Wayside Inn Went All Out

SUDBURY, MA — It was one of those great New England days of May — spring flowers in bloom, blossoms on fruit trees, a warm day with a bright sun.

Who could have asked for anything more?

The Wayside Inn and The American Friends of Lafayette had contracted for the luncheon that we all enjoyed. The negotiations were no different than we have experienced with other hotels and restaurants in the past.

There was a big difference, however. The Wayside Inn went all out to make that particular day, that particular luncheon, one that those of us who were there will never forget. Mr. Robert Purrington, the general manager, and Ms. Pauline Nutile, Functions Coordinator, and the members of his staff voluntarily arranged to have that fragile “Lafayette Carriage” rolled out from storage and placed on exhibition. Then there were fifers and a drummer that added to the festivities. And, the presence of the Sudbury 85th Regiment de Saintonge added an unexpected colorful dimension to the exercise. To Mr. Bill Stone of Sudbury who sent his carriage to the scene, and to all at the Wayside Inn — THANK YOU!

Western Society For French History Will Hold 21st Conference in October

MISSOULA, Montana — The Western Society for French History will hold its 21st Annual Conference at Missoula under the sponsorship of the University of Montana October 13 to 16.

Professor Linda S. Frey has informed us that the society “certainly welcomes any papers relating to French participation in the American Revolution.”

Richmond Meeting June 3-4-5, 1993

The 61st Annual Meeting of The American Friends of Lafayette will be held June 3-5, 1993, in Richmond, Virginia. Herewith what information we have as this publication went to press:

There are two AAA 4-diamond hotels in Richmond. We will be utilizing one of them, the Omni Richmond, 100 South 12th St., Richmond, VA 23219 - Telephone: (804) 344-7000. The Sales Department has offered us a very attractive rate — $79 for a room, single or double. Parking is via valet service and will cost $8 per night. It is suggested that you utilize valet parking as it is an independent operation and if you park your own vehicle, you will be subject to hourly rates. The parking charge will be applied to each individual’s room bill unless otherwise stipulated. It includes unlimited ins and outs.

There is a cutoff date of May 21 for reservations—again a concession made to us rather than the usual 30 days. It is suggested that you make your reservation as soon as possible and when you do please note that you will be attending the annual meeting of The American Friends of Lafayette.

Our annual dinner will be held at the hotel on Friday evening, June 4. The French Consul General, the Honorable Jean-Yves Defay, has been invited to be our guest; overnight if he so chooses to remain with us.

There is a 9 1/2% room tax, and a 17% service charge and a 9 1/2% sales tax for meals.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Joseph T. Knox will be our speaker at the informal dinner on Thursday evening at a place to be decided upon. Mr. Knox is Chairman of the Language Department of St. Christopher’s School, Richmond. He will intrigue us with his topic: “The Saga of the Lafayette Monument in Washington, D.C.”

Our First Vice President, P. Hairston Seawell, Esq., has arranged for the membership to enjoy its June 4 luncheon in the Members’ Suite, third floor of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The cost of the luncheon, including tax and gratuity is $15. Reservations and payment for the luncheon must be made prior to May 21. No cancellations will be accepted after May 24. Send your check to P. Hairston Seawell, Esq., P. O. Box 216, Newport News, VA 23607. The museum is at 2800 Grove Ave. at N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23221-2466.

There is parking at the rear of the museum.

Continued on page 2

The two distinguished French visitors, both sitting on the right hand seats of the carriage, rode from the Wayside Inn to the historic grist mill. Bill Stone of Sudbury provided his own surrey for the occasion.

— Photo by Ken McGagh,
RICHMOND cont'd from page 1

The museum has a fine collection of Art Works and we are invited to tour the museum prior to and following luncheon. On the same block is the Virginia Historical Society noted for its collection of books, art works and manuscripts pertaining to Virginia history. Famous murals of the War Between the States are displayed. Parking in the rear of the Society. We have been in communication regarding a brief speaking program following the luncheon.

Mr. Seawell has also arranged for our dinner speaker, Mr. Gregg Kimball, Librarian, Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay St., Richmond, VA 23219. Mr. Kimball's topic: "Lafayette's Visit to Richmond—1824."

The Valentine Museum is also known as the museum of Life and History of Richmond. The complex includes the 1812 Wickham House, designed by Alexander Paris, featuring an exquisite set of rare neoclassical wall paintings. On the museum's grounds is a gracious urban garden reflecting the splendor of the surroundings including the studio of artist Edward V. Valentine, noted sculptor of Civil War figures. We are working on arrangements to visit the museum.

A final listing of our activities will be sent to members as soon as all arrangements are completed.

Think about bringing some friends. We have known friends of our members who became members of The American Friends of Lafayette.

WESTERN SOCIETY cont'd from page 1

Members of The American Friends of Lafayette may be interested in the annual "Call for Papers" for the 1994 conference. Also, members of our society are welcome to attend the conference at the University of Montana.

For information about this year's conference and a call for papers, you may communicate with Prof. Frey, President and Chair, Western Society for French History Program Committee, Department of History, The University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812-1022.

We encourage our members to submit papers and attend the conference. Missoula is served by Delta, Northwest and Continental air lines.

Dr. Crout Will Attend PICPUSS Ceremony 1993

Dr. Robert R. Crout, secretary of The American Friends of Lafayette, will be attending the July 4 flag ceremony at the grave of the Marquis de Lafayette in Paris. Last year a delegation of three members were at Picpus Cemetery for the annual event.

The members at the 1992 program were Dr. Crout, Mme. Henriette S. Fayet-Perius and Mrs. Jean Lereuse. Members who may be in Paris for the 1993 ceremony should communicate with Dr. Crout, who will head the Society's delegation, at Charleston Southern University, Box 10087, Charleston, SC 29411.

Hail To The Queen Of King Avenue

WEEHAWKEN, NJ — One of our most valued members, Mrs. Helene Anderson, observed her 90th birthday last August. More than 80 neighbors and friends, including Mayor Richard Turner and former mayor, Stanley Iacono, helped her celebrate the great event.

The Weehawken Reporter sent a staff writer to cover the celebration and noted that Mrs. Anderson was a resident of King Avenue. The paper headlined the story, "The Queen of King Avenue."

She was born in Hoboken in 1902, and the family moved to Weehawken in 1907. In 1916 the family moved to King Avenue and Mrs. Anderson has resided in that house since that time. Her husband, Robert Anderson, died in 1978.

Mrs. Anderson is descended from a family long identified with the early years of this country—the Hasbroucks of New Paltz, NY. She has been an active member in the society which has done much to preserve the houses of New Paltz, and volunteered countless hours assisting with the tours of the Huguenot Street houses. Naturally, she had a great interest in the Colonel Josiah Hasbrouck House which was built in 1814.

The stories she can tell can fill a book. In fact, she did write a history of Weehawken several years ago. It's hard to believe, but she recalls when many of the streets of Weehawken were unnamed.

Her father, John Eagan, represented the then 11th District as a Democratic representative from 1912 to 1924. This meant that our esteemed member spent several months each year living in the nation's capital city. Her blue eyes will light up as she talks about having lunch at the White House and meeting President Woodrow Wilson.

She's not one to be a "name dropper," but she can tell you with honesty that Fred Astaire and Cary Grant were friends and house guests of the family. Grant, who was a struggling actor in New York, was often invited to dinner by her father, a strong supporter of the arts.

To Helene, our best wishes for many more Happy Birthdays.

Attend the Annual Meeting
The President's report included the following: that he had attended the retirement ceremony of Captain Jon Paul Scott, USN, at the Portsmouth, NH Navy Yard; that correspondence was being continued with U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell regarding the bell of the decommissioned submarine, USS Lafayette; acknowledged the receipt of the generous gift from the Kirby Foundation; his presence as the Master of Ceremonies at the annual “Yorktown Day,” Yorktown, VA, and noted that The American Friends of Lafayette will not host this exciting and patriotic program until the year 2005; and noted that “Today I am turning over to our collections at Lafayette College a model of the submarine Lafayette which was number 175 of 200 made by members of the crew during its decommissioning utilizing metal taken from that vessel.” Also, given to the collections was a laminated piece featuring a colorful portrait of Lafayette which, according to 2nd Vice President Louise Gruber, was sent to her by Ms. Elaine McCluskey who was a visiting archivist at Lafayette College. The President announced that he had received no further information on the current status of the Hotel Au Pelikan, a prominent Belgian site associated with Lafayette’s flight from revolutionary France.

Dr. Spear moved that the President’s report be accepted; seconded by Ms. Lareuse.

Under new business, the President announced he would continue communication with Freedom’s Foundation since that organization had no record of an award for Lafayette scholars. Dr. Robert Crout moved that the Society share its publications with the Chateau de Chavaniac; the motion seconded by Ms. Lareuse; it was approved. Mrs. Panaggio moved that a new roster be issued with the assistance of Dr. Spear. Motion made and seconded and approved. Dr. Crout moved for a general revision of the By-Laws and that the revision be presented at the next annual meeting; motion seconded and approved. Dr. Spear moved that the President obtain a copy of all officers of the inventory of The American Friends of Lafayette collection housed at the David Bishop Skillman Library, Lafayette College. The motion was seconded and approved.

Discussion followed regarding the location for the 1993 meeting. It was decided that Richmond, VA will be the site and will be held from June 3 to 5, 1993.

Dr. Spear moved the meeting be adjourned; motion approved and seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m. Respectfully submitted — Robert R. Crout.

The small group that remained for the luncheon returned to the Stouffer Bedford Glen Hotel and heard Dr. Crout give his presentation on “Lafayette’s Memoirs on the French Revolution.” They are being translated for the first time since the 1830s and are now in The Huntington, San Marino, CA.
60th Annual Meeting Honored by Presence of Lafayette and Descendant of Presidents

SUDBURY, MA — Thomas Adams of Lincoln, MA, a descendant of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams; Henry Lee, a descendant of the ship's captain who transported young George Washington Lafayette to the safety of this country; the presence of the Count de Lafayette and his mother, the Countess de Lafayette, an honor guard comprised of Sudbury's 85th Regiment de Saintonge, and The American Friends of Lafayette had the makings of one of the most outstanding annual luncheon meetings in recent history.

This memorable luncheon took place at the historic Wayside Inn on Friday, May 22, 1992, which was visited by the Marquis de Lafayette at one time. The inn has set aside a room on the second floor which is known as the Lafayette Room.

Outside the inn was the historic carriage which conveyed the Marquis from the home of his host in Roxbury to the cornerstone laying of the Bunker Hill Monument. Charlestown, June 17, 1825.

Prior to the luncheon the distinguished guests from France toured the famous Wayside Inn grist mill where the miller, speaking in French, describe the workings of his moulin.

The luncheon speaker, Mr. Lee, told those present about the young George Washington Lafayette being brought to this country and how Washington delayed receiving the young man due to the sensitivity of the time between this country and France. Mr. Lee, who is President of the nation's oldest historical society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, is also President of the Friends of the Public Garden and Boston Common, a group concerned among other projects with the care of the Lafayette plaque on the Common.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson of Bristol, RI, owners of the historic Reynolds House, used by Lafayette as his headquarters during the campaign which resulted in the Battle of Rhode Island, August 29, 1778, recounted the story of Lafayette's arrival at the house and requesting something to eat. When he finished his repast, the hostess told him that the food was for General Lafayette. Imagine her surprise when the very young officer introduced himself as Lafayette.

The annual dinner, held at the Bedford Stouffer Glen Hotel, Bedford, MA, was highlighted with a greeting from the Republic of France by Hon. Laurent Rapin, the French Consul General for New England.

The dinner speaker was Dr. Frederick A. Spear who chose as his topic, "Two Misfits in France of the 1770's: Voltaire and Lafayette."

The American Friends of Lafayette were delighted that members of the Lafayette Day Committee of Boston were present at the luncheon and dinner. We wish to acknowledge member Mr. John L. Armstrong's assistance in making the arrangements for the annual meeting. Also, our thanks to Mr. Thomas Adams who graciously took the Count and Countess on a tour of this historic section of Massachusetts.

The members toured the Minuteman National park and viewed an excellent film at its Lexington Headquarters. A reception was held at the Concord Historical Society where members viewed its collections. On the travels to Sudbury, Concord and Lexington the members passed by, or had opportunities to see Walden Pond, made famous by Henry David Thoreau, and other historic buildings associated with Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Leonard J. Panaggio at 10:08 a.m., Saturday, May 23, 1992, at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, MA. Herewith the minutes:

A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members, the Comtesse Josee de Chambrun and Dr. Louis Amyot. Dr. Spear read from a 1988 report of former President Amyot of Schenectady, NY, and asked that it be printed in the next issue of the Gazette.

Mr. Panaggio moved that the minutes of the 1991 meeting be accepted; the motion being seconded by Mrs. Leareuse; and, the motion was approved unanimously. The President acknowledged correspondence from Freedom's Foundation of Valley Forge, the Western Society for French History, and Miss Louise Gruber. Mr. Daniel A. Evans presented the financial report; Dr. Spear moved its acceptance; the motion was approved.

Mrs. Panaggio presented the report of the Council meeting; it announced elec-

Beinecke Rare Book Library At Yale Donates Booklets

New Haven, CT — Earlier this year our members received a copy of a handsome booklet titled Road to Yorktown written by Vincent Giroud, Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at The Beinecke Rare Book And Manuscript Library of Yale University.

It was published in connection with a two-week exhibition last September of more than 100 original documents from the archive of Jean Baptiste Donatien, Comte de Rochambeau. The Rochambeau papers were part of Paul Mellon's then recent $50 million dollar gift to Yale's Campaign.

Arrangements were made by our President to have any extra copies sent to our treasurer, Daniel A. Evans, at the David Bishop Skillman Library at Lafayette College for distribution. Mrs. Christa Sammons, Curator of German Literature, who keeps your President aware of exhibits at The Beinecke, notified us that there were sufficient extra copies. Mr. Evans utilized a bookplate of the Society on which was imprinted our thanks to the Yale library. The bookplates were inserted in all the booklets.

A retired Marine Corps colonel, to whom we showed the publication, suggested a correction. On the first page of the text mention is made of the Auvergne regiment. According to the military historian it was known as the Royal Auvergne, but its name was changed to Regiment de Gatinais, the regiment Rochambeau led at Yorktown.

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Continued on page 4
A Tribute to Dr. Louis B. Amyot

At the annual meeting Dr. Frederick A. Spear brought to the attention of those present that he and Mrs. Spear had traveled to Schenectady, N.Y. to learn about Dr. Louis B. Amyot, a distinguished scholar of Lafayette, and who served as President of the Society from 1960 to 1964. Herewith the tribute to Dr. Amyot as read by Dr. Spear:

Dr. Louis B. Amyot, DDS, of Schenectady, New York, died Tuesday, August 23, 1988, at the Schenectady home of his niece, Frances Scully LaMontagne, after a long illness. He was 87.

Born in Waterford, Dr. Amyot graduated from LaSalle Institute in Troy and from Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery in 1924. He practiced dentistry for nearly 10 years in Cohoes and received a master’s degree from Northwestern University in 1935.

Before coming to Schenectady in 1938, he served with the Grenfell Medical Mission in Labrador, established his own free dental clinic in Chesterfield on Hudson Bay’s east shores, and also served as assistant medical officer aboard Canadian icebreakers.

Dr. Amyot made numerous trips to the Arctic. He was internationally known for his dental work among the Eskimos, the Indians and the whites of the Hudson Bay area. He also visited the polar regions as an officer with the Canadian Navy during World War II. His travels to the Arctic included thousands of miles by boat, plane and dog sled. In 1953 he served as medical officer aboard the D’Iberville, a Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker on patrol in the eastern Canadian waters, travelling north to within 700 miles of the North Pole.

His travels were not limited to the Arctic. He lectured before dental societies in Sweden, France, Switzerland and at the dental schools of the University of Paris and Lyons and the University of Brussels under the patronage of the royal family of Belgium.

He was honored by several international organizations for his dental research in 1966. He was made an honorary member of the Association de l’Ecole odontologique de Paris for his service in dental education in France. In 1963 he was made a knight of the Order of the Black Star of the French Legion of
Thank You, Again

In December of 1991 the F. M. Kirby Foundation through our member Mr. Allan P. Kirby, Jr., sent a check to The American Friends of Lafayette in the amount of $10,000. For several years Mr. Kirby arranged to have annual checks of $1,000 sent to the Society.

The $10,000 gift was sent "in lieu of an annual grant of $1,000 in my name for each year during the period 1992-2001."

The Society is grateful for this gift from the F. M. Kirby Foundation, a family foundation, established in 1931 by Fred Morgan Kirby in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and managed by successive generations of his family. It is currently based in Morristown, New Jersey. Grants usually are reflective of personal interest by one or more members of the Kirby family, who are, or have been, active in the affairs of the Foundation.

At the annual meeting held at Bedford, Massachusetts in 1992, it was voted that the F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. be listed as a Benefactor of The American Friends of Lafayette.

Change Of Address?

It is important to let us know if you have changed your address. That is the only way we can make sure you get news from your Society.

A TRIBUTE cont'd from page 5

Honor by President Charles de Gaulle and in 1962 he was awarded La Grande Medaille d'Argent. Both awards were given for his efforts in improving relations between France and the United States.

Dr. Amyot also served for many years as President of the American Friends of Lafayette, a national organization with headquarters at Lafayette College at Easton, PA. On 12 occasions he represented the Society in the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Paris grave of Gen. Lafayette, a hero of both the French and American Revolutions, marking the annual changing of the American flag which flies perpetually over the hero's grave.

At one time, Dr. Amyot served as President of the Alliance Francaise of Schenectady and was past president of the Schenectady County Dental Society.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Lucille Scully of Schenectady; and two half-brothers, LaSalle Amyot of Waterford and Dr. Bruno Amyot of Cohoes.

Services were held on August 24, 1988, at the Marra Funeral Home of Cohoes, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church of the same city. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Waterford.

(We appreciate this tribute to Dr. Amyot which the Spears adapted from an obituary in the Schenectady Gazette, August 25, 1988, page 33.)

Valley Forge Park Centennial

VALLEY FORGE, PA - The Valley Forge Historical Society, headquartered in Valley Forge National Historical Park, will mark the centennial of the park, along with the French Alliance celebration and the society's 75th anniversary of its commitment to the Park as the symbol of triumph of freedom over adversity.

Guests at the 4 o'clock ceremony, May 8, will include Count Gilbert de Pusy-Lafayette, His Excellency Jacques Andreani, Ambassador of France (or in his absence the Hon. Jean-Yves Defay, Consul General of France.)

For information: 215-783-0535.