As part of the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration, Methodist University invited the public to see their Lafayette Collection, which was founded 50 years ago. Their newest acquisition, an 1825 letter written by Lafayette to President James Monroe, was unveiled. Pictured with the lobby display of Lafayette is Willie Wright and Diane Parfitt.

ARIAS AND ARTIFACTS WRIGHT PARFITT.JPG

As part of the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration, Davis Memorial Library hosted a program celebrating fifty years of the Lafayette Collection at Davis Memorial Library as part of “Arias and Artifacts.” Pictured here is one of the newest acquisitions, a hand-painted miniature circa 1825.

ARIAS AND ARTIFACTS DILLMAN MINIATURE.jpg

A near-capacity crowd filled Hensdale Chapel on the Methodist University campus for a concert of French music, organized by Dr. Gail Morfesis (center), as part of the Lafayette Birthday Celebration. While most performers were professional musicians, some of the most enthusiastic applause was for these young performers - cellist Camron Stevens, on the left, a student at Methodist and Helen Steffen, on the right, who performed on the piano and recently played the lead child role in the Gilbert Theatre’s *Secret Garden*.

ARIAS AND ARTIFACTS MUSICIANS 1.jpg

Marge and Bill Loscalzo from Williamsburg, Virginia came down for 2 days of Lafayette Birthday Celebration events, including the Lafayette Trail Tour with Major Bruce Daws of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry. The tour ended with lunch in the Phoenix Masonic Lodge, which was visited by Lafayette in 1825.

LAFAYETTE TRAIL TOUR.JPG

Crystal Byrd, this year’s Miss Fayetteville, volunteered during the Lafayette Birthday Celebration and shares a light moment here with guests at the birthday cake and ice cream party as part of Festival of Yesteryear at Arsenal Park. One of the day’s highlights was *African Spirituals: Freedom Prayers*, by a group called Life as Art Productions.

MS FAY CRYSTAL BYRD.jpg

Crystal Byrd, Miss Fayetteville, gives Mayor Nat Robertson a hand cutting one of the two birthday cakes at the Museum of the Cape Fear’s Festival of Yesteryear during the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration. Over 200 people enjoyed cake and ice cream as Fayetteville celebrated their namesake’s 260th birthday.

FOY-CAKE CUTTING 2.jpg

Dogwood Festival beauty queens helped serve birthday cake and ice cream at the Festival of Yesteryear, part of the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration. Pictured left to right is Young Miss Fayetteville Dogwood Festival Kyndal Quinn, Miss Fayetteville Dogwood Festival Emma Carter, and Teen Miss Emma Wright.

DOGWOOD QUEENS 3.JPG

Historic Tours of Olde Fayetteville became a part of the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration this year, taking passengers on a trip through time to showcase Fayetteville’s history from the Colonial and Revolutionary War eras through the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Out-of-town guests included (left to right) Holly from Arizona, and Nancy and Jim, who were chased out of their home on Hilton Head by the approaching Hurricane Irma.

HISTORIC CARRIAGE TOURS.jpg

Art as Life Productions performed *African Spirituals: Freedom Prayers* on the stage at Arsenal Park during the Festival of Yesteryear, part of North Carolina’s annual Lafayette Birthday celebration. Their dynamic performance included song, instrumental music, and expressive, fluid dance.

FOY-AFRICAN SPIRITUALS.JPG

Jim McKee and Becky Sawyer, historic interpreters from Southport, North Carolina, were thankful for the moderate temperatures and refreshing breeze all day long at the Festival of Yesteryear.

FOY-JIM MCKEE AND BECKY SMITH.JPG

The WINNER! Byron Smith, owner of Hungry Hooligans in Downtown Fayetteville, was the lucky winner of the drawing for this Lafayette bust during the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration. Shown congratulating Byron is Hank Parfitt, president of the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville. Byron invites everyone to come to his store and see his prize!

WINNER BYRON SMITH 2.jpg