ALLAN P. KIRBY, JR.
RECEIVES LAFAYETTE LIBERTY AWARD
Defines the precious gift of Liberty

EASTON, PA — Allan P. Kirby, Jr., a friend and benefactor of The American Friends of Lafayette, was the recipient of the Lafayette Liberty Award at the Society's 70th annual meeting held on the campus of Lafayette College.

The award is given to an individual or organization that has made a notable contribution to the ideals that the Society promotes. Dr. Robert R. Crout, president of the Society, made the presentation at the dinner which was held in the Faculty Dining Room.

Mr. Kirby gave his expression of appreciation with a powerful message pertaining to the word “Liberty,” a word that he crafted with Lafayette’s devotion to liberty and fast forwarding its meaning to all of us in this time of universal terrorism.

An attentive audience heard his response,

“Lafayette Liberty Award — Nice word and I would like to say something to you about that word Liberty, which as you all know was very much a part of Lafayette’s vocabulary.

During his first voyage to America he spoke of himself as a “defender of Liberty” and of America as a place of “Peaceful Liberty.”

At the age 19 he was commissioned a Major General in the Army of the United States out of, among other reasons, “his great zeal to the course of Liberty.”

And he certainly referred to the meaning and importance of Liberty throughout his life.

Continued on page 3

71st ANNUAL MEETING INCLUDES VISIT TO SOUTH CAROLINA’S LAFAYETTE’S 1777 LANDING PLACE
Stellar Program includes visits to Hobcaw Barony and Charleston

EASTON, PA — President William Kirchner and his wife Linda made a special visit to the Georgetown area of South Carolina a couple of months ago. They found the places associated with the young Marquis de Lafayette who arrived in America at Georgetown in 1777.

The American Friends of Lafayette will meet at the Litchfield Inn Beach & Golf Resort, Pawleys Island, South Carolina June 12 - 14. As of this printing, the following is a pretty solid outline of what we will enjoy and experience. There will be one last reminder mailing to our membership. Room reservations at the inn should be made no later than May 29. The special mailing will note that guests are welcome to the three-day conference. However, if there are those who wish to join us for the annual dinner on June 13 there will be a charge of $35.

At Hobcaw Barony we will meet our new member, Mr. Harlow Unger, a biographer of Lafayette, where, we understand, he will be signing his latest book.

A connection was made by the Kirchners with the South Carolina Historical Society which will be holding its annual gala meeting on the evening of the annual meeting of The American Friends of Lafayette. As a result, we have accepted the Society’s invitation to join their members at Hobcaw Barony after we have concluded our program on June 13.

Hobcaw Barony dates from 1718 when John Lord Carteret was granted by the Lords Proprietors a barony of 12,000 acres in English measurement in the Province of South Carolina.

Between 1760 and 1900, as many as 11 different plantations were managed for rice on Hobcaw Barony. The rice plantation era declined after

Continued on page 5

WILLIAM N. KIRCHNER ELECTED PRESIDENT
Succeeds Dr. Robert R. Crout

EASTON, PA — Mr. William N. Kirchner was elected president of The American Friends of Lafayette at the 70th annual meeting of the society. He succeeds Dr. Robert R. Crout who served from 1997 until 2002.

Mr. Kirchner was born in Harvey, Illinois, and has resided in Chattanooga, Tennessee, since 1983 which he describes as the east side of Missionary Ridge. In 1977 he married Linda Lou Weston. Since 1990 the couple have operated a used and out-of-print bookshop (BLK Books) in Chattanooga. Mrs. Kirchner recently retired after 24 years as a media specialist in the state of Georgia’s public school system.

Continued on page 3

Continued on page 5
70TH ANNIVERSARY HELD AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

EASTON, PA — It was only appropriate that our 70th anniversary was held at the campus of Lafayette College. Our headquarters hotel was the Lafayette Inn (1895) a beautiful bed and breakfast facility on College Hill into which we were all checked in during the afternoon of June 13 to begin a program that took us to noon on June 15.

On our first evening, always referred to as our “informal night,” we attended a reception and dinner at Chateau Chavaniac, Lafayette College’s entertainment and conference center. Chavaniac, which contains a number of interesting items pertaining to the Marquis de Lafayette, was the Easton residence of Allan P. Kirby, Sr., Lafayette Class of ’15, which he designed in the Norman French style and named for the birthplace of Lafayette near Clermont-Ferrand. Chateau Chavaniac was donated to Lafayette College by the F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. in 1983.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Cap of the college voluntarily presented an informal presentation pertaining to the visits made to Lafayette’s birthplace. His talk can be read on page 8.

The membership appreciates the hospitality of the college and the arrangements made by Ms. Diane Windham Shaw, Archivist of the Lafayette Collection by appointment of President Rothkopf. Our thanks to the catering staff which provided a delicious dinner.

On Friday morning our group journeyed to Historic Bethlehem to tour sites visited by the Marquis during his recuperation from his wounds suffered at Brandywine, including the Moravian chapel where he worshiped. We enjoyed a tour and luncheon at the Sun Tavern (1758), which hosted many military leaders, statesmen, and founding fathers in addition to the Marquis. (Our hostess and tour guide was a descendant of the Bechtel family, with whom Lafayette lived during his recuperation!). On return to Easton, our next stop was at the restored 1753 Bachmann Tavern, Easton’s oldest standing building and an important social center in Colonial Easton. This was followed by a visit to the local library where we viewed the Easton Flag, one of the United States’ early standards.

The Society’s annual dinner and program was held Friday evening in Lafayette’s Faculty Dining Room in Marquis Hall. Following dinner we heard presentations by Prof. Chris Reys-Chikuma of Lafayette College and Mr. Jullien Woiri, Deputy Cultural Attache at the Embassy of France, Washington, DC. He represented the Consul General, Consulate of France, Washington, and brought the greetings of the Republic of France.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Lafayette Liberty Award to Allan P. Kirby, Jr. in recognition of, and appreciation for, his support which made possible the development and maintenance of our website www.friendsolafayette.org.

Ms. Diane Windham Shaw, Special Collections librarian and archivist at Lafayette College, arranged a special re-showing of the College’s 2001 exhibit — “Lafayette and Slavery” — which we saw on Saturday morning at the David Bishop Skillman Library. The exhibit traced the Marquis de Lafayette’s ardent opposition to the institution of slavery, which began at some point late in the American Revolution and continued throughout his life. We viewed materials relating to the following: James Armistead, a slave who served Lafayette with distinction as a spy for the Continental Army, “La Belle Gabrielle,” the plantation purchased by Lafayette in the French colony of Cayenne where he set up his experiment for the gradual emancipation of nearly 70 slaves; and Lafayette’s correspondence with American statesmen and reformers about slavery, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Francis Wirt.

Our members then walked to the College’s Kirby Hall of Civil Rights where we also viewed the Ary Scheffer portrait of Lafayette and other paintings displayed in that building. The annual business meeting was held in the Kirby Hall Council Room.

THE RIGHT REV. CHRISTOPHER FITZSIMONS ALLISON IS ANNUAL DINNER SPEAKER

CHATTANOOGA, TN — President William Kirchner has announced that the Right Rev. Christopher Fitzsimons Allison, retired Bishop of South Carolina, will be our guest speaker at our annual dinner on June 13.

A native of Columbia, South Carolina Bishop Allison makes his residence in Georgetown, the place where Lafayette came ashore in 1777. In 1949 he graduated from the University of the South of Sewanee, Tenn., and in 1952 from the Virginia Theological Seminary. He graduated in 1956 from Oxford University (Christ Church).

He was ordained a deacon in 1952 and as a priest in 1953. He became an Assistant Rector of Trinity Church in Columbia, 1952, and an Assistant Professor of Church History, University of the South, 1956-57. He next served as professor of the same subject at Virginia Theological Seminary until 1975. He was a visiting professor at Catholic University, Washington, DC, 1968-69.

Bishop Allison was the rector of Grace Church, in New York, from 1975 until 1980 when he became Bishop Coadjutor, Diocese of South Carolina until 1982. He became the Bishop of South Carolina, Protestant Episcopal Church, serving until 1990.

He has served on the Board of Regents, University of the South, 1984-90 and on the Board of Trustees, Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, Ambridge, Penn.

The Bishop and his wife, Martha Allston Parker had four children and have nine grandchildren.

-2-
71st ANNUAL MEETING (Cont’d)

the Civil War. The barony experienced a change at the turn of the century. From 1905 to 1907, Bernard Mannes Baruch, a young and wealthy stockbroker from New York, and a native of South Carolina, began purchasing parcels of the barony for his winter retreat. A 1929 fire destroyed the house he occupied and in 1930 he built a new home of brick, cement and steel.

The tranquil woods and waters provided a peaceful retreat where the Baruch’s friends enjoyed their hospitality. The guests included Sir Winston Churchill, President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, General and Mrs. George C. Marshall, Jack London, Hedda Hopper and H. G. Wells, among others. Vehicles of our members will be required for transportation. At the barony entrance the cars will be parked and a shuttle will convey us to the barony residence which remains privately owned by The Belle W. Baruch Foundation.

Our Thursday informal evening, so-called, will find us as a group dining in the Georgetown area. or, members may choose to select a restaurant of their own choice.

On Friday morning, June 13, we will board a motor coach for a trip to Charleston where the South Carolina Historical Society has arranged for a member to show us some of that city’s historic attractions. The place for our lunch has yet to be determined. After the lunch we will proceed to Georgetown where we will have a short meeting/ceremony with city fathers.

The annual dinner will be at the Litchfield Inn that evening. The Rev. Christopher Fitzsimons Allison, retired bishop of the South Carolina Diocese, Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, will be our speaker. The Consul General of France has been invited to bring us the traditional greetings from the Republic of France.

The Bishop resides in Georgetown and is a member of the South Carolina Historical Society. His ancestor is Francis Kinloch Huger, who made the gallant attempt in 1794 to rescue Lafayette from the dungeon at Olmutz.

Our thanks to Mrs. Virginia Howell, Program Coordinator of the South Carolina Historical Society, for her valuable assistance with respect to our Charleston and area visit.

LAFAYETTE’S GRAVE OBSERVANCE

PARIS, FRANCE — The United States Ambassador to France, His Excellency Howard Leach, was among the numerous dignitaries who attended the July 4 ceremony at Lafayette’s grave in Picpus Cemetery.

Vice Consul for France (NJ) Caroline Lareuse, again represented The American Friends of Lafayette and she placed a wreath on the grave. She reported that Count Rene de Chambrun, a descendant of Lafayette, was missed by those who attended the ceremony.

The Sons of the American Revolution (French chapter) are in charge of the ceremony. Usually, she reported, the day’s program includes the laying of wreaths at the statue of the General Count de Rochambeau, and stops at other places and by afternoon the ceremony takes place at Picpus.

This year all of the ceremonies were condensed into a morning. This was the first time that a luncheon was enjoyed by some in attendance. In addition to the Sons of the American Revolution, there were representatives of the Society of Cincinnati and the Daughters of the American Revolution (French chapter).

Present at the Lafayette grave ceremony and at the luncheon, was Mr. Howard Giles Unger, author of the latest biography about Lafayette. We will have the pleasure of meeting him at Hobcaw Barony on the evening of June 13.

ALLAN P. KIRBY, JR. Defines the precious gift of Liberty (Cont’d)

Our own Declaration of Independence refers to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, while the Constitution begins with the words “Blessings of Liberty”.

So much has been sacrificed to preserve the individual Liberties won by Lafayette and our American heroes that I worry about losing at least some of them now that we are once again at war.

I believe that Americans are prepared to temporarily relinquish certain Liberties, if that is necessary for the good of the cause but we should demand that these be returned to us at such time as the terrorists have been defeated.

Make no mistake about it, our Liberties will continue to slip away unless we are vigilant and fight for them as many have done before us. Just remember that more government means less Liberty and less government means more Liberty.

So just keep humming that wonderful old hymn “My County tis of thee, sweet land of Liberty” and when you have a chance, vote for the folks that believe in Liberty as much as Lafayette.

Therefore, my thanks to you for presenting me with the Lafayette Liberty Award and I am proud to accept it.”

Vice Consul of France (NJ), Caroline Lareuse, placed the Society’s wreath at Lafayette’s grave this past July 4.
EDWIN PHILLIPS HAZEN
DIES IN
NEWPORT NEWS, VA

NEWPORT NEWS, VA — Edwin Phillips Hazen, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, died May 1, 2002 at the James River Convalescent Center. He had been a resident of Newport News for 50 years and retired from the Sanitary Engineer Company.

Mr. Hazen was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Hampton Roads Assembly, Hampton Roads German Club, Hampton Yacht Club and the James River Country Club. He had been a member of The American Friends of Lafayette for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Hazen attended annual meetings until a couple of years ago.

He was a veteran of World War II and served in the Pacific Theater. He retired from the service as a Lt. Col. USAR.

He was a communicant of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and a former vestryman and treasurer.

Mr. Hazen is survived by his wife, Anne Buchanan Hazen, and several nephews, nieces and cousins.

A memorial service was held on Saturday morning May 4 at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church.

We are saddened with the news that two of our members residing in Princeton, New Jersey, passed away since our annual meeting. They are Mrs. Tristam Johnson and Mr. Lucius Wilmerding, Jr.

TWO SAD LOSSES

COUNTRESS de LAFAYETTE

ANGERS (Maine-et-Loire), FRANCE — Countess Ghislaine Marie Therese Masson Bachasson de Montalivet, widow of Buteaux de Pusy de Lafayette, died on March 6, 2003. Her death occurred at Angers where it was believed she was on a retreat with friends.

She was born in Thore-la-Rochette (Loir-et-Cher) on September 1, 1920. She was the daughter of Andre Jean Masson Bachasson de Montalivet and Odette Donatienne Marie Lacroix de Vimeur de Rochambeau. Countess de Lafayette had made her residence in Paris.

The descendant of the General Count de Rochambeau who commanded the French army which came to the aid of our Revolutionary War, made frequent visits to the United States.

COUNT de CHAMBRUN

PARIS, FRANCE — Count Rene Adelbert Pineton de Chambrun died in Paris last February. He was born on August 27, 1906, the son of General Adelbert de Chambrun and Clara Longworth. His wife, the Countess de Chambrun, died on January 9, 1992.

He was a graduate of the College Stanislaus and the Faculty of Letters and Laws of Paris. He was an attorney in New York (since 1934) where he served in the office of John Davis, former Democratic candidate for Vice President.

In Paris he was in the same office on the Champs Elysees since 1935, speculating in international law. His clients included Coco Chanel and Mme. Coty.

He was the president of the Compagnie des Cristalleries of Baccarat from 1960 to 1992.

Count de Chambrun was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He was honorary president of the French branch of the Sons of the American Revolution, and a member of the French branch of the Society of Cincinnati. He authored many books on his ancestor, Lafayette, and his father-in-law, Pierre Laval. He met his wife Josie Laval at the dedication of the Empire State Building where she cut the ribbon. He presided over the July 4 ceremony at Lafayette’s grave in Picpus Cemetery for many years, recalling his appearances there going back to a ceremony in company with Gen. John J. Pershing. He addressed a joint session of Congress in 1934 on the occasion of the centennial of Lafayette’s death.

President Robert R. Crout and Caroline Lareuse, Vice Consul of France (NJ), attended the funeral in Paris.

Past President Dr. Robert R. Crout made frequent visits to Count Rene de Chambrun in Paris. Dr. Crout and Vice Consul of France, Mrs. Caroline Lareuse, attended his funeral.
WILLIAM N. KIRCHNER (Cont’d)

The 20th to be elected president, Mr. Kirchner received an A.B. in History from Dartmouth College in 1959. Two years later he gained his M.A. in History from Northwestern University. In 1973 he received his Master’s Degree in Library Science at the University of North Carolina. Mr. Kirchner taught history at the college level during the 1960’s. After returning to graduate work in library science at Chapel Hill, NC, he held several professional library positions in public library work prior to opening BLK Books in Chattanooga. He is an active member for many years of the Grace Espiscopal Church in Chattanooga.

The Kirchners have been members of The American Friends of Lafayette since the early 1980’s. It was during the time he was acting as Library Director of a three county system in northwest Georgia, with its headquarters in Lafayette (Walker County), GA from 1979-1982, that he uncovered the “real story” of how Lafayette, GA, became Lafayette in the 1830’s.

With the help and guidance from The American Friends of Lafayette, he led his library and community in a successful campaign to secure the flag of the United States which flew over Lafayette’s grave at Picpus Cemetery from July 4, 1980 to July 4, 1981 for the community and city of Lafayette, Ga.

Other officers elected were: Mr. Rudolph Cusumano, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Jean Hultgren, 2nd Vice President; Mr. Gene Hardin, Secretary; Mr. Philip Schroeder, Treasurer; and Ms. Diane Windham Shaw, Archivist of the Lafayette Collection by appointment of President Rothkopf of Lafayette College. The following will serve on the Executive Committee: Mr. John S. Wynn, Jr. (1st year of a 2 year term); Mr. Albert K. Oberst, and Mr. John Scotton (1st year of a 2 year term).

During Dr. Crout’s term he worked to bring our By-Laws into a more practical fashion. His connections with scholars of Lafayette were valuable and were called upon to be guest speakers at our annual meetings. Dr. Crout made several trips to France meeting with the Count de Chambrun, and representing our Society at the July 4th ceremony at Lafayette’s grave. Prior to his election as president he served as secretary. Dr. Crout has been working on a biography of Lafayette and we look forward to its publication.

HISTORIC MEDALS CAST FOR OUR SOCIETY IN 1934 FOUND IN COLLEGE VAULT

EASTON, PA — Several bronze medals cast especially for The American Friends of Lafayette in 1934 were found by an employee of Lafayette College while doing some tidying work in the college comptroller’s office this past September.

The package had the name of our Society on it and was taken to Mr. Philip Schroeder, the Society’s treasurer who serves as the Executive Assistant to the College President. The package contained 33 bronze medals. A medal was sent to President William Kirchner who examined it. The medal was ordered by The American Friends of Lafayette to commemorate the centennial of Lafayette’s death, May 20, 1834.

Mr. Kirchner noted the initials of the medal’s designer which was John Flanagan. He had designed medals for the Duke of Windsor and the Society of Libraries at New York University. He died in 1952.

Ms. Diane Windham Shaw, archivist at the College, located seven copies of the medal in the Lafayette Collection at the David Bishop Skillman Library on the campus.

It was also learned a medal was received as a gift from Mrs. A.H. Gilmer. It has a special inscription incised along the edge: “Presented to the American Friends of Lafayette by the artist, John Flanagan, May 20, 1934.”

Mr. Schroeder, coincidentally, received a catalog in the mail at about the time of the vault discovery. It was from the Medallic Art Co. of New York which cast the medals! The company is still in business and was established many years ago.

Vice Consul of France (New Jersey) Caroline Lareuse presented one of the medals to the President of

Continued on page 9
VALLEY FORGE WELCOME CENTER OPENS

VALLEY FORGE, PA — The Welcome Center at Valley Forge opened on a rainy evening on October 10, 2002. The center is the beginning of a $100 million project at the Valley Forge National Historic Park that will eventually house a collection of artifacts and related historical material in a 21-acre museum complex.

There are numerous museums dedicated to particular battles of the Revolutionary War, but this one, which will be located on 21 acres of the park, will become a museum dedicated to covering the eight years of the War of Independence. It will bring together three major collections of war relics and documents totaling 114,000 pieces of an estimated 80% of the Revolution's known artifacts, worldwide, according to a report in the Philadelphia Inquirer, April 14.

John S. Wynn, Jr. of Gladwyne, PA, a member of The American Friends of Lafayette, represented the Society at the opening. He noted that the center is the result of a public partnership that was authorized in 1999 by Congress as part of the Pennsylvania Battlefields Protection Act. The act joined the National Park Service and the non-profit corporation, The National Center for the American Revolution, the successor of the Valley Forge Historical Society. That Society along with the National Park Service and that of collectors Joan and Herman Benninghoff of Cinnaminson, NJ comprise the 80% of the artifacts that will be displayed at the new museum.

Mr. Wynn noted that the Benninghoffs serve on the center's Board of Scholars which includes authors David McCullough and Thomas Fleming, Revolutionary War historian Gordon S. Wood, professor at Brown University and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and Don Higginbotham, professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A buffet dinner topped the historic event that included speeches by Thomas E. Daly, President and driving force of the new center, Park Superintendent Arthur Stewart and Warren V. Musser, an early advocate and backer.

The vast variety of objects that will be displayed will include George Washington's telescope, powder horns, soldiers axes, curved knives which were used to cut underbrush, muskets, orderly books and gaming items such as dice, dominoes and marbles.

"At last, a museum home for the U.S. Revolution" proclaimed the Inquirer's headline and it could open by 2005.

While at the ceremony Mr. Wynn checked out Lafayette's headquarters building which the Marquis used during that winter at Valley Forge. He learned that the house is empty, but he took the accompanying pictures. The building is closed to visitors. We all hope that something can be done to include this building as part of the new Revolutionary War Museum as a satellite museum dedicated to Lafayette with displays of artifacts and documents, etc. that will tell visitors more about this hero from France.
YORKTOWN DAY CEREMONY

YORKTOWN, VA — One of the most patriotic ceremonies that occurs in this country takes place every October 19 in this historic town where the British surrendered and the War for Independence ended.

P. Hairston Seawell, Esq., who has represented our Society on the Yorktown Day Committee for many years, is the recipient of invitations for distribution to our members. We encourage our members to attend this program at that glorious time of the year in Virginia.

Members should notify Mr. Seawell of their interest in attending the ceremony which takes place in the village and the battlefield area. He is limited in how many invitations The American Friends of Lafayette, a sponsor of the event, receives. It would be helpful if you would communicate with Mr. Seawell at his address: P.O. Box 216, Newport News, VA 23607 early in August. The names will be forwarded to the staff that handles the mailings.

Among those attending last October’s ceremony were Mr. Seawell, John Scotton, Gene Hardin, Mrs. Caroline Lareuse, who sat on the platform, and Mrs. Jean Hultgren who was selected to carry the flag of The American Friends of Lafayette. Seats are always reserved for our members.

NEW BOOK ABOUT LAFAYETTE DUE THIS AUTUMN

HEALDSBURG, CA — Mr. Jason Lane, a member of The American Friends of Lafayette, has written a book pertaining to the Marquis de Lafayette. Titled General and Madame de Lafayette — Partners in Liberty’s Cause in the American and French Revolutions, is being published by Cooper Square Press and is due in book stores this autumn. The book, with its handsome dust jacket, will cost $27.95.

He informed us that when he first learned the bare outlines of General Lafayette’s life, “I was so moved that I spent the next four years researching, translating, writing, and rewriting in an attempt to create a book that would be historically accurate and at the same time dramatic enough to reawaken our country’s regard for him.”

The book deals extensively not only with Lafayette, but also with his wife, their families, and their children. It is unique in that in addition to covering the Lafayettes’ early lives and his participation in the American and French Revolutions, it includes much material on his role in the Napoleonic and Restoration eras and in the revolution of 1830.

Much of his research was done in the libraries of the University of California.
PROF. JEAN-PIERRE CAP TELS OF VISITS TO LAFAYETTE'S BIRTHPLACE

EASTON, PA — On June 13, last year, on the occasion of The American Friends of Lafayette's annual meeting, members enjoyed what we have termed our "informal night." Prof. Jean-Pierre Cap of Lafayette College, entertained us with a talk about his many visits to Château Chavaniac, Clermont-Ferrand, France, the birthplace of Lafayette. His presentation was a surprise to all of us as we assembled after dinner in the comfort of the grande salle of the college's conference center which has been known as the Château Chavaniac because of some similarities with the French château. The following is an extract of Prof. Cap's talk "From Château Chavaniac, Easton, to Chavaniac-Lafayette, to Picpus."

Whenever I am in "Château Chavaniac" in Easton, my mind drifts for a moment to the two most important places associated with LaFayette in France — lieux de mémoire, as contemporary historians might say — the village of Chavaniac-Lafayette, our Marquis' birthplace; and Picpus in Paris where he is buried — the first and last points of his extraordinary life's journey.

I have included LaFayette and his extraordinary, heroic and in some ways tragic life into my four decades of teaching, over three of which were at Lafayette College. I did not visit the village of Chavaniac, however, until 1996, partly because it is located in the mountainous region of Auvergne. I can attest now that the small and plain village bathes in the calm and peace of another age. Without the few cars that line its main street, one can easily imagine it as an ideal setting in which to film an 18th century event.

The Château in which Lafayette was born and in which he lived until the age of eleven sits on the edge of the village. It was very finely restored and furnished after World War I with 18th century pieces by a Franco-American foundation. I hate to disappoint anyone, but our Château Chavaniac, although well designed and solidly built, bears more resemblance to an Anglo-Norman country mansion than to the one it was thought to replicate. Apparently the architect had not visited LaFayette's château in Auvergne. It takes a considerable journey to reach it.

Although born into a very distinguished and wealthy aristocratic family, the marquis' great passion during his childhood at Chavaniac was to play with the peasant boys of his age. He must have wandered in the woods observing, tracking and perhaps hunting small game. It is said that such experience was invaluable preparation for his American adventure.

It all began as he stepped out of his château one fine early fall day to leave his beloved village to go to school in far-away Paris. His grandmother, his aunt and servants accompanied him to the coach. As it pulled out of the courtyard — today a finely kept garden — he waved to the villagers and especially to his young friends who had gathered to see him off along the straight, mile-long drive from the castle leading to a road which lead not only to school, but to Versailles, the army, and the New World ...

Many years later, after he had been acclaimed "the hero of two worlds," seen the revolution he had welcomed stray democracy to tyranny, suffered the harsh conditions of captivity, Lafayette settled in La Grange, in Brie. From there, he laid to rest his beloved wife Adrienne in Picpus, near mass

Continued on page 9
PROF. JEAN-PIERRE CAP (Cont’d)

Graves where 3000 victims of the Terror were buried, including members of her family. The Marquis was also buried there with some soil from Virginia on his casket. Later, numerous members of the highest French aristocracy who had survived the Terror were also buried in Picpus in order to be near their own beloved relatives. Picpus is not only a melancholy lieu de mémoire, but a moving one. It is the burial place of people who wanted their final repose to be an ultimate expression of remembrance.

Every year, on July 4th, the United States Ambassador to France places a wreath on his grave, and the Stars and Stripes over the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette forever to express the grateful remembrance of our country.

The Lafayette students I have taken to Picpus have always been touched by the place and the memories.

It was a delightful evening for such a talk in this wonderful setting. Prof. and Mrs. Cap took the accompanying photos during their last visit to Lafayette’s birthplace.

HISTORIC MEDALS (Cont’d)

The French Sons of the Revolution, M. Helie de Noailles, duc d’Ayen. It was on February 6, 1778, that the official treaty of friendship and commerce, which made France the first nation to recognize the United States of America as an independent nation, was signed.

A second secret alliance, in which France agreed to fight on the side of the American colonies, assured the success of their revolution against England.

Upon receiving the medal, M. de Noailles gave this response: “It goes without saying that the French, the English and the Americans will always find themselves supporting the same common values we gave to the world three pillars of democratic revolution: the Magna Carta and the Peaceful Revolution in Great Britain, the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Declaration of Rights of 1789.”

Mrs. Lareuse and Mrs. Jean Hultgren were in Paris for the observance of Alliance Day. The celebration’s program began on February 4th with a welcome party. The next day a visit was made to Lafayette’s grave at Picpus Cemetery. Later that day there was a flame ceremony at the Arch of Triumph. On the 6th, among other activities, was a wreath laying at the statue of Benjamin Franklin. Highlight on the 7th was a dinner at the Paris City Hall.

On the evening of the 8th there was a private visit to the State Apartments in the Palace of Versailles followed by a formal gala dinner.

The members will learn more about the medals, and will view them at the annual meeting.

MOLAND HOUSE RESTORATION SHOWS PROGRESS

WARWICK TOWNSHIP, PA — Historic Moland House has had many improvements made since the last report from the Warwick Township Historical Society.

Among the work that has been done in the walk-in fireplace in the kitchen. It promises to be spectacular as visitors to the house will notice. Arrangements are being made to purchase wood of random width for flooring. The longleaf yellow pine was harvested over a hundred years ago in the Louisiana area. It was cut into beams, some of which are 12 inches by 12 inches and 20 feet or more in length. The beams being considered were evidently used in the construction of mills in New England years ago.

A contract has been awarded for the installation of a sophisticated sprinkler system. Negotiations were underway to contract for a fire and burglar alarm system.

ALBANY’S MAYOR GREETED LAFAYETTE

The Hon. Anthony Spencer, who was mayor in 1824 when Lafayette visited Albany during his tour of 1824-25, greeted the “Hero of Two Worlds” upon his arrival at Albany. John Townsend, who married Spencer’s daughter, was in the entourage that was at the landing when the steamboat carrying the Marquis arrived. It was learned that she danced with the distinguished guest.

Not too long ago in the collection of The American Friends of Lafayette, Mrs. Diane Windham Shaw, archivist, found a copy of the speech the mayor made on that occasion.

Mayor Spencer, we have learned, is the great-great-great grandfather of Mrs. Caroline Lareuse!
WASHINGTON, DC — Last night, the US Senate unanimously approved a joint resolution authored by Senator John Warner conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette. The Marquis is only the sixth individual to receive such an honor in the history of the U.S. Congress. The House passed an identical resolution on Monday.

For his many contributions to the founding of this nation, Lafayette was previously named as an honorary citizen of both Virginia and Maryland. With the passage of this joint resolution, Lafayette will now be recognized as an honorary citizen of the United States.

Senator Warner submitted the following remarks on the Senate floor:

SENATOR WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of my resolution that the Senate will soon consider and approve unanimously to confer honorary citizenship on the Marquis de Lafayette. An honor long overdue.

For in his greatest time of need when the Austrians imprisoned him for his supposed involvement in the fall of French monarchy, the U.S. did not acknowledge Lafayette as a United States citizen despite his cries for help. This young man risked so much to help build the America we know today, and we are now correcting this long delayed injustice to Lafayette and celebrating him not only as a patriot of freedom and liberty but as a United States citizen.

At the young age of 19, Lafayette disobeyed the wishes of King Louis XVI of France risking his wealth and status to aid in our quest for freedom from Great Britain. He proved his dedication to our liberty when he was wounded in the battle of Brandywine, forever endearing himself to the American soldiers.

Throughout the American Revolution, Lafayette acted as a liaison between France and the American colonies. He urged influential policy makers to have France make the decisive military, naval, and financial commitment to the American colonists. His tireless efforts, both as a liaison and a general, aided America in her ultimate victory.

During the War, Lafayette proved himself over and over again as a soldier and a good friend to George Washington. George Washington was impressed with Lafayette's military tactics which lured British General Cornwallis and his army to Yorktown, Virginia. The American Army, led by General Washington, along with French forces led by Rochambeau, came south and trapped Cornwallis and his troops at Yorktown. As a result, the British were forced to surrender.

Lafayette's services to America extended beyond the battlefront. He worked diligently as an advisor, helping win concessions from Britain during the Treaty negotiations. At Versailles, when negotiating with the French government, our representatives Franklin and Jefferson found him invaluable. Moreover, his impartial friendship was extended to the first seven U.S. presidents.

One of Lafayette's major contributions was bridging the cultural gaps between America and France. His early influence on America still holds true today as we try to bridge the cultural gaps to many countries across the globe to help cultivate freedom.

With this in mind, now more than ever it is important to remember who our friends are in the world as we try to create a coalition against terror.

The Marquis de Lafayette is celebrated by many as a symbol of freedom and liberty. I am happy and honored for the opportunity to offer this resolution for citizenship before the Senate.

Note: The above is a news release dated July 25, 2002.
PRESIDENT KIRCHNER THANKS SENATOR WARNER

CHATTANOOGA, TN — Mr. William T. Kirchner, president of The American Friends of Lafayette, responded to Senator Warner's legislation regarding honorary citizenship for Lafayette soon after the news that President George W. Bush had signed Senate Joint Resolution #13.

Mr. Kirchner wrote: Dear Senator Warner: I am writing to convey to you, as President of The American Friends of Lafayette, the gratitude and deep appreciation the members of our patriotic society have for you because of your efforts and sponsorship of the recent Congressional legislation which has bestowed "honorary citizenship" in this great American Republic on Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert de Motier, The Marquis de Lafayette — Major General of the Continental Line from July 31, 1777.

The American Friends of Lafayette was founded at Lafayette College, Easton, PA, in 1932, during the centennial celebration of the college's existence and the 1932 yearlong observance of the 200th Anniversary of George Washington's birth. I enclose a two-page brochure which will provide you with additional information about the activities of The American Friends of Lafayette.

Also, I am sending you a gift from our society — a stunning publication and catalog from the year 1989 — "Lafayette, Hero of Two Worlds, the Art and Pageantry of His Farewell Tour of America, 1824-25."

It was issued in conjunction with a travelling exhibition sponsored by the Queens Museum (NY) to commemorate the Bicentennial of the French Revolution of 1789. Please note that many of the exhibit items have their home in the extensive Lafayette collection at the David Bishop Skillman Library at the college in Easton.

Finally, with thanks once more for your sure and keen understanding that Gilbert de Motier de Lafayette needed to be accorded honorary citizenship in the American Republic. Sincerely yours, /s/ William N. Kirchner, President The American Friends of Lafayette.

— National Geographic Magazine, January 1923
Address Change Requested

The American Friends of Lafayette
316 Markle Hall
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18042

Mr. Rudolphe W. Ouellette
40 Coburn Ave.
Dracut, MA 01826-3204

First Class Mail

Note: illustrative