

# The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

No. 97 Part II

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American Friends of Lafayette members pose in front of a replica of Houdin's statue of George Washington at the American Revolution Museum during Yorktown Week 2022.

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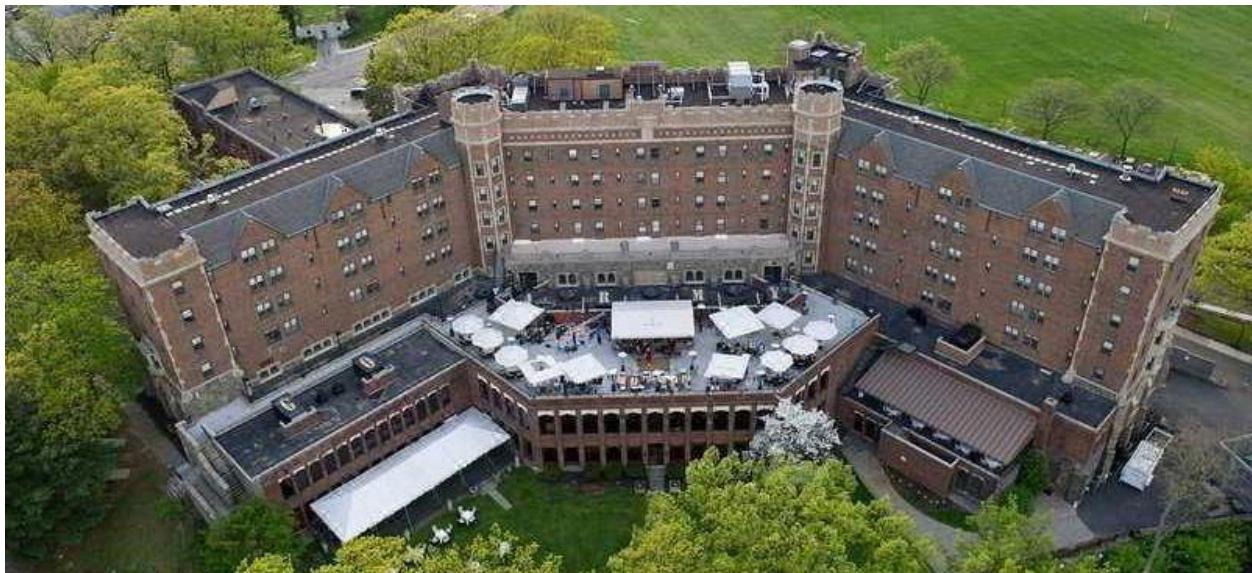
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# AFL Annual Meeting at West Point

by Chuck Schwam



*The AFL enjoyed touring the lovely and historic United States Military Academy at West Point.*



*The historic Thayer Hotel was the official hotel of the AFL Annual Meeting.*



*AFL members enjoy dinner at The '76 House, one of America's oldest taverns.  
Built in 1668, The '76 House had a profound effect on the outcome of The Revolutionary War.  
Through its long use as a meeting place for patriots, The Old '76 House established  
itself as safe ground for Americans when the air was rife with revolution and the tavern  
itself served as the "prison" of the Revolution's most notorious spy, Major John Andre.*



Lea Gryk (L) and Sallie de Barcza (R)



Dr. Iris de Rode



*The annual banquet of the American Friends of Lafayette at which Diane Shaw spoke about Adrienne*



*AFL member Anne Putko presents AFL COO Chuck Schwam with a proclamation announcing that June 11, 2022 will be Lafayette Day in Orangetown, New York.*



*The West Point Museum made arrangements to have this shelf clock on display for the AFL. It has been in the Superintendent's house since Lafayette gave it to the Corps of Cadets during the Farewell Tour; it was made by Aaron Willard.*



*Alessandra (L) and Saorla (R) Rafferty  
enjoying time with General Rochambeau  
at the Odell House*



*Joe Kowalski (L) and Chuck Schwam (R)  
on the Hudson River cruise*



*The American Friends of Lafayette (with “Flat Lafayette”) enjoy boating on the Hudson River.*

## Lafayette Bust Raises \$525 for American Friends of Lafayette

by Hank Parfitt

During the annual meeting at West Point, the drawing for a bust of Lafayette raised \$525 for the American Friends of Lafayette. Many attendees donated \$10 and \$20 to enter the drawing. AFL member Patti Maclay, who herself had purchased one of the busts last year, was recruited to help with the drawing. Patti was a dynamo and an energetic, cheerful saleslady no one could refuse. Excited anticipation filled the air from the opening reception on Thursday until the drawing at the business meeting on Saturday.

The 12"- tall bust was commissioned in 2016 by the mayor of Fayetteville, North Carolina. His intention was to use the bust to honor exemplary leadership. However, the program was discontinued when a new mayor was elected. The busts then became available for the Lafayette Society to sell, and they have enjoyed rising popularity over the years, partly because they are priced at just \$90.



*Deedy Jensen and Charles Allen Cleghorn with the bust she won in 2017*

In 2017, the AFL presented a bust to the Governor of Virginia when members toured the Capitol and executive mansion in Richmond. The bust also appeared that year at the AFL's annual meeting at Lafayette College, the first time that a drawing was held. It proved to be a highly prized item, raising over \$300. The winner was Deedy Jensen. Kathleen and Hylton Phillips-Page were the winners at Annapolis the following year. The raffle was on hiatus in 2019 and during the COVID years.

The tradition resumed in 2022. Members and guests at West Point were in high spirits as Patti buzzed from one table to the next, taking in donations and tearing off ticket stubs. The big moment came at the Saturday morning business meeting when two of the newest AFL members were asked to come forward and draw a winning ticket. Elizabeth and Bruce Walker from Santa Maria, California drew the ticket stub of Bill Ingram, whose son is AFL member and chair of the Lafayette Alliance Richard Ingram in LaGrange, Georgia.



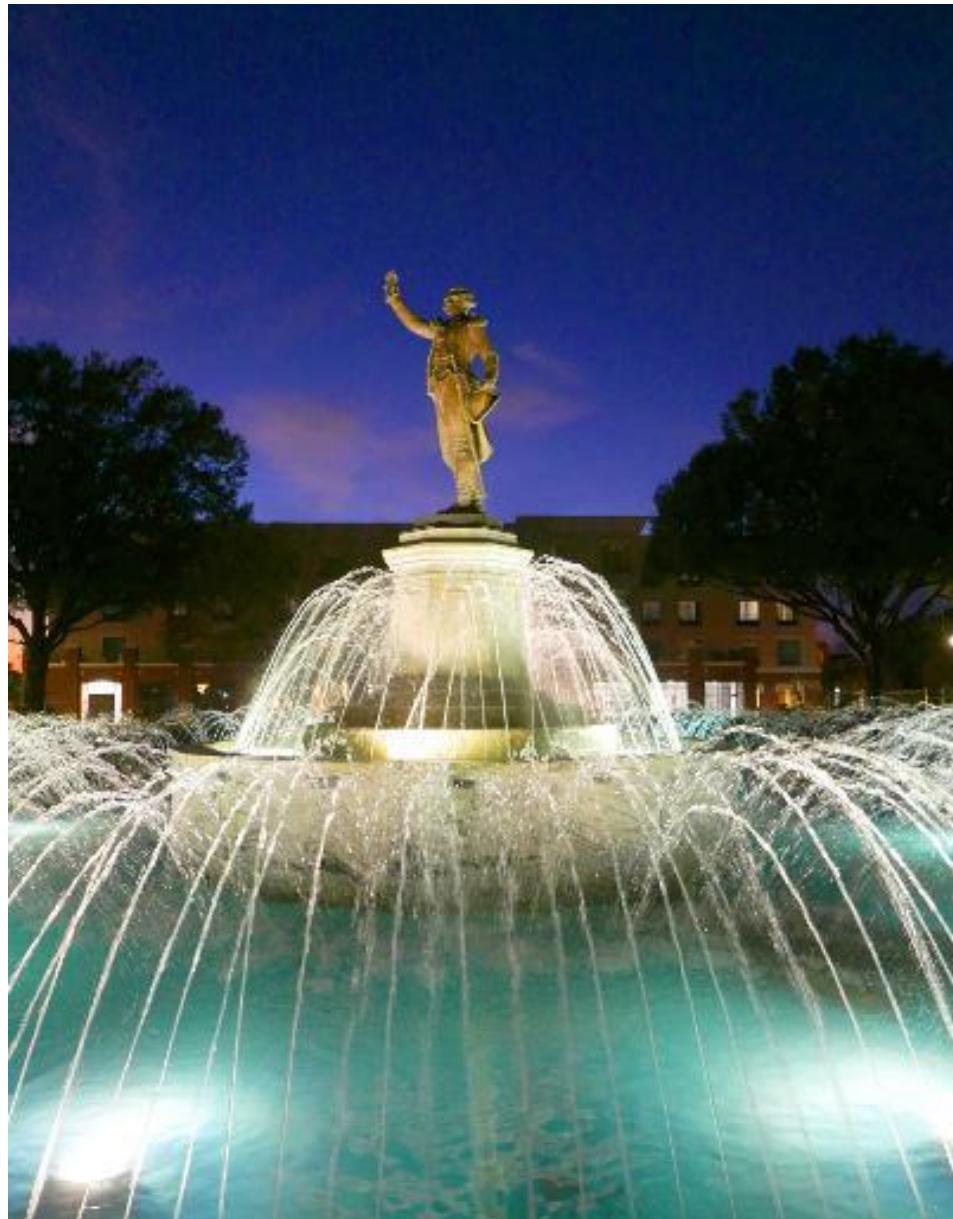
*Patti Maclay, Bill Ingram, and Elizabeth and Bruce Walker*

Richard said that his dad was a farm boy from Mississippi, who joined the US Army straight out of high school towards the end of WWII. Bill transferred to the Air Force and, after retiring from the service, joined the management team at World Book Encyclopedia. He will celebrate his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in October and says the AFL meetings are the highlight of his year. Everyone who entered the drawing felt like a winner – besides adding \$525 to the AFL's bank account, the bust went to a WWII veteran at a meeting on the campus of the US Military Academy. *Perfect!*

Anyone who wants their very own Lafayette bust for the fireplace mantle or home library, without waiting for Lady Luck to smile on them, can order one from the Lafayette Society now. Just email [hankparfitt@gmail.com](mailto:hankparfitt@gmail.com) for instructions on how to order one.

# Mark Your Calendars, AFL Members

by Richard Ingram



*photo by Dr. John Lawrence*

Mark your calendars!

The Annual Meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette will be Thursday to Sunday, June 8-11, 2023, at LaGrange, Georgia.

On the Georgia leg of his Farewell Tour, March 31, 1825, Lafayette crossed the Chattahoochee River to Fort Mitchell, Alabama. Colonel Julius Caesar Alford, whose home was where Smith Hall now stands on the campus of LaGrange College, is said to have overheard Lafayette saying the view reminded him of his own home outside Paris, *Château de LaGrange*. Alford suggested that his hometown name itself “LaGrange,” in honor of Lafayette. So it was: Troup County, named for Governor George Troup, who accompanied Lafayette across Georgia, was incorporated in 1826; the county seat, LaGrange, was incorporated in 1828.

Waight Henry, President of LaGrange College for thirty years and a Lafayette scholar, came up with the idea of erecting a statue of Lafayette as a focal point in the center of town, where the courthouse, long burned down, used to be. The town backed the project. In 1976, the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence, an exact cast iron copy of the statue at Le Puy-en-Velay, near Lafayette’s birthplace at Chavaniac, was dedicated at town square, now “Lafayette Square.” LaGrange College owns it, but the city has it on loan in perpetuity.

There you have it. LaGrange, Georgia, resonates Lafayette. This will be the place that will host the AFL in 2023. We are in west central Georgia, an hour and a half from downtown Atlanta, an hour, tops, from the busiest airport in the world, and fortunately one of the most efficient.

Let me give you an overview of what you have in store.

The Marriott Courtyard, on the square and facing the statue, will be our anchor hotel. It is within walking distance of coffee shops, ice cream parlors, and restaurants, and within easy reach of displays at the Archives, Cochran Gallery, and LaGrange Art Museum. Manager Sandy Lee is committed to making your stay memorable. The parking deck is at the hotel, and free.

You will see the very place where Lafayette crossed the Chattahoochee. We will have lunch at Fort Mitchell where Native Americans entertained Lafayette with a game of rough-and-tumble stickball, and where, later, the Trail of Tears began.

You will spend time with Lafayette’s family and friends, and antagonists. Thursday evening Henriette, Duchesse d’Ayen, and her husband, the Duc d’Ayen, will be on hand. You will meet Vercingetorix, Lafayette’s boyhood hero, and Lafayette’s two best friends growing up, Vicomte de Noailles and Comte de Segur. Louis Reichenthal Gottschalk and Stanley Idzerda, two great Lafayette scholars, will tee off the evening with “Dueling Scholars,” explaining their differing views of Lafayette’s motivation in coming to America.

Friday you will hear about Lafayette’s abolitionist works; about how his plans to come to America were nearly scuttled; and you will see a cast that includes Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and James Lafayette. James Lafayette, who was enslaved and belonged to William Armistead, worked as a spy for Lafayette during the Virginia Campaign and the Siege of Yorktown.

Saturday will be our field trip to the Chattahoochee River and Fort Mitchell. That evening Adrienne herself will be on hand. Napoleon, ever mercurial and volcanic, has agreed to join us. Adrienne is thrilled to sign autographs; Napoleon just sticks his hand in his vest.

Sunday we will breakfast at Hills and Dales, a highlight for any visit to LaGrange.

Jamie Keating is an extraordinary chef. He is a former member of the United States Culinary Olympic Team. He is in charge of food and drink Thursday and Friday evenings; this will be a culinary experience, with perhaps even some original delights. The chefs at LaGrange College will be on their best performance Saturday evening.

Make no mistake. LaGrange is powering up. You will meet wonderful people. We are excited to host this event.

There you have it. The overview; to say nothing of the exhibits, the Lafayette Festival on the Square, and the Lafayette Trolley.

Saturday, before you head out to Fort Mitchell, we will take the group picture in front of the magnificent statue of General Lafayette.

While you are visiting Fort Mitchell, the Lafayette Trolley will follow a downtown ellipse and invite children and parents aboard to hear Lafayette, Adrienne, and others tell their stories. We intend that LaGrange should feel the buzz.

And Friday morning, first thing after breakfast, and definitely not to be missed: the AFL Annual Business Meeting, starring the celebrated Alan Hoffman and the legendary Chuck Schwam.

To repeat: AFL members, mark your calendars!

June 8-11, 2023.

LaGrange, Georgia.

We look forward to seeing you here.

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Dr. Richard Ingram is an AFL Member and Chair of the Lafayette Alliance based in LaGrange, Georgia.

## Dedication Ceremony of the Interpretive Marker for Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant

by Chuck Schwam

Hundreds gathered at Arlington National Cemetery to pay tribute to L'Enfant. In 1995, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Society of Le Souvenir Français co-signed an interpretive marker, located by the monument of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant. On June 14, 2022, on the 197<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, the marker was re-dedicated as a symbol of French American alliance and friendship.



Chuck Schwam is flanked by two presidents. On the left is AFL member and President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Thierry Chaunu. On the right is American Friends of Lafayette President, Alan Hoffman. The concrete structure on the far left is the tomb of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant. In the background, you can make out the Jefferson Memorial and United States Capitol.



*AFL leaders Chuck Schwam, Patti Maclay, and Alan Hoffman stand in front of the interpretive marker that is draped by the 18<sup>th</sup>-century French naval flag.*



*Ceremony speakers included the Honorable Winsome Sears, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia; Denise Doring VanBuren, President General, Daughters of the American Revolution; Thierry Chaunu, President, The American Society of Le Souvenir Français; and Richard Azzaro, Co-founder, The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Both Thierry Chaunu and Richard Azzaro are AFL members.*



*Many historical and Franco-American organizations presented wreaths.*



*The interpretive marker for Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

Pierre Charles L'Enfant was born in Paris on August 2, 1754. After studying architecture at the Royal Academy from 1771 until 1776, young Pierre Charles enlisted in the French Army with a commission of Lieutenant in the colonial troops. In 1777, at the age of 23, he volunteered to fight along the American Insurgents for the cause of Freedom. Like Lafayette, he offered his services to the Continental Congress at his own expense. He was commissioned as a captain in the Corps of Engineers, retroactively as of February 18, 1778. He served on General Washington's staff at Valley Forge and stayed attached to his service for the remainder of the American Revolution. L'Enfant was promoted by brevet to Major in the Corps of Engineers on May 2, 1783, in recognition of his service to the cause of American liberty and was honorably discharged when the Continental Army was disbanded in December 1783. After five years spent in America, L'Enfant sailed back to France to care for his aged father. While in Paris, L'Enfant designed the medal of the Society of Cincinnati at the behest of George Washington.

Upon returning for good to his new adopted country, L'Enfant achieved fame as an architect by redesigning the City Hall in New York for the First Congress of the United States, renamed Federal Hall. L'Enfant also designed the altar, called "Glory," at St Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church in Wall Street. In 1791, President Washington appointed L'Enfant to plan the new "Federal City." He arrived in Georgetown on March 9, 1791. In just six months, he surveyed the landscape, selected the major sites, and drew streets, avenues, circles, squares, even a canal, in a district composed of hills, forests, marshes, and plantations.

L'Enfant died on June 14, 1825. Upon his death, he was buried unceremoniously at a friend's garden, at the foot of a tree. Some eighty years later, L'Enfant's adopted nation recognized his contributions, and L'Enfant's remains were exhumed from their burial site at Green Hill farm and placed in a metal-lined casket. He lay in state under the Great Dome of the Capitol on April 28, 1909. The hearse, wrapped in the three colors of France and America, was accompanied to Arlington by the French naval and military attachés, and an escort from one of those regiments of engineers to which the major himself had belonged. L'Enfant was re-interred in front of Arlington House in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, in the presence of President William Howard Taft; representatives of Congress, the Supreme Court, the Society of the Cincinnati, and other patriotic and artistic societies; and a vast crowd. In 1911, a monument was placed on top of L'Enfant's grave during a dedication ceremony which was attended by President William Howard Taft, French Ambassador Jean-Jules Jusserand, and 350 dignitaries.



*AFL members showed up in force!!!*

## Picpus Honor: An American in Paris

by Susan Joy Minker

When I was asked on Mother's Day 2022 to lay the AFL wreath at Lafayette's grave, tears came to my eyes. My mother and I always spoke of visiting Picpus to lay flowers and American soil on his gravesite, but never did I imagine attending the formal ceremony, let alone having such an honor bestowed on me. Paris has always been a favorite city of mine, and now it holds an even more special place in my heart.



*Susan at Lafayette's grave, Picpus Cemetery*

My husband, Marc Minker, and I visited Picpus on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the day before the formal ceremony, with fellow AFL member Augie Huber. It was so moving to finally be near Gilbert and Adrienne, along with the souls in the mass grave that holds Adrienne's mother, grandmother,

and sister. We shared a moment of silent prayer thanking them for their bravery and support, sang our national anthem, and listened to *La Marseillaise* play on our iPhone. I placed a container of American soil from our summer home in Woodbury, Connecticut on Lafayette's grave as is a tradition since he wanted to be buried in American soil, especially from Bunker Hill. We purchased this home last year; it dates back to 1733 and is on the Washington-Rochambeau trail so this is about as good as it gets! (Thankfully, the soil went undetected by TSA and customs agents while hidden in my checked bag through the United Kingdom, Portugal, and then France!) Unfortunately, the formal ceremony has not been scheduled to coincide with our day of Independence for several years, but this gave us a chance to have a more intimate gathering with new and old friends.

To immerse ourselves fully in the French support of our American cause, we chose to spend the first part of July 4<sup>th</sup> with an historian and guide, Thierry, who is now a member of AFL too. He took us around all areas of Paris that hold significance to our American liberty; Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin, along with George Washington and Lafayette are honored throughout the city of Paris, likely going unnoticed even by most American tourists. However, thanks to Lin-Manuel Miranda, this all is changing! We visited streets named after our heroes, statues erected in their honor, and parks where Americans living in Paris celebrate Independence Day. (A nod to my new friend Katherine de Meaux, Mayor of the 16<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement, who invited us to attend the party next year!)

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, I also had the incredible honor of reading a tribute written for the occasion by Stephanie Dray, AFL member and the author of *The Women of Chateau Lafayette*. (My new favorite book and a “must read” for all!) As the AFL has declared 2022 “The Year of Adrienne,” it was especially important for me to say in the spirit of Pershing: “Adrienne, we are here for you, too!” She has spent too much time in the shadow of her esteemed husband, so in my humble opinion, she should be honored too. Oh, the extremely valuable royal connections she shared through her tireless support for the American cause and the sacrifices she made should never be forgotten. After all, her ultimate sacrifice was her own life, only to die too young, probably from an illness contracted during her imprisonment with Lafayette and her daughters in Austria. His release was denied despite her connections, and she could not bear to be apart from him. She chose to be buried near her family killed during the Reign of Terror, and thankfully many years later, so did her husband. Picpus, we are here and will return as often as our lives allow.

The next day, July 5<sup>th</sup>, we returned to Picpus for the formal ceremony. Since I had not attended the ceremony in prior years, I was thankful to have our former wreath layer, Augie Huber and our dear Miriam Wazé to show me the ropes. Dignitaries, including the Mayor of Paris and our US Ambassador in Paris, Denise Bauer, members of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, and many more adults and children were in attendance. Yes, clearance is necessary to attend, but AFL members are all welcome! The gathering included a procession from the chapel to the gravesite, several beautiful speeches in both French and English, a replacement of the American Flag that has always flown above the grave even during Nazi occupation, and of course the placement of several wreaths including ours on the grave. Yes, my Connecticut soil was still there, lying in plain sight and then tucked under the wreaths laid one by one. I could not have been happier. It was amazing to be a part of it all. Thank you, Chuck Schwam, Alan Hoffman, and AFL leadership for this honor! I hope I made you proud.



*Susan laying the AFL Wreath*



*Susan with US Ambassador Denise Bauer*

Finally, I was able to meet my “cousin” Gilbert La Fayette, Lafayette’s direct descendent, who was also in attendance at the ceremony. I introduced myself and told him of our family history and connection. I proudly wear the Delavergne family crest that has been part of my family since even before the arrival of Nicolas Delavergne in New York in 1710. Gilbert was so generous and affable and offered me a pin given to him by the Sons of the Revolution right off his lapel! I, in turn, gave him the AFL silk scarf I wore during the ceremony as a token to remember me by. We promised to keep in touch and reunite next year at Picpus. Spoiler alert: We are planning lunch at *Le Procope* after the ceremony next year. All welcome!



*AFL member Miriam Wazé (5<sup>th</sup> from left), “cousins” Gilbert and Susan (holding Lafayette Trail scarf), AFL member Augie Huber (far right), and others at Picpus ceremony, July 5, 2022*

There are but few moments that will make a true impression in our lives: the birth of a child, sadly the death of a loved one, and the joy of a marriage. I must say this is a day, too, that I will never forget.

# Henry Knox Birthday Celebration

by Chuck Schwam

On Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 10:30am, the annual memorial service for Henry Knox took place at the Thomaston Village Cemetery in Thomaston, Maine. AFL President Alan Hoffman and AFL COO Chuck Schwam laid a wreath in General Knox's honor. They were joined by AFL Secretary Bonnie Fritz for this important ceremony commemorating the first United States Secretary of War (and our country's first artillery general).

Immediately following the memorial service, a celebration of General Knox's birthday took place at The General Henry Knox Museum. The museum is in the reconstructed home of Henry Knox known as *Montpelier*. It was there that we were greeted by Museum Director (and new AFL member) Lee Heffner. Director Heffner was a very gracious and enthusiastic host.

Birthday guests enjoyed music played by the Sean Fleming Band, burgers, hot dogs, and birthday cake. Alan Hoffman presented a lecture *en pleine aire* on the relationship between Lafayette and Knox. Both Alan's speech and Chuck's pep talk on our Farewell Tour Bicentennial plans were very well received. Tours of magnificent Montpelier were given throughout the day. It was a lovely way to spend a beautiful day in Maine.



General Henry Knox Gravesite



*Chuck Schwam (L) and Alan Hoffman (R)  
in front of Henry Knox's gravesite*



*The Henry Knox Museum*



*General Knox's Birthday Cake*



*Bonnie Fritz spots a portrait of Lafayette in Henry  
Knox's bedroom right next to a gentleman's  
traveling kit that Lafayette gave Knox.*

# Bringing the Lafayette Story to a Wider Audience: AFL's Display Panels Make a Resounding Debut

by Graham Brent

The Lafayette Panels made their debut recently and what a debut it was! The six freshly minted panels – each depicting key elements of Lafayette’s life and legacy – made their way, courtesy of AFL Vice President Robert Kelly and his wife Katherine, to Philadelphia along much of the route Lafayette himself would have taken 245 years earlier, although rather more swiftly and in considerably greater comfort!

The first four panels highlight key aspects of Lafayette’s contribution to the American Revolution beginning with his audacious arrival on the shores of South Carolina in 1777, through his early deployment at Brandywine and Valley Forge, to his tenacious appeals to the French Crown to secure vital and tangible support for the cause, leading to the Virginia Campaign and the final victory at Yorktown in 1781. Two final panels focus, respectively, on Lafayette’s triumphant return to the United States in 1824/1825, and his enduring legacy in the areas of civil rights, emancipation, and press and religious freedom.

Given the initial reception he received that hot evening in July 1777, I am sure Lafayette was smiling wryly down upon events as the panels were unloaded just a few blocks from where he and his compatriots had been summarily “shown the door” at – where else? – the Museum of the American Revolution! Could there have been a more appropriate venue for this display to make its first public appearance?

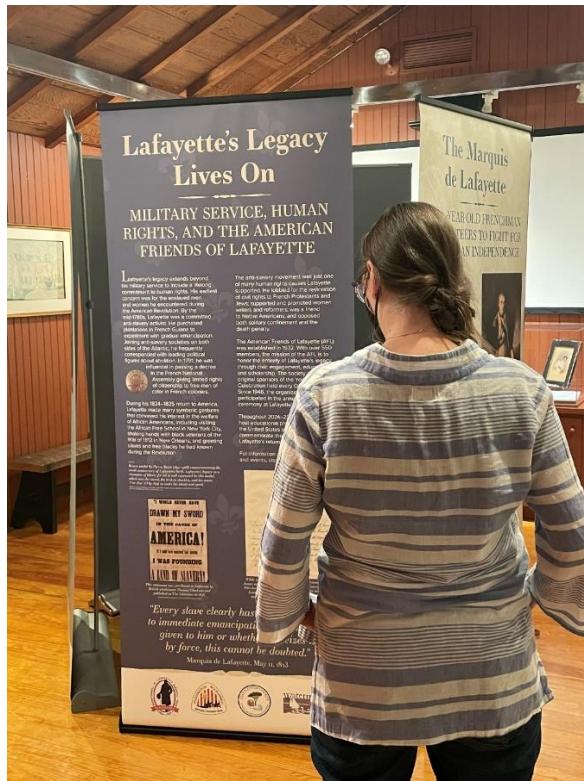


*AFL members were in attendance for all three days of Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution Labor Day French-themed weekend where the AFL's brand-new exhibit provided information to hundreds of visitors on the General's extraordinary contribution to America's struggle for independence and his enduring legacy.*

Needless to say, the panels were an immediate hit. Positioned prominently in the entrance hall of the Museum, they were an instant draw for the thousands of visitors who came over the Labor Day weekend with its specially developed – and highly appropriate – French-themed programming.

Hardly had dust settled on that exhibit, however, than the panels were packed up and transported by AFL member Bruce Mowday to the Brandywine Battlefield where, prominently displayed in the AFL tent, they were again the focus of attention for many of the 5,000 Revolutionary War history enthusiasts attending the quinquennial re-enactment of the Revolutionary War's largest land battle (September 11, 1777).

Not to be outdone, Virginia's own American Revolution Museum also hosted the panels as part of the Yorktown Day festivities on October 18 . . . but not before they had done a two-week stint at Cliveden in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, as part of its programing for the 245<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last battle to be fought prior to Washington's relocation to Valley Forge for the 1777/78 winter, the Battle of Germantown.



*Directly after Brandywine, the panels went to Cliveden, the Chew family home which served as the famous refuge for British troops during the Battle of Germantown.*

Since October 20, the six-panel display has formed a central part of the Revolutionary War section of the Gloucester Museum of History in Gloucester, Virginia, a residency that is likely to continue into late fall. With all the attention they've been getting, and the highly positive visitor response, it surely cannot be long before additional sets of these fine interpretative panels are made available.



*The panels formed a central part of the Revolutionary War section of the Gloucester Museum of History in Gloucester, Virginia.*

### Lafayette Panels Multi-State Tour

On their very first tour, the Lafayette Panels have played to “packed houses” in:

Philadelphia	September 3 - 5
Brandywine (Birmingham Township)	September 24 - 25
Germantown (Philadelphia)	September 28 - October 17
Yorktown	October 18
Gloucester	October 19 - TBD

### Lafayette Panels by the Numbers

6 Panels at 5 Venues in 2 States over 7 Weeks

### About the Author

Graham Brent is a Life Member of the American Friends of Lafayette and currently serves as the Chair of the Philadelphia Bicentennial Committee. The discovery five years ago that he had moved to within one mile of Lafayette (aka Barren) Hill, Pennsylvania capped four decades of subtle “encounters” with Lafayette, and it led Graham to seek a greater knowledge and understanding of this remarkable life and legacy of which he is now an unabashed and wildly enthusiastic advocate.

## Lafayette and American Friends of Lafayette Featured During 245<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event of Battle of Brandywine

by Bruce Mowday

**SANDY HALLOW** \_ Lafayette and officials of the American Friends of Lafayette were featured during the two-day celebration of the 245<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine.

The event included 800 American Revolution re-enactors and was one of the largest re-enactments during 2022. The event was held on a portion of the battlefield, Sandy Hallow, in Birmingham Township, Pennsylvania. More than 10,000 spectators watched the soldiers, observed camp life activities, and mingled with Lafayette, George Washington, and Alexander Hamilton. Dan Shippey portrayed General Washington and AFL member Gene Pisasale portrayed Hamilton.



*Spectators at the re-enactment of the Battle of Brandywine*

At the opening ceremonies on Saturday, September 24, 2022, Lafayette, portrayed by Ben Goldman, AFL President Alan R. Hoffman, and AFL Chief Operating Officer Chuck Schwam were introduced by AFL member Bruce E. Mowday, author of the book *Lafayette at Brandywine: The Making of an American Hero*.



*General Lafayette (Ben Goldman) and General Washington (Dan Shippey) train new recruits at the 245<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine.*

During the two days, AFL representatives shared a tent with Lafayette while greeting members of the public, distributing AFL literature, and informing visitors of the upcoming Lafayette Bicentennial celebration. The new Lafayette traveling panels, highlighting Lafayette's life and accomplishments, were displayed and read by many members of the public.



*Chuck Schwam and General Lafayette (Ben Goldman)*



*Marilyn and Alan Hoffman and grandson Miles with General Lafayette*

# Yorktown Victory Celebration

by Chuck Schwam

October 19, 2022 marked the 241<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the victory in Yorktown. Over 70 AFL members gathered to celebrate the Franco-American triumph that was the beginning of the end for the British Army in America. We celebrated, commemorated, and educated everyone that would listen regarding our hero Lafayette.



Patti Maclay, Alan Hoffman, Chuck Schwam, and Frank Womble enjoy a light moment in front of the AFL's traveling exhibit at the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown where the annual Victory Dinner took place on October 18.



*Emcee Chuck Schwam watches Richard Santander, representing the American Friends of Lafayette, lay a wreath at the French Cemetery on the morning of October 19.*



*French Military personnel prepare the French Memorial for the annual ceremony there. The French Memorial received a facelift in September with AFL members lending a hand with planting and cleanup. The ceremony here was an important part of Yorktown Victory Day.*



*AFL members march past the Hornsby House Inn during the annual Yorktown Victory Parade.*



*AFL members Lea Gryk and Bill Cole – on the dais in front of the Victory Monument – listen to emcee Susan Dewing from the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Yorktown.*



*Richard Santander and Chuck Schwam at the world-famous AFL cocktail party*



Over 75 folks enjoyed the annual world-famous AFL Cocktail Party at the Hornsby House Inn.



Chuck Schwam receives a framed portrait of Lafayette from the "Yorktown Friends" who came all the way from France to join the AFL in Yorktown. Their focus was to raise the necessary funds to repair the Hermione. The frame was handmade from wood pulled from the Hermione during the repair process. The Hermione Association still needs six million Euros to eradicate the outbreak of mold and rebuild the hull of the replica of this iconic 18<sup>th</sup>-century ship.

## AFL's Dr. Robert Selig Becomes a Chevalier of the *Ordre National du Mérite*

by Chuck Schwam

Earlier this year, Dr. Robert Selig received news from Philippe Étienne, Ambassador of France to the United States, informing him that on February 7, 2022, President Emmanuel Macron had signed a decree nominating him Chevalier of the *ordre national du Mérite*. The French National Order of Merit, founded on December 3, 1963 by President Charles de Gaulle, is awarded by the President of the French Republic independent of the nationality of the recipient for distinguished military or civil achievements. This honor is in recognition of his work on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, and he was given the insignia during at the French Memorial during the Yorktown Day festivities.



*Dr. Robert Selig*



*Nicole Yancey had the honor of giving Dr. Selig his medal.*



# A Day with Stuart Wells Jackson

by Chuck Schwam and Robert Kelly

Stuart Wells Jackson, an 1898 graduate of Yale University, lived in New Jersey and was the owner of a New York City insurance firm. He co-founded the American Friends of Lafayette in 1932 and served as Vice President. Jackson's interest in Lafayette traces back to his maternal grandfather, Hall Neilson, who owned a boat on the Ohio River and helped transport Lafayette to Louisville in 1825.

Jackson acquired a letter between Neilson and Lafayette and would ultimately collect over 400 Lafayette letters during his lifetime. Jackson donated his letters to Yale University and his collection of prints and engravings to Lafayette College. Jackson moved to Gloucester, Virginia when he retired in 1944. He served as President of the Gloucester County Public Library's Board of Trustees and was instrumental in modernizing and expanding the library.



*This portrait was presented to the Gloucester County Library on August 1, 1960,  
and is usually displayed in the Virginia Room. AFL members admired  
this portrait on loan at the Gloucester Museum of History.*

On October 20, 2022, AFL Vice President Robert Kelly conducted a special tour highlighting Stuart Wells Jackson in Gloucester. Robert Kelly is also the Museum Coordinator of the Gloucester Museum of History, so he had a wealth of information to share. We started at Abington Episcopal Church where we had a tour of the historic church and paid our respects to Stuart Wells Jackson who is buried in the graveyard.

Our tour wrapped up at the Gloucester Museum of History. We had a special tour of the 1770 tavern that now houses the museum, including artifacts related to Stuart Wells Jackson. The AFL's new traveling Lafayette exhibit was on display.



*AFL members gather around the grave of the co-founder of the American Friends of Lafayette  
Stuart Wells Jackson (1875-1957) as Robert Kelly discusses Jackson's legacy.*



*Earlier in the week, Robert Kelly and his father Bob had thoughtfully cleared  
the area around Jackson's grave that was overgrown with ivy.*



*AFL members also visited the retirement home of Stuart Wells Jackson in Gloucester. This lovely home, dubbed “Tara” by the Jackson family, sits right on the Ware River.*



*Robert Kelly and the AFL on the front lawn at Tara by the Ware River*



*Future AFL President, Lindsay Behan and her father Kevin pose in front of the Lafayette exhibit panels on display at the museum.*

## The American Friends of Lafayette Tour Yorktown

by Chuck Schwam

On Friday, October 21, 2022 AFL members were treated to a private tour of Yorktown by renowned historians Mark Schneider (Lafayette) and J. Michael Moore. One of the most interesting parts of the tour was looking over the York River on a bluff behind the Yorktown Beach Hotel. At that vantage point, AFL members were able to easily envision the naval battles that took place before and during the siege of Yorktown. J. Michael Moore did a splendid job explaining the naval action in a detailed and humorous fashion to AFL members.



*Mark Schneider (Lafayette) and J. Michael Moore*

Who better to explain the action in Redoubts #9 and #10 than Mark Schneider? Pictured below in redoubt #10, Mark did a wonderful job bringing to life the brutal fighting. Mark's ability to describe the events during the fall of 1781 as we walked the battlefield was a treat for everyone who attended.



AFL members in front of the "Lafayette Cannon" at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center

## Lafayette at the Rosewell Ruins

by Chuck Schwam

On October 22, 2022, the Rosewell Foundation and Gloucester Museum of History hosted “An Evening with Lafayette at the Ruins.” It was an unforgettable evening of education, fellowship, and generosity. All the proceeds from the event will benefit future educational programming at Rosewell and at the Gloucester Museum of History. 150 guests came to celebrate these two important historical institutions. There was great food, champagne, and none other than Mark Schneider as Lafayette to provide a very entertaining evening.



Rosewell Plantation in Gloucester County, Virginia, was the home of a branch of the Page family, one of the First Families of Virginia, for more than a hundred years. Begun in 1725, the Flemish bond brick Rosewell mansion overlooking the York River was one of the most elaborate homes in the American colonies. In 1916, a fire broke out and destroyed Rosewell mansion. Today, the house is a largely undisturbed historic ruin. The site has been the subject of archaeological work, which has revealed many artifacts and shed light on some aspects of colonial life and architecture that were previously unclear. In 1969, the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



*AFL member Lindsay Behan toasts the crowd as Kat Smith and Chuck Schwam look on.*



*George Bennett & Jenny Cote enjoy the evening.*



*Robert Kelly, AFL Vice President and Museum Coordinator of the Gloucester Museum of History, addresses the gathering.*



*Mark Schneider as Lafayette (third from right) gathers the militia.*

# AFL at the French Embassy and the Ambassador's Residence

by Chuck Schwam

On October 27, 2022, many members of the American Friends of Lafayette enjoyed a daytime event at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. and then an evening event at the Ambassador's residence a few miles away.



*The day was kicked off by a conference hosted by (L to R above) Dr. Doug Bradburn (Mount Vernon's President and CEO), Dr. Iris de Rode (AFL member and Historian), and Dr. Vincent Michelot (the French Embassy's Attaché for Higher Education).*



*The AFL was given the opportunity to display our Lafayette traveling exhibit in the lobby of the French Embassy. AFL members were able to promote our plans for the Farewell Tour Bicentennial to the 150 attendees.*

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*Patricia Etienne (the ambassador's wife) with Chuck Schwam (AFL COO) and Lafayette at the French Ambassador's Residence. Please take note that Ms. Etienne is wearing an AFL scarf.*



*AFL Vice President Robert Kelly and his wife Katherine Kelly in front of the French Ambassador's Residence*



*(L to R) Chuck Schwam, NPS Superintendent of the W3R Johnny Carawan, and Bonnie Fritz having fun at the reception to which the Ambassador had invited mayors from towns named for Lafayette*



*Lafayette (Ben Goldman) was the guest of honor.*

## Lafayette Trivia: Was de Grasse Really an Admiral?

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

On September 5, 2022, the 241<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes, aka Battle of the Virginia Capes or the Battle of the Chesapeake Bay, was celebrated at Cape Henry by the French Navy, the American Friends of Lafayette, and the Sons of the American Revolution.



*French Navy contingent at the 241<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes at Cape Henry.  
The statue of deGrasse was a gift from France to America on the occasion of its 1976 Bicentennial.*

*Photo by AFL member Patrick Kelly*

This engagement was one of the most critical naval battles in United States history. The battle lasted only two and a half hours and did not involve any Americans, but was a decisive factor that assured that the United States would win independence from Great Britain. The success of the French Royal Navy in gaining control of the Chesapeake Bay prevented Cornwallis from receiving reinforcements and helped ensure that Washington could use the Bay to transport troops and supplies to Yorktown. Tactically the battle was indecisive with both fleets withdrawing at nightfall, but strategically it was unquestionably a victory for the French Royal Navy and its Fleet Commander de Grasse. Historian Emil Reich calls the engagement the “British Naval Waterloo of Cape Henry.”



*Battle of the Virginia Capes, 5 September 1781, painted by Vladimir Zvegintzoff in 1962*

*Hampton Roads Naval Museum, Norfolk, Virginia*



*During the US Bicentennial the USPS issued these commemorative stamps honoring the victories at Virginia Capes and at Yorktown in 1781 (Scott # 1937 & 1938).*

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Following this naval engagement, Major General Lafayette's division, supplemented by 3,000 French soldiers whom de Grasse had placed under Lafayette's command, kept Cornwallis's forces penned in Yorktown until American-French forces could arrive to start the siege.

Every year on October 19, the American Friends of Lafayette celebrates the surrender of British Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis to American General George Washington and French Lieutenant General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, at Yorktown.

Two days after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Washington wrote to de Grasse acknowledging his role in the victory, "You will have observed that, whatever efforts are made by the land armies, the navy must have the casting vote in the present contest." Two years later, the Treaty of Peace was signed on September 3, 1783 ending the American Revolution and formally recognizing the United States as an independent nation.

The French Royal Navy commander François Joseph Paul, Marquis de Grasse is known today as Admiral de Grasse, a naval rank instituted eleven years later during the French Revolution in 1792.

**Question:** What was Admiral de Grasse's actual rank in the French Royal Navy during the time of King Louis XVI at the Battle of the Capes?

Few biographies of de Grasse are available in English. The one exception was the one published during World War II by naval historian Charles Lee Lewis, printed by the Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland. Lewis refers to the classic French naval work *Histoire de la marine française pendant la guerre de l'indépendance américaine* by Edouard Chevalier in 1877 to clarify de Grasse's rank. This work states that in reality de Grasse was a *chef d'escadre* and had received a provisional commission as *lieutenant général des Armées navales* on March 22, 1781.

With this being the rank equivalent to Washington, Rochambeau, and Cornwallis, how should we refer to de Grasse today? The common convention today is to call de Grasse "Admiral," and Washington, Rochambeau, and Cornwallis "Generals."

#### **Author's Note:**

AFL member Martin Boyer is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation grandson of French Royal Navy Captain Viscount de Turpin who commanded the 74-gun ship-of-line *Hercule* during the furious Battle of the Capes. Many of his crew were wounded or died, as memorialized on the engraved death toll bronze monument near de Grasse's statue at Cape Henry.



*Guest speaker French Rear Admiral Hilaire Duccellier and AFL Member Patrick Kelly  
at the 241<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes*



*AFL members Martin Boyer (center), 4<sup>th</sup> generation grandson of French Navy Captain Viscount de Turpin commander of the Hercule during the Battle of the Capes, with Lanny Patten (left) and Ernest Sutton (right)*

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## Lafayette Trivia

# The Hounds of Lafayette: The Rest of the Story

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

In the last issue of the *Gazette*, No. 96, “The Hounds of Lafayette” ended with George Washington successfully breeding a new breed of hound dog. The new breed was started by crossing the French *Grand Bleu de Gascogne* with Washington’s fastest hounds. This new bloodline was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1886 as a separate breed, the American Hound.

Lafayette wrote Washington on April 16, 1785 and again on May 13, 1785 that the hounds would be brought to him by the young John Quincy Adams returning to New York City from France at the end of the summer to attend Harvard. After waiting through the summer months for the hounds, Washington’s patience was wearing thin, as he had not yet heard from Adams. On August 22, 1785, he wrote to William Grayson, his former aide-de-camp in New York City to inquire about Adams and the hounds, “It would have been civil in the young Gentleman to drop me a line respecting the disposal of them.”



*French Grand Bleu de Gascogne Hound*

Washington’s interest in breeding a new hound blood line was more than the sporting interests of a gentleman horseman raising a fox on the hunt. Foxes, wolves, and stray dogs were a constant problem at Mount Vernon picking off Washington’s prize sheep “as steadily as some of redcoats had picked off my men in the early days of the Revolution.” He needed a new breed that was not only as fast as his hounds, but also had stamina and scenting ability. With difficulty,

Lafayette was able to find such a French breed, *Le Grand Bleu de Gascogne*. This large hound was famed for its scent and for finding a cold-trail up to three days old. This hound had stamina but was slow. Because the King and the nobility wanted their dogs fast, they preferred the English hounds. Once a common hunting breed, by the mid-1780s *Le Grand Bleu de Gascogne* could hardly be found except in Normandy.

Washington's interest in hounds contributed to his being appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. While not on a hunt with his hounds, Washington would walk his favorite hound every day after arriving in Philadelphia to attend the First Continental Congress in 1774. Just as Benjamin Franklin wore his Canadian fur hat in Paris to charm influential ladies, the physically imposing Washington walking his hound Sweet Lips also charmed the ladies. It was on these walks that he met Elizabeth Willing Powell, the wife of Samuel Powell, the mayor of Philadelphia, and one of most well-connected social figures in colonial Philadelphia. This acquaintance led Washington to be invited not only to the social events of the upper class but also to the Gloucester Hunt Club. When John Adams nominated Washington to be Commander of the Continental Army at Congress, he already had the full support of the majority of the upper-class delegates. In today's parlance, one would say that it all started with Washington's "chick magnet" Sweet Lips.



*Elizabeth Willing Powell by Joseph Wright ca. 1793*

**Question:** Was Washington's criticism of young Adams fair?

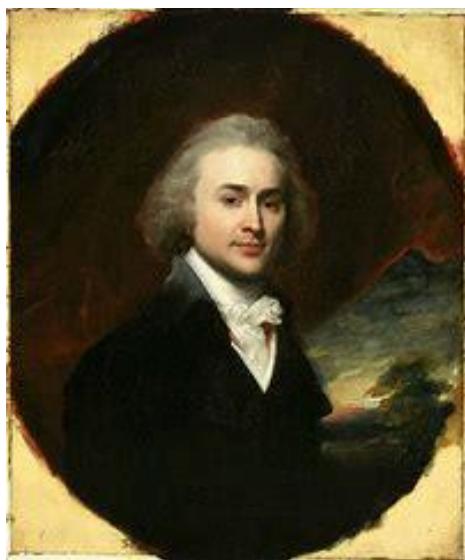
Historians of John Quincy Adams are fortunate in that he kept a dairy from the age of 10 to shortly before his death. His complete diary has been digitized by the Massachusetts Historical Society. In preparing for his sea voyage back to America to start Harvard at the age of 17 and during the voyage, he never mentions the seven hounds for Washington that had been entrusted to him by Lafayette. He does specially mention each letter that he had been requested to deliver by Lafayette and his father. Considering how large these hounds are and how loud seven of them can sound on a sea voyage not getting much exercise, it is surprising he didn't mention them in his diary.

On his May 18, 1785 departure from Le Havre, France, Adams did write his father, "If you see the marquis, you will inform him, that the dogs are on board, and shall be well kept, if my attention to them has any effect." A letter from Lafayette to the young Adams reminded him to see that the dogs are properly fed, and to deliver them to Dr. John Cochran in New York, who would send them on to Mt. Vernon.

Two days after Washington had written his plaintive letter to Grayson concerning where the hounds and the young Adams were, on August 24, 1785, all seven hounds arrived at Mount Vernon after a sea and land voyage of 99 days.

On August 9, 1785, Dr. Cochran, Washington's former Surgeon General, had written Washington that the hounds from Lafayette had arrived in New York and that he was arranging transport to Mount Vernon on the sloop *Dove* under the care of Captain Packard. Washington only received this letter on August 29, 1785 which was five days after the hounds arrived.

John Quincy Adams delivered the hounds as instructed by Lafayette to Dr. Cochran who then informed Washington. Our future sixth president may not have been the irresponsible 17-year-old college bound youth that Washington thought he was.



*John Quincy Adams at age 29 by John Copley in 1796  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

## Lafayette Masters Murfreesboro Mud

by Frank Womble and Kimberly Chappell



*The Washington Smith Ordinary*

Saturday, February 26, 1825

*"Pardonnez-moi s'il vous plaît, mon général.* We should leave soon. It is getting rather late and many miles still lie ahead of us." Lafayette's private secretary Auguste Levasseur was worried. The afternoon sun was dropping towards the horizon and backlighting ominous dark clouds to the southwest, directly in their line of travel. It was twenty miles to Murfreesboro, North Carolina, their overnight destination. One of the local men had warned Levasseur that the roads ahead were in poor condition due to several days of torrential rain. The trip would not be an easy one.

Levasseur realized it could be difficult to convince his employer to depart. The six months since their arrival in New York in August had featured elaborate welcomes in cities large and small. Lafayette had enjoyed every minute of it. He thrived on the enthusiastic crowds that

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turned out in large numbers everywhere he went. Americans yearned to see the man they knew as a hero and close friend of George Washington. As the last surviving major general from the American Revolution, he was a legendary figure who was intimately connected with the country's origin.

Lafayette's tour of the Southern states had gotten off to a pleasant start with a relaxing two-day steamboat trip down the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. He and his party had disembarked at Norfolk and continued to Suffolk, where they were welcomed with a parade and a sumptuous banquet.<sup>1</sup> When Lafayette departed the next morning en route to North Carolina, he was trailed by several carriages and gigs carrying men from Suffolk who were determined to continue celebrating the long-awaited arrival of the Nation's Guest.<sup>2</sup>

A three-man advance delegation from Murfreesboro – Dr. Lawrence O'Bryan, Lewis Cowper, and John Southall – met the group on the road west of Suffolk and accompanied them to Somerton,<sup>3</sup> where they sat down for an excellent mid-afternoon meal.<sup>4</sup> Washington Smith,<sup>5</sup> a veteran of the War of 1812, and his wife Mary ran the comfortable inn, or “ordinary,”<sup>6</sup> conveniently located on the main thoroughfare halfway between Suffolk and Murfreesboro. The Smiths had hosted many travelers over the years since inheriting the business from Washington’s father, but the arrival of Lafayette eclipsed all their previous experiences. They had followed the extensive newspaper accounts of his exuberant welcomes in the Northern cities, and were thrilled at the opportunity of hosting him. The unexpected addition of the Murfreesboro delegation and the Suffolk men had not fazed them. The small dinner they had planned for Lafayette turned into a joyous celebration.

Lafayette rose from his chair at the head of the table and reached for his cloak. “*Mes amis, je regrette...*” he began, but was immediately interrupted with cries of “No, don’t go!” and “Stay with us a bit longer!” He smiled and held up both hands for silence.

“This is been an extremely pleasant afternoon, and one that I am truly sorry to bring to a close. These few hours were much too brief a time to spend in such hospitable company at this fine inn. Monsieur and Madame Smith, please accept my sincere thanks for providing this sumptuous repast.” He bowed politely to Washington and Mary, who were standing at the doorway to the kitchen, beaming proudly. Enthusiastic applause and several shouts of “Hear! Hear!” from the attendees seconded Lafayette’s praise. “I was honored by your gracious welcome and all your kind attentions. But the Murfreesboro delegation awaits me, and Monsieur Levasseur has correctly noted the lateness of the hour and the distance that we must still travel today. Would that I could remain longer among the friends of liberty! I must bid you a fond and affectionate farewell.”

“Three cheers for General Lafayette!” The common room shook with a triple shout of “Hip hip, HUZZAH!” Lafayette bowed to the assemblage and took his leave.

Intermittent rain fell as they journeyed towards Murfreesboro. The slick road surface soon slowed progress from a trot to a walk as the coachmen struggled to keep the horses and carriage on the roadway and out of the ditches.

They stopped briefly at the state line only to discover that the official state party from Raleigh, also delayed by the poor road conditions, was not there to greet their distinguished visitor. The Murfreesboro men were nobody's fools. They had anticipated this problem and accounted for it in their plans. The North Carolinians were not about to let Virginians escort the Nation's Guest into their state, reserving that honor for themselves. Lafayette said his farewells to the Suffolk men, who seemed reluctant to depart and gave him yet another round of cheers before heading back towards Somerton. Lafayette transferred to Southall's carriage and they continued their slow journey.

"Monsieur Southall, I am concerned for the welfare of your horses. Pulling a heavy carriage in such inclement conditions is difficult for them," said Lafayette. He had both respect and genuine love for the animals, and had depended on horses for his very life during the Revolutionary War. "I certainly agree, General," Southall responded. "We will soon have them back home. I have an excellent stable there, and I assure you they will be well cared for."

The group arrived at Hills Ferry about four miles from Murfreesboro well after dark and quickly crossed the river. The muddy road ahead seemed nearly impossible, but the party pressed slowly on. When it seemed that their weary trip was almost over, the carriage lurched to a sudden stop at the base of a small hill. "What's the matter?" demanded Southall. "We're stuck fast in the mud just outside the town!" came the agitated response from one of the coachmen.

An enormous bonfire on a nearby hill illuminated their difficulties. The horses, exhausted by the bad road conditions and the lengthy trip, were stuck up to their knees in thick mud. The carriage was likewise lodged in mud nearly up to its axles. The curses of the coachman and the crack of his whip were completely ineffective. The possibility of spending an uncomfortable night in a wet camp alongside the road loomed over them.<sup>7</sup>

Lafayette was a natural leader of men; prompt, decisive action in a crisis was second nature to him. He still remembered the first advice that his mentor and paternal friend George Washington had given him as an inexperienced 19-year-old major general: "When in charge, take charge!" He turned to his son with a smile. "George, shall we apply our energies together to solving this problem?" His son's response was immediate and emphatic: "*Cur non?*" – Why not?, the bold motto emblazoned at the top of Lafayette's coat of arms.<sup>8</sup>

Lafayette leaned out of the carriage. "Monsieur, stop whipping those poor horses at once!" he ordered. Silence fell. He and George stepped down and made their way forward, where the badly overworked horses stood steaming and hanging their heads. They murmured soothing words while stroking the smooth heads and trembling flanks. The horses calmed immediately. Working with horses came easily to both men, who had been on horseback from early childhood and felt more at home in the saddle than on foot.

The others dismounted and stood near the General, confident he would know what to do. One of the coachmen muttered, "better look for a dry place to camp." Lafayette frowned and addressed the group in a firm voice. "*Certainement pas.* These magnificent horses will likely have colic by morning if they spend the night here unsheltered in the cold. We will not risk their

lives merely because of a bit of mud. Working together, we will soon remedy this unfortunate situation.”

The group felt inspired by Lafayette’s confidence. “Well said, General!” exclaimed Southall. “We place ourselves completely at your disposal and will do whatever you direct.”

“*Bon.* George and I will assist the coachmen to unharness the horses from the carriage,” said Lafayette. “Everyone else – cut as many pine branches as you can carry and bring them back here. We will also need two trees cut into stout poles about eight feet long.”

The men hurried to carry out his instructions. The horses were soon unharnessed and the branches stacked ready. “George, pick up one of your horse’s forelegs, give her a few words, and pull forward gently on the bridle. She will get the idea.” Lafayette turned to his own horse.

“*Viens avec moi, ma chère,*” he encouraged. Freed from the heavy drag of the carriage, both horses high-stepped forward. They were soon out of the mud hole and standing on firmer ground.

“Lay the branches in front of all four carriage wheels,” instructed Lafayette. “Four men, two on each side, stand in front of the carriage, take hold of the shafts and stand ready to pull. Four others stand behind the carriage – two will man the poles to lever the carriage out of the mud, the other two will push. Await my command.” The branches were quickly laid and the men took up their assigned positions. “Very well, gentlemen, we will now test your mettle. Ready? *Allez!*” Eight sets of muscles strained with effort. The carriage wheels broke free with a loud sucking sound as the carriage rolled forward onto the branches and out of the mud.

“*Très bien,* you have acquitted yourselves admirably. Let’s get the horses back into harness,” said Lafayette. There was sincere pleasure in his voice. The men congratulated each other while praising Lafayette’s solution. As the coachmen took their seats, the lead driver turned to his partner and observed, “You can take the General out of the army, but you can’t take the army out of the General!”

It was after nine o’clock when they finally arrived, passing under an evergreen torch-lit arch at the entrance of the town.<sup>9</sup> Every able-bodied citizen of Murfreesboro was at the center of the community, anxious to meet Lafayette and shake his hand. Loud cheers of “*Vive Lafayette!*” echoed in the night. A brass band struck up a rousing rendition of “Yankee Doodle,” which brought a broad smile to Lafayette’s face. It was the same tune he had ordered his light infantry band to play to avenge a rude British snub during Cornwallis’ surrender at Yorktown in 1781.<sup>10</sup>

Three elderly veterans, the last living members of the Hertford County Militia, had been chosen as the first to greet Lafayette. The years fell away as they snapped to the erect military posture of attention. “Great Bridge, sir!” “Charleston, sir!” “Hillsborough, sir!” they exclaimed to Lafayette, proudly citing the battles in which they had participated.<sup>11</sup> Lafayette grasped each man by the shoulders and greeted him with a *faire la bise*, a kiss on each cheek. “Please accept my personal gratitude for your sacrifices during the Revolution,” he said. “You threw off the yoke of despotism and secured the establishment of a new country where liberty, equality, and natural rights have blossomed. Your success in the long struggle for independence will pass

down these benefits for generations to come, and will serve as an example for other countries to emulate. It will never be forgotten. *Merci beaucoup.*"

The ladies, resplendent in their best gowns, pressed forward to present their daughters. Lafayette delighted in kissing the hand of each one while complementing their beauty.

Murfreesboro lawyer Thomas Maney<sup>12</sup> had the honor of presenting the formal welcome speech. He concluded with a heartfelt sentiment: "To you, next to dear, great Washington, we are indebted for the triumph of our arms. We salute you as a father of our common country, and we hail you, also, as a benefactor of the human race and gallant champion of the rights of man."<sup>13</sup>

Lafayette replied: "My sincere thanks to you, Monsieur Maney, for those kind words and to the entire town for this spirited welcome. Please excuse our late arrival. My friends and I are extremely happy to finally be here with all of you. I am especially happy to meet these worthy veterans, my comrades in arms." He turned to address the crowd directly. "The triumph of arms that Monsieur Maney praised me for would not have been possible without the bravery and dedication of American soldiers like the Hertford County Militia. The passage of years has not diminished the Spirit of '76 in these few remaining veterans. They have obviously passed that same spirit along to their worthy sons and daughters."

The townspeople burst into wild applause. The band played "Washington's March"<sup>14</sup> as Lafayette's entourage returned to the carriages for the short trip to the Indian Queen Inn, where innkeeper Moses Clements had prepared dinner for forty. Clements knew how to entertain important travelers. His inn had hosted a London bishop, a French prince, and a German duke.<sup>15</sup> He welcomed his newest and most important guest, reflecting that no one he had ever entertained approached the fame of Lafayette.

As the group sat down to a late supper, Lafayette noted an empty chair at the table. "Where is Monsieur Southall?" he inquired. "He begs leave to join you a bit later, General," replied Clements. "He is at his stable, personally supervising the care of his horses." Ah, a man after my own heart, mused Lafayette.

The party continued into the evening with lively conversation and many toasts. The only casualty of their late arrival was a ball planned to celebrate Lafayette. The ladies of the town were crestfallen. They had diligently practiced the precise steps of the minuet for several weeks under the tutelage of the town's dance master<sup>16</sup> and hoped to be chosen as Lafayette's dance partner.

"Mama, we are so very disappointed there will be no ball. Isn't General Lafayette the most impressive man you have ever met?" asked Betty, Rebecca Maney's oldest daughter. "After Papa, of course!" she hastily added. "His welcome speech was marvelous!" She and her younger sister Annie were nearly in tears. Their mother smiled and hugged them both. "Yes, my dears, I'm sorry about the ball as well. But remember that the greatest man of the age complimented both of you and kissed your hands. Some day you will tell your own children about this night."

It was after midnight when the group finally retired for the night. Levasseur sat down to record the day's events in his journal. He reflected on the pleasant stop in Somerton, the General's prompt action, and the enthusiastic welcome they had received at the end of a long day. He picked up his quill pen and wrote: "We were very amply compensated by the cordial hospitality of the citizens of Murfreesboro, who spared nothing to prove to General Lafayette that the citizens of North Carolina were no less sincerely attached to him than those of the other States."<sup>17</sup>



*Historic marker at the site of the Indian Queen Inn*

*Photographs by Frank Womble*

*This is a work of historical fiction which is based on the known facts of Lafayette's visits to Somerton, Virginia and Murfreesboro, North Carolina.*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

## About the Authors

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

Frank's cousin Kimberly Chappell is a Marine Corps veteran and an experienced equestrian. She can often be seen riding her horse, Free, in Manteo, North Carolina.

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

<sup>2</sup> Marion J. Watson, *General Lafayette Visits Suffolk, Virginia, February 25-26, 1825* (Suffolk: Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, n.d.): 7.

<sup>3</sup> Sarah McPhail, "Somerton Historic District," retrieved January 14, 2022, from <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/133-5256/>

<sup>4</sup> *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*, "The Reception At Suffolk," Monday, February 28, 1825 (Volume XXX, No. 4381): 2.

<sup>5</sup> William S. Boggess, "Capt Washington Smith," retrieved January 14, 2022, from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/100954711/washington-smith>

<sup>6</sup> An ordinary was a business establishment licensed to provide the public with alcohol, food, and overnight accommodations. Later, ordinaries became known as taverns or inns. <https://movingnorthcarolina.net/the-ordinary/>

<sup>7</sup> Levasseur: 303.

<sup>8</sup> "CUR NON? (Why not?) Lafayette's coat of arms," retrieved January 15, 2022, from <http://chateau-lafayette.com/CUR-NON-Why-not-the-motto-of.html>.

<sup>9</sup> John W. Parker, "Lafayette's Night in Murfreesboro," *The State*, January 1973 (Volume 40, No. 15): 10-11, retrieved January 20, 2022, from <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll18/id/55680/rec/4>.

<sup>10</sup> Levasseur: 210-211.

<sup>11</sup> J. D. Lewis, "Hertford County Regiment of Militia," retrieved January 19, 2022 from [https://www.carolina.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_hertford\\_county\\_regiment.html](https://www.carolina.com/NC/Revolution/nc_hertford_county_regiment.html).

<sup>12</sup> T. C. Parramore, "Maney, Thomas," *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Volume 4, William S. Powell, editor (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991), retrieved January 19, 2022, from <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/maney-thomas>.

<sup>13</sup> Parker: 10-11.

<sup>14</sup> For the scores to two versions of "Washington's March," see John W. Tasker, "The Music of George Washington's Time," retrieved January 20, 2022, from <https://www.americanrevolution.org/washingtonsmusic.php>.

<sup>15</sup> Parker: 10-11.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Levasseur: 303.

# Inspiring the Next Generation: The Story Behind Epic Patriot Camp

by Jenny L. Cote

It all started with my villain, Banastre Tarleton.



*Banastre Tarleton (aka Mark Schneider) and Jenny L. Cote discuss camp.*

I am currently writing a series of books on the American Revolution and have traveled to most sites where the war unfolded, both politically and militarily. My focal protagonist characters for the series are Patrick Henry and the Marquis de Lafayette, but Banastre Tarleton is my antagonist. My endless research includes reading books and documents, making site visits to museums and battlefields, and talking to historical experts. One of those experts is AFL member, military historian, and re-enactor Mark Schneider who happens to portray two of my three characters: Lafayette and Tarleton. (He also portrays Napoleon all over the world, so to say he knows history well is a bit of an understatement.) I'm forever indebted to Mark for his tireless assistance with my research over the years, as well as his insightful critiques of my work.

In January 2015, Mark was scheduled to portray Banastre Tarleton for the 234<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens. I decided to make the trek from Atlanta for the event as I had not yet visited the NPS Cowpens National Battlefield. Reenactments bring history to life! While at Cowpens, Mark introduced me to John Slaughter, who was the NPS Superintendent of the Revolutionary Parks of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. I asked John if he would be interested in having me do an event for kids at one of these NPS events, and he replied, "Could you do a whole week?" They had just received grant money to create a summer writing camp at Kings Mountain, and John immediately saw the opportunity to do something unique for June 2015 using my books and brand.

Our team met in March 2015 and developed Epic Patriot Camp, a creative writing day camp for kids 9-13 provided by the National Park Service. The goal of the camp was for participants to learn about the Overmountain Victory Trail leading to the Battle of Kings

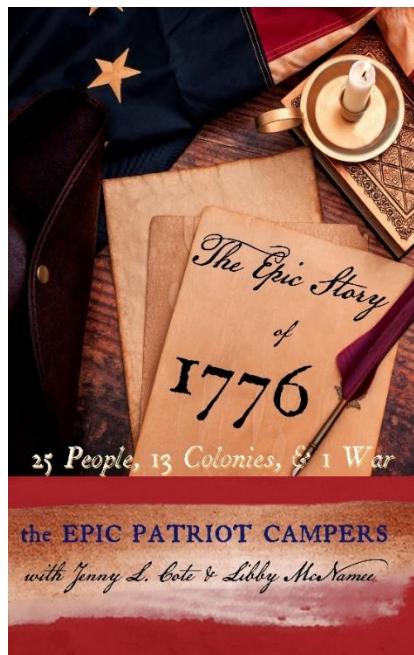
Mountain by researching a soldier and crafting a story about the soldier's battle experience. Kids spent time each day with me to learn new research and writing skills. They also put themselves in the shoes of those who fought in the battle through hands-on activities: colonial clothes, weapons demonstrations, militia drills, colonial trades and crafts, spending time on the battlefield, etc. The culminating experience was an overnight colonial style camp: canvas tents, open-fire cooking, lantern hikes, etc. On the final day the kids presented their stories from their soldier's point of view for family and friends. Epic Patriot Camp 2015 was an immediate success and led to subsequent years and other locations including Cowpens and the Muster Grounds in Abingdon, Virginia.



Then came Covid. The world shut down, and Epic Patriot Camp was discontinued. Frustrated, in 2022 I decided to create a Virtual Epic Patriot Camp experience and asked my dear friend, fellow historical author (*Susannah's Midnight Ride* and *Dolley Madison and the War of 1812*) and AFL Member Libby McNamee if she would partner with me. (Libby and I met because of AFL, so one could argue that what happened next is thanks to Lafayette!) This online camp would be the same in terms of campers assuming the identity of a Patriot, Loyalist, or French ally to research and write a character story, but we decided to focus on one year: 1776. No, we couldn't provide an in-person experience of hands-on colonial activities, but we could provide an opportunity for budding writers to become published authors. At first, we retained the same age range of 9-13, but because we received numerous requests from older teens, we opened camp to all ages. Campers chose either a Tuesday or Wednesday group that met online for three hours each week for a month.

### The Epic Result?

We had twenty-five campers aged 10-19 from fourteen states, Washington D.C., and even one from Australia. Not only did they bond with their assignments, but they also bonded with each other. It was our hope that Epic Patriot Camp 2022 would foster friendships with kids who shared a mutual interest in history and writing. Our hopes were not only realized, but they were surpassed! These campers set up their own out-of-camp meeting times just to hang out, and these "Huzzah Hang-Outs" have continued. They can't wait to return next year for Epic Patriot Camp 2023: Writing the Epic Story of 1777-78.



As promised, we published their book: *The Epic Story of 1776: 25 People, 13 Colonies, & 1 War*. They not only wrote the chapters, but they came up with the book title as well. We worked with each camper as they researched and wrote three chapters to answer the following questions for their character:

- 1) How did the American Revolution come to my doorstep?
- 2) How did I get involved in the American Revolution?
- 3) What's my story in 1776?

The point of camp is to encourage the next generation to learn America's epic history and to tell the story for generations to come. We taught them how crucial it is to get the research right, and to thoroughly study the good, the bad, and the ugly of history. Some campers were more thorough than others, and of course some are more mature than others, with more research and writing experience. One of the ways to get young people excited about history is to weave in fun storytelling with historical fiction. Some people will never pick up historical books like we history geeks, so stories are a way to teach while engaging the non-history-loving (is there such a thing?) reader. We encouraged campers to flex their creative writing muscles to write historical fiction, and some even chose to incorporate fantasy as well, with talking animals. The point is to make history FUN while learning. Some of these young writers had so much fun that they are continuing to write their own books with their assigned characters. That's a good sign that we've accomplished our mission with Epic Patriot Camp.

### **EPIC AFL Support and Book Signings in Yorktown**

Not only do the campers have their published book on Amazon, but their book is hitting the shelves of a growing list of bookstores and museums, including The American Revolution Museum and the Gallery at York Hall in Yorktown, Virginia! Libby and I had signings scheduled at these places for our own books for Victory Week and asked if our campers might join us to sign their book as well. Both places happily agreed, so six of our campers and families traveled to be there from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.



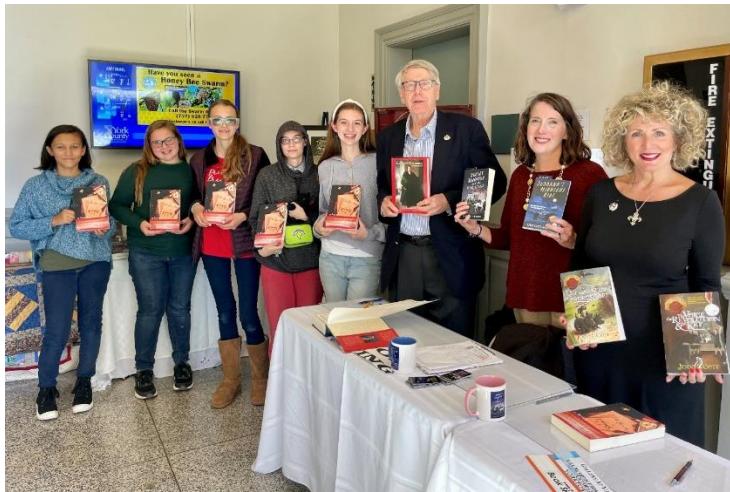
*The campers were ecstatic to meet each other in person for the first time, and to experience their very first book signing as published authors on October 18 at the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown.*



We celebrated with cake after the American Revolution Museum signing on October 18.



On October 19, we invited them to join the AFL to view the Victory Day Parade at the Hornsby House, and to attend the ceremony at the Victory Monument. They loved watching the parade with AFL's Robert Kelly!



*They then had the privilege of signing books alongside AFL President Alan Hoffman at the Gallery at York Hall.*



*We're grateful to the many AFL members who supported these young people by buying books at the signing or at the AFL Cocktail Party at the Hornsby House.*



*Libby McNamee and Jenny L. Cote*

We cannot begin to tell you how life changing this has been for these young people! We're continuing to help them plan their own book signing events, and we appreciate your help in fueling the pens of the next generation. Please encourage our campers by leaving a review on Amazon, and by buying copies of this book for your local school, history group, library, and friends. May the lifeblood of patriotism continue to flow from our pens into the hearts of Americans through the relentless pursuit of our EPIC history.

**HUZZAH and VIVE LAFAYETTE!**

Learn more about Libby and her books at [libbymcnamee.com](http://libbymcnamee.com).

Learn more about Jenny and her books at [epicorderoftheseven.com](http://epicorderoftheseven.com).

## Lafayette Scarf Update

by Stephanie Green

After a year of successful fundraising sales among our members and friends, I'm delighted to announce that we have a retail partner for the Lafayette scarf project.

Later this month, the Lafayette scarf will be available for purchase online and in the gift shop of the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

The price point of \$65 will remain the same and the AFL will receive a substantial portion of that from every scarf sold.

As we approach the holidays, please consider a scarf for the special ladies on your list.

My sincere thanks to Nina Akin, Chuck Schwam, and Alan Hoffman for helping me bring this fundraising project to its greatest potential.



## *Cur Non?*

by Chuck Schwam

**Every day, I receive interesting correspondence from AFL members around the world, and I thought I would share some of them, along with a few Francophile moments that I enjoyed – *Cur Non* – Why Not?**



*In Chavaniac, AFL member Myriam Wazé celebrates Lafayette's birthday with Alain Dolce of the Ordre Lafayette of Auvergne.*



*AFL member Jackie Noller (center) enjoys time with the Guizards at a café in Paris. Claudine Guizard is on the left and AFL Board Member Benoit Guizard is on the right.*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



*As many of you know, AFL member Mark Schneider is not only Colonial Williamsburg's Lafayette but also plays Napoleon in Europe. AFL member Arleen Fields saw this while watching the Tour de France on her television. Wow!!!*



*As evidence of Mark Schneider's work in Europe, while interpreting Napoleon, he ran into Rochambeau descendant Nathalie Gouberville.*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



AFL member and MIT professor Richard Binzel, who named an asteroid for Lafayette in 2010 and one for Rochambeau in 2015, discusses NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test with CBS Sunday Morning Correspondent David Pogue.



Did you know that **Lafayette's Junglefowl** is a member of the Galliformes bird order which is indigenous to Sri Lanka, where it is the national bird?  
That's a good-looking bird!!

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



*AFL member Ellen McCarthy had this onesie made for Pierre and Debbie Larroque's newest grandchild Olivier.*



*Once again, the American Friends of Lafayette (along with members of the French Military) took on the beatification of the French Cemetery in Yorktown. Big thanks to Lea Gryk who planted the mums and Robert Kelly who helped me organize this team (and took this photo).*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



Tennille Adams from Twin Falls, Idaho received a 12" square silk hand-stitched handkerchief from a family member. Has anyone seen anything like this?



When AFL member and Lafayette interpreter Ben Goldman walked into his Trader Joe's in Washington, D.C., he did a double take at some artwork hanging there. Is that a takeoff of Ary Scheffer's painting of Lafayette which hangs in the House Chamber? Is Lafayette wearing a Hawaiian Shirt? Did Lafayette visit Hawaii on his Farewell Tour?

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*



*AFL members (L to R) Mary Moore, Chuck Schwam, Bonnie Fritz, and Jennifer Kowalski donated flags at a Gaithersburg, Maryland Memorial Day event on behalf of the American Friends of Lafayette.*

## A Lafayette Trail Update in New England

by Dorothea Jensen

I am somewhat disappointed to report that New York has now surpassed New Hampshire in the number of Lafayette Trail markers installed, but we in the Granite State are still way ahead of New York in markers per capita! I am delighted to report that there was a final flurry of marker dedications in New Hampshire (and its southern neighbor, Massachusetts) at summer's end. This reflects, of course, the amazing work of the indefatigable Julien Icher, President of The Lafayette Trail, Inc.

On August 19, I represented The Lafayette Trail, Inc. at a dedication in Reading, Massachusetts. Enthusiastically organized by AFL member Peter Maguire, there was an excellent turnout of 70+. The marker was placed in front of the building which houses the Latham law office. In 1825 this was the site of the Skinner Hotel, where Lafayette was received.

AFL President Alan Hoffman spoke, telling the story of how an elderly veteran hitched a ride with the New Hampshire contingent and carriage sent to pick up Lafayette in Boston. When the Massachusetts governor decreed that Lafayette had to be delivered to the New Hampshire border in a Massachusetts vehicle, the elderly veteran was mistaken for Lafayette in Reading and at nineteen other stops. (I included this amusing incident in my young adult novel, *A Buss from Lafayette*.)

Peter McGuire, Sofia Latham, Anouk Dumas (French Vice Consul for New England), and myself, as well as town and state officials and members of the Reading Historical Commission were also participants in the ceremony.



(L to R) Peter Maguire, Rep. Brad Jones, Sophia Latham, Vice Consul Anouk Dumas, and Rep. Richard Haggerty

On September 11, Julien and I traveled to Lexington, Massachusetts, where the Revolution began. The dedication began with speeches in the Lexington Historical Society by Julien Icher, President Hoffman, Mustafa Soykurt (Consul General of France in Boston), and myself, as well as leaders of the Historical Society and Historical Commission of Lexington.

The second part of the event was the unveiling of the marker at a site overlooking Lexington Green, site of the historic battle.



*(L to R) AFL President Alan Hoffman; French Consul General Mustafa Soykurt; TLT President Julien Icher; and Carol Ward and Marsha Baker of the Lexington Historical Society*

The AFL was well represented in Lexington:

*(L to R) Alan Hoffman (President, AFL); Bill Dunham (President Emeritus, Massachusetts Lafayette Society); Bill Poole; Jan O'Sullivan (Gazette Associate Editor); Julien Icher (President, The Lafayette Trail, Inc.); Dorothea Jensen; Mustafa Soykurt (Consul General of France in Boston); Peter Reilly; Rick Detwiller; and Evie Pless*

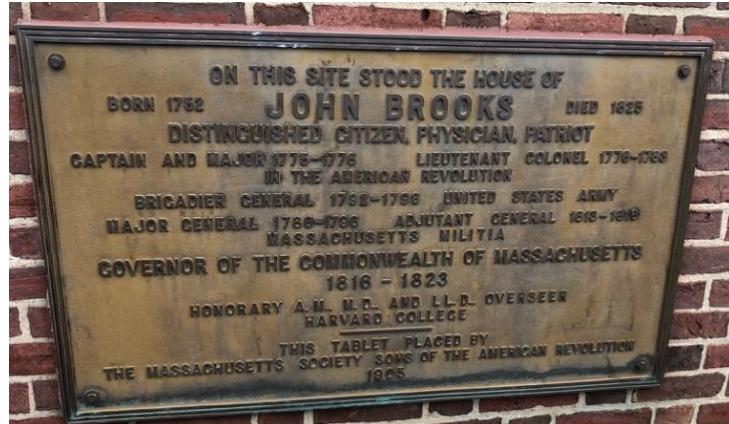


On September 12, a trail marker was unveiled in Medford, Massachusetts. Before our ceremony, we checked out three existing markers only a few steps away from ours.

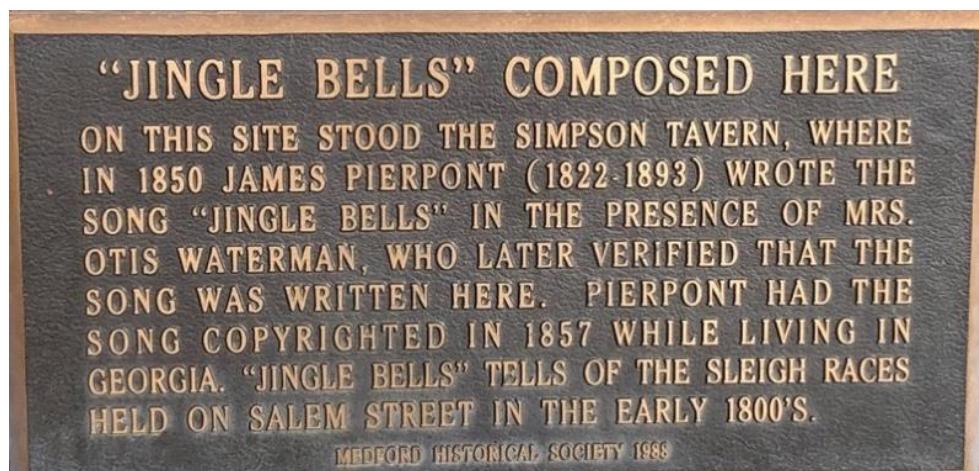
1. Another Revolutionary War figure who made a quick stop in town:



2. The site of the house where Lafayette actually dined with his friend, John Brooks, on his Medford stop (now the Members Plus Credit Union):



3. Finally, we found another “note-able” moment in Medford history:



When the Lafayette Trail marker was unveiled, it thus made an impressive fourth piece of history displayed in downtown Medford!



*(L to R) Janis Caines, Senior VP,  
Members Plus Credit Union;  
Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-  
Koehn; TLT President Julien Icher*

September 13 was a double dedication day: North Hampton and Dover, New Hampshire. In North Hampton, Noah Robie, the young man who was instrumental in securing the marker for his town, missed the ceremony because he was away at college. His mother and grandmother brought Noah along, in a way. On a stick, no less.



*(L to R) Noah's Mom, Noah's face, Noah's Grandma, Julien Icher*



The second New Hampshire dedication of the day took place in Dover, New Hampshire. The marker is in front of the William Hale house, which now belongs to the Episcopal church next door.

*Julien and Reverend Sue Poulin unveil the Dover marker (photo by Laura Kessler)*

Here is a 2017 photo that I took of Julien in front of the William Hale house when we went on our first exploration of possible sites for markers. It's hard to believe that was more than five years and a hundred markers ago! Congratulations to Julien and to all those people and organizations (including the AFL) who have helped him accomplish this impressive feat!

*Julien Icher, April 17, 2017, in front of the William Hale house, when The Lafayette Trail Inc. was just a gleam in his eye!*



**Dorothea Jensen** is a Lafayette Trail, Inc. corporate officer and a long-time AFL member. She is the author of *A Buss from Lafayette* and *Liberty-Loving Lafayette: How America's Favorite Fighting Frenchman Helped Win Our Independence*.

## Lafayette Society Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Gift to FSU

by Hank Parfitt

On March 6, at the annual meeting and luncheon social of the Lafayette Society in Fayetteville, board members presented a check for over \$28,000 to Chancellor Darrell Allison for the “Lafayette Fund” at Fayetteville State University (FSU), the second oldest HBCU in North Carolina. The check represented contributions made in 2021 to the fund by Lafayette Society members and friends, raising the total endowment to almost \$50,000. This coincided with the celebration of the Lafayette Society’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary – delayed a year because of COVID – which included a ceremony honoring ten of the founding members. Several students and members of the FSU administration were introduced as special guests.



*Lafayette Society board member Ron Schooler and society member Gale Adams share a light moment during the annual meeting’s social hour.*

The Lafayette Society established a partnership with the Black History Club at FSU (now the Black History Scholars Association) in 2018 with the help of the club’s faculty advisor, Professor Rob Taber. The society and the FSU club started the Lafayette Lecture Series that year. The lecture series takes place on campus every year during Black History Month. Lectures are open to the public and have been attended by a diverse cross-section of the community. The first lecture was “Lafayette, Slavery, and Human Rights,” presented by Diane Windham Shaw from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 2018.



*Actor and historical interpreter Stan Say as Lafayette helps lead singing of the French and American National Anthems at the official start of the meeting.*

The Lafayette Society and the Black History Scholars Association (BHSA) have partnered for an annual lecture series each year since then. The Lafayette Society is a nonprofit, civic organization founded in 1981 to honor Lafayette by promoting his ideals of leadership, patriotism, and generosity. The society also encourages the study of history as a means of understanding what our nation represents and as a way to help navigate the constant changes in our culture, which is essential for effective leadership in family, community, and government. The lectures are not restricted to Lafayette and his times, but they all have a connection to his enlightened views and high ideals. Subjects have included the Haitian Revolution, Black novelist and essayist Charles Chesnutt and his important contributions to literature, and Frank Porter Graham, a liberal Southern educator of the Jim Crow era who served as University of North Carolina president and a New Deal consultant to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Also in 2018, the Lafayette Society established the Lafayette Fund at FSU to promote “the Study of the Age of Revolution, Emancipation, and Civil Rights.” This endowment will be used to fund the annual Lafayette Lecture Series and other educational activities in support of the BHSA. Currently, the Lafayette Society pays for the lecturer’s fees and other expenses. However, as the endowment grows, this will provide a permanent, sustainable means of covering those costs.



*FSU Chancellor Allison reacts as Lafayette Society vice-president Bud Lafferty unveils the check for the Lafayette endowment at FSU.  
Chris Davis, Interim Vice-Chancellor for University Advancement, is standing to the right.*

Individuals or organizations who would like to support the endowment at FSU may make a contribution online at [www.uncfsu.edu/give-to-fsu](http://www.uncfsu.edu/give-to-fsu) and from the menu at “Your Area of Support” select option “LaFayette Society Endowed Scholarship.” Contributions may also be made by check (with “LaFayette Fund” on the memo line) mailed to FSU Advancement Services, 1200 Murchison Road, Fayetteville NC 28301.

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Hank Parfitt is the President Emeritus of the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville, North Carolina and Vice President of the American Friends of Lafayette.

Photo credits: Ezekiel Best, FSU photographer

## Member Spotlight: Proud to be an American Cousin of Lafayette

by Susan Joy Minker

Family lore is valuable, but not often easy to corroborate. As a child I was told of our long family line of American Patriots, many of whom lived and were buried less than 70 miles from where I grew up in Darien, Connecticut. Some were French Huguenots and settled in lower Manhattan to escape religious persecution. Many settled in Millbrook, New York where we can still find their gravestones proudly sitting atop a hill in the old burial ground. A few fought in the French and Indian War and survived to serve in the American Revolution. My mother always said we were “American” whenever we were asked where we were from. Now I understand why. I am very proud to be a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and First Families of New York.

It wasn’t until I had children of my own that I appreciated the significance of my family’s history and needed not only to share it with them but to dig deeper into our genealogy. The Delavergne family line was of particular interest to me for many reasons. The family coat of arms always hung framed in gold in our family dining room. Dr. Nicolas Delavergne traveled to America serving on a warship in 1720, escaping from a duel while a medical student after killing a “figure high in political circles.” The female names of Louise and Adrienne were most commonly used in the Delavergne line from one generation to the next for over 13 documented generations, but I had no idea why. Many stories were shared over family meals, but the most interesting one was about our connection to Lafayette.



The Marquis René Edmond de la Vergne, my ancestral grandfather born in 1671, lived and died in Auvergne, France likely close to the Chateau de Chavaniac where Lafayette was born. Thankfully with family letters and books, along with the help of a professional genealogist, we have found a treasure trove of records documenting our family history. Tax records, legal agreements, birth and death certificates, military service records, wills, photos of homes – including a 900-year-old chateau in France – are now permanently archived in our family tree on Ancestry.com.

Our connection to Lafayette is “cousin” by way of marriage. I was always told that his grandmother and my ancestral grandmother were sisters. His grandmother was a Delavergne, Marie Madeleine Pioche de la Vergene de la Fayette, who was the famed author of *La Princesse de Clèves*, regarded as the first psychological novel. *The Genealogical and Family history of Southern New York* by Cuyler Reynolds documents the family connection in 1914 by stating “the older members [of the Delavergne family] always spoke of him [Lafayette] as ‘Cousin’ and at a public reception given to him in Poughkeepsie, when he visited the country in 1824, special seats were provided for them up on the platform.” Yes, I am looking forward to attending our AFL Bicentennial in the same location and hope that his living heir, Gilbert de Pusy La Fayette, whom I met at the Picpus ceremony in July, will be my cousin in attendance too!



*Gilbert de Pusy La Fayette and Susan at Picpus Cemetery*

Thanks to Stephanie Dray’s brilliant book, *The Women of Chateau Lafayette*, I have focused my attention on Adrienne recently. My grandmother Louise Adrienne Williams was possibly named after her, but I will never know. What I do know is that I come from a very long line of brave men but also very brave women. I am delighted that my ancestors chose to keep Adrienne alive in name and exemplify her spirit and tenacity! I thank Stephanie Dray for her research into Adrienne so we can now appreciate her exceptional contributions as an advocate on behalf of our struggle for independence and as a valuable political partner to her husband Gilbert. I am so fortunate to have been to Picpus to not only lay the AFL wreath on Lafayette’s grave but to pay homage to such a brave woman who so gracefully helped our country.

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Susan Joy Minker graduated from Fairfield University with a BS in Accounting in 1984. She raised her two children, Stephanie and Alexander, in her hometown of Darien, Connecticut and moved to Naples, Florida in 2015. Susan is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the First Families of New York. She is a benefactor member of the AFL.

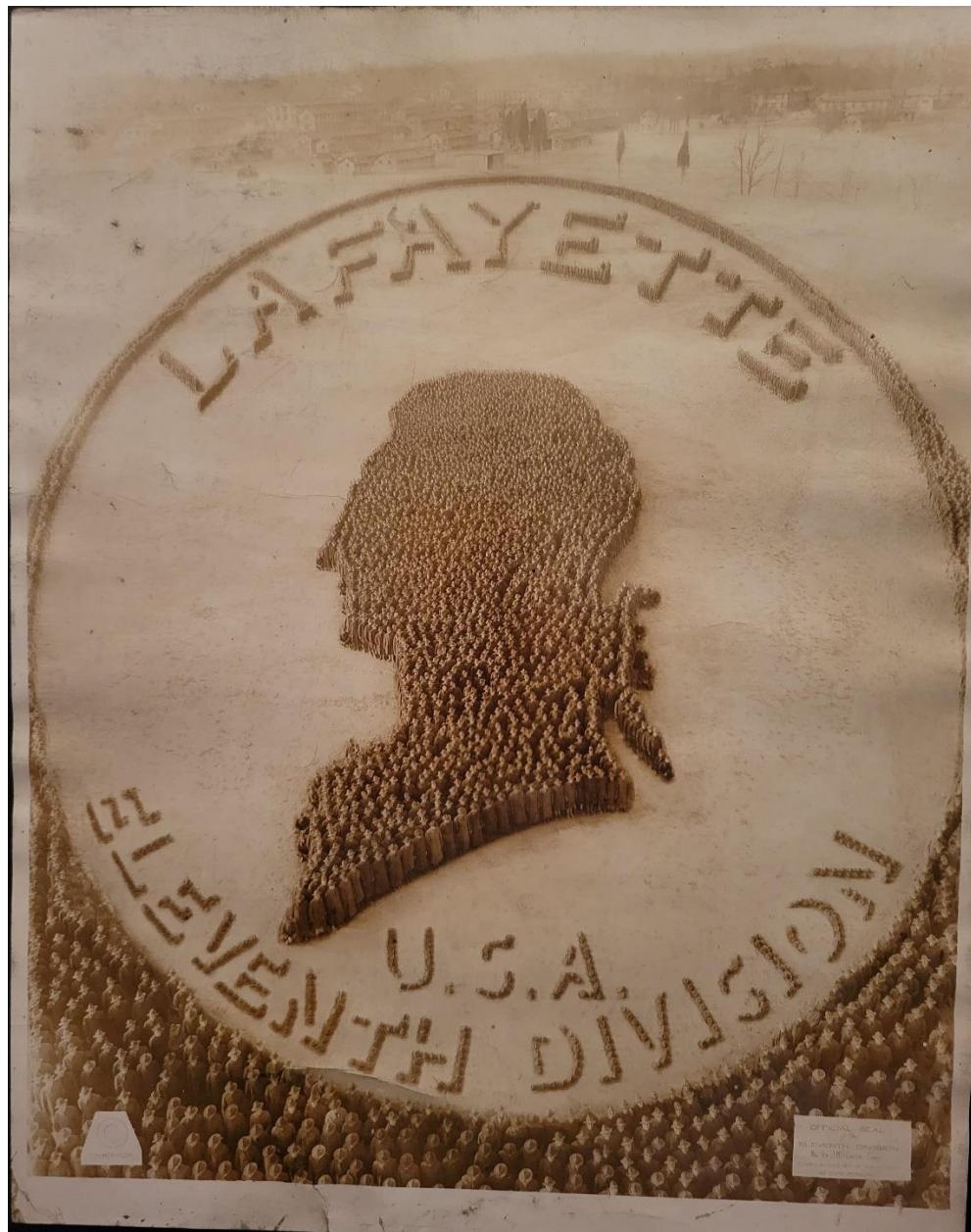
Susan is currently working on a children's book about Adrienne Lafayette and plans to teach elementary school children about the American Revolution in the Lafayette Learning Center which is being built in her barn in Woodbury, Connecticut. Her summer home there is on the route General Rochambeau's French troops took to Yorktown, Virginia. Soil from this trail was placed on Lafayette's grave in July 2022.

Susan and Marc love to travel and plan to be in Paris each year to celebrate the Franco-American support that allowed us to win the American Revolution with a visit to Picpus for the formal ceremony.



## Lafayette Sighting: Fort Meade Living Patch Photograph

by Jan O'Sullivan



A spur-of-the-moment decision in August to attend the Papermania ephemera show in Hartford, Connecticut led to a fun discovery by my daughter and her now husband. When I got there to meet them, they were excited to tell me that they had found “something Lafayette”! At first glance, it looked like a photograph of a coin, but upon closer inspection, I could see that the profile of our favorite general was composed of soldiers, and that the letters in the foreground are actually hats positioned to give a three-dimensional effect.

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

The dealer told me that this photograph was taken at Fort Meade, Maryland during World War I and that these photographs made a nice memento to send home to the family. The photograph is about 11" x 14".

The Eleventh Division started out as a National Guard division, but was reformed as a National Army infantry division in August, 1918, and it was also known as the Lafayette Division. The division's sleeve patch bore a profile of Lafayette, which is why this type of photo is known as a "living patch." I was disappointed not to be able to find a photo of an actual patch, but I did find this image online of what it might have looked like:



Closer inspection of the photograph reveals that while the words in the foreground are made up of hats, the words at the top of the image are people, much farther away from the camera. Some of the men who are at positions on the profile that are pointy are kneeling so as to sharpen that effect. I was now quite impressed with the artistic nature of this feat, and with the mastery of perspective that gives it such a round shape in the finished version.

I wondered about the logistics of making this photo. Since they didn't have drones, could it have been snapped from a blimp? I suspected that they might have had a tall tower of some sort to do it, and this suspicion was borne out when I discovered a photograph online of the process:



More living patch images can be found online of formations by other military groups, and some people collect these types of photos. Besides patch insignia, some interesting ones are in the shape of the Statue of Liberty, the American Flag, a horse's head (by the cavalry, of course), and a large cactus!

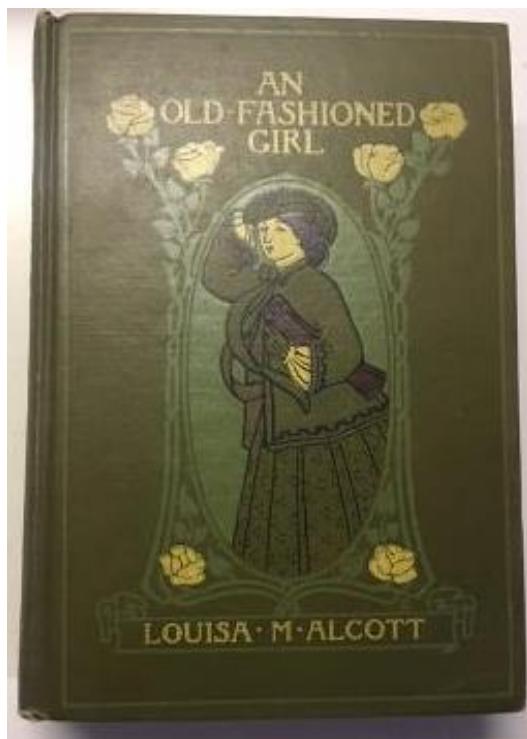
## Three Literary Lafayette Sightings

by Sarah Gillens

For those folks who have read Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* books, you have met General Lafayette in her book, *Written in My Own Heart's Blood*. The encounter with the Marquis starts on page 308. Claire Fraser, a time traveler, ran into him, figuratively and literally on the bank of the Delaware River near Coryell's Ferry, the rendezvous point for George Washington and his troops before crossing to New Jersey. Claire described the young man as a young French officer with an already receding hairline of red hair. Lafayette had stepped on Claire's foot and profusely apologized and introduced himself, reeling off all of his names. He charmed Claire by telling his account of stepping on the Queen of France's foot at one time.

Lafayette invited Claire to dinner after learning that she was General Jamie Frazer's wife. In the dinner tent, Claire meets George Washington, Anthony Wayne, Charles Lee, and Daniel Morgan. Lafayette invites Claire to try his "extremely fragrant Roquefort" cheese and later tells her about his wife and Chavaniac. It was lovely to see Lafayette's personage vividly brought to life in one of Diana Gabaldon historical fiction books.

The second sighting of Lafayette was brought to my attention by a friend, who lives in Washington, D.C. and knows of my interest in Lafayette. She remembered reading, by braille, Louisa May Alcott's book, *An Old-Fashioned Girl* and an account of a grandmother meeting the General. I downloaded the book, and in Chapter VI titled "Grandma," there are two stories about General Lafayette.



*The cloth cover of the 1924 edition (Boston: Little, Brown and Company)*

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

The first story involved Grandma's Aunt Hancock who lived in the Governor's house on Beacon Hill. Governor Hancock had invited some French officers, including young Lafayette, to breakfast, and Madam Hancock's kitchen had no milk. The breakfast would have been a failure if Madam had not thought of the neighbors' cows feeding on Boston Common, and she sent her kitchen help to milk the cows!

Later in 1825, Grandma recalls being with her aunt as a little girl, when Josiah Quincy, the mayor of Boston sent word to her aunt that the Marquis Lafayette wished to pay his respects to her. The aunt now lived on Federal Street and had married a Captain Scott after John Hancock had passed away. Alcott describes the woman as wearing a steel-colored satin gown trimmed with black lace and a cap on which was pinned a Lafayette badge of white satin. Aunt Hancock had readied some of the Revolutionary wine from the old Beacon Street cellar.

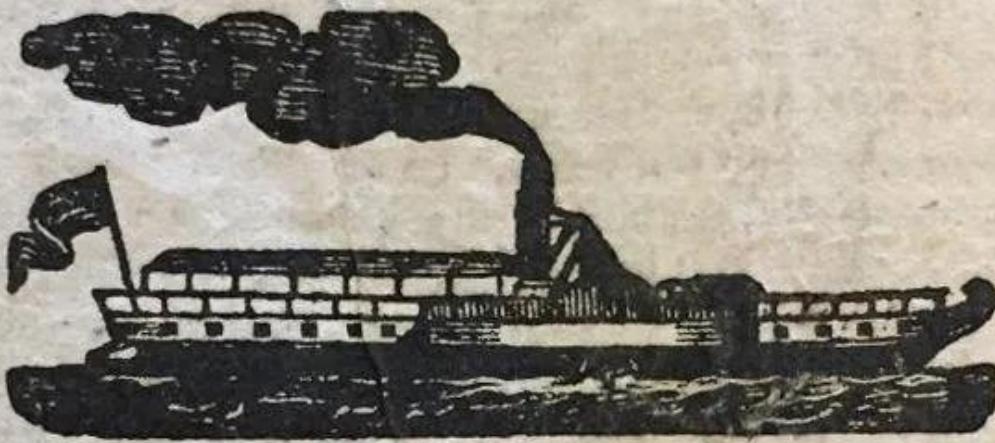
Mayor Quincy arrived with Lafayette, who was wearing "nankeen trousers and vest, a long, blue coat and ruffled shirt and was leaning on a cane as he was lame." He bowed to John Hancock's portrait on a wall and then bowed to the Governor's widow and kissed her hand. She was wearing the gloves which had the Marquis' likeness stamped on them and, as Alan Hoffman has mentioned, Lafayette kissed his own face. Grandma was always so proud of the Marquis' visit "for he was a brave, good man and helped us in our trouble."

The third sighting of Lafayette is in the book *Sails and Steam in the Mountains: A Maritime and Military History of Lake George and Lake Champlain* by Russell P. Bellico. The Phoenix I was a steamboat that was launched in 1815, and it burned and sank in 1819. The burning hull had drifted in the wind on Lake Champlain and ran aground on Colchester Shoal, north of Burlington, Vermont. Montreal bills of exchange, totaling \$8,500, which were bound for a bank in Canada, had gone missing. A passenger and the money were later found on Grand Isle where the money was surrendered.

Before the end of 1819, construction of a larger steamboat named Phoenix II began and was completed in 1820, using the engine from the wreck on Colchester Shoal. "The Phoenix II, decorated elaborately in a patriotic fashion, carried the Marquis de Lafayette on his American tour of 1825." He was ferried from Burlington, Vermont to Whitehall, New York. I trust he enjoyed the sights of the Vermont and New York green hills and mountains.

In 1827, Captain Basil Hall of the British navy described riding on the crowded steamboat as follows: "The Machinery was unusually noisy, the boat weak and tremulous, and we stopped, backed and went again at no fewer than eleven different places, at each of which there was such a racket that it was impossible to get any rest." Hall's wife was no less critical, suggesting that "the boat was without exception the noisiest steamer I have yet been in, all night long I could have fancied that a couple of kettle drums were close to my ear." The Phoenix II ended her service in 1837.

LAKE  
**C h a m p l a i n**  
 STEAM BOATS



*PHœNIX & CONGRESS,*

**W**ILL commence running their NEW LINE on Saturday, the 28th inst. and will from that time continue to leave WHITEHALL every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 9 o'clock, A. M. and SAINT JOHNS every Monday and Thursday, at 8 o'clock, A. M. and every Friday, at 2 o'clock, P. M. For all further particulars, refer to the former advertisement for this season.

Whitehall, July 25, 1827.

*Image from Lake Champlain Maritime Museum*

## *In Memoriam: Linda Bennett*

by William Cole



Long time AFL member and supporter, Linda Bennett of Yorktown, left us too soon on April 24, 2022, leaving a grieving husband, children, and grandchildren, as well as a saddened community that benefited greatly from her presence as well as her longtime support of many charitable activities in Yorktown. Her obituary can be found at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailypress/name/linda-bennett-obituary?id=34460564>

Linda was a lifetime member of the American Friends of Lafayette, and she and George opened their Smith Street home on more than one occasion to members of our group. They toured with the group as often as possible and attended as many of our excursions to explore Lafayette's life as they could. She was a staunch supporter of the goals of the AFL and showed her sincere admiration for Lafayette at every opportunity.

I have a few reminiscences of Linda to share.

Linda operated a business for many years on Main Street in Yorktown where countless visitors walked by day and night. A few trashcans hidden inside barrels were placed along the street, but unfortunately, they were not emptied as frequently as Linda and others would have liked. They were often overflowing near her business, and Linda took on the mantle as the "Trashcan Maven" of Yorktown trying her best to get better care for our historic area. At our monthly Celebrate Yorktown Committee meetings, we looked forward to Linda's regular and often humorous reports on the trash situation!

Another of Linda's interests in our historic area was the unique "Yorktown Onion" which grows robustly all around the town but will not grow just five miles away in any direction. She was delighted that her shop was surrounded by them. These onions bloom with large purple globes containing the seeds, and Yorktown residents love them as do our visitors. After the color of the flowering heads fade, the seeds mature, fall to the ground, and reseed themselves to produce more onions. Although they are protected by local ordinance, the National Park Service's hired landscapers apparently did not realize this, and Linda berated them year after year for cutting down the onions near her shop and all over the park before the seeds matured enough to germinate the next year. She brought regular reports on the onions to all of us as well.

Linda's volunteer efforts were most concentrated on support and fundraising for Natasha House, a local nondenominational charity whose programs intervene in the cycle of homelessness of female-headed families and at-risk youth through on-site transitional housing as well as provide nonresident support activities. Linda created every type of hand-sewn item – big and small, useful and decorative, colorful and plain – for sale, and she tirelessly organized and conducted sales of the items in shopping center parking lots, restaurant lots, and many other locations. She held raffles for her carefully crafted quilts and coverlets; she collected “gently used” shoes from anyone (we'd often see shoes left in Linda and George's driveway) as one of Natasha House's fundraisers; and she asked for outright donations for the cause so close to her heart. Linda was described by two clients of Natasha House this way: “True champions, like Mrs. Bennett, have the fire and know when to ignite the spark!”

Even in death, her wish was that those who wanted to remember her with some gift to a charity would select Natasha House as the recipient.



*A sketch of Linda done by the son of a Natasha House client*

I'm not a sports fan, but Linda's publicly- and vociferously-avowed devotion to the Georgia Bulldogs football team made even me check out their success or failure every weekend! On her journey to her final resting place, her remains were carried triumphantly through the campus of the University of Georgia showing her bright red colors to all.

The Celebrate Yorktown Committee of the Yorktown Foundation for which Linda created and oversaw plant sales for years raising thousands of dollars to support the CYC's charitable activities presented George with a resolution of honor, thanks for her life, and grateful remembrances of her at one of our monthly meetings. That resolution was enhanced and passed in her honor by the York County Board of Supervisors making her legacy a permanent part of York County's history. See next page for the proclamation.



*Linda and George Bennett at a Celebrate Yorktown plant sale*

The American Friends of Lafayette, the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, Natasha House, and the community of Yorktown where Linda Bennett lived, worked, played, and served have all lost one of our best friends, impossible to replace, but profoundly joyful to remember.



## COUNTY OF YORK, VIRGINIA

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P22-15

# PROCLAMATION

*IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION  
OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE LIFE OF  
LINDA MELISSA BENNETT  
1946-2022*

*WHEREAS, Linda Bennett is known for her dedication and support of Historic Yorktown; and*

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett attracted both visitors and customers to Yorktown through her business on Main Street known as the Yorktown Shoppe; and*

*WHEREAS, at the Yorktown Shoppe, Linda provided a small piece of Historic Yorktown to visitors and customers alike, creating a small-town feel and hospitality that Yorktown is known for, often making many of the items that were for sale in the shop; and*

*WHEREAS, Linda was a faithful supporter of the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, during which she used her talents as a gardener to grow and manage the plant sale raising income for the Committee; and*

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett was a lifelong member of the American Friends of Lafayette; and*

*WHEREAS, she worked for those less fortunate as an advocate and by organizing and supporting fund-raisers for the Natasha House and organizations that promoted the innate history of Historic Yorktown, such as the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, American Friends of Lafayette; and*

*WHEREAS, Mrs. Bennett and her husband, George, organized and hosted guests and fundraising while promoting hospitality within the community; and*

*WHEREAS, she was a visionary, an inspiration to all that knew her and empowered others by making connections with people who shared her love for the earth and the environment, and she supported the continuation of those relationships; and*

*WHEREAS, she leaves behind her loving family, including her husband, George, and sons George Bennett III and Guy Bennett, grandchildren: Autumn, Nicolas, Connor, and Eric; and*

*WHEREAS, Linda was devoted to her family, her friends, and her fellow volunteers while serving unselfishly to her community; and*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the York County Board of Supervisors that the life of Linda Bennett is celebrated and honored for her outstanding contributions to York County and a life well-lived.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of York, Virginia, to be affixed this the 7th day of June, 2022.

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*Sheila S. Noll, Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors*

## ***In Memoriam: Peter W. Brunner***

by Chuck Schwam



Longtime AFL member Peter W. Brunner of Telford, Pennsylvania passed away at his residence on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. He was 75. Born in Philadelphia, Peter resided in Jamison, Pennsylvania before moving to Telford in 2016. Peter was a US Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

Peter was passionate about historic preservation in Bucks County. He served in a number of leadership roles for several local historical societies and participated in many associated research, restoration, and archaeological projects. He is most notably linked to the saving of the Historic Moland House in Warwick Township, Pennsylvania. He was also a past president of the Centennial Kiwanis Club and a past vice president of the Suburban Bucks County Jaycees, and he coordinated many charitable events with both organizations in Warminster Township.

He was the life partner of AFL member Sybil Johnson. Peter and Sybil were fixtures at many AFL meetings. Peter was a gregarious fellow who not only enjoyed history but also a good laugh. He was passionate about his beloved Moland House where Washington and Lafayette were headquartered in August 1777.



I have many fond memories of Peter and his antics. His passion, wit and fashion sense are part of AFL lore. Peter was an important member of the American Friends of Lafayette, and he will be sorely missed.

*The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

## Letters to the *Gazette*

It is the best gazette ever!

- Dana Behan

You are blowing us out of the water! Fantastic issue! What an enriching gift —this fascinating issue— my first one!

- Morgaine Beck

I am impressed by all that you, the board, and volunteers of the AFL do. This issue is tremendous work and I discovered even more than I knew about our dear Adrienne.

- Guy Noel Benoit

Congratulations for the Gazette N°96.

- Pierre Antoine de Chambrun

Congratulations on another outstanding issue of the Gazette! A special thanks to both the Publisher, Chuck Schwam, and its Editor, Alan Hoffman. The ENTIRE two volume issue of the latest Gazette was nothing less than a masterwork insofar as I am concerned. Each and every article appearing therein was a real treat.

- Rex Cowen

This is fabulous. Magnifique! What a resource!

- Libby McNamee

I was thrilled to find my print copy of the AFL Gazette in my mailbox this afternoon; to say I'm impressed would be a rather significant understatement. Well done in all respects! Regards and Vive Lafayette!

- Frank Womble

Wow! Well done team.

- Ellen McCarthy

I am still very pleased to receive your excellent Gazette.

- Arnaud Meunier du Houssoy (great-great-great grandson of Lafayette)

Thank you for the latest issue of the Gazette. I have very much enjoyed the various articles on Adrienne and on other issues that are discussed in this latest issue. I want to thank you again for organizing the campaign to raise money for Ukrainians.

- Lloyd Kramer

Having read with great interest both volumes of the greatest issue yet, before putting it into our archives, we want you to know that we truly appreciated the overdue homage to Adrienne and the documentary material on our hero by our conscientious researchers.

- Biruta and Jean-Pierre Cap



# THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

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



Jazaniah Ford. Playing Card, with Lafayette as the Ace of Spades, ca. 1824. David Bishop Skillman Library, Lafayette College.

## *The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*

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