

Northborough Greets Lafayette
Mrs. Lucy Allen
Portrayed by Julianne Hirsh (Select Board Chair)

On behalf of the citizens of Northborough Massachusetts I have the honor to present you their most respectful and cordial salutations.

The mere name of Lafayette is alone sufficient with every American to produce the noblest, hallowed, and pleasing recollections. It associates all that is virtuous, amiable and patriotic.

My name is Mrs. Lucy Allen. I am honored to meet you, General Lafayette.

Your promotion of free-thought ideas, along with being a human rights advocate who supports and promotes women writers are especially important to me as a woman.

My husband, Reverend Joseph Allen, and I are very devoted to education. We operate a private boarding school for girls and boys from our home.

Our boarders are not mere boarders: they are under our care and treated as family.

Many of our children along with students from the school have gone on to become teachers and ministers. In fact, the town has been remarkable for the number of teachers which it has produced.

All these things contributed towards forming an enlightened public opinion, which raised Northborough to a rank among the very highest in the State in matters of education.

It is a great pleasure to us to observe and encourage a love of learning to our students.

Thank you Mr. Lafayette for never, never, can we forget the youthful stranger who in the hour of adversity so generously flew to our succor and so gallantly fought for our freedom.

Now permit me to acknowledge the obligation we owe you for what our nation now is, and if ever you can be recompensed for all your services during our revolutionary struggle, it must be in that triumph of feeling which our national prosperity and free institutions are today.

You, sir, must view with pleasure and surprise the great moral and physical changes that have taken place in our country since you fought for us. For example, the rapid improvements in canals and roads that facilitate communication between remote parts of our country must have particularly attracted your attention.

Accept, dear General, our united aspirations for your health and long life. With you, may the evening of your life be particularly pleasant – like the setting sun after a glorious day, sinking gradually, and throwing back increasing beauty and splendor with every expiring beam.

This day shall long be remembered by the citizens of Northborough.

Thank You!!

Julianne, FYI this is a sketch of Mrs. Allen.

