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Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY FROM EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Yorktown Day

THERE will be a meeting this month of the representatives of the several societies who are arranging the program for Yorktown Day, October 19th. Mr. Stuart W. Jackson is representing the American Friends of Lafayette on this committee. Patriotic societies of Virginia and our Society have been asked to set up a permanent committee to insure a Yorktown Day celebration every year. President Gough suggests that members inform the Secretary of their views as to this; their views will help the Council decide the matter. The editor is able to state from experience that the celebration of Yorktown Day is a never-to-be-forgotten occasion.

Plans for this, the 167th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown, include a guided tour of the battlefield by Colonial National Historical Park historians. There will be a luncheon for those participating in the program and the distinguished guests and luncheon for the public. An exhibit at the Swan Tavern, presented in the name of the American Friends of Lafayette, will center around Yorktown and consist of letters, books, pamphlets, and objects from the Stuart W. Jackson Lafayette Collection.

The afternoon exercises, beginning at 2:15, will be held at the Victory Monument, Yorktown, with Mrs. George Durbin Chenoweth, Honorary Regent, Comte de Grasse Chapter N.S.D.A.R., as Honorary Presiding Officer. The program will include a military parade comprised of units of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, with music by the Army Band of Fort Monroe, Virginia. The principal speaker will be the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., President of the University of Virginia. The French Ambassador or a representative of the French Embassy, will be present. As usual, the ceremonies will close with wreaths of the several societies placed at the base of the monument. Mr. Alfred P. Goddin, President, Sons of the Revolution in the State of Virginia, will preside at the Wreath Ceremony. The U.S. Fresno of the Atlantic Fleet will be anchored in the York River throughout the day. There will be no school in Yorktown that day.

The societies participating are: the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution of the State of Virginia, the Sons of the Revolution, Thomas Nelson Junior Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati in Virginia, the Trustees of the Town of York, and the American Friends of Lafayette. Members of this Society who plan to go to Yorktown for this all-day ceremony should advise Mr. Stuart W. Jackson, Gloucester, Virginia, in advance.

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Editorial

[We print below extracts from Mr. Norton's letter to new members of the Executive Council. We think these paragraphs are worth passing along to the whole membership because they give in a few words a clear picture of the character of our activities, the status of our membership and our treasury, and of just what we want to do. It should be noted, in connection with the publishing program, that we have distributed to the active membership two issues of the new French American Review, which the Society assisted with a contribution of $250.

Before this Gazette is issued Active members will have received Professor Gottschalk's address of May 19, 1948, and Professor Chinard's study, When Lafayette Came to America.

J. B. M.]

We are happy to have you on our Council and will be even happier if you actually join our councils. Meetings of the Council are held two or three times a year: first, at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Society on or near May 20th; second, on or near September 6th, Lafayette's birthday; and, in most years, in December or January to plan the next Annual Meeting in May. Council meetings and the Annual Meeting in May have usually been held in the New York area, but there is no reason why they cannot be held elsewhere. Many of the new members, in recent years, have been New Englanders, and a meeting in that area is surely indicated.

"Our active membership, that is, members paying annual dues of $5.00, has stood for some years at between seventy-five and one hundred names. While dissatisfaction with this small number has been expressed from time to time, it would seem that an active publishing program is a more immediate concern. Like the membership, the treasury is at a more or less stabilized figure, something around $600 after dues have been paid in the first quarter of the year and going down to around $200 at the end of the year. Principal expenses are issuing the Gazette, expenses of the Annual Meeting, and letter heads, announcements, etc. Admittedly, such a treasury would not support any extensive publishing program, but it is believed that a respectable series of monographs would so raise the prestige of the Society that more active (dues-paying) members would be attracted. Also, it is reasonable to believe that special donors, both in our membership and outside of it, will lend a hand with special publishing projects. The beautiful du Perron Map of Yorktown, issued in 1942 as our publication No. 1, was not and could not have been financed by our treasury."

Map of Yorktown,
The Annual Meeting

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette was held at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, on May 21, 1948. On the evening preceding the meeting, a most interesting and enjoyable party was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Coddington, with Professor and Mrs. Norton joint host and hostess.

The business meeting of the Society was held in the Council Room of Kirby Hall, Lafayette College, and was called to order at ten A. M. by President Gough. The minutes of the 16th Annual Meeting, held at Morristown on May 17, 1947, were read and approved.

The Secretary, Theodore Eli Norton, submitted the following reports on the activities of the past year:

MEMBERSHIP

New Active Members:
- Prof. Joseph M. Carrière, University of Virginia
- Mrs. John Connick, Stamford, Conn.
- Mr. Lawrence Gouverneur Hoes, Washington, D. C.
- Miss Martha Hale Shackford, Wellesley, Mass.

New Contributing Associates:
- Miss Hannah D. Baldwin, East Orange, N. J.
- Miss Louise D. Baldwin, Wellesley, Mass.
- Mr. Frederick K. Detwiller, Easton, Pa.
- Prof. Samuel Pascal, Easton, Pa.
- Mr. Arthur R. Rule, Westfield, N. J.
- Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.

Active Membership, 102.
Associate Membership, 520.
Contributing Associates, 22.

We have lost through death the following Active Members:
- Mr. Arnold Guyot Cameron, Princeton, N. J.
- Prof. W. W. Eddy, Easton, Pa.

Also the following Associate Members:
- M. André Girodier, Blerancourt, Aisne, France.
- Miss Janet Richards, Washington, D. C.

Professor Coddington submitted the following nominees for election to the Executive Council to serve terms of three years (Class of 1951):
- Charles Francis Adams, Boston
- Julian P. Boyd, Princeton
- Maurice Chalom, Princeton
- Allan Forbes, Boston
- Stuart W. Jackson, Gloucester, Va.

Messmore Kendall, New York.
J. Bennett Nolan, Reading, Pa.

and the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for them.

The Secretary read a letter from Stuart W. Jackson, part of which follows:

"I recently heard from Dr. Chinard, who writes: 'I finally got hold of the correspondence of Lafayette and Prince de Poix. I am planning to publish it first in the (French-American) Review — in two consecutive numbers . . . then to save the type and print the whole thing as a separate volume, which will be bound and form a regular publication of the Institut.' He then goes on to say that of course the Friends of Lafayette will receive the numbers of the Review containing the correspondence but thinks that quite a few would like to have it in volume form. . . . Dr. Chinard further states that the subscription of $250.00 made by the Society was certainly a help but he does not believe it could be renewed, that is, the contract for 400 copies, as it barely covers the manufacturing cost."

It was agreed that the annual address by Professor Gottschalk be issued as Publication No. 2 of the American Friends of Lafayette.

A letter from Allyn K. Ford of Minneapolis was read, recommending that the Society become a member of the newly formed National Society of Autograph Collectors; it was voted the matter be referred to the Secretary, with authority to act.

The needs of the Lafayette Preventorium at Chavaniac were discussed. The Lafayette Preventorium at the birthplace of Lafayette has been in continuous operation for thirty years. It has saved the lives of many thousands of French children. It has the enthusiastic support of the French authorities, who contribute over twenty million francs a year to its support. Americans just as eagerly give to the support of this fine work to save tuberculous French children — a work which is carried on through the years in memory of Lafayette. It was voted that the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to send $25.00 to the Lafayette Preventorium.

Mr. Gough thanked Mr. and Mrs. Norton for their years of devotion to the Society. Mrs. Norton's beautifully arranged books of the records attest to many hours of painstaking work.

The business meeting was followed by the meeting of the Executive Council. Present: President Gough, Vice-President MacIntire, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Cruse, Professor Gottschalk and Secretary Norton.

The single item on the order of business was the re-election of officers for the year 1948-1949.

Upon adjournment of the Council Meeting, the Society proceeded to the Van Wickle Library of Lafayette College, where the exhibit of lithographs by Clara Greenleaf Perry, principally views of Chavaniac and La Grange, was on display. Books and other materials in the collection of the American Friends of Lafayette were displayed and examined. The members then went to Colton Memorial Chapel to hear the annual address to the American Friends of Lafayette by Professor Gottschalk, at a student convocation. President Hutchison welcomed our members and their guests, and introduced President Gough, who made the annual award of the medal of the American Friends of Lafayette to Mr. Monard G. Sanford, a senior at Lafayette College, presented by the Department of History as the undergraduate doing the most distinguished work in American history.

Dr. Hutchison then introduced Professor Gottschalk, whose address was "The Place of the American Revolution in the Causal Pattern of the French Revolution." At the conclusion of the address, members and guests proceeded to the Easton Hotel for luncheon. Dr. Hutchison, President Gough, and Professor Gottschalk spoke briefly after the luncheon.

Members and guests at luncheon:
- Mr. and Mrs. George Allen
- Professor Chase
- Professor Coddington
- Mrs. Connick
Report on the Collection of
The American Friends of Lafayette
(May, 1947 — April, 1948)

Theodore Eli Norton

T WENTY-THREE items were added to the collection, ranging in interest from "A note on the Lafayette presentation button," by Edward H. Davis in the Quarterly Bulletin of the National Button Society for October, 1946, to the rare Correspondance du Lord Germain (Berne, 1782), presented by Mr. Stuart W. Jackson, and noted in Gazette No. 6, September, 1947.

Another kind of Lafayette material which we want our members to watch for is represented by such acquisitions as The Articulate Sisters: passages from Journals of the daughters of President Josiah Quincy of Harvard University, edited by N. A. DeWolfe Howe (Cambridge, 1946), containing several pages devoted to Lafayette's visit in Boston in August, 1824; and Stendhal's Souvenirs d'égotism (Paris, 1941). Stendhal, I have discovered, was somewhat more sophisticated than the Quincy girls, and his observations on the Elder Statesman, Lafayette, in Parisian salons in the Restoration and Louis-Philippe periods, will interest Lafayette students. I have previously mentioned in the Gazette the acquisition of Charles Pigott's The Jockey Club: or, A sketch of the manners of the age (New York, 1793), with its scathing comment on Lafayette by a British fellow traveler of the Jacobins.

Other well known works, not rare but not acquired until this year, are J. Fenimore Cooper's Correspondence (New Haven, 1922, 2 v.) and the French edition of Pierre Gaxotte's La révolution française (Paris, 1928, 2 v.), the latter representing the Catholic and Royalist point of view.

Last year's report failed to mention the seventeen lithographs presented by Miss Clara Greenleaf Perry, an active member. The prints are her work. She is this summer at Chavaniac. An exhibit of these charming views of Chavaniac and La Grange was mounted in the College Library for the 1948 meeting.

An accomplishment of the year was the complete cataloging of our collection of Lafayette prints. They number 532 engravings, lithographs and etchings, classified in groups based on some fifteen basic types or heads, with additional groups of caricatures, scenes from the life of Lafayette and homes of Lafayette. If anybody wants to know whether we have a certain print in any of its states, I can now answer without spending several hours upon the collection. I have found that while ours is no doubt the best and biggest of its kind, there are many very fine pieces that we lack. The collection now embraces 1,447 books, pamphlets, magazine articles, etc., in addition to the collection of prints.

Recent Publications

Recent publications from the hands of our members:

Jackson, Stuart W.


A review article principally concerned with W. L. Langer's Our Vichy Gamble but analyzing all of the literature available to date on this puzzling, to say the least, series of negotiations with the pseudo-French. Gough, John Francis.
A brochure treating a special phase of the history of the New Jersey judiciary. Means, David C.
Norton, Theodore Eli.

So far, no reader of this work has considered it the sure winner of a Pulitzer award for the year's Wittiest essay.

Note: We have made no systematic canvass of published pieces by our members, hence this list may be incomplete.

T. E. N.
Lafayette’s Watch
Gift to Marquis After His Triumphal Return to France in 1782

by Dr. Helen Hirsch

On his return to France in 1782 the young Marquis de Lafayette — then twenty-four years old — found himself the outstanding hero of the time. Louis XVI conferred upon the “liberator of America” the much-coveted Cross of St. Louis and raised him to the military rank of maréchal de camp, which was the French equivalent of a brigadier-general. Whenever he appeared in public the populace gave him loud ovations. He was showered with gifts by his friends. And there was one among them he liked best of all and cherished as long as he lived: a gold pocket watch.

It was a Louis XVI 18-carat repeater. Lafayette’s full name is engraved in tiny letters above the dial right beneath the two gongs, and his monogram is repeated on the back of the watch. It is one of the first repeaters made in France and Switzerland between 1775 and 1800, and is signed, “J. R. Schavije,” who must have been a contemporary of Jordan, the French watchmaker, who specialized in repeaters.

The small enamel dial in the center is surrounded by two figures, Orpheus and Eurydice, holding hammers in their uplifted hands. Beneath the dial is the altar of Cupid with the traditional dove and flower basket, the typical symbols of love and affection. When the pendant is pushed in to repeat, the hammers successively strike first the quarters and then the full hours on the two gongs.

The watch is in-perfect running and striking order; a watch paper in excellent condition reveals name and address of the maker, owner (Lafayette), and gives a detailed description of the figures on the dial, also pointing to the relief figure hidden in the second watchcase disclosing a page in the typical French attire of his time welcoming Lafayette, the great hero. The large, 18-carat gold key shows the embossed figure of the young marquis, carefully chiseled by an unknown artist. The watch has its original hands and its engraved and fluted sides rest in the original leather case.

The watch was acquired by its present owner in the Hermitage in 1924, was displayed at the Lafayette Centenary Exhibition in 1934 by La Maison Francaise. Thus it came to the United States, where the “hero of two worlds” would have liked it to be. For on his return from America in 1825 Lafayette had brought a large quantity of earth and had kept it so that he might be laid to his eternal rest in American soil.

— By Courtesy of the New York Sun

The Discovery of Lafayette Glacier

The name of Lafayette has been given to many a town, street, park, square, statue, and even a mountain, but not until 1947 has a glacier borne his name. July 6, 1947, an Alaskan glacier was discovered and named the Lafayette Glacier by Mr. Douglas Brown of Meriden, Connecticut, Lafayette College, 1922, and an all-American football player. Mr. Brown’s hobbies are photography and lecturing (under the name of Neil Douglas). He is a Fellow of the American Geographical Society, the American Polar Society, member of the American Platform Guild and the Explorers’ Club. Since 1939 he has made twelve expeditions to rarely explored areas from Alaska to Mexico and has recorded in kodachrome colored motion pictures many of his most exciting adventures.

Of the Lafayette Glacier, he writes: “This is a very large tongue of ice with a land terminus which not too long ago flowed into the sea. It is what we call a piedmont bulb. We, as you can see from the transcript, made the first trek to reach this tongue of ice, took its measurements and, with assurance of success, have presented its name to the Geographical Board of Names in Washington for confirmation.” From a transcript of Mr. Brown’s notes we quote:

“Lafayette Glacier, reached July 6, 1947, 11:45 A. M., Station ND 4 on largest morainic mound in entire glacier out-wash plain, in approximately the center of the plain from side to side. The reading on the highest peak of the north wall at the mouth of the canyon is due northeast. The reading on the highest and last peak on the south wall of the canyon, the peak furthermore out, is south by southeast 35°. Looking up the center of the glacier to the left by the rear wall is a flatish peak, the center of which reads south by southeast 60° or east by southeast 30°.

“The entire right section of the front of approximately 1/10 of the ice in width is covered with moraine and is the furthest extended by 75 feet plus or minus beyond the center of the front. Station ND 4 is just 500 measured feet from the most extended tip in the center of the ice and in a direction from the Station directly on the line of flow of the ice. A considerable portion of the left-hand front edge of the ice is also moraine covered, but has receded substantially back of the extended center. The front wall on the left half of the glacier is 110° in height and is from thin to thickly covered with gravel.

“From the top and center of the front wall a line running at approximately 30° with the base of the face and reaching the base at the quarter point on the right, separates the front into that which is gravel-covered on the left and white on the right. From the center of the glacier at the top of a high front wall all the way to the morainic covered section to the right and reaching down to this diagonal 30° line is white ice marked by very large pot holes of medium depth. The ice is only lightly crevassed and quite blue in the pot hole area.

‘Lafayette Canyon’ reaches back an estimated 7 or 8 miles, with high walls above the ice which completely encloses the source of the glacier. The canyon is deeply circled and a bergskeidlung (abyss) completely separates the source ice from this wall. Half way up its source is an outstanding hanging glacier coming in from the north at about a 60° slope.

“110 ft. front measured
Temperature — 46° at rock in shade
50° at rock in sun
58° at bottom of ice
60° beyond ice on level
Hot and cold winds on glacier.”

* * *

Mr. Frederick K. Detwiller has been appointed Artist in Residence at Lafayette College.