

Hi Caitlin- Thank you for your guidance and assistance in filing for MPC approval of this important Lafayette historical marker. Below are the required notes on this application.

- 1) This request is for the placement of a Lafayette historical marker that commemorates his visit to Savannah on March 19-21, 1825. Lafayette was the last surviving General of the revolutionary war when he toured 24 states over 13 months in 1824-25. Thus, in 2025 we will be celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his visit. I have sent and will resend a complete summary of Lafayette's importance to the American revolution in a PDF. This information is in the form of 6 museum quality panels that will tour Savannah and Georgia to educate the public about Lafayette and his tour of Savannah and Georgia. We will recreate Lafayette's visit to Savannah on March-21-22, 2025 with a parade, receptions, speeches and toasts and hopefully we will dedicate the historical marker then. We will provide a Lafayette trained actor and will pay his expenses while in Savannah. We hope for good press coverage with local TV, magazines, and newspapers.
- 2) The marker will be provided to Savannah at no charge, and we hope to have the associated fees waived by City Council. However, we will pay appropriate escrow and installation fees if required. The marker is provided free by the Pomeroy Foundation and follows the layout of similar markers that have already been placed in 140 locations across the USA.
- 3) The Savannah marker will say' On March 19-21, 1825, Lafayette arrived in Savannah and laid the corner stones for the Greene and Pulaski monuments and stayed at Ms. Maxwells house".
- 4) A map and photo of the location has been provided and I recently met with Gordon Denny in Johnson Square to pinpoint the location. It is 8 feet east of the SAR 250 bench (towards Christ Church) and three feet south into the lirioppe grass off the walkway.
- 5) Thanks!
- 6) John Trussell, American friends of Lafayette, Georgia Steering Committee
- 7) Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Chairman, PR Committee  
478-957-7411



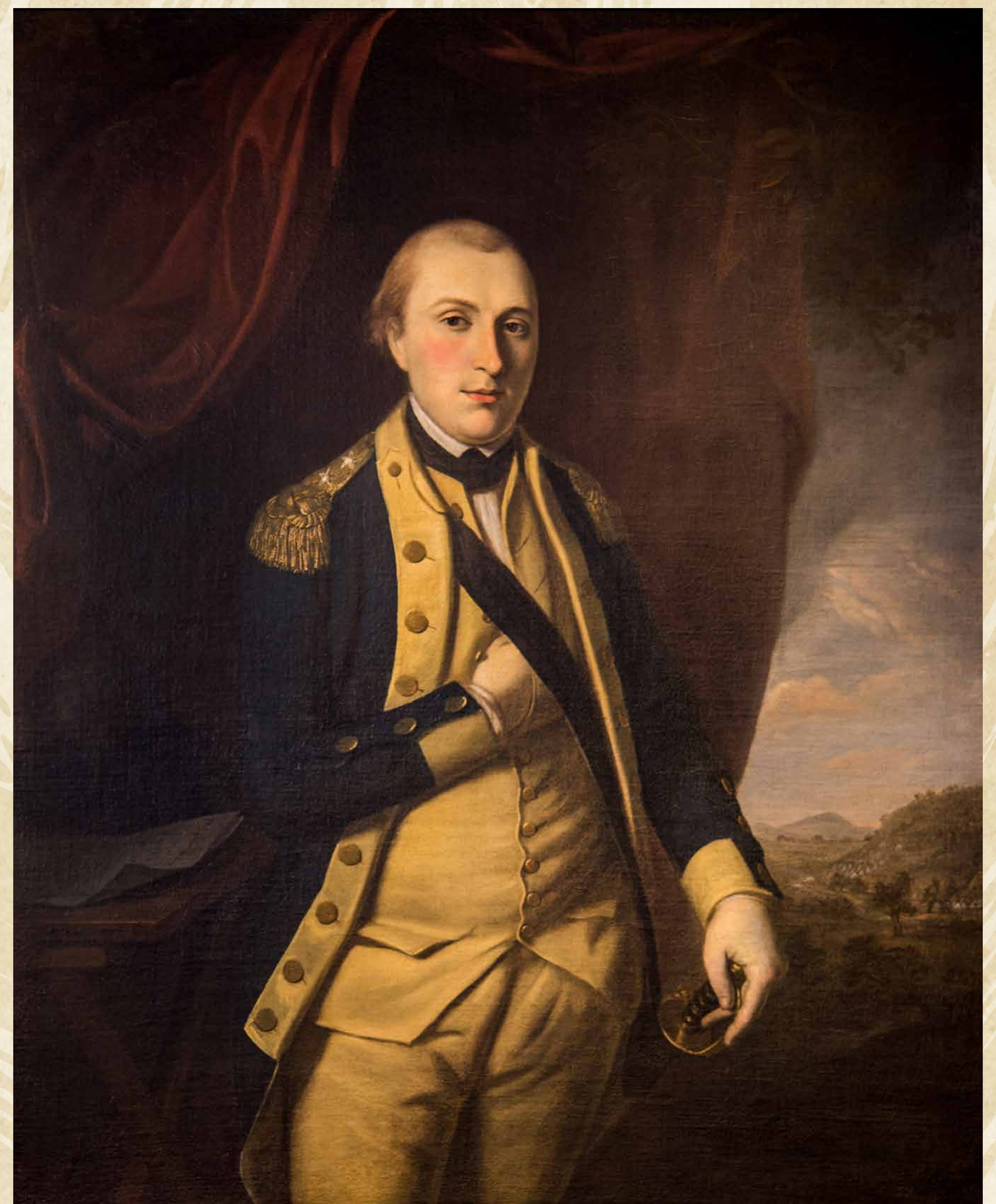
# The Marquis de Lafayette

## A 19-YEAR-OLD FRENCHMAN VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

**M**arquis de Lafayette was born on September 6, 1757 into a noble and wealthy family in Chavaniac, France. At age 16, he married Adrienne de Noailles, the daughter of the wealthy and influential Duc D'Ayen. This union gained the 18-year-old Lafayette a position as captain in his father-in-law's Noailles Dragoons.

In 1775, while training in Metz, Lafayette met the Comte de Broglie who invited him to join the Freemasons, a group who promoted the ideas of free-thought and the ideals of the Enlightenment. This prompted Lafayette to join similar groups in Paris and to advocate for the rights of man, including the abolition of slavery.

The conflict in British North America became open warfare in 1775. Lafayette, realizing that the ideals of the "American Cause" reflected his own, was determined to volunteer in the Continental Army. His father-in-law refused his approval. Eventually, King Louis XVI prohibited all French officers from serving in America.



Portrait of Marquis de Lafayette, Charles Willson Peale, oil on canvas, 1779. COURTESY OF MUSEUMS AT WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA



Madame de La Fayette

From a Miniature in the possession of the Family

This etching of Adrienne de Noailles, Madame de Lafayette shows her at the time of her wedding to Lafayette in 1774. She was 14-years old and Lafayette was 16.

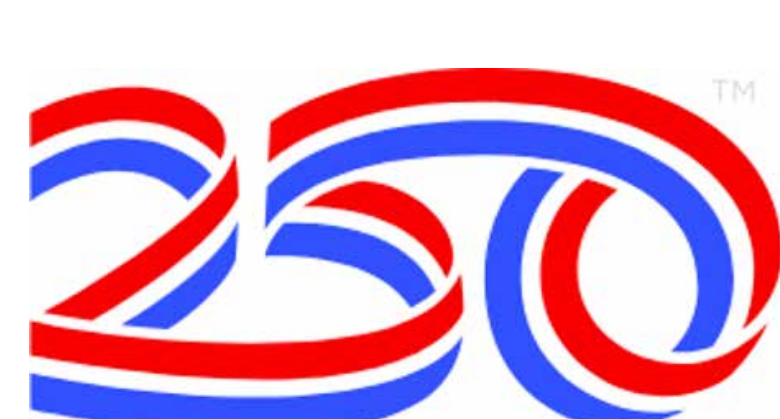
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & COLLEGE ARCHIVES, SKILLMAN LIBRARY, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Undeterred, Lafayette met with Silas Deane, an American agent hired by Congress to recruit foreign officers. On December 7, 1776, Deane offered Lafayette a commission as a major general in the Continental Army. As Congress could not afford to provide transportation, Lafayette purchased his own ship, *La Victoire*, for the voyage to America.

Lafayette recruited 12 officers and, using a disguise, evaded the French authorities. After escaping to Spain, the group sailed for America on April 20, 1777.

*“His personal merit, his reputation... and above all his zeal for the Liberty of our Provinces... engage me to promise him the Rank of Major General.”*

Silas Deane, December 7, 1776

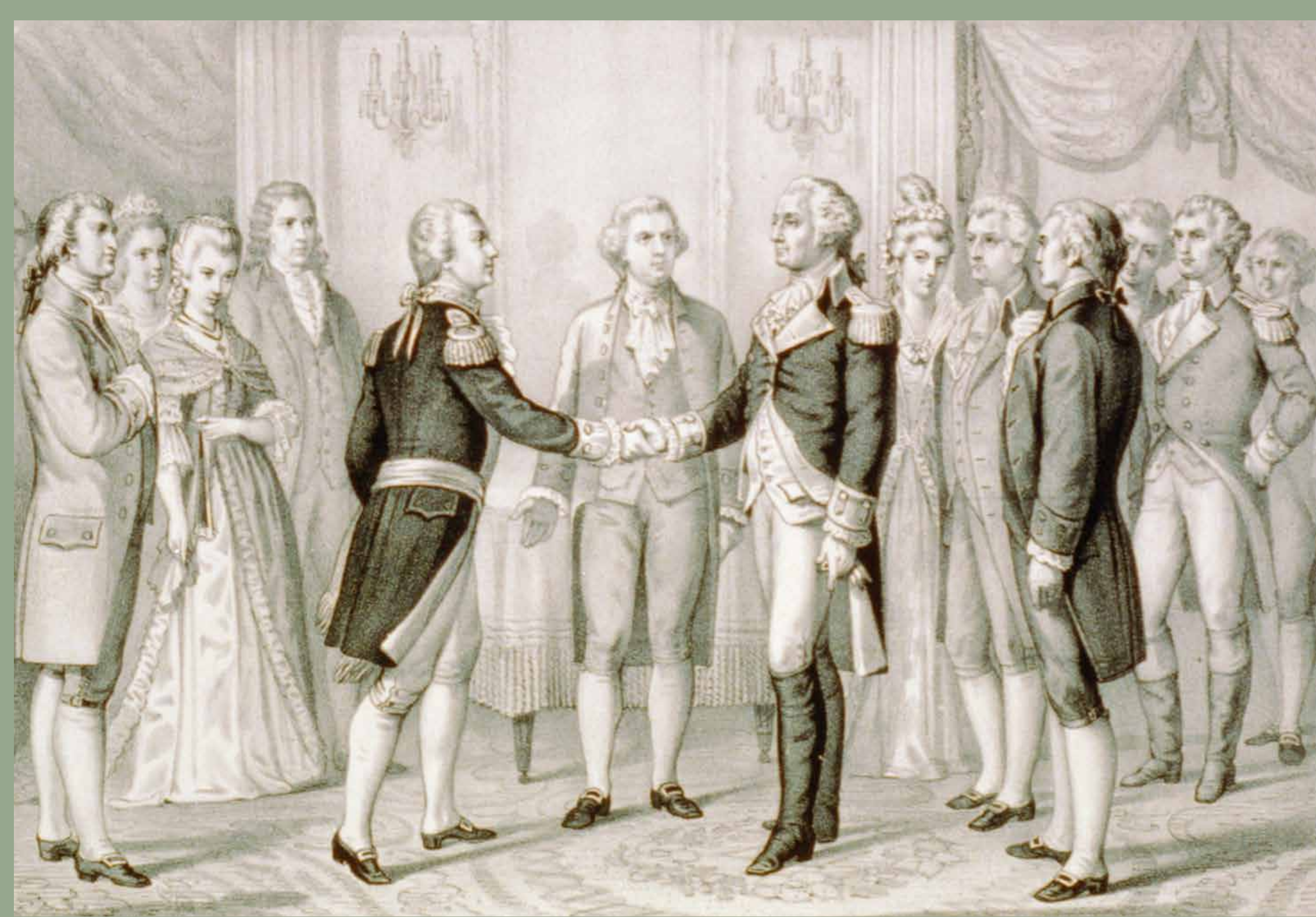




# The American Revolution

## LAFAYETTE IS COMMISSIONED AS A MAJOR GENERAL IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

Congress initially rejected Lafayette's request to join the Continental Army. In response, the 19-year-old offered to serve without pay. Lafayette's efforts were further supported by his Masonic and family connections, as well as a letter signed by Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane. Lafayette was appointed a major general on July 31, 1777. On that day, General George Washington and Lafayette first met at City Tavern in Philadelphia. Washington asked Lafayette to "join his military family." This began their close and lifelong friendship.



*The first meeting of Washington and Lafayette: Philadelphia, July 31, 1777.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

### LAFAYETTE'S SERVICE TO AMERICA: 1777-1778

SEPTEMBER 11, 1777

Wounded in action at the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 25, 1777

Battle of Gloucester, New Jersey

DECEMBER 1777

Wintered with Washington at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

MAY 1778

Battle of Barren Hill, Pennsylvania

JUNE 1778

Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey



*This early 1900s painting by John Ward Dunsmore shows Washington and Lafayette on horseback at Valley Forge in 1777.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In July 1778, Lafayette was dispatched to Rhode Island to aid General John Sullivan with his efforts against the British. The operation required cooperation with the French fleet commanded by Admiral Comte d'Estaing. However, d'Estaing departed for Boston to repair his ships after they were damaged in a storm and by shelling during an engagement with the British fleet. This angered the Americans who felt abandoned by their French ally. Lafayette tried to mediate. Concerned about the Franco-American alliance and being homesick, Lafayette returned to France. He was briefly placed under house arrest for his earlier disobedience to the king. Upon release, Lafayette worked with Benjamin Franklin eventually convincing the king to increase French support of the "American Cause."

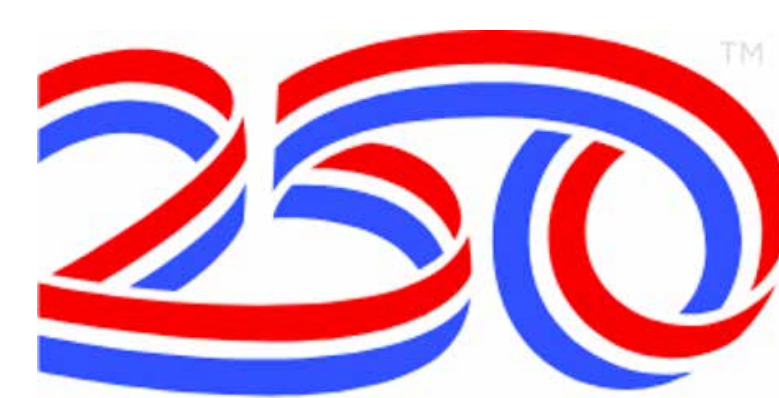


*The wounding of Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine is depicted in this mid-19th century engraving by Charles Henry Jeens.*

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & COLLEGE ARCHIVES, SKILLMAN LIBRARY, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

*"He left behind him a most beautiful young wife... to fight in American wilderness for American Liberty!"*

Richard Henry Lee, August 19, 1777



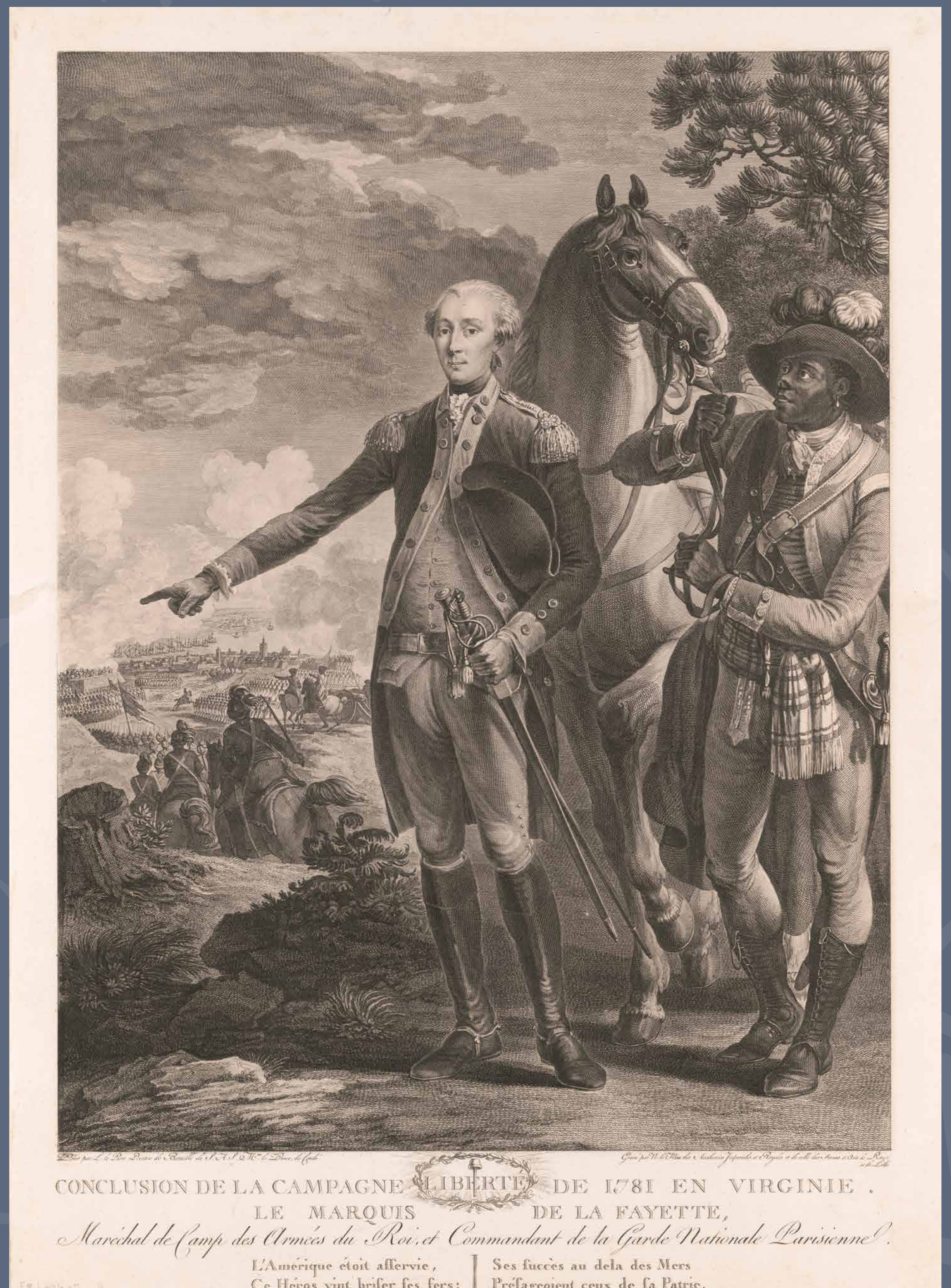


# France Supports the American Cause

## THE VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN

Lafayette returned to America in April 1780. French reinforcements arrived on July 11 under the command of General Rochambeau. In early 1781, General Washington sent Lafayette to Virginia with 1,200 Continental soldiers. His mission was to deter the British, capture the turncoat General Benedict Arnold, and coordinate with the French fleet in the Chesapeake Bay. Meanwhile, General Charles Cornwallis took command of the British forces in Virginia, and in June 1781 prepared to cross the James River to establish control of a deep-water port in southeastern Virginia.

On July 6, 1781, Lafayette sent General “Mad Anthony” Wayne to assess British positions along the James River. After joining Wayne at Green Spring near Jamestown, Virginia, Lafayette learned that Cornwallis’ troops were in the area. Believing it was a small rear guard, Lafayette ordered Wayne to attack, only to find a much larger British force in waiting.



This circa 1783 engraving shows Lafayette directing American troops during the Battle of Yorktown.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



This 1781 pen-and-ink and watercolor map showing the Battle of Green Spring was drawn by Jean Nicolas Desandrouins, an engineer with the French Army of General Rochambeau.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Continental Army was saved when Wayne ordered a bayonet charge which halted the British advance. During the engagement, Lafayette barely escaped capture or worse when his horse was shot from under him.

Toward the end of the summer, Lafayette finally cornered Cornwallis in Yorktown. Meanwhile, General Washington learned that a French fleet, under the command of Admiral Comte de Grasse, was sailing towards Virginia. Seeing an opportunity, Washington mobilized the American and French forces and marched from New York toward Virginia. If allied troops and the French fleet worked together, there was a chance they could trap Cornwallis at Yorktown.

*“You ask my opinion of the Virginia Campaign?  
Be assured, my dear Marquis, your  
conduct meets my warmest approbation,  
as it must that of every body..”*

George Washington, July 30, 1781





# The Siege of Yorktown – 1781

## THE BATTLE OF THE CAPES, AN AMERICAN SPY, AND THE BRITISH SURRENDER

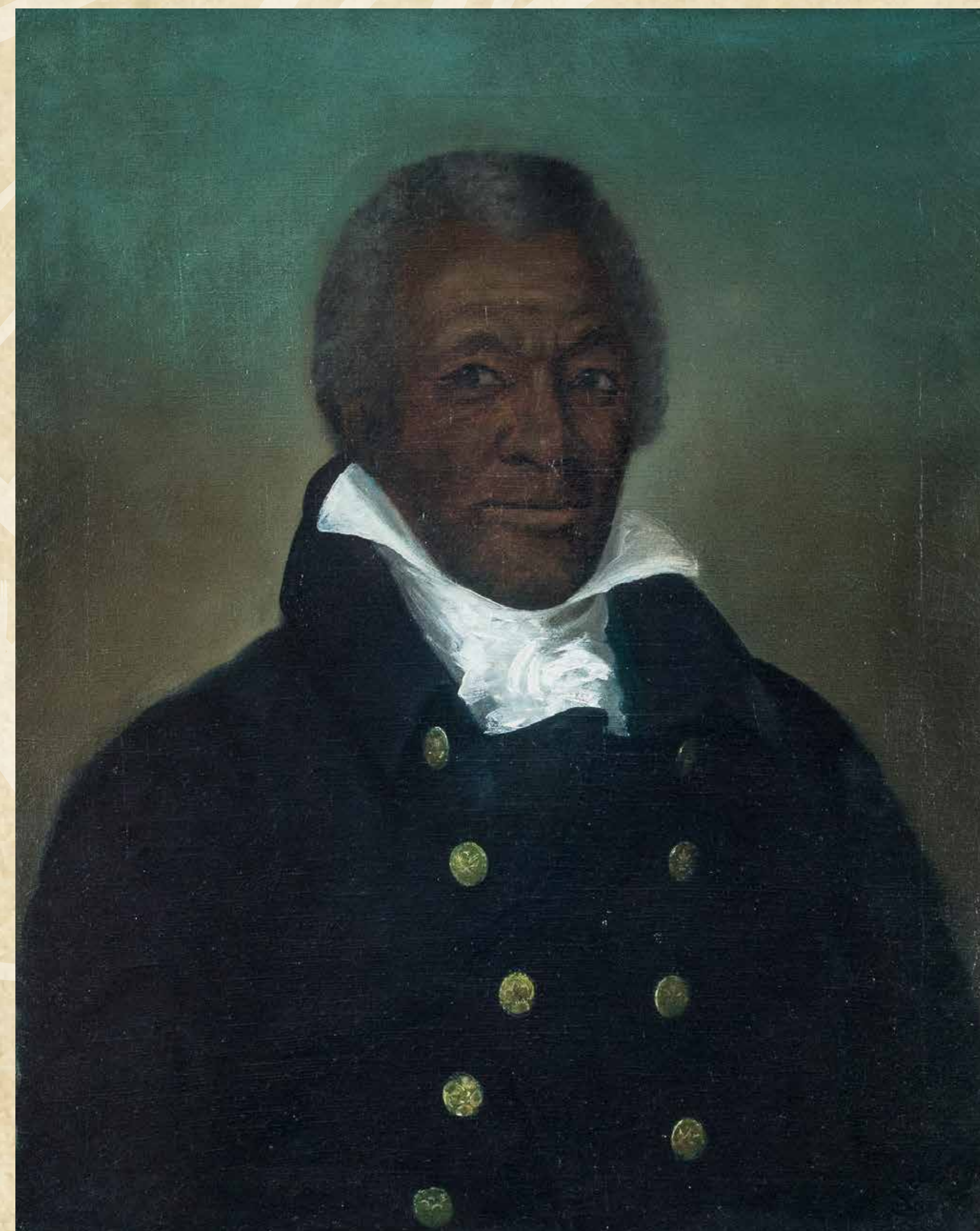
On September 5, 1781, one of the most important naval battles in American history took place near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Known as the Battle of the Capes, this engagement between the French and British fleets technically resulted in a stalemate; both sides sustaining heavy damage. The British ships returned to New York, leaving the French fleet in control of Chesapeake Bay.



*This 1962 painting by artist V. Zveg depicts the September 5, 1781 Battle of the Capes. The French fleet (at left), commanded by Vice Admiral the Comte de Grasse, engaging the British fleet (at right). The French successfully prevented the British fleet from entering Chesapeake Bay.*

U.S. NAVY ART COLLECTION, WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Meanwhile, Lafayette had placed a spy in the British camp. James, an enslaved Virginian owned by William Armistead Jr., posed as a runaway and became a servant of the turncoat Benedict Arnold and later



*Despite helping the Continental Army as a double-agent, James Armistead remained enslaved following the war. Lafayette assisted him by writing a recommendation for his freedom, which was granted in 1787. In gratitude, James adopted Lafayette's surname. This oil on canvas was painted by John B. Martin around 1824.*

COURTESY OF THE VALENTINE MUSEUM

Cornwallis. During the summer and early fall, James traveled freely between the British and American camps. As a double agent, he passed helpful intelligence to Lafayette and misleading information to the British.

Allied forces arrived in Yorktown in September, setting up siege lines around the British defenses. General Washington placed Lafayette in charge of the Continental Army Light Infantry Division. On the night of October 14, Lafayette's forces attacked. A division of 400 men led by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton captured Redoubt #10 as French forces captured Redoubt #9. These victories allowed allied forces to advance within 50 yards of British troops. Surrounded on the battlefield and with the French fleet blocking his escape, Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781. The Battle of Yorktown was the last major conflict of the American Revolution.



*This painting, Surrender of Lord Cornwallis, by John Trumbull is on display in the Rotunda of the US Capitol. Trumbull painted this version between 1819 and 1820, basing it upon a small painting that he had first envisioned in 1785.*

YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

In January 1782, Lafayette sailed home to France on the frigate USS *Alliance*. He was received at the Court of Versailles by King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette and congratulated for his military service. On September 3, 1783, American and British representatives signed the Treaty of Paris, officially ending the American Revolution and formally recognizing American independence.

*“You have made a most glorious campaign, Monsieur le Marquis. Our old warriors admire you; the young ones want to take you as a model...”*

French Minister of War, the Marquis de Segur, December 5, 1781





# Guest of the Nation

## 13 MONTHS, 24 STATES, 6,000 MILES—LAFAYETTE RETURNS TO AMERICA

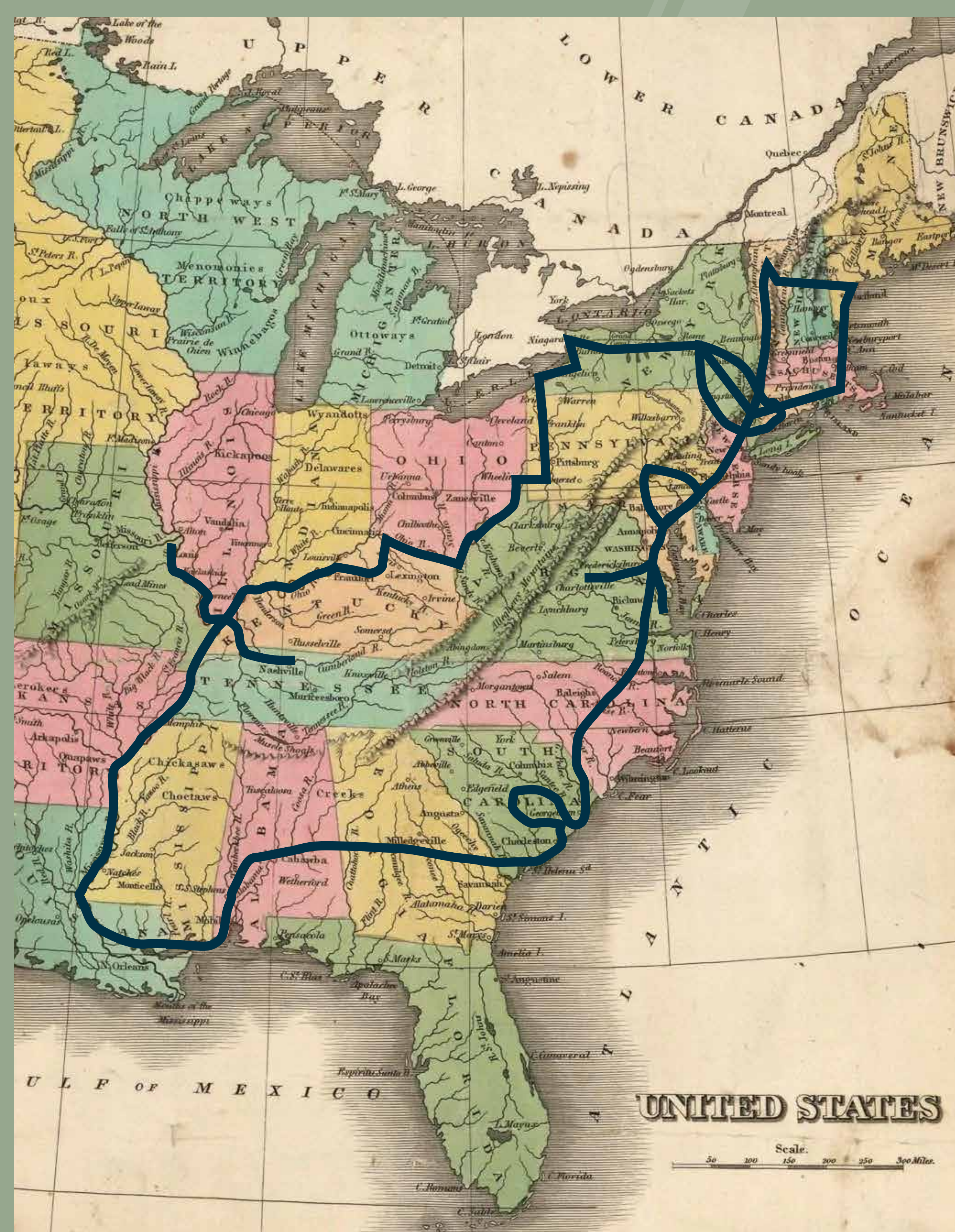
In 1824, President James Monroe invited Lafayette, the last surviving major general of the Continental Army, to visit the United States as an official “Guest of the Nation.” As veterans of the American Revolution passed away and the nation approached its 50th anniversary, President Monroe hoped the 67-year-old Lafayette might inspire the “Spirit of 1776” in American citizens.

Lafayette’s final trip to America lasted 13 months. He visited all the then existing 24 states and was the first foreign dignitary to address a Joint Session of Congress. Traveling an estimated 6,000 miles, he was hosted by countless cities and towns, including New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and “Washington City.” Lafayette met with former Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, and Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams. He was given a hero’s welcome everywhere he visited. Lavish parties, parades, and speeches celebrated his heroism, fame, and relationship with George Washington.



*This full-length portrait of Lafayette was presented to the US House of Representatives by French artist Ary Scheffer in 1824. Today, the portrait hangs near the rostrum, to the Speaker’s left, as it has since the opening of the current House Chamber.*

COLLECTION OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



*Lafayette traveled over 6,000 miles during 1824–1825 while visiting the United States as “Guest of the Nation.”*

Lafayette departed “Washington City,” on September 7, 1825, aboard the newly commissioned frigate *Brandywine*. He lived out the remainder of his days in France. Lafayette died on May 20, 1834 and was buried next to his wife, Adrienne, in Picpus Cemetery in Paris. His casket was covered with American soil collected from Bunker Hill. Since the 1850s, an American flag has flown over Lafayette’s gravesite, remaining undisturbed even during the Nazi occupation of France during World War II.

In 2002, Lafayette was proclaimed an honorary citizen of the United States, one of only eight people so honored. Today, streets, cities, and parks across America are named after Lafayette.

*“Heaven saw fit to ordain, that the electric spark of liberty should be conducted, through you, from the New World to the Old.”*

Daniel Webster addressing Lafayette at Bunker Hill, June 17, 1825





# Lafayette's Legacy Lives On

## MILITARY SERVICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

Lafayette's legacy extends beyond his military service to include a lifelong commitment to human rights. His earliest concern was for the enslaved men and women he encountered during the American Revolution. By the mid-1780s, Lafayette was a committed anti-slavery activist. He purchased plantations in French Guiana to experiment with gradual emancipation. Joining anti-slavery societies on both sides of the Atlantic, he frequently corresponded with leading political figures about abolition. In 1791, he was influential in passing a decree in the French National Assembly giving limited rights of citizenship to free men of color in French colonies.



During his 1824–1825 return to America, Lafayette made many symbolic gestures that conveyed his interest in the welfare of African Americans, including visiting the African Free School in New York City, shaking hands with black veterans of the War of 1812 in New Orleans, and greeting slaves and free blacks he had known during the Revolution.

ABOVE  
Bronze medal by Pierre Turin (1891–1968) commemorating the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's birth. Lafayette's legacy as a champion of liberty for all is well expressed by this medal, which uses the sword, the broken shackles, and his motto "Cur Non" (Why Not) to evoke his ideals and spirit.

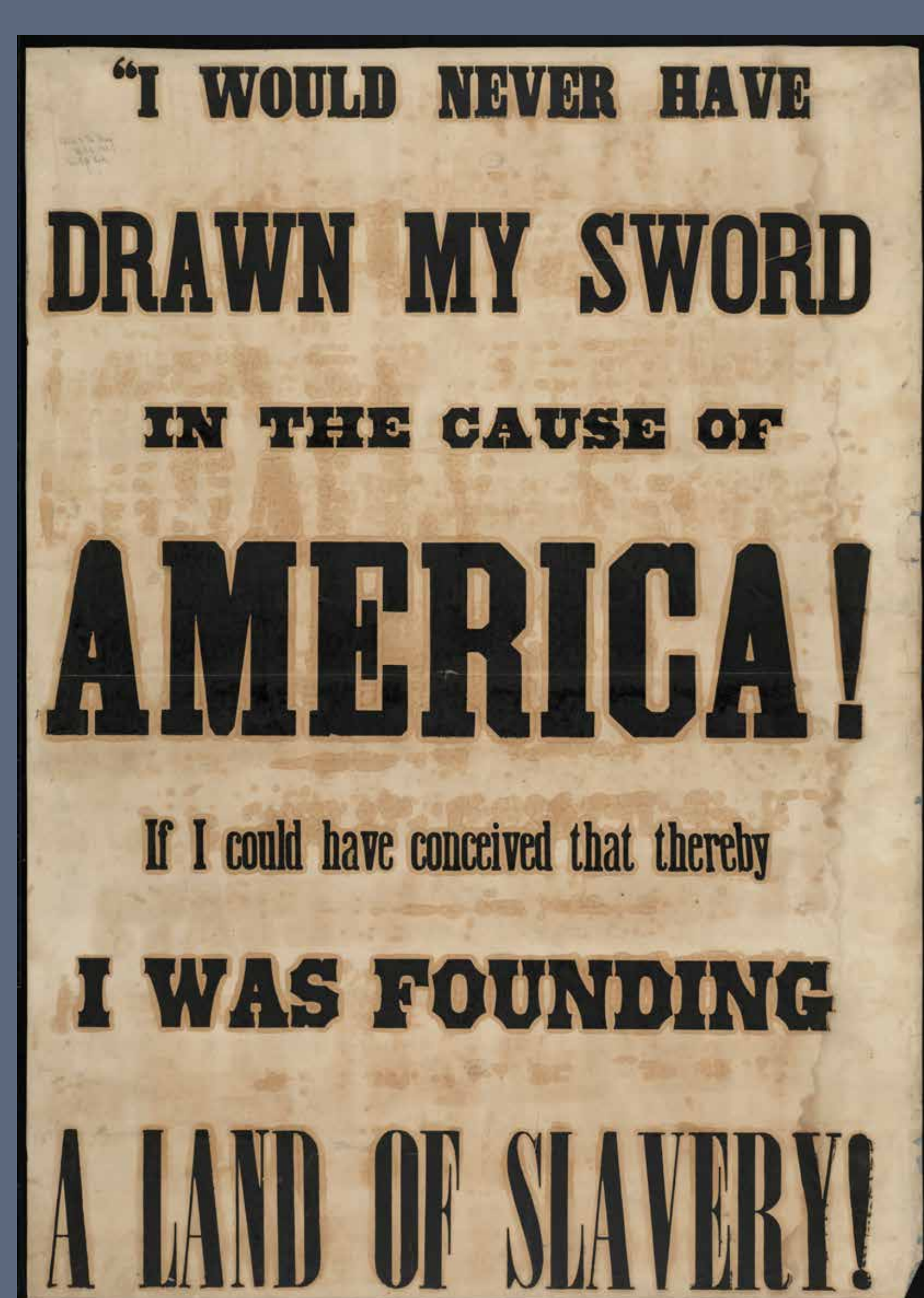
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GIFT OF GILBERT DE PUSY LAFAYETTE, 2000

The anti-slavery movement was just one of many human rights causes Lafayette supported. He lobbied for the restoration of civil rights to French Protestants and Jews; supported and promoted women writers and reformers; was a friend to Native Americans; and opposed both solitary confinement and the death penalty.

The American Friends of Lafayette (AFL) was established in 1932. With over 900 members, the mission of the AFL is to honor the entirety of Lafayette's legacy through civic engagement, education, and scholarship. The society is one of the original sponsors of the Yorktown Day Celebration held every October 19th. Since 1946, the organization has participated in the annual July 4th ceremony at Lafayette's gravesite in Paris.

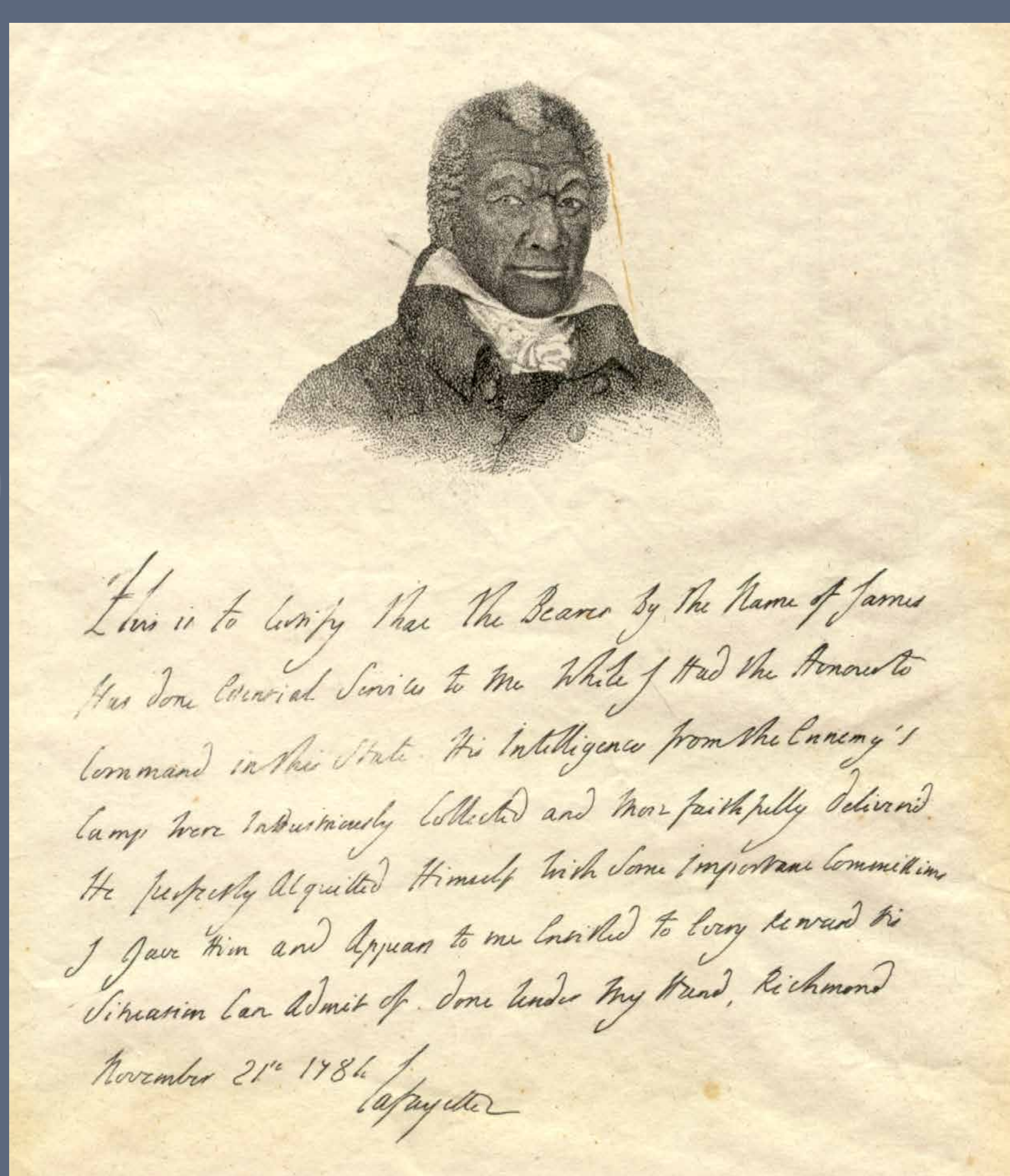
Throughout 2024–2025, the AFL will host educational programming across the United States and in France to commemorate the bicentennial of Lafayette's return as "Guest of the Nation."

For information about membership and events, visit [friendsoflafayette.org](http://friendsoflafayette.org)



This statement was attributed to Lafayette by British abolitionist Thomas Clarkson and published in *The Liberator* in 1846.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, ANTI-SLAVERY COLLECTION



While in Richmond, Lafayette wrote this testimonial praising James and his service as a spy during the American Revolution. This document helped James win his freedom in 1787. In tribute, James adopted the surname Lafayette. The portrait above was drawn by John Blennerhassett Martin, circa 1824.

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*"Every slave clearly has a natural right to immediate emancipation, whether it is given to him or whether he seizes it by force, this cannot be doubted."*

Marquis de Lafayette, May 11, 1823





**From:** [John Trussell](#)  
**To:** [historic](#); [Caitlin Chamberlain](#); [Luciana Spracher](#); [Gordon Denney](#); [John Trussell](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: The latest Brochure with SAR added  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:10:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outside bjb.png](#)  
[Inside bjb.png](#)

Hi MPC - Please include this brochure in our application package for Lafayette marker in Johnson Square.. This is the brochure we are distributing to highlight the 2025 Lafayette tour, to include Savannah. Thanks!

John Trussell, American Friends of Lafayette, Georgia steering committee  
 Ga SAR , PR Committee 478-957-7411



*Lafayette waves to Georgians from the balcony of Mrs. Maxwell's balcony where he resided during his Savannah visit.  
Artist Preston Russell.*

*A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF  
Lafayette's Itinerary  
1825 in Georgia*

**Savannah Mar. 19-21, 1825**  
 Arrives by steamship at Yamacraw bluff. Honored with speeches and parade. Overnights at Mrs. Maxwell's House. March 21 parade to Johnson Square. Lays cornerstone for Nathaniel Greene monument, then to Chippewa Square. Lays cornerstone for Casimir Pulaski. Meets with the Masons, departs for Augusta on steamship Altamaha.

**Augusta Mar. 23-24, 1825**  
 Welcoming parade, greeting ceremony and dinner. Ball at City Hall, retires to Planter Hotel. March 24 attends a banquet, visits the Masonic Hall, attends Ball at Planters Hotel.

**Warrenton & Sparta Mar. 25-26, 1825**  
 In Warrenton, stays at the home of Jacob Burkhalter, attends celebration at the Allen House. In Sparta, attends a ball and reception at the Eagle Hotel.

**Milledgeville Mar. 26 - 28, 1825**  
 Arrives at Old State House. March 27 attends services at Methodist Chapel. March 28 visits Masonic hall. Attends non-dancing Ball at State House. Dinner under an arbor at State House Square. Attends Ball in evening in the Capitol Chambers.

**Macon & Indian Agency Mar. 29, 1825**  
 Crosses Bridge St. into Macon. Walks in on foot. Meal at Macon Hotel. Speeches by Mayor and Lafayette. Travels to Benjamin Hawkins Indian Agency, where he spends the night.

**Creek Nation Mar. 30-31, 1825**  
 March 30 travels Federal Road to Spain's Tavern & Inn. Spends the night at Caffrey's Stand (presently on Fort Moore Military base). Meets with Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh. Indians escort him across the Chattahoochee River.



*Lafayette Statue in  
Lafayette Square  
LaGrange, Georgia*



*The United States government  
had a custom carriage made  
for Lafayette while he  
traversed the 24 states during  
his visit in America.*



*There were many souvenirs  
created to welcome Lafayette  
to America. Among them,  
ribands, gloves, fans, clothing  
and many other items. Most of  
them contained a likeness of  
Lafayette, and many times  
George Washington as well.*



**Vive Lafayette!**

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*Make Plans in your Community!*

- Plan a Parade
- Present a Proclamation
- Plan a Concert. (Music has been especially formatted for school bands, orchestra, piano etc.)
- Plan Educational activities for adults and children
- Ask local actors and Drama Students in Middle and High Schools to participate in "pop up" plays around their city.

Contact us on Facebook for tools to help planning your event!

[facebook.com/LafayetteInGeorgia](https://facebook.com/LafayetteInGeorgia)



**THE NATION'S GUEST**

**GEORGIA SPONSORS**

Members of The Georgia Committee, John Trussell, Billie Trussell, Lynne Tate, and Bev Baker thanks the following organizations for their donations:

**THE NATION'S GUEST LEVEL (\$2,000)**

- The Georgia Committee - AFL
- The Huguenot Society of Georgia

**MARQUIS LEVEL (\$1,000)**

- Georgia Society Daughters of Indian Wars
- Georgia Branch Sons and Daughters of Pilgrims
- Georgia Society Colonial Dames 17th Century

**MAJOR GENERAL LEVEL (\$500)**

- Georgia Society Dames of the Court of Honor
- Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution
- State of Georgia Society United States Daughters of 1812

**INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**

- Janice Moseley Watson (\$500)



The Georgia Committee  
American Friends of  
**Lafayette**

*Invite You to Celebrate With Us!*



*The Georgia Committee, Bev Baker • Lynne Tate Billie Trussell • John Trussell* have planned events tracing Lafayette's 11 days in Georgia and the Creek Nation as "The Nation's Guest" in 1825!



*Flip this brochure over to see what you can do in your community to commemorate this epic event!*

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# LAFAYETTES TOUR

ON MAY 17, 1825, GENERAL  
LAFAYETTE DINED NEARBY AT  
BLUE SPRING FARM, HOME OF  
RICHARD MENTOR JOHNSON, AND  
LODGED 5 MI. FROM GEORGETOWN.

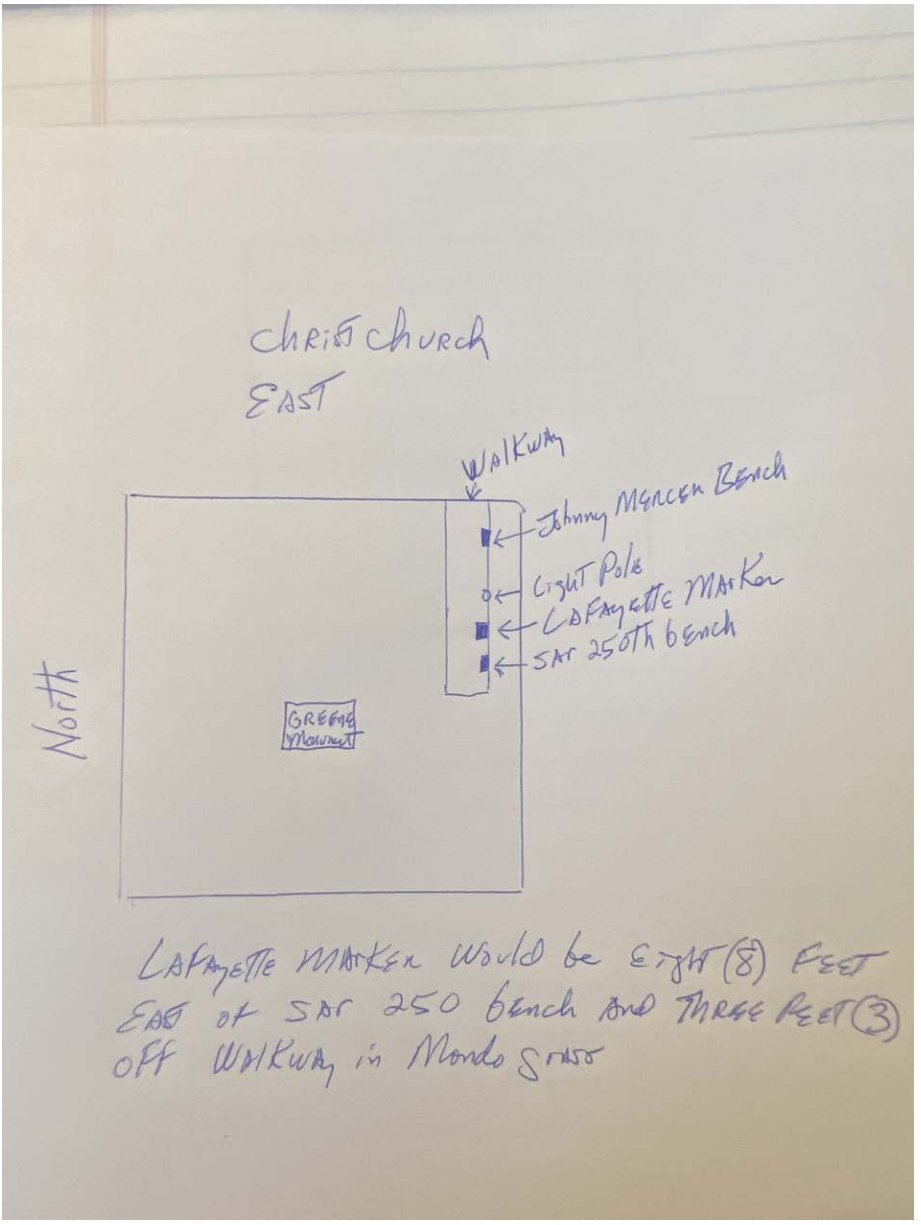
WILLIAM C. POWEFOT FOUNDATION 2022



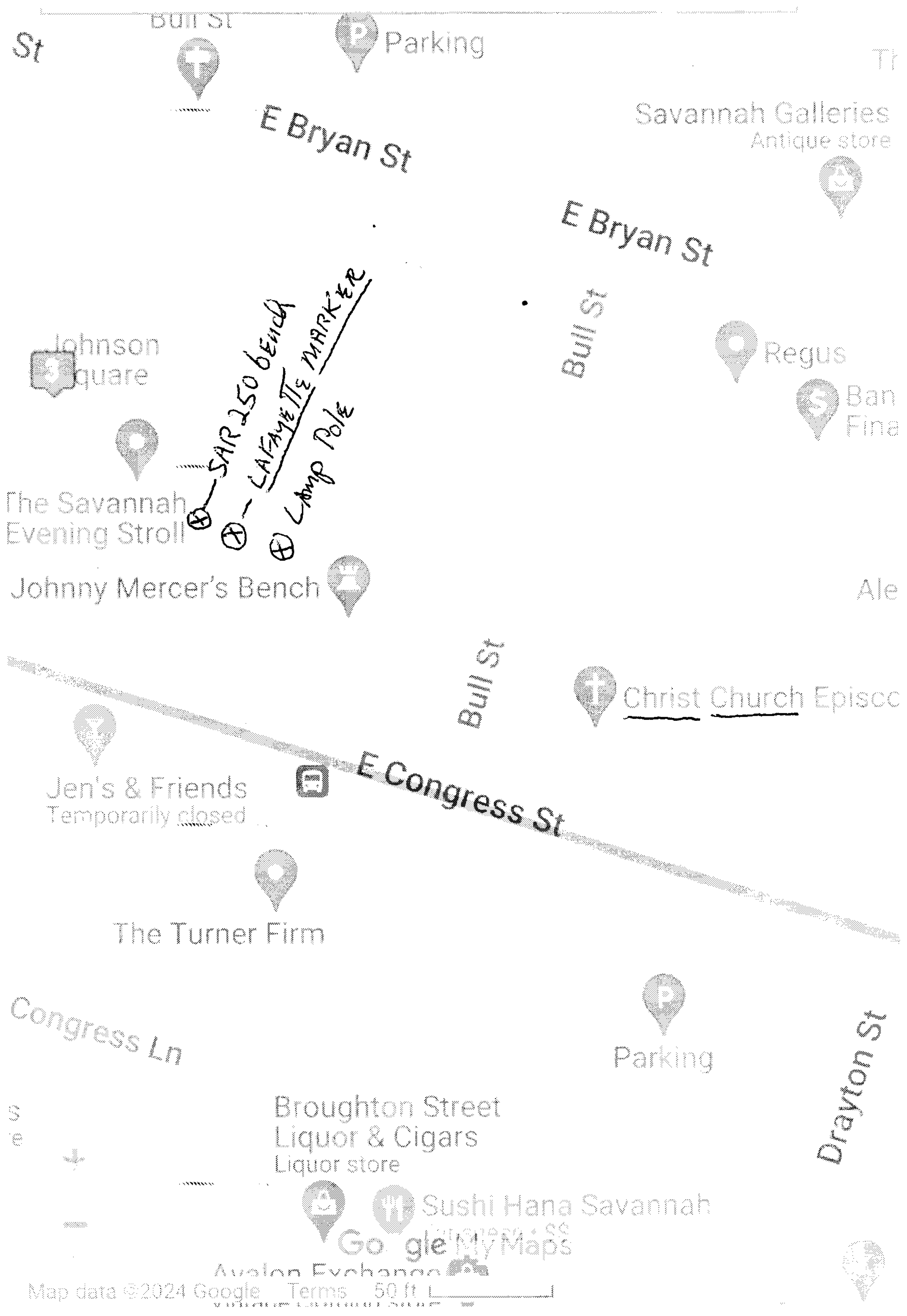


From:  
To:  
Subject:  
Date:  
Attachments:

[John Trussell](#)  
[historic: John Trussell](#)  
Lafayette marker map, plus word doc, more info in separate email Thanks! John Trussell  
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:31:32 PM  
[savannah lafayette marker.docx](#)







# Squares of Savannah Georgia





## Washington's Southern Tour

During his Southern tour of 1791, President George Washington attended services at the original Christ Church on Sunday, May 15. While in Savannah from May 12-15, Washington lodged at a house on the corner of Barnard and State streets on St. James (now Telfair) Square, dined at Brown's Coffeehouse with the Society of the Cincinnati, toured the ruins of the Revolutionary earthworks with General Lachlan McIntosh, was entertained at the Silk Filature on Reynold's Square and attended a large public dinner. After Sunday services, Washington dined with Catherine Greene (widow of Nathanael Greene) at Mulberry Grove plantation north of the city before departing for Augusta.

Erected by The Georgia Historical Society, The Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia, and The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia  
1999.18 25-3

LAFAYETTE  
MARKER



8 FEET  
EAST OF SAR  
250 BENCH