

Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette

ALAN R. HOFFMAN'S BOOK BELONGS ON YOUR BOOKSHELF

Alan R. Hoffman, Esq., who became a member of The Friends of Lafayette about three years ago, joins the list of authors who have written books about "The Hero of Two Worlds" – Lafayette.

Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, Journal of a Voyage to the United States, is not the usual biography that has been published in the past.

Actually, most of the contents of this 603 page book were written by Auguste Levasseur, General Lafayette's secretary. He has a B.A. in history from Yale University and a J. D. degree from Harvard Law School. He resides in Londonderry, New Hampshire, and practices law in Boston.

Levasseur's eyes and ears didn't miss a thing. The multi-month tour was recorded in great detail. For example, during the 1824 visit to Albany he notes that the approach was at night and a river had to be crossed. A large moveable bridge called *Horseback* accommodated the two carriages harnessed to four horses. They were escorted by about 30 cavalymen along with 150 pedestrians who were aboard and made the crossing to the booming of cannon. Mayor Spencer welcomed Lafayette with an appropriate speech to which the famous visitor responded. Incidentally, Caroline Lareuse, member of The American Friends of Lafayette, told us that Spencer was her great-great grandfather.

A lot of American history was written by Levasseur as he recorded what he saw. Here's a bit of information that he wrote. When Lafayette visited General Andrew Jackson's residence, a sword and a pair of pistols were visible. Jackson offered them to Lafayette asking his guest if he recognized them. After an examination of the weapons, Lafayette recalled that he had presented

them to Washington in 1778 "and that he felt true satisfaction in finding them in the hands of a man so worthy of such a legacy."

An example of Lafayette's versatility was chronicled when the nobleman came face to face with Red Jacket, the Chief of the Seneca Nation. It was recalled that they had been at Fort Schuyler in 1784. Red Jacket preferred to speak his language despite the fact that he had a good understanding of English. Red Jacket refused to answer the questions proffered by Lafayette until they had been translated into Seneca by his interpreter. Lafayette recalled some Indian words he had learned and spoke them in front of the chief. Red Jacket "increased very much the high opinion that he already had of Lafayette in his mind."

Lafayette's son, George Washington, accompanied his father through the 24 states visited. We can imagine the thrill he experienced in New York city when he was allowed to work a hand tub which was fighting a fire.

This book is unique and is an account that would not have been made if Levasseur had not made this trip. We have read at least one account of this visit which has been helpful in researching the miles covered. However, we have not read any work as comprehensive as this translation from the French by Alan R. Hoffman.

The book, which contains illustrations, indexed and has a map of the region involved was published by the Lafayette Press, Inc. of Manchester, NH. It is priced at only \$30 plus \$5 shipping by communicating with Mr. Hoffman at Lafayette in America, Order Department, 45 Hardy Road, Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053, or by e-mail: atarhesq@aol.com



FRENCH FRIGATE LA FAYETTE CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARIES WITH VISITS TO U.S. PORTS

The French Navy frigate La Fayette arrived in New Orleans on June 5 for a 4-day port of call honoring both the 250th anniversary of its namesake, the Marquis de La Fayette, and the 63rd anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.



The ship is a state-of-the-art La Fayette class stealth frigate. We hailed this ship in our May 1999 issue of the Gazette (No. 61). During the visit Commander Jean Philippe Rolland presented four American veterans of World War II with the Legion d'Honneur, the highest military honor of France. The ceremony took place aboard the ship with the French Consul General in New Orleans, Pierre Lebovics, expressing "our gratitude, our pride and our admiration."

Upon completion of its visit to New Orleans other visits were made to the ports of Tampa, FL, Savannah, GA, and Norfolk, VA.

—News from France, publication sent by Caroline Lareuse.

In Memoriam

We are saddened with the report that one of our most dedicated members, Anne Buchanan Hazen, died on December 20, at Newport News, Virginia. She was 89 years old.

She attended the Georgetown/Charleston, South Carolina meeting in 2003. Her husband, Edwin Phillips Hazen, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, died on May 1, 2002.