of America, a totally unprovable statement. Masonic sources do inform us, however, that Lafayette was granted a number of honorary Masonic memberships during his Farewell Tour.

One secondary source states that he was honored as a Royal Arch Mason, joining Jerusalem Chapter No. 8 in New York City on September 12, 1824, that he also joined the Knights Templar in Morton Commandery No. 4 and in the Columbian Commandery No. 1, both of New York City, and that in the Scottish Rite, he received the degrees in the Cerneau Supreme Council of New York, and was made a thirty-third degree Mason and Honorary Grand Commander of that body.

In addition, The Lafayette Trail, Inc. founder and researcher, Julien Icher, has uncovered primary evidence in the form of Lafayette's signature in the books of Lafayette Lodge, Cincinnati indicating his honorary membership in that newly formed lodge in May of 1825.

None of this answers the question, however, as to when Lafayette was FIRST initiated into Freemasonry!

The truth, supported by primary source documents, is that Lafayette was initiated as a Mason in France, sometime *before June 24, 1775*, and thus before he turned 18 in September.

In May 1775 at age 17, Captain Lafayette set out for his second summer of regimental exercises of the Noailles Dragoons in the town of Metz near the German border. (Lafayette had been promoted to Captain in the Noailles regiment as a wedding present from his father-in-law on May 19, 1774. While he would not command troops until he turned 18, he had been given the title and full privileges of a captain beforehand.) Comte de Broglie, Governor of Metz was in charge, and realizing Lafayette's wealth and possible influence, he took the lad under his wing. Broglie was a Grand Master Mason, and while it is still unproven, may have been the person who introduced Lafayette to Freemasonry.



Captain Lafayette in his Noailles Dragoon uniform

A primary source has been uncovered detailing one of Lafayette’s visits during that long summer. It took place on June 24, 1775.

The story of the finding of this source is interesting. AFL member Marilyn Hoffman noticed the entry in a Masonic book during a trip to France with the AFL in 2015. Her husband, AFL President Alan Hoffman, describes the find during a tour led by museum guide Frederic Vauth:

At the French Museum of Freemasonry Mr. Vauth showed us a Masonic book that belonged to the Lodge of **St. Jean d'Écosse** (St. John of Scotland) which established that Lafayette was an accepted Freemason as of **June 24, 1775**. An entry in the book on that date reflects that, near the end of the meeting, the Master of Ceremonies announced that Lafayette was asking for entrance [at the door]. It continues: “the Worshipful Master [President of the Lodge] sent him an escort of ‘Chevaliers-écossais’ [high-ranking Masons] to honor him.” **Since only accepted or admitted Masons were allowed to attend a Masonic meeting, Lafayette’s admission to the meeting proves that he was already an accepted Freemason in June of 1775.** (AFL *Gazette* #83, October, 2015, p. 27, emphasis added)



*Equestrian statue of Lafayette in Front of the Governor's Palace in Metz, France
(Dedicated in 2004 to replace a previous statue destroyed by the Nazis)*



The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

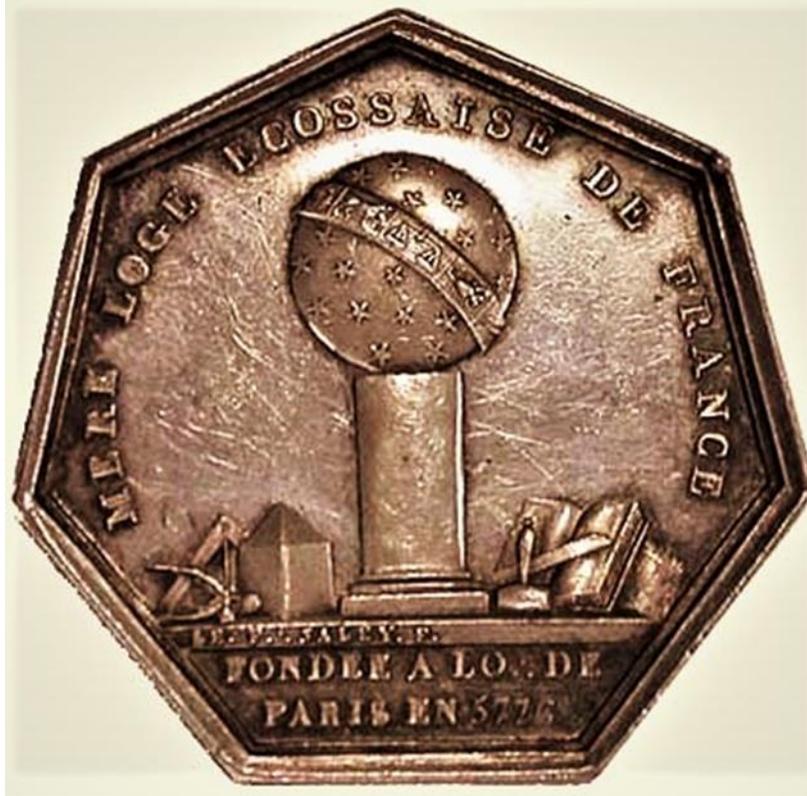
Before this discovery, which has not been widely disseminated, other primary source information had been uncovered concerning Lafayette's membership in Freemasonry. In "The New Age" magazine for July 1941, Masonic Brother Ray Baker Harris, Librarian of the Supreme Council, 33rd-degree, Southern Jurisdiction, revealed the acquisition of a rare 18th century program of the inauguration of **Lodge St. Jean de la Candeur** in Paris on **December 25, 1775**. The Lodge had invited to the inauguration ceremonies "the Honorary, Regular and Subordinate Officers, and Deputies, of all Lodges composing the Grand Orient of France, and all brethren who could be recommended as regular Masons." Attached to the program is a Tableau of 100 "Les Chers Frères Visiteurs" (Dear Brother visitors). **The Marquis de Lafayette is listed among the visiting Brethren.**

Thus, prior to the 2015 find by Marilyn Hoffman, the best primary information to be had was that Lafayette's initiation had taken place sometime before the December 25, 1775 St. Jean de la Candeur inauguration ceremonies. Louis Gottschalk, along with several recent biographers of our hero have pointed to this date in their works.

One recent biographer boldly claims that Lafayette and his friends Ségur and Noailles were initiated at St. Jean de la Candeur lodge on December 16, 1775, the day after the birth of Lafayette's short-lived daughter Henriette. There is nothing in that author's footnotes, however, to substantiate this claim.

Another recent biographer claims to have found a source at the central Grand Orient Lodge archives in Paris. Citing this document, that author weaves a story of Lafayette and his friends Ségur and Noailles being initiated at Le Contrat Social Lodge. What needs to be understood here is that Le Contrat Social Lodge was formed in 1776 in Paris. It was first called the Saint-Lazare Lodge and had taken over the function of the Lodge of St. Jean d'Écosse. Thereafter it was known as Saint-Jean d'Écosse du Contrat Lodge. Since we now know from a primary source that Lafayette visited Saint-Jean d'Écosse as a Mason, on June 24, 1775, his initiation at the later formed Contrat Lodge is impossible.

Saint-Jean d'Écosse du Contrat Lodge has been cited for years as having given honors to Lafayette in 1782 during his triumphant return to France following the American victory at Yorktown.



Medallion of Saint-Jean d'Écosse du Contrat showing the 1776 date of the Contrat Lodge formation (shown as 5776 because these particular Masons added 4,000 years to dates to go back to the beginning of time)

To summarize what we know from primary sources:

1. In May 1775, at age 17, Lafayette arrived at Metz for his second summer of regimental exercises under the command of Comte de Broglie.
2. He was welcomed as an already initiated Mason that summer at **Saint-Jean d'Écosse Lodge on June 24, 1775.**
3. He attended the life-changing dinner where he heard about the American rebels from Britain's Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester (also a Mason), on August 8, 1775.
4. He turned 18 on September 6, 1775, becoming a full Captain in the Noailles Dragoons.
5. He was welcomed as an already initiated Mason at **Lodge St. Jean de la Candeur** in Paris on **December 25, 1775.**

Thus, our conclusion, based on primary source research, is that Lafayette was initiated into Freemasonry in France, sometime before June 24, 1775. No primary source evidence has yet been found to tell us exactly when and where.



Portrait of Lafayette at Metz Garrison

The Masons in France had lodges connected with military units. The lodge associated with the Noailles Dragoons regiment was Saint Jean de Saint Louis de la Vraie Vertu (Saint John of true virtue). It is possible that Lafayette, influenced by Broglie, joined this Lodge early in the summer of 1775, but that is pure speculation, not scholarly research using primary sources!

For an interpretation of how the above facts might have influenced Lafayette's political views and state of mind, read Alan Hoffman's excellent article in *AFL Gazette* #83, pages 26-28, which may be found here: <https://ldr.lafayette.edu/concern/publications/bc386k665>

Lafayette's Escape from France to Join the American Patriots

As a second example of using primary resources, let us examine the escape of Lafayette from France at age 19 to join the American Patriots.

Lafayette had purchased a ship for the voyage and renamed it *Victoire*. Learning that forces within the French government were working to scuttle his plan, he had the ship moved out of the country to the port of Los Pasajes near San Sebastian, Spain. As events unfolded, Lafayette traveled back from the ship to Bordeaux to try to determine the government's actual stance. He had received orders that he was to join his father-in-law, the duc d'Ayen at Marseille in southern France to begin a trip to Italy. At this point, Lafayette had all but given up his plans. As a last resort, he had obtained a passport with destination Marseille to try to reason with d'Ayen. His thinking changed dramatically, however, when he was joined in Bordeaux by Vicomte de Mauroy who informed him that all the controversy in Paris about his departure for America was instigated by his father-in-law, and that there would be little actual consequences if he continued his plan.

Thus, buoyed by this information, Lafayette and Mauroy left Bordeaux by the Marseille Coach. When they had traveled a sufficient distance from the eyes of the Bordeaux authorities, they left the coach and changed direction, heading via Bayonne and St. Jean-de Luz for Spain and the *Victoire*. Mauroy drove a carriage and Lafayette, disguised as a courier, rode ahead on horseback. At St. Jean-de-Luz, Lafayette was recognized in his disguise by the postmaster's daughter, but he signaled her to be quiet, and she did not give him away. Thus, the *Victoire* was able to set sail from the Spanish coast for America with Lafayette and his party on board on April 20, 1777.



Lafayette's ship Victoire sailing out of the rocky gorge that forms the harbor of Los Pasajes, Spain, 1777, by Hubert Robert

These events are detailed in Lafayette's memoirs. While written years after the departure, they can still be considered primary source materials from the point of view of Lafayette himself. All of Lafayette's biographers that I have found relate that our hero disguised himself as a courier. His original memoirs written in French state "déguise en courier." Thus, there can be no doubt that our hero meant to tell us that he dressed himself as a courier.

Why then, are there assertions all over the internet that Lafayette disguised himself as a woman? Some of the most seemingly scholarly websites about the American Revolution state this misinformation! I have even found assertions that he arrived at the ship in a dress! Where did this ridiculousness come from? Can you imagine Lafayette at about six feet tall trying to hide his identity by masquerading as a girl?

I cannot be positive, but I believe that I have found the culprit! *Liberty's Kids* was an American animated historical fiction TV series. Targeted at ages 7-12, it ran on PBS Kids from September 2, 2002 to April 4, 2003. It can be obtained on DVD and episodes are still available online. Episode 22 in Season 1, which ran on October 1, 2002 is titled "Lafayette Arrives."

If you have watched the series, you know that it should be considered more as entertainment than as history, since it is riddled with historical inaccuracies. To its credit, it did get young people interested in the American Revolution and Lafayette. I know of several younger AFL members who got hooked on our hero through this series.

The writer of Episode 22 evidently thought it would be funny and entertaining for kids if he claimed that Lafayette escaped in a dress. The scene takes place in Philadelphia where Lafayette and Baron de Kalb have just arrived and have met a fictional character, a French boy by the name of Henri Richard Maurice Dutoit LeFebvre. At 5 minutes and 33 seconds into the episode, the dialog goes as follows: DeKalb: "Nothing to tell? He dressed as a woman to sneak out of France!" Exasperated, Lafayette screams "I was wearing a Merchant's cloak!!!"



Henri

Lafayette

DeKalb

Later in the episode at 9 minutes and one second, the subject comes up once more. Again, DeKalb mocks Lafayette, and again our hero mightily protests, but this time the animation pictures Lafayette pulling off his merchant's cloak to reveal a pink (no less) dress!



Lafayette removing his cloak to reveal his dress

Here we have an egregious example of history being rewritten and disbursed all over the world via the internet with bad information being presented as fact. It's a good story, so it must be true. Right? WRONG! Do you now know why scholarly primary source research is important to discern true history, and why I dislike historical fiction?

About the author

John Becica is a 1969 graduate of Lafayette College, a member of the Valley Forge Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, a Life Member of the AFL, and Treasurer and Researcher for The Lafayette Trail, Inc.

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Lafayette Joins the American Army, by Louis Gottschalk, Appendix III, “Lafayette’s initiation into Freemasonry,” pp. 337-338.

Lafayette and the Close of the American Revolution, by Louis Gottschalk, Appendix III, “The Masons Again” pp. 433-434.

Lafayette, by Harlow Giles Unger, p. 15 & footnote 41 (Theorizes Lafayette’s initiation at Le Contrat Social Lodge)

The Master Game: Unmasking the Secret Rulers of the World, by Graham Hancock & Robert Bauval, p. 26. (Explains the formation of Le Contrat Social Lodge)

Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship That Saved the Revolution, by David A. Clary, p. 28 & footnote 48. (Theorizes Lafayette’s initiation at Lodge St. Jean de la Candeur)

Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette #83, October, 2015, “An Important Find at the French Museum of Freemasonry,” by Alan R. Hoffman, pp. 26-28.

Lafayette Dressed as a Woman

Memoirs Correspondence and Manuscripts of General Lafayette, published by his family, recent reprint in English, Pinnacle Press, p. 28 and p. 80.

Liberty’s Kids, Season 1, Episode 22, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AygIRImffX8>

Scene at 5 minutes 33 seconds

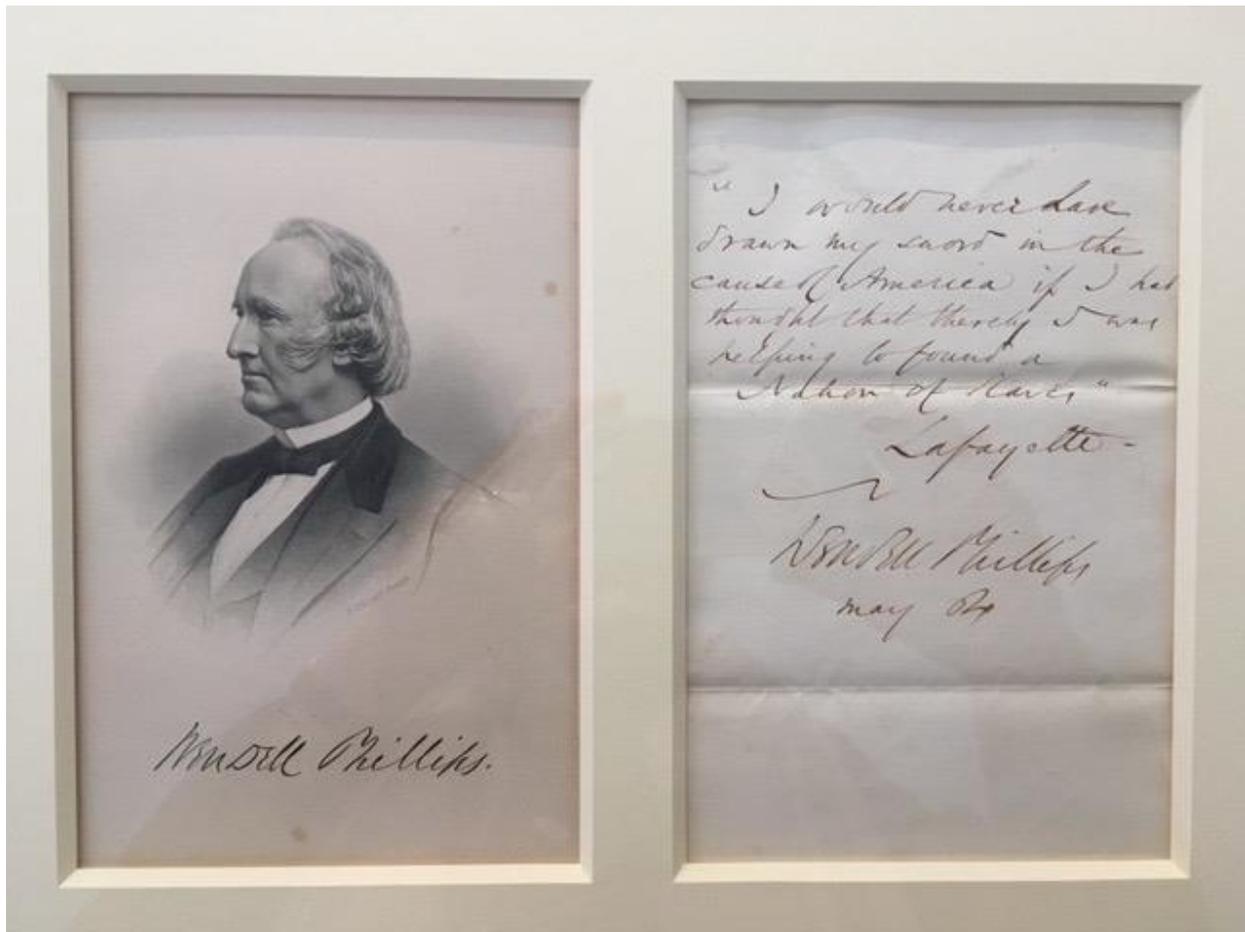
Scene at 9 minutes 1 second

Lafayette's Anti-Slavery Lament, Revisited

by Alan R. Hoffman

Circa 2012, I attended a book and ephemera group antiques show at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington, Massachusetts, about 30 minutes from my home in New Hampshire. Having paid the entry fee, I turned left and walked to the first booth which was somewhat disorganized and ramshackle but seemed to have older objects, 19th-century and perhaps earlier, for sale. When I asked the dealer whether he had anything related to Lafayette, he said no. I started walking to the next booth but he called me back: "Wait a second; what about this?"

When I returned to his booth, the dealer handed me a framed engraving of Wendell Phillips, the famous orator who worked with William Lloyd Garrison, the publisher of *The Liberator*, in the abolitionist cause. The engraving had a facsimile of Phillips' signature. Alongside the engraving was a sheet of paper on which had been written the following words: "I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America if I had thought that thereby I was helping to found a Nation of Slaves," followed by the name "Lafayette." Below that appeared the signature of Wendell Phillips and the date "May 64." The signature on the document clearly matched Phillips' facsimile signature on the engraving.



Intrigued by this object and considering myself very fortunate to have been able to acquire it, I commenced an investigation to determine the source and the dissemination of Lafayette's statement. I published what I had found as "Lafayette's Anti-Slavery Lament" in the April 2013 issue of *The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*, No. 77, pp. 5-6.

Lafayette's anti-slavery statement first appeared in the January 2, 1846 edition of *The Liberator* (<http://fair-use.org/the-liberator/1846/01/02/the-liberator-16-01.pdf>). What Garrison published was a letter written by British abolitionist Thomas Clarkson, who was a long-time friend of Lafayette, having first met him in 1789-90 when Clarkson traveled to France to try to persuade the leaders of the French Revolution to abolish France's slave trade. The letter had been sent to Garrison's aide, "Mrs. H.G. Chapman" (Maria Weston Chapman). An excerpt from *The Liberator* follows:

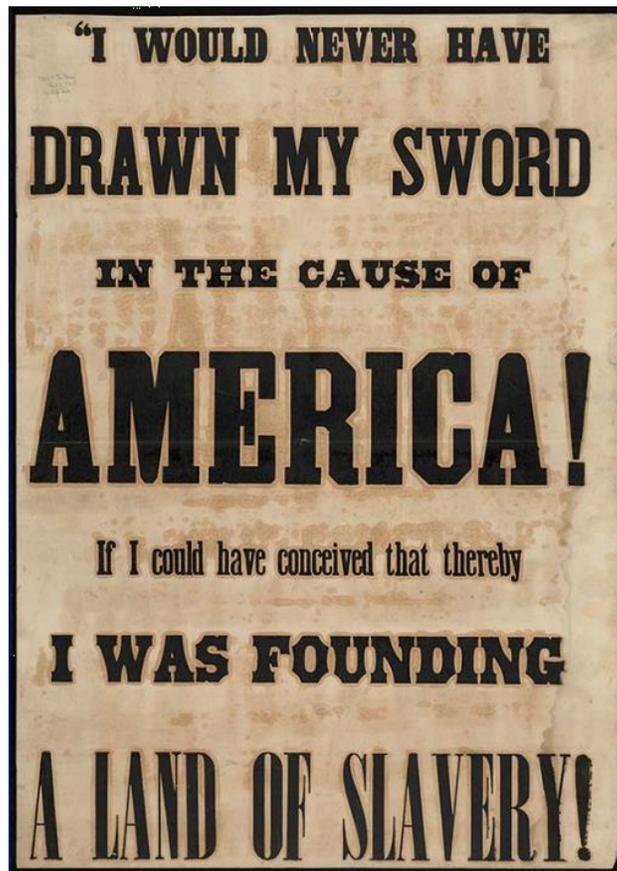
I was with the General [Lafayette] often, and corresponded with him after his coming out of his dungeon at Olmutz....He was decidedly as uncompromising an enemy to the slave-trade, and slavery, as any man I ever knew. He freed all of his slaves in French Cayenne, who had come to him by inheritance, in 1785,...He has said frequently, 'I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America, if I could have conceived thereby I was founding a land of slavery.'



Maria Weston Chapman

Clarkson was incorrect that he inherited slaves in French Cayenne. Lafayette and Adrienne purchased two small plantations in late 1785, and the plantation known as La Gabrielle, where his farming operations were consolidated, in 1789. See Patrick Villiers, “The Freedom of All the Blacks: Lafayette and His Fight for Emancipation in French Guiana, 1785-1802,” pp. 36-37, which may be found in *“A True Friend of the Cause” Lafayette and the Antislavery Movement* (The Grolier Club and Lafayette College, 2016) edited by Olga Anna Duhl and Diane Windham Shaw. When Weston Chapman republished Clarkson’s letter in *The Liberty Bell*, see below, the date 1785 was changed to 1786. This was likely a typographical error.

I also found that between 1846 and the end of the Civil War, Northern abolitionists, particularly the Boston group, often quoted Lafayette’s Anti-Slavery Lament in speeches and publications. The saying was usually paired with Lafayette’s Cayenne experiment in gradual emancipation. In this regard, in addition to Wendell Phillips, Senator Charles Sumner quoted it in a speech in 1860 that was subsequently published. Charles Sumner, “Lafayette; the Faithful One” (Boston, Wright & Potter, 1870), p. 33. Moreover, African American abolitionist and historian, William Cooper Nell attributed this statement to Lafayette in an appendix to his book, *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution* (Boston, Robert F. Walcott, 1855), pp. 388-389. (Nell was the first African American historian.) The 1850s also saw the appearance of a broadside containing Lafayette’s lament, amplified by exclamation points in the middle of the sentence after “America” and at the end after “Slavery.”



Boston Public Library, Garrison collection

Questions have arisen about the reliability of Clarkson's remembrance of Lafayette's complaint and the veracity of the statement itself. In 2016, I invited Harvard Professor John Stauffer to be the keynote speaker at the AFL's annual meeting in the Boston area. Stauffer has extensive knowledge of the Northern abolitionists, in particular Frederick Douglass and Charles Sumner. At the Boston meeting, he presented his paper "Lafayette and the American Abolitionists" which was being readied for publication in the landmark catalogue, "*A True Friend of the Cause*" *Lafayette and the Antislavery Movement*. At the conclusion of his speech, I went up to Professor Stauffer and congratulated him on a job well done. I told him that I had only a single quibble, namely his use of the word "apocryphal" to describe Lafayette's Anti-Slavery Lament. Stauffer hesitated, then rattled off a definition of apocryphal, "spurious, of doubtful authenticity," as if he were reading from a dictionary, and replied that he would think about it. Upon reading Stauffer's essay as published, I was pleased to note that the word "apocryphal" had been omitted.

Clarkson's letter to Mrs. Chapman contains a first-hand account of a statement that Clarkson claimed to have heard Lafayette say "frequently." While Clarkson's most extensive contacts with Lafayette occurred during the French Revolution, in *Lafayette and Slavery From His Letters to Thomas Clarkson and Granville Sharpe* (Easton, Pa., The American Friends of Lafayette, 1950) p. 7, Professor Melvin D. Kennedy notes that Clarkson made four additional visits to France between 1814 and 1820. Clarkson's repeated trips to France on anti-slavery business are also documented in *Thomas Clarkson, A Biography*, by Ellen Gibson Wilson (London, Macmillan Press, 1989). In her biography, Wilson identifies four extended sojourns to France made by Clarkson, in 1814, 1815, 1819, and 1820, and a possible fifth when he attended the Aix la Chappelle Congress over the new border with Prussia in 1818. *Thomas Clarkson*, pp. 127-128, 143, 148-149, 150. Therefore, Clarkson had numerous opportunities to meet with Lafayette and discuss subjects such as American slavery.

It has been argued that the absence of Lafayette's complaint in his letters to Clarkson tends to prove that Lafayette did not make the statement that Clarkson attributed to him. To the contrary, the absence of Lafayette's lament in his eight letters to Clarkson collected in Kennedy's work is not probative one way or the other. Generally, the letters address other topics of mutual interest and contain only a single passing reference to American slavery.

On the other hand, the letters clearly prove the close friendship between Lafayette and Clarkson. In almost all of them, he addresses Clarkson as "My Dear Friend," a salutation he used infrequently, reserving it for close friends like Jefferson and occasionally Madison. He also closed his letters to Clarkson with an unusually warm (for Lafayette) closing phrase, either "Your Affectionate Friend" or "Most Affectionately Yours." Undoubtedly Clarkson was a person to whom Lafayette would share his innermost thoughts and observations on subjects of mutual interest like American slavery.

There is a ninth letter from Lafayette to Clarkson which is not contained in Kennedy's work but which Sumner references in his speech "Lafayette: The Faithful One." This letter may be found in Lafayette's memoirs, *Mémoires, Correspondance et Manuscrits de Général Lafayette* (Paris, 1838) vol. 6, pp. 158-160. Dated May 11, 1823, the letter is addressed "*Mon cher ami*." The letter references American slavery in a postscript but does not include

Lafayette's Anti-Slavery Lament. However, it includes another expression of Lafayette's thinking about slavery that he would never have stated in public, certainly not in the United States, but was willing to share with Clarkson. "Every Slave clearly has a natural right to immediate emancipation, whether it is given to him or he seizes it by force...." My translation and the pages in Lafayette's *Mémoires* on which the letter appears are appended at the end of this article.

Moreover, the substance and context of the *entire* letter that Clarkson wrote to Chapman provide further corroboration for Clarkson's attribution. The letter was republished in the 12th edition of *The Liberty Bell*, a publication of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Fair edited by Chapman. *The Liberty Bell*, Twelfth, (Boston, Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Fair, 1846) pp. 58-64.



Painting of Thomas Clarkson by Carl Frederik von Breda

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

Clarkson begins by apologizing for not having answered Chapman's letter sooner and blames his deteriorating health.

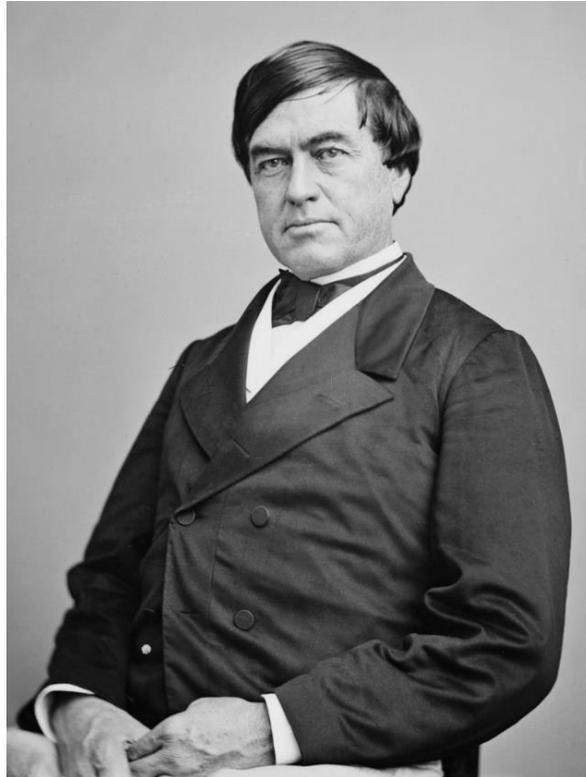
I could have wished, perhaps, to have lived a little longer but it would have been only for the sake of seeing the day when slavery should terminate.

Id. p. 58.

He continues:

That its days are numbered I have no doubt; no more doubt than I am now living; and the event cannot fail of being hastened on by what has happened to Cassius M. Clay. The brutal treatment of him; and the outrages committed since by the white mob at Lexington, on the persons of poor harmless black people in that city, will be a fine engine for the citizens of the North, with which to work. *Id.* pp. 58-59.

Cassius Marcellus Clay, the son of a wealthy slaveholder in Kentucky, became an abolitionist in 1832 when he heard William Lloyd Garrison speak at Yale College. After serving three terms as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, Clay began publishing an abolitionist newspaper, which he called *The True American*, in 1845. The incident that Clarkson referenced was the removal of his printing press by a white mob and the aftermath. Clay subsequently abandoned Lexington and set up an office in Cincinnati, Ohio, a free state, where he continued to publish his newspaper under a different name, *The Examiner*.



Cassius Marcellus Clay

In his letter, Clarkson apologizes that “the present state of my health will not permit me to send you the contribution you desire for the forthcoming Fair.” *Id.* p.59. The “contribution” was an article for *The Liberty Bell* which was published by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Fair, an annual fund-raising effort of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. He explains that he had received a request to update his *History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade* which ended in March 1807, when Parliament abolished it, to include the subsequent period during which slavery itself was abolished in England’s possessions, and had consented prior to the time he had received Chapman’s request. Notwithstanding this, he offers to attempt to produce a paper for her publication. *Id.* pp. 59-60. He then refers to “some memoirs of Henry Christophe, King of Hayti [sic],” describes his relationship with him, and asks, “would such a work do good, then, and would it suit your *Liberty Bell*?” *Id.* pp. 62-63.

Clarkson then turns to “a saying of one of the dearest friends I ever had, General Lafayette.” Why did he choose to finish his letter with Lafayette’s lament? The reason is likely the connection between Lexington, Kentucky where the outrage to Cassius M. Clay occurred, and Lafayette. The City of Lexington was then and is still coterminous with “Fayette County” which was named in honor of Lafayette in June 1780. Thus, Clarkson concludes his letter as follows:

I will finish my letter with a saying of one of the dearest friends I ever had, namely General Lafayette. I was with the General often, and corresponded with him after his coming out of his dungeon at Olmutz. But the first time I knew him was when I was in Paris, the year after the French Revolution, on the subject of the slave-trade, and I assisted him materially. He was decidedly as uncompromising an enemy to the slave-trade, and slavery, as any man I ever knew. He freed all his slaves in French Cayenne, who had come to him by inheritance, in 1786 [sic], and shewed me all his rules and regulations for his estate when they were emancipated. I was with him no less than four different times in Paris. He was a real gentleman, and of soft and gentle manners. I have seen him put out of temper, but never at any time except when slavery was the subject. He has said frequently, “I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America, if I could have conceived that thereby I was founding a land of slavery.” How would the people of Fayette County like to hear this? – to hear their land cursed by the man who gained it for them? *Id.* pp. 63-64.

In context, the letter supports the authenticity of Clarkson’s account of Lafayette’s statement. It is clear that Clarkson did not intend that the letter, including his recollection of General Lafayette, be published. Clarkson is merely unburdening himself to a fellow traveler in the international anti-slavery movement. If Clarkson had fabricated Lafayette’s Anti-Slavery Lament to advance the cause, he would have included it in a writing for publication in *The Liberator* or *The Liberty Bell*. The fact that he did not do so supports the reliability of Clarkson’s remembrance.

It has been argued that Lafayette never would have made the statement attributed to him by Clarkson. His role in the American Revolution was the zenith of his career, and he was very proud of it. It wasn’t in Lafayette’s DNA to trash America. Moreover, the first inkling that

Lafayette was opposed to slavery came in 1783, more than a year after he had returned to France, when he wrote the remarkable letter to Washington proposing an experiment in gradual emancipation in America.

To the contrary, while Lafayette generally did not criticize his adoptive country publicly and would no doubt have been pained to see his withering anti-slavery lament broadcast as it was in 1846, there are indicia, particularly in his communications with another close friend, Thomas Jefferson, that Lafayette made the statement that Clarkson attributed to him.

It is clear that Lafayette was chagrined about the persistence of Southern slavery and its deleterious effect when he tried to promote “American doctrines” in Europe. On July 1, 1821, he wrote Jefferson: “Was it not for the deplorable circumstance of Negro slavery in the Southern States not a word could be objected, when we present American doctrines and constitutions as an example to old Europe.” Gilbert Chinard, *The Letters of Lafayette and Jefferson* (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1929) p. 407. On June 1, 1822, Lafayette said this in his letter to Jefferson: “While I feel an inexpressible delight in the progress of everything that is noble, honourable, and useful throughout the United States, I find in the Negro slavery, a great drawback upon my enjoyments. It raises a sigh, or a blush, according to the company, American or foreign, where I happen to be.” *Id.*, pp. 408-409. Moreover, in an interview given near the end of the Farewell Tour, Lafayette actually made a public complaint about American slavery. *The African Repository and Colonial Journal*, 1825, no. 9, pp. 285-286. After pointing out the progress being made in France, England, and South America toward ending slavery, he concluded: “Where then, my dear sir, will be the last foot-hold of slavery, in the world? Is it destined to be the opprobrium of this fine country.”

Finally, in a memoir published in 1873, former slave Israel Jefferson recalled a conversation between Jefferson and Lafayette which occurred during a carriage ride which likely took place in November of 1824 when Lafayette spent eleven days at Monticello. In this conversation, Lafayette expressed sentiments about his service to America during the American Revolution and the persistence of slavery that were similar to the statement that Clarkson attributed to him in 1845.

Lafayette remarked that he thought that the slaves ought to be free: that no man could rightly hold ownership in his brother man; that he gave his best services to and spent his money in behalf of the Americans freely because he felt that they were fighting for a great and noble principle – the freedom of mankind) that instead of all being free a portion were held in bondage (which seemed to grieve his noble heart); that it would be mutually beneficial to masters and slaves if the latter were educated, and so on. Mr. Jefferson replied that he thought the time would come when the slaves would be free, but did not indicate when or in what manner they would get their freedom. He seemed to think that the time had not then arrived. To the latter proposition of Gen. Lafayette, Mr. Jefferson in part assented. He was in favor of teaching slaves to learn to read print; that to teach them to write would enable them to forge papers, when they could no longer be kept in subjugation. This conversation

was gratifying to me, and I treasured it up in my heart. “Memoirs of Israel Jefferson,” *Pike County Republican*, December, 1873.

Conclusion

Thomas Clarkson was a reliable first-hand source for Lafayette’s Anti-Slavery Lament. The context and substance of the letter to Maria Weston Chapman which contains the quoted statement further supports its veracity. While Lafayette likely would never have made this statement in public or wanted it published, the statement was consistent with communications that he had with Thomas Jefferson, in particular the conversation that Israel Jefferson reported in his 1873 memoir. Lafayette’s Anti-Slavery Lament is not apocryphal.

Author’s Note

In 1909, Herman Heaton Clay named his son Cassius Marcellus Clay in honor of the abolitionist who had died in 1903. Cassius Marcellus Clay, Sr. named his son Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. at his birth in 1942. That Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammed Ali in 1964. He declared, “Cassius Clay is a slave name. I didn’t choose it. I don’t want it.”

Letter to Thomas Clarkson

May 11, 1823

My dear friend,

.....Never was war more unpopular than that of the counter-revolutionary government of France against the constitution of Spain. Nevertheless, whatever the fate of uncompleted undertakings and of patriotic individuals, common sentiment, common interest cannot fail ultimately to prevail.

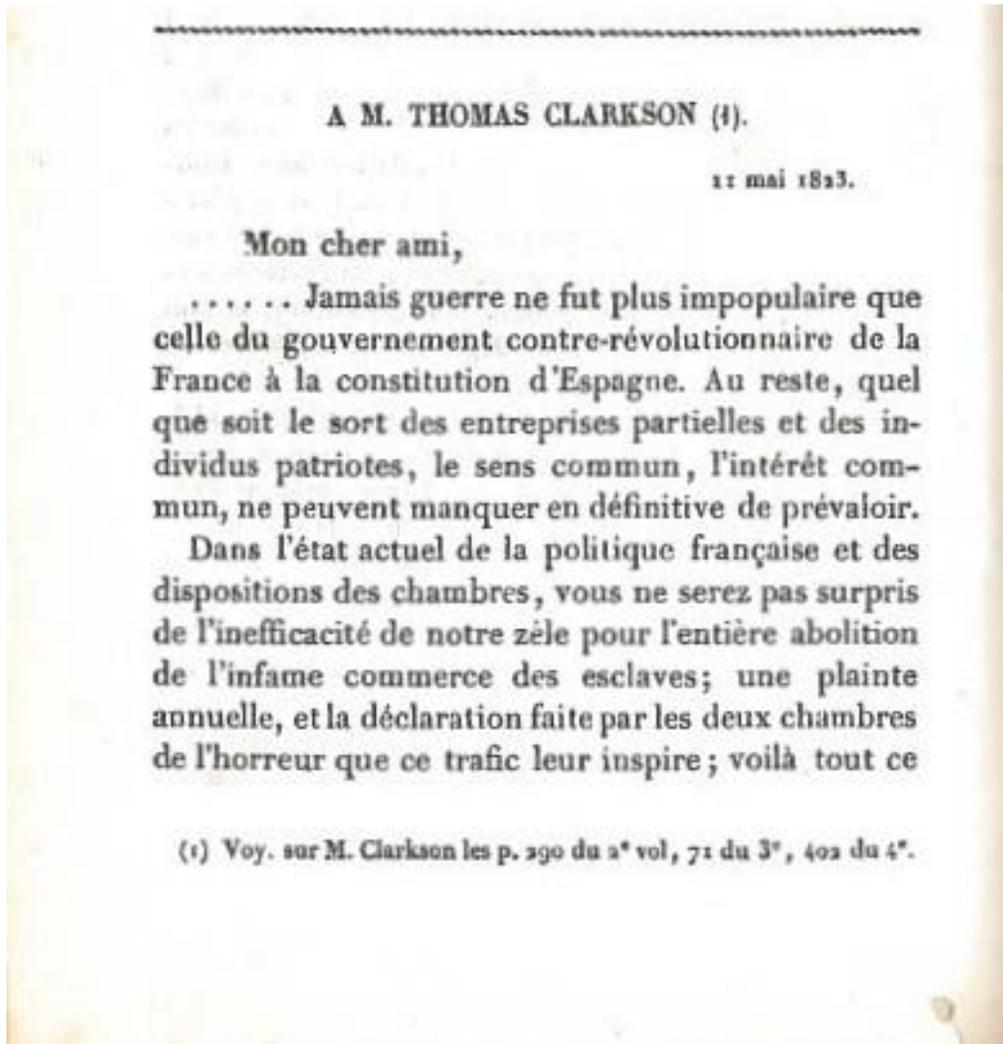
In the actual state of French politics and of the inclinations of the chambers, you will not be surprised about the ineffectiveness of our zeal for the complete abolition of the abominable commerce in slaves; an annual complaint, and declaration made by the two chambers of the horror that this traffic inspires in them; that is all that can be obtained; even this will not be renewed this year, all the left side having departed the rostrum and the chamber on the occasion of the scandalous exclusion of M. Manuel. It is then only among the members of their region that they will discuss the too frequent occasions where such crimes are still committed. What could eventually be done by the friends of freedom is tied to more general hopes.

I am pleased to learn that you are working on a new plan for the gradual abolition of slavery. Every slave clearly has a natural right to immediate emancipation, whether it is given to him or whether he seizes it by force, this cannot be doubted; however, the application of this principle produced, nearly thirty years ago, some deplorable excesses, surpassed since by the

impious efforts of Napoleon to reestablish slavery. In the midst of so many horrors, the republic of Haiti was born. The sons of Africa will attain there, I hope, an advanced stage of civilization and prosperity. The very existence of this state must oblige the white landowners to follow a more humane system, and must lead to the adoption of some beneficial measures.

I join in your philanthropic enterprise with my most ardent prayers, my dear friend.

P.S. You know that the first objections against the trade were made by Virginia, then your colony, and that the states of the north first gave the example of a mode of emancipation after a certain number of years; but it was there an enfranchisement of servants rather than farm-workers, whereas you are preparing a measure which gradually restores to the whole slave population possession of all their natural and social rights.



1823-1824.

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qui peut être obtenu; ce qui ne sera même pas renouvelé cette année, tout le côté gauche ayant quitté la tribune et la chambre à l'occasion de la scandaleuse exclusion de M. Manuel. C'est donc seulement entre les ministres de leur pays que se discuteront les circonstances des trop fréquentes occasions où l'on commet encore de tels attentats. Ce que pourront faire par la suite les amis de la liberté est lié à des espérances plus générales.

Je suis heureux d'apprendre que vous vous occupez d'un plan nouveau pour l'abolition graduelle de l'esclavage. Chaque esclave a bien un droit naturel à l'immédiate émancipation, soit qu'il la reçoive, soit qu'il s'en empare par la force, c'est ce qui ne peut être mis en doute; cependant l'application de ce principe a produit, il y a près de trente ans, de déplorables excès, surpassés depuis par les efforts impies de Napoléon pour rétablir l'esclavage. Au milieu de tant d'horreurs s'est élevée la république d'Haïti. Les fils de l'Afrique y atteindront, j'espère, un degré avancé de civilisation et de prospérité. La seule existence de cet état doit obliger les propriétaires blancs à suivre un régime plus humain, et doit amener l'adoption de quelques salutaires mesures.

Je m'unis à votre philanthropique entreprise par mes vœux les plus ardents, mon cher ami.

P.-S. Vous savez que les premières réclamations contre la traite ont été faites par la Virginie, alors votre colonie, et que les états du nord ont les premiers donné l'exemple d'un mode d'émancipation au bout d'un certain nombre d'années; mais c'était là un affranchissement de serviteurs plutôt que de cul-

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NOTES ET CORRESPONDANCE.

tivateurs, tandis que vous préparez une mesure qui remettra graduellement une population esclave, tout entière, en possession de tous ses droits naturels et sociaux.

Lafayette College Acquires Report Regarding Lafayette's Properties in French Guiana

New Director of Special Collections & Archives, Thomas Lannon, is proud to share with the American Friends of Lafayette a recent acquisition made by Lafayette College that reveals clues about Lafayette's land holdings and properties in French Guiana after his imprisonment in 1792.

The document is a ten-page report on Lafayette's property submitted to an officer of the navy in French Guiana, South America around 1794. We know Lafayette had acquired two plantations, St. Régis and Maripa, where he hoped to pursue his experiment of gradual emancipation of the enslaved families who remained part of these estates. The properties expanded after 1789 and then included the plantation known as "La Gabrielle." This "wild scheme" of gradual emancipation was supported neither by Louis XVI nor by George Washington, who famously responded to the effect that the question of abolition had not yet penetrated the minds of the American people. Indeed, it had not; abolition was only then just appearing on the horizon of the transatlantic community. Lafayette's abolitionist activities, however, were not confined to the Americas, and his support was vital in the establishment of the French abolitionist organization the *Société des Amis des Noirs* in 1788.

The biggest obstacle for the success of Lafayette's experimental plantation was the French Revolution. Cultivation of the lands fell to two successive managers who worked under Daniel Lescallier, Commissioner General of Colonies and Coordinator of Guiana, and finally to Adrienne as Lafayette played an increasing role in the political situation of France. After Lafayette was declared an émigré, and imprisoned in Austria in 1792, as this report attests, all of his and Adrienne's properties, including the plantation estates, were seized. In 1794, the estates along with the enslaved people there, became property of the French State. The 10-page report here may well be the record wherein value of the land was assigned for repossession, and it provides detailed estimates for the plantations, including St. Régis and Maripa, their buildings, produce, and cattle. Though slavery had been abolished by Decree of the National Convention in 1794, there is apparently no listing of the enslaved persons. Alas, eventually Lafayette renounced his rights to all properties in Guiana, and in 1802 Napoleon reinstated slavery in colonies east of the Cape of Good Hope. Still this document, now part of Lafayette College holdings, will hopefully shine additional light on an important chapter in Lafayette's lifelong goal to rid the world of slavery and extend liberty and equality to all. The college hopes to issue a translation of the document to assist with further research.

Rapport au Citoyen Benoit
 Lamy Ordonnateur de la marine à la
 Guyane française
 Sur
 les biens du Citoyen Lafayette situés
 en cette Colonie.

Citoyen Ordonnateur

Quo vous m'eussiez à lieu de répondre à la demande qui vous
 est faite par le Citoyen L'Agout du Gouvernement, dans la Lettre du
 18 du courant, je me suis occupé, d'après vos ordres, du dépôt
 des papiers relatifs aux opérations qui ont été faites par le Directeur
 du Dep^t pour la vente des biens du Citoyen Lafayette, en exécution
 de l'injonction du Citoyen Jaumez, Commis Saire civil, en date du
 1^{er} Janvier 1795; d'où il résulte que le Citoyen Lafayette
 était propriétaire des habitations dites S. Régis, le Maripa
 et l'Odrienne anciennement nommées le Fromage, toutes trois
 situées au Canton de Rouba.

Les deux premières ont été vendues et la troisième était en
 litige. Je parlerai d'abord de S. Régis et du Maripa; je
 vous retracerai ensuite les diverses réclamations qui ont été
 faites relativement à l'Odrienne.

S. Régis et le Maripa.

Le Citoyen Lafayette acquit par contrat passé le 19 Dec.
 1785, la habitation S. Régis et le Maripa; mais en 1794
 ce Citoyen ayant été déclaré Citoyen, le Directeur du Dep^t

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Discord in Concord on Lafayette's Farewell Tour

Excerpt from *The Transcendentalists and Their World*
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Kindle Edition, pp. 30-32)

by Robert A. Gross

A new era of political unity opened in Concord just in time for the national jubilee. Following their defeat in the spring elections of 1824, Federalists gave up and “amalgamated” with the Republicans. This fresh spirit of harmony animated that April’s inaugural ceremony marking the anniversary of the Concord Fight. Assembling where “once the embattled farmers stood,” the townspeople listened to an “instructive address” by Doctor Ripley rehearsing “with great minuteness the scene and circumstances” of the glorious day. A “high tone of national feeling ... pervaded” the gathering. On this patriotic day in 1824, there were neither Federalists nor Republicans but only Americans.

Four months later Concord welcomed a famous visitor, the Marquis de Lafayette. In late August 1824 the “nation’s guest” kicked off his American tour in the Boston area, where he attended the annual commencement of Harvard College, from which he had received an honorary degree back in 1784.

Following that event, the Frenchman received visitors in Boston, and a delegation from Concord came calling. It included an heir of Maj. John Buttrick, bearing the musket that supposedly killed the first British regular at the North Bridge. The group achieved its purpose; six days later the General traveled out to Lexington and Concord.

It was an honor for Concord to host the hero of the Revolution, but the last-minute scramble to put together a proper reception had unforeseen consequences. With no time for a formal town meeting to plan the event, the local notables took it upon themselves to organize a welcome “calculated to make a fine impression on the mind” of the valiant soldier. Every aspect of the day was orchestrated, though surprisingly, the Frenchman never was taken to view the celebrated battlefield. When Lafayette’s party neared the town line, it was greeted by a cavalcade of forty gentlemen, headed by John Keyes—“the first and only time” his son ever saw the dignified lawyer on horseback. The procession set out for the village with an escort of five military companies on parade, drums beating and fifes playing, and their arrival was heralded by a crescendo of sounds: the blast of cannons, a twenty-four-gun salute, the ringing of the village bell, the cheers of the waiting crowd. In front of the meetinghouse stood an open tent, decorated with flowers and evergreens, inside which the ladies of the town had set an elaborate table with refreshments for the distinguished guest—the first time, the local newspaper boasted, that women “have come forward to share the honor of preparing a welcome for the companion of Washington.”

Standing before the bower, the selectmen offered greetings before turning the ceremony over to Samuel Hoar, who was given the closing speech to match Keyes’s performance at the day’s start. “You, Sir, now behold *the spot on which the first forcible resistance* was made to a system of measures calculated to deprive the whole people of these States of the privileges of freemen.” This was the conventional wisdom in Concord, which Lafayette graciously received. Then the guests, the officials, the ladies, and the committee retired into the bower for the repast.

Afterward a select group of Revolutionary veterans was invited to meet the Frenchman and shake his hand. Everybody else had to glimpse the festivities from behind the ropes that cordoned off the tent and were patrolled by soldiers in arms.

A chorus of discontent rose from the dense crowd. In their eagerness to see Lafayette, many inhabitants pressed against the barriers, the guards pushed back, and tempers flared. Some people complained aloud at the favoritism: “although they were not as well dressed nor as educated in society ... as those within ... their fathers had served the country, some had fought with Lafayette in the battles of the Revolution, and they were as grateful for his services.” Luckily, the town escaped a riot, and Lafayette’s party did not notice the disturbance.

An angry backlash soon swirled through town. The Lafayette affair exposed the personal jealousies and social resentments that periodically erupted against would-be “aristocrats,” Federalist or Republican. “Well do I remember the insulting treatment I received,” one inhabitant recalled ten years later, “when, among others, I attempted to look at Lafayette; we had to stand back then at the point of the bayonet, whilst the great folks sat and drank at our expense.” The outrage boiled over after the organizers of the reception, oblivious to their neighbors’ hurt feelings, asked the town meeting to cover their costs, which amounted to eighty dollars for the ample refreshments of wine, coffee and tea, and fancy cakes. A broadside addressed “To the Inhabitants of Concord” and emblazoned with an emblem of “EQUALITY” derided the self-serving conduct of the arrangements committee. “The persons who were for excluding their neighbors from ... the ceremonies, were now not so very anxious to exclude the same neighbors from paying the bill.” The statement clearly expressed the common feeling. The town meeting “dismissed” the request for reimbursement. The privileged could party at their own expense.



On his way to Concord, Lafayette stopped at Lexington, where he saw this banner, made of cloth with the motto in green paint, draped on “a beautiful arch of evergreens and flowers.” Thirty-nine feet wide and nine inches high, it is in the collection of the Lexington Historical Society.

The Lafayette reception also soured relations between Concord and its neighbor Lexington. When Samuel Hoar proclaimed Concord “the first site of *forcible resistance*,” he was saying nothing new. But Lexingtonians deemed the remark an insult to their forefathers’ courage and their town’s honor. How dare Concord claim credit for “having raised the first standard of an armed opposition to the unjust and tyrannical measures of the mother country!” That glory belonged rightly to Lexington, whose militiamen had not tamely suffered the unprovoked assault of the king’s troops but returned fire in self-defense. On their village green, *not* at the North Bridge, “the revolutionary war commenced.” The competing claims were fought out in the press. Concord mocked little Lexington’s bid to convert a “massacre” into a “battle.” Lexington answered with jibes at Concord’s “caprice,” which reflected the vanity of the larger, richer town.

Author's Note

This account of the Lafayette reception is drawn from the following sources: *Concord Gazette and Middlesex Yeoman*, September 4, 1824; *Concord Freeman*, September 12, 1834; Edward Jarvis, manuscript notes on Shattuck's History of Concord, Concord Free Public Library (CFPL); A. Levasseur, *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825; Journal of a Voyage to the United States*, trans. John D. Godman, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1829), 1:71; Robert A. Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (New York, 1976), 188; "To the Inhabitants of Concord," broadside (Concord, Mass., 1824), CFPL; Meeting of November 1, 1824, Concord Town Meeting Minutes 7:231, CFPL. What caught the notice of Lafayette's party was a scene on the burial hill across the town common, where a woman "clad in black" and two children were grieving by a recent grave. In the "sorrowing attitudes" of the mourners, Lafayette's secretary, August Levasseur, discerned a melancholy lesson: they "seemed to say that festival days are not days of repose for death; but not one of the gay party [in the bower] appeared to regard this; all were too happy to remark the narrowness of the space by which they were separated from the spot where all sink into oblivion."

About the Author

Robert A. Gross is the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History Emeritus at the University of Connecticut. He is the author of *The Minutemen and Their World* (1976), which won the Bancroft Prize, and of *Books and Libraries in Thoreau's Concord* (1988); with Mary Kelley, he is the coeditor of *An Extensive Republic: Print, Culture, and Society in the New Nation, 1790–1840* (2010). A former assistant editor of *Newsweek*, he has written for such periodicals as *Esquire*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The New York Times*, and his essays have appeared in *The American Scholar*, *The New England Quarterly*, *Raritan*, and *The Yale Review*. His most recent book is *The Transcendentalists and Their World* (2021), which *The Wall Street Journal* included in the 10 Best Books of 2021.

Virginia Lafayette Day

by Chuck Schwam



On February 24, 2015, the Virginia Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 797 *Designating March 14, in 2015 and in each succeeding year, as a Day of Honor for the Marquis de Lafayette in Virginia*. Consequently, for the eighth year in a row, members of the AFL gathered to commemorate the day.

It was a beautiful morning in Richmond as the ceremony started in the rotunda of the Virginia State Capitol. AFL COO Chuck Schwam emceed the ceremony, and AFL Vice President Robert Kelly led the 50+ attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Honorable James Dillard (Virginia Commissioner on Civic Education) read the inscription on the Lafayette Houdon bust. Then all were honored to hear comments from Colonel Aymeric Tardieu De Maleissye and Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Abad. (Both serve with the French Army / NATO - Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.)

As in the past, we were privileged to welcome the students from Carrie Moore's French Class (Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, Virginia). The students remarked on Lafayette's legacy in both French and English. Students Lauren Adam, Meghan Degrandpre, Cora Perkins, and Peyton Rabb participated. The wreath laying was performed by Mark Schneider as General Lafayette and John Little, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Of course, Mark Schneider proceeded to entertain and educate the gathered crowd in his unique and special way.



Patti Maclay poses with Mark Schneider.



Carrie Moore's French Class Students from Lafayette High speak to the audience.



Chuck Schwam addresses the crowd with Mark Schneider looking on.

After the ceremony, AFL members were treated to a private tour of the Capitol Building with renowned historian Mark Greenough (Capitol Historian and Tour Supervisor at the Virginia State Capitol). As usual, Mr. Greenough was thoroughly entertaining. Once the tour was completed, the group walked a few blocks for the annual French lunch featuring mushroom soup, *salade Niçoise*, *coq au vin*, and an assortment of delectable French desserts.



*Mark Greenough receives a copy of Louis Gottschalk's *Lafayette in America* (Bicentennial Edition), donated by Dr. Bob Kelly, from AFL President Alan Hoffman.*



The Library of Virginia

The last stop of the day was a special visit to the Library of Virginia. The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest agencies of Virginia's government. It was founded in 1823 to preserve and provide access to the state's incomparable printed and manuscript holdings.

We were greeted by the Librarian of Virginia, Dr. Sandra Gioia Treadway. Dr. Treadway was the keynote speaker at the October 19, 2020 Yorktown Victory Celebration. After a brief introduction, AFL members were treated to a private viewing of the library's collection of all things Lafayette. From the Special Collections, we were treated to a viewing of maps, letters, and other Lafayette-related items in a reserved room on the second floor. AFL members were also afforded an exclusive tour of the Library's current exhibit on legislative petitions. Petitions from the 18th and 19th century were on display.

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

One of the fascinating items on display at the Library of Virginia was a calendar of events commemorating the 100-year anniversary of Lafayette's death (below). In the right column, note that on May 20, 1934, the American Friends of Lafayette held memorial services for Lafayette in Washington, D.C. Also of note, in the left column, is the announcement of the publication of J. Bennett Nolan's *Lafayette in America Day by Day*, a book that many of us refer to often for research.

CALENDAR (IN PART) <i>of Observances of the Centenary Year of the Death of Lafayette</i> MAY 20th, 1834	
NOTE—"M" indicates participation by members of The American Friends of Lafayette.	
1934	
<p>Jan. 2 Bethlehem, Pa.—Fortnightly Club—Mrs. J. Upton Myers (M)</p> <p>10 Washington, D. C.—Library of Congress. Lafayette Exhibit opens—D. C. Mearns (M)</p> <p>11 Allentown, Pa.—Lehigh County Historical Society. Speaker, J. Bennett Nolan (M)</p> <p>16 Washington, D. C.—House of Representatives: Concurrent Resolution introduced by Hon. Mary T. Norton (M), member of Congress, for appointment of a "special Congressional Committee to make appropriate arrangements for the commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the death of General Lafayette" A similar Resolution will be introduced in the Senate by Hon. Hamilton F. Kean (M)</p> <p>— Publication—Masonic Outlook (N. Y.)—Article by W. P. Truesdell (M)</p> <p>Feb. 2-3 Iowa City, Iowa—University of Iowa. History Conference. Speaker, Dr. Louis Gottschalk (M)</p> <p>— Publication—"Lafayette in America Day by Day," by J. Bennett Nolan (M)</p> <p>2 Lexington, Ky.—Joint Meeting D. A. R. Chapters. Speaker, Professor L. R. Dingus (M) of Transylvania College</p> <p>24 Newark, N. J.—N. J. Society, Sons of American Revolution, jointly with The American Friends of Lafayette. Luncheon. Speakers, President General, Arthur W. McCrillis (M), and Howard R. Cruse (M)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1934</p> <p>Mar. 6 New York City—N. Y. Historical Society. Speaker, Madame Le Verrier (M)</p> <p>— Publication—"Lafayette in Jersey City"—W. H. Richardson (M)</p> <p>10-11 Winter Park, Fla.—Rollins College. French Conference—President Hamilton Holt (M) Comte Rene de Chambrun (M)</p> <p>22 Jersey City, N. J.—J. C. Woman's Club. Speaker, Madame Le Verrier (M)</p> <p>Apr. 3 New York City—N. Y. Historical Society Lafayette Night. Speaker, Dr. William Mather Lewis (M)</p> <p>6 Atlantic City, N. J.—N. J. Historical Congress. Lafayette Dinner. Speaker, H. Prescott Beach (M)</p> <p>— Publication—Kiwani's Magazine. Article by Prof. A. H. Gilmer (M)</p> <p>May — New Haven, Conn.—Lafayette Exhibit at Yale University Library. Andrew Keogh (M), Librarian</p> <p>4 Bethlehem, Pa.—Huguenot Society of Pa.—Dr. John Baer Stoudt (M). Moravian Seminary, Founders' Day—Dean A. G. Rau (M)</p> <p>20 Charleston, S. C.—Commemorative Service by City Historical Committee. Mrs. G. F. Von Kolnitz (M)</p> <p>20 Washington, D. C.—Memorial Services. Joint Auspices of The American Friends of Lafayette, Patriotic Societies and Historical Associations</p> <p>Washington, D. C.—Commemorative Service in Congress</p> <p>June 17 Boston, Mass.—Bunker Hill Monument Association—T. G. Frothingham, President (M)</p> <p>— Publication—"The American Venture. New Light on the Career of Lafayette Before 1777," by Prof. Louis Gottschalk (M) of University of Chicago</p> <p>Sept. 6 Lafayette-Marne Day—Maurice Leon (M) Chairman</p>

It was another fantastic Virginia Lafayette Day. Virginia has always done a marvelous job celebrating the legacy of Lafayette. That could be because Lafayette loved Virginia so much that he named one of his daughters Virginie after the Commonwealth.

New Member Profile – Lindsay Behan

Hi, I am Lindsay and I'm 11 years old. I live in Holly Springs, North Carolina and I like being with my friends, photography, collecting animal figures, and listening to music. I am excited to be a part of the AFL and for all of the events to come!

My interest in Lafayette began when I watched the musical Hamilton. I liked the character of Lafayette (mainly how Daveed Diggs portrayed him), and then I started learning about who Lafayette was in real life. I found him really interesting and I loved and still love to learn about him. I've visited Fayetteville, North Carolina; Yorktown, Virginia; Savannah, Georgia; Monticello; and have taken several trips to Williamsburg, Virginia where I got to see Lafayette on stage. I love dogs, so my favorite fact about him is that he introduced the Great Pyrenees to the United States. I hope to visit France one day (and hopefully even Lafayette's hometown)! The more I learn about Lafayette, the more interesting he becomes to me, and I tell my friends all the things I know about him.



*Lindsay Behan with Lafayette
(Mark Schneider)*



Alan Hoffman, Lindsay, Chuck Schwam

Yorktown Sister Cities French Market

by Chuck Schwam



On Saturday, April 16, 2022, the American Friends of Lafayette participated in this year's annual Sister Cities French Market, held in conjunction with Yorktown Market Days Food and Artisan Market. Port-Vendres, France has been Yorktown's sister city since 1990. To celebrate, Yorktown holds a celebration on the Riverwalk with dozens of "booths" to visit. Attendees enjoyed French music, wine, and booths featured traditional French products like crepes, macarons, chocolates, fresh-baked bread, pastries, and authentic beignets (just to name a few!). There was even a French Wine Garden.

The AFL could not think of a better way to spread some “Lafayette Love”!! Our booth was located only steps away from the Lafayette statue where we were visited by hundreds of visitors. Our mission was to make sure everyone understood the impact the French Alliance had on the Yorktown victory. We gave out Lafayette reading material and other Lafayette-related swag.

Thanks to Mark Schneider (as Lafayette), the AFL booth was one of the most popular. Mark always draws a crowd and brings Lafayette to life. With his help, along with our wonderful group of AFL volunteers, we were able to sign up six new members to the AFL.

Big thanks to Mike Steen and the Kelly family (Bob, Robert, & Katherine) for setting up the booth. All of the volunteers had a blast interacting with the public. Thank you for being there and representing the American Friends of Lafayette so well.



Mark Schneider as Lafayette

AFL Volunteers

Morgaine Beck
 Bill Cole
 Lucy Dale
 Mark Holland
 Robert Kelly
 Bob Kelly
 Katherine Kelly
 Rudy Knepper
 Mark Schneider
 Chuck Schwam
 Sarah Sherman-VanDeventer
 Joan Winder
 Gloria Womble
 Frank Womble



Katherine and Bob Kelly at the AFL Booth

Rochambeau Descendant Arrives in the United States

by Chuck Schwam

In 2020, we postponed the raising of the Rochambeau statue in Yorktown because Rochambeau descendant Nathalie de Gouberville could not attend due to the travel restrictions brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mme. de Gouberville also missed the rescheduled event held on October 18, 2021, due to similar restrictions. Finally, in early May of 2022, Nathalie and her husband Phillippe made it to the United States.

Nathalie de Gouberville is a seventh-generation descendant of Marshal Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau. The de Goubervilles actually live in the 16th-century Château de Rochambeau at Thoré-la-Rochette, in the Loire Valley.

The de Goubervilles had a whirlwind visit on this side of the Atlantic Ocean. One of their many visits was to the Odell House in Hartsdale, New York, where Nathalie's ancestor, a general in the French army, was encamped in the summer of 1781. General George Washington, whose troops were camped in Ardsley, met with Rochambeau at the house, the earliest part of which dates to 1732. The house will be restored for use as a museum, with the help of the nonprofit Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters (OHRH). The American Friends of Lafayette will be visiting the Odell House for a private tour on June 11, 2022, during our West Point annual meeting.

A fundraiser was held for the Odell House on May 5 at the French Consulate in New York City on Fifth Avenue. Hosted by Mr. Jérémie Robert, the Consul General of France in New York, Nathalie de Gouberville was the guest of honor. It was a small yet elegant gathering which included three AFL members: Janet Burnett, Thierry Chaunu, and Chuck Schwam.



Chuck Schwam with Nathalie de Gouberville at the French Consulate in New York



Thierry Chaunu addresses the guests at the French Consulate in New York

After hiking in the Shenandoah Valley, visiting family friends and historic sites, the de Goubervilles arrived in Yorktown on Sunday morning, May 15, 2022, to finally see the Rochambeau statue in person. Many AFL members were there to greet them including Mark Schneider (as Rochambeau!!). Other attendees included the artist Cyd Player and her husband Mike, NPS Park Ranger Steve Williams and his wife Dionne, along with French Liaison Nicole Yancey and her son Richard.



(L to R) Steve Williams, Chuck Schwam, Nathalie de Gouberville, Phillipe de Gouberville, Cyd Player and Mark Schneider gather at the statues of the Four Heroes of Yorktown.

The de Goubervilles were thrilled with the statue and thought the likeness was wonderful. Much talk revolved around the importance of Rochambeau's role in Yorktown and how much more handsome he was than the other three "heroes." The de Goubervilles enjoyed meeting all of the gathered AFL members, especially Mark Schneider who was able to converse with them in their native tongue.

It was in the spring of 2018 when Bonnie Fritz and I lunched with Nathalie de Gouberville in Paris. It was there that the Rochambeau statue idea was born. I was thrilled that Nathalie and her husband Phillipe were finally able to see the finished statue four years later.



The attendees at a luncheon held at the Hornsby House Inn in Yorktown in honor of the Goubervilles (from left going around the table clockwise) included Mark Schneider, David Bowditch, Nicole Yancey, Cyd Player, Phillipe Gouberville, Chuck Schwam, Nathalie Gouberville, Lea Gryk, Steve Williams, Dionne Williams, and Richard Yancey. Missing is Mike Player (who kindly took this photo).



The 16th-century Château de Rochambeau at Thoré-la-Rochette, in the Loire Valley where Nathalie and Phillipe de Gouberville live, just as Rochambeau once did.

Massachusetts Lafayette Day, 2022

by Alan R. Hoffman

For the first time in three years, the Massachusetts Lafayette Society was able to celebrate a live and complete Lafayette Day. It was the 88th such celebration since the Massachusetts Legislature passed a statute in 1935 requiring the governor to issue a proclamation each year on May 20, the anniversary of Lafayette's death, declaring the day "Massachusetts Lafayette Day." While Fayette County (Lexington) Kentucky is the oldest county named for Lafayette (1780), and Fayetteville, North Carolina is the oldest city or town (1783), Massachusetts has the honor of commemorating Lafayette on an annual basis for a longer time than any other US jurisdiction.

The celebration on May 19 began at the Lafayette monument on the Boston Common. After a short welcoming speech by me entitled "What would Lafayette do?", the Proclamation was read in French and English. The reader of the French Proclamation was AFL member Enoch (Woody) Woodhouse – Yale class of 1952 and a French major – who was decorated as a Tuskegee Airman for his service in World War II. Harvard Professor John Stauffer, our keynote speaker for the afternoon luncheon, read the Proclamation in English. The laying of the wreath by Consul General Arnaud Mentré and Lieutenant Colonel Woodhouse followed, and a moment of silence, just as the bells of a nearby church struck eleven times.



Alan Hoffman speaking in front of the Lafayette Monument



Enoch Woodhouse reading the proclamation en français; John Stauffer looking on

Our group traveled across the Charles River to the residence of the French Consulate in Cambridge where we enjoyed a delicious lunch including a crab cake appetizer, a superb salmon dish, and an extraordinary chocolate dessert. We were joined by a number of MLS members who could not attend the Boston ceremony, including Marvin Gilmore, another nonagenarian veteran of World War II, who received the French Legion of Honor medal in Boston in 2010 when he was a sprightly 85 years old. He is still sprightly at 97.

Professor Stauffer enthralled the audience with his lecture, “Lafayette, Charles Sumner and James McCune Smith.” John has graciously agreed to publish this speech in the next *Gazette*, so you will have an opportunity to read it in October. We also said a fond farewell to the Consul, who will complete his term in Boston in August.

I can report that it was one of the most delightful Lafayette Days ever.



Consul General Mentré speaking at the residence



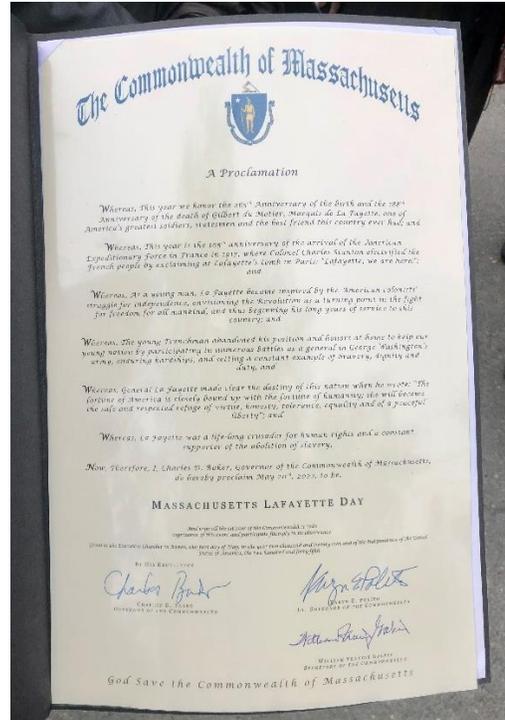
Professor John Stauffer addresses MLS members



Marvin Gilmore, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur



Rick Detwiler, Arnaud Mentré, Alan Hoffman, and Enoch (Woody) Woodhouse



The Lafayette Day Proclamation



Monument - Lafayette Mall, Boston Common



Luncheon at the Consul's residence

New Hampshire Retains the Lead: A Lafayette Trail Marker at the State House!

by Dorothea Jensen



The New Hampshire State House is the oldest state capitol in which the legislature meets in its original chambers.

On Friday, May 20, 2022, a Lafayette Trail marker was dedicated on the grounds of the State Capitol Building in Concord, New Hampshire. Governor Christopher Sununu read a proclamation celebrating New Hampshire Lafayette Day. A number of AFL members were there, including President Hoffman, *Gazette* Associate Editor Jan O'Sullivan, Maureen and Bill Poole, as well as Julien Icher and I, who both spoke at the event.



*Jan O'Sullivan, Alan Hoffman, and others
at the New Hampshire State House*

Julien, as Founder and President of the Lafayette Trail, Inc., proclaimed that New Hampshire still holds the lead in the number of markers installed. (Soon there will be fourteen.) He also pointed out to the crowd that it was the 90th anniversary of the American Friends of Lafayette and introduced Alan Hoffman as president of the organization. There was some confusion as to whose 90th birthday it was, as I heard at least one person say “Happy Birthday!” to Alan after that.



*Lafayette Trail President Julien Icher
and New Hampshire Governor Christopher Sununu*

My part in the proceedings was the reading of a short excerpt from my book, *A Buss from Lafayette*. In it, I described the exciting events which took place at the State House on June 22, 1825, the day commemorated by the new marker, such as Lafayette greeting over two hundred Revolutionary War veterans, some of whom had served under him, and whom he recognized by name!



*Lafayette Trail Board Member
Dorothea Jensen*

Also adding color and noise to the proceedings were Revolutionary War costumed members of the SAR, and a cadre of Civil War uniformed members of the Lyndeborough Lafayette Artillery. This militia group, formed in 1804, brought along (and fired) their cannon. Three times! It was loud! The group has agreed to a repeat performance on June 22, 2025 when we celebrate the Farewell Tour Bicentennial here.



*Members of the Sons of the American Revolution
and the Lyndeborough Lafayette Artillery*



Lyndeborough Lafayette Artillery Salute

This cannon salute was a stirring echo of the two cannons fired from the hill behind the State House on June 22, 1825. This was a wonderful way to end the ceremony for the installation of one of the so far *ninety-five* approved markers for Lafayette’s Farewell Tour. By the way, Julien was able to dedicate *five* markers, two in Massachusetts and three in New Hampshire, in just 48 hours from May 19 to May 21!



AFLers Maureen Poole, Jan O’Sullivan, Alan Hoffman, Dorothea Jensen, Julien Icher, three SAR members, and Bill Poole

—All photos are by Adam Jensen.

About the Author

Dorothea (“Deedy”) Jensen is a long-time member of the Massachusetts Lafayette Society and the AFL and is on the Board of The Lafayette Trail. She is also the Chair of the Distribution Committee of the *Gazette*. Deedy is the author of *A Buss from Lafayette*, and *Liberty-Loving Lafayette: How “America’s Favorite Fighting Frenchman” Helped Win Our Independence*

Update from The Lafayette Trail, Inc.

by Julien Icher

Hi, Trailblazers!

Our Lafayette Trail video effort, *Follow the Frenchmen*, has continued to move forward and seems to be expanding exponentially! Since our last member newsletter “*Be My Guest*,” we have released six additional episodes (Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, NY; Syracuse, NY; Hartford, CT; The Washington Navy Yard, in Washington, D.C.; Buffalo, NY; and James Madison’s Montpelier) for a total of 15 episodes. We are proud to have these *Follow the Frenchmen* educational productions displayed prominently on our website for the public to enjoy (www.thelafayettetrail.org). Our latest episode, filmed at James Madison’s Montpelier in Virginia, has been released very recently. Be sure to watch as I discuss religious freedom and abolition issues with James Madison, himself!

What is even more exciting is that we can continue to make more films, having already secured expected funding for 8 episodes. As you can imagine, this Frenchman has been very busy as producer, director, researcher, script writer, and host of these productions! When you view these efforts, please take note of the donors who made their production possible. They are acknowledged at the end of each video. I would like to give a special shout out to the several state societies of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution (DAR and SAR) who have been most supportive and generous.



Each video highlights a Lafayette Trail marker and its associated history at one of Lafayette’s stops during his 1824-1825 journey.

As of this writing, 92 historic markers have made it through our final approval process by The Lafayette Trail, Inc. and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Sixty-six of these have been shipped to their destinations. I have many others in various stages of the process as we work toward 125-175 markers placed by the bicentennial of Lafayette’s Tour which begins in the late Summer of 2024. The installed markers may be viewed on the trail website marker map (thelafayettetrail.org/markers/map). Trail members are more than welcome to attend our dedication ceremonies and are informed by e-mail with dedication announcements. We hope that they will feel free to travel to join us as we continue to announce future unveilings.



Syracuse, NY Marker Dedication with NY Daughters of the American Revolution



The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette



I am really excited about this next announcement, truly a Revolutionary change! The Lafayette Trail, Inc. is expanding its mission! We have completed a formal agreement with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to launch a second historic marker program commemorating sites associated with Lafayette during the American Revolution! The William G. Pomeroy Foundation will provide funding for the manufacturing and shipping of 50 markers as part of this new program.

These markers will celebrate important events that Lafayette participated in during the American Revolution, including his 1784 return trip to America. The signs will retain the look of the current trail markers, except that to differentiate them, the Trail Logo at the top will be red instead of blue, and the saying at the bottom of the logo will be changed from “Mapping the Farewell Tour” to “The American Revolution.”

One of my most recent highlights of the trail project has been an online conversation with retired Army General David H. Petraeus. You may watch the recorded conversation on the YouTube Channel of the Trail.

Our Chief Administrative Officer, Treasurer, and Researcher, John Becica, has now completed 38 *Trail Tales*, and he continues to find more adventures to write about as he researches our hero traversing the land on his Triumphal Tour. Twenty-two tales have already been published in our member only newsletter *Be My Guest*. Recently, John has also been writing additional short anecdotes about events of interest along the trail which he titles *Trail Tidbits*.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce a new benefit for Trail Members! Kat Smith and I have started creating and sending out a weekly email timeline of where our Favorite Fighting Frenchman was on the Trail during the corresponding week in 1824-1825. This is a new exclusive perk of being a member of the Lafayette Trail! Members can learn more in-depth information about a particular day by clicking on the image displayed. We hope that they enjoy this latest feature for The Lafayette Trail community. Members, watch for these in your inbox!

The Trail’s presence on social media continues to grow. We have over 1,100 followers on Instagram and 3,000 followers on Facebook! Follow us:

Facebook: [@thelafayettetrail](#)

Twitter: [@LafayetteTrail](#)

Instagram: [@thelafayettetrail](#)

Follow the Frenchmen on YouTube [#thelafayettetrail](#)

Julien Icher is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and President of The Lafayette Trail, Inc. and a Life Member of The American Friends of Lafayette.

Hermione Update

by Chuck Schwam

Unfortunately, an outbreak of mold and fungus has stalled future sailing plans for the *Hermione*. Late in 2021, the *Hermione* was moved from Rochefort to dry dock in Bayonne in the south of France for repairs. The damage is significant and has affected the structure of the hull. In fact, a large part of the keel towards the back of the frigate was disintegrating.



Before repairs can begin, experts are assessing the damage. To do so, all of the ballast in the hold must be removed. Over 25 tons were removed in February with the rest scheduled to be removed later this spring. Early estimates indicate that repairs may take over one year.

The installation in Bayonne took time because organizers want the *Hermione* to be available for the public to see. During repairs, visitors can watch the progress and learn more about the project in a museum-like setting. Of course, funding is desperately needed for the extensive and costly repairs. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, please email me at americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com.

I'd like to thank a wonderful group of "Lafayettists" in France who call themselves the "Yorktown Friends." This group of five couples has donated their time and money towards the repair of the *Hemione*. They also do a wonderful job keeping me posted on all things regarding this important project. Their goal is to join us in Yorktown on October 19, 2022. It is my sincere hope that we have an opportunity to meet.



The Yorktown Friends at the Port des Barques near Rochefort to celebrate Lafayette

Did Lafayette Have an American ATM?

by Ernest Sutton and Brett Osborn

When Lafayette assumed command of the vanguard of the Continental Army's Light Division, his first priority was developing an *esprit de corps* for which this unit was later renowned. He did this in part by giving each soldier red and black feathers to wear in their hats along with other uniform components including shoes. He presented each officer a sword, epaulets, and a cockade. This unique gift of generosity, however, was only one part of Lafayette's leadership ability. How did he obtain the funds to do this?

Although Lafayette was one of the richest men in France, by July 1781 the funds that he brought from France were completely exhausted. In a day where credit cards and Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) were non-existent, how was he able to quickly obtain the needed funds from his French banker Leray de Chaumont in Passy? Who in America would have such assets and could loan cash to him since he had been living on borrowed funds for quite some time? It was John (Jean) Holker.



Portrait of John Holker by Gilbert Stewart. Photo: Artnet

After his arrival in America in 1778 as consul, John Holker became a close friend of Lafayette and his lender. When Lafayette assumed command of the Light Division, he also needed a majestic white horse similar that of his mentor George Washington. To obtain funds, he sought out the French Consul and French naval agent for Boston and Philadelphia, John Holker. Holker instead purchased a white horse for 100 gold louis d'or and presented it as a gift to the new commander. Later the horse was shot from under Lafayette's groom while riding by his side at the Battle of Green Springs, Virginia.



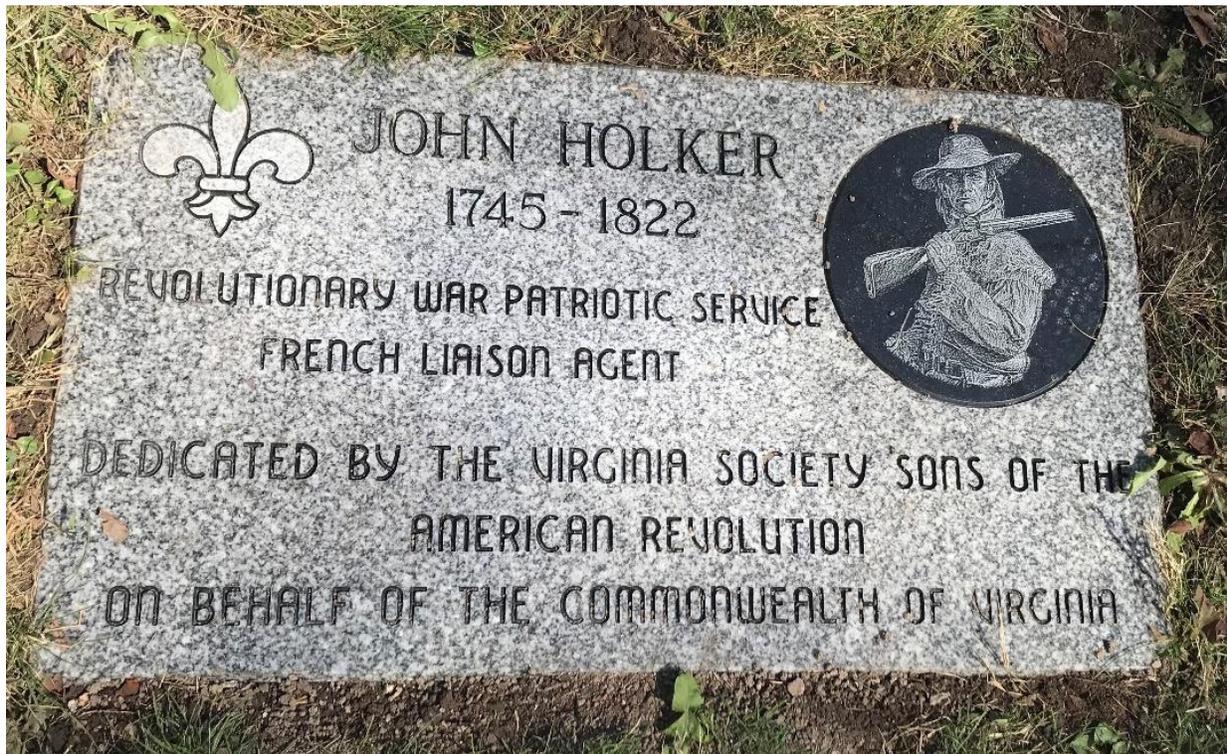
Lafayette (aka Mark Schneider) on the white horse gifted by John Holker when he assumed command of the Light Division. Photo: Colonial Williamsburg

Holker's career was quite remarkable. John Holker (1745-1822), born in Manchester, England, was the son of Chevalier John Holker, Sr., an English Jacobite who fled to Rouen, France, in 1745. The family became prominent in French textile manufacturing. John Holker returned to England between 1769 and 1772 to study the Hargreaves manufacturing processes. The technology he brought back as an industrial spy revolutionized the French textile industry. In 1777, father and son were involved in helping the American commissioners in Paris obtain military clothing and other supplies.

After the Treaty of Alliance was signed in 1778, Holker came to America as one of France's first French ministers. He also became an agent for the French Navy. From his office in Philadelphia, he arranged contracts to supply the French fleets operating off North America, and he also acted as a go-between for the French Navy and their American counterparts. He corresponded directly with George Washington, providing valuable information on French naval movements.

By 1780, Holker had become consul for Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. While acting in this official capacity, he was engaged in extensive private business speculations with partners. Complaints from local authorities on his financial activities led the French government to demand that he either observe the prohibition against public officials engaging in trade or resign. Holker resigned in 1781, preferring to continue his various business ventures which included supplying clothes to Continental troops, speculating in western land, and investing in ironworks, distilleries, sawmills, and saltworks. This permitted him to have the money to lend to Lafayette.

After the war, the death of his father and the turmoil of the French Revolution diminished his assets and left him with fewer business ties in France. He settled on land in Clarke County, Virginia which he named "Springsbury." He remained there until his death in 1822, with the exception of a brief sojourn in France from 1800 to 1804.



*John Holker grave marker at the Old Chapel Cemetery, Millwood, Virginia
Photo: Ernest Sutton*



*AFL Members (Left to Right): Lieutenant Colonel Alain Abad, Patrick Kelley, and Ernest Sutton, Colonel Aymeric Tardieu de Maleissye-Melun at the grave marker dedication for John Holker, Old Chapel Cemetery, Millwood, Virginia on April 2, 2022
Photo: Brett Osborn*

Question:

How much money did Lafayette owe John Holker in America before he returned to France on the *Alliance* on Christmas Day in 1781?

Answer:

When Lafayette was preparing to return to France after the Revolutionary period, he needed to settle his account with his friend John Holker who had loaned him £1,273 in silver. Since various currencies were used in the colonies, Holker standardized all of Lafayette's loans into silver. All of Holker's Revolutionary period financial records from 1777 to 1783, including his loans to Lafayette, are archived in the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan. How much did Lafayette owe Holker in today's dollars? Using the Eric W. Nye *Conversion of Pounds Sterling to US Dollars: Historical Conversion of Currency* for the year 1781, it would be \$253,434!

Holker was truly both Lafayette's friend and his ATM.

The Hounds of Lafayette

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), the American Foxhound may be the oldest dog breed developed in the United States. George Washington was a life-long dog breeder. At Mount Vernon, he kept a pack of Brooke Hounds, originally brought to the colonies by Robert Brooke in 1650, and he attempted to improve this breed. In 1785 to assist this project, Lafayette sent to Washington a pack of seven dogs, known as *Grand Bleus de Gascogne*. He entrusted them to 18-year-old John Quincy Adams on his transatlantic trip home to attend Harvard. In his rush to get to school after disembarkation, Adams left the pack on the dock at New York City. Much annoyed, Washington sent a carriage to fetch them to Mount Vernon. In his diary Washington likened his new guests' melodious howling and baying to the "bells of Moscow." In pre-revolutionary Moscow, travelers invariably commented on the stirring clamor of the more than 1600 bells of the city ringing simultaneously during Orthodox Easter. Neither the howling of the hounds nor the bells of Moscow can easily be forgotten.

Washington had great success both as a distiller and a dog breeder. Thus, in creating a new breed from the Lafayette hounds, he named the first puppies of this breed Topsy, Tipler, and Drunkard. In 1886, the American Kennel Club recognized this breed as the American Foxhound. Today it is the state dog of the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Washington and his foxhounds making a social call.

Image: American Kennel Club

American Foxhounds are scent hounds and known as sleek, rangy hunters with speed, endurance, and a great work ethic. The male hound stands at 22-25 inches, weighs 65-70 pounds, and lives 11-13 years. They are bred to hunt independently rather than as a pack and are strongly

prey-driven. These dogs need a lot of exercise or they get depressed and destructive. The AKC suggests that the breed is not well designed for couch potato pet parents. They are, however, good-natured and get on well with people, especially kids and other dogs and cats. The American Foxhound, as you would expect, reflects Lafayette's own energetic, friendly, and sociable personality. Thomas Jefferson commented that Lafayette's chief fault was his "canine appetite for popularity."



American Foxhound named Quincy after President John Quincy Adams visiting his ancestral home at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Photo: Author Lindsay M. Chervinsky

Lindsay M. Chervinsky frequently has speaking events, such as the one at the Lafayette Alliance on her recent book *The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution*. If time permits during her Question-and-Answer period be sure to ask her about the American Foxhound, Washington, Lafayette, and Quincy. During her research at Mount Vernon, she reviewed the detailed diary that Washington kept on his hound breeding. Her next book *An Honest Man: The Inimitable Presidency of John Adams* will be published in the fall of 2024. Her upcoming speaking events can be found on her website www.lindsaychervinsky.com/speaking.

Question: What did Elvis Presley say about the American Foxhound?

Answer: "They keep cryin' all the time!"

AFL to See Duportail at West Point Museum

by Ernest Sutton and Lanny Patten

On June 11, 2022, the American Friends of Lafayette will visit the Museum on the West Point Military Academy campus where the bust of a French Officer who would later become known as the founder of the US Army Corps of Engineers is on display. Washington wrote on November 16, 1778 to the President of Congress that “this officer is of the soundest judgement and possesses real knowledge.” In support of his promotion to major general, Lafayette called him “one of the best and most honest officers on the continent.” Today, Louis Le Bègue de Presle Duportail of the French Royal Corps of Engineers is unfamiliar to most Americans.

When the colonies declared independence, American diplomats requested two things from King Louis XVI: money and French military engineers. Then a 35-year-old lieutenant colonel, Duportail volunteered to serve under Washington and arrived in Philadelphia eleven days before Lafayette. He was named Chief Engineer of the Continental Army and stayed by Washington’s side until the end the war, with the exception of when he was sent to defend Charleston where he became a prisoner of war. He planned both the Valley Forge encampment and the siege of Yorktown. He was promoted to Major General on October 26, 1781, five days after the surrender at Yorktown. After the war, he returned home, having served in America for six years.

Sculpted by Alexandre Falguière and Antonin Mercié, statues of Duportail, Rochambeau, de Grasse, and d’Estaing are at the base of the Lafayette statue on the north side of the White House, but none of these officers are identified on the statue or its pedestal. On the statue’s arrival from France in 1890, *The New York Times* commented that “The commanders of the fleets are too well known to require comment, and Rochambeau is even better known . . . but Duportaille is not so familiar.”



Rochambeau (Left) and Duportail (Right) on the west side of the Lafayette Statue in Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C. Photo: Michael Stanaland.

A cartouche on the pedestal bears the inscription: "TO / GENERAL / LA FAYETTE / AND HIS / COMPATRIOTS / 1777-1783 / DERVILLE FARBRE." Derville Farbre refers to the owner of the marble quarry. In the Occitan region of France and Italy (Toulouse and Montpellier), it was commonly used as a surname.

The SAR *Société* in France commissioned five busts of Duportail with two in the US and three in France. The two busts in the US were donated by the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to West Point and to the Valley Forge National Historic Park NPS Visitor Center. The French sculptor Michel Gillet created the West Point Duportail bust which was cast in bronze in France's oldest fine art foundry *Susse Fondeur* in 2011. Gillet is the dean of the school "Arts dans la cite" at Charleville-Mézières, France. The bust is based on the only known image of Duportail by Peale which is hung at the Second Bank of the United States Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Duportail bust dedication at Charleville-Mézières, France, the town where Duportail received his military engineering training. AFL members are Jacques de Trentinian (Left) and Ann Patten (Right). Photo: Lanny Patten

The only known portrait of Duportail is by the artist Charles Willson Peale, probably from life, between 1781 -1784 when Duportail was about 44 years of age. He is wearing the uniform of a Major General in the Continental Army and the French *Croix de St. Louis* for exceptional service. This is notable, as it was the first decoration that could be worn by non-noble French officers.



*Major General Duportail by Charles W. Peale
Photo: Independence National Historic Park*

Question:

With Duportail only speaking French, how did the communications with Duportail and the American Commissioners in Paris work when he volunteered to serve in the American Army?

Answer:

Although Duportail learned English *after* coming to America, he asked the commissioners in their written communications to him to use either French or Latin. Naturally, the commissioners wrote to him only in English, which was very frustrating because he always needed to find a translator who would not make “noise” about his negotiations. He feared that if the negotiations were made public, he would have been denied permission to come to America.

Hampton Roads Hosts Trail Marker Double Header

by Frank Womble



Left to right: Steve Patton, Julien Icher, LeAnn Turbyfill, and Bill Greaf dedicate the Norfolk Lafayette Trail Marker.

Two Lafayette Trail Markers were dedicated at Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia on March 1, 2022. Brilliant sunshine warmed attendees as Julien Icher, President of the Lafayette Trail, Inc., led the proceedings. An enthusiastic crowd of about forty people witnessed the morning Norfolk dedication. Julien Icher, Steve Patton from Norfolk's Parks and Recreation Department, LeAnn Turbyfill, State Regent for the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution, and Bill Greaf, Virginia Vice President of the Sons of the American Revolution, spoke at the dedication. The American Friends of Lafayette were represented by AFL Vice President Robert Kelly and several other members. The DAR was well-represented by numerous members from its Norfolk Great Bridge chapter. French Lieutenant Colonel Alain Abad from NATO also attended; he was a poignant reminder of our country's long relationship with its oldest ally.

The Norfolk trail marker is at 500 East Main Street in downtown Norfolk, near the site of the city's former Market Square where Lafayette was welcomed in style on October 22, 1824. That occasion featured an artillery salute, a parade through the town, several volunteer companies of infantry, a large crowd of townspeople, and numerous schoolchildren. Although the marker dedication was certainly less elaborate than Lafayette's exuberant welcome, the recognition of his importance still remains. The marker notes Lafayette's support of abolition and is located adjacent to the former site of the city's Confederate monument.

Auguste Levasseur, Lafayette's private secretary, was not impressed with early 19th-century Norfolk. In his journal of their visit, he recorded this blunt assessment: "Of all the towns we have visited up to now, Norfolk is the one that offers the least agreeable appearance; the houses are generally badly constructed; the streets are narrow and poorly aligned. By reason of the marshes surrounding it, the air is unhealthy and illnesses are common during autumn. Its population has not quite risen to 4,000. However, its commerce is very active with the States of the North, with Europe, and especially with the West Indies. Its port, which because of its depth can receive the largest vessels, and because of its area can hold at least 300 of them, is the single good port in Virginia and North Carolina; so that it is through Norfolk that all the imports and exports of these two States are made thereby. The exports consist principally of corn, wheat, flour, maize, wood of all kinds, meat and salted fish, iron, lead, tobacco, tar and turpentine."¹

Levasseur would certainly not recognize Norfolk today. The population has increased sixty-fold since the time of his visit to 240,000, making it the third largest city in Virginia. Its deep-water port and excellent facilities are among the best on the East Coast and a major economic driver for the region. Imports and exports have changed, but the critical role of commerce remains. Norfolk International Terminals is a busy container ship terminal with the largest ship-to-shore cranes in the Western Hemisphere.² The largest naval complex in the world, Naval Station Norfolk,³ is also here.

In the afternoon, attention shifted to Portsmouth for the second marker dedication of the day. The Portsmouth trail marker is positioned at the rear of Lafayette Park in Olde Towne Portsmouth at the corner of Glasgow and Crawford Streets. The park is



Lion's head on the Lafayette Arch, Portsmouth

dominated by the Lafayette Arch, an impressive brick structure dedicated during the United States Bicentennial celebration in 1976. It was inspired by an arch erected in 1824 to honor

Lafayette's visit to the city. The distinctive lion's head on the center of the arch came from the demolished American National Bank Building on High Street. The park also features a memorial to the Seaboard employees shopmates who died in World War I and World War II, and one to Medal of Honor Recipients from Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth trail marker dedication featured an appearance by Mary Veale and the Colonials in period costume. Keith Toler, Assistant Director of Museums and Tourism, represented the city. LeAnn Turbyfill and DAR members from Portsmouth were also in attendance.

Levasseur made only a brief mention of their visit to Portsmouth: "...we visited Portsmouth, a very small town exactly opposite it (Norfolk), on the left bank of the James River, which contains a beautiful ship-building establishment. There we saw a superb vessel of 74 guns called the *North Carolina*, which had only been afloat for a few days."^{4,5}



Left to right: Keith Tolar, Mary Veale and the Colonials, and Julien Icher at the newly dedicated trail marker in Lafayette Park, Portsmouth

The “very small town” that Lafayette visited now has a population of about 93,000. Shipbuilding, ship remodeling, and repair continue to be important parts of Portsmouth’s economy. The Gosport Navy Yard that Levasseur and Lafayette visited was established in 1767 and has continued operations to the present day. Now known as the Norfolk Naval Shipyard,⁶ it is one of the few facilities on the East Coast capable of dry-docking nuclear aircraft carriers.

These two markers make a total of three currently erected in Hampton Roads. They join the trail marker adjacent to the Old Nansemond County Courthouse in downtown Suffolk, dedicated on December 3, 2020.⁷ Potential future trail marker locations in the area include Historic Somerton and the Fort Monroe National Monument.

About the author

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

¹ Auguste Levasseur (author), Alan R. Hoffman (translator), *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825: Journal of a Voyage to the United States* (Manchester, New Hampshire: Lafayette Press, 2006), p. 216.

² Scott Mall, “FreightWaves Classics: The Port of Virginia – America’s first port,” <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/freightwaves-classics-the-port-of-virginia-americas-first-port>, accessed March 4, 2022.

³ Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, “Naval Station Norfolk,” https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns_norfolk.html, accessed March 4, 2022.

⁴ Levasseur/Hoffman, p.216.

⁵ USS *North Carolina* was commissioned on June 24, 1864, about four months before Lafayette’s visit. *Dictionary of American Navy Fighting Ships*, DANFS Online: Ships of the Line, *North Carolina*, https://www.hazegray.org/danfs/line/nor_car.htm, accessed March 4, 2022.

⁶ Naval Sea Systems Command, “Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA,” <https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/Shipyards/Norfolk/>, accessed March 4, 2022.

⁷ Frank Womble, “Lafayette Trail Marker Commemorates Visit to Suffolk, Virginia,” *Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*, No. 94, May 2021, pp. 86-91.

Lexington, Kentucky Honors Lafayette

by Dale Henley

I am pleased to report that Lexington has designated May 16, 2022 as "Marquis de Lafayette Day" in Fayette County, Kentucky. In the photo below, as President of the Lafayette Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution in Lexington, I am pictured (front left) receiving a Proclamation from the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government. The Proclamation not only honors Lafayette as namesake of the county, which was the first county so named for him, but also commemorates Lafayette's visit to Lexington on May 16, 1825, during his tour of 1824-1825 of all twenty-four of the United States.



While the Proclamation declares May 16, 2022 Marquis de Lafayette Day in Fayette County, my goal is to make it a legal requirement that the Mayor declare Lafayette Day every year on May 16. If this is accomplished, Lexington (Fayette County) would become the fifth American jurisdiction to codify an annual Lafayette Day commemoration, joining Massachusetts (May 20), New Hampshire (May 20), Virginia (March 14), and Georgia (September 6).



Lexington's Proclamation – May 16, 2022 is Marquis de Lafayette Day.

Editor's Note

On Friday, April 28, 1780, Lafayette docked in Boston on the *Hermione* with information that the French Expeditionary Force and a naval squadron would be sailing to America to support the American cause. On May 10, 1780, he arrived at the American encampment in Morristown, New Jersey and imparted this important news directly to Washington. When the news spread, it heartened and energized Patriots. On June 30, 1780, the Virginia legislature passed a statute dividing the Kentucky territory into three counties, “Jefferson” after its Governor, “Lincoln” after General Benjamin Lincoln, and “Fayette.” Fayette County is coterminous with the city of Lexington.

Veteran's Day 2021

by Chuck Schwam



AFL member Kim Claytor once again represented the American Friends of Lafayette superbly at the Veteran's Day event in Williamsburg, Virginia. Kim is posing above with AFL member Mark Schneider as Lafayette in front of the Governor's Mansion. Mark Schneider is an Army Veteran having served as a Cavalry Scout in the Bosnian War.



Lafayette Sighting at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk

by Lyndsi Wolf

Hello Friends!

Firstly, I should introduce myself. I'm Lyndsi Wolf, a new-ish member to the AFL. While scouring for more tidbits of information on *Hamilton*, that wild, historic musical that swept the nation back in 2015, I found this group and stumbled into a nest of Lafayette facts and BAM! Like most of you, I was dazzled.

It's been nearly a year since I've joined the American Friends of Lafayette, and this is my first official Lafayette sighting submission. It seemed that once I joined, I started seeing Lafayette everywhere! From dog parks, to avenues, to bars, America's favorite fighting Frenchman has left his mark all over Virginia. My enthusiasm has bled over to my five-year-old son, and he, too, squeals excitedly when our hero is spotted.

One cold, rainy afternoon, we took a trip to the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk. We made quite the ruckus in those quiet halls when we stumbled upon a magnificent table and chair set created during Lafayette's Farewell Tour.



The signage revealed the following:

In the manner of John and Hugh Finlay
American, 1777-1851 and 1781-1830
Pedestal Side Table and Pair of Klismos Side Chairs with Lafayette Portraits,
Baltimore Maryland, ca.1824
Wood, paint and iron
Gifts of Dr. and Mrs. C. Fredric Fluhmann

Known as the "Hero of Two Worlds," the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was a leader of both the American and French Revolutions. During his 1824 tour of the United States, Norfolk and other cities welcomed him with pageants and parades. This table and chairs, decorated with gilded classical designs and portraits of Lafayette, were probably commissioned for a banquet held in the general's honor in Baltimore in October 1824. Like George Washington and the American eagle, Lafayette's image was popular patriotic decoration for bottles, ceramics, and many everyday objects.

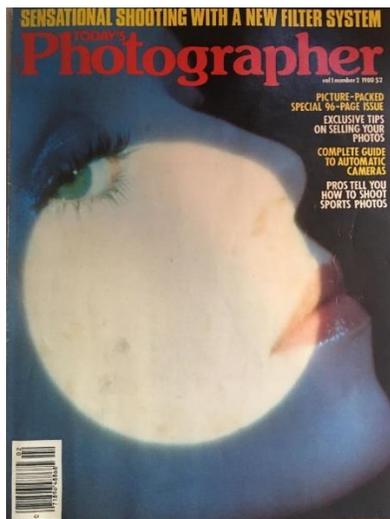


Lafayette Sighting in the Massachusetts Senate Chamber

by Alan R. Hoffman

In 1979, 23 years before I “came to” Lafayette, I attended the swearing in of a friend, William T. Hogan, Jr. as Commissioner of Correction of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I had met Bill in the early 70s when he served as Chief Probation Officer and I served as an Assistant United States Attorney. Many lawyers – prosecutors, former prosecutors like me, and defense counsel – attended the event, as Bill was a consummate straight-shooter and professional and was well-liked and respected by all.

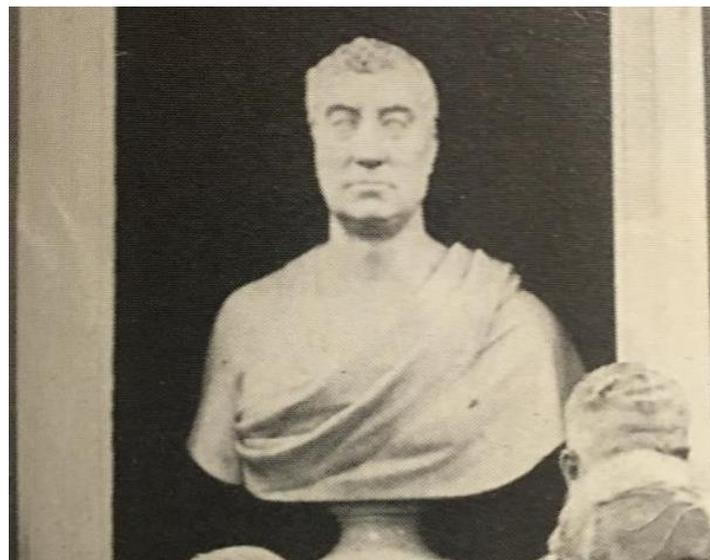
In 1980, I received a call from a former colleague who said: “Alan, did you know you were in *Today’s Photographer*? I replied, “Was I dressed?” He laughed and said, “Come on; it’s a really neat picture.” I asked him to send the magazine to me, and he did.



The photograph, with the title “The Senate Chamber” shows a number of men at the back of the Chamber conversing prior to the swearing-in ceremony. There I am in the center of the photo interacting with another attorney. We are bookended by two “Roman” busts.

I contacted the photographer, Eric Roth, who worked for Boston newspapers and a tv station, and purchased a 16” by 10” print. After I had it framed, I hung it in my office behind my desk.

In 2016, my daughter and her husband, who is a history buff, were visiting our home in New Hampshire for Thanksgiving. During their visit, they toured historic sites in Boston including the Massachusetts State House. Having taken a State House tour, they came to my office. While standing in front of my desk, Elena spied the photograph and exclaimed, “Dad, there’s Lafayette!” I turned and looked and sure enough there was Lafayette: the toga-clad bust on the left side of the photograph. The old boy had stood in plain sight behind me for over 35 years, and I never knew it!



Lafayette bust sculpted by Horatio Greenough

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

Letters to the *Gazette*

Another wonderful issue. I did take a few minutes – about a half hour – this morning to just “glance” through the *Gazette*. I’m going to have to reserve the whole weekend to read it!
- Bruce Mowday

Thank you! I do enjoy reading the *Gazette* N° 95. Indeed, its perusal takes time and I have not finished it yet. - Pierre Antoine de Chambrun

I'm very impressed with the latest edition of the *Gazette*! Well done to you and your cohorts! I've already skimmed through its entirety over two cups of coffee. The features on our recent ceremonies in Yorktown, including those at the French Cemetery and French Memorial, are well-timed and an important reminder as we observe Veterans Day. - Paul Larson

I'm writing to thank you for another impressive edition of the *Gazette* of the American Friends of Lafayette. As always, the *Gazette* conveys the remarkable vitality of the “Friends,” provides interesting information about Lafayette and Lafayette-related activities and offers updates on numerous subjects. - Lloyd Kramer

Thanks so much for *Gazette* #95. I just spent more than an hour going through it and reading what struck my interest. It is indeed most likely the best of all the issues!! John Becica's biographical article was especially enlightening and answers questions. Great pictures, too— makes it so lively. Good to get introductions about new members. - Biruta Cap

The AFL *Gazette* is so awesome now it takes me days to read through each one! And I save every one of them! Everyone involved in its publication deserves high praise for such excellent and interesting articles and great photos! The *Gazettes* are wonderful treats! - Gayle Randol

I enjoyed reading my first *Gazette*! Very impressed with the obvious effort you've put into this. - Stephanie Green

Thank you so much for the *Gazette*. It is astounding how much material you publish in it and with such marvelous variety and quality. - Rev. Bennett Wethered

This was the best *Gazette* ever!! I Simply loved seeing the portraits of all the female ancestors of Lafayette. - Anne McCauley

What an amazing layout of the *Gazette*! We got a chuckle out of the cake hand off! Thank you for the days and hours spent putting the *Gazette* together which resulted in a beautiful edition! - Claire Ravosa



THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

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



The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

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Two AFL members, Susan Leidy and Adam Hoffman, noticed the recent addition of an adhesive bandage on the arm of Bartholdi's "Lafayette" in Union Square, Manhattan. The statue was a gift of the City of Paris in recognition of the aid provided by New Yorkers to Parisians during the Franco-Prussian War. Inoculation for smallpox was used widely to keep the Continental Army fit for duty. Lafayette's response to the current pandemic shows an appreciation of this little known but important fact of our revolutionary history!