
LAFAYETTE

IN

OLD LYONS FARMS

Of all the many celebrations given to honor national heroes, the greatest of all of these in the history of this country was the celebration from August 14, 1824 to September 6, 1825 when Gilbert Motier, Marquise de Lafayette, a major general in the Revolutionary War made his fourth and last visit to this country at the request of President James Monroe as the "Nation's Guest."

During the year's tour of all 24 states, he was accompanied by Colonel William Brown, whose house stood on the site of the old Municipal Building at 1284 North Broad Street. He visited the house at least once during the year and met residents of Old Lyons Farms at a reception.

His initial trip to the New World had been made from 1777 to 1779 when he volunteered his services as a soldier in the fight for liberty by the young colonies in spite of the objections of his family and the government of France. He was commissioned a major-general and assigned to the staff of General George Washington who soon regarded him as a son.

He was wounded in his first battle at Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania. Following his recovery, he led a rout of Hessians, the British mercenary troops, at Gloucester, N. J., was engaged in an attempted sea assault by units of the French fleet at Newport, R. I., was appointed to lead an abortive attempt to invade Canada and concluded by making peace treaties with the Indians of the Mohawk Valley.

He spent the rough winter at Valley Forge with his men and used his own money to outfit them in black and red uniforms. He also fed and paid them because Colonial resources were so poor. He participated in the Battle of Monmouth near Freehold. He frequently was a member of Washington's party when the commander visited the Red Lion Inn and the Free Mason's building in Elizabeth and was one of the guests at the wedding of Caty Smith and Elisha Boudinot in 1778 in Elizabeth. He was sent to France in 1779 to request arms and men following an alliance between France and the United States.

Lafayette returned to this country early in 1780 with promises of French assistance. He re-joined General Washington at Morristown and subsequently was attached to the Continental troops which received the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown in October 17, 1781.

"The Boy General" made his third trip to this country in July, 1784, when he visited New York City for the first time and spent 11 days with Washington at Mount Vernon.

His fourth trip, like his first, was made without the sanction of the French government. Louis XVIII opposed it because he objected to Lafayette's liberal viewpoint. Lafayette managed to slip aboard the American packet, "Cadmus," July 14, for the trip. He was accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, a friend and secretary, Auguste Le Vasseul, and a manservant.

Lafayette landed on Staten Island in order to give the New York City Corporation an opportunity to prepare his welcome. The next day he boarded the "Chancellor Livingston" which flew the flags of France, America and New York City for the brief ride across the harbor.

The ship was escorted by eight steamboats, including the "Robert Fulton." They were said to be the first steamboats Lafayette had ever seen. The "Robert Fulton" fired a 15 gun salute. The other steamboats were decorated with flags and had bands aboard which played during the crossing. As each steamboat approached the side of the "Livingston," Lafayette went to the rail and waved to the crowds of people on them.

Salutes were fired from Fort Lafayette and Fort Columbus as the "Livingston" reached the Battery. Thousands of people crowded the area to see him. He drove up Broadway in an open



FOR HOME USE — Photograph shows model fall-out shelter which may be erected in basement.

barouche under triumphant arches of flowers. Spectators tossed bouquets of flowers in the path of his horses. Church bells rang and the crowds cheered. The New York City reception continued for five days.

Enroute to Boston, a toll gate keeper refused to accept the toll for his carriage. The keeper is quoted as stating, "You are the Nation's Guest." From that time on he was not permitted to pay for his lodgings, meals, transportation or other expenses. He was told, "All you want is supplied by a grateful people."

He returned to New York City in time for an elaborate birthday anniversary party September 6, 1824 by the Society of Cincinnati, an organization of veterans of the American Revolution of which he was a member.

Newark Welcome

His official welcome to Newark and Elizabeth began at 9 o'clock on the morning of September 24, at Paulus Hook in Jersey City when he was met by a welcoming committee from Governor Isaac H. Williamson of Elizabeth and members of the Second Division of New Jersey Militia composed of men from Bergen, Essex (Union County was part of Essex County until 1857) and Morris Brigades.

Major General Lafayette rode in an open barouche drawn by four elegant bays. The procession was detained at Bergen for a salute by the artillery and presentation of a cane made from a limb of an apple tree under which

Lafayette and General Washington once refreshed themselves. The cane was mounted with gold and bore the inscription, "Shaded the hero and his friend, Washington in 1779, presented by the corporation of Bergen in 1824."

The cavalcade reformed and arrived at the Bridge Street bridge over the Passaic River at 12 o'clock noon when a national salute was fired by a detachment of cadet artillery from the heights of the river on the Newark side.

A committee of citizens met him as he crossed the bridge and he was greeted by the cheers of the throng assembled to welcome him. He was conducted along Broad Street where doors, windows and rooftops were crowded with cheering spectators to the home of Judge Elisha Boudinot for a luncheon served by Thomas Morton, a Newark innkeeper. The house stood opposite the village "green" as Military Park was then known.

Reentering the parade ground near the flag-staff, Lafayette with Governor Williamson passed between the extensive lines of 2,000 troops, the New Jersey Society of Cincinnati, the clergy, civil authorities and citizens. A male chorus of 24 voices sang "The Approval." A band composed of cadets played and women and children threw flowers in his path. As he approached a splendid rural temple created for the occasion, a choir of 24 girl singers sang "The Welcome" which concluded with the phrase, "The Deeds Her Sons Will Ne'er Forget Ten Millions Welcome Lafayette."

The "temple" designed by Moses Ward was 40 feet in diameter with a portico containing 13 arches to represent the 13 original states. The dome symbolized the western hemisphere. Pillars supporting the dome were decorated with evergreens and flowers. On top of the "temple" was a gold American eagle with a crown of laurels for peace on his head and an olive branch in one of his talons. Twelve beautiful bowers created by William Halsey extended from each side of the "temple" to represent each of the 24 states.

Attorney General Theodore Frelinghuysen gave the state's official welcome and repeated the story of Lafayette's participation in the Battles of Brandywine, Monmouth and Yorktown. He also spoke of the years Lafayette spent as a prisoner in Austria during the French Revolution and his life long devotion to liberty for the common man.

Following a response by Lafayette, the troops passed in review before him under the command of Brigadier General Jonathan Dayton of Elizabeth who acted as grand marshall. Colonel Thomas Ward and a Captain Kearny acted as his aides during the review. After the review Lafayette greeted more than 5,000 citizens personally and it is reliably reported that his right hand swelled up because of the numerous handshakes.

Elizabeth Reception

At 4 o'clock Lafayette and his party departed for Elizabethtown where he was met at the city-line by a delegation of Masons led by the Most Worthy Grand Master Munn. His horses again walked on flowers and the people greeted him with a great display of affection. Flags were flown and in response to an order by Mayor Caleb Halsted, Jr. all the houses were illuminated so that the town blazed with light. A volley of shots was fired to announce his arrival.

Impressive masonic services were held. A dinner was served at which as many as 11 toasts were offered to "Lafayette," "the United States," "President Monroe," "the Army of the Revolution," "Governor Williamson" to name a few. Lafayette spent the night at Boxwood Hall, the home of General Dayton in Elizabeth. The next day he continued his triumphant tour through New Jersey with stops at Rahway, New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton and Bordentown.

During the next ten months, he visited every state in the Union, spent the winter in Washington, D. C., visited Jefferson at Monticello and the battlefield at Yorktown, was formerly welcomed by President Monroe and Congress appropriated him \$200,000, and the states of Virginia and Maryland conferred honorary citizenship on all his male descendents. He also participated in the ground breaking for the Bunker Hill monument in Boston. He visited Dr. Caleb Halsted July 17, 1825 in Connecticut Farms and passed through Lyons Farms once more before going to New York City where he was honored at a farewell banquet at Castle Garden the night before he sailed on the frigate, "Brandywine."

He was never forgotten. During the Civil War, a gun boat, "The Lafayette," was listed in action. Many streets such as Lafayette Street in Newark have been named for him. There was

a Lafayette Hotel in Elizabeth during the Civil War and many grammar schools and one college, nine municipalities and four counties, bare his name.

When the American troops landed in France in 1917, the general cry was "Lafayette We Are Here!" We continue to remember him today by the 11th Polaris submarine, "The Lafayette," launched May 8, at Groton, Conn.

Unlike the battles in which he participated, authorities tell us the next war will be a civilian war and that all families must be prepared to survive affects of radiation caused by nuclear fall-out.

CD Model Shelter

In order to prepare the public for such an emergency, the Hillside Civil Defense and Disaster Control Council has erected a concrete block model fall-out shelter on the Police Chief Norman L. Sanford Playground in Hillside Avenue to show the people how a similar shelter may be built in the basements of their homes.

The model shelter is 11 feet square and seven feet high. It is equipped with two sets of bunk beds to accommodate a family of four persons. There is a chemical toilet, storage area for food, water, bedding, magazines, books, games, clothes, canned heat for a stove, radiation detection devices, battery operated lamps and radios, and emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, shovels and axes.

The shelter will be dedicated June 16, at appropriate ceremonies during a day-long council exercise. All elements of the council will present demonstrations and participate in drill exercises. The public is invited to attend.