The Sixteenth Annual Meeting

THE American Friends of Lafayette held its annual meeting this year at Morristown, New Jersey, Saturday, May 17th. With the war’s end, it was again possible to select a meeting place of historical interest. No more beautiful or inspiring spot could have been chosen than Washington’s headquarters at Morristown, where young Lafayette was so warmly welcomed by Washington and his official family May 10th, 1780, when he arrived from his furlough in France with the electrifying news that France would aid America with land and naval forces; invaluable aid, marking the turning point of the Revolution and measurably due to the urgent pleas of Lafayette. The date of our meeting was within a week of the 167th anniversary of Lafayette’s arrival at Morristown.

Morristown sheltered the Continental Army through two winters. Sections of this countryside, now Morristown National Park, embrace the site of Fort Nonsense, built in 1777, the beautiful Ford Mansion, headquarters of Washington, the modern Historical Museum, and a third park unit—three miles distant—the Jockey Hollow Continental Army camp sites, dotted with replicas of the original huts, and the camp hospital. In the burying ground sleep about one hundred soldiers who were unable to withstand the agonies of that winter of 1779-80, so much more severe than Valley Forge. The three park units are administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, under the superintendency of Dr. Francis S. Ronalds and his assistant, Melvina J. Weig.

Our members gathered at the Historical Museum for the business meeting, and address by Judge Edward Dumbauld of Washington, D.C., distinguished authority on international law, who spoke on “Jefferson and Lafayette” in Paris. The museum, beautifully situated behind the headquarters house, displays in its several exhibition galleries and library many priceless relics of various kinds—books, manuscripts, maps, engravings, and other items of historical interest. Among the treasures are one of the swords brought from France by Lafayette for officers in his regiment, and one of Gilbert Stuart’s portraits of Washington. Highly important historical events, among them Washington welcoming Lafayette at headquarters, are represented through the medium of dioramas, three-dimensional miniature models.

After the meeting, the members visited the headquarters house, built by Colonel Jacob Ford between 1772 and 1774. This mansion is a splendid example of colonial architecture, restored almost as it was during Washington’s occupancy. Some original furnishings stand in their old places; e.g., the tall bureau desk where Washington wrote many important dispatches and documents; Lafayette’s bedroom may be seen and that of Martha and George Washington. Alexander Hamilton, then aide to the general, lived in this house that winter; Knox, Clinton and other brigade commanders also dwelt there. At the door, Washington embraced Lafayette, who had galloped from Boston, just off the Hermione and brimful of his news of France’s 6,000 troops soon to follow him.

The Society was formally welcomed in an instructive address by Mayor Clyde Potts, at an enthusiastic luncheon held at the Colonial Inn, and there were interesting informal talks by Messrs. Chirard, Kendall, Monaghan, Nolan, Gardner, Ronalds and Weig. John F. Gough, an active charter member, was elected president and Mrs. Alan MacIntire, editor of the Gazette, vice-president.

Yorktown Day

At Yorktown on Sunday, October 19th, Yorktown Day will be observed. All the patriotic societies will join in a celebration there, to be held under the sponsorship of the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of The American Revolution. The American Friends of Lafayette are invited to join in the celebration.

Mr. Stuart W. Jackson announces the presentation of the medal of the American Friends of Lafayette to the next twenty-five new active members.

New Members

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS

Mrs. Horace Binney, 61 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Edgar Ewing Brandon, 315 East Church Street, Oxford, Ohio.
Prof. Edwin B. Coddington, 153 Shawnee Avenue, Easton, Penna.
Mr. John G. Conner, 8 Belmont Circle, Trenton, N. J.
Mr. M. Jackson Crispin, First National Bank, Berwick, Penna.
Miss Marion Gough, 9 Dick Street, Jersey City, N. J.
Dr. Julia C. Harney, 302 Pavonia Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.
Hon. Murray Hulbert, Judge United States District Court, United States Court House, Foley Square, New York, N. Y.
Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchinson, College Avenue, Easton, Penna.
Mr. John F. Magee, 613 Paxinos Avenue, Easton, Penna.
Mrs. Charles M. Sames, Fifth Avenue Hotel, Fifth Avenue at Ninth Street, New York, N. Y.
Mr. Harold V. B. Voorhis, 132 Bergen Place, Red Bank, N. J.

CONTRIBUTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr. Arthur Adams, Trinity College Library, Hartford, Conn.
Mrs. Paul Bishop, 7 Marlborough Street, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Oswald Chew, Radnor, Penna.
Mr. Winston J. Coleman, Winburn Farm, Russell Cave Road, Lexington, Ky.
Mr. Jay Grant DeRemer, Hollow Tree Ridge Road, Darien, Conn.
Mrs. Reginald Foster, 48 The Fenway, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Charles Lee Lewis, 41 Southgate Avenue, Annapolis, Md.
Mrs. T. J. Mauklin, Pickens, S. C.
Mrs. Leonard J. Panagazio, 120 Spring Street, Newport, R. I.
Miss Janet Richards, The Wyoming, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Arthur R. Rule, 1011 Wychwood Road, Westfield, N. J.
Dr. Bertram J. L. Sauerbrunn, 681 Newark Avenue, Elizabeth, N. J.
Miss Mary E. Stone, ’Oyster Shell Lane, Bayport, N. Y.
Mrs. Charles Tizzell, 45 Coolidge Hill, Cambridge, Mass.
Hon. Marshall Van Winkle, 1 Exchange Place, Jersey City, N. J.
Dr. Charles Vincelli, 1595 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. Maude B. Vosburgh, Vassall House, 4 Hawthorne Street, Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. John G. Weld, Old State House, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Joseph Wichmann, 2 North Drive, New Brunswick, N. J.
Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.
In Memorials

With regret announcement is made of the death of two of the early active members of our Society: one, Mr. Philip Waddell Smith, was a founder of the Society. Mr. Smith died at his home in Princeton, New Jersey, on August 30, 1946. He was a graduate of Lehigh, class of 1892, and at the time of his death he had retired as vice-president of the General Cable Corporation of New York and Pittsburgh. He was a member of many historical and genealogical societies.

Dr. Arnold Guyot Cameron died on July 29, 1947, at Princeton, New Jersey. He was formerly professor of French at Princeton University, the son of the late Henry Clay Cameron, who was professor of Greek at Princeton for fifty years. Dr. Arnold Cameron graduated from Princeton in 1884 and held degrees of B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. He then became professor of French at Yale University, serving there until 1894 when he returned to Princeton as head of the French department, retiring in 1905 to write nine language text books and numerous articles on finance, real estate and economics for the Wall Street Journal and other journals. During World War I, he went to France as representative of the Young Men's Christian Association. Dr. Cameron had made an extensive study of De Grasse and was actively interested in our Society.

Mr. Harrison Deyo of New York, chairman of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the Province of New York and New Jersey of the Protestant Episcopal Church and a member of our Society, has been elected president of the Federated Huguenot Societies of America.

Two interesting brochures by J. Bennett Nolan, a member of the Executive Council and our retiring president:

"Isaefel in Berkshire," being the visit of Edgar Allen Poe to Reading, Pennsylvania in March, 1844. Published for the Bicentennial of Reading, 1748-1948.

"Profiles of Armageddon" (Reading Eagle Press, 1947), embracing, with a foreword, five essays: "Other Times, Other Manners," "Convoy to Brabantum," "History with But One Page," "Shakespeare Over the Rhine," and "Retrospect at Nuremberg."

Dubois-Martin Papers

Our members will soon receive a brochure edited by Dr. Gilbert Chirad of Princeton University. This will be the letters — unpublished — of Dubois-Martin who purchased the ship La Victoire in which Lafayette sailed for America one April day in 1777.

Vestigia

TWO exhibitions in New York City recently interested Fayettists: (1) France Comes Back in Education Hall, American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and Central Park West, and (2) American Presentation Silver at the adjacent New York Historical Society.

France Comes Back, organized and directed by M. Jean Carlu for the Provisional Government of the French Republic, depicted effectually the ravages and material destruction which bled France white. It also illustrated the will, energy and courage of the French for reconstruction, as well as France's contribution to historical democracy.

To help illustrate France's aid to our young Republic, memorabilia of Lafayette, De Grasse, Rochambeau and their American contemporaries were lent by members of the American Friends of Lafayette, under the auspices of Messrs. Ames, Ball, Gardner, Gough, Jackson, Kendall, Nolan, Norton, Wildestein, and Osborne. Among items displayed were the medals struck in 1934 by the French Republic and the American Friends of Lafayette, a copy of the Du Perron map of Yorktown, issued by the American Friends of Lafayette, the Hubbard-Gottschalk volume, Letters of Lafayette to Washington, Chirad's Washington as the French Saw Him, Historic Examples of American Printing and Typography (William L. Clements Library), and Boyd's monumental study, The Declaration of Independence. Relics exhibited were Deux Ponts' My Campaigns in America; a duodecimo Etat Major (1782) carrying the names and regiments of most French army officers who participated at Savannah and Yorktown; and a sword of Lafayette presented by Baroness Von Miltitz to Lafayette College in 1932. This is the sword surrendered by Lafayette to the Austrians, 1792, upon his escape from France and the fury of the Paris Commune. Another item displayed was a colored etching of Lafayette, by Rosenthal.

American Presentation Silver was a splendid collection of say one hundred notable gifts, given after 1700, to public officials, army and navy commanders, statesmen, professors and Indian chiefs, and now owned by leading American museums. The exhibit was fully described in a recent Quarterly of the New York Historical Society. Every piece shone in brilliant array. Of exceedingly great interest to Fayettists was a silver map case, now owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. It was given, 1825, to Lafayette by citizens of South Carolina; its inscription records their esteem, dating back to 1777, when, near Charleston, as a young volunteer, he first set foot upon the soil of the United States of America.

J. F. G.
David Griffith
Friend of Washington and Lafayette

by Stuart Wells Jackson

Among the able men who contributed to the success of the American Revolution of whom little has been recorded by historians is the name of David Griffith. He was born in New York City in 1742, his mother, Sarah Winslow, being a native of that city, and his father a successful business man who had emigrated there from Wales in early life. David was successively physician, clergyman, surgeon and chaplain in the Revolution, and, three years before his death in 1789, first Bishop-Elect of Virginia. He secured the rudiments of his education in his natal city, continued his studies in England and received a medical degree in London when only twenty years of age. Returning to America at the time of colonial unrest and indignation against the Stamp Act — first act in the drama of the Revolution — he married Hannah Colville and settled down as a country doctor "in the interior of the Province of New York," probably at Schenectady. After practicing his profession there for a very short time, he experienced a religious conviction and decided to prepare for the Anglican ministry, and immediately began his theological studies.

As he had gone to England in the heyday of Johnson's London to obtain his medical degree, he returned there in 1770 to be ordained, for ordination then could only be had in London, there being no bishop with such authority in the Colonies. Within the month of August, 1770, he was ordained deacon and priest in 1771. By this time, with a growing family (eventually there were eight children), he found it impossible to live on the salary that had been given him by the Society. In his defense he wrote them, "I assure you that it is neither through Contempt nor want of respect for the Venerable Body, that I have ventured to act without their assent, — But from motives of Humanity & a tender regard for the welfare of those dependent upon me for their subsistence." However, this "Venerable Body" passed a resolution "that Mr. Griffith be not employed for the future in the Societies services. Without attempting to pass upon the merits of Mr. Griffith's defense, our young clergyman, out of favor with the S. P. G. and with a dependent family, had to turn elsewhere. That Griffith had influential friends in this controversy may be seen from the following letter signed by Dr. Myles Cooper, President of Kings College, and the Rev. Dr. John Ogilvie, Rector of Trinity Church, New York, and addressed to Sir William Johnson, the colonial statesman who built Johnson Hall, where he lived in baronial style and for whom Johnstown, New York, was named:

"New York
18 Feb. 1771

Good Sir,

"Being thoroughly convinced of your Zeal for the interests of the church, and having some time understood that the Society had opened a mission at Johnson Hall, which appears yet to be unsupplied, — if you have not any particular person in your eye, we beg leave to recommend to you Mr. David Griffith, who has lately taken orders and was appointed by ye Society for Glocester etc., in New Jersey where he finds it impossible for a clergyman to subsist. He has therefore left that mission and is at present unemployed:

"The Gentleman whom we recommend, you are not altogether unacquainted with. He was at Johnson Hall, about a year and a half ago — having then thoughts of settling at Schenectady."

"It may be necessary to inform you that Mr. Griffith was Originally bred to physic and surgery, and that we apprehend he is very competently skilled in these Arts, having had considerable Experience therein, not only with the Army in America, but also in Portugal. Mr. Griffith has a wife and one child. We look upon him as a very worthy man and esteem him a very agreeable preacher. In short we have good Hopes that Sir Wm. Johnson will find him such a clergyman as we hear he desires, and are assured he deserves.

"In which Opinion we rest, his most obedient and very humble servants etc."

Apparently Griffith did not seek the favor of Sir William Johnson, or if he did the mission offered would not support him and his family. At this period the strength of the Church was in Maryland and Virginia and it was in that direction Mr. Griffith turned. Among his Philadelphia friends were the Rev. Richard Peters, Rector of the United Churches of Christ and St. Peter's (where later both Washington and Lafayette had pews) and the Rev. Jacob Duché, a Quaker of French descent, eloquent chaplain of the First Continental Congress and a "columnist" of note, though somewhat arcanious in those "Letters" which he wrote under the pseudonym of Tarnoc Casnipina, an acrostic on his designation as "The Assistant Minister of Christ Church and St. Peters in Philadelphia in North America." Duché appears to have been quite a curious character. At first an ardent patriot he deserted the American cause after Brandywine and fled to England, returning to Philadelphia towards the end of the century, where he died in obscurity.

Now William Byrd, III, of "Westover" on the lower James River, had married into the Willing family of Philadelphia, was well known to Dr. Peters, and it was this association that eventually established Mr. Griffith in Virginia. Armed with letters of introduction and further fortified with testimonials as to his character and loyalty from prominent New York clergy, Griffith set out for Virginia.

Because the Church in Virginia was formally established by the House of Burgesses, ecclesiastical affairs came under the control of the governor, who must be satisfied with the credentials as well as the reasons for a clergyman coming from another colony before he could be established in a Virginia parish. Mr. Griffith appears to have met fully all the official requirements and to have gained the friendship of Col. Byrd and other influential families, for he soon became the first rector of Shilbourne Parish in Loudoun County, a parish created by the House of Burgesses in 1770. Here he remained until 1776, administering to the body as well as the soul by combining the practice of medicine with his pastoral duties. In 1775, when the storm that had been gathering since the Stamp Act ten years before broke at Lexington, no
Brandywine he says, "The Loss of this Mr. Griffith." A little later, too, he was Griffith came in and stayed all night." friendship of his old Commander, as may ing in a high degree the confidence and Washington became his most distin "Bought a Goose and Gander, of the > welcome visitor at Mount Vernon, enjoy ing in a high degree the confidence and friendship of his old Commander, as may be seen by such frequent entries in Wash ington's diary as: "In the evening Doctor Griffith came in and stayed all night." "Bought a Goose and Gander, of the Chinese breed of Geese from Reverend Mr. Griffith." A little later, too, he was to meet his old friend Lafayette there on the latter's last visit to his "Dear General." These must have been happy meet ings of the three old companions-in-arms.

After Yorktown and the resultant Treaty of Peace in 1783, Mr. Griffith had fought hard for a repeal of the laws which bound the Church through State domination. It was largely through his efforts that the first convention of the Church in Virginia assembled in Rich mond on May 18, 1785, and at the second convention held the following May Dr. Griffith was chosen Bishop of Virginia by a vote of 32 to 17, which forthwith was made unanimous. In the meantime his old friends, Dr. William White of Penn sylvania and Samuel Provoost of New York, had also been elected bishops and Dr. Griffith looked forward to accom panying them abroad for consecration. But in this Dr. Griffith was to meet with sad disappointment.

His income as Rector of Christ Church was on a precarious basis. In the early years of his Rectorship he was entirely dependent upon voluntary contributions from his parishioners for which, later, pew rents were substituted. Documentary evidences show that with the rapidly depreciating currency after the Revolution Griffith had difficulty in collecting these pew rents and at times was so in want that he was forced to the point of dunning his pew holders, even writing Washington, who by the standard of his day was a wealthy man, that his pew rent was long overdue and that he was "much in need of Money to furnish my family with the necessary Winter clothing." Again he dispatches a note by his son that "Being under the necessity of immedi ately discharging some claims against me I am obliged to call upon my friends . . . to avoid a threatening difficulty," asking his old Commander to discharge his obligation for the year before. So it is of little wonder that the Church people of Virginia did not respond promptly to the appeal of the Convention that had elected him Bishop for a fund to defray the expense of Griffith's voyage to England to be consecrated. In due course, his old friend Lafayette heard of his election and that he was to come to London for consecration.

Dr. Griffith must have been among the earliest of Lafayette's American friends and it is quite possible they had met soon after the latter's arrival in Philadelphia on July 27, 1777. As companions-in-arms "on the field of Brandywine, under the Huts at Valley Forge, in the Com fortable House of our Beloved friends Mr. and Mrs. Washington" it was natural that when he "learned from the papers" Dr. Griffith was coming to London, that he should write to his "Brother Soldier" as follows:

"Paris, December the 25th, 1786
Dear Doctor,

"I learn from the papers and wish I Had Heard from you that you are come to London, in order to Be Consecrated, a dignity to which you Have Been not a little prepared By our dissertations on Mrs. Washington's Bible at Mount Ver non — let this get to Hand before or after the Ceremony. I will nevertheless stick to the old stile of a Brother Soldier of yours, and it is singular enough that after you Have Been presented by a pres biterian plenipotentiary Minister, the first American officer whose Congratulatory letter reaches you, is one who is Him self suspected of a very strong tincture of presbyterianism. I Hope, my dear Doctor, you do not question the part I take in everything that Concerns you, and let it be on the field of Brandiwine, under the Huts at Valley Forge, in the Com fortable House of our Beloved friends Mr. and Mrs. Washington, or upon this solemn Occasion, I have ever Been, and shall Be, Your sincere friend and Ad mirer. — it would Be a very Rational and clever thing in you to pay a visit to Paris, where Mme. de Lafayette and My self will be happy to welcome you. There is a packet sailing from the Havre de Grace By the middle of February — perhaps it might Be an inducement to you and Doctors Provoost and White to whom I Beg you to say My compliments — With most sincere and Affectionate Regard I have the Honour to be

"Dear Doctor
Your Obedient Humble Servant

"Lafayette.

"The Right Reverend Father in God Doctor Griffith at His Excellency Mr. Adams's plenipotentiary Minister from The United States Portman Square

"London.

John Adams, in whose care Lafayette sent this letter, had lived for some time with his family in Paris and nearby Auteuil previous to his appointment by Congress in May, 1785, "to represent the United States at the Court of Great Britain," and a friendship had developed between the two families, the puritanical Mrs. Adams having found in Madame Lafayette "the only French woman of whom she really approved."
Our story of Dr. Griffith ends on an unhappy key. He never got to London for his consecration and so could not visit France and again see his old friend Lafayette. With the depressed state of the Church in Virginia, as well as of the currency, necessary funds were not forthcoming although attempts were made for three successive years upon the Virginia parishes to defray his expenses to England. While attending the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, he resigned all his claim upon the office, became ill and died on August 3, 1789, at the home of his friend, Bishop White, whom he had so ardently hoped to accompany to London for consecration. Dr. Griffith was one of the most prominent clergymen of his day in the country, a member of “The Cincinnati,” and honored by the University of Pennsylvania with the degree of D.D. in 1786, which institution the following year also conferred an honorary degree in absentia upon Lafayette. There is in Christ Church, Philadelphia, a window portrait of Dr. Griffith. From all traditional accounts he was a man of most agreeable personality, of high ability, and greatly esteemed throughout his life. Of him Washington once wrote: “I have a high opinion of his worth and entire dependence on his representations.”

It seems indeed most unfortunate that Virginia, who was to give so many of her sons to the highest office of State, should have failed to elevate Dr. Griffith to the highest office of the Church to which he had been chosen in his adopted state.

**Bibliographical Note**

**Displaced Persons of 1789**

_by Harold J. T. Horan_

It is doubtful if in the year 2105 anything our present exiles from France have written will ever have the colour and the spirit of Moreau de St. Mery’s *American Journey 1779-1798* of contemporary American life and manners.

Moreau is better known for his topographical reports of the Antilles in the Archives Colonials in Paris today. Early Creole history of the Antilles and the French possessions there owes much to Moreau de St. Mery, and his writings are still considered the best possible source for accurate scientific and topographical reporting of Haiti.† Had it not been for Kenneth Roberts’ search for documentation for his *Lydia Bailey*, we might not even today have had this delightful account of early American mores.

Moreau de St. Mery was admirably fitted for the task of describing colonial America since he was a Creole himself, born at Martinique where his grandfather was sénéchal. The boy’s father sent him to Paris for finishing in the manners of polite Parisian society. Like other Americans who came after him, young Moreau went left bank, and joined the revolutionary movement just beginning to grow in the political clubs. He seems to have been a natural leader of great sang-froid, but with too much natural humanity ever to become a bloodletting demagogue. Consequently, after the 10th of August’s terrible holocaust, he found the revolution’s activities repugnant and decided to flee to America.

Wisely, it was his decision, for he managed to board the sailing packet *Sappho* in the harbor of Le Havre, on November 9th, 1793, just in time to escape the dread summons of the Revolutionary Tribunal. The very next day after he sailed, warrant servers appeared to bring him back to Paris and probably death. Unlike so many of his friends and fellow nationals, Moreau managed to escape with his own and about sixty thousand people. Moreau divides them into three categories: white, people of color, and slaves. In what he describes as the “most beautiful city in the United States” these classes moil about, and Moreau examines them for diet, dress, habits, and deportment, condition of life and servitude, with the precision and order of a naturalist. *Homo Americanus, or philadelphiaeus* was a rude Boeticus; he was ill-favored by nature and unkept by habit. Liqueurs—rum, brandy, whiskey—were the immediately favored drinks of the American. Philadelphia women are different. They are pretty, the prettiest in his judgment on the continent and as generous with their charms as any lady-in-waiting of Marie Antoinette.

Unlike his distinguished compatriot, Chateaubriand, who preceded and equally unlike De Tocqueville who came after him, Moreau was more diarist than political philosopher. His entries of the price of fish and the barometric readings of temperature are inclined to grow monotonous.

Talleyrand’s letters written during the same epoch are filled with no such pedestrian comments. A merry crowd of refugees were accustomed to meet in Moreau’s bookshop. Here a band of gay roisterers consumed quantities of the heavy Madeira wine which Talleyrand preferred, and frollicked far into the night, often causing the uneasy host to rush in and hush his guests, lest they frighten the clientele. This gay company included Talleyrand and his friend Beaumetz (who one day tried to throw him into the river, for no ascertainable reason), La Colombe, former aide-de-camp of Lafayette, Louis de Boislandry and Demenerier, both members of the Constituant Assembly, Vicomte de Noailles, Omer Talon, former deputy from Chartres, and many others. Citizen Genêt, zealous representative of Marianne at Philadelphia, kept these characters within wary watch; so did Henry-Haye, Vichy Ambassador in Washington in France’s inglorious hour.

The *American Journey* is a delightful saunter into history. Stewart L. Mims, who discovered the Moreau manuscript while assistant professor of history at Yale in 1913, and then edited it in French, has written an excellent introduction; the book is creditably presented with a frontispiece and jacket by James Bingham, and a copious index.


‡ The present Assistant Secretary of State, Norman Armour, recalls that many improve-ments approved by the American occupation authorities had originally been surveyed and recommended by Moreau. Armour was U.S. Minister to Haiti.