**Sweat, Tears and Blood**

(From forthcoming Lafayette Between the American Revolution and the French Revolution)

LOUIS GOTTSCHALK

THE Marquis de Lafayette was not a great orator. One who was to hear him often when he had acquired greater skill would say of him that he spoke in a familiar, conversational tone "without metaphor or colored images but with the precise word to express the precise idea, without passionate verve but with a flow of words that stirred because of their apparent conviction."

The speech he now prepared to deliver on recent land speculations was to be Lafayette's first significant political address in France. Previously his oratory had consisted almost entirely of pretty speeches at banquets, receptions and powwows before audiences of admiring Americans or Indians. This one was to be delivered before a hostile prince and was fraught with personal danger.

At the next meeting of the bureau, Lafayette asked permission to read his speech, requesting that it be presented to the king as coming from him alone. Permission was granted, but Lafayette had not read far when he reached the challenging words, "The monster of speculation must be attacked instead of fed."

Thereupon the Comte d'Artois interrupted. The tone of the memoir, he objected, was too strong and too personal. Lafayette was not intimidated, however. As a gentleman, he insisted, he had the right to carry his protests directly to the throne.

A bitter discussion ensued. One of Lafayette's impassioned supporters, addressing him directly, proclaimed that the Marquis' exploits in America had already given him the right to be considered one of the country's heroes, but "now you especially deserve that glorious title." The speaker regretted there was no sculptor present to preserve forever his young colleague's likeness "at this moment when your patriotic zeal puts you in the ranks of His Majesty's most faithful servants."

Artois at length yielded and permitted Lafayette to proceed. The Marquis then asked for an impartial investigation into the management of the royal domain in order to correct speculative abuses. Repeating the charge that the king had paid exorbitantly for lands recently bought or exchanged, he named some of the persons he thought had benefited. He wanted to know why ministers made deals that profited only private individuals and why they bought certain parcels of lands at the same time that they sold others. He admitted that he might be misinformed.

"But my patriotism is roused and requires serious investigation. And since this open statement signed by me is submitted to His Majesty, I repeat with redoubled confidence . . . that the dissipated millions have been raised by taxation and that taxation can be justified only by the genuine need of the state; that the many millions presented to corruption or selfishness are the fruit of the sweat, the tears and perhaps the blood of the people."

When the Marquis was done, the Bishop of Langres arose to support him, promising that after the Easter recess he would bring proof of all the statements that his colleague had made. The bureau formally approved Lafayette's behavior.

The meetings of the Notables were not public, but it was not long before Lafayette's speech was published in newspapers and pamphlets and became widely known at home and abroad. That could hardly have happened without his knowledge and consent. The cry that he had raised (probably a cliché even in his day) about "the sweat, the tears, and perhaps the blood of the people" did not have the dramatic defiance or clear-cut simplicity of the "blood, sweat and tears" of a later and greater orator. It did not become the heartening slogan that our own times were to find it. Lafayette's generation was one that sought "liberty and equality" and not "blood, sweat, and tears."

But that a great noble had defied both the minister and the brother of the king to carry his complaints to the foot of the throne and had personally appealed to "the justice and goodness that we know to be the natural sentiments of His Majesty" was soon known wherever men gathered to read pamphlets and newspapers or to talk politics. Lafayette, of course, with a pride that he tried hard to conceal, sent a copy of his speech to Washington. Another found its way into the library of Loménie de Brienne. It was republished with a crude English translation in the bilingual Gazette de Québec.

The Swedish ambassador to France reported universal approval of "the patriotism" that Lafayette had shown — "a virtue so little known in this country."

Even the queen noted Lafayette's activity, although she disparaged his opinions as based "upon what happens at Philadelphia."

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1 April 2, 1787. The Second Bureau of the Assembly of Notables (Feb.-May, 1787) of which Lafayette was a member and, the king's brother, the Comte d'Artois president. This speech is an attack upon Calonne, comptroller-general of finances.

2 Archbishop of Toulouse, later of Lens and cardinal, who was to succeed Calonne as principal minister of Louis XVI. Calonne (1790-1793) became chief adviser of Artois, then in exile.

(Note: Dr. Gottschalk's *Lafayette Between the American and French Revolutions*, although still in manuscript form, has been awarded the James Hazen Hyde Prize by the American Historical Association.)
Yorktown Day
OCTOBER 19, 1948

SEVERAL thousand gathered in Yorktown on a dazzling blue Virginia day to observe the 167th anniversary of the victory. There were guided tours of the battlefield by Colonial National Park historians; the flags of the various regiments which served in the Siege of Yorktown were flying at their long-ago positions; and the Moore House was open for inspection — there the articles of capitulation were drawn up.

Busy launches conveyed over one thousand people out to the new antiaircraft cruiser, U. S. S. Fresno (CL-121), of the Atlantic Fleet, anchored in the York, and guests inspected the ship on the invitation of Captain W. L. Benson, her commanding officer. Many visited the Swan Tavern to view the exhibition of mementoes. At the Nelson House — York Hall (built in 1740, and Cornwallis' headquarters during the siege), with its bricks still clasping cannon balls — the owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Blow, entertained at lunch.

At two o'clock exercises at the monument began: a military parade was reviewed by Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Leonard, U. S. M. C., of the United States Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, grand marshal, Brigadier-General Walter J. Muller, U. S. A., commanding general of Fort Eustis, and Captain J. F. Donovan, Jr., U. S. N., commanding officer of the Mine Depot. In the parade were army men from Fort Eustis, a Marine Corps unit from the Mine Depot, an Air Force outfit from Langley Field, and navy men from the Fresno.

As the several thousand guests took their places on the sunny lawn before the monument, jet planes — P-80 Shooting Stars from Langley Field — darted roaring overhead. The 50th Army Band of Fort Monroe and the Poquoson High School Band furnished excellent musical numbers, notably "America" and "La Marseillaise."

Congressman S. Otis Bland presided. He was presented by Edward A. Hummel, superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park and chairman of the joint program committee (upon which our Stuart W. Jackson served). The invocation by the Chaplain of the U. S. Naval Schools, Mine Warfare, Yorktown, was followed by the introduction of distinguished guests. The principal speaker was Hon. Colgate W. Darden, Jr., ex-Governor of Virginia, and President of the University of Virginia. He warned the audience that America is in danger of losing that for which our fathers and forefathers fought — the rights of the individual. He pointed to the great courage and patriotism of the Russian people as evidenced in the siege of Stalingrad. But, he declared, the Russian people are led by a small group of men who are opposed to those things for which we stand.

Unless the Western nations maintain military power, he predicted, the Russian machine, determined to subject the individual to the state, will roll westward. "I don't believe there is an easy settlement of the Russian question," he said. "It is not to be smoothed away in a few months or a few years." In the meantime, he asserted, "we're on trial as never before. And we need the courage and sacrifice that were shown here if we are to pass on to future governments a land as rich and free as we inherited and for which these brave men fought."

"The struggle for human liberty is much older than the American nation. But the victory here on October 19, 1781 . . . was a milestone in that struggle," he said. "I am not exactly certain that the victory here at Yorktown was not as much an English victory as an American victory," he declared. "Had the American nation not become independent," he said, "it probably would have remained predominantly agricultural. With independence, however, came development of the industrial might which made it possible in this century for the United States to aid both the mother country and those who came to our aid in the Revolution — the French."

Then followed this address by Captain W. L. Benson, commanding officer of the Fresno:

"The Fresno has been designated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet to participate in this Yorktown Day Celebration. I feel sure that I am expressing the sentiments of our Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, and indeed of the entire Navy when I thank the Joint Program Committee and those patriotic organizations which are responsible for our presence.

"You have always been our friends and sponsors even at times when some thought there was little or no need to support a military establishment.

"Everyone here today knows that in 1781 a fleet did much to bring about the victory at Yorktown — and the fleet was not the U. S. Atlantic Fleet, but the fleet of our perennial ally, France. Since 1781, the United States has become a great Naval power and our fleets now guard the two oceans that make us an island continent.

"The history of our national growth and the contributions of sea power to that growth are well known to this group. But it might be timely to give you a very brief sketch of what our Navy is doing today and what it may do in the future.

"Today our Navy's aim is to guard the sea approaches to this nation and to spearhead the projection of our fighting might abroad if this ever again becomes necessary. In other words, we must do our part to keep war away from America. In modern war this means that our fleets must be able to fight on, above and below the surface of the seas. In conjunction with our other armed forces, the Navy must uphold our national policies and interest and insure that never again will the United States be forced to fight in its homeland — or even near to this homeland.

"You may ask how the Navy is going about this ever more difficult job. Presently we are ready with elements of the three dimensional sea power. We have in each ocean a carrier task force — small by the standards of World War II, but supreme in its category. Also we have a considerable submarine force advancing its techniques to perform as effectively in the future as it did in World War II. We have amphibious groups, trained for that type of warfare which was so effective in the Pacific, in the
And the Navy isn't ignoring atomic developments, push-button warfare, supersonic missiles and other scientific advances. On the contrary, the Navy is vigorously carrying out a program of adapting all these things to sea warfare. The Navy hopes to use these terribly destructive innovations against any future enemy far from our own shores instead of seeing them used against our homeland.

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"Some have advanced the argument that the coming push-button age has eliminated, or at least greatly reduced the importance of sea power. They would do away with our present defenses, leaving us only the push-button, which realists have said is the only element of push-button warfare available to us today.

"Any investigation of the Navy's organization and program for research and development will bear this out. We have in the Atlantic Fleet an Operational Development Force composed of all types of naval ships and aircraft. This force works from month to month testing new ideas and equipment for use in our fleets.

"In touring the battlefield this morning I was particularly impressed by the fact that the Siege of Yorktown was one of the first allied combined operations: after the seizure of sea power by De Grasse, who established a firm blockade, cutting the enemy from his supply line, the American and French armies laid siege to Yorktown; when I saw the place where French and American Generals drafted the Articles of Capitulation it reminded me of the same ceremony which took place in Reims, France, in 1945. For all these reasons I am quite sure that Yorktown will always remain a milestone in our common history.

"It has been with a deep joy that I, as a Frenchman, have found in your town the Victory Monument which stands as a symbol of the everlasting brotherhood of arms, common victory and indefectible friendship which unites the United States and France."

We quote from the Richmond Times-Dispatch: "During his tour of the battlefields, Major Leguay was shown the famous Lafayette cannon. Dr. Edward M. Riley, park historian, explained that the gun was among the pieces surrendered by the British army at the close of the Siege of Yorktown.

"In 1824, while the Marquis de Lafayette was touring this country, it is reported that he saw the cannon in a New York arsenal and recognized it as one of the pieces captured by his troops at Yorktown. He was able to identify it by a deep indentation on its right side, a depression evidently stemming from a direct cannon fire hit from an American or French gun. Seeing the cannon, Lafayette was deeply moved, Dr. Riley said, and 'it was reported he impulsively threw his arms around it and kissed it.'

"Since that time this 12-pounder bronze British gun, weighing more than 2,400 pounds, has carried the designation of the 'Lafayette Cannon.' In 1938 it was brought to Yorktown and was mounted on an authentically reconstructed carriage of the type on which it rode at the time of the siege."

Following the addresses, the Wreath Ceremony took place, with Mr. Alfred P. Goddin, President of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Virginia, presiding. He placed at the foot of the monument a huge wreath representing all the patriotic organizations which had joined in observing the day in so complete and excellent a manner — the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Thomas Nelson, Junior Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution of the State of Virginia, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia, American Friends of Lafayette, Trustees of the Town of York and the Colonial National Historical Park.

At this ceremony many flags fluttered in the Virginia breeze, and among them the beautiful banner of the American Friends of Lafayette, borne by Scout Ray Parcell, U. S. N. Mine Depot, Yorktown, a member of Yorktown Troop 101, Boy Scouts of America. The day was filled with thrills for the school children of Yorktown (there was no school that day), for the crew of the Fresno, who drank in all there was to see and hear, and for the thousands of guests, many from great distances, and well repaid for their trip to Virginia. The observance of Yorktown Day is perpetual. Stuart W. Jackson, representing this Society, is a member of the permanent committee. We cannot too strongly urge our members to attend Yorktown Day next October 19th.
A SIGNIFICANT feature of Yorktown Day was the special exhibit in the reconstructed Swan Tavern, of Lafayette manuscripts and documents, sponsored by the American Friends of Lafayette, and drawn from the collection of Stuart Wells Jackson, formerly of Montclair, New Jersey, and now a resident of Gloucester, Virginia. Mr. Jackson has been for many years the country’s chief Lafayette collector.

One of the four recorded copies of the earliest known printed edition of the Virginia Constitution of June 29, 1776, and the manuscript journal, “Campagne en Virginie du Major Gener. Marquis de la Fayette en 1781” by Capitaine de Chesnoy, aide-de-camp to Lafayette, were among the documents displayed. The Capitaine journal was purchased by Mr. Jackson in France in 1937 from Miss Lavasseur, granddaughter of Auguste Lavasseur, secretary to Lafayette. Capitaine de Chesnoy came to America with Lafayette aboard La Victoire in 1777 and served as his aide-de-camp throughout the American Revolution. He was commissioned a Major in the American Army by Act of Congress, November, 1778.

In addition to old manuscripts and documents, several rare books and important Lafayette memorabilia were included in the exhibit. Several interesting Lafayette letters were shown: in one written December 30, 1778, he gives expression to his love for America, and in another, written April 21, 1781, to Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia, the young officer seeks desperately needed supplies for his troops. This letter was written when Lafayette’s small force opposed the British army, devastating eastern and central Virginia.

Some items related specifically to the surrender of Cornwallis. Probably the most important was a 1782 copy of A Discourse Delivered Near York in Virginia . . . by Israel Evans, a chaplain in Washington’s army, a sermon delivered before the men of Lafayette’s Division two days after the surrender. It is the earliest known thanksgiving or “victory” sermon following the surrender.

French participation was indicated by such documents as a copy of one of the two earliest French editions of the treaty signed between France and the United States on February 6, 1778. This treaty, together with a formal military alliance between the two nations, marked the entrance of France into the war as an active ally of the United States. All earlier assistance extended by the French government had been secret supplies and loans. Never did French participation count any more decidedly than at the Siege of Yorktown, where the French army, commanded by Rochambeau, comprised more than half of the allied force and a French fleet commanded by de Grasse held off the British navy, and effected a successful blockade against Cornwallis.

Autographed letters of men prominent in the Revolution were displayed: one from George Washington to John Hancock, and Thomas Jefferson’s note introducing James Monroe to Benjamin Franklin; signatures of Louis XVI, and of the Viscount de Noailles, who represented the French in drafting the surrender terms.

The Lafayette memorabilia displayed were chiefly souvenirs of his visit to America in 1824. A collection of books, for children, on the life of Lafayette completed an exhibit of extraordinary interest.

(Data condensed from the records of the Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia.)

Mr. Messmore Kendall has recently been elected Vice-President, and Mr. John Francis Gough, a Director, of the Institut Francais de Washington.

IN MEMORIAM

September 30, 1948, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, widow of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States (1901-1909), died at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, New York. She had been a member of the American Friends of Lafayette since 1934.

Mrs. Roosevelt was a wife and mother of antique mold; she quietly influenced her strenuous husband, adequately met the responsibilities his high office entailed upon her, and outstandingly reared a large family. Thirty-three descendants (three generations) and a step-daughter survive her; three sons had died in the service of the Republic—one in Alaska and two in France.

J. F. G.

Meeting of the Executive Council

The Executive Council met on January 17th in New York at the Harvard Club, at a dinner given by President Gough. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Gough, Mr. and Mrs. Kendall, Judge Gardner, Colonel Ames, Professor Norton and Mrs. Maclntire. It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting this year on Saturday, May 21, at Phillipe Manor, Yonkers. Members will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Messmore Kendall at luncheon at their home in Dobb’s Ferry, once headquarters house of General Washington. Visits to Rochambeau’s headquarters and the newly restored home of Washington Irving, all in the vicinity, will fill a day which promises to be of unusual interest.

The Council considered the matter of renewing the Society’s contribution to the French-American Review, which has been received by our members during the past year; it was voted to contribute $250 again to the support of this periodical, upon the same terms.
HILT OF THE SWORD
PRESENTED TO
MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE
BY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
27 AUGUST, 1779

Gazette of American Friends of Lafayette
Easton, Pennsylvania
March, 1949
The Sword of Lafayette

With this issue of the Gazette our members receive a printed photograph of the "Congress Sword" of Lafayette, described thus by Mr. Gough, our President:

"An order of Congress directed Franklin, in Paris, to present to Lafayette an elegant sword with proper devices; 200 guineas, possibly secured from French secret funds, was the cost.

"The sword is highly ornate. On the gold knob of the handle are engraved (1) the coat of arms of the Marquis, with his CUR NON, (2) a rising moon lighting up trees and partly cultivated fields (all meant as a symbol of the United States) and (3) Crescam ut prosim (Let me wax to benefit mankind). The guard of the sword bears this legend: From the American Congress to the Marquis de La Fayette, 1779. On the handle are two medals: (1) A woman freed from chains (America) presents a laurel branch to a Frenchman (Lafayette), and (2) a Frenchman strikes down the British lion. On the four surfaces of the bow of the guard, in bas-relief, are represented actions in which the Marquis participated: Gloucester, Barren Hill, Monmouth and Rhode Island.

"Franklin wrote Lafayette that with the help of the exquisite artists of France it had been easy to express everything on the sword, except the sense America had of Lafayette's worth and our obligation to him. August 28, 1779, at Le Havre, Franklin's grandson, William, without ceremony, delivered the sword to Lafayette in the presence of several French officers and of Lafayette's wife, then nineteen, "whose reason was his, as well as her heart." See, for these and other details, Whitlock La Fayette, 1, 197; and Gottschalk The Close of the American Revolution, 43."

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A Note on "La Victoire"

Stuart W. Jackson

The noted historian, Edward Gibbons, writes a friend, J. Holroyd, that Lafayette is going to America:

"Saturday Night, April 12, 1777

"... We talk chiefly of the Marquis de la Fayette, who was here a few weeks ago. He is about twenty, with a hundred and thirty thousand livres a year; a nephew of Noailles, who is Ambassador here. He has bought the Duke of Kingston's yacht, and is gone to join the Americans. The Court appear to be angry with him. Adieu."


Note: This reference to the Duke of Kingston's yacht is likely an error. There is no indication that La Victoire, on which Lafayette came to America, was ever an English vessel or was bought in England. The Victoire was the type of vessel known as a "snow." It might have been used as a yacht as it was relatively small. It is more likely that Gibbons was repeating some London gossip.

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New Members

We welcome the following new active members:

Mrs. Edmund B. Ball, Muncie, Indiana.
Dr. Joseph E. Fields, Joliet, Illinois.
Mr. Alan M. MacIntire, Waban, Massachusetts.
Mr. John W. Thompson, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Dr. Edward M. Riley, Yorktown, Virginia.
Miss Marie De Chaux, Los Angeles, California.

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The Gazette Travels

It will interest our readers to know that our Gazette goes to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris; it goes to historical societies, to public libraries, to universities, such as Yale, the Universities of Minnesota and Indiana, and to unusual places. For instance, at the request of Captain W. L. Benson of the U. S. S. Fresno, 50 copies of this issue will be distributed among his crew, who were present at Yorktown Day. Captain Benson said, "My boys come from all over the country. They will send the Gazette home so that their families can read about Yorktown and what they saw and did that day."
The First Printing of
The Constitution in a Book*

STUART W. JACKSON

(Reprinted from the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America. Vol. 42, Third Quarter, 1948.)

Five days after the final draft of The Constitution had been signed at Philadelphia, or on Saturday, September 22, 1787, there appeared in the Pennsylvania Packet and General Advertiser, the following announcement: This day is published, price 3/9 in boards, By Young and M'Culloch, Introduction to the History of America. (To which is prefixed a map of the United States) Containing The History of Columbus. An account of the discovery and settlement of North America. Geography of the United States. History of the American War. History of the American War. Declaration of independence. General Washington's circular letter. Addresses of Congress and other papers relative to the Resolution. A short account of the constitution of each of the states. The temporary form of government established by Congress for the new states laid off in the vacant territory. Account of some of the natural curiosities in America. Chronological table of the most remarkable events in America. Also including the plan of the Federal Government, etc., passed by the Convention at Philadelphia, September 17, 1787.

On August 6, 1787, the Committee of Detail presented to the Convention a printed draft of the Constitution. Except for a printed proof of this draft, struck off about August 1, 1787, and corrected in the handwriting of Edmund Randolph, this is the first printing in any form of the Constitution. Two days after its adoption, or on September 19, 1787, Dunlop and Claypool's Pennsylvania Packet reprinted the Constitution, this being the first printing for the general public. But it is the last-named item of the above announcement in which we are presently concerned. The discovery of this announcement arose from the chance possession of a copy of The Columbian Magazine for September 1787, in which the Constitution appeared. Was this its first printing in a book? Extended research in the files of contemporary Philadelphia newspapers disclosed announcements of the July and August issues as appearing August 2 and September 3, respectively. It may, therefore, be assumed that the September issue did not appear until some time in October. Moreover, the September issue carried news as late as the date of issue of the Introduction to the History of America, and so could not have preceded it. A bibliographical study of this book and a biographical sketch of the author, or rather the compiler, and one of its printers as well, may be found in The First Text Books in American History and Their Compiler John M'Culloch, by Alice Winifred Spieseke (New York, Teachers College, 1938). The author, however, had not seen the earlier issue of the Introduction described below.

In the Gilpin Library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, there are two copies of the Introduction, the earliest known textbook in American history. A comparison of these volumes shows that there were two issues, the earlier of which will designate as Copy I, and the later issue as Copy II, noting the variations between them.

Title Pages: Identical.
Map: Lacking in Copy I. Present in Copy II.
Pagination: Identical to page 188.
Table of Contents: Lacking in Copy I. Present in Copy II.
Chronology of Remarkable Events: Lacking in Copy I. Present in Copy II.
Binding: Original boards as called for in announcement in Copy I. Original calf in Copy II.
Paper: Identical.
Size: Both copies duodecimo.

The texts are identical up to page 188, which has the keyword, "Constitution," in the lower right hand corner. In Copy I, there is a separate printing of the Constitution, with separate title-page and pagination, while Copy II reprints the Constitution as a part of the book with continuous pagination agreeing with number 20741 of Evans' American Bibliography, which states that it was "Issued anonymously but evidently compiled by John M'Culloch, one of the publishers."

It is a coincidence that the only known copy of the earlier issue of M'Culloch's Introduction, and the first printing of the Constitution, are both in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. There are two copies of the later issue of the Introduction in the Library of Congress (one imperfect), one in the Harvard College Library, Yale University Library (Mason-Franklin Collection), and the Watkinson Library of Reference at Hartford, Connecticut. After diligent inquiry, no others have been located.

The absence of the map in the earlier issue presents a problem, for, as already stated, only one copy is known and there is no evidence that it ever contained the map called for on the title-page. The answer is further complicated by the statement in the Spieseke work referred to, that the map plate was an old one and had been used for the folding map in Bailey's Pocket Almanac ... 1785. Consequently, until an opportunity arises to compare this copy with others of the earlier issue of the Introduction, it is unadvisable to state definitely that it lacked the map.

It seems only remotely probable that, when only five days after the signing of the Constitution, and three days after it was printed for the general public, the Introduction was published containing the Constitution, it could have been printed in any other work antedating M'Culloch's book. We definitely know that his Introduction was the earliest known textbook in American history, and it is eminently fitting that The Constitution, perhaps the greatest document in American history, should have been included for the instruction of our youth at the beginning of the Republic.

1 Francis Bailey, Bailey's Pocket Almanac, being an American Annual Register, for the Year of Our Lord 1785; And of the Empire the Tenth.

* Acknowledgment is gratefully made to Miss Mary A. Givens, formerly of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, for her scholarly assistance and effective researches in the Philadelphia newspapers, in my behalf.
Flagmakers to the World

(Condensed from an article by Tom Mahoney in the October, 1948, issue of Coronet)

(Colonel Louis Annin Ames, a past president of the American Friends of Lafayette and a member of the Executive Council, is president of Annin & Co., flagmakers, of New York, a firm which now starts the second century of a colorful existence.)

Much of the business that makes the firm the oldest and largest flagmaking company in the world is the meticulous filling of sentimental orders for notable customers. Each year it sells some 25,000,000 flags.

Though usually only samples are kept in stock, the Annin store on Fifth Avenue is a riot of color, displaying enough standards, banners, bannerettes, guidons, pennants, flags, ensigns and burgees to flag a battleship, a yachting regatta, a national political convention, an American Legion reunion or a St. Patrick's Day parade.

Flags carry such poignant associations that the glass-encased banners of the Annin showroom have been the background for many scenes of deep emotion. "Flagmaking," remarks Colonel Ames, "is a very sentimental business."

Annin's all-time best-seller, of course, is the Stars and Stripes, and a large portion of the company's 150,000 patterns are devoted to a tremendous variety of sizes and historical variations of the national flag. Annin has sold the largest and possibly the smallest U. S. flags ever manufactured, the latter being the size of a postage stamp, for use on birthday cakes.

The largest free-flying flag is a 60-by-90-foot version of Old Glory, made last year to be flown on holidays at the New Jersey end of the big George Washington Bridge, over the Hudson River. It cost $2,000, and weighs so much that 20 men are required to raise it.

Some extra-special versions of the Stars and Stripes have been turned out by Annin. Flags on which the stars and stripes are raised like dots of the Braille alphabet have been made for homes for the blind. Flags with fluorescent stars and stripes that glow in the dark have been produced for theatrical use. And recently, flags with purple instead of blue, and orange instead of red have been supplied to movie studios in Hollywood. Photographed in Technicolor, they make a more effective blue and red than Old Glory's usual colors.

The first Annin to become flag-conscious was Alexander, who began to make flags as a ship chandler on the New York City water front in 1820. In 1847, two of his sons established the company, and got off to a good start by making flags for the U. S. armies that conquered California and New Mexico in 1847. In 1849, the firm supplied flags for the inauguration of President Zachary Taylor, and since then there have been Annin flags at every inauguration.

During the Civil War, Annin supplied flags for the Northern armies. The firm boasts that its banners "were in every engagement on land and sea from the beginning to the close of the war." It found time, however, to fill a couple of notable foreign orders. One consisted of flags for Garibaldi's army in Italy and the other for the coronation of ill-fated Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico.

Latin-American revolutionists who spend their exiles in hotels near Annin's have always patronized it when ordering flags for just-born, or about-to-be-born, governments. The company made the first official flags for the republics of Brazil, Panama and Portugal; and though no revolution was involved, it also made the first flag for the Union of South Africa.

When Admiral Robert E. Peary reached the North Pole on that memorable April 6, 1909, he carried not only an Annin-made U. S. flag but also banners of Delta Kappa Epsilon, the Navy League and the Sons of the American Revolution, all supplied by the firm. In later years, Admiral Byrd, MacMillan and Wilkins have always been well supplied with Annin flags. Byrd flew them over both the North and South Poles.

Great numbers of flags were turned out by Annin's during both World War I and II for the armed services and the Maritime Commission. As might be expected, it was an Annin-made flag that members of the Fifth Marine Infantry Division placed so spectacularly on February 23, 1945, at the top of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Today, rayon and nylon have become flag materials, like the older silk, wool and cotton. Since 1926, the firm has made most of its flags in a model factory at Verona, New Jersey. There some 600 women, mostly veteran employees, turn out inexpensive flags by machine and the more expensive types by hand, like the banner of this Society.

A notable feature of the New Jersey factory is an arrangement of wooden troughs beneath each sewing machine which keeps flags from falling to the floor. Tradition and law require that no American flag ever touch the ground, and Annin workers have deep respect for the product of their labors.

Annin's has served peace by outfitting the United Nations headquarters at Lake Success with one of the most elaborate collections of flags ever assembled. The seamstresses at Verona are now turning out quantities of the new official UN flag. Still unfamiliar to many Americans, it is a light-blue flag showing a North Pole projection of the world in white, encircled by an olive wreath, also in white, the symbol of peace.

Last year, Annin's business went past the $2,000,000 mark. This year, the company is doing nicely with sizable orders for political campaign flags and banners, for flags of Israel, India and Pakistan, and for special jobs for fraternal orders and societies. If and when Hawaii is admitted to the Union during its century of business and is not particularly excited.

As far as flagmaking is concerned, another state will simply mean arranging the stars in seven rows of seven stars each.
Messmore Kendall at Picpus

While we assume that none of our readers has denied himself the pleasure of reading the fascinating autobiography of that great lover of America, Messmore Kendall, we quote from his Never Let Weather Interfere (Farrar Straus & Co., New York, 1946):

"One day in Paris, while I was having lunch at the T. N. T. Club with Gilbert White, he turned to me and said, 'I suppose you know that today is Lafayette's birthday, and that you, the President-General of the Sons of the American Revolution and an officer of the American Friends of Lafayette, are doing nothing about it.'

'Tm sorry,' I answered, abashed. 'What shall we do?'

'We'll get hold of the Marquis de Chambrun and take him with us to his ancestor's grave.'

'A telephone call to the Marquis' house developed that he was at Chavaniac, his home in the South of France, and none of the officers of the local Sons of the American Revolution Chapter was available. We decided to go by ourselves and telephoned to a florist to make a wreath which would be appropriate to the memory of the national hero of both France and America, directed principally at the nuns who stood rapt and, at his suggestion, joined him in singing the 'Marseillaise.'

'Then said a few appropriate words in English, and all four assisted in laying the wreath against the tomb of Lafayette. It was all very solemn and appropriate, married only by the fact that the gates of the cemetery had been locked while we were there, and we were all kept waiting a half-hour before we could find the sexton to let us out.'

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An Unpublished Letter

To William Lee Esquire, Washington City:

"Paris, January 23, 1827

'My dear Sir,

'I must first Apologize to you for not having Sent Books in Exchange for those you have been pleased to give to me, and it would be too long to explain how it has not yet taken place. I am also inquiring about the fate of a portrait of Commodore Moritz sent to his Lady which has been mislaid. This however I must say there is no fault to be attributed to the Captains of packets who are very careful of everything put to their care, and particularly attentive to my personal Concerns. I hope by the Return of Captain Allyn² to Send to you a few new publications.

'You will have known the afflicting Loss we have sustained in our family, that of my Son in Law Lasteyrie. I am sure you have shared in our sorrow.

'Three packets are arrived without a line from my beloved young friends, Fanny and Camilla; they had been very sick, Fanny indeed very ill, but they were recovered. I hope Captain Allyn, daily expected, will bring me news of them.

'Present my affectionate respects to your daughters, to our friends in Washington and believe me

Your old sincere friend

LAFAYETTE"

1. William Lee, American Commissioner
2. Captain Allyn of the Cadmus
3. Fanny and Camilla Wright

Notable Gifts to the Lafayette Collection

From The Lafayette Alumnus: "Through the good offices of Professor Gilbert Chinard of Princeton University, the Lafayette College Library has received from the Maryland Historical Society an original letter from Duboismartin to Lafayette written in 1823. Duboismartin had aided in securing the ship which brought Lafayette and a group of French officers to America in 1777 and in the letter Duboismartin, now living in Baltimore, tactfully reminds Lafayette of this early service and goes on to indicate that he is in financial difficulties.

'Mr. Stuart W. Jackson (LL.D., Honorary, 1946) of Gloucester, Virginia, has placed in the Collection of the American Friends of Lafayette an historical work of great rarity: Correspondance du Lord G. Germain avec les Generaux Clinton, Cornwallis (etc.) (Berne, 1782). This volume is one of the sources used by B. F. Stevens for the collection of documents which makes up his The Campaign in Virginia, 1781 (London, 1888) a volume which is somewhat rare today.'

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Publications of The American Friends of Lafayette


(Available at the office of the Secretary, Lafayette College Library, Easton, Pennsylvania.)

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