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On March 14, the American Friends of Lafayette celebrated Virginia Lafayette Day in Richmond. With the historic State Capitol Building in the background, Lafayette (Mark Schneider) and AFL President Alan Hoffman strike a pose as they wait to tour the Governor's Mansion steps away. Both gentlemen expertly presented in the Lafayette Day ceremony, and it was the first time Mark Schneider wore his 1824 costume in front of AFL members.

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Anna Riker's Personal Recollections of the Visit of General Lafayette: The Back Story

by Derek Sutton

Introduction

Imagine finding a long-lost document that links your family's history to General Lafayette's Farewell Tour – and it is a first-hand account! Two related period documents (a 1900 *New York Times* article, and Anna Riker's Personal Recollections of Lafayette's Visit) chronicle some details of General Lafayette's Farewell Tour visit to New York in 1824-1825. I recently learned that the typed memoir of Anna Riker that my wife Morgaine and I found in 2016, and that we donated to the New England Historic Genealogical Society, was the subject of an article in the last *Gazette* by AFL President Alan R. Hoffman. (See *Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*, No. 97, Part I, p. 40.)



Anna Riker, her parents, and some of her siblings, plus some of their nearby Lawrence relatives attended several social and official events in and around New York City in honor of General Lafayette's visit in both 1824 and 1825. They all personally met the General several times. Sometime before her death in 1896 at the age of 89, Anna penned her memoir of these events.

After Anna Riker's death in 1896, her younger sister Elizabeth Riker took possession of Anna's memoir. It is presumed that Anna's memoir was still handwritten at this point in time. Elizabeth used the memoir, and her own recollections in a 1900 interview with the *New York Times*. She was 90 years old at the time. Her story was published in the October 14, 1900 edition of the newspaper. The story contains select passages directly from Anna's memoir, plus other details (presumably from Elizabeth) who was also at many of the Lafayette events cited by her sister.

It is not known when the typed transcript of Anna's original memoir was made, or who typed it. I had hoped that someone in the Riker family still had the original handwritten memoir. I now know that the handwritten preliminary draft wound up in Little Compton, Rhode Island! (See Alan Hoffman's *Gazette* article.) It must be presumed that several Riker family members likely received a copy of the typed transcription of Anna's memoir. The typed version of Anna's memoir is also archived at the New-York Historical Society.

Cross References

Anna's memoir can be cross-referenced with Auguste Levasseur's diary of Lafayette's 1824 and 1825 visit, as translated by Alan R. Hoffman. Levasseur often didn't put dates in his manuscript, but merely ordered Lafayette's travels chronologically into chapters by date periods and geographical areas. Furthermore, Levasseur's published manuscript rarely goes into the precise detail as contained in Anna's memoir. Nevertheless, several events do coincide:

In *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825*, pp. 103-104, Levasseur describes the Castle Garden fête, including Lafayette's reaction when a transparency of his home, La Grange, was shown. He describes Lafayette as being "very moved by this considerate idea of his friends." In the typewritten memoir, Anna Riker Spring writes that having seen the image of his home on the wall in front of him, Lafayette exclaimed, "Oh, my maison! La Grange! La Grange!"

In his Journal at p. 525, Levasseur writes that after Lafayette spent an emotional and no doubt exhausting day on July 4, 1825, the beginning of the last of his four visits to New York City, he "had great need of some rest and the citizens . . . left him for several days to be delivered up to the attentions . . . of personal friends." While Anna Riker Spring places the event in the latter part of August 1825 – more than a month after Lafayette departed New York for the final time – her account of this visit to the Riker home in 1825 gives us a glimpse of Lafayette enjoying the company of friends.

The latter part of August, 1825, the General told my father that it would give him pleasure to meet his relatives, including the children of his family. So invitations were sent to our relatives, including the Phoenix's and the Platts on my mother's side. The children over ten years of age were invited. The only strangers were Mr. and Mrs. Coolidge, Mr. and Mrs. Rush, and a French Marshal. I think it was Gen. Bernard, who was about returning to France. Every room in our house was thrown open. We had no supper table spread, for the evening was very warm, and only light refreshments, with choice wines, were served.

One room was reserved for the children, and in charge of them was Miss Witherspoon, an old friend of the family, and granddaughter of the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, the only clergyman who signed the Declaration of Independence. I had been told that the Gen. never forgot names, and when presented to her by my father, he said quickly, "Is she any relation to my old companion in arms, Captain Witherspoon, who died of his wound received at the battle of Brandywine, where I also was wounded?" My father replied, "His only child." And the Gen. shook hands with her again warmly, and said, "Your father was a brave officer." I think every body present remembered that party, for many of the little children, some now dead, and others, elderly women, have repeatedly talked to me about it.

Anna Riker Spring's typewritten memoir, pp. 12-14

It was also during this period of R&R that Lafayette paid a condolence call on Daniel Tompkins' widow on Staten Island. (See Alan Hoffman's article in the last *Gazette*, No. 97, Part I, pp. 44-45 for details.) During the steamer ride to Staten Island, Lafayette's private secretary, Auguste Levasseur, referred to Anna Riker's cousin, Jane Lawrence, as "La Beauté," a characterization that Anna thought "well suited to her." Below is an etching of Jane Riker Lawrence Lee based on a painting called "The White Plume" by Charles Cromwell Ingham. This image surely proves that Levasseur was right!



Jane Riker Lawrence Lee, etching by Asher B. Durand

Chain of Custody of the Documents

- 1) Recorder Richard Riker's daughter Anna Riker: Original Author
- 2) Anna Riker: Daughter of Richard Riker is asked to write her personal recollections of General Lafayette's 1824 visit (presumably shortly before her death in 1896). If her father had written his memoir also, it's safe to presume Anna utilized it as a memory aid.
- 3) Elizabeth Riker: Daughter of Richard Riker and sister of Anna Riker has possession of Anna's memoir after Anna's death. Elizabeth uses Anna's memoir for an interview with the *New York Times*.
- 4) *New York Times* is granted permission by Elizabeth to utilize parts of the typed manuscript in its October 14, 1900 story.

5) There is a one-generation gap between persons absolutely known to have possessed Anna's written or typed memoir; this gap is between Elizabeth Riker and Lavinia "Nina" Riker Strong. It can only be speculated the copy being traced here came through (the younger) John Lawrence Riker (brother of Ann and Elizabeth Riker), then through one of his children, to his Granddaughter Lavinia "Nina" Riker Strong.

For genealogical clarity, there is another (older) John Lawrence Riker, who is the brother of Richard Riker. It is also interesting to note that John Lawrence Riker (brother of Anna and Elizabeth) has a Lawrence family name, and that Jane Riker Lawrence (sister of Louisa Ann Lawrence) has a Riker name! The two families are very close.

This missing generation also coincides with one child of John Campbell and Louisa Ann Lawrence Campbell. This is James Campbell who married Helen Warner Oakley. James' and Helen's only child was Louise "Lulie" Lawrence Campbell, 2nd cousin to Lavinia "Nina" Riker Strong. John and Louisa were both mentioned in Anna's memoir; they married a few years after Lafayette's visit.

6) Lavinia "Nina" Riker Strong (b.1866 d.1961) is the Granddaughter of (the younger) John Lawrence Riker (brother of Anna Riker and Elizabeth Riker; also son of Richard Riker.) Nina is the next person known to have possessed Anna's memoir. Nina is a 2nd cousin to Louise "Lulie" Lawrence Campbell Sutton. Both are approximately the same age, and are very close friends. Written notes indicate Nina gives Neilson McVicker Sutton a typed copy of Anna's memoir – probably in the 1940s.

7) Neilson M. Sutton (b.1899 d.1991) is Lulie's fourth child, and has taken on the role of family historian and genealogist. Neilson's work is performed from the 1940s into the 1980s, and is very thorough and far reaching.



Derek Sutton and Neilson M. Sutton circa 1980s

- 8) William (Bill) Effingham Lawrence Sutton Jr. (b.1927 d.2013) inherits Neilson's research and records after Neilson's death in 1991. Bill converts Neilson's data into traditional Genealogical Trees.
- 9) Derek Campbell Sutton (b.1952) inherits Neilson Sutton's research and records, and Bill Sutton's condensation of Neilson's work after Bill's death in 2013. Derek's 3rd cousin, David Vaughn Sutton, enters Neilson's and Bill's Genealogical Trees into the My Family Tree database – which is presumably available to the public. The My Family Tree database may not contain extended Riker listings.
- 10) On January 23, 2016 Morgaine Beck and Derek Sutton are reviewing Neilson's records and discover Anna's memoir in the process of "downsizing for a move."
- 11) Derek Campbell Sutton donates most of Neilson's work to the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston in 2016. It is now archived there in the Neilson McVickar (sic) Sutton Collection.

Biographies

Richard Riker (b.1773 d.1842) – Richard Riker was a prominent and well-known New York City personality. He held positions as District Attorney of Westchester and Brooklyn. He was also a Lawyer and a Judge, but he is mostly known as being the Recorder for the City of New York. He is also known for honorably losing a duel held right around the time and place of the famous Hamilton/Burr duel – he was merely wounded in the foot or leg, and that was apparently enough to honorably conclude the duel. He was married to **Jennet Phoenix Platt**. His children mentioned in Anna's memoir include:

Phoenix Riker – Oldest Son of Richard and Jennet Riker

Anna Riker Spring (b.1809 d.1896) – Daughter of Richard and Jennet Riker

Elizabeth Riker Spring (b.1819 d.1901) – Daughter of Richard and Jennet Riker

Jennet Riker Wilson (b. 1816 d.1900) – Daughter of Richard and Jennet Riker

John Lawrence Riker (b.1830 d.1909) – Son of Richard and Jennet Riker

There are other siblings

Patience Ann Riker Lawrence (b.1807 d.1885) – My 4th Great-Grandmother. She was Richard Riker's sister, and second wife of John Lawrence. In Anna's memoir, she is referred to as Mrs. Lawrence and Aunt Lawrence. The children of John Lawrence and Patience Ann Riker Lawrence include:

Louisa Ann Lawrence Campbell (b.1807 d.1885) – My 3rd Great-Grandmother and the daughter of John and Patience Lawrence. She will marry John Campbell.

Jane Riker Lawrence Lee (b.1815 d.1858) – Daughter of John and Patience Lawrence, sister of Louisa

There are other siblings

Note: Phoenix, Anna, Elizabeth, Jennet, John, and any other of their Riker siblings are all 1st cousins to Louisa, Jane and any other of their Lawrence siblings. All probably met Lafayette.

John Lawrence (b.1758 d.1817) – My 4th Great-Grandfather - Although John Lawrence is not mentioned in Anna's memoir, he is Patience Ann Riker's husband (who is Richard Riker's sister). John was a successful dry good merchant (believed to be an importer). During the Revolutionary War, he was ship's Clerk under Captain Seth Harding on the U.S. Frigate *Confederacy*. While on board, the ship was captured by the British, and its crew incarcerated on the *Jersey* prison ship. After about three months, most or all of the crew were released under a prisoner exchange agreement. John is a cousin to Captain James Lawrence of "Don't Give Up the Ship" fame. There is evidence that John Lawrence also dabbled (profited) in the black market – once reportedly trading two horses for over 200 gallons of Rum!

John Campbell (b.1804 d.1861) – My 3rd Great-Grandfather; who will eventually marry Louisa Ann Lawrence. John was the immigrant to the U.S from Ireland mentioned in Anna's memoir. His principal career was as an accountant for Charles Goodyear, while Goodyear was trying to market his invention himself. This was long before the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. was formed in the 1890s. Charles Goodyear had nothing to do with this company.

Lavinia "Nina" Riker Strong – (b.1866 d.1961) – Nina was born too late to be mentioned in Anna's memoir, but is a key person in the chain of custody of Anna's memoir. Nina is the Great-Granddaughter of the older John Lawrence Riker (b.1787 d.1861) who is Richard Riker's brother. She is the Granddaughter of the younger John Lawrence Riker (b.1830 d.1909), brother of Anna and Elizabeth Riker. She is the daughter of a child of John Lawrence Riker.



Lavinia Riker Strong [cousin Nina]

Louise "Lulie" Lawrence Campbell – (b.1868 d.1952). Lulie is the Granddaughter of John Campbell and Louisa Ann Lawrence Campbell. Correspondence indicates that Lulie knew her Grandmother well because their ages overlapped by 17 years. Lulie and cousin Nina were lifelong friends. Lulie married to William Effingham Sutton (b.1863 d.1918) in 1893. Lulie is my Great-Grandmother.

Neilson McVicker Sutton – (b.1899 d.1991). Neilson is Lulie's fourth child. During her elder years, Lulie lived with both Neilson Sutton and his brother William Effingham Lawrence Sutton Sn. (b.1898 d.1987) (aka Larry), Lulie's third child. There is no doubt that Neilson and Larry knew "cousin Nina." I never met Lulie, but I did meet cousin Nina as a young child. Neilson is my Great-Uncle and Larry is my Grandfather.

Lafayette Joins the Masons!

by C. F. William Maurer

A Mason is a man who professes a faith in God. As a man of faith, he uses the tools of moral and ethical truths to serve mankind. A Mason binds himself to like-minded men in a Brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, social, cultural, and educational differences.

In 2024-2025, throughout the United States and centering in what were the 24 states two hundred years ago, the nation will re-enact Lafayette's Farewell Tour of our country. Day by day re-enactors will give presentations, speeches and participate in the visits of Lafayette and share his thoughts on his personal participation during the American Revolution, his close relationship with General George Washington, and the formation of America. They will share his personal connection with Washington and what may have been the beginning for this fine relationship, their Masonry.

George Washington was born on February 11, 1731, by the Julian calendar, and in 1752, Britain and the Colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar which moved his birthday a year and 11 days forward to February 22, 1732. His Masonic life began on November 4, 1752 when he was initiated at the Fredericksburg, Virginia Lodge, and he was just twenty years old as an Entered Apprentice Freemason. On March 3, 1753, he achieved "Fellowcraft," and on August 4, he earned his third degree of Master Mason. He was twenty-one years old by the "new" calendar at the time he was "raised." Raised is a term used to signify that a person has achieved the third degree of masonry.

On September 6, 1757, in Chavaniac, France, there was born into a family of French nobility and military lineage, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, known as the Marquis de Lafayette. Two years later, on November 2, 1759, his future bride, Marie Adrienne Françoise de Noailles, was born, and she was to hold the rank of a "marquise." She was the daughter of Jean de Noailles and Henriette Anne Louise d'Aguesseau and was the granddaughter of Henri François d'Aguesseau (1668–1751), Chancellor of France three times between 1717 and 1750.¹

Lafayette was of an extremely noble family. By the age of 13, he had amassed a large inheritance after the deaths of his father, mother, and maternal grandfather. His wealth and prestige afforded him many opportunities in life, and militarily included a commission to the rank of "sous-lieutenant" (sub-lieutenant) in the Musketeers at age 14. He was married at 16 and then received a captaincy in the Dragoons at age 18 – that gift was a late wedding present.²



Marquis de La Fayette



Marie Adrienne Françoise de Noailles

Let us take a look at relations between Great Britain and the Colonies. Relations began to fall apart back in 1733, as the British Parliament passed the *Molasses Act*. Later, because France and Spain felt humiliated by the terms of their previous battles with England and by the 1763 *Treaty of Paris*, they began to plan a war of “revanche” – a policy or movement aimed at achieving the return of their nation’s lost territory – against England.

Later, the Boston “Tea Party” angered the British Parliament. Therefore, to punish Boston and the colony of Massachusetts, the Parliament began passing new “Acts.” These were later known as, and certainly were, the “*Intolerable Acts*.”

These acts closed the port of Boston to all economic activity, took away the political rights of Massachusetts, and imposed other punitive measures. This was seen as coercion by the Colonists and became a major reason for the American Revolution.

The war of England against the Colonies came to be assisted by France and Spain. Although it was not reflected yet in the first battles, the struggle against England and therefore support of the Colonies was at the top of the French and Spanish to-do list.

Louis XIV, former King of France, had tried out some new and self-serving ideas. He had moved the Court from Paris to Versailles as part of a very personal campaign. Now the aristocracy of France would have to move there and join him. His idea was to have absolute control over the country. This would change both the homes and the incomes of the nobility and lead to very expensive entertainments in Versailles to satisfy the King.

And for the noble sons, who used to serve in their families’ “own” armies as mercenaries, His Majesty ordered the army to be under his direct control; these young men would then join the King’s army and would then study engineering, artillery and logistics at military academies. They would also then become loyal subjects and would thin their own ranks in battle.³

On April 19, 1775, the battles of Lexington and Concord were to be the first armed engagements between the British and the American revolutionaries. British forces were stationed mainly in Boston. A portion of the British forces marched to Lexington, Concord, and other towns with the intention of destroying or seizing military supplies. They were confronted by the militia and the first shots of the American Revolution were fired. The militia kept attacking the British forces during their search for supplies and on their retreat to Boston.

War had now begun. Sides were being chosen throughout Europe for or against the British. All thirteen Colonies were now rebelling against the Mother Country.

In France our very young Lafayette met Charles-François de Broglie, the Marquis de Ruffec, commander of the French Army of the East. He held the post of Premier Colonel of Grenadiers.

According to Lafayette, his life-transforming decision came while attending a dinner – the famous *Dîner de Metz* – on August 8, 1775, to honor the Duke of Gloucester, Prince William Henry, in Metz, France. The title of Duke of Gloucester is usually awarded to another son of the king. The Duke was the younger brother of George III, King of England. Despite being his brother, however, the Duke of Gloucester spoke out openly against the King's handling of the rebellion in America. This surprised and intrigued young Lafayette who knew very little about the fighting in the American colonies. To Lafayette, the idea of a people fighting for liberty and independence was captivating. In Lafayette's own words, "[w]hen I first heard of [the Colonists'] quarrel, my heart was enlisted, and I thought only of joining my colors to those of the revolutionaries."

Then and there Lafayette decided, against what many would consider rational thought, to leave his high social position and everything else in France to fight in the American Revolution. Lafayette was only seventeen years old when he committed himself to joining America's fight for freedom.

Despite having made his decision to join this fight for liberty, Lafayette could not simply pack up and leave. He sought counsel from Broglie, who had hosted the dinner at Metz. Broglie had his own ambition to join the American fight, and even sought once to supplant Washington as commander in chief. He had been involved with Pierre Beaumarchais in devising a scheme to offer secret support to the American Revolution in its early stages. Broglie discouraged Lafayette from leaving France. Lafayette would not be dissuaded.

Broglie was also Grand Master of a traveling military lodge of Freemasons. In that capacity he invited Lafayette; his brother-in-law Louis-Marie, the Vicomte de Noailles, who served in Rochambeau's expeditionary army and was the French officer who negotiated the capitulation of Yorktown in 1781; Louis-Philippe, the Comte de Ségur, who later served as a colonel under Rochambeau; and other young officers to join the lodge. At this time young Freemasons were not only members of a social organization that preached the latest philosophies, but they talked about the equality of man and the rights of all – loaded political

ideas in an absolutist monarchy. The idea of Masonry closely aligned with Lafayette's love for the military, and Lafayette found, for the first time, a real "brotherhood."⁴



Comte Charles-François de Broglie



*Prince William Henry,
Duke of Gloucester*



*Gilbert du Motier,
Marquis de Lafayette*

The May 2022 *Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette* included an article by John C. Becica about a trip to France made by the AFL. President Alan Hoffman and his wife Marilyn visited the French Museum of Freemasonry, and the museum guide showed them a Masonic book that belonged to the Lodge of St. Jean d'Ecosse (St. John of Scotland) and was thought to have shown that young Lafayette was an accepted Freemason as of June 24, 1775. He would have been 17 years old and, well, almost 18 years old. Perhaps Lafayette at 17 was too young to become a Mason? Maybe the Lodge of St. Jean d'Ecosse should have been Saint-Jean de la Candeur?"⁵

The Masonic book entry reads that, "towards the end of a Masonic meeting, Lafayette asked for entrance at the door (of the meeting) and that 'the Worshipful Master' sent him an escort of 'Chevaliers-écossais' (high-ranking Masons) to honor him." And the story was summed up by, "Since only accepted or admitted Masons were allowed to attend a Masonic meeting, Lafayette's admission to the meeting proves that he was already an accepted Freemason in June of 1775."

Well maybe not. If age was an important part in the program and if it were today, maybe it happened like this. The lodge was ready to close when there was a knock on the outer door, and the Master was told that the young man, Lafayette, would like to enter. The Master may have responded and said, "We are closing now. Right Worshipful Smith and Jones, wait a minute and do bring him in and I will introduce him to the Brothers." Lafayette was then escorted into the now-closed lodge, and the Master announced to the Brothers, "This is Captain Lafayette, he will be joining our lodge in September (when he is 18), and he is certainly welcome to join us this evening for dinner." And the Secretary added this to the minutes. That sounds more like the way the Master of a Lodge would treat this young man today.

And then just three months later after his 18th birthday, another text mentions: “The day after Lafayette’s daughter Henriette was born December 15, 1775, he, Noailles, and Ségur joined the Masonic Lodge Saint-Jean de la Candeur, in Paris.”⁶

And then, in *Lafayette and the Close of the American Revolution*, Appendix III, p. 433, “The Masons Again,” author Louis Gottschalk writes that Mr. R. Baker Harris, librarian of the Supreme Council 33* [33 Degrees], sent him reproductions of pages from a contemporary document entitled “*Planche à tracer de la cérémonie de l’inauguration de la Loge de Saint Jean, régulièrement constituée à l’Orient de Paris, sous le titre distinctif de la Candeur,*” that lists among the “Chers Frères Visiteurs” the “Marquis de Lafayette”; Mr. Harris assured the author that this made it necessary for a visitor to be a Mason.

Backing that paper is the following: “Before the end of the year, on December 25, the Loge de la Candeur in Paris was personally inaugurated by the Grand Master, who took the Marquis of Fenelon as an apprentice and, at his request, witnessed his preparation. According to the register of members, the lodge itself consisted almost exclusively of members of the high nobility. One hundred visitors from the high nobility were listed by name. Some of them were also otherwise available, e.g., Duke de Choiseul, Marquis de la Fayette, Marquis de Saint Germain, two Princes de Hesse, Comte de Lowendahl, Prince de Nassau, Marquis de Spinola, Genoese Ambassador Baron de Wimpfen... The work of the Lodge was splendid and distinguished above that of all the other Lodges when she (the lodge) emphatically used the influence of her high-ranking member to stop the persecution that had broken out at Naples against Freemasonry.”⁷



ANCIENT CRAFT MASONS in all parts of the World, add 4,000 years to the Christian Era, calling it Anno Lucis – Year of Light; abbreviated A.L. (This fact has a symbolic reference, not because they believe Freemasonry is, but that the principles and light of the institution are coeval with the creation.) Ancient Craft Masons (Blue Lodges) hold “Communications.”

This “Loge de la Candeur” (Loge La Candeur) of Paris was quite an active lodge. I believe it was formed in 1763 or as written “5763.” Later, in 1778 the Lodge decided to have a plan for three acts of charity. As was typical of other Masonic societies that had a utilitarian, public outreach, the Lodge first sought to interest other Masons by financing a gold medal prize for the winner of an essay contest. The question to be addressed in the essay was: “What method would be the most economical, the healthiest, and the most useful to society for raising foundlings from their birth to the age of seven?”

Lafayette’s military life and career continued, and with the help of fellow French officers, he was able to meet with Silas Deane, the secret American envoy to France. Deane, a Mason, had been sent to France to garner French support for the Revolution. He was in contact with Brother Benjamin Franklin, too. Masonic Brothers would now begin to change the life of Brother Lafayette.

Also involved was Johann de Kalb, a self-made baron who invented his own title and became French officer “Johann von Robais, Baron de Kalb.” He happily introduced Lafayette to Deane. De Kalb had learned French, English, and the social skills to earn a substantial military commission in the Loewendal German Regiment of the French Army in 1743.

De Kalb was also a Mason. According to Edgar Ewing Brandon, author of *A Pilgrimage of Liberty*, “It had been arranged with Lafayette before he began his tour that he would come to Camden [South Carolina] and lay the corner-stone of a permanent monument to the memory of his friend and companion in arms.”⁸ This was accomplished in a Masonic ceremony on March 8, 1825.

Silas Deane, as a member of the Continental Congress, was the first to represent the “United” Colonies abroad. He was eager to enlist French officers and readily handed out the rank of “major general” to Lafayette, in return for Lafayette’s promise to purchase a ship and bring supplies and other officers to America.⁹

Lafayette’s Masonry is referenced on the Jefferson Monticello website as follows: “In 1774, relatives arranged his marriage to Adrienne de Noailles who was just fourteen and a half years old. The following year Lafayette joined the Freemasons, an association that prompted his determination to help the American colonists.”¹⁰

Washington was initially impressed by the young man, and Masonry may have been brought up in early conversations and provided Lafayette a safe and very good introduction to Brother Washington. Later, their military service allowed them to visit several lodges. What is more likely than that, Washington may have desired to weave the bond of Masonic brotherhood around the young man who was to play so delicate and important a part in the relations between the great Mason who commanded the American Army and that other great Mason, America's greatest diplomat, Benjamin Franklin, who was America's ambassador to the French Court.

No original documentary evidence is known to exist which records the “initiation” of General Lafayette in the Masonic Fraternity or in what Lodge or when this took place. It has been a tradition in Masonic circles that General Lafayette was made a Mason in one of the

Military Lodges at Morristown, New Jersey where a Festal Lodge was held December 27, 1779 for which occasion the jewels and furniture and clothing of St John's Lodge No 1 of Newark, New Jersey were borrowed. The meeting proved a great success with some 68 brethren being present, one of whom was General Washington.

However, Lafayette had been granted permission to return to France in late 1778, and was there lobbying for more French support at the time of this event. He worked with American emissaries Benjamin Franklin and John Adams to help persuade the government of Louis XVI to send additional troops and supplies to aid the Colonists. He then left on the French frigate *Hermione* in March 1780 and arrived back in America in April 1780 with the news that 6,000 infantry under the command of the comte de Rochambeau, as well as six ships of the line, would soon arrive from France.

After the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, ending the war, Lafayette returned to this country in 1784. One incident is sufficient to show the great interest he had in Masonry and the close bonds of friendship that existed between Washington and him. He is said to have brought back and presented to Washington a most elaborately embroidered Masonic apron made by Adrienne Noailles Lafayette, his good wife.

Lafayette and Washington remained close friends. Lafayette's only son had been named George Washington Lafayette when he was born in 1779. During the French Revolution, Lafayette, as Commander of the Parisian National Guard, sent the key to the west portal of the Bastille to President Washington. The key hangs, to this day, near the front entrance of Mount Vernon. In 1795, Madame Lafayette, fearing for George's safety, sent the boy to America where he stayed at Mount Vernon under Washington's care until 1797.

In 2024-2025, the American Friends of Lafayette will be celebrating Lafayette's return to America and his tour of the 24 states. He will be welcomed throughout the country once again. In 1824 and 1825, he made his Farewell Tour visit accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, who was also a Freemason. Both of them were present at the laying of the corner stone of Bunker Hill monument, one of the many Masonic ceremonies that they attended, and they both visited many lodges and received much attention from the Masons in this country.



George Washington Lafayette



The Marquis de Lafayette in 1824



Grand Master Wilkins F. Tannehill

During their visit throughout the country, Masonic Brothers welcomed the Lafayettes. One such Brother was Wilkins F. Tannehill, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. In his book *A Pilgrimage of Liberty*, Edgar Ewing Brandon reproduces the welcoming speech made by Brother Tannehill in Nashville and Lafayette's reply. Here is Lafayette's reply:

... He had, he said, been long a member of the order, having been initiated, young as he was, even before he entered the service of our country in the revolutionary war. He had never for a moment ceased to love and venerate the institution, and was therefore peculiarly delighted to see that it had spread its genial influence thus far to the *west*, and that his bretheren here were not only comfortably but brilliantly accommodated. He considered the order as peculiarly valuable in this country, where it not only fostered the principles of civil and religious liberty but was eminently calculated to link the extremities of this wide republic together, and to perpetuate, by its fraternizing influence, the union of the states.¹¹

During the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour, we all have the opportunity to welcome Lafayette back to America and to remember him and his fine service to both Masonry and our American freedom.

About the Author

AFL member Bill Maurer is a member of a Masonic lodge in New York and one in New Jersey. He served in the U.S. Army in the Reserves and was the Operations Officer for the 11th Special Forces Group then in Tappan, New York. This led to the Masons and papers on Major John André. He is a Trustee at the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library in New York City, a Trustee at the Mendham Borough Library in New Jersey, and the Historian of Mendham Borough. He wrote “Dragoon Diary” as his paper for his Master’s degree and has listed his other articles on *Academia.edu* under C. F. William Maurer. After a career in the Food Broker business, he began working in historic houses in New York and New Jersey. His last house was the Gomez Mill House in Newburgh, New York. He had two tours as a Ranger at the Statue of Liberty.

¹ Marquerite Guilhou, *Life of Adrienne D'Ayen: Marquise de La Fayette* (Chicago: R. F. Seymour, 1918), p. 11

² “Marquis de Lafayette,” American Battlefield Trust. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/marquis-de-lafayette>

³ David A. Clary, *Adopted Son* (New York: Bantam Books, 2007), p. 23

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 26

⁵ Laura Auricchio, *The Marquis* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014), p. 25

⁶ Clary, p. 28

⁷ Georg Kloss, *History of Freemasonry In France*, (1852-1853), p. 207

⁸ Edgard Ewing Brandon, *A Pilgrimage of Liberty* (Athens, Ohio: Lawhead Press, 1944), p. 43

⁹ “Lafayette’s Life: Decide What To Be And Go Be It,” Chris Stevens

¹⁰ “Thomas Jefferson Encyclopedia,” <https://www.monticello.org/research-education/thomas-jefferson-encyclopedia/marquis-de-lafayette/>

¹¹ Brandon, pp. 237-238

Over the Hill with the *Lafayette 4-2-0*

by Ernest and Janet Sutton

When Lafayette made his Farewell Tour from 1824 to 1825 across 24 states over 13 months, he united the country 50 years after the American War of Independence and reminded the nation of the ideas of the Spirit of 1776. His tour forever cemented his name in the hearts and minds of Americans. It was also the time of great change in America. America was pushing west, and the Industrial Age was well underway. Lafayette's travels took him westward with America.

In 1811, construction of the National Road was begun in Cumberland, Maryland, continued over the 3,000-foot Keyser's Ridge in the Allegheny Mountains, and finished at Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1818. Later, the National Road was extended as far as Vandalia, Illinois. In May 1825, on his return from the west, Lafayette traveled the new National Road (US Route 40) that had just opened, going from Wheeling to Uniontown, Pennsylvania to meet his friend Albert Gallatin, father of this first National Road. In the first week of June 1825, he traveled overland from Pittsburgh to Lockport, New York to catch the passenger packet *Rochester*, and traveled east on the Erie Canal.

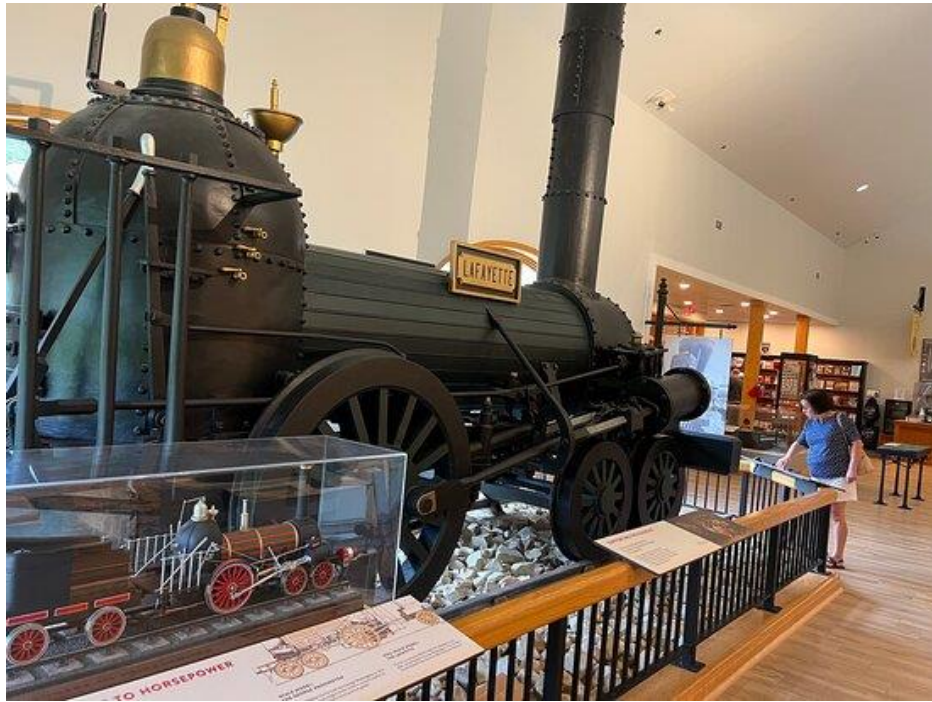
One challenge remained during this period of pushing westward: how to move passengers, produce, and goods over the Allegheny Mountains from Philadelphia in the east to Pittsburgh in the west to take advantage of the Ohio and Mississippi River waterway down to New Orleans. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which owned the Main Line Canal system, needed to connect its two canals over the Cresson Summit of the Allegheny Mountains. This would reduce the transportation time of goods across Pennsylvania from 32 days to just 4 days.

The problem was solved with the development of the powerful *Lafayette 4-2-0* engine. Canal boats could now be pulled out of the water by a stationary steam engine onto flatcars and then pulled up five steep inclines on each side of the Cresson Summit. Between inclines, a new locomotive strong enough to pull at least three flatcars carrying canal boats each weighing 7,000 pounds at a lesser grade was needed. This new type of locomotive was named the *Lafayette 4-2-0*, and it quickly became a leader in engine design and in American railroad history. Manufactured by the Norris Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, it was the first to feature a leading four-wheel swiveling pilot truck and a horizontal boiler. Other innovations increased its tractive power by placing the engine weight on its two driver wheels. It may have been the first standardized production locomotive in the world. The *Lafayette 4-2-0* established the configuration that American steam locomotives would follow until the end of the steam era. The *Lafayette* was a pacesetter.

A full-size wooden replica of the *Lafayette* displayed at the B&O Railroad exhibit during the Chicago Columbian Exhibition of 1893 can be seen today at the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Park Service Visitor's Center, Portage, Pennsylvania.

In 1927, the B&O Railroad also built a model of the *Lafayette* which is at the B&O Railroad Roundhouse Museum, Baltimore, Maryland. To the delight of railroad history buffs, this working model carried passengers during both the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress Fair and the 1948 Chicago Railroad Fair.

The Bachmann Trains produced an HO scale model of the *Lafayette* which can be watched on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fv0St2g-sd8>.



*Wooden replica of the Lafayette displayed at the B&O Railroad Exhibit, Chicago Columbian Exhibition of 1893.
Location: Allegheny Portage Railroad Visitor's Center, National Park Service, Portage, Pennsylvania*



Postcard: Replica of the Lafayette built in 1927 for the B&O Railroad which ran at the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress Fair and the 1948 Chicago Railroad Fair. Location: B&O Museum, Baltimore, Maryland

THE LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY

by John C. Becica

PART I



Most of us know that there are many places, objects, and companies named to honor our hero. Quite a few of these designations took place as a result of Lafayette's 1824-1825 Farewell Tour of America, but years later the memory of the Marquis was still being honored. Did you know that on two occasions in our history there were automobiles named for Lafayette?

Ninety-four years after General Lafayette's last visit to America, the LaFayette Motors Company was formed in October 1919 to produce luxury motor cars.

The plan was to design and manufacture lavishly equipped and expensive automobiles, named to honor Lafayette. The vehicles were designed with big V-8 engines by D'Orsay McCall White, who in 1915 had been responsible for the Cadillac V-8. It is said that LaFayette motor cars sported the first electric clock in an automobile.

A factory was set up in Mars Hill, a neighborhood of Indianapolis, Indiana to manufacture the cars. Touring, Sedan, Coupé, Torpedo, Roadster, and Limousine models were produced. Prices ranged from \$5,025 to a staggering \$7,500 for the Limousine.

It is said that Lafayette's memoirs were studied, and influenced the design of the cars. The choice of silver and walnut interior woodwork was influenced by French art of the period. A cameo of Lafayette was used as an advertising logo and appeared on the vehicles as a radiator badge in onyx and silver. The scrolled monogram used by Lafayette on his private stationery was also used as a symbol for the company.

The LaFayette motor car debuted in 1920, advertised in such periodicals as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Home and Garden*, and *National Geographic*. The old-style spelling of Lafayette's family name, printed in all capital letters (LAFAYETTE), was used to distinguish the company and its advertising.

Charles W. Nash had invested in the company, and his Nash Motors, gained control in 1921, making him the LaFayette Motors president. In 1923, the Mars Hill facility was closed to save money, and the equipment moved to manufacture the LAFAYETTE motor car at the Nash plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The LaFayette Motors Company experienced fierce competition from luxury car rivals, such as the Rolls Royce Springfield Silver Ghost, and a decision was made to cease production in 1924. At the same time, the LaFayette nameplate was retired. Estimates for the total production run, from 1920 to 1924, range from 1,859 to 2,267 vehicles manufactured.



The restored 1924 LaFayette Model 134 Four Door Coupé shown here was originally sold to the owner of a Steam Locomotive Company in Northern Georgia. It remained in the family for many years and had been carefully stored when bought by a collector. The cost of the purchase and restoration is said to have exceeded \$200,000. Note the onyx & silver cameo radiator badge.



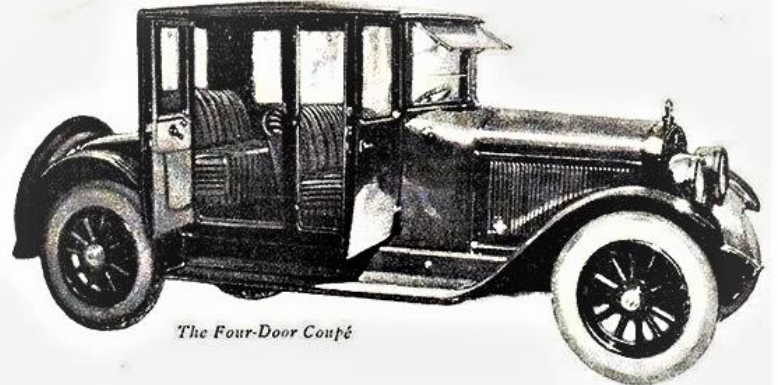
The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette



LAFAYETTE

A new motor car has been created by men whose names are closely linked with the development of fine automobiles both in this country and in Europe. This car, to be available later, will bear the name—LAFAYETTE

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY
at Mars Hill, INDIANAPOLIS



The Four-Door Coupé

YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN
THERE WOULD BE SUCH A CAR

Launch Announcements



IT IS not solely for quiet dignity or for graceful contour that LAFAYETTE finds distinction in the eyes of its admirers.



Technically practiced minds, while not neglectful of these virtues, give even greater weight to its splendid engineering.

Impressively, this same concept likewise is widely shared by those who commonly find but scant interest in mechanical detail.

Some contend this to be the natural reaction of a public well informed on the previous works of the car's creators.

Others hold that the car itself conveys expert engineering so unmistakably as to impress even those who are not technically inclined.

The fact is, that in this, as in every component of LAFAYETTE, its creators have essayed the literal expression of their ideal motor car.

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill INDIANAPOLIS

LAFAYETTE




"Mention The Geographic—It identifies you"

*LaFayette
Motor Cars
Advertisement
Mars Hill*

May 1920

The Literary Digest for September 25, 1920




Available for Ownership

Now you may place your own estimate upon LAFAYETTE. Automobiles are in the hands of our distributors and are going forth to private ownership. As you are there cars abroad upon the highways you will have basis for comparing them with others which you admire. But not until you have actually driven a LAFAYETTE will you have true gauge of its merit. Then will you understand why we have stressed repeatedly the car's competent engineering. Once you have taken your place behind the wheel you will sense the practical application of that engineering. It is very possible the car will find such favor in your eyes that you will wish to own a LAFAYETTE.

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill, Tennessee

LAFAYETTE



November 1920, Mars Hill

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST November 6, 1920



In the main, those who have acquired title to LAFAYETTE have enjoyed long association with other cars of high repute. They have always assumed high standards of reliability and service. They have expected smooth running mechanisms, powerful engines and superior workmanship. It must be rare excellence, indeed, that should evoke from such an audience more than the common need of praise.

Yet LAFAYETTE has done this thing. In no uncertain terms these men have paid tribute to the car. In their comparisons they have mentioned only cars of very highest rank. We should therefore be overmodest not to admit much pleasure that our work has been so approved. Such approval gives us confidence that the day will come when you also will want to own a LAFAYETTE.

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill, Tennessee

LAFAYETTE



September 1920, Mars Hill

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST January 29, 1921



LAFAYETTE

Seeing the LAFAYETTE, one knows intuitively that it will serve capably for many, many years. He senses likewise its superb activity and almost unbounded power. He is sure also of its unhurried workmanship. The guaranty of these is eminent engineering, for which no car is more notable than LAFAYETTE.

Lafayette Open Car, \$5,625 at Indianapolis

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill, Tennessee

January 1921, Mars Hill, \$5,625

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



WHEN YOU COME BACK FROM THIS RIDE YOU WILL DO OUR ADVERTISING

We want you to take a ride in a LAFAYETTE no matter whether you are considering purchase now or not. We want you to take this ride because we know it will be a better advertisement than we can ever print. It will make you want to own this car as you never thought you would want to own a car in all your life. When you return you will say things in its praise that we could not in modesty set up in type. Forever after, whenever you ride in another car, unconsciously you will find yourself comparing that car with LAFAYETTE. You will say you never knew, before you found it in the LAFAYETTE, what comfort it is possible to enjoy in rapid travel over uneven roads. You will say you never knew the thrill of a hundred horsepower at your command until you released it in the LAFAYETTE. You will say you never knew such mastery over distance—such confidence in any mechanism made by man. When you drive a LAFAYETTE you need never permit another car to come close enough to go around. Speed in it does not bear its accustomed relation to danger. The faster it goes, the closer it seems to hug the ground. It may be turned into a curve at high speed without lurch or skid. Set the brakes hard as you like; the wheels stroke down like velvet, without the old familiar drumming on the road. It is a glorious car, built for those who love fine things.

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill, Tennessee

LAFAYETTE



May 1921, Mars Hill




Merely to see the LaFAYETTE is to place high estimate upon it. For it is the kind of car the eye singles out in the multitude and follows with candid admiration

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill, Indianaapolis

LAFAYETTE

1921, Mars Hill



Four-Door Coupe
Touring Type

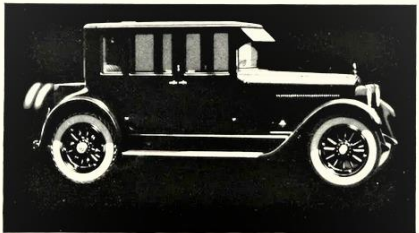
With the general improvement in business has come a demand for the LaFAYETTE not enjoyed by any other car of its price.

Would this not indicate that the lover of fine motor cars, after careful appraisal of values, has found the LaFAYETTE most to be desired?

LAFAYETTE MOTORS COMPANY at Mars Hill, Indianaapolis

LAFAYETTE

1921, Mars Hill



The Four-Door Coupe

The roster of LaFayette owners naturally includes many families whose requirements are for three or four fine motor cars.

And it is significant to note that during the past year a large number of such owners have standardized wholly on the LaFayette.

Lafayette Motors Company, at Mars Hill, Indianaapolis

LAFAYETTE

August 1922, Mars Hill



LAFAYETTE

IF OUR CAR is as good as we believe it is or as good as owners tell us, that is because we have not once swerved from the purpose with which we started—to build the finest automobile we could, putting into its structure, without thought of cost, all that honest metal could give and that devoted workmanship could avail

Base weight of Touring Car, with spare tire and full tanks of fuel and water, 4150 pounds. LaFayette Coupe Car, \$1025 at Indianaapolis.

1922, Mars Hill



HE WHO OWNS A LAFAYETTE is envied by all who truly love fine things. Quiet, beautiful and strong, this car rules any road it travels.

Lafayette Motor Company, at Mars Hill, Indianapolis

LAFAYETTE

1923, Mars Hill



IT costs more to buy a Lafayette. It costs more to build it. The fine material and the unburied labor that go into it exact, quite justly, a little higher price. It is so with all fine things.

Our owners tell us, however, that the Lafayette is worth all that we have to ask for it, that this car returns full value in comfort, usefulness and enjoyment.

Even those who have owned and driven motor cars costing a great deal more say that Lafayette performance is unquestionably the finest they have ever known.

Readily the conviction that the Lafayette is one of the world's finest motor cars is finding wider and wider acceptance as the experience of Lafayette owners becomes known.

LAFAYETTE MOTOR CORPORATION, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

LAFAYETTE

1923, Milwaukee



ONE mile is enough to determine the superb power of the Lafayette, its flexibility, and its comfort. It takes not thousands of miles, as you think they, however, to know the Lafayette intimately, to learn to know it, to know it fully, to know it to the fullest of its ability and the ease that are upon it. Our owners and new alike tell us they never have known the Lafayette's equal—and they have driven the best of American and foreign cars.

Readily the conviction that the Lafayette is one of the world's finest motor cars is finding wider and wider acceptance as the experience of Lafayette owners becomes known.

LAFAYETTE MOTOR CORPORATION, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

LAFAYETTE

1923, Milwaukee



MOST men gain from their motoring experience a very definite idea of the car they some day hope to own. It is a car that has the virtues of the many and the flaws of none, a car that is built to last and serve economically far beyond the accepted span.

In design, it is established and perfected; in beauty, staunch and perennially good; in power, supple, quiet and supreme. Its comfort transcends other fine cars they have owned; its maintenance cost is pleasantly low.

To Lafayette owners, this car is no longer an imaginary thing. It is a reality that is theirs to enjoy today and every day for many years to come.

Readily the conviction that the Lafayette is one of the world's finest motor cars is finding wider and wider acceptance as the experience of Lafayette owners becomes known.

LAFAYETTE MOTOR CORPORATION, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

LAFAYETTE

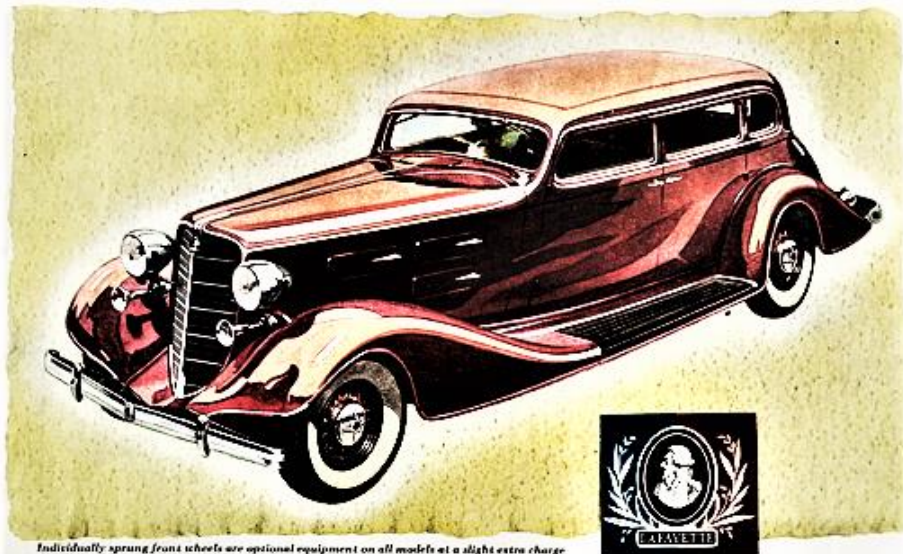
1924, Milwaukee

PART II

Ten years after the demise of the LaFayette luxury motorcar, Nash Motors resurrected the name, but this time the tribute to the Marquis was not as great. In 1934, the name was assigned to the much, much, less expensive, in fact the cheapest, model in the line of Nash 6-cylinder cars. By now, body sheet metal had progressed to the curved, rounded styles of the period. Over the years from 1934 to 1936, the LaFayette name was used. From 1937 to 1941, the car was renamed the Nash LaFayette. These autos sold for about a tenth of the price of the previous luxury LaFayette motor car, costing the buyer \$595 to \$695.

Sadly, the LaFayette name fell out of use in 1941. Since then, it has been gone from the world of motor vehicles being manufactured.

*LaFayette
Advertisement
1934*



Individually sprung front wheels are optional equipment on all models at a slight extra charge.

A NEW KIND OF LOW-PRICED CAR BY NASH... THE

"Jeweled Movement"
LA FAYETTE

Gives you the smooth, long-life silence of costlier cars. The mere looks of this new car—its bigness, its smart Slipstream lines—immediately set it apart from others in its price class.

The new "jeweled movement" LaFayette, created by Nash, is definitely bigger, more beautiful. But there is something else. People have discovered it. The LaFayette is a new kind of low-priced car.

In it are costly construction features* never before put into a car at this price. These features

— proven and recognized — give it that smooth, long life silence of engine and body which you find in some big, expensive cars.

To automotive engineers the importance of these features is self-evident. They work like jewels in a fine watch.

Nash can give them to you in the new LaFayette because this company knows how to build fine cars more economically. Every vital part of the new LaFayette has been tested and proved by Nash over a period of years.

Be sure to see the new "jeweled movement"

LaFayette at the showroom of your nearest Nash dealer. Admire its bigness, its beauty. But even more important, be sure to have its hidden values explained to you. The Nash Motors Company, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

* Costly LaFayette features new in the low-price field. Seven-bearing, extra-size crankshaft; fully encased chain; complete force-feed lubrication of engine with tilt-bored connecting rods; metered pressure cooling of engine; Invar Struts in aluminum alloy pistons; Nash precision machine g... —perfected in 18 years of building fine cars; automatic and thermostatic-control shock absorbers; steering road-shock eliminator; metal encased springs with lubricating inserts; worm and roller steering gear; Streamline rounded hooded body.

NASH DEALERS EVERYWHERE ARE NOW DISPLAYING THE NEW LA FAYETTE. Five six-cylinder models: Five-passenger, Four-door Sedan, \$695; Five-passenger Touring Sedan with trunk, \$685; Two-passenger Coupe, \$655; Four-passenger Coupe (trunk seat), \$675; Five-passenger, Two-door Sedan, \$645. All prices f.o.b. factory. Special equipment extra. . . . NASH sizes and eight, four series; \$775 to \$2055 f.o.b. factory. Prices subject to change without notice.

A BIGGER Low-priced Car \$635 to \$695



Partial LaFayette Ad, 1935



Nash LaFayette Ad, 1939



1936 Model showing the "LAFAYETTE NASH BUILT" Radiator Badge



1939 Model Nash LaFayette



*Hood Ornament Depicting
Lafayette's Scroll Monogram*

*Hood Ornament, showing the
"LAFAYETTE NASH BUILT"
Radiator Badge*



About the Author:

John Becica is a graduate of Lafayette College, a Member of the Sons of the American Revolution, a Life Member of the AFL, a Member of the Lafayette Alliance, and a Principal Supporter, Officer and Researcher for the Lafayette Trail, Inc.

He calls himself a 1950's - 1960's era "Car Nut," who lost interest in recent models when sedans all became undifferentiated vehicles styled to look like eggs.

Lafayette, We Will Remember!

by Scott Rayl



Acting independently, I recently submitted the nomination of the Marquis de Lafayette for the Congressional Medal of Honor. I hope American Legion Paris Post 1¹ sees the merit of my action and supports it through a formal resolution, but my tireless desire to demonstrate the impact of our membership in Franco-American relations does not hinge on my action's acceptance. We are the "Second Embassy," so we are diplomatic agents both in our personal and professional lives. The Post was dubbed the Second Embassy by Myron T. Herrick, WWI American Ambassador to France and the name stuck.

There are questions of Lafayette's eligibility, and I am eager to hear all of your thoughts. Below is my first of many future denials, but make no mistake, this will likely establish a precedent so the rules are malleable. The AR 600-8-22 is the Army's military awards manual, and as a contributor to many such manuals, I assure you it can easily be rewritten, adjusted, and sometimes thrown out, if the will of the proper authority decides to get involved in my campaign. Here is the Army's initial response to Virginia representative Rob Wittman's letter written on our behalf:

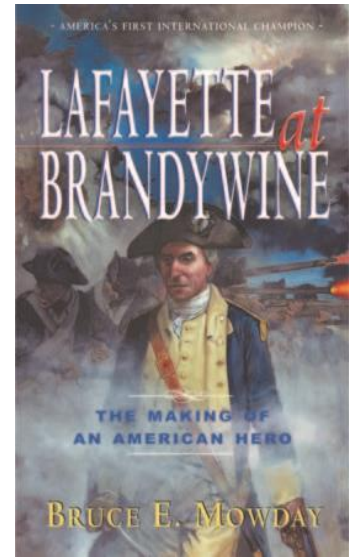
Dear Representative Wittman:

This is in response to your recent inquiry on behalf of Mr. Scott Rayl concerning his desire for the late Major General Marquis de Lafayette to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

We are unable to facilitate your request. Due to the passage of time, as this request stems from the American Revolutionary War, Major General de Lafayette's entire wartime chain of command is deceased. Without both a living qualified recommender and a minimum of one living intermediate authority, the retroactive recommendation cannot be processed in accordance with Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards). In order for an award recommendation to be considered "submitted into military channels" requires signature by both an initiating official and endorsement by the first higher official in the chain of command (who is not the recommender). As such, it is not possible to meet the requirements for retroactive award recommendation for this situation.

I recently gave a speech to the American Friends of Lafayette on Virginia Lafayette Day where I discussed my view on how the American Legion's pillar of Americanism takes a different form to us, as members of Paris Post 1. I personally view Franco-Americanism as synonymous with our founding principles, and so it is through this lens that I conduct myself. I stated in my speech, "This one man embodied modern democratic free society before the idea was given shape on the field of battle or in the halls of a legislature," serving in two revolutions that altered the future of personal liberties and the practice of government.

As many of you may know, a person's lifetime accomplishments are not subjects for consideration of America's highest award for valor, so I used Lafayette's gallant service displayed during the Battle of Brandywine as the basis for my submission. There is a growing amount of material on the subject, but I am taking a liking to my new friend Bruce Mowday's work. *Lafayette at Brandywine* is one of many signed books I plan to add to the future Pershing Hall library.



Not only would the award of a Congressional Medal of Honor be another offer of gratitude to Lafayette for his service to America, it would also be an honor to have Lafayette be the precedent allowing for an entirely new chapter of bravery to be added to the medal's legacy. Few figures throughout our history are more deserving to have this honor. Few statements could better highlight our need to remember not only Lafayette but the importance of our relationship with our oldest ally, France. Paris Post 1 is one of the few organizations most suited to make this case, and as the Second Embassy and "Mother Post," we have a diplomatic responsibility to stand firm in this belief.

We are a bridge in the field of Remembrance, and we have a role in the future of Franco-American relations. History has proven our desire to act alone if necessary to ensure the bond between these great countries we have chosen as our home and heartlands. Through the legacy of our members, we risked our citizenship by joining the French Foreign Legion in WWI, forming the Lafayette Escadrille, and serving in the Army Field Service. When we were refused official support in WWII, we did it again by forming organizations like the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We will be readdressing these subjects soon, with the approval of efforts like "Project Josephine."²

Lafayette embodied the spirit of humanity and tradition of service that the founders of Paris Post 1 continued over a century later. He is the historic face of our cooperation with France, and the Pershing Hall collection which belonged to Paris Post 1 was filled with his images. When the American Expeditionary Force command group went to Lafayette's tomb at Picpus Cemetery in WWI, it was not a simple photo shoot; it was an homage and long overdue pilgrimage of Americans *en masse* stating to the world that we will never forget the life and legacy of Lafayette.



General Pershing salutes Lafayette at Picpus Cemetery

About the Author

Scott Rayl is a retired Army vet with nearly 20 years of service. His sole occupational ambition was to work for the American Battle Monuments Commission, and he was offered a position as a steward of Normandy American Cemetery just in time for COVID to end that journey. So, he rebranded himself as a repatriation specialist working with numerous groups, most notably: Stories Behind the Stars, Battle of the Bulge Association, Paris Post 1 American Legion in France, and his own Repatriation Investments.

In these organizations, he has held many positions becoming among the leading providers of biographical information on fallen service members for living families and especially foreigners who have adopted American graves overseas. His work often shows up in various publications around the U.S., and he is easily found on Facebook and LinkedIn. Perhaps most importantly, he has chosen to be one of the newest members of the American Friends of Lafayette, and his presentation on Virginia Lafayette Day proved how much each new member can add to our organization.

Although not specifically on the subject of Lafayette, his first book is expected to be out in the coming months. His primary and immediate goals are to act as the Historian and Research Center Special Projects Liaison for Paris Post 1 in France. He and his team are pursuing the restoration of Pershing Hall as one of America's most prominent international war memorials and cultural centers while strengthening the Franco-American alliance we all value.



Left to right, Scott Rayl, Alan Hoffman, and Mark Schneider as the 1824 Lafayette at the AFL luncheon on March 14, Virginia Lafayette Day. Hoffman and Schneider had traded hats. Behind them is the Lafayette bust from the Paris Post 1 archive

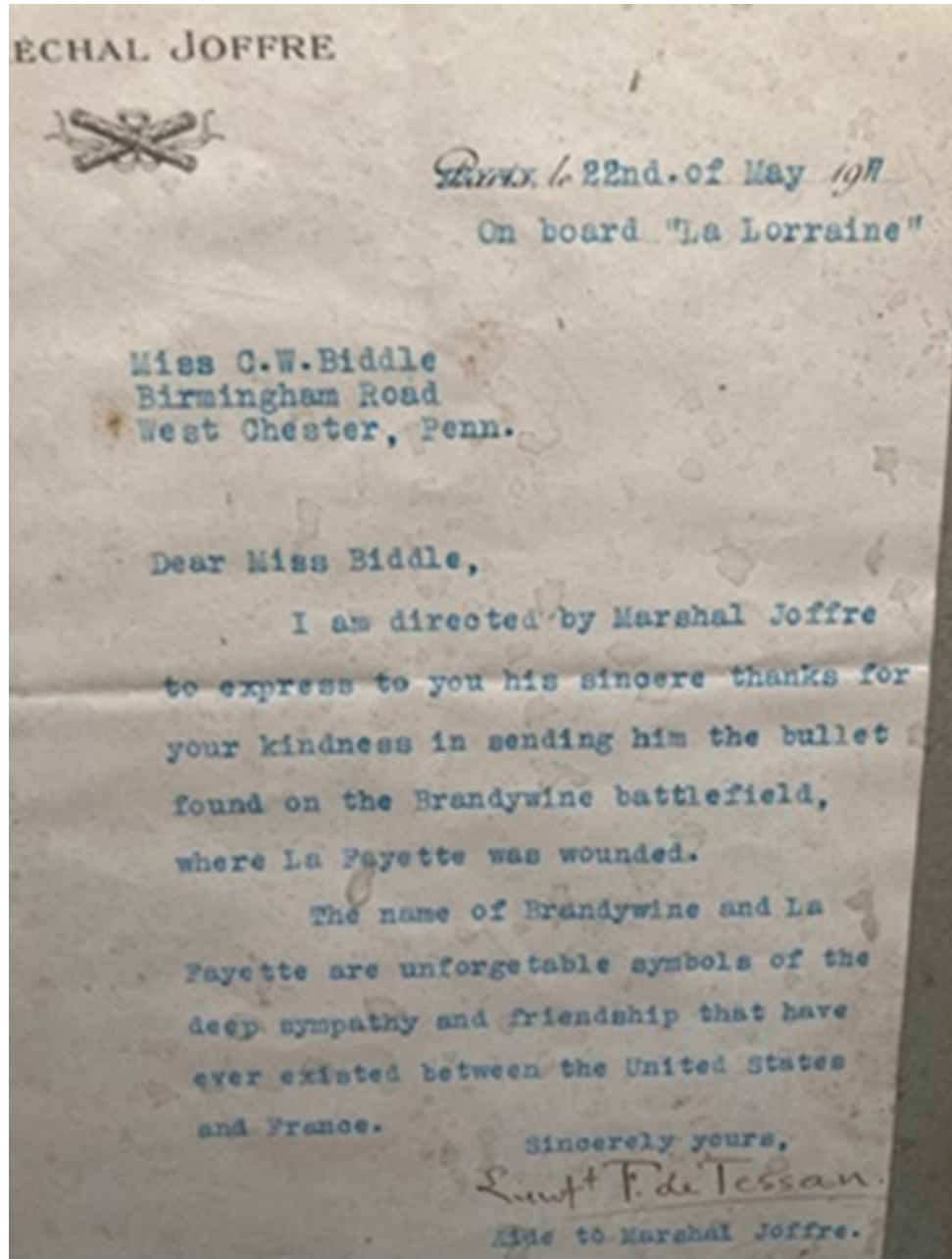
¹ Paris Post 1 is referred to as the “Mother Post,” “Outpost,” and with its former site in Paris, Pershing Hall, the “Second Embassy,” making us a diplomatic outpost certainly to France, but basically to all nations involved in WWI and WWII. It was not technically the first American Legion post to be chartered officially, but it was the symbolic center of the largest veterans organization on the planet. Pershing Hall was purchased in the late 1920s and filled with objects from various donors. The donor list will surprise you: the state of Virginia, Yale, Harvard, the Masons, the Elks, and many others. The Pershing Collection comes from the memorial rooms that were filled with these objects.

² Project Josephine is a working name for an existing memorial project. Named after one of the drivers, Project Josephine aims to construct a monument dedicated to the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps on the WWII evacuation route from Paris to Bordeaux.

WWI-Era Letter Donated to Lafayette College

by Katharine Dunlevy

On December 14, 2022, I delivered an interesting Lafayette-related letter to Lafayette College. It was sent by Joseph Joffre, commander in chief of French forces at the Western Front until the end of 1916. The letter, dated May 22, 1917, was a thank-you note written to Miss C.W. (Christine) Biddle for a gift of a bullet found on her property, near the place where Lafayette was wounded at the Battle of the Brandywine on September 11, 1777.



This letter was sent to Miss Biddle at her seasonal home (the family was based in Philadelphia) in Birmingham Township, Pennsylvania. Christine died in 1944, but had not lived at the residence for about 15 years prior to her death. In 1946, the abandoned home, for sale as part of her estate, was sold to Mr. John Marshall. This letter was found in the house among other items and was kept.

In 1957, and after the death of John Marshall, Thomas Marshall, one of John Marshall's sons, lived in the house with his family. The letter remained in the house. In 1983, Tom Marshall sold the house on Birmingham Road and took the letter with him when he moved.

Tom Marshall passed away in 2007, and his second wife, Patricia Marshall, my mother, has had the letter since that time. With the permission of my stepsisters (Tom Marshall's daughters) and my mother, I have given the letter to Lafayette College.

The letter is of historical interest, as the Biddle/Marshall property was very likely where Lafayette was wounded during the Battle of the Brandywine. In 1825, a newspaper account indicates that Lafayette himself had pointed to a spot on that property as the site of his wounding.

Lafayette at Brandywine, published by the Chester County Historical Society in 1896, contains a report of the proceedings held to dedicate a marker in the place where Lafayette was wounded. At page 71, the following newspaper report from Lafayette's Farewell Tour visit to West Chester appears (*Village Record*, Aug. 3, 1825, Charles Miner, editor):

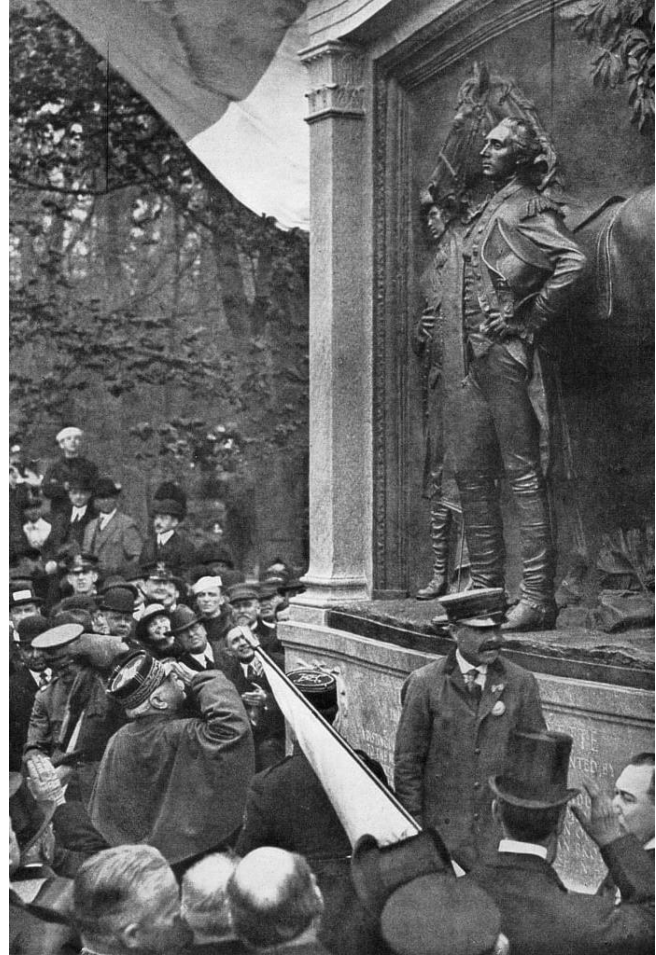
At Dilworthtown a large concourse of people had gathered; here the procession halted ten minutes, and then turning off to the left proceeded to the main battle ground. 'Show me,' said the General, 'where is the meeting house.' When they came fully in view and it was pointed out to him, 'Oh,' said he, 'it is here,' and immediately rose on his feet and addressing himself in French to his son and companions, spoke animatedly for some time, pointing out the different positions of the two armies. Everything was now familiar to him. The position of Colonel McClellan was near him when wounded; the spot the General pointed out in the cornfield of Jacob Bennett [now Mrs. Biddle's lawn], a little east and south of where the road from the meeting house comes in at right angles with the east and west road.

Christine Biddle must have been aware of this report. When Marshal Joffre was visiting the United States during the War, she thought to give him the bullet from the battlefield in acknowledgment of the heroism of Lafayette and the lasting relationship between France and the United States. In the thank-you note, Joffre's aide wrote these words: "The name of La Fayette and Brandywine are unforgettable symbols of the deep sympathy and friendship that have ever existed between the United States and France."

Editor's Note

The letter reflects that it was written aboard the high-end French ocean liner *La Lorraine*. Marshal Joffre was returning to France after a goodwill mission in America. While in New York on May 10, 1917, Joffre had represented France at the dedication of Daniel Chester French's Lafayette Memorial Monument in Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

*Dedication of the Lafayette Memorial;
Marshal Joffre saluting Lafayette*



This advertising poster of the French Line, Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, shows La Lorraine, the French and American flags, and Washington and Lafayette.

Feting General Lafayette in Boston in 1824: the Menu

by Biruta Cap

Would you have enjoyed a Public Dinner given at the EXCHANGE COFFEE HOUSE in Boston in honor of General Lafayette on August 24, 1824?

Public Dinner, <small>GIVEN AT THE</small> EXCHANGE COFFEE HOUSE. <small>CONGRESS SQUARE.....BOSTON.....TUESDAY, AUGUST 24.</small> IN HONOR OF GENERAL LA FAYETTE. <hr/> BILL OF FARE.	
FIRST COURSE.	SECOND COURSE.
Fish.	Roast Goose.
Halibut,	Ditto Chickens,
Cod's head and shoulders,	Ducks with Green Peas.
Tataug,	Woodcocks,
Hams Boiled,	Pidgeons,
Tongues, boiled.	Snipes.
Mutton boiled,	Le Maccarone,
Chickens boiled,	Lobster Friccassee,
Corned Beef boiled.	Les Omlettes, confitures,
Roast Lamb,	Les Beignets, des Pommès,
Ditto Pigs,	Calves' Feet.
Ditto Ducks,	—
Roast Goose, Mongrel,	Orange Cream
Roast Beef,	Puddings,
Ditto Chickens,	Calves' Feet Jelly.
Ditto Veal,	Sweetbreads Braiye.
Cotelette de Mouton Italienne.	La Blancmange,
De Veau Fricondeau Glaze.	Pastry,
La Petite Pote Voloille.	Custards.
La vol au vent de Bouf.	—
Pigeons En Compote.	Ice Creams,
Du Bouf de Marinade.	Desert, &c.
Du Veau Ragout.	—
Le Poulards Fricassee.	
Harricot de Mouton.	JAMES HAMILTON.

W. W. Clapp, Print.

The Bill of Fare for this gala dinner was found by a member of the AFL Farewell Tour Bicentennial planning committee, and e-forwarded by Chuck Schwam on January 2, 2023. As documentary evidence regarding the kind of food and service in Lafayette's honor is rather rare, this interesting document is valuable for appreciating the way such banquets were organized and especially, what dishes were prepared and how they were served.

At first glance, the menu in question shows an abundance of meats. It seems excessive and strange in many respects, and even incomprehensible for certain entries. However, when one realizes how 18th century and early 19th century gala dinners were organized, it becomes clear that the menu of the Exchange Coffee House represents a tradition practiced in France and among American elites at that time. (See Lafayette's wedding dinner menu of 1774, *AFL Gazette* No. 95 Part I, November 2021, p. 29.)

The Organization of the Menu

Gala dinners consisted of at least two "services" (not courses, although called "courses" on the Exchange's menu, cf. note 2). Prepared dishes were set out on the table all together for each service. Normally, the First Service included two soups, one at each end of the table, but on the Exchange's menu these were omitted, perhaps for practical reasons. Not enough bowls? Weather too hot to enjoy soup? When guests had partaken sufficiently from the First Service (or if it had been mostly depleted), all that remained was taken back to the kitchen, the tablecloth was changed, and prepared foods for the Second Service were laid out on the table. The number of dishes for each service (and the number of services) depended on the lavishness of the host. Here we have two Services.

The First Service

At the Exchange the First Service consisted mainly of the customary meats. Normally, fish were served first, but the Exchange lists only three fish preparations. Perhaps few fish dishes could remain desirably fresh in late August without refrigeration. *Tautog* was a local Atlantic variety. Then follow twelve meats – five boiled and seven roasted. "*Roast Goose, Mongrel*" raises a question. Since wild geese are notoriously dry and wiry and make a poor roast, did New Englanders back in the 19th century try to crossbreed them with plump, fat domestic geese? Lastly, the nine prepared dishes featuring meat are particularly difficult to understand, listed in a faulty "franglais." The composer of the menu, bowing to the honored French guest, tried to reveal the essence of some of these dishes. (Transcribed here into modern French.)

1. *Côtelette de Mouton à l'italienne*, (mutton chop). In the early 19th century, it was common to eat meat of an older sheep. *Italienne* (Italian-style) may refer to garlic flavoring, as tomatoes were not common then.
2. *Fricandeau de veau glacé* (glazed veal medallion) is a very tender cut of veal. *Fricandeau* was a very old recipe, a favorite of clergy. It could have been a cold dish, aspic covered. "*Glacé*" refers both to warm sauce coatings or cold aspic ones.
3. *Le Petit Pot de volaille* (?) (potted fowl?)
4. *Le Vol au vent de boeuf* (beef in a pastry shell). Normally, only very tender and delicate meats or seafood are served in puff-pastry "nests." But beef?

5. *Pigeons en compote* (stewed pigeons, but with what other ingredients?)
6. *Du Boeuf en marinade* (braised marinated beef—*sauerbraten*-style).
7. *Du Ragoût de veau* (veal stew).
8. *Fricassée de poulardes* (fat young hens stewed and coated with a cream sauce).
9. *Haricot de mouton* is a mutton stew but NOT with beans. “Haricot” is a corruption of “*halicot*,” meaning “chopped fine” and made with potatoes and onions. James Beard’s recipe for *haricot de mouton* appeared as late as 1974 in the *Woman’s Day Encyclopedia of Cookery*, Vol.8, p. 1205.

The Second Service

The Second Service included more delicate dishes: fowl as opposed to red meat, novelties, delicacies and desserts. The Exchange’s list begins with roasted birds—goose, duck and chicken. Game fowl are represented by woodcocks, pigeons and snipes (waterfowl). Vegetables as such or as *garniture* are missing except for “Ducks served with Green Peas.” Peas were a favorite and prized legume at that time.¹

Macaroni was a novelty dish. A more delicate *fricassée* of lobster figures in the Second Service as well as omelets and calves’ feet. The latter were considered special, typically first cooked in liquid, deboned, sliced, breaded and fried. Another preparation was calves’ feet in aspic (jelly).

The sweetbread preparation is not clear: “Braïye” may stand for “*brouillé*” (mashed). While in France sweetbreads were a great delicacy with their form carefully retained, served with a sauce, the aspect of the whitish calf’s thymus gland may not have evoked a positive response from Bostonian diners in 1824, so those precious sweetbreads may have been reduced to a *purée*.

Confitures (preserves or jams) were eaten with a spoon in 1824! *Pommes* (apples) and *beignets* (fritters) transition the menu to outright desserts: orange cream, puddings and custards, which were popular at the time; pastry, ice cream and other desserts. The old traditional *Blancmange*, popular since medieval times, also figures on the 1824 menu, but may be unfamiliar to today’s public. It was still served as a cold molded dessert up to 1914! *Blancmange* (whitefood) was usually composed of milk, flavoring (vanilla or lemon) and a thickener (such as cornstarch), linking it to the popular custards, puddings and even to the beverage “syllabub,” (wine, heavy cream, sugar and lemon) which does not appear on this menu, but Lafayette may have been regaled with it elsewhere. Beverages are not listed on the Exchange’s Bill of Fare.

One may wonder how the Exchange managed to cook up such an elaborate menu. It surely took more roasting ovens and ranges than the facility offered, so it may be surmised that “subcontractors” were involved. For the Second Service, ladies’ committees were likely at work!

The composition of such a *menu à la française* in two services,² with a predominance of meat dishes in the first and a variety of “delicacies” in the second could be an invitation to gluttony, as it often had been.³ It was also an opportunity for real gourmets to sample rare and expensive dishes encountered rarely.

Boston's Exchange Coffee House public dinner is a precious glimpse of a public celebration in Lafayette's honor. It would be fascinating to learn more about this event. Who furnished and prepared the food? Who paid for it? What entertainment accompanied it, other than music? Just how "public" was it? In "Lafayette – The Nation's Guest Comes to Boston," Peter Maguire states that [Lafayette's] "entourage dined with Governor Eustis at the Exchange Coffee House where many toasts were offered" (*AFL Gazette* No. 94, Part 2, May 2021, p. 100). Who else partook of this gala dinner? A more complete answer can be found in Edgar Ewing Brandon's *Lafayette, Guest of the Nation*, Vol. I, pp. 108-109, where, according to the *Columbian Centinel* of Boston of August 28, 1824, seven organizations, including branches of the military and foreign functionaries were represented. Numerous dignitaries were mentioned by name.

While it was impossible to keep track of all the toasts, ten voluntary toasts are quoted, besides that of Lafayette himself. Perhaps the most timeless toast was offered by Lt. Governor Morton: "[To] The Defenders of Liberty everywhere. – In one nation at least their efforts and their sacrifices are fully appreciated."

In the Bicentennial year, members of the AFL can celebrate Lafayette with dinners or parties featuring a dish or two (but not two Services!) from the 1824 menu. *Bon appétit!*

¹ Earlier, at Mount Vernon, the Washingtons' table included not only peas but also artichokes and asparagus, which were made into soups as well. See *Dining with the Washingtons*, ed. Stephen A. McLeod, Mount Vernon Ladies' Assoc., Univ. of North Carolina Press [no year].

² The order of "courses" in a dinner – a series of dishes served in succession to guests individually, known as *service à la russe* – was not adopted until the middle of the 19th century in Europe and is still practiced today.

³ Anselme Brillat-Savarin, whose *Physiology of Taste* first published in 1825 is probably the best-known work about dining of this period, relates an incident that took place in Lyon in 1780. The Chevalier de Langeac, notorious in Lyon's society for his *gourmandise*, had received a written invitation to dine at the table of a wealthy financier. Looking forward to indulging in the finest dishes, he was surprised that evening that the other ten guests seemed indisposed and indifferent to the First Service composed of such meats as roast sirloin, veal and stuffed carp, and even to the magnificent stuffed turkey and pike of the Second, in which Langeac indulged with great gusto. Lastly, when to his surprise the Third Service appeared with truly marvelous morsels, such as sweetbreads with crayfish sauce in pastry shells, Langeac could no longer swallow another bite and understood that the others in the group had played a trick on him to expose his gluttony. A moral lesson in moderation.

The AFL's Legacy Organization Partners

by Chuck Schwam



The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution have partnered with the American Friends of Lafayette in a big way. The DAR became a Benefactor Member, funded our second set of traveling exhibit educational panels, and is officially collaborating with the AFL on our Farewell Tour Bicentennial commemorations. The CAR is currently fundraising for a fourth set of panels for the AFL. (The SAR is funding the third set – see below.) Both the DAR and CAR have agreed to let the AFL use their logos.

The National Society, Sons of the American Revolution have become members of the American Friends of Lafayette at the Benefactor level and have donated funds to create another set of educational panels. NSSAR has also agreed to let us have their logo displayed on these panels, on outreach materials for the Farewell Tour Bicentennial, and on our website. NSSAR has confirmed that the AFL's Bicentennial efforts are aligned with the goals and objectives of the NSSAR and that participation by their members in such events will be encouraged.

We truly appreciate the efforts of all three of these esteemed organizations to help the AFL ensure that Lafayette's legacy is acknowledged and enhanced.



This photo was taken on February 1, 2023 at the Washington, D.C. headquarters of National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Pictured are (L to R) AFL COO Chuck Schwam, DAR President General Pamela Wright and Patti Maclay, DAR National Vice Chair of Commemorative Events and an AFL Board Member. This visit was arranged to acknowledge the DAR's recent donation and constant support of the AFL. Chuck Schwam presented President General Wright with a John Flanagan medal from 1934. This medal was commissioned to honor the centennial of Lafayette's death. President General Wright appreciated the gesture very much and reiterated the DAR's commitment to helping with the AFL's preparation of the Bicentennial commemorations.

Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Yorktown National Cemetery

by George Bennett

Remember, Honor, Teach – the motto of Wreaths Across America – might well be the guideline for the American Friends of Lafayette. The Wreaths Across America Memorial program began over twenty years ago when a young man used money from his paper route to put a wreath on a veteran's grave at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The program eventually grew to cover every grave in that cemetery, and in 2013, it expanded to place wreaths at every national cemetery in the United States and many national cemeteries in other countries.

Each year on a Saturday in late December at precisely twelve noon, a patriotic ceremony is held at these cemeteries to honor fallen members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. Following the ceremony, all attendees are invited to place the wreaths at each of the graves, saying the name of the member interred there out loud, and military members render a dignified hand salute. All the wreaths are sponsored by patriots who wish to honor the brave military members who gave the last full measure of devotion to the cause of freedom. Many wreaths are sponsored in memory of a specific family member, friend, or loved one who has served their country.

This year at the Yorktown National Cemetery, there were more than 700 wreaths sponsored in addition to the number required to cover every grave. The extras were sent to other national cemeteries in the area for the ceremony. American Friends of Lafayette members Jeff Lambert and George Bennett participated in this annual ceremony.



Members of the local Civil Air Patrol squadron honor military members interred at the Yorktown National Cemetery.



AFL member Col. George Bennett at the Wreaths Across America ceremony



Hundreds of local citizens, military members and retirees placed wreaths at the cemetery. This was the largest attendance at the ceremony to date, and every grave received a wreath.

Port-des-Barques, March 10, 2023

by Richard and Babeth Santander

A ceremony was held on March 10 at Port-des-Barques to commemorate the 243rd anniversary of Lafayette's departure for the United States on the *Hermione*. Port-des-Barques is a tiny coastal community in western France near Rochefort, where the *Hermione* was built.

The ceremony was organized by the Yorktown Friends, who have been commemorating Lafayette's departure here for several years. The Yorktown Friends are a group of French nationals associated with the *Hermione*, who traveled to Yorktown and celebrated Yorktown Day with the AFL in 2022.

To this ceremony were invited Mrs. Démené, Mayor of Port-des-Barques; Mr. Humbert, departmental president of the Souvenir-Français of Charente Maritime; and Mrs. Jouanneau, Mrs. Guerard, and Mr. Flahaut, administrators of the association Hermione-Lafayette. Also present were local residents, the Farques, father and son, who played their trumpets.

Mayor Démené of Port-des-Barques made a speech wishing that this day be celebrated every year in the future. Mr. Santander responded by saying that the Yorktown Friends and the American Friends of Lafayette were committed to keeping the ceremony going.

A wreath, prepared by Mrs. Jouanneau, was laid by Mayor Démené and Mr. Santander in front of Lafayette's stele, and the American and French national anthems were played on a windy day where the flags flew vigorously.



From left to right: Jehan Boulissière, MM. Farque fils et père, Jean Louis Moreau*, Evelyne Guerard, M. Humbert, Richard Santander*, Mme. le Maire de Port-des-Barques, La Stèle du marquis de Lafayette, Mme Jouanneau*, Philippe et Sabine Malherbe, Babeth Santander*, Marie Christine Pierre*, et Jean Flahaut.

* American Friends of Lafayette Members

Virginia Lafayette Day

by Chuck Schwam

Once again, The American Friends of Lafayette gathered in Richmond to celebrate Virginia Lafayette Day on March 14, 2023. This was the eighth Lafayette Day in Virginia. Over sixty AFL members were in attendance.

The Lafayette Day ceremony started in the historic rotunda of the Virginia State House. The Virginia State House houses the oldest elected legislative body in North America. The AFL conducted the ceremony as Lafayette (Houdon's Lafayette bust) looked on. Many VIPs participated in the ceremony including AFL President Alan Hoffman; Consul General François Penguilly; Virginia State Delegate Jim Dillard; NATO Allied Commander, Colonel Aymeric Tardieu De Maleissye; Mary Katherine Greenlaw, the mayor of Fredericksburg, Virginia; and I served as the master of ceremonies.

As usual, French teacher, Ms. Moore of Lafayette High School in Williamsburg brought a group of students to the ceremony. Two of these students participated: Elsie Nast addressed the crowd in French, while Niveditha Kodoth translated her speech into English. They both did a superb job.

Of course, the highlight of the ceremony was when Lafayette (Mark Schneider) spoke to the assembly. Dressed as a 19th century gentleman, Lafayette did not disappoint.



(L to R) Carol Moore, Chuck Schwam, Elsie Nast, and Niveditha Kodoth



(L to R) AFL members Chuck Schwam, Mark Schneider, and Jenny Cote in front of the Lafayette Houdin bust

Once the ceremony was over, the 60+ AFL members in attendance were given a private tour of the State House. The tour was expertly given, and the tour guide joined the AFL a few days later!!!

AFL members then walked over to the Executive Mansion where another private tour was given. This was an exciting opportunity to see the building which has been home to Virginia's governors since 1813, and is the oldest governor's residence in the country still used for its original purpose – and a place that Lafayette visited in 1824. AFL members were honored to be greeted by Virginia's First Lady, Suzanne Youngkin.

The final event of the day was lunch at Meriwether's. This lunch was a HUGE hit as the chef flexed his culinary muscles with a delicious and authentic French four-course meal.



AFL Member Lindsay Behan and AFL Vice President Robert Kelly both found the same chair at the Virginia Governor's Mansion. This corner chair is a replica of a chair once owned by Patrick Henry.



New AFL member Scott Rayl (on the left from American Legion Paris Post 1) looks on as Alan Hoffman (center) swaps hats with Lafayette (Mark Schneider).

AFL at the Authors of the American Revolution Congress

by Chuck Schwam



The American Friends of Lafayette participated in the Authors of the American Revolution Congress on Saturday, April 15, 2023 in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. The Authors Congress is a blended conference of literary celebration and scholarly discussion focused on the American Revolution. The Congress is designed, through both panel presentations and opportunities to meet with authors, to promote conversation about and encourage greater appreciation of this important moment in the nation's history among wider audiences. Four AFL members served on panel number two and fielded questions from moderator Kiersten Marcil and attendees at the event.



(From L to R) Bruce Mowday, Alan Hoffman, Chuck Schwam, and Patty Maclay represent the American Friends of Lafayette on panel number two

The Congress was also an opportunity for the AFL to display our traveling exhibit panels. As usual, they were a big hit, as attendees young and old took time to study these valuable educational tools. The AFL also had an opportunity to set up a table where volunteers interacted with attendees and shared exciting plans for the Farewell Tour Bicentennial.



Staffing the "AFL table" were (from L to R) Patti Maclay, Chuck Schwam, Alan Hoffman, Paul Larson, and Graham Brent.

At the Washington Crossing Visitors Center there was a cannon on display that is associated with Lafayette. The inscription accompanying the cannon reads: ***A gift from Lafayette to the Continental Army, it was used during the battle of Yorktown in 1781 and after the war, was fired again to salute him when he visited Harrisburg in 1824.***



Many AFL members attended the Authors Congress. Here posing in front of the "Lafayette Cannon" are (L to R) Phil Schroeder, Chuck Schwam, John Becica, and Barbara Schroeder.

Massachusetts Lafayette Day, 2023

by Jan O'Sullivan

The Massachusetts Lafayette Society held a full day of activities to mark the 89th annual celebration of Massachusetts Lafayette Day. The celebration on May 19 began at the Boston Athenæum with the presentation of the flags of the United States and France by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. After soloist Rebecca Zama sang both national anthems, Alan Hoffman, President of the Massachusetts Lafayette Society, and Mustafa Soykurt, Consul General of France in Boston, both made welcoming remarks. This was the first Massachusetts Lafayette Day for Consul General Soykurt, who assumed his duties in Boston last September.



Alan Hoffman



Consul General Mustafa Soykurt

A Proclamation from the Governor of Massachusetts, Maura Healey, was read in both French and English. Dorothea Jensen read the English one, followed by Polly Lyman reading the French one.



Dorothea Jensen



Polly Lyman

We then proceeded across the Boston Common to lay a wreath at the Lafayette Monument. The Monument is located on the Lafayette Mall, which runs the entire length of the Common that borders Tremont Street. The Lafayette Mall memorializes the route that Lafayette took on August 24, 1824 on his way to the State House. After Consul General Soykurt placed the wreath, there was a moment of silence.



Consul General Soykurt lays a wreath at the Lafayette Monument on the Boston Common



On the Lafayette Mall. At far left is Rebecca Zama, who earlier sang the national anthems.

After a box lunch back at the Athenæum, Alan Hoffman presented a talk, “A Farewell Tour Primer.” We then enjoyed a wonderfully informative tour of the Massachusetts State House by our friend Peter Maguire. One of the many interesting artifacts that we saw was the plaque to commemorate the 1935 creation of the day we were celebrating.



Peter Maguire leads the State House tour



Lafayette Day Plaque

The commemorative events of the day ended at the Cambridge residence of the Boston Consulate, where the Soykurt family resides. We had a lovely garden party with French wines, cheeses, hors d'oeuvres, and pastries. The Soykurts welcomed two very special guests, nonagenarian WWII veterans Enoch “Woody” Woodhouse, a Tuskegee Airman, and Marvin Gilmore, a recipient of the French Legion of Honor medal. The last issue of the *Gazette* has an in-depth article about Woody.



Consul General Soykurt with Woody Woodhouse...



... and Marvin Gilmore at the garden party

Cur Non?

by Chuck Schwam

*When the 19-year-old Marquis de Lafayette asked the King of France to finance his journey to assist in America's fight for freedom, the king refused. Lafayette secretly purchased his own ship, adding the words *Cur Non* ("Why Not?") to his family crest to serve as his motto.*

Every day, I receive interesting correspondence from AFL members around the world, and I thought I would share some of them – *Cur Non* – Why Not?



Jackson Holland and his father, AFL member Mark Holland, pose in front of the newly installed Lafayette Trail marker in Cincinnati on May 3, the day it was officially dedicated.



With the release of the motion picture, *Air*, about Nike's recruitment of Michael Jordan in the 1980s, *Emerging Revolutionary War* (bloggers) wanted to show our readers an older model of a shoe that predates Nike by a century and a half. But, who knows, it could come into vogue again, right?

Lafayette returned to the United States from August 1824 to September 1825 and toured all 24 states at the time. Feted as a living link to the American Revolution and the independence movement, he was dined, celebrated, and asked to speak at many, many events. Commemorative items were created with his image, including, apparently, a pair of shoes ("Kid Boots, for infants").

These shoes can be viewed today at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. Thanks to AFL members Robert Kelly and Peter Reilly for bringing this to our attention, and thanks to historian Christian Di Spigna for the picture.



On Sunday, May 22, 1825, prominent citizens of French-settled Gallipolis, Ohio entertained General Lafayette at Our House Tavern during his triumphant tour of America, an event that lingers in local memory so vividly that it is customarily marked with an annual commemoration. Our House Tavern Museum has on display the jacket General Lafayette wore the day he was there (see above).

Of course, the American Friends of Lafayette will be commemorating Lafayette's visit to Gallipolis. My son (AFL member Matthew Schwam) and I visited Our House Tavern in May 2023 to start planning the events to be held there on May 22, 2025.



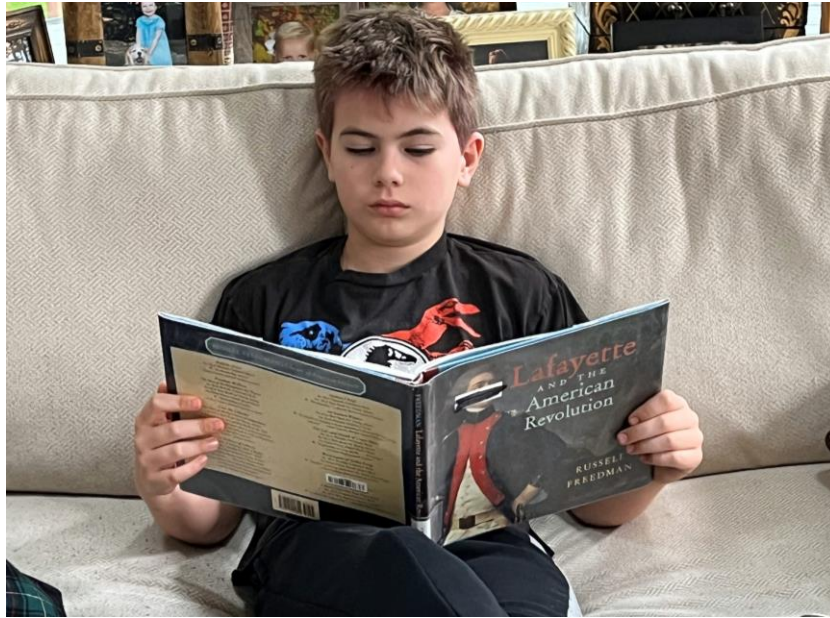
For the first time ever, Princess Cruises will stop at Yorktown, Virginia in the summer of 2024. This stop will be part of part of a series of custom-curated itineraries that will highlight opportunities to experience Yorktown, Colonial Williamsburg, and Jamestown. The current president of Princess Cruises, John Padgett, is a Yorktown native and is championing the idea.



AFL members Graham Brent (L) and Patti Maclay (R) visited Skillman Library at Lafayette College on April 14, 2023. AFL member Pam Murray hosted them at the Special Collections department of the library. Of course, the highlight of their visit was the Lafayette Sword, which both had an opportunity to wield (note the white gloves). An idea for the College: Imprint Lafayette's likeness on the gloves as they did during the Farewell Tour!



AFL Member Lindsay Behan had a VERY merry Christmas. Lafayette was on top of her list, and it looks like Santa Claus obliged. Lindsay was obviously not naughty (always nice) !!!



AFL members Sue and Rudy Knepper sent this photo of their grandson Ryan reading a book they sent him for Christmas. It was reported that Ryan truly enjoyed the book, much to his mother's surprise! Maybe we have a future AFL member on the horizon. Good work Sue and Rudy.



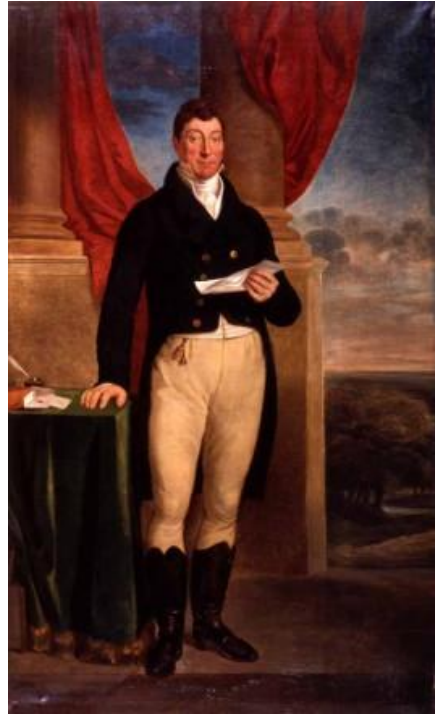
Efforts are underway to preserve and restore the French Cemetery in Williamsburg. Big thanks to AFL members Mark Schneider and Jeff Lambert (along with others) who have spearheaded this worthy cause.



AFL member Elizabeth Reese has landed a book deal on Lafayette's Visit to the National Capital Region (Washington, D.C.) in 1824-1825. The book will be available in mid-2024. Elizabeth is a freelance historian. With historical interpretive experience at federal sites, she uses public history to encourage people of all ages to connect with the history around them. She has developed interpretive programs on civil rights, women's history, and Founding America. Elizabeth is an active member of several AFL Bicentennial Committees.



It is a Veterans Day Tradition that the American Friends of Lafayette are represented by AFL members Kim Claytor and Army Veteran Mark Schneider at the annual ceremony at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. This year's ceremony was canceled due to a very heavy rainstorm, but that did not deter Kim Claytor. She brought the AFL's Veterans Day wreath to the Matthew Whaley Elementary School, where she is a teacher, and took the opportunity to talk to students about the importance of remembering our nation's veterans. Later in the day, Kim braved the weather to arrange for a photo with Lafayette (Mark Schneider), keeping the tradition alive.



Colonial Williamsburg arranged for Mark Schneider (above left) to portray the 19th century Lafayette. They understand the importance of the upcoming bicentennial and have made Mark his first costume for interpreting Lafayette in 1824. Colonial Williamsburg decided to use the painting (above right, by Edward Peticolas) as their model for Mark's outfit.



AFL board member and Lafayette College alumna Jan O'Sullivan poses with General Lafayette (Ben Goldman) at Mount Vernon. On May 11, Jan attended an event at Mount Vernon, encouraging Lafayette College Alumni to support the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

The AFL was invited to participate in Colonial Williamsburg's Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony on Monday, May 29.



Under the watchful eye of General Lafayette (AFL member Mark Schneider), Vice President Robert Kelly and William Mason of the Children of the American Revolution lay a ceremonial wreath.



During the program, General Lafayette offered remarks of reflection and remembrance as several hundred visitors commemorated Memorial Day.



When the American Friends of Lafayette visited the Governor's Mansion in Richmond Virginia on March 14, the Governor's staff kindly set up a table with all things Lafayette. On the far left is Alan Hoffman's book, in the center is a book about the Mansion open to the page describing the "Lafayette Bedroom," and on the far right is the bust the AFL donated to the mansion several years ago. Whose portrait do you think is displayed on the table? That does not look like Lafayette to me. What do you think? Should we alert them about this possible imposter? *Cur Non?*

Members Spotlight: Our Paris Experience with Lafayette and Adrienne in August 2022

by Morgaine Beck

Like all AFL members, we are passionate about Lafayette. Having been a DAR member for 10 years and a Life Coach for 20 (now retired), I'm curious about history and how a person, group, nation, etc., comes to find an inspiring path and purpose. Here's what propelled my husband Derek Sutton and me to this sweet spot:

It was a snowy, snowy night. January 23, 2016. Derek and I were getting ready to turn boxes of family records over to New England Historic Genealogical Society. I remember telling Derek we would give each other two hours (max!) because otherwise we'd be immersed in them for days and we had other decluttering work to do. LOL.

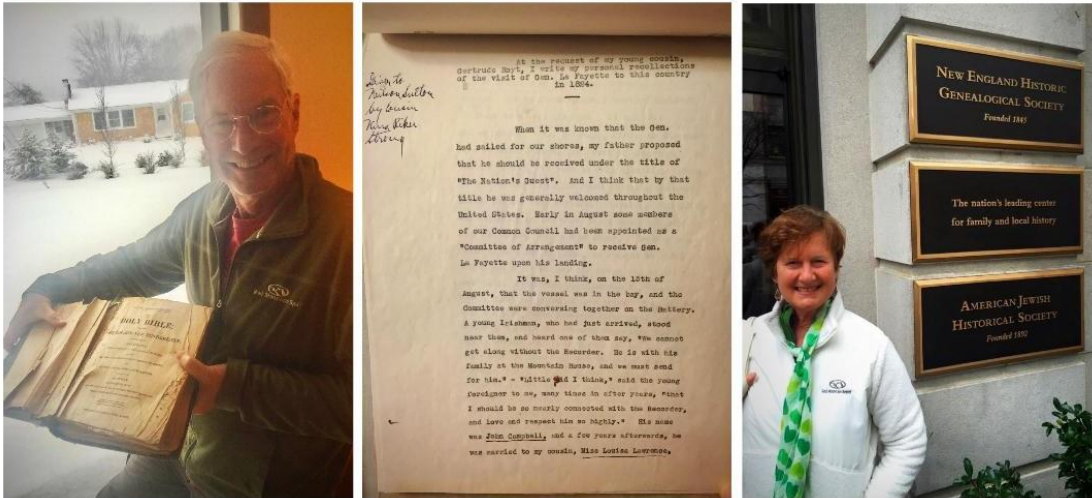
We started digging through the 3-ring binders in the boxes, and I can still feel the excitement we felt when we discovered "Personal Recollections of Lafayette's Visit" written by Derek's relative Anna (Riker) Spring and the *New York Times* article from 1900 about it. Although I did not know Derek's "Cousin Nina Strong," I felt deeply grateful to her for sharing these stories so we could find them within these boxes and boxes of genealogical records that had been passed down to Derek two years earlier through his father and great-uncle Neilson Sutton. Patiently they had sat quietly in New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts for decades, even centuries, until we "had to deal with them" as we were getting ready to downsize from our home in Falmouth, Massachusetts to a condo in downtown Norfolk, Virginia.



Well, that two hours turned into an all-nighter! After the initial discovery, Derek went to bed, and I kept going because I couldn't believe what I was finding. I must have taken hundreds of photos of the documents and then spent hours going into Ancestry, Google, and other places trying to find out more about these people and places. I knew nothing about Lafayette's Grand Tour back then, and we certainly didn't know that Derek's Riker and Lawrence families had been part of that experience and the Lafayette fever, up close and personal!

And that's how it all began. Our infatuation with Lafayette. Suddenly our nation's history was personal! We were excited to learn more about Lafayette and everything related to him. The musical *Hamilton* had caught our attention in 2015 so we listened to that soundtrack nonstop as we did the hard work of downsizing. Discovering the family's Lafayette Story in 2016 was our next inspiration, and what a lifechanging journey that has been!

At this point, let me refer you to Derek's article "Anna Riker's Personal Recollections of the Visit of General Lafayette: The Back Story" about his family's first-hand account of spending time with Lafayette in 1824-1825 that has also been published in this issue of *The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*. I think you'll love it!



Fast forward to 2021 and 2022 when in hindsight, one can see many factors colliding/colluding to have us ramp up our immersion in all things Lafayette, join the AFL in March 2022, and dedicate our Renewal of Wedding Vows and week in Paris to Adrienne and Lafayette in August 2022.

2021: February – Committing to an August 2022 trip to Paris to renew our wedding vows and hire The Paris Officiant because of her rituals and ceremony/photoshoot locations; Reading *America's First Daughter* by AFL member Stephanie Dray in my DAR Book Club and writing down references to places in Paris connected to Thomas Jefferson and daughter Patsy.

2022: January 12 – Listening to AFL member Robert Kelly's fascinating presentation via Zoom/Norfolk Historical Society on Lafayette at Ft. Monroe 1824; March 1 – Attending The Lafayette Trail's unveiling of the Lafayette marker in downtown Norfolk, being enchanted by the Lafayette scarf that AFL member Abbey Kirk was wearing and getting her contact info to buy one, plus asking our friend and AFL member Chris Melhuish for Robert's contact info so I could join the AFL. March 14 – Excitedly attending Lafayette Day in Richmond with Derek, our first AFL event, and among other things, "just happening" to sit with AFL member Libby McNamee for lunch; March – Beginning to read *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* by Stephanie Dray while feverishly writing down references to Adrienne and Lafayette in Paris; April 7 – Being mesmerized listening to Stephanie Dray talk about her book at the AFL's first Zoom Book Club; August – Walking in the footsteps of Adrienne and Lafayette in Paris, see pics and story below.

"Everybody give it up for America's favorite fighting Frenchman: Lafayette!"

– Lin-Manuel Miranda, the musical *Hamilton*

What a magical experience we had in Paris, France in August 2022! Derek and I renewed our wedding vows (35 years!), plus followed in the footsteps of American Revolutionary War Patriots Lafayette and his incredible wife Adrienne, Thomas Jefferson, Comte de Grasse, and even Benjamin Franklin! Bringing history alive while making our own history too!

On the night before our "Second Wedding Day," Derek and I attended French Mass at Église Saint-Roch, the magnificent parish church of the Noailles family and where Adrienne and her sisters attended church services. This felt meaningful because across the street on April 11, 1774, Lafayette and Adrienne de Noailles were married in the Hôtel de Noailles, which was an entire complex that included a family chapel, no longer standing. What is left of that complex is now part of the Saint James Albany Hotel. I have great admiration for Lafayette and Adrienne as individuals, as well as their devotion as a couple, and the ideals they lived. To have their blessing in this way felt sacred.



To find a plaque in the church stating that Admiral Comte de Grasse, the French leader of the naval Battle of the Capes against the British that led to our American victory six weeks later at Yorktown, was buried at this church in 1788? Manna from heaven!



We were thrilled to renew our wedding vows on August 10, 2022 on the Right Bank in Jardin des Tuileries, do photo shoots at the Musée du Louvre, and unexpectedly say "I do" and dance on the banks of the river Seine across from the area where Lafayette and Adrienne lived on the Left Bank.



The Right Bank is the one of royalty where Lafayette and Adrienne lived for the first eight years of their marriage in Adrienne's family home/estate, the Hôtel de Noailles, adjacent to Église Saint-Roch, Palais des Tuileries, and what would later become the Musée de Louvre. Earlier in the week, Derek and I had a fabulous afternoon tea at Le Dali and a fun ride on the Ferris wheel, as we savored their elegant neighborhood!

Lafayette and Adrienne's more modest townhome at 183 Rue de Bourbon (now known as Rue de Lille) is on the Left Bank near the Palais Bourbon and close to where a statue of Thomas Jefferson now stands. How appropriate, given that Jefferson as American Ambassador to France (plus his teen daughter Patsy) were frequent guests for dinner and discussions, in addition to Abigail Adams and others.

Susan Pope, a dear friend of mine, is a passionate fan of the fearless French author and actress Colette, and so I made it my mission to walk in Colette's footsteps – and capture some photos. I knew Colette lived next to the Palais Royal on the Right Bank, but I did not know until we walked over there that the area was closed off that day because of the filming for the upcoming TV series, "Franklin," starring our very own Michael Douglas. The eight-part series is adapted from Pulitzer Prize winner Stacy Schiff's book, *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*. Must see!

I did regain my composure quick enough to grab a picture of the "historic" horses going off set and then of course, to take a twirl.

Fun factoid: Lafayette, Commander of the French National Guard, as well as Thomas Jefferson and many others, had paper “pocket portraits” made in the fashionable shopping arcade at Palais Royal!



Fashionable Pocket Portrait of Lafayette: "The Palais Royal, The Nerve Center of the Revolution"
<https://parcoursrevolution.paris.fr/en/points-of-interest/96-the-palais-royal-the-nerve-center-of-the-revolution>

Speaking of Benjamin Franklin, the next stop on “Morgaine’s Walking Tour” was to the building on the Left Bank where the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, thereby officially ending the American Revolution. Huzzah!

In 1908, The Children’s Statue of Lafayette, funded by donations from five million American school children, was a gift to the Musée du Louvre. Derek and I were blessed to visit this magnificent equestrian statue in its current location on the Right Bank in the 8th Arrondissement of Paris.

I want to give a big shout-out to the insightful and incredible author Stephanie Dray for her book *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* that ignited a passionate desire to immerse myself in all things Adrienne and Lafayette during our precious time in Paris!

Most of what I've shared here was inspired by Stephanie's powerful writing and research, including our visit to Église Saint-Sulpice in the Latin Quarter where Adrienne was a parishioner when the married couple moved to the townhouse on the Left Bank. I lit votive candles, prayed for friends and family, and of course, wore my beautiful AFL Lafayette scarf with Adrienne's portrait on display.



Special thanks to my beloved American Friends of Lafayette for enriching my life and learning in endless ways!

In conclusion, after 18 months of careful planning of our vow renewal ceremony, I'm still in awe of how we "just happened" to choose the area of Paris most intimately associated with Adrienne and Lafayette. When we chose these magical and historical Parisian sites, we had no idea we were also channeling their spirit!

The cherry on top? Our dinner for two "wedding reception" at Le Jules Verne in La Tour Eiffel had a magnificent view of Champ de Mars. This park was formerly used as drilling and marching grounds by the French military, including of course, Lafayette!!!

"All that you are, all that I owe to you, justifies my love, and nothing, not even you would keep me from adoring you." – Marquis de Lafayette

This enchanting #francetrance and #romanceinfrance experience continues to feed our spirit as we live our Virginian lives – and #allthingsfrench every chance we get:

Meeting Charlotte Dutitre, a French college student doing a five-month internship at our local French bakery here in Norfolk, just a month after we left France, really helped! Practicing language skills, learning about our different cultures, bringing our personal lives – French and American – together and creating relationships with our mutual families, playing ambassador and of course, teaching Charlotte about Lafayette, has been pure JOY.

Reading Libby McNamee's book *Susanna's Midnight Ride: The Girl Who Won the Revolutionary War* out loud to Derek (and vice versa) every morning over coffee has been fascinating. Talk about bringing history alive! Derek and I can visualize every word and are reveling in learning about local history we never knew (right here in Tidewater Virginia!) and how young Susanna saved the day by warning Lafayette that General Cornwallis and his troops were nearby and coming to capture him! Of course, I bought this book for Charlotte for Christmas, autographed by Libby with a message for her to "Be Brave." Wise words for us all.

And last but not least, our very own Chuck Schwam has been an enthusiastic, engaging connector and catalyst every step of the way! Oh, to feel so welcomed and valued and encouraged . . . and stimulated by new possibilities, programs, and purpose! This article and the one Derek wrote are both a direct result of Chuck's invitation and insight.

We look forward to meeting many of you at our first Annual Conference – La Grange, Georgia in June – and going forward through events, newsletters, and beyond!

Vive Lafayette!

About the Author

Morgaine Beck lives in downtown Norfolk, Virginia with her husband Derek Sutton. She's a DAR, English Country Dancer (and going to her first Lafayette Birthday Ball in September 2023 in Fayetteville, North Carolina – her father's hometown!), USAF brat, William & Mary Class of '76, and retired Life Coach.

Derek is a SAR, New Englander transplanted to the south, Northeastern University Class of '76, mechanical engineer, retired NOAA, CDR, and day sailor. We are both Lafayette enthusiasts who are hungry to learn, plus meet more of our AFL community!

Credits

Officiant/Planner:

@theparisofficiant

Photography: @paris_photographer

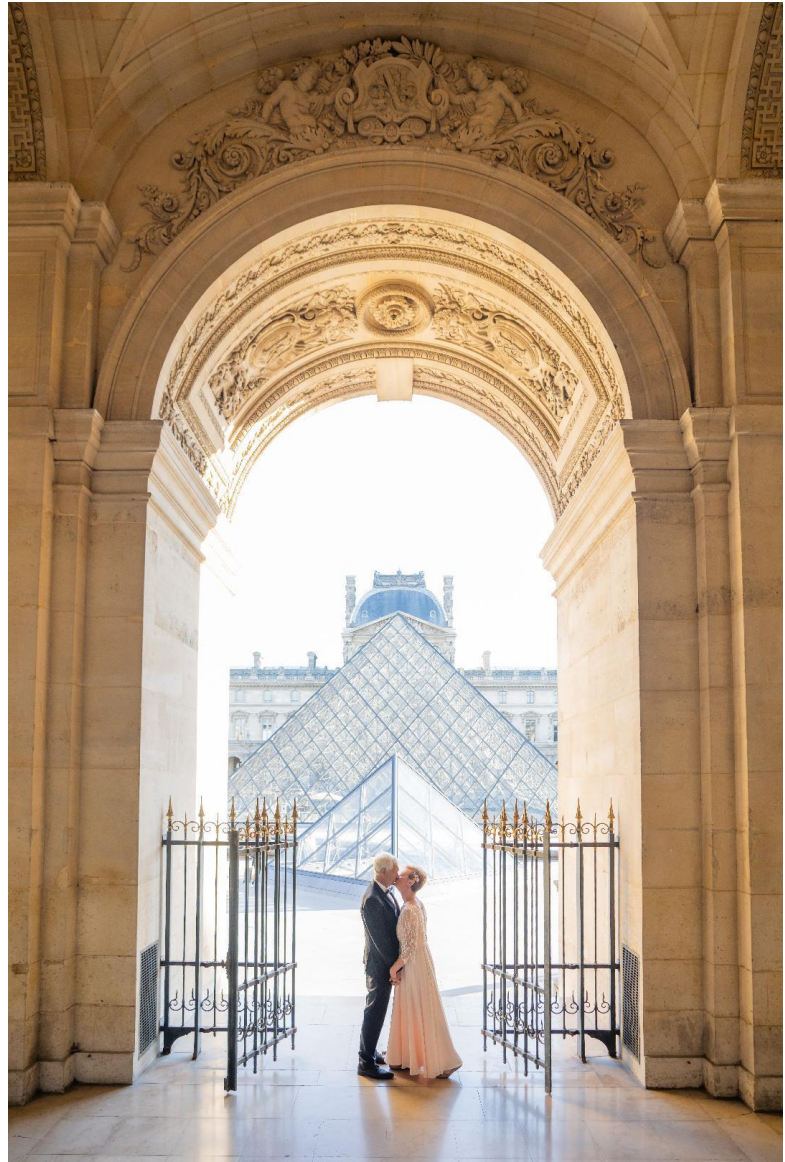
Video: @2pparisprod

Hair/Makeup:

@katia_ren_makeuphair

Flowers: @laplume fleurparis

ParisGown: Kelly Royall



Lafayette Sighting: Our Visit to Barboursville Winery

by Marietta Madden



While enjoying a week in a cabin in the Charlottesville area of Virginia, Steve and I stopped by our favorite Italian winery – Barboursville Winery in Barboursville, Virginia. It is located on the property of Virginia's Governor Barbour, who escorted Lafayette by carriage from Albemarle County to James Madison's home at Montpelier in the fall of 1824. The ruins of Governor Barbour's grand home add to the picturesque view from the winery tasting room. The home burned down on Christmas Day in 1884, but the remains still reflect the grandeur of the home.

We have always remarked, when visiting the winery, that AFL members would enjoy the experience even if there was only a slight connection to Lafayette.

On this particular visit, my husband Steve and I decided to go to the Discovery Tasting room that had not been open since before Covid instead of the more posh Library 1821 room that was open the last few years. We signed up for the tasting and received our wine glasses and instructions. We were in the midst of our second pour when I almost dropped my glass. There was Lafayette!!

Now, I had glanced at the picture when we started the tasting, but since we had just spent the week in Yorktown with all the Victory Day Celebrations, it took my second



glass before I did a double take. Why is Lafayette's picture here in the tasting room at Barboursville winery, an Italian-themed winery owned by an Italian Family, the Zonins, and managed by Luca Paschina? I then noticed that the server had on a French beret. I said "Excuse me, why is there a picture of my favorite Frenchman, Lafayette, here?"

A big smile met my question. "You know who this is! I too am a big fan. I even have a marble bust of Lafayette in my front foyer." And so began our mutual exchange of admiration for and knowledge of Lafayette. Our new found friend is Vince, and he knew so much more about Governor James Barbour and Lafayette than we. Here are just a few details he shared with us.

During Lafayette's stay at Montpelier, he was entertained at Governor Barbour's house. He danced in the octagon room of the mansion, which you might have guessed was designed by Thomas Jefferson. After Lafayette returned to France from his Farewell Tour, James Barbour was appointed Ambassador to England. While Barbour was in London, Lafayette invited him to Paris for a visit. Barbour's wife refused to travel to France, so while in Paris he had Lafayette help him shop for a gift for his wife. Lafayette helped him pick out a set of china. Vince excitedly said "We have a bowl of the china set that Gov. Barbour bought in Paris with Lafayette. Let me go get it!"



And with that Vince now whisked off to get a piece of this china set. OK, this is definitely picture time. (Thank you, Steve!) The bowl was lovely, but I was a little awestruck to be holding it.

Vince then had to tend to some customers since he was "working." This was good – I needed some time to collect myself.

Soon Vince was back. Now he had some questions for me! How were we so familiar with Lafayette? The American Friends of Lafayette? Vince had not heard of us. Tsk, Tsk. He did not even know of the Victory Day celebrations in Yorktown. Membership drive full speed ahead time. I know you are nodding your heads... I had to share what a wonderful organization AFL is as I want anyone who loves history to have the chance to have as much fun as we do.

Vince Sullivan and his wife Kristen joined the American Friends of Lafayette after attending Virginia Lafayette Day. Welcome, Vince and Kristen to the AFL! We look forward to sharing more history with you.

In Search of the Portrait of the Lafayette Children with Their Father's Bust

by Denise B. Bennett

Inspired to learn all I can about Adrienne Lafayette, I first read *Adrienne: The Life of the Marquise de Lafayette* by André Maurois published in 1961. The book contains a small section of black and white photographs in which I first saw a painting of the three adorable Lafayette children, with George Washington Lafayette standing beside and touching the Houdon bust of their father Gilbert. To my dismay, the photo has two long scratches, one going through the eldest daughter Anastasie's face. The book states that the image is from the Collection Comtesse Amédée d'Harcourt.



My hunt was on! Google has helped me with so much during my years of researching various topics. Surely Google will succeed! Wrong.

In my continued research, I read *Lafayette* by Harlow Giles Unger published in 2002. Lo and behold! On page 187, there is the adorable portrait of the Lafayette children again, but without the scratches! Sadly, it is slightly out of focus and the beautiful faces are a little distorted, especially Anastasie's eye. The caption states that this portrait was sent to George Washington and was hung above the mantel (alongside a portrait of Lafayette) in the Washington's Mount Vernon living room.

My hunt is renewed! The Mount Vernon website is a terrific resource! It states that a portrait of the Lafayette Family including both parents was lost. This is a tragedy, but perhaps not the fate of the portrait I am searching for.

Then, I read *Marquis de Lafayette* by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., published in 1989. I am thrilled to see this adorable portrait on page 48, printed in focus and without scratches. Anastasie's eye is still looking distorted or damaged but this is the best version yet! There are two pictures on page 48, the other one of a young Adrienne. The author gives credit for page 48 to Giraudon. My search still does not locate this portrait. Sigh. I learn that Mr. Schlesinger died at age 90 in 2007.

In my research, I have learned that during the French Revolution, especially during the Terror, many noble families sold everything to have money to eat. Adrienne's own sister and mother sold their clothing to eat. Could the Lafayettes have parted with this adorable picture due to dire necessity? Where did this portrait go?

Why is this so important to me? Adrienne loved her family; they were the most important thing to her. I imagine that Adrienne would wear meaningful jewelry and have her children close to her heart. I wish to make a pendant using this portrait to wear when I portray Adrienne Lafayette. I use a photo editing program on the best version of the portrait, color it by hand, create my pendant and embellish it with crystals. The distortion of their precious little faces and Anastasie's eye can still be seen.



Several months later, while continuing to research Lafayette and developing the PowerPoint document which accompanies my portrayal, I found a link to the Chambrun Foundation <https://www.fondation-chambrun.org/ouverture/>. I cannot understand why this link only now came to my attention. I've extensively researched René de Chambrun, the last owner of Chateau La Grange, where Adrienne lived and died, and Gilbert Lafayette lived for many years. I do not know French, so I peruse the numerous wonderful pictures.

And there it is in full color! The children are perfect with no distortions and Anastasie's eye is not damaged. Happy dancing!!! I am thrilled that this adorable portrait has remained in the Lafayette family and is available for anyone to enjoy. I'm off to make a new pendant!



About the Author

AFL member Denise Bennett is a first-generation American on her maternal side and a second-generation American on her paternal side. Nonetheless, she traces her lineage back to the American Revolution and to the third ship that landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1623. Ten years ago, she joined the Daughters of the American Revolution with a truly international application. In her first three generations, she had proof documents which required translations in three different languages – German, Spanish, and Old Persian. Denise has held multiple officer positions in her DAR chapter and shares her passion for history by portraying historical figures from every era of American history.

In Memoriam – Yasmin Sabina Khan Byron



Yasmin was born in 1960 and grew up in Chicago.

She went to the University of Michigan for her undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering followed by a master's degree in Structures from University of California at Berkeley.

After completing her studies, she went to work at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in San Francisco, the architectural firm where her father had been a partner until his death in 1982.

SOM is where Yasmin and I met in 1984. We moved to Boston that year where we both worked in engineering firms. It is from Boston that we discovered Paris and made our first of many visits there and to other parts of France. We had several extended visits. In this period Yasmin also developed an interest in handmade quilts. She was a perfectionist and spent many hours learning the techniques of quilting without a sewing machine!

We were back in California in the mid-90s when Yasmin decided to write the definitive biography of her father. Fazlur Khan was from Bangladesh but came to the United States in the 1950s to study, eventually settling in Chicago. He became very successful as one of the world's premier structural engineers, revolutionizing skyscraper design in the 1960s and 70s before his premature death at 52 years old. Yasmin determined that she would write about his life and his contributions to structural engineering. She completed the book in 2004.

In 2006 Yasmin was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's Disease. Fortunately for her, the progression of the disease was slow in the beginning. But by the completion of her books, she was not able to travel on a promotional tour. This was very frustrating for her. She taught

herself to write with her opposite hand because her right hand was not working well. She learned to work with dictation and voice recognition on her computer to help with writing.

After completing her first book, the biography of her father, Yasmin wanted to write about the Statue of Liberty and the story of its creation. She learned to love researching and writing, and this caused us to make several more trips to France. We visited the home of Bartholdi the sculptor, different libraries, and other monuments that he had built in France. This book was completed in 2010. It was while writing and researching Lafayette for this book that she became involved with the American Friends of Lafayette. I believe she wrote a short story after seeing the replica ship *Hermione* in Yorktown about a ship's crew member she had met at the train station. The AFL was very important to her, and she was saddened and disappointed when she was no longer able to participate.

Yasmin had 14 good years after her diagnosis. We were able to see Florence, Lake Como, and Rome on three separate trips. The last two years became very difficult. Through all the pain and suffering she never said a word of complaint. She remained hopeful until her very last weeks.

And she continued to smile, always finding a smile.



Editor's Note

Yasmin's second book *Enlightening the World: The Creation of the Statue of Liberty* (Cornell University Press, 2010) is available on amazon and from other booksellers. In my copy of the book, she wrote this inscription, on Massachusetts Lafayette Day 2010:

Thanks for sharing your enthusiasm for
Lafayette with me, and for being a part of my
work on this book.

Her handwriting was positively calligraphic.

On June 19, 2015, as he reported in volume No. 83 of *The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*, p. 14, Chuck Schwam delivered two copies of Yasmin's book to the Captain of the *Hermione*, Yann Cariou, in Baltimore, with this letter:

As a member of the American Friends of Lafayette, I had the privilege of visiting the *Hermione* the day following her arrival in Yorktown. Having first admired the ship from a distance, I was already enchanted by the beauty and intricate construction of the *Hermione*. But it was when I toured her and later talked with a member of the crew that I came to appreciate the passion and personal commitment of the many individuals who made the ship's journey possible.

Please accept this book as a token of my appreciation for the dedication of the crew – to the ship and her voyage, to the spirit of “Cur Non,” and to the sense of kinship between the people of France and America. The statue of Liberty *Enlightening the World*, as she was initially named, was conceived in France as a monument to American liberty and a symbol of the friendship between the two peoples. The statue's supporters in France were proud of the French people's involvement in the American War for Independence and proud of the country that had been established.

The statue's supporters also knew that Americans had shown great affection for the young French nobleman and American Major General, Lafayette. Before even hearing the good news that Lafayette brought aboard the *Hermione* in 1780, Americans celebrated his return from France. Lafayette was loved and respected as a leader and as a friend of America. Through his efforts on both sides of the Atlantic he helped create a lasting attachment between the people of France and the United States.

Of course, the *Hermione* brought good news. With the considerable assistance pledged by the French people, and extraordinary cooperation between the French and American forces, a victory at Yorktown and the substantive end of the war ensued.

The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor was born of the spirit of liberty and the tradition of friendship established during the American War for Independence. In a similar vein as the statue, the *Hermione* offers us a tangible connection to the remarkable, shared history of the French and American people.

-With heartfelt thanks, Yasmin Sabina Khan

Volume 83 of the *Gazette* also had a lovely article written by Yasmin about the chance encounter with a crew member of the *Hermione* that inspired her to write the letter of thanks to the captain and crew. That article is reproduced on the next page.

Yasmin was a lovely person and a joy to be around. She will be missed by all her AFL friends. A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at St. Paul Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts.



A Chance Meeting With A Volunteer Crew Member

by Yasmin Byron



This year's AFL meeting was another special one for me. The group has begun to feel like family, and I cannot thank everyone enough for their kindness. I was also delighted by this year's meeting location and program. I have wanted to visit Yorktown for a while, of course because this is where a pivotal battle of the American Revolution took place and Lafayette's role in setting the stage for the victory was central. But I have also wanted to see the Victory Monument at Yorktown. I described the monument in my book about the Statue of Liberty without seeing it myself, something I don't like to do. Richard Morris Hunt, the architect responsible for the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, also designed the Victory Monument, together with Henry Van Brunt and the sculptor John Quincy Adams Ward. Hunt and Ward designed a statue of Lafayette, as well. This statue was a gift to the University of Vermont in memory of Lafayette's visit during his 1824-1825 Farewell Tour.

Rather than fly home to Boston, I planned to take the train to Alexandria after touring the *Hermione* on Saturday - a highlight of our meeting! - to visit my brother and his family. Thanks to Alain and Merry Outlaw who drove me from Yorktown, I arrived at the Amtrak station in Williamsburg in time for the one northbound train that afternoon. As passengers walked out to the platform, a young woman held the door for me. We talked briefly and I thought I heard a French accent. So I asked if she had come to see the ship. She replied that, actually, she had come *on* the ship. She had been part of the crew crossing the Atlantic (somehow I failed to notice the enormous sea bag she was carrying). Her tour was over but she needed a little time to adjust before flying back to Europe. She had a friend in Delaware, so she was going there for a few days' stay.

There was space on the train for her to stretch out and rest. However she first sat and talked a little about her experience. She told me that tales of pirates and ships had enchanted her since she was eight years

old. For years she had longed to sail on a ship like the *Hermione*. Naturally it seemed unlikely that this would ever happen - until she heard about the *Hermione*. Although she lives in Belgium, she applied for the crew and was accepted. She had experience sailing; her background in physical therapy may have helped qualify her, in addition. I wish I had asked her more about the training. I believe she said she went for a week at a time (traveling from Belgium) and that the training lasted many months. I do remember the strength of feeling in her telling of her story. Her time with the *Hermione* had been a dream come true. And she felt certain that the entire experience, from training through voyage, was memorable not only for her but for the many family members and friends who had followed the voyage of the ship. This was true for each member of the crew; through them the *Hermione* had touched many others.

It was dinnertime and I started to eat an apple. She immediately offered me chocolate. This was the last remaining bar of the chocolates she had brought with her from Belgium, and she insisted that it paired perfectly with an apple. It was such a friendly, generous offer. I finally accepted a piece of this last bar of chocolate. She also offered a piece to another passenger across the aisle.

I couldn't have hoped for a better conclusion to my visit to Yorktown. I felt very grateful for this chance encounter. I had heard about the voyage - no less, from another volunteer crewmember, the Director of Maritime Operations of the Friends of *Hermione*-Lafayette in America, in a fascinating presentation at Friday evening's annual banquet - and I had admired and boarded the ship. Yet it wasn't until I talked with this young woman at the end of my visit in Yorktown that I started to grasp the passion and the commitment of the individuals that made the *Hermione*'s voyage possible. This glimpse of the effort and dedication of those involved inspired my letter of thanks to the captain and crew.

From AFL Gazette No. 83, October 2015, p. 22

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

Letters to the *Gazette*

Congratulations! The *Gazette* issue No. 97 shows how much you keep alive in the USA the Franco-American ties.

- Pierre Antoine de Chambrun

We enjoy every single issue of the amazing, huge AFL *Gazette*! I am still making my way through the fabulous “Adrienne Issue No. 96” from last May because I want to study as much information as possible about Adrienne so I can tell others about what an incredible heroine she was!

-Gayle K. Randol

Again, congratulations to the different writers and people who make the *Gazette* so interesting. BRAVO

- Guy Noel Benoit

Additional Edit

A correspondent had a minor comment “on the most excellent AFL *Gazette* No. 97.” In the caption that appears at the top of page 127, French Rear Admiral Hilaire Ducellier is referred to as “guest speaker” at the Battle of the Capes commemoration. Admiral Ducellier made welcoming remarks. Technically, the guest speaker was AFL member Captain Chris Melhuish, USN (Ret.).



It's time to get outfitted for the Bicentennial! Click the "Shop" button on either www.friendsoflafayette.org or www.lafayette200.org for hats, totes, several styles of shirts, and challenge coins. A portion of the proceeds will help fund the AFL's Bicentennial efforts.



The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

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