INFLUENTIAL AMERICANS PURCHASED CHATEAU DE CHAVANIAC

On January 4, 1917 newspapers announced: AMERICANS BUY CHATEAU; Birthplace of Lafayette to be Converted Into “French Mount Vernon.” The news item continues—

The Chateau de Chavaniac-Lafayette, the birthplace of the Marquis de Lafayette, has been purchased by a group of prominent American men and women and is to be converted into a Franco-American memorial museum and home.

“The Chateau de Chavaniac-Lafayette,” the announcement says, “was secured through the personal efforts of Mrs. William Astor Chanler and Mr. John Moffatt. The purchase of the chateau was made through its owner, the Marquis Gaston de La Fayette who inherited it in 1890 from Senator Edmund de La Fayette. The

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JEAN-PIERRE COLLET HONORARY CONSUL OF FRANCE IS ANNUAL DINNER SPEAKER

We are pleased to announce that Jean-Pierre Collet, Honorary Consul of France, will be our guest speaker at the annual dinner of The American Friends of Lafayette on June 11. He will bring to us the greetings of the

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PLACES KNOWN TO LAFAYETTE WILL HIGHLIGHT PITTSBURGH MEETING JUNE 10-12

Special Treat Includes Visit to Albert Gallatin’s House

PITTSBURGH, PA — The 72nd Annual Meeting of The American Friends of Lafayette will take place June 10-12. Albert K. Oberst and Donald Miller have combed the areas associated with Lafayette and we will be surprised at what we see and what we will learn about the young French nobleman who will always be regarded as the “Hero of Two Worlds.”

Donald Miller, retired architectural writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, will lead the tour. He is an expert on Lafayette and is currently involved in writing a book about the Marquis.

Our tour will include a visit to the Flemish-type residence of the Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin. He was the moving factor in President Jefferson’s decision pertaining to the Louisiana Purchase. We will view the statue of Lafayette in Uniontown’s Court House. During the afternoon we will follow the Lafayette trail into Pittsburgh and stop at St. Patrick’s Church where Lafayette made an impassioned speech on the importance of freedom of religion.

Highlight of the tour will be a visit to the 661-acre Friendship Hill National Historic Site at Point Marion. We will tour the house that Secretary of the Treasury built for his first wife, Sophia Allegre, in 1789.

Lafayette visited Gallatin at Friendship Hill when the Marquis was on his remarkable 1824-25 tour of the United States. Gallatin served as minister to France from 1816-1813.

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Considered to be one of the most beautiful flags of a patriotic society, the flag of The American Friends of Lafayette features Lafayette’s coat of arms and the royal fleur-de-lis. — Caroline Lareuse photo

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COUNTY OFFICIAL WILL JOIN US AT UNIONTOWN

UNIONTOWN, PA — Fayette County Commissioner Joel Hardy will meet our tour when we arrive in Uniontown. As we continue to learn more about Lafayette and where he visited, we will see a statue of the Marquis in the town's Court House.

We are delighted that Mr. Hardy will tell us more about Lafayette and his association with this area of Pennsylvania.

LAFAYETTE'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY STAMP

HANAHAN, SC — Dr. Robert R. Crout, President Emeritus of The American Friends of Lafayette, has noted that 2007 will mark the 250th anniversary of Lafayette's birth. No time should be wasted in requesting a postage stamp be issued to mark this occasion.

Perhaps a committee from our Society should compose a resolution requesting all prospective outlets to back this request. If a list of names and addresses is made available, members should send letters urging the issuance of the stamp.

NEW BOOK TELLS OF FRENCH MONARCHY'S FALL

NEW YORK, NY — "The Road from Versailles," a new book by Munro Price, was in bookstores this past January. In it the author, a native of London, with a Ph.D from Cambridge, specializing in 18th century France and the French Revolution.

Price aims to resolve one of the greatest mysteries of the French Revolution — the true policy of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. He tells about Baron de Breteuil, a vital, and until now, unstudied figure in the royal couple's secret diplomacy. A conservative career diplomat and minister, he was forced to flee France after the storming of the Bastille. He served as the royal couple's secret Prime Minister in exile.

The author uncovered Breteuil's papers which had been preserved in a castle in Austria since 1941. The publication is from St. Martin's Press; 448 pages, numerous illustrations; hard cover $29.85; soft cover $17.95.

MOLAND HOUSE RESTORATION UPDATE

JAMISON, PA — The Warwick Township Historical Society has reported that the Moland House restoration continues. It was in this historic building that Lafayette was given his commission in the Continental Army.

The report notes that almost all the flooring is complete as is the wiring in the historic portion of the house. Protection of the property includes a fire and burglar alarm system and fire detectors.

The grounds have been improved with the removal of several dead trees which now adds to making Moland House a more attractive place to visit.

We commend the Society for all that has been done since our annual meeting in that part of Pennsylvania in 1996.

Washington, Lafayette and Steuben
— The Library of Historic Characters and Famous Events, Vol VI, J.B. Millet, Boston 1902
JEAN-PIERRE COLLET
Cont’d.
Republic of France and deliver some remarks appropriate for the occasion. President William Kirchner will give the response to the guest’s comments. He will also brief us on the John Flanagan 1934 medal which was cast for our society on the 100th anniversary of Lafayette’s death.

Almost 29 years ago Mr. Collet arrived in Pittsburgh for a two-year business assignment. Last year he retired as Vice President-International for Pittsburgh Corning Corp.

As French Honorary Consul to the region, he acts as an intermediary on matters ranging from travel visas to business relationships. Among other duties he assists in obtaining passports and ID cards for French citizens, representing France at cultural and historical events, processing visa requests from American students, notarizing forms for U.S. exporters, arranging visits by French diplomats and VIPs, and answering questions about immigration issues, marriages, births and deaths. He has also presented French medals of honor to American veterans.

Mr. Collet was born in Aix-en-Provence, France and graduated from the University of Lille. He served in the French army after his graduation for 18 months and rose to the rank of sous-lieutenant. He is married and the couple observed their 37th anniversary last month.

His career with Pittsburgh Corning began 37 years ago when the two year assignment stretched into almost four decades. He has worked for the big company in France, Italy and Belgium and the United States.

Mr. Collet serves as president of the local Consular Association with honorary consuls representing Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Nicaragua, Slovak Republic, Switzerland and the United States and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Collet has served as Honorary Consul since his appointment in 1979. The members look forward to greeting him and Mrs. Collet at our annual meeting.

PITTSBURGH MEETING Cont’d.
On a summer day in late July of 1805 two U.S. Army officers stood by the three forks of the Missouri River. After a few moments of reflection, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark came to a decision in naming three new rivers. They were to be the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers. Time and history have been generous to the memory of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. But who was Albert Gallatin? As well known as Gallatin was to the people of the Jeffersonian Era he is all but forgotten today. This notable statesman, diplomat, financier, historian, ethnologist, industrialist and farmer is remembered today at Friendship Hill National Site, his frontier home in western Pennsylvania.

When Thomas Jefferson was elected President in 1800, he believed that Albert Gallatin was the only member of his party capable of serving as his Secretary of Treasury. Gallatin’s “…persistent assaults on the financial policy of the Feraldists…” led Jefferson to this conclusion. These opinions influenced Jefferson’s choice of Albert Gallatin as Secretary of the Treasury.

According to Mr. Gallatin, on January 1, 1801, the United States was more than $80 million dollars in debt. Gallatin had a plan to reduce the debt. It called for the practice of economy within the government, particularly in the military. The two main sources of revenue for the reduction of the national debt were: capital gained through the sale of public lands and the revenue brought in through custom duties (import taxes). During the first year of Gallatin’s term of office he succeeded in reducing the national debt by over 2 million dollars. In 1803 the government increased its debt 15 million dollars when the United States purchased the Louisana Territory. Still, this major expense did not alter Gallatin’s plan for the nation’s economy. He continued to enforce his plan and by January 1, 1812, Gallatin had succeeded in reducing the national debt to just over 45 million dollars.

Albert Gallatin left office in 1814. Those who came after him continued to enforce the measures to reduce the debt that he had started. In January, 1833 the federal government considered the national debt totally extinguished. Gallatin felt that the acquisition of Louisana was good for the country, especially the area around Friendship Hill. It provided the United States and western Pennsylvania with an ocean port.

This is a meeting you will enjoy — very much. And, bring a friend.

IN MEMORIAM
We grieve the loss of John L. Armstrong of Lincoln, Mass. which occurred earlier this year. He was a dedicated member of the Massachusetts Lafayette Day observances each May for many years.

At his suggestion we changed our annual meeting month in 1992 from June to May as Count Gilbert de Pusy La Fayette and his mother were invited to the Boston celebration. Mr. Armstrong brought this suggestion to his committee’s attention and as a result the descendants of Lafayette joined us at a luncheon held at the famous Wayside Inn in Sudbury.

We send our sympathy to Mrs. Armstrong. We will miss him.

LOUIS XVI.
The principal person in the new book “The Road from Versailles.” (see page 2)
—Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, May 1883
SOUTH CAROLINA MEETING FEATURED
VISIT TO LAFAYETTE'S LANDING PLACE

EASTON, PA — Those of us who attended the 71st annual meeting of The American Friends of Lafayette spent an afternoon in the city of Georgetown where the young Lafayette landed upon his arrival in this country.

Members began to arrive on Thursday and that evening at our informal dinner, which was held at Tyler's Cove, proved to be a "find". It was discovered by Cornelia Benson and Nancy Santo who had stopped there for lunch. It was just a few miles from the Litchfield Inn Beach and Golf Resort, Pawleys Island, where we made our headquarters.

On Friday morning we went to Charleston. Highlight of the morning was the visit to the Charleston Museum where several rare and valuable Lafayette-related documents and letters were put on special display for the occasion. Our next stop was the John Rutledge House 1763 residence of a signer of the U.S. Constitution. Continuing on foot, we visited St. Michael's Episcopal Church which dates from 1751. At City Hall, built in 1801 as the United States Bank, we were comfortably seated in a chamber where we listened to a young woman relate many historical facts about the city. Highlight here was our viewing of a portrait of George Washington done by John Trumbull in 1791.

At the Francis Marion Hotel we occupied a private dining room where southern fried chicken was served as the main course. Boarding our motor coach we headed back north to Georgetown where town officials were on hand to greet us. The heat, humidity and bright sun gave way to a cooling shower (temporarily) but as it turned to a sprinkle we were led to where there is a bust of Lafayette commemorating his debarkment in this country at that place. We moved to the City Hall where we participated in a special flag raising ceremony which concluded the tour for the day.

Our annual dinner was held with a representative of the French Consul General bringing us the traditional greetings from the Republic of France. The Right Rev. Christopher Fitzsimons Allison, retired bishop of the South Carolina Diocese Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, was the guest speaker. We were delighted that Harlow Giles Unger joined us for dinner. He had authored some months before Lafayette which was reviewed as "a new and lively biography of the Marquis."

Several vehicles were required to make a visit to Hobcaw Barony which dates from 1718. Between 1760 and 1900 there were as many as 11 different rice plantations on the vast acreage. Early in the 20th century Bernard Baruch, a wealthy New York stockbroker, began to purchase parcels of the barony and eventually built a mini-mansion in the deep woods miles, it seemed, from the main highway. There we were guests of the formally-attired members of the South Carolina Historical Society who had engaged Mr. Unger as a guest speaker. It had been the longest "tour day" in the history of our Society. The next morning we held our business meeting and adjourned at noon.

The Society's flag flew from the flagpole in front of the Georgetown City Hall along with the national flag, and the flag of South Carolina. The Society's flag was flown on the day of our visit, and the next day, June 14, the nation's Flag Day.
THE HOUSE IN WHICH LAFAYETTE FIRST SLEPT IN AMERICA

On April 20, 1777 the young Marquis de Lafayette, joined by the Baron Johann de Kalb, were aboard the ship Victoire and left Bordeaux to offer their services to the Americans. After a crossing of almost six weeks the ship came to anchor in the bay.

The ship was piloted to the plantation of Benjamin Huger on the Waccamaw River, five miles above Georgetown. This sketch depicts the house in which Huger accommodated his visitors.

SENATOR JOHN WARNER’S LETTER TO MR. KIRCHNER

CHATTANOOGA, TN — President William Kirchner received a letter on March 26 from United States Senator John Warner of Virginia. It is reprinted here and is a response to Mr. Kirchner’s letter of thanks acknowledging Senator Warner’s resolution making the Marquis de Lafayette an honorary citizen of the United States. The senator’s resolution was signed into law on August 2, 2003 by President George W. Bush. Full coverage of this resolution was made in the 2003 issue of the Gazette.

Mr. William N. Kirchner
President
The American Friends of Lafayette
644 East Crest Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37404-5909

Dear Mr. Kirchner:

Thank you for your interest in my resolution to confer citizenship on Marquis de Lafayette. I am pleased to share a copy of my resolution with you. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delayed response.

As you know, General Lafayette is an honorary citizen of Virginia and Maryland. A man of great wealth, General Lafayette risked his own life and fortune for our freedom. His extraordinary actions, in my opinion, should be rewarded by making General Lafayette an honorary U.S. citizen.

I am pleased that my resolution, S.J.Res. 13, was signed into law on August 6, 2002, by President Bush. My resolution has bestowed on General Lafayette an honor which has only been given to five other individuals throughout our nation’s history, and has elevated General Lafayette’s prominence in the eyes of all Americans.

Again, thank you for contacting me.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

John Warner
OUR ROVING AMBASSADORS

EASTON, PA — Caroline Lareuse and Jean Hultgren have traveled countless miles during the past five or so years as “ambassadors” of our Society. Their visits to France, including those to Lafayette’s grave, have seen them at the shipyard where the Hermione is under construction. It was on board the original Hermione that Lafayette brought news that French help was assured.

This past July Mrs. Lareuse again represented the Society at the ceremony at Lafayette’s grave, Picpus Cemetery, Paris. She reported that Monsieur Hélie de Noailles, duc d’Ayen is now the president of the French branch of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mesdames Lareuse and Hultgren were at the Yorktown Day program on October 19. Melissa Leigh Olde, national president of the National Society Children of the American Revolution, presided at the patriotic program at the imposing Victory Monument. She is a member of the Morven Society which is sponsored by the Princeton Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Hultgren was serving as Senior/President Advisor when Miss Olde joined the Children of the American Revolution. This was a very happy reunion for the two women. Each Society has a Senior President/Advisor.

With a member of the U.S. Marine Corps at her side, Mrs. Hultgren was the honorary bearer of the Society’s flag to the monument. Ambassador Jean-David Lefitte of France brought the greetings of his country to the large gathering of civilians and military personnel.

The two “ambassadors” attended the annual dinner at Fort Eustis the evening before. They ended this sojourn later on the 19th by attending a wreath laying ceremony at the statue of Admiral François Joseph Paul, Count de Grasse (1722-1788). This occurred at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia which was sponsored by the de Grasse chapter of the Alliance Française. A dinner concluded this busy day.

The French fleet commanded by de Grasse, defeated that of British Admiral Thomas Graves (1725-1802) in the Battle of the Chesapeake Capes, September 5, 1781. Without the French navy’s dominance of the sea, victory at Yorktown would not have been possible.

Gazette of The American Friends of Lafayette
Leonard J. Panaggio
Editor
44 Old Beach Road
Newport, RI 02840-3349
Lake Minnetonka, west of Minneapolis, was "Mde-a-tonka," or "Big Lake" to the original inhabitants. It was the destination for the "Summer School of Travel for American Teachers" in 1884, two years after the Hotel Lafayette was built. Measuring 1100 feet long the hotel and the resort that developed in the area became known as the "Newport of the Northeast."

— Journal of Education, Boston, April 24, 1884

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