



NEWS AND NOTES

from
The Fauquier Historical Society

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WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Winter 2000

A Celebration That Will Be Long Remembered

Fauquier County Salutes Gen. Lafayette

By **MAXWELL HARWAY**

President, Fauquier Historical Society
and

RICHARD GOOKIN

Chairman, "Salute to Lafayette"

Recalling the "Salute to Lafayette" which took place in Warrenton on Sept. 15, 16, and 17, we have many memories to share.

It was a great, great, great event.

The parade was spectacular.

The reenactment was authentic and realistic. The carriages *magnifique*.

The John Barton Payne Exhibit was world class.

The Student Art exhibit was inspiring.

The Fete Lafayette was fabulously festive.

The costume ball was a smashing success.

The educational projects are off to a good start.

It was a proud moment for Warrenton and for Virginia. Many people have said that it was the most impressive event in Warrenton since the 1959 Bicentennial Celebration.

It was also a proud moment for the Fauquier Historical Society. Not only did the Society propose the event, it put its own money on the line to make it happen.

As a consequence, not only did we have a spectacular event that does credit to the community, it reinforces the Fauquier Historical Society as a significant community organization.

Moving ahead

We believe that as a result of this extremely successful event, it should be possible for us to do our principal job more easily and attract new supporters to our essential educational function of pro-



Charles Whitehouse, portraying Gen. Lafayette, waves to the crowd as he makes his grand entrance. With him are Will Allison, portraying former Pres. James Monroe, and David Blake, as Lafayette's son, George Washington Lafayette. Col. David Mailer (USMC, ret.) behind Mr. Allison, portrayed Col. A. Lavasseur, Lafayette's secretary.

moting Fauquier and Virginia history, improving our museum and promoting increased relations with our students.

One of the decisions made along the way was to hire a professional group to photograph the parade, the exhibits and the costume ball.

In the negotiations with the photographers, we decided that we wanted to own the raw tape. This gives us the possibility of developing several tapes with different purposes, working with the Visitors Center and/or the schools.

Thus, we have at this time 10 hours of tape that need to be professionally edited and put in a useful format. Ultimately, we should have a 30-minute tape of the Festival.

The success of the Lafayette Festival gives the Fauquier Historical Society a new opportunity to carry out its mission, and your Executive committee will soon present a detailed educational program

that will capitalize on our momentum and further that objective.

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Mezzotint of young Lafayette, loaned by the Fauquier Heritage Society.

Supervisors create Historic Resources Committee

By JOHN T. TOLER

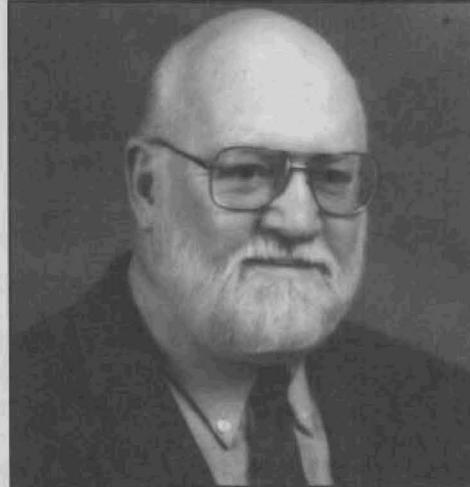
Newsletter Editor

A new county committee tasked with the job of developing a comprehensive plan to inventory, protect and promote Fauquier County's rich historical resources has been meeting since last summer.

Creation of the new task force came about early this year, when the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors decided that defining the county's historical assets - and determining how they could best be used and preserved - was determined to be one of their priorities in the coming years.

Citizens known to have an interest in local history were identified by the board, and by mid-summer, contacts were made and an organizational structure put in place.

Serving as chairman of the Fauquier County Historic Research Committee is Warrenton resident H. Lynn Hopewell, a businessman and historical writer and researcher who has written extensively about the Black Horse Troop,



HRC Chairman H. Lynn Hopewell

Fauquier's famous Civil War cavalry unit.

Combining the best of the past with the technology of the future, Mr. Hopewell has encouraged the members of his committee to use e-mail to communicate and the internet to contact other organizations involved in historic preservation and to conduct independent research. The group has its own internet Web page, found at:

www.piedmontsouthern.net/hrc

Other persons serving on the committee are:

Carolyn Hartman, of Catlett; Donald R. Tharpe, of Bealeton; Edwin Gulick, of Catlett; Jackie Lee, of Warrenton, Director of the Old Jail Museum; Jim Timberlake of Warrenton, representing the Mosby Heritage Area Inc.; John Ross, of Delaplane; Tom Harris, of Warrenton; and John Toler, of Broad Run.

Also Karen White of Midland, president of the Afro-American Historical Society of Fauquier County; Ed Tolson of Warrenton, Richard Robison, a Warrenton architect; Robert Sinclair of Marshall, president of the Fauquier Heritage Society; Sharon McCamy of Goldvein, county supervisor representing Lee District; and Sue Scheer of Catlett.

The committee held its first full meeting in August, and meets on the first Wednesday of the month since then. Members have been assigned to subcommittees, each addressing a specific aspect of historic resource development, and have been meeting frequently to discuss their projects.

NEWS and NOTES

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Fauquier County Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Korean War

For years, the Korean War has remained a "forgotten war" for many Americans. But for those who served in this bitter conflict and their families, this was very real and very memorable war.

In order to properly honor those who served in this war, the U. S. Department of Defense created the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Community Program, by which individual communities across the nation could participate in the national celebration.

Through the efforts of the Fauquier Veterans Council - made up of the commanders of the county's five veterans' groups, and others — Fauquier County joined the national program early in the process.

A number of activities focusing on the Korean War and events honoring local veterans of that conflict have been held or are planned, including a ceremony at

the Fauquier Veterans memorial on Hospital Hill marking the 50th anniversary of the invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces on June 25, and special recognition of Korean War veterans at the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

Persons seeking more information about the commemoration may call John Williams at (540) 347-3285.



Having a Ball at Elway Hall



Fashions of the 1800s, worn by Steven Gregory and his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Gregory.



Mrs. Richard Gookin, left, and Mr. Gookin greet Susan Richards at the Costume Ball. In the background is Maxwell Harway.

Lafayette

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Four Distinct Events

What was not realized at the beginning was that we were really doing four different events, each one of which turned out to be an important activity and would have been a major project by itself:

- The parade-reenactment;
- Exhibits;
- The costume ball at Elway Hall; and
- Our continuing education projects.

Would we have started all these at one time, if we realized how much work was involved? Very doubtful.

By the time we realized how large a task we had undertaken, we were in the midst of it. It was sink or swim. So we swam.

Now that we have reached the distant shore, we realize how difficult the task was, and we can now see how far we have come.

Financial results

Now, let us examine the financial result of the Festival.

The FHS committed \$20,000 to promote and kick-start this project. Furthermore, the Margaret Spilman Bowden Foundation gave \$1,000, and the Ridgefield Foundation gave \$2,500 for the

same purpose.

This \$23,500 was available for promotion and was used as follows:

• The Devillier Communications Co. was paid \$10,650 to make a general plan for the festival.

Positively, the Devillier plan initiated the concept of an educational initiative to continue beyond the three-day festival. We found this a very useful concept in helping us raise funds and in presenting a proper motivation for the future.

The Devillier plan developed complete lists of potential institutional donors, as well as lists of media of all categories.

However, as a practical matter, we found that our campaign of fundraising from outside funding sources was started too late, since most of the granting organizations make up their donation lists well in advance, and that we were

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Guests enjoyed the colorful costumes and socializing at Elway Hall. Susie Rowe and husband David, of Jeffersonton, enjoy a moment with Tom Wyld, of Warrenton.

A Parade Through Old Warrenton



Students of Marshall Middle School, carrying a banner, salute Gen. Lafayette.



Among the most colorful units in the "Salute to Lafayette" parade was the U. S. Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

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too late for this year.

With our successful festival and our continuing educational program, these lists should be useful for future projects of the Society.

The Devillier study also presented us with extensive lists of media of all types which were extremely useful during our later publicity campaign.

- Michael Moorhead, who was hired as Festival Coordinator and performed a number of valuable services, was paid \$2,500.

- Promoting the festival cost \$7,200. This included developing a logo, printing, postage, brochures, posters, stationery, etc.

We believe that the fine quality of our printed materials, our invitations, ball tickets, etc. were a credit to our Society and were instrumental in giving our events the superb character that everyone commented on.

- The Festival raised \$68,000 in funds directly donated to the Fauquier Historical Society.

In addition, \$16,600 was committed to



Fauquier County schoolchildren in breeches and three-cornered hats sat at curbside, waving small American and French flags as the entourage passed by.

our educational projects by organizations which supported these projects directly, in some cases paying bills that we submitted to them.

These organizations include the Town of Warrenton, the Committee on Excellence in Education, the Ruritans, the Fauquier County schools and the

American Legion.

There were also donations in kind of over \$5,000.

Most of the activities connected with the Festival were financially negative, that is, the events cost more to produce

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increased costs:

- Because of the inadequacies of the septic system, it was necessary to rent a large Porta-John at a cost of \$2,000.

- The uneven terrain surrounding the house required three small tents, rather than one large tent.

- On the day of the ball, the weather turned very cold. This necessitated the last-minute need to install heaters, tent flaps and additional electrical connections. This raised our tent costs to \$9,000.

- Because it was necessary to move the furniture three times, we incurred an additional cost of \$975.

- We had borrowed eight crystal chandeliers from a friendly firm in Maryland. Because our borrowed truck broke down, we had to rent a truck for \$300.

Despite these increased costs, the ball was a financial success and an enormous social success.

The Parade

Our reenactment and parade were spectacular. All three local papers, The Washington Post Loudoun Section and Middleburg Life had pictures in color.

The four carriages were magnificent. The Old Guard gave the parade just the right color of the period. The reenacting personnel were realistic.

There were seven descendants of the 1825 welcoming committee participating. A letter from the oldest living descendant of Lafayette was received and read.

The French government was represented by the Consul General in Washington. Media representation was good, including French Television. We heard many, many compliments on the parade-reenactment.

Lafayette Exhibits

One of the high points of the Festival were the exhibits at the John Barton Payne Building and the student exhibits at the Warren Green Hotel.

The main exhibit was really world class.

In addition to several local items, we had loans from the Society of Cincinnati, the State Department, the Library of Congress, and several museums; actual letters by Lafayette and George Washington Lafayette; items actually in the possession of Lafayette or presents from him to prominent Americans; as well as items made in commemoration of his visit were on display.

Our taping will show each of the



Master of Ceremonies Willard Scott (center) is joined on the podium Charles Whitehouse (left) and Maxwell Harway.

important items with explanations of their origin and significance.

The Student Exhibition at the Warren Green Hotel was astonishing in its originality. Most of us were surprised to learn how deeply the Lafayette Festival generated interest and captivated the enthusiasm of students at all levels.

The French Consul General read with interest and astonishment about eight letters to the Marquis de Lafayette from students in the local French classes.

The Concert

Through the cooperation of the Cristofori Foundation, arrangements were made to bring a very talented young pianist, Maria Fomina, from New York to give a concert of French and French-inspired music at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon.

The proceeds of the concert were donated to the Festival.

Educational Programs

Continuation of the educational program beyond the termination of the Festival was both planned by the Society and promised to the community.

In addition to \$16,600 committed by outside organizations as a result of our Lafayette promotion, the Society should have between \$18,000 and \$20,000 available for further education projects.

We would recommend that a special Education Committee be created, which, together with the Executive committee, should present a program for the expenditure of these funds to the Board of Directors.

We are pleased with the fruits of our labors. The work that has been started will continue to benefit our county in the future.

Vive la France. Vive les Etats Unis. Vive la belle Virginia. And vive la Fauquier Historical Society.

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than any funds they might have raised.

Some, such as the parade and the reenactment, raised no money. Others raised very minimal amounts; in most cases, only a few hundred dollars.

Publicity

At some point, we felt that the publicity was not advancing as we would have liked. We missed most of the national magazines.

Responsibility for publicity fell to the Fauquier Historical Society President and Festival Chairman, who eventually contacted over 80 newspapers in Virginia, a number of national contacts, including Willard Scott's announcement on the Today Show, and of course, the French press.

We recognize that a better job would have been done if we had started the publicity campaign earlier.

Also, fundraising in the local business community was spotty. Under the right circumstances, more could have been done in this area.

The Costume Ball

The principal activity developed as a fund raiser was the Costume Ball at Elway Hall. This spectacular event collected the sum of \$50,000.

Our original budget for the ball was below \$30,000, but because of the unusual problems we ran into, the actual costs were about \$35,000.

However, the success of the ball generated enough funds so that it still left us with a profit of \$15,000 available for our future educational projects.

The opportunity to use Elway hall for the ball was unusual. It is an old, prestigious building on Springs Road, the road Lafayette took to reach Warrenton.

Many Warrentonians had known the building under previous ownerships. The new owners were in the process of rehabilitating and refurbishing it.

Painting and construction went on to the very day of the ball.

Because of the need to get the building ready in time and to meet special problems, certain unexpected costs were generated, thus driving up our expenses.

Here are a few examples of these



The meeting room of the Warren Green Building was transformed into an art gallery to display interpretations of Lafayette by county students.



The amount of care and preparation that went into each portrait was evident. Above, Mme. Lafayette and the General; below, an artist's conception of the visit in 1825.



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