THE LAFAYETTE PAPERS PROJECT

By PHYLLIS S. PESTIEAU

On behalf of the Lafayette Papers Project, I extend a warm welcome to you all. We are pleased that the American Friends of Lafayette this year chose Cornell as the site for their annual meeting, thus giving us, who have only recently joined the ranks of Fayettists, the opportunity to meet with you, members of a society which has devoted itself to the memory of General Lafayette for over forty years.

Many of you may already be familiar with the Project and its activities through our Director, Dr. Louis Gottschalk, a devoted and inspiring member of both our organizations.

In July of 1971, The Cornell University Libraries submitted a proposal to the National Historical Publications Commission, seeking support for a project which would: 1. bring together in one location photocopies of the papers of General Lafayette, and 2. compile a comprehensive index to such papers. At that time, the number of original Lafayette manuscripts other than those that comprise the Cornell collection could only be conjectured. An overall survey of existing manuscripts and documents in the United States and world-wide, had yet to be attempted.

The basis for establishing such a research program at the Cornell University Libraries was, above all, the existence here of the largest American collection of Lafayetteana, the Arthur H. and Mary Marden Dean Collection. Happily, the National Historical Publications Commission found Cornell's proposal worthy of support, and Dr. Gottschalk agreed to give overall direction to the Project.

By sponsoring the Lafayette Papers Project the Commission recognized the value to this nation of organizing General Lafayette's papers in such a manner as to render them accessible and thus most useful to the scholarly world.

Using as a base for our index the Dean Collection and Dr. Gottschalk's extensive photostat files of Lafayette materials, the Project staff set about the task of canvassing libraries nation-wide for pertinent original manuscripts and documents. We asked first those institutions known to possess such materials for their co-operation in compiling our photocopy file and (Continued on Page 2)

Lafayette's grave at Picpus Cemetery in Paris. Part of the many floral offerings by the American Friends of Lafayette to the grave. Count René de Chambrun stands directly behind the microphones.

The ceremony at Lafayette's grave in Picpus cemetery was attended by many prominent French personalities including the President of the Senate, Alain Poher and the President of the Chambre of Deputies, Edgar Faure. The French Government was represented by Achille Poulard. Others present included the Mayor of Paris, the Prefect of Police, the Military Commander of Paris as well as Jacques Rueff representing the Institut de France. The flag was changed by Admiral Bringle and presented officially to a representative of the D.A.R. Lafayette Chapter of New Jersey.

In his speech of welcome to the new American Ambassador, John Irwin, Count René de Chambrun, President of the French S.A.R., said, "Just 139 years ago, your remote predecessor, Robert Livingston, laid on this tomb a 24-star flag, while behind this low wall, a band organized by the American colony of Paris, played your national anthem, interrupting the eternal silence of this place which prevailed here after the cries of the victims of the Terror. Ever since, all your predecessors have come to this rendezvous. While new friendships are established between countries of different regimes, throughout the world, the sincerity and profoundness of which only time may tell, it is well to state that since the world began, never any country gave to a friendly nation such an example of friendship and fidelity . . ."

Ambassador Irwin thanked Count de Chambrun and said, "The bonds of friendship which Lafayette helped to forge between France and the United States during the American Revolution are today as strong as they were at that time. The ceremony which takes place now is an example of this friendship which has survived nearly two hundred years ... At the very time when we are preparing for the future and to establish peace and prosperity among all people, we must draw our inspiration from the prominent leaders who left us their example. The Marquis de Lafayette was one of those leaders . . ."

Dr. Louis B. Amyot, a former president of the American Friends of Lafayette, placed the flowers presented by the Society on the grave. Count de Chambrun commended Dr. Amyot for his faithfulness in attending the ceremony from year to year.
THE 1973 ANNUAL MEETING

The forty-first annual meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette was held on Friday, May 18, 1973 in the North Room of the Statler Inn on the Cornell University campus at Ithaca, New York. Beginning at noon, the members gathered for a reception followed by luncheon.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the business meeting was called to order by Arthur Gardner, President of the Society, who greeted the members and guests. Mr. Gilbert Elliott, chairman of the nominating committee, was requested to give the report of that committee. The following slate of officers was presented and elected:

Arthur Gardner, President; P. Hairson Seawell, First Vice-President; Louis Gottschalk, Second Vice-President; Robert G. Gennett, Secretary; Frederick A. Spear, Treasurer; K. Roald Berghethon, Curator; Mary-Margaret H. Barr Koon, Editor, GAZETTE.

The Executive Council has the following new members:

Mrs. Robert W. Anderson
Count René de Chambrun
Dr. Mary-Margaret Barr Koon

Mr. Gardner announced that the late Allan P. Kirby, Sr., would be replaced as a member of the Executive Council by his son Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Drew has been named a trustee of the Society. A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Robert W. Anderson who retired as Secretary.

Dr. Spear presented the Treasurer’s report which showed a balance of $1,934.40. The Society voted to make its usual contribution to the Lafayette Preventorium, and its usual announcement in France-Amérique (the French newspaper in the United States, published weekly in New York). The Treasurer requested that the Secretary and Treasurer be authorized to prepare a new roster of members; the last one was printed in 1967. Dr. Spear estimated the cost would be between $200 and $300.

A motion was passed authorizing Drs. Koon and Amyot to represent the Society on July Fourth at Picpus Cemetery in Paris.

Mr. Gardner read a letter from John A. Falcone, Treasurer of Lafayette College, stating that the collections of the American Friends of Lafayette have been appraised and are now adequately covered by the college’s insurance policy.

Officials in Trenton, New Jersey, have been in communication with Mr. Gardner concerning the Bi-centennial Commission projects. Mr. Elliott stated that the American Friends of Lafayette should be represented in any plans of the Bi-

NEW MEMBERS

The Officers and Members of the Executive Council are happy to welcome to the American Friends of Lafayette the following new members:

Mr. George H. Baird (Sustaining) 3161 Huntington Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
Mr. Vincent E. Edmunds 262 Waters Ave., Staten Island, New York 10314
Mr. Paige Lavengood (Student) 156 Cliff Ave.; Pelham, New York 10803
Mr. Norman R. V. Ulery R.R. 3, Box 437; Nashville, Indiana 47448

IN MEMORIAM

Colonel Edward Pierce Hamilton

The Officers and members of the Executive Council announce with profound regret the death of Colonel Edward Pierce Hamilton May 22, 1972. At the time of his passing, he had been a member of the Executive Council for several years. During his military career he served in both World Wars. Later, he made history a vocation, and was well known as an authority on the American colonial period. From 1937 until his death, Colonel Hamilton served as Director of Fort Ticonderoga. His published works include Fort Ticonderoga, The French and Indian Wars, Adventures in the Wilderness or the Journals of Louis Antoine de Bougainville, as well as numerous articles and short histories, including one of Milton, Massachusetts, the town he considered his home.

centennial celebrations. It was suggested that an appeal be placed in the Gazette for ideas as to how the Society might participate.

Mr. Gardner then introduced Mr. C. Herbert Finch, Archivist of Cornell University, who extended greetings from David Kasur, Director of Libraries, to the Society. Mr. Finch introduced staff members of the Lafayette Papers Project, including Mrs. Phyllis S. Pestieau, editor of the Project, who described the methods and progress of the Project.

Following this address, members and guests adjourned to the Olin Library to view an exhibition of materials from the Arthur H. and Mary Marden Dean Collection, and also to visit the offices and working area of the Project.

Mr. Gardner concluded the meeting by expressing the appreciation of the Society to Mr. Finch and Mrs. Pestieau for making this meeting interesting and informative.

Robert G. Gennett, Secretary

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In the passing of Mr. Allan P. Kirby, Sr., the American Friends of Lafayette regret the loss of a member of the Executive Council. The Society extends sympathy to the members of his family. A son, Mr. Allan P. Kirby, Jr., of Morris-town, New Jersey, has been named to the Executive Council in his father’s stead.

LAFAYETTE PAPERS PROJECT

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have otherwise remained undiscovered and unknown to the public. As our first and primary collecting phase draws to a close, we feel we are well on the way toward organizing the vast amount of Lafayette material found in public institutions in the United States in a way which will eventually reach, and, hopefully, assist Lafayette scholars and enthusiasts in their research.

During the second year of the Project, another phase began, one that would give the future of our own Lafayette research an international scope. This phase was characterized by an accord reached between the Cornell University Libraries and the Archives de France. When Mr. Dean obtained the Lafayette collection from France in 1963, portions of it were microfilmed for the Archives nationales, to be then made available to French scholars. At that time there was a general understanding between the Cornell University Libraries and the Archives de France that future co-operative efforts would be envisioned for an International project dealing with the Lafayette archives at the two institutions.

During this year, the implicit understanding has been worked into an explicit plan for a joint program to index the Lafayette papers in the United States and France. It was proposed and agreed that, in the interests of international scholarship, our Project and the Archives de France would join in efforts to produce a two-part finding list of the correspondence and selected documents of Lafayette. The Cornell-based project would continue to canvass American collections. Simultaneously, the Archives de France would sponsor a search of the public repositories in France, including the vast national and departmental archives, with a view to compiling an index of their findings. As we continue working with the Archives de France, we can only hope that such a co-operative effort will serve to further the goals of international accord and scholarship.

Because of the encouraging results obtained by our Project, a plan to further promote Lafayette scholarship was conceived. A proposal is currently under consideration by the National Historical Publications Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities to sponsor a publication project at the Cornell University Libraries. A multi-volume letterpress publication is proposed under the general title of "Lafayette and the Age of the American Revolution." Documents for such a publication would be selected from the Arthur H. and Mary Marden Dean Collection, from material collected by the Lafayette Papers Project, and from other materials made available by private collectors. From all documents that can be studied, those that best exemplify and explain the career and ideals of Lafayette in his special relationship to the whole era of the American Revolution would be selected for publication. We shall also continue working on our index, with a view to eventual publication, relying to a greater extent on the generosity and cooperation of private manuscript collectors. We are all hopeful that the National Historical Publications Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities will find the proposed publication project worthy of their support.

In conclusion, it is fitting to give a brief note on the provenance of the Lafayette collection at Cornell University. In 1963, the University, through Arthur H. and Mary Marden Dean, acquired the "Fabius" Collection of manuscript material concerning General Lafayette. Originally housed at Lafayette's birthplace, the Château de Chavaniac, the collection was assembled by Emanuel Fabius, the Paris bookseller and Lafayette enthusiast. The Dean Collection was further expanded in 1966 by the acquisition of a large part of the Blancheteau Collection, which included graphics dealing with Lafayette's career, as well as manuscript and printed material. Many of you are doubtless familiar with the fine catalogue published in 1934, when the Blancheteau Collection was exhibited in Paris. From these two major collections, which number over 10,000 items, are drawn the representative manuscripts now on display in Olin Library, here at Cornell University.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Members of the American Friends of Lafayette who were able to attend the annual meeting held in Wilmington were possibly frustrated by the lack of time to see all the memorabilia concerning Lafayette and the du Pont family. The Winterthur Museum published in 1957 a brochure entitled Lafayette, the Nation's Guest, now out of print, but probably available in numerous libraries. There are numerous illustrations.

Pierre Jolly is the author of Du Pont de Nemours, Soldat de la Liberté, which was published in Paris, in 1936. There are many references to the family's acquaintance with Lafayette. Unfortunately, there is no index.

The French provinces frequently offer unusual publications. In 1968 there was published an illustrated brochure by Jean-Pierre Kerneis entitled Adrien Jean Pierre Fabré, chirurgien navigans, compagnon de La Fayette.
The location of the French Cemetery was another example in point. The early maps showed the general location of the Cemetery but the exact location of the graves was unknown. When Lafayette visited the site of the French Cemetery in 1824, he did not recognize it. He recollected the spot as being in a fenced corner, near some cedar trees and hedge-rows, but the area had become thickly wooded with no identifications. Subsequent examinations, however, revealed evidences of what had been hedge-rows. Careful excavations and research were undertaken. Cross-sections were dug in search of skeletons or other remains. After considerable work, it was reported that some bones had been found together with some buttons. The bone relics were submitted to a doctor who pronounced them parts of human bodies. Acting on such evidence, the Daughters of the American Revolution, led by the DeGrasse Chapter at Yorktown, Virginia, then erected a wooden cross on the site for the first time. It is reported that this took place about 1926.

France-Yorktown Inc., more than forty years later, undertook to pay homage to those heroes from far-off France, and succeeded, with private funds, in the plan to erect a fitting permanent memorial on the Battlefield. Actually, such a memorial developed into two separate undertakings in different locations. At the French Cemetery now stands a marble cross inspired by the crosses of the American Military Cemeteries in France. A bronze tablet on a granite slab directly in front of the cross reads: "Ici repose une cinquantaine de soldats inconnus français morts à Yorktown pour l’indépendance américaine."

At the French Trench on a nearby site of the Battlefield, one finds another bronze tablet placed on a granite slab. This tablet is dedicated to all the French land and naval forces who served between 1778 and 1783 in the struggle for American independence. This area marks the spot where George Washington, on October 9, 1781, gave the signal to the French Regiment Touraine to start the final attack on the Royal Welsh Fusiliers of Lord Cornwallis. This memorial is a reproduction of the tablet placed in the joint headquarters of the Federation of French War Veterans and of the Central Committee of French Societies in New York City on October 19, 1965.

Dr. Jules L. Pierre, founder and President of France-Yorktown, Inc., secured the wealth of information presented on this tablet from various sources. The documentation was obtained from the official files of the National Archives, the Archives of the War Ministry, and from the records published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1903. The text contains the official lists of French officers, soldiers and sailors who participated in combat during the Revolution in the various naval and land units. The tabulations reveal the names of the various regiments and fleets. In summary, the records show a total of 12,680 men having served actively with the French land forces and 31,497 in the naval forces, or a total of 44,177 men. The total losses amounted to 5,040.

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YORKTOWN DAY — 1971

By Dr. Jules L. Pierre

Beginning at an early hour on the morning of October 19th, the little city of Yorktown responded with the roll of drums and bugle calls, announcing the celebration of the 190th anniversary of the victory of October 19, 1781. An unusual number of cars and buses loaded with passengers rolled down the road from Williamsburg to Yorktown carrying visitors from all parts of the United States and an impressive number from France under the sponsorship of Souvenir Francais. The Information Center was the rendezvous and after the arrival of the French Ambassador, Monsieur Charles Lucet, the procession started out for the French cemetery. The small wooden cross had been replaced by a handsome cross of white Carrara marble. In front of this cross, a bronze tablet bears the inscription, "Here lie 30 unknown French soldiers killed at Yorktown for American independence." These memorials are the result of long years of effort on the part of France-Yorktown, Inc., a committee created for the purpose of paying a lasting and worthy tribute to the soldiers and sailors of France who sacrificed their lives at Yorktown.

The chaplain of the Souvenir Francais offered an appropriate prayer; then Dr. Pierre recited his poem "Une Minute de Silence."

Ambassador Lucet made a moving address which was followed by taps. After several wreaths were placed at the foot of the cross, the procession set out for the section of the battlefield called the "French Trench."

It was from this location that the French troops attacked the English lines in 1781. The Department of the Interior at Washington presented this site to France-Yorktown for placing the French memorial consisting of an impressive bronze plaque with the inscription: "To the memory of French expedi- tory forces of the War for American independence, who from France for the service of the United States and an impressive number of cars and buses loaded with passengers rolled down the road from Williamsburg to Yorktown carrying visitors from all parts of the United States and an impressive number from France under the sponsorship of Souvenir Francais. The Information Center was the rendezvous and after the arrival of the French Ambassador, Monsieur Charles Lucet, the procession started out for the French cemetery. The small wooden cross had been replaced by a hand- some cross of white Carrara marble. In front of this cross, a bronze tablet bears the inscription, "Here lie 30 unknown French soldiers killed at Yorktown for American independence."

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