



## The Massachusetts Lafayette Society Newsletter

### President's Letter – January 2010



Alan R. Hoffman

Dear Friend of Lafayette:

I am pleased to report a number of items of interest to our membership.

(1) On **October 18, 2009** at a meeting of the National Washington – **Rochambeau**

Revolutionary Route Association in Gloucester, Virginia, the Board of Directors considered a letter that I wrote to them that suggested “a Lafayette Connector” to their Congressionally approved Route, i.e., from Newport to Yorktown, tracking the march of General **Rochambeau**'s and **Washington**'s Armies in 1781. I will quote from the minutes of the meeting: “A letter to the Board from Alan R. **Hoffman** proposed that the W3R-MA develop a ‘prequel trail’ related to the W3R, through Massachusetts. The group approved W3R-MA going ahead with developing plans for this trail.” What I had proposed was a trail from Boston to Morristown, New Jersey tracking **Lafayette**'s route when he returned to America in the spring of 1780 to tell **Washington** that French help was on the way. If any of you are interested in working on this project, please contact me.

(2) On **Wednesday, January 27, 2010**, at 6:00 p.m., I will be honored to talk about Lafayette at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. For those who have heard me lecture, please note that this is a new talk that I prepared last summer and was privileged to present to the French

Ambassador in Delaware on September 5, 2009. It is entitled: “Lafayette: Symbol of Franco-American Friendship” and has the additional advantage of being short – for me – not more than 40 minutes, including a new PowerPoint slideshow of Lafayette-related images. Hope to see you there.

(3) We have learned that our dear friend Gilbert de **Pusey Lafayette** intends to be with us for Massachusetts Lafayette Day in 2010. He is bringing his lovely wife and one of his sons.

(4) Planning for Lafayette Day, May 20, is proceeding. Bill **Dunham** is already working with the Union Club on another great luncheon. The Lafayette Day program will include our traditional ceremonies in the morning, along with a legion of honor medal presentation ceremony given by the new Consul General, Christophe **Guilhou**. After our luncheon, there will be a series of events honoring **Lafayette** and **De Grasse** in Marblehead, which is the sister city of Grasse, France. On Friday, May 21, 2010, there will be additional events in Marblehead attended, it is hoped, by Gilbert and by our Lafayette re-enactor, Loic **Barnieu**. Please keep your calendars open!

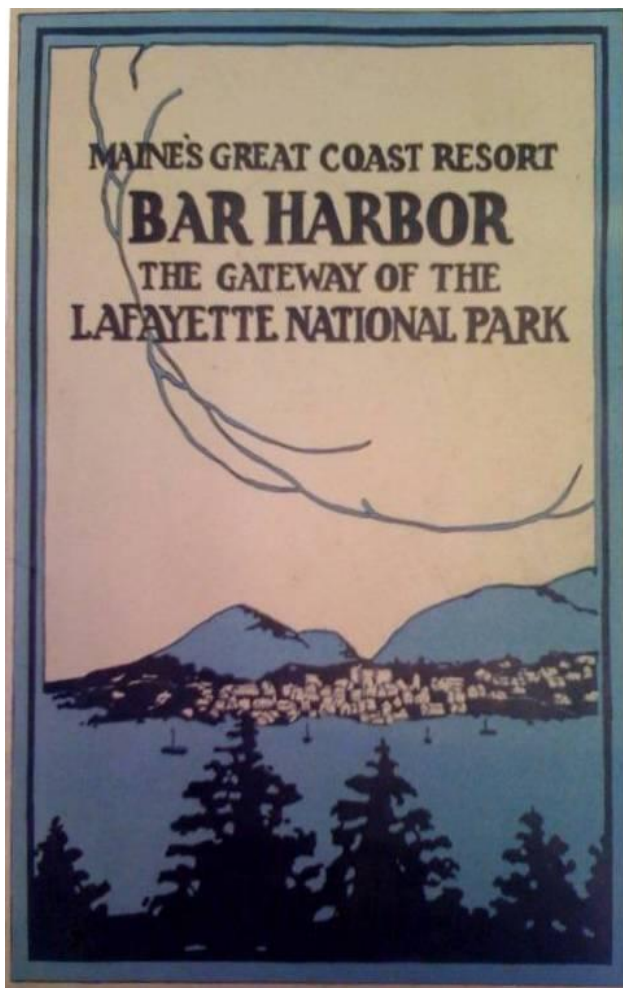
I hope you all had a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in January.

Best regards,  
Alan R. **Hoffman**,  
President



## Lafayette Factoid

Did you know that the first national park east of the Mississippi River was “Lafayette National Park”? President **Wilson** chose this name in 1919 for the Maine Park in honor of one of his heroes, General **Lafayette**. Unfortunately, **Lafayette**’s name was removed in 1929 when a donor offered to double the land of the Park if the name were changed. The donor was British with a long memory. Not long enough, perhaps, to know that the new name, Acadia National Park, brings to mind English “ethnic cleansing” of the French of Acadie – the Acadians – during and after the French and Indian War in the 1750’s and 1760’s.



## **More Coming Events:**

On **Wednesday, January 20, 2010**, Alan will Lecture and do a book signing, at 6:30 p.m. at Club Richelieu of New Bedford; Wamsutta Club, New Bedford, MA Contact [Normand Ouellette](mailto:Normand.Ouellette@newbedfordclub.com), (508) 674-7036

## **A recap**

At the combined Massachusetts **Lafayette** Society and the **Shirely-Eustis** House tour last October 4<sup>th</sup>, Rick **Detwiller** played a masterful role in walking us through his video presentation about the French connections to Boston and to the House.

Here are a few pictures:



Dr. Richard J. **DesLauriers** of Longmeadow, MA examines a mini dresser on display in the **Lafayette** Room at the **Shirley-Eustis** House. The dresser is on loan from the Massachusetts **Lafayette** Society.



William Dunham and Norm Ouellette show off the dresser as it is restored and on display in the Lafayette Room at the Shirley-Eustis House.

Sunday, October 4, 2009

The carriage in the background is the same carriage that Governor Eustis sent to the Rhode Island border to bring Lafayette to Boston and Shirley-Eustis House.

In front of the carriage are Guppy Ford, Bill Dunham, and Alan Hoffman.

Sunday, October 4, 2009





Join us on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the New England Historic Genealogical Society at 6:00 p.m. for the presentation:

**“Lafayette: Symbol of  
Franco-American Friendship”**

**Alan R. Hoffman  
The Massachusetts Lafayette Society**



This event will be held in the beautiful Treat Rotunda on the first floor at 99 Newbury Street. [re-arranged theatre style, of course.]

As always, the Society will host a wine and cheese reception following the presentation.

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