



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXXVIII

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

June 2025



Next Meeting & Program: September 26, 2025. Hidden Illness in the White House: Patient Confidentiality vs. the Public Good. The presidency of the United States is a demanding job that requires intellectual, emotional, and physical strength. The world depends on a stable executive running the United States government. What happens when they are ill? Dr. Dale Magee will explore

3 presidents: Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Dwight David Eisenhower, to look at the specifics, the uncertainties and the deceptions during their presidencies and their candidacies.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Society building, 52 Main St., Northborough, MA. The event is free and open to the public. Masks will be optional.



History Corner

by Norm Corbin, Historian

Marquis De Lafayette Visit

The “American Friends of Lafayette” (AFL) organization has two VERY

informative websites about Lafayette’s life and career. They were the source of the information for this Hourglass article. Links are given at the end of this article.

INTRODUCTION - On June 15th, 2025 a Marquis De Lafayette Reenactor will stop by at the Northborough Historical Society as he travels along the Old Boston Post Road from an event in Worcester to an event in Sudbury. His visit is part of an extensive re-creation of Lafayette’s original tour of the United States in 1825. This 200th Anniversary Tour is being planned to exactly match the schedule from 1825. Hence, his visit to Northborough will be exactly on the 200th Anniversary Day of his earlier visit.

THE ORIGINAL TOUR - In 1824, the United States was in the throes of a very contentious national Presidential election won by John Quincy Adams. Our country was divided and in turmoil. At this time, President James Monroe thought that if he invited Lafayette as a “Guest of the Nation”, it might foster unity and renew patriotism among citizens, especially as the Nation approached the 50th anniversary of its independence.

Over 13 months, from August 1824 until September 1825, the 67-year-old Lafayette covered 6000 miles as he visited all 24 States that made up the United States at that time. Lafayette was welcomed with universal affection and gratitude by Americans. Everyone enthusiastically embraced the last surviving general of the Continental Army.

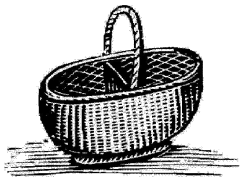
THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - The “American Friends of Lafayette” organization is hosting an educational program across the United States to commemorate the Bicentennial of Lafayette’s return to America. There are hundreds of planned events in both large cities and small towns that Lafayette visited in 1824 - 25. Many citizens are brimming with pride that “America’s favorite fighting Frenchman” came through their municipality. The reenactment follows Lafayette’s exact footsteps in the order he traveled in 1824 - 1825.

MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE – Some notable moments of his career include:

- Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, *Marquis de Lafayette*, was born on September 6, 1757. His father died in battle when Lafayette was almost 2 years old, his mother died when he was 13 years old. The same year as his mother died, his very wealthy maternal grandfather died. He left Lafayette as one of the wealthiest aristocrats in Europe at the age of 13.
- He began his American military career at the age of nineteen in 1777 when Congress awarded him the commission of major general in the American Continental Army. He thus became the youngest general of

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Curator's News by Ellen Racine

Sunday, June 15 was a spectacular day for the Historical Society. Along with a two-day art show from the Northborough Art Guild and floral arrangements from the Garden Club, the museum was open, and an esteemed Revolutionary War hero, the Marquis de Lafayette arrived, portrayed by a re-enactor. He is retracing the route of Lafayette's tour of the United States in 1825, and stopped to pay us a visit.

He arrived via the 1923 Maxim fire engine driven by Peter Stone, and greeted some 40 society members and townspeople on the front lawn. He gave a fabulous speech and later fielded questions from the crowd. Governor John Davis (Ken Bennett) and Reverend Lucy Allen (Julianne Hirsh) gave addresses of welcome.



Lafayette welcomed by Governor Davis, portrayed by Ken Bennett



Reverend Lucy Allen, portrayed by Julianne Hirsh, greeting Lafayette



The Marquis de Lafayette driven by Peter Stone and accompanied by Bob Licht



Norm Corbin and Julianne Hirsh

The crowd was appropriately dressed in period outfits - beautiful dresses recently donated by Les Malecki. The Marquis toured the art show and refreshment table, and after spotting some madeleines, made a comment to which Genevieve Grenier responded in French – he was impressed! He paid a quick visit to the museum before he was off to his next engagement.



Brian and Lois Smith with Lafayette



Lafayette with Alexandra and Zenya Molnar



Lafayette, Michael Roman, and a very impressive camera!



Lafayette addressing the assembly



Costumed Society Members

This whole event was spearheaded by Norm Corbin and the Rev. 250 committee, along with Lois Smith who kept everything on schedule. A big thank you to all. It was a fun day.

Officer, Board and Committee Members
2025 - 2026

Position	Person	Term Expires
President	Ken Bennett	2026
Vice President	Rob Van Buren	2026
Directors	Zenya Molnar	2026
	Alex Molnar	2026
	Janice Ferenchick	2027
	Mike Duchesneau	2027
	Chuck Liljestrand	2028
	Mark Bashour	2028
Treasurer	Nadine Proctor	2027
Membership Secretary	Jean Langley	2027
Recording Secretary	Hilary Wilson	2027
Museum Trustees	Carol Bostock	2026
	Linda Corbin	2026
	Jane Fletcher	2027
	Kathy Pierce	2027
	Lynne Derosier	2028
	Allyn Phelps Jr	2028
Publicity	Hilary Wilson	2026
	Zenya Molnar	2027
	Alex Molnar	2027
	Laura Ziton	2028
Hospitality	Marcia Parsneau	2027
	Carolyn Squillante	2028
Program	Suzanne Williams	2027
	Arlene Marshall	2028
	Jodie Martinson	2028
Property	Paul Derosier	2026
	Rob Van Buren	2027
	Peter Stone	2027
Kitchen	Jane Fletcher	2026
	Marcia Mills	2027
	Debra Bennett	2028
Legislative	Jean Langley	2026
	Hilary Wilson	2027
	Michael Mills	2028
Nominating	Mike Duchesneau	2026
	Ernie Racine	2026
	Rhonda Van Buren	2026
Ways and Means	Henry Squillante	2026
	Marie Spence	2027
	John Northgraves	2027
	Mark Bashour	2028

Membership

Annual Dues:

Single — \$30

Student/Senior — \$25

Family — \$55

Lifetime — \$500

Send dues to:

Northborough Historical Society

Membership Secretary

P.O. Box 661

Northborough, MA 01532

Please make checks payable to
Northborough Historical Society

Dues are due each September

Next

Board of Directors

Meeting

Tuesday, September 9

250th Anniversary
Bunker Hill Day Parade.

This year the Bunker Hill Day Parade was held to honor the courage, sacrifice, and legacy of the men and boys who stood their ground on June 17, 1775 - ordinary citizens who shaped the course of history.

7 men and boys from Northborough participated in the parade, portraying Northborough Minutemen from 1775.



The Northborough contingent marching towards the Bunker Hill Monument



The Northborough Contingent

Steven Smith as Capt. Samuel Wood, Ruediger Volk as 1st Lieut. Timothy Brigham, Justin Glynn as 2nd Lieut. Thomas Seaver, Andrew Glynn as Drummer Joseph Seaver (Thomas Seaver's younger brother), Jake Volk as Fifer Ebenezer Hudson, Felipe Volk as Private Elijah Hudson (Ebenezer's older brother), Carter Brannon as Private Nathan Johnson. (Not in order on photo.)

- all others who fought on both sides of the War of Independence. Being very wealthy, he agreed to serve without pay.
- Lafayette risked his life at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. Coming to the aid of General John Sullivan, he rallied his men during an onslaught by the British and Hessian forces, was shot in the leg, dismounted his horse, and kept on leading and fighting for as long as he was able.
 - He served with distinction at Valley Forge during the terrible winter of 1777 - 1778. General Washington sent him and a 2200 men detachment on a reconnaissance mission. They became completely surrounded by 16,000 British and Hessian troops. Lafayette, who was outnumbered 8-to-1, outfoxed the enemy and returned to Valley Forge with a minimum of casualties. The youthful general had pulled off one of the most astonishing escapes in the annals of military history.
 - His generosity to his American troops was legendary. He spent \$200,000 of his own money to pay for their much-needed items such as clothing and weapons at a time when the American economy was on the verge of collapse.
 - He returned to France and used his diplomatic skills to make strong appeals to influential ministers and King Louis XVI to send Washington a French Expeditionary Force, complete with all supplies, as soon as possible. The king sent him back with a message to General Washington that the French Expeditionary Force was on its way. All historians agree that without this help, Washington would have lost the War for Independence. Washington and Franklin credit Lafayette with the effort behind the delivery of these desperately needed supplies.
 - Lafayette was chosen by Washington in 1781 to command American troops for the purpose of preventing British General Cornwallis from ravaging the state of Virginia and driving a strategic wedge between the American forces. Outnumbered, Lafayette cleverly used guerrilla tactics to corner the British commander and pin him down at Yorktown until he was defeated on October 19, 1781 by French and American armies
 - During and after the American Revolution, Lafayette strongly supported human rights for all, especially religious freedom, Native American rights, equality for women, freedom of the press, and penal reform. He was a leading abolitionist of his time and always fought for Liberty, Equality, and Freedom.

Links:

The American Friends of Lafayette: <https://friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org>

Lafayette Tour: www.lafayette200.org

Information about future programs and more
is available on our website.
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

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