



Lafayette Society Newsletter



Spring 2013

CALENDAR:

Check our website for more info!

JOIN THE CLUB!
INFORMATION
AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.lafayetteesociety.org>

Long time no see, Lafayette Society friends...

With all the preparations for the Lafayette's annual luncheon, the Lafayette Society has been very busy. We hope you have already made your reservations and can't wait to see you on Sunday March 3.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find a summary of the 2012 meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette in Washington, DC. Our President was able to go there and came back with some nice pictures and interesting story.

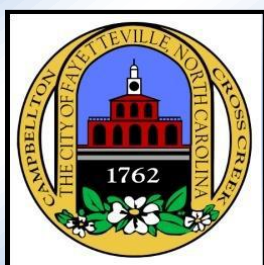
You will also find a write-up about the luncheon to entice you.

You might have heard about the Lafayette statue project...If you haven't, now is your chance to know all about it.

Finally, you will learn something about 'La Marseillaise' and we hope to see you sing along at the luncheon. Enjoy and see you soon!

PRESS RELEASE : LAFAYETTE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET (MARCH 3, 2013)

The Lafayette Society will hold its 31st Annual Meeting and Luncheon Banquet at the Holiday Inn-Bordeaux on Sunday March 3 starting at 12:30pm. The guest speaker will be Mr. Chuck Schwam from Gaithersburg, Maryland. Mr. Schwam is an official with the American Friends of Lafayette, a national organization dedicated to the memory of the Marquis de Lafayette and to the study of his life and times. The Lafayette Society of Fayetteville is an historical and civic organization and welcomes new members with an interest in history and learning more about Lafayette. Advance registration for the banquet is required. For more information, visit www.LafayetteSociety.org or call Society president Hank Parfitt at 910-864-2427 for an application.



ARTICLE ON AFL MEETING 2012
February 24, 2013

The Annual meeting of the American friends of Lafayette

The American Friends of Lafayette is a national organization dedicated to the memory of the marquis de Lafayette and to the study of his life and times. It was founded in 1932 at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Some members are historians, archivists, and university professors, but many others joined the AFL simply because of their interest in history and the fascinating story of Lafayette's friendship with America.

The AFL holds its national meeting in June of each year in a city with historical significance. On June 14-16 in 2012, the meeting was held at Mt. Vernon. During the opening night reception, one of the members served "Lafayette Rice Cake," a Pennsylvania recipe that includes rice flour, rum, and nutmeg. It became a favorite of Lafayette during his service to our country in the American Revolutionary War. There was a presentation about the Masonic apron given to George Washington by Lafayette in 1784. The apron is on loan to Mt. Vernon and is normally put on display only one day a year, on Washington's Birthday.



On Friday, June 15, the group was given a guided tour of Mt. Vernon. The tour included behind-the-scenes visits to their archaeology labs, as well as studios where conservators were restoring priceless Mt. Vernon artifacts. They also saw the key to the Bastille given to Washington by Lafayette in 1790 and toured the Lafayette Room on the second floor, where Lafayette always spent the nights when he visited Mt. Vernon. The highlight of the tour was a private viewing of the Lafayette/Washington apron.

On Friday afternoon, the group toured the Library of Congress and viewed a collection of Washington and Lafayette letters. They also met with Dr. James Billington, the distinguished Librarian of the National Library. The group also toured the Chambers of the United States House of Representatives with the curator, who discussed the history of the Chambers and the full-length portraits of Washington and Lafayette that flank the oak rostrum. During the State of the Union addresses, viewers will see Lafayette's portrait to their right, Washington's to their left.



On Friday night, dinner was held at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia. Lafayette was feted there in 1824 during his Grand Tour of the United States. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sylvia Neely, associate

professor at Penn State University who is writing a book about Lafayette's role in the French Revolution.

More information about the American Friends of Lafayette can be found on their website, www.friendsoflafayette.org. The organization has selected Fayetteville, North Carolina to be the host city for their national meeting in June 2014. A planning committee of the Lafayette Society has already been formed and any member who wants to help is invited to contact Patsy Politowicz at champers1231@yahoo.com.

For more pictures, please log on
our website:

<http://www.lafayette250.com>

ARTICLE ON LAFAYETTE STATUE PROJECT

February 24, 2013

An important goal of The Lafayette Society over the past 5 years has been to raise funds to re-landscape the area around Lafayette's statue in Cross Creek Park and install bronze historic markers. At present, the statue is surrounded 360 degrees by rose bushes and other lush vegetation. Re-landscaping is intended to allow the statue to be more visible from the roadway, to let visitors stand closer to the statue, and to make the statue a functional focal point in Cross Creek Park. Examples of activities that could be held there include weddings, induction ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, and small concerts.

The History Committee has met numerous times over the past 6 months to help make this concept a reality. Architect Walter Vick has generously given of his time and expertise to create an outstanding design plan that includes a brick seating area for the half-circle in front of the statue, a built-in speaker's dais with brick ramps leading up to the dais, and an outer sitting wall on the periphery alongside the waterway. Donations for the Lafayette Statue Project, including \$10,000 that the Lafayette Society has saved from its annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration since 2008, now total \$55,000. Committee members have met with city officials from Parks and Rec to review the proposal and a presentation will be made to the Historic Resources Commission in March. It is hoped that the project will be completed in time to be dedicated as part of the Lafayette Birthday Celebration in September.

Did you know?

The origins of the French national hymn 'La Marseillaise'? The song was written by Rouget de Lisle in Strasbourg (in Alsace, not far from Lorraine) on 25 of April of 1792 night following a war declaration from the King to the Austrian emperor. The song was originally named 'war song for the Rhin Army'.

Later on, the song was renamed 'La Marseillaise' since it was used by the republican soldiers of Marseille during the Tuileries insurrection in august 1792. It was such a success that it was declared national song on july the 14, 1795.

The current official arrangement for 'La Marseillaise' was written by Pierre Dupont, musician from the republican guard, by the request of the President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.



Rouget de Lisle singing la *Marseillaise* for the first time in the City Hall of Strasbourg (Pils, 1849).

La Marseillaise

Allons enfants de la Patrie
Le jour de gloire est arrivé !
Contre nous de la tyrannie
L'étendard sanglant est levé (*bis*)
Entendez-vous dans les campagnes
Mugir ces féroces soldats ?
Ils viennent jusque dans vos bras
Égorger vos fils, vos compagnes !

*Aux armes, citoyens !
Formez vos bataillons !
Marchons, marchons !
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons !*

Arise, you children of the fatherland
The day of glory has arrived!
Against us, tyranny
Has raised its bloodied banner (*repeat*)
Do you hear in the fields
The howling of these fearsome soldiers?
They are coming into your midst
To slit the throats of your sons, your wives!

*To arms, citizens!
Form your battalions!
Let us march, let us march!
May impure blood
Soak our fields' furrows!*