

## Look what the Lafayette Society was up to in 2016!



In June the Lafayette Society presented a \$250 check to the local Lafayette district of the Boy Scouts of America. \$150 was allotted for scholarships for Boy Scout summer camp attendees, and \$100 was presented to a troop that exhibited strong leadership. The boys of Troop 701 (sponsored by Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Stedman) demonstrated that they were worthy recipients: they “paid it forward,” turning over the check to their affiliated Cub Scout pack.



Hurricane Matthew's floodwaters did serious damage to Cross Creek Park in October but we're happy to report that the General (and the time capsule on which he stands) came through just fine.



General Lafayette himself (portrayed by Colonial Williamsburg's Mark Schneider) was our featured guest at this year's Lafayette Birthday celebration in September. He paid a surprise visit to the Lafayette Trail tour luncheon in September. After he arrived in Cross Creek Park via horse and carriage *les citoyens* serenaded him with a jazzy version of the “Happy Birthday” song and fêted him with cake and ice cream. Always the ladies' man, he made time to enchant the Fayetteville Dogwood queens (right).



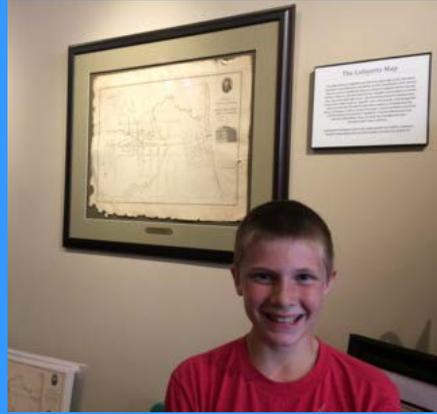


In June, eight members of the Lafayette Society traveled to Boston for the annual meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette. Attendees were treated to special tours of Faneuil Hall, the Boston Common, the State House (above, left), and many other historic sites related to Lafayette. Gwen Melton (above, right) and other Lafayette Society members struck up an instant friendship with Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, 90-year old member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

*There's plenty more to come in 2017 - stay tuned!*



In 2014 Methodist University alumnus Gene Dillman donated a dozen rare items related to Lafayette to Methodist University's Lafayette Collection. In 2016 Mr. Dillman (pictured with MU president Dr. Ben Hancock Jr.) followed that with another generous gift of twenty-two more items.



Daniel Matthews, an 8th grade student at Riverwood Middle School in Johnston County, visited Fayetteville in September to do research on Lafayette for a project he entered in his school's social studies fair. He went on a self-guided tour of the Lafayette Trail, paid his respects at the statue, and received a Lafayette comic book and a digital copy of the Lafayette map from the Lafayette Society. Daniel said that his project was inspired by the Broadway play *Hamilton*.

French Consul Michel Charbonnier (pictured below, right) was the keynote speaker at Lafayette Day, an official Virginia state holiday. Lafayette Society president Hank Parfitt represented both the American Friends of Lafayette and the Lafayette Society at the wreath-laying in Richmond on March 14.

