

President's Message

Dear Friends,

This past year has been an active one for the AFL and its members. Thanks to Chuck and Bonnie Schwam and Rob Raffety and Colleen Shogan, over 50 of us had a unique and wonderful experience at our June meeting in Alexandria and Washington City – the visit to Mount Vernon, the Masonic Apron, the Library of Congress and the House Chamber where we saw Lafayette's portrait up close and personal. Planning is under way for the 2013 meeting in Philadelphia. We are investigating having the Friday evening banquet at City Tavern where, as I'm sure 99% of you know, Lafayette was introduced to Washington in 1777.

The other main event – Yorktown Day – was also a great success. See the article in this issue of the Gazette. I, too, want to recognize Betty McPherson and Lea Gryk for their significant contributions. Bravo ladies!

The Board of Managers, especially our Young Turks, Chuck and Rob (as well as Dan Fitzpatrick) made a commitment this Spring to publish the Gazette more than once per annum. Their goal is 4 times a year, but perhaps three is a more realistic number. In any event, the current issue is the second Gazette in the last 6 months. Good job guys. Also, thank you Jerry Meekins for being our principal roving correspondent.

Speaking of the Gazette, we all miss our friend Len Panaggio. We intend to honor him this Winter/Spring by dedicating the AFL's next scholarly publication – containing original articles by Robert Crout, Paul Spalding, Diane Shaw and me - to Len who was a mainstay in the AFL for over 50 years. This publication is being financed by the Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation. Diane Shaw has taken the laboring oar in readying the articles for publication. This is the first such publication since 1999 and will be sent to you as soon as it is finished. There will be a quiz at our 2013 meeting!

This is the year when we also lost our dear friend Pat Panaggio. He will be sorely missed.

Inside This Issue

- **President's Message**
- **Yorktown Day Recap**
- **Lafayette Furniture Suite**
- **Hiking Mt. Lafayette and Newspaper Article from the Dedication**
- **New Members**
- **Lafayette Goes to Harvard**
- **Lafayette in Culture: Makes Appearance in Top Selling Video Game**

In February, Benoit Guizard attended Vergennes Day at Versailles as the AFL representative. The AFL was represented by Caroline Lareuse at the Picpus ceremony in July.

It seems that the work of the AFL and other societies dedicated to the memory of General Lafayette like the Massachusetts Lafayette Society and the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville (NC), the oldest city named for Lafayette, is really beginning to penetrate the conscientiousness of America. As Rob Raffety points out in his article, Lafayette is a major character in "Assassin's Creed III," a best-selling video game about the American Revolution.

I extend the best wishes of the Board of Managers of the AFL to you all and look forward to seeing many of you at our next annual meeting in June.

Best,

Alan R. Hoffman President

Yorktown Day Recap

By Chuck Schwam

Yorktown Day has become a “second annual meeting” for the AFL. This year’s festivities were no exception with many members in attendance. AFL members from all over the United States came to commemorate this significant event and the part General Lafayette played in it.

On Thursday evening, October 18th, a cocktail party was held at the Hornsby House Inn. Brothers’ David and Philip Bowditch own and operate the Inn, a wonderfully appointed and large house in which they grew up. Although the Bowditch brothers officially hosted the evening, the actual AFL hosts were Betty McPherson and her daughter Lea Gryk. Betty and Lea contributed a great deal during the entire weekend, volunteering hours of their time as well as assisting financially.

Over 60 people attended the cocktail party that evening. Many were AFL members, but historical organizations such as W3R were represented as well. The Superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park, Daniel Smith graced us with his appearance as well. Yorktown Day is Superintendent Smith's "Super Bowl" and as usual he proved to be up for the task.

There was a fabulous spread of food that included shrimp and sliced filet. Wine was served along with a wonderful arrangement of desserts. All in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. During the course of the evening there was a short ceremony in which President Alan Hoffman presented the attending AFL officers with the commemorative Lafayette coins that were secured on ribbons. These beautiful coins had been generously donated to the AFL by Betty McPherson.

On the morning of Friday, October 19 (Yorktown Day), we were greeted with light rain. Because the forecast called for clearing, Superintendent Smith gambled and decided to continue with all outdoor activities and not move them indoors.

The celebration officially started at 8:45 AM with the placing of a wreath at the French cemetery. Many AFL members attended the solemn ceremony despite a steady rain. The skies began to clear around 9:15 AM, just in time for the commemorative ceremony at the French Memorial. Many American and French citizens showed up for this observance to honor France's important role in the Yorktown victory of 1781.



The final wreath-laying of the morning took place at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church.

At 10:30 AM the Yorktown Day Parade started down Main Street. Grand Marshall, Major General Bradley May oversaw the parade. The parade was comprised of 35 separate entities to include representatives from all branches of the U.S. military, pipe and drum corps, JROTC and NJROTC units. Many patriotic organizations were represented in the parade along with several local high school marching bands. AFL members lined the parade route and the front lawn of the Hornsby House Inn.

...continued on page 3

...continued from page 2

With the skies clear, everyone was ready for the main event. People took their places in front of the Yorktown Monument with AFL members seated together in their designated rows. The parade of flags began with the color guard from the 3rd United States Infantry and the Continental Color Guard. Then, flags of our 50 states carried by service men and women followed. Lastly, flags from 13 different historical and patriotic societies were paraded including our American Friends of Lafayette flag accompanied by honorary flag bearer Chuck Schwam. Each of the 13 societies was also represented on the speaker's platform. The AFL representative was Lea Gryk, who also serves as the treasurer of the Yorktown Day Association.

The national anthems of the Republic of France and the United States of America were sung splendidly by Ms. Simone Marchand. Superintendent Smith then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The crowd of several hundred were next honored with a spirited address by Mr. Oliver Serot-Almeras, the Consul General of France in Washington DC. This is the same gentleman who hosted AFL members in June at the French Embassy.

Interpreters portraying Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson (the first and second governors of Virginia) conducted the keynote address. Their presentation was titled "Reflections on the Victory at Yorktown" and delved into how our young nation would govern itself now that independence seemed guaranteed with the victory.

Afterwards, a wreath was placed on the Yorktown Victory Monument in memory of those who fought and died during the siege of Yorktown in 1781. This concluded the patriot exercises. Most AFL members then convened at Grace Episcopal Church for the annual Yorktown Women's Club Brunswick stew lunch.

That evening many AFL attendees gathered for dinner at the Carrot Tree Restaurant. It was during this dinner that Alan Hoffman accepted Matthew Schwam's registration making Matthew, at 19 years of age, AFL's youngest member. To extend the festivities a bit longer, many of us gathered at the Yorktown Pub.

The Yorktown Day observance traces back to 1922 when the Daughters of the American Revolution began an annual wreath-laying ceremony. It is a wonderful way to enjoy the company of fellow AFL members, to meet new individuals with the same passion for history and to increase our store of knowledge about one of this country's seminal events.



Restoring Splendor to the Lafayette Furniture Suite

The Marquis de Lafayette stopped in the port city of Norfolk, Virginia, on four separate occasions during his 1824-25 farewell tour of America, and today Norfolk's Chrysler Museum of Art proudly owns a variety of objects honoring the French hero. Most conspicuous among these are a pier table and two matching side chairs, painted black with classical acanthus and scroll patterns atop in gold, and with a handsome wreathed portrait of the Marquis in the center of the design on each. Such gilt painted furniture, usually made in Baltimore, no doubt added festive sparkle to many of the elegant candlelit banquets which greeted Lafayette as he toured the mid-Atlantic. Sadly, the Chrysler's set has lost much of its original luster over time, but conservators hope to soon remove layers of dirt and overpainting, preparing this handsome suite to soon shine again before public eyes. Together with rare souvenir works commemorating Lafayette's tour from the Chrysler's encyclopedic collection of historic glass, the restored Lafayette table and chairs will become a focal point of the Museum's expanded galleries of American Art, currently under renovation and scheduled to re-open in April 2014.

Contact:

Crawford Alexander Mann III.
Brock Curator of American Art
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk , VA
Email: cmann@chrysler.org
Tel: 757.333.6276

RIGHT:

Pedestal Side Table with Portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette,
ca. 1824
Gift of Mrs. C. Frederic Fluhmann 81.36



LEFT:

Side Chair with Portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette,
ca. 1824
Gift of Mrs. C. Frederic Fluhmann 81.37a



New Hampshire Patriot: Tribute to Mount La Fayette (Nov. 2, 1824)

Haverhill, Oct. 27

Mount La Fayette – On the 19th inst. the anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, the citizens of Franconia, and the neighboring towns, inst according to previous arrangement, at the village in Franconia, for the purpose of giving to the highest mountain in the town, the name so distinguished among the nations of the earth, and so dear to the hearts of Americans—La Fayette. The day was uncommonly fine. A situation was previously selected for performing the ceremonies in full view of the mountain, which towering above his surrounding neighbors, looked proudly down on the scenery and assembled multitudes below.

A procession was forged at 12 o'clock at Mr. Harris' Hotel, and escorted by Capt. Aldrich's company of Infantry, in uniform, accompanied by martial music, to the place selected. The exercises commenced by signing Old Hundred—then followed an appropriate prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Hall and an address by Grindall Reynolds, Esq; sketching the most prominent events in the life and character of illustrious hero—to many parts of which the old soldiers offered their involuntary responses. At the conclusion of the address, the name was pronounced to be—MOUNT LA FAYETTE, which was three times reiterated in a general about by the whole assembly, and cheers by the music, followed by thirteen guns from a cannon placed upon the side of the mountain, thereby assenting to its new name—the echo of which reverberating through the vale below, together with the singing at the same time a piece selected for the occasion, had a pleasing and grand effect.

The procession then re-formed, and returned to the hotel, where they partook of a splendid dinner, which was rendered doubly interesting by the presence of twenty-two veterans of the Revolution, who were invited to attend the ceremony and dinner; several of whom, had served under Gen. La Fayette, and who, animated by the occasion, forgot their cares and infirmities and remembered only the days of other years, and battles they had fought and won.

Mount La Fayette is in the same range, and about twelve miles in a south west direction from Mount Washington. Its altitude has not been taken, but several good judges have computed its height to be about the same of Mount Adams, which is next in height to Mount Washington.

At the close of the dinner the following Toasts were drank, with a gun at each, and cheers.

The Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown- Yorktown in grateful emulation honors thee, and the mountains echo thy praises, La Fayette, friend of our fathers.

The Name of Washington – Dear to Americans, and elevated above all eulogium.

The Constitution of the United States – May its duration be co-equal with the mountains, and the latest generations enjoy its provisions unimpaired.

General La Fayette – In prosperity or adversity, in power or in prison, in youth or age—like the mountains, immovable—always the Friend of Freedom.

The Soldiers of the Revolution – We shall not cease to cherish the sense of our obligations and a veneration for your names, so long as Mount La Fayette stands to remind us of your services.

James Monroe – His mild and useful administration receives the gratitude of his country.

David L. Morrill, Governor of New Hampshire – Prompt to render honor to whom honor is due.

The Town of Franconia – Her boast, the most magnificent monument to the memory of La Fayette.

The State of New Hampshire- She bequeaths to the Nation her sublime monuments to perpetuate the illustrious names of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Franklin, and La Fayette.

The Choice of the Ruler- The Scepter of our country, swayed by her Sovereign—the People.

The Next Electors of President in N. Hampshire- When they shall have discharged their delegated duty, may we not have reason to say—“King Caucus is the usurper of our inheritance.”

Greek and South American Patriots – May the mantles of Washington and La Fayette rest on the congenial spirits who shall go forth to devote their lives and fortunes in their glorious case.

The Holy Allies- the “chimes from the temple of Liberty resound through the world, and compel the ruling tyrants to cast their crowns at the feet of the Goddess.”

Welcome New Members for 2012!

Anne-Marie Demetz

James Libovicz

Bower R. Patrick

Ursula M. Reed

Michèle P. Rzewnicki, Life
Member

Ernest L. Sutton

Susan Leidy

Matthew Schwam

John and Nancy Gardner

Kathleen E. Desimone

Hiking Mount Lafayette

By Jerry Meekins

As many of you may already know, there are literally dozens of places named in honor of General Lafayette. Most of them, cities, towns, villages, parks, squares, streets, etc., can easily be reached by car or public transportation. There is one however, maybe others, only accessible by either hiking or helicopter. That place is Mount Lafayette. It is a 5,200-foot mountain at the northern end of the Franconia Range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The mountain is off I-93, 2-plus hours north of the Massachusetts border, and an hour or so south of Canada. It's a gorgeous area of the northeast. The mountain was originally called Great Haystack. It was renamed on October 19, 1824, during Lafayette's renowned "Guest of the Nation" tour.

My daughter, Susan, and I started our journey by car from Northport, LI, NY, Saturday morning, September 15th at 2:35AM. By the way, Susan has traveled with me to Picpus, Chavaniac, and La Grange. The drive up was very pleasant and uneventful.

Sunrise was just around 7:00AM. We were still in Massachusetts. By 7:20AM we crossed the NH border. "Live Free or Die". At this particular time there was a little drizzle with what appeared to be some ominous clouds off in the distance. Although the weather report called for possible rain in the morning, it was forecasted to be nice in the afternoon. We arrived at the Lafayette parking lot at 9:15AM (almost 7 hours travel). We were informed by a park employee and other hikers that the round-trip hike would take approximately 8 hours. For some reason I was thinking 5 or 6 hours.

The most popular and scenic route is to make an almost nine(9)-mile loop ascending via the Old Bridle Path to the AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club) Greenleaf Hut (3.1miles). From there you proceed via the Greenleaf Trail to the summit of Mt. Lafayette (1.1 miles). You then take the Franconia Ridge trail, passing over Mt. Lincoln and Little Haystack. From there you descend via the Falling Waters Trail which loops back to the Lafayette parking lot. Due to the fact that we were driving home at the conclusion of the hike, another 7 hours, we decided to ascend and descend via the Old Bridle Path route. Basically up and down the same way. We did not take the loop. This would cut out one mile, leaving a total of approximately 8+ miles.

We started our ascent at 9:30AM. We were both wearing hiking shoes and shorts. Due to the coolness of the park, and the cloud cover higher up the mountain, we wore long-sleeved, hooded outerwear. The hoods weren't necessary at this point. We packed necessities in our backpacks, and off we went. The ascent is approximately 3,400 feet in elevation, covering a distance of 4.2 miles. I would consider it a long, steep, and very rocky climb. There were very few sections of easy, level, dirt trail. You had to be very cognizant of every step. We removed our jackets shortly into the hike. There were several areas where we stopped, rested, and took pictures. The scenery was beautiful. We thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent vistas.

...continued on page 7

...continued from page 6

The first leg up to the Greenleaf Hut, as I stated before, was 3.1 miles. It took us 2 ½ hours. The Greenleaf Hut is an overnight refuge for serious hikers. It is also a welcomed shelter and rest stop for day hikers. Up until this point, the weather was pretty nice with the sun coming in and out. Keep in mind, we had taken off our outer garments and were in shorts and t-shirts. We took a well-deserved extended break inside the hut. It was here that we truly realized the less than favorable weather conditions leading up to the summit. The summit was hidden by cloud cover. Most of the experienced hikers wore protective outer wear, which included waterproof pants, jackets, headgear and gloves. Shortly after we started out again on our next leg -1.1 miles to the summit, we put our outer gear back on. My daughter ultimately put on long pants over her shorts.

We were being told that the winds at the summit were gusting from 25-55 mph, with a wind chill factor below 20 degrees. Not exactly an “end of summer, beautiful walk in the park”. To complicate matters more, we were soon hiking on a much rockier trail in fog, wind and drizzle. Actually, I wouldn’t even call it a trail. To stay on the trail, you had to follow the *cairns*. These are man-made (5-6 ft. high) rock piles used to mark the trail. Oddly enough, that section of the trail was crowded with people hiking in both directions. I guess because of the time of the year and the four-day weekend (Rosh Hashanah), many of hikers decided to take on the mountain. If I had to guess, I’d say that there were probably hundreds of hikers. They were mostly young and in shape. However, they ranged from 5 years old to probably 80 years old. It was pretty incredible.

The last ascent leg was difficult for my daughter. She had some problems with stamina and dizziness. I would have turned around in a heartbeat, but she was determined to make it to the summit. So, we worked together, frequently stopping. By now it was cold and windy. We were above the tree line, exposed to the elements. Both of us tightened our hoods. One particular guy, wearing shorts, who was on his way down, warned us about the hail at the summit. Remember, I was still in shorts. I didn’t have long pants in my pack. We never did experience the hail. Finally, at 1:15PM (almost 4 hours after our start), we reached the summit. My daughter was a trooper extraordinaire. She persevered and conquered the mountain. We both shared a mutual sense of relief and accomplishment. We kind of rested and took refuge behind some boulders. There had to be at least two dozen hikers moving on and off the summit. It was pretty nasty up there. We couldn’t see anything beyond the summit.

There were three highlights on the summit. The first was a group of six, 3 older couples, who were having their 3rd nip of alcohol to celebrate their third summit of the day. They came up from the other end of the loop. They had already traversed Mt. Lincoln and Little Haystack. The second was having a picture taken of my daughter and me holding a small flat rock I had brought with me. On the rock was inscribed (in paint and coated with polyurethane) ***American Friends of Lafayette 9-15-2012***. We left the rock there, hopefully for posterity. I also picked up a small rock as a souvenir. The third highlight at the summit was leaving and getting back down beneath the tree line where it was much less windy. Earlier, I had given my gloves to my daughter. I kept my hands in my pockets. This was pretty tricky, and less than smart, considering the rocky terrain. Before you knew it we were below the tree line and back at the Greenleaf Hut. It was just in time to get back inside the cabin. We probably spent about a half an hour or so resting, getting warm, snacking and observing everyone else who was there. Everyone was in good spirits.

We left the hut to start our final descent at about 2:30PM (5 hours after we had started). Before I forget, there was a very beautiful lake close to the Greenleaf Hut. We took pictures. On our way down we encountered 2 “hut boys” going up carrying about 80 pounds of supplies on their back. This answered our question as to how supplies reached the hut. Our hike down was almost uneventful. About ¾ of the way down, my daughter slipped and fell. Luckily, she had good reflexes to break the fall. She was ok and not hurt. From there on we really took our time. Once again, we stopped often to take in the beautiful sights (more pictures). I failed to mention that there were also several dogs on the trail. We reached the parking lot at 4:30PM (7 hours after we started). Although tired, we were exhilarated. We both agreed that it was a great experience and well worth it. It’s one of those shared experiences we’ll always remember. After a clothing change, a bite to eat, and a brief respite, we were on our way home by 5:00PM. Almost seven uneventful hours later at 11:50PM, we arrived home back on LI, safe and sound. The total journey was more than 21 hours.

...continued on page 8

...continued from page 7

Next May, we plan to spend a weekend in the Franconia area with our spouses. At that time, we (my daughter and I) will once again hike Mount Lafayette via the scenic loop. Hopefully, the weather at the summit and the views will be more favorable.

In addition to the three highlights at the summit, there were also three very significant highlights of our trip in general. They were, first and foremost, the fact that I hiked and shared this experience with my lovely daughter, Lafayette excursion partner and friend, Susan. Second, we left a rock marked with the AFL inscription at the summit. Third, and very meaningful to me, I wore my 17-year old hiking shirt given to me by my wonderful sister-in-law and traveling companion, Alberta. She often traveled with me and my beautiful, understanding wife and best friend, Irene. Alberta has since passed away from cancer. Although we miss her, she will always be remembered and in our thoughts.

When we climb Mt. Lafayette next year, there will be once again three things we'd like to keep in mind. First, hopefully, it will be close to 5/20/2013, the 179th anniversary of Lafayette's death, which coincides with my daughter's birthday, 5/24. Secondly, we will bring a French/American flag combo and take an appropriate picture on the summit. Last, but not least, we will take a poll as we ascend and descend, asking who does or doesn't know General Lafayette. I'll keep you posted regarding our next adventure. By the way, if anyone else has hiked Mt. Lafayette, I'd like to hear about it. Thanks.

Did you know that Lafayette went to Harvard?

by Alan Hoffman

Lafayette visited Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 4 occasions. On December 19, 1781, shortly before his return to France, he attended the investiture of Joseph Willard as President of the College. On October 20, 1784, during Lafayette's 1784 visit to America, Harvard honored him with a Doctor of Laws degree, and he attended a banquet given by the Harvard Corporation. On August 25, 1824, on the Farewell Tour, Lafayette attended commencement exercises at Harvard, at which the College awarded Lafayette's son, George Washington Lafayette, a Master of Arts degree.

Lafayette's final visit to Harvard was the following day, August 26, 1824, when he attended the exercises of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and dined at Commons Hall. During these exercises, the great orator, Edward Everett, then a young Philosophy professor, harangued him with a laudatory address. (Everett gave the eulogy for Lafayette at Faneuil Hall in Boston on September 6, 1834 – a great read by the way and available online. No one ever said Everett was too short-winded. His eulogy is over 100 pages, and he preceded Lincoln at Gettysburg with a two-hour, 13,607 word oration which, unlike Lincoln's, no one remembers.)

There is a marker that memorializes Lafayette's visits to Harvard in 1824, along with several other important events. It stands outside the iron fence that surrounds Harvard Yard opposite the subway in Harvard Square. See picture on right.



Above marker reads:

SITE OF THE
FOURTH MEETING HOUSE
BUILT IN 1759
HERE WASHINGTON WORSHIPPED
IN 1775
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
OF MASSACHUSETTS
HELD HERE IN 1779
LAFAYETTE WELCOMED HERE
IN 1824

Lafayette – Hero of the Virtual World!

By Rob Raffety

Members of the American Friends of Lafayette will be encouraged to know that our hero, General Lafayette, is making a comeback with the younger generation. Specifically, General Lafayette is an important character in a recently released historical-fiction action adventure video game called *Assassin's Creed III*.

As the title suggests, *Assassin's Creed III* is the latest installment in a hugely successful video game franchise played by tens of millions of avid "gamers" worldwide. The protagonist of the *Assassin's Creed* series is a time-traveling character named Desmond Miles, who battles the forces of evil throughout history. In the latest edition of the game, Desmond travels to pre-Revolutionary War America in the form of a half-English, half-Mohawk Indian named Connor. The main story of *Assassin's Creed III* unfolds between the years 1753 to 1783, before and during the American Revolutionary War.

On his journey, Connor participates in a variety of historical events, including the Battle of Fort Mifflin, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the Battles Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill (which the game correctly identifies as Breed's Hill). During his adventures, Connor encounters many famous military and political figures of the era, including Samuel Adams, Israel Putnam, Paul Revere, and George Washington, who first appears as an aide to British General Edward Braddock, then later as Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

Our hero, General Lafayette, makes several appearances in the game. He first emerges at Valley Forge, where Lafayette befriends Connor and recounts that he once had to disguise as a woman to evade French troops when travelling to America.

...continued on page 10

Image of Lafayette from *Assassin's Creed III*:

http://assassinscreed.wikia.com/wiki/Marquis_de_Lafayette



SAVE THE DATE

The next Annual Meeting for
The American Friends of
Lafayette
is scheduled for June 13 to 15,
2013.

The meeting will take place in
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Details in our next Gazette.

Have a question, idea, article,
photo, or other submission for
The Gazette?

For distribution to the editors
please send them to:

Dan Fitzpatrick
dfitzpatrick32@gmail.com

The American Friends of Lafayette are committed to remembering those members who have passed away. Please keep in your thoughts:

Virginia Lowell Mauck
Life Member

...continued from page 9

Later, in passing conversation, Lafayette states that he hopes to eventually bring some of the patriotic spirit shown in America back to France.

The most involved depictions of Lafayette in *Assassin's Creed III* occur in a visually stunning sequence set on June 28, 1778 - the Battle of Monmouth. Connor arrives to the battlefield as Lafayette is in the midst of a stirring speech to the American soldiers about the importance of holding their ground.

Although the battle has been underway only a short time, Lafayette describes the affair as a "glorious victory." He then disparages the actions of General Charles Lee who, according

to Lafayette, showed up in the middle of battle preparations, screamed at everyone to advance, and then just ran away and left Lafayette to "pick up the pieces." Unexpectedly, a rush of Redcoats storm the hill, and Lafayette tasks Connor with leading the Americans to beat back the attackers. As Lafayette leaves Connor to hold the position, the General says: "Bonne chance, mon ami!" ("Good luck, my friend!").

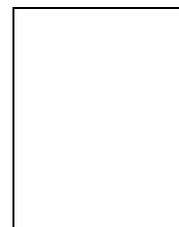
As with many video games of this genre, the main story of *Assassin's Creed III* is entirely fictitious, but occurs within the broader context of real historical events. Although most of the members of AFL will never play the game, it's nevertheless an important development related to our shared interest in Lafayette. For millions of avid video game players across the world, the majority of whom are young and presumably not deeply exposed to our country's rich and fascinating history, a game like *Assassin's Creed III* could help encourage them to learn more on their own about Lafayette and the American Revolution. Even if only a small number of gamers follow such a path, we should view this as a success. For those of us who seek to spread awareness of our hero, this game will hopefully inspire a few game players to crack some books and learn the true history of the American Revolution, including the underappreciated yet essential contributions of *the real* General Lafayette.



THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

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

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



First Class Mail

