

Look what the Lafayette Society was up to in 2019!



In February, the Lafayette Society partnered with the Black History Scholars Association at Fayetteville State University to host a lecture by Professor Rob Taber on the Haitian Revolution. A diverse crowd of over 100 people attended. Taber specializes in research and study of the Atlantic slave trade during the Colonial era and also serves on the Lafayette Society board of directors.

Lafayette Society members Ron Schooler and Gail Morfesis pose with a "Highsmith Mimosa" at the annual luncheon meeting in March. Named after fellow member Ann Highsmith, who first suggested the idea in 2017, this light, simple refreshment has been popular at each luncheon since!



photo by Matthew Wonderly, CityView



The Museum of the Cape Fear partnered with the Lafayette Society in September to celebrate Lafayette's birthday. During the *Festival of Yesteryear: Revolution on the Cape Fear* in Arsenal Park, children visited "Camp Lafayette" to have their pictures taken with a character cut-out. Here, new member Jennifer Caci helps a young model adjust her Marie Antoinette "costume."



Mayor Mitch Colvin relaxes with Lafayette (Fayetteville actor Stan Seay) and James Armistead Lafayette (Colonial Williamsburg's Stephen Seals) during the annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration. James Armistead, an enslaved man, served under Lafayette in the Continental Army at Yorktown by spying on British Forces in the guise of an "escaped slave." Lafayette intervened with the United States government after the Revolutionary War to help James win his freedom. As a gesture of appreciation and honor, James added "Lafayette" to his name.

In May, the Special Operations Command at Ft. Bragg invited members Ferd Irizarry and Hank Parfitt to represent the Lafayette Society at a luncheon with special guests Major General Thierry Ducret, who commands the French Special Forces, and his officers. They presented the visitors with a Medaille Lafayette, the leadership award for the NCO Academy established in 2017 with the help of Ret. Brigadier General Irizarry.



City historian Bruce Daws shows some Lafayette artifacts to Julian Icher, founder and president of the Lafayette Trail project. Julien is from Carcassonne, France, but he is “on loan” to the United States while developing a computer mapping program for Lafayette’s Farewell Tour of 1824-25. Julien spent a week in Fayetteville in January learning about Lafayette’s visit to our city.



Lafayette Society member Jamie Ammons presents a check to Scout leader Tim Kohring of the Lafayette District of the Occoneechee Council to cover the cost of summer camp for two scouts. Ammons, an Eagle Scout himself, helped other Scouts and their leaders construct “Camp Lafayette” and served birthday cake and ice cream at the Lafayette birthday “Festival of Yesteryear.”

There's plenty more to come in 2020- stay tuned!



The Lafayette statue underwent a \$7500 restoration by Terra Mare Conservators, LLC from Charleston. The Lafayette Society researched and interviewed certified conservators and shared restoration costs with the city. Claudia Chemello (pictured here) and her team spent 4 days making our Lafayette look new again. Their previous restoration projects range from the statue of Booker T Washington in Atlanta to components of the space shuttles *Columbia* and *Challenger* in Maryland.