



The Massachusetts Lafayette Society Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 September 2009

President's Letter

Dear Friends:

I am writing this letter to review the events of 2009 to date and to preview what the Massachusetts Lafayette Society is contemplating for our 2009-2010 program.

Massachusetts Lafayette Day, May 20, 2009, was a great success. Other than the International School Chorus being stuck in traffic at the outset, which delayed the first event for about 20 minutes, the day met or exceeded expectations.

The first event, the arrival of Lafayette at the State House in 1824 and his return in 1825, depicted the reception that Lafayette received in Boston on his Farewell Tour. It was brought to life by our re-enactor, Loic Barnieu, and our volunteer descendants of Governor Eustis and Governor Lincoln who greeted Lafayette in 1824 and 1825, respectively.

The next event, the Consul General's Legion of Honor ceremony was the emotional highlight of the day. M. Gauthier's biographical sketches of those 4 heroes of World War II and the recipients' statements brought a tear to every eye.

The procession to the Lafayette monument, with our own Colonel Woodhouse organizing the march, was next. Most remarkably, the Legion of Honor honorees joined in the parade.

At the Lafayette Monument, the Lafayette Day proclamations were read by

Polly Lyman and President Emeritus Bill Dunham. Consul General Gauthier and President Emeritus Normand Ouellette laid the wreath. Normand and Professor Robert Allison of Suffolk University helped to dedicate the Liberty Elm that had recently been planted courtesy of the Elm Research Institute. Thank you, Normand, for your persistence and hard work in arranging for a grant that made this possible.

Our traditional luncheon at the Union Club was a great success with about 91 people attending. (About 225 people attended one or more of the events). Enoch Woodhouse, a recipient of a Tuskegee Airman medal, Normand and Michelle Vlahos, spoke.

Diane Shaw's lecture on Lafayette's anti-slavery activities followed in Room 222 in the State House, the site of the morning events. Most interestingly, the audience included a direct descendant of the slave who spied for Lafayette at Yorktown and whom Lafayette helped to free in 1784, James Armistead.

Finally, the panel discussion at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) was lively and interesting with Diane Shaw and David Hackett Fischer staying on message – Lafayette and the role of France in the American Revolution – and Robert Darnton going provocatively off message in exploring Lafayette's role in the French Revolution.



Alan R. Hoffman

In addition to those mentioned already, I would like to thank Senator Richard Moore and his staffer, Jared Cain, for suggesting that we apply for a grant and bring in Loic Barnieu to enact Lafayette and facilitating our use of Room 222. Others who helped us immensely were Consul General Gauthier and Alexis Berthier, the Consul's Press Attaché, and Ryan Wood of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Finally, we are very grateful to Mass Humanities and our members whose support made these events possible.

One of the offshoots of Massachusetts Lafayette Day 2009 is that we have 4½ hours of film of the entire day. One of my projects is to edit the film to, if all goes well, produce a documentary for middle school American History students in the Commonwealth.

President's Letter continued

Our next event

Our next event will be held on October 4, 2009 at 3:00 at the Shirley-Eustis House. Those of you who were listening last May 20, 2009 should know that Lafayette stayed there the night of August 23 to 24, 1824 prior to the procession of 70,000 people to Boston on the following day. The carriage that Governor Eustis used to carry Lafayette from Rhode Island to Roxbury is on display there. See page 4 for details.

New Board Members/New Website

Finally, I would like to announce the election by the Board of Directors of three new board members – Deb Bouras of Lynn who will be helping us with our website, Pauline Cusson of Manchester, NH who will be in charge of membership and newsletters, and Frederick Detwiller of Georgetown, who will be assisting us with the website and helping me edit the film. Deb is an administrative assistant at Lynch, Brewer, Hoffman & Fink, LLP and has been very helpful this past year on

membership and mailings. Pauline is formerly the membership director of NEHGS. Frederick is an architect and preservation planner, and he and his wife, Ellen, wrote the play about Lafayette that was performed during the 1989 festivities celebrating Massachusetts Lafayette Day and the 200th Anniversary of the French Revolution.

Visit our new website at:
www.lafayettesocietyma.com

Best regards

Photos from the May Events



The honorees. From left to right, John Boyce, William Haley, George Hauser and Settimeo Tiberio

Photos of Lafayette Day Events



In front of the Lafayette Monument on the Boston Common

From left to right, George Hauser, Settimeo Tiberio, John Boyce, William Haley, Consul General of France, François Gauthier, and Franklin Simons



Procession on the Boston Common led by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts



The Régiments Saintonge and Bourbonnais fire their muskets on the Boston Common



Alan Hoffman addresses the crowd on the Boston Common

More on Our Fall Event—Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 3:00 p.m



The Neighborhood. Located adjacent to the Dudley Triangle in Roxbury, Shirley Place is a magnificent historic house on approximately one acre of grounds that serves both the surrounding community and Greater Boston. Immediate neighbors include [Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative](#), [YouthBuild Boston](#) and the Ralph Waldo Emerson School. The demographics of the community have changed dramatically since Governor Shirley built his country mansion in bucolic Roxbury. Today the neighborhood is urban and ethnically diverse, with a large number of residents below the official poverty level. Since residents are currently unable to sustain this Landmark property, either through visitations or memberships, we must rely heavily on support from outside the community.

Join us on Sunday for:

- a tour of the carriage house containing the original carriage used to transport Lafayette from Rhode Island to Roxbury;
- a tour of the House;
- a presentation by Fred Detwiller entitled "Massachusetts' Governors Shirley and Eustis House and Its French Connections; and
- some light refreshments

Please r.s.v.p. to Alan Hoffman at 617-951-1817 or by e-mail at arhoffman@lynchbrewer.com by Monday, September 28th.

Directions to the Shirley-Eustis House:

From the North:

Driving south through Boston on the Central Artery (Interstate 93/Route 3), take Exit 18, "Mass. Ave./Roxbury", just after the exit for the Mass. Turnpike. Watch signs carefully on the ramp as it winds through the Big Dig area and makes a right turn at a light. Turn left at the stoplight at Mass. Ave. and proceed one-half mile to Shirley Street on the right, across from the Victoria Restaurant. It is just before the railroad trestle. Turn right onto Shirley Street and proceed four blocks. Shirley Place will be on your left at the top of the hill. You may park on Shirley Street.

From the West:

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to the last (Downtown Boston) exit. Take Rte. 3/Interstate 93 South, then follow directions above.

From Back Bay, Boston:

Take Massachusetts Avenue south past Boston City Medical Center, and continue one-half mile to Shirley Street on the right. It is just before the railroad trestle. Turn right and follow directions above.

Visit the website for directions and maps: <http://www.shirleyeustishouse.org/directions.html>