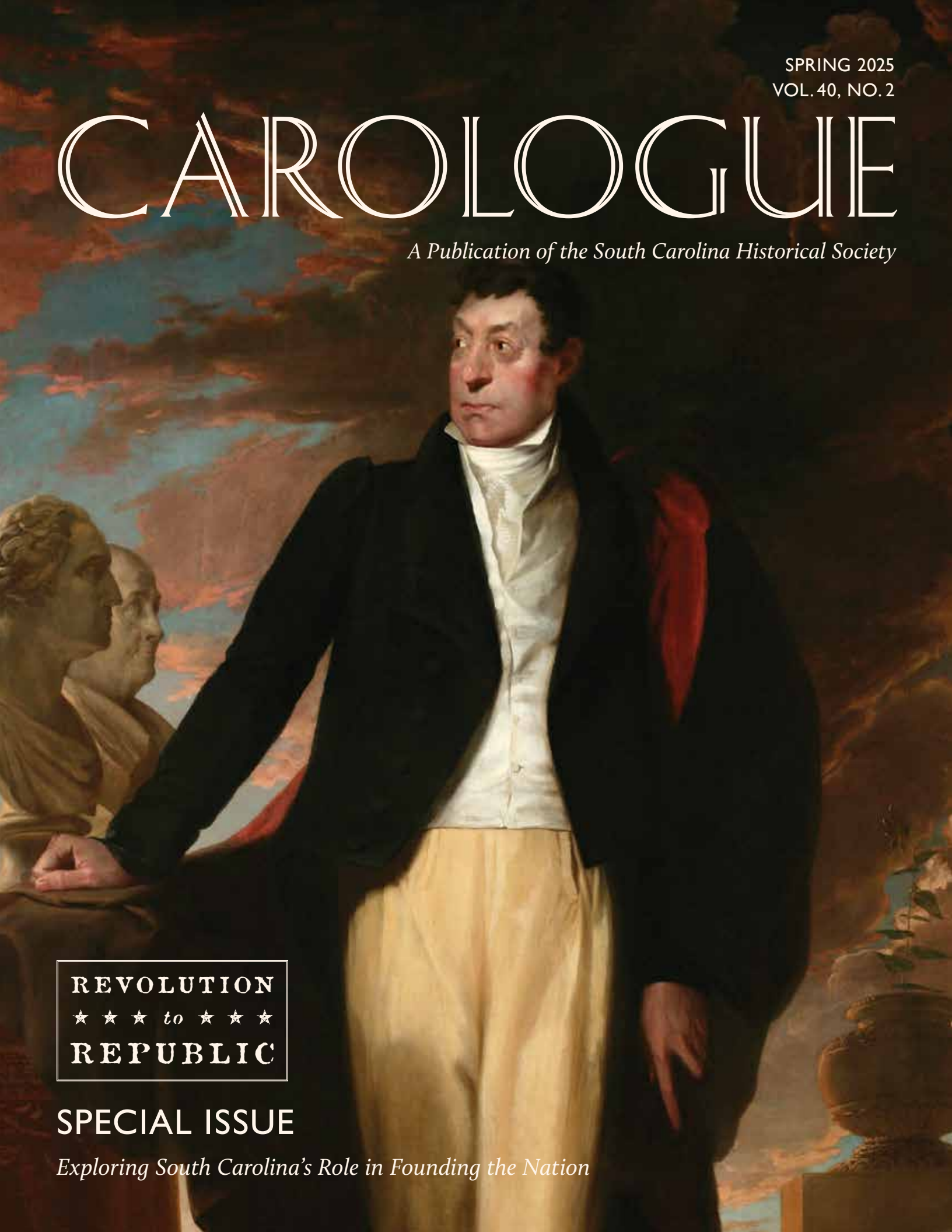


SPRING 2025  
VOL. 40, NO. 2

# CAROLOGUE

*A Publication of the South Carolina Historical Society*



REVOLUTION  
★ ★ ★ to ★ ★ ★  
REPUBLIC

SPECIAL ISSUE

*Exploring South Carolina's Role in Founding the Nation*





## Now Available in the Museum Shop

The Museum Shop is delighted to offer prints from two renowned Charleston artists, Julia Homer Wilson and Elizabeth O'Neill Verner. The shop is selling 60 different Verner prints and 14 different Wilson prints. The prints, ranging in price from \$10–\$20, are available in the Museum Shop (100 Meeting Street, Charleston) and online ([shop.schistory.org](http://shop.schistory.org)). All prints are reproductions of original artwork and are being sold unframed. Visit us to learn more about these amazing prints!



SOUTH CAROLINA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM

# CAROLOGUE

SPRING 2025 | VOL. 40, NO. 2

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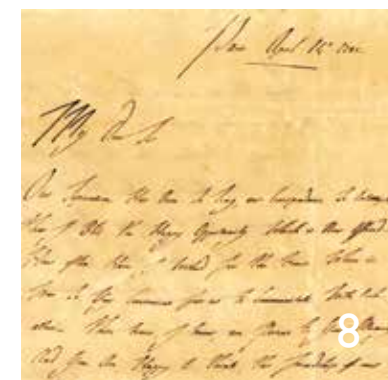
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## ON THE COVER

Completed by Samuel Morse, this portrait of Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834) was begun during Lafayette's return visit to the United States in 1824–1825. For more on his stops in South Carolina, see “Lafayette's 1825 Tour of South Carolina” on page 20. Photograph by Glenn Castellano, Collection of the Public Design Commission of the City of New York.



Reflecting on the Marquis de Lafayette



During the American Revolution, a wealthy French teenager was willing to risk his fortune and his life for people he had never met who lived an ocean away, based on their stirring fight for freedom from British colonial rule. Against his family's wishes and those of the French crown, Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834) financed a ship and crossed the Atlantic to join our cause.

Lafayette was commissioned as a major general in the Continental Army, became an influential member of General George Washington's staff, and befriended Alexander Hamilton and South Carolinians Henry and John Laurens and Benjamin Huger. He encouraged French King Louis XVI to send critical military support and led a division at the Battle of Yorktown, where the British surrendered in 1781.

Despite his twenty-first-century reappearance alongside Hamilton and John Laurens in the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, he is no longer a household name. He certainly was a household name in March 1825, however, when—during a thirteen-month return visit to the United States—he spent just under two weeks in South Carolina, stopping in a number of places.

As the nation he had helped establish approached its fiftieth birthday, Lafayette, the last surviving Revolutionary general, had written to President James Monroe expressing his longing to “seek those friends of my youth with whom I may still enjoy the most pleasing recollections, to revisit the happy shores of an adopted country, which has so well fulfilled our early and most sanguine expectations.”

President Monroe readily obliged. Lafayette and his party arrived in New York on August 16, 1824. Greeted and feted as a rock star in all twenty-four states, Lafayette attracted rapt public attention and overwhelming hospitality from aging Revolution veterans, military and civic leaders, the press, and Americans of every stripe. He visited Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon and laid the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill monument and the monument to Baron de Kalb in Camden.

South Carolina retained a special place in Lafayette's heart as the first place he landed when he arrived to join the Revolution in 1777. His ship *La Victoire* had anchored at North Island near Georgetown. Huguenot Benjamin Huger welcomed the French party, including Baron de Kalb, to his nearby plantation, where Lafayette met Huger's young son Francis Kinloch. Benjamin Huger would die in the Revolution by friendly fire in 1779.

Lafayette's group proceeded to Philadelphia to seek out General Washington. He and de Kalb would eventually become major generals in the Continental Army. During his American military career, Lafayette would come to know South Carolina's elder statesman, Henry Laurens, and work on Washington's staff alongside Laurens's son, John. In a crazy twist of fate, years later, when Lafayette was imprisoned in Austria, Francis Kinloch Huger would help him attempt to escape.

The bicentennial of Lafayette's visit in 1825 provides us with an opportune moment of reflection today as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Revolution. Why was the American cause so attractive to the young Frenchman in 1776 and the memory so important in 1824? Why should we care about his visit today?

In short, we should care about Lafayette's visit because of how Lafayette saw us.

During the Revolutionary era, Lafayette made it clear that while he championed the cause of American liberty from Britain, he also supported the manumission of slaves. In the fifty years between the Revolution and his return, he participated in abolitionist activities in both the United States and France.

During his return trip, Lafayette was accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, and his secretary, Auguste Levasseur. In 1829, Levasseur published a two-volume account of their journey. Of their visit to James and Dolley Madison's Montpelier plantation in Virginia, Levasseur wrote that Lafayette, “who never fails to take advantage of an opportunity to defend the right which all men, without exception, have to liberty, introduced the question of slavery among the friends of Mr. Madison.”

Of their time in South Carolina, Levasseur wrote, “the state of things in relation to slavery in South Carolina, is the more distressing from its singular contrast with the character of the inhabitants of that state. The Carolinians are particularly distinguished for the cultivation of their minds, the elegance of their manners, their politeness and hospitality towards strangers.”

Throughout his time in America, Lafayette emphasized that though he loved the United States, he opposed slavery. He loved and respected Americans, and he wanted them to live up to the founding edict that liberty is a natural human right for all people.

Lafayette's ability to see America for better and worse should be a model for us today.

*Elizabeth Chew*

Elizabeth Chew, PhD  
SCHS Chief Executive Officer  
[elizabeth.chew@schsonline.org](mailto:elizabeth.chew@schsonline.org)

Festive Family Fun Day



On December 7, 2024, the South Carolina Historical Society held a Festive Family Fun Day. Children could color a mural showing highlights of Charleston's skyline decorated for the holidays. Admission to the SCHS Museum—with its family-friendly exhibition elements—was free. In the afternoon, the City of Charleston's Holiday Parade came right up Meeting Street next to the Fireproof Building.

American Revolution Symposium



The SCHS's Melina Testin and Elizabeth Chew attended the Sixth Annual American Revolution Symposium at the State Department of Archives and History in Columbia on November 16, 2024. Testin staffed a table for the SCHS to show the new Traveling Archive materials (detailed at right) she created to take into classrooms. Testin and Chew were able to attend the symposium sessions to hear presentations on William Moultrie, Patriots of Color in the Carolinas, Women in the Revolution, and other topics.

About This Issue

In 2022, the South Carolina Historical Society received a state appropriation to highlight the important role that South Carolina played in building the nation. These funds allow us to focus on the period spanning 1763 to the early 1800s through digitization of archival materials; educational outreach to students, teachers, and others throughout the state; a new exhibition in the SCHS Museum; and special publications, including this themed issue of *Carologue*. Thanks to Representative Leon Stavrinakis, Mayor William Cogswell, and Senator Dick Harpootlian for their support of the SCHS and help securing this appropriation.



Traveling Archive Program

Turn your classroom into an archive with the SCHS's new Traveling Archive program! A classroom set of archival boxes filled with high-quality reproductions of maps, receipt books, letters, order books, photographs, and more gives students the opportunity to examine primary sources. The Traveling Archive is accompanied by a career exploration activity that introduces the many uses of an archive. Contact Melina Testin at [melina.testin@schsonline.org](mailto:melina.testin@schsonline.org) to learn more and schedule a classroom visit.



Archives Amazon Wishlist

Support the SCHS Archives by shopping our Amazon Wishlist! These materials play an important role in our mission “to collect, preserve, and share the stories of all South Carolinians and use these stories—from significant historical events to everyday moments—to promote visibility, understanding, engagement, and conversation.” Additionally, several items are disaster recovery supplies in case of a hurricane or other emergency. View our Wishlist at [a.co/7EAXCTm](https://a.co/7EAXCTm) and thank you for your continued support of our collections!





Annual Meeting

On Thursday, March 13, the South Carolina Historical Society celebrated its 170th Annual Meeting at the historic Society Hall in Charleston, marking a new chapter with an evening reception in place of the traditional luncheon. Guests enjoyed a signature sherry cocktail and a curated display of archival materials from the society’s first meeting in 1855, blending history with modern engagement.

The society’s CEO, Dr. Elizabeth Chew, reflected on a year of transformation, highlighted through a dynamic video presentation. The evening honored excellence in historical scholarship with the Clark-Weir Award for the best article in the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, presented to Dr. Lester D. Stephens for “Torrants of Ignorance: John Bachman, the Unity of the Human Race, and the Limits of Science in the Old South,” and the George C. Rogers Jr. Award for the best book on South Carolina history, awarded to Dr. Edda Fields-Black for *Combee: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War*. The SCHS also recognized State Representative Leon Stavrinakis with the Mary Elizabeth Prior Award for his dedicated advocacy.

The event concluded with a tribute to outgoing Board Chair Bill Davies, acknowledging his years of leadership, before members voted on the 2025 budget and new Board appointments. The gathering underscored the SCHS’s enduring mission to preserve and share South Carolina’s rich history.

A heartfelt thank you to our Champion Sponsor, Mandy and John McCabe, for their generous support in making this gathering so memorable!



Lafayette Celebration

On Friday, March 14, the South Carolina Historical Society hosted an extraordinary evening at the Fireproof Building to honor Lafayette’s historic tour of South Carolina. The centerpiece of the night was a rare Loud & Brothers square piano, crafted in 1824 for Lafayette’s tour and generously loaned by the Sigal Music Museum in Greenville. Guests were captivated as its elegant tones echoed through the historic halls, blending Neoclassical splendor with the charm of live music. With drinks, bites from the Historic Table, and the harmonious melodies, attendees reveled in a truly magical atmosphere—a fitting tribute to Lafayette’s enduring legacy and influence.

A special thank you to our sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fishburne, the Sigal Music Museum, and Susan and Steve Bichel, who own the piano.

After the events in Charleston, SCHS staff members traveled to Edisto Island and Beaufort for more Lafayette festivities. At Edisto Island, Lafayette visited the home of William Seabrook, where he was asked to name the Seabrooks’ infant daughter, choosing Carolina Lafayette Seabrook. The property’s current owners opened it for visits arranged by the Edisto Island Historic Preservation Society Museum. In Beaufort, Historic Beaufort Foundation organized a re-creation of Lafayette’s arrival, greeting by the Mayor, and procession through town, capped off in the evening with a Lafayette ball outside at the Beaufort History Museum.

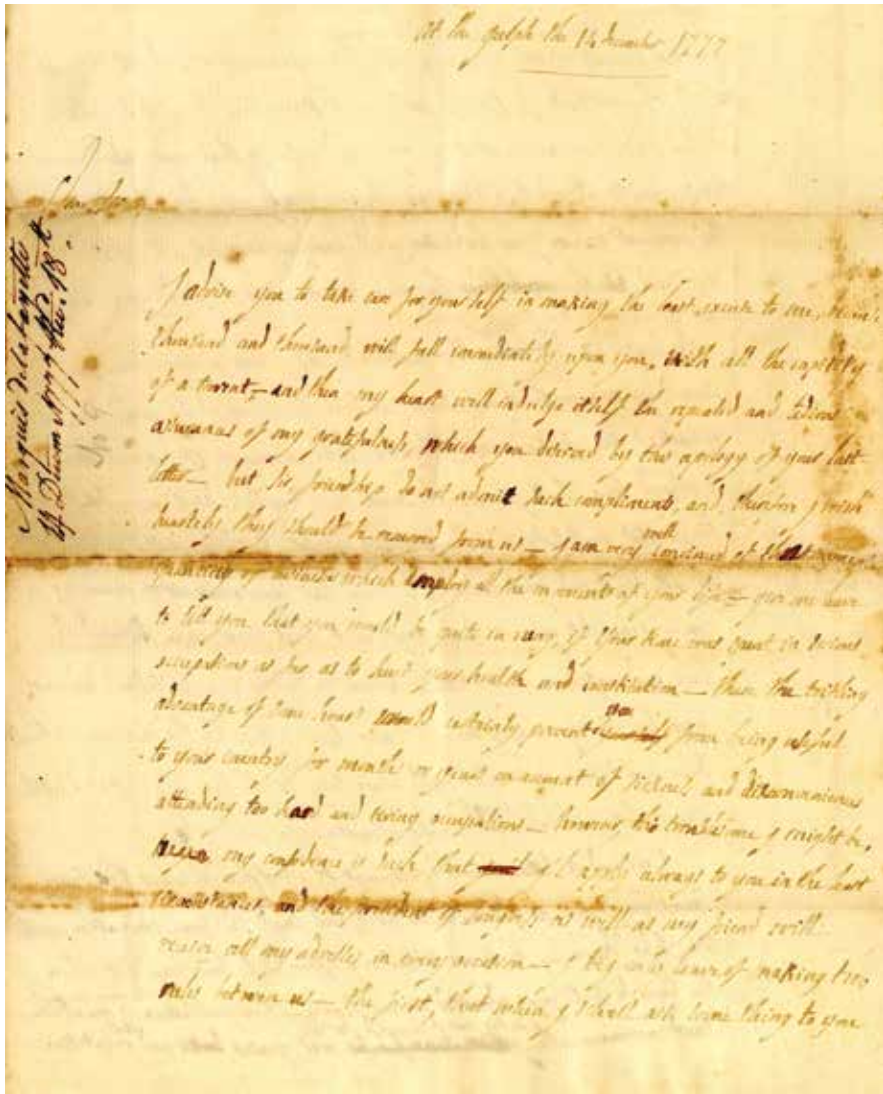


Letters from the Marquis de Lafayette to Henry Laurens

If you have seen the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*, you are likely familiar with the close friendship it depicts between John Laurens and Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette. This was not an artistic liberty taken by writer Lin-Manuel Miranda. Laurens and Lafayette indeed became fast friends while serving under General George Washington and were often associated with fellow Continental Army officer Alexander Hamilton. As Hamilton’s grandson would later proclaim, Laurens, Lafayette, and Hamilton were the “three musketeers” of Washington’s camp, and their friendship has been well-documented by biographers and historians of the American Revolution ever since.

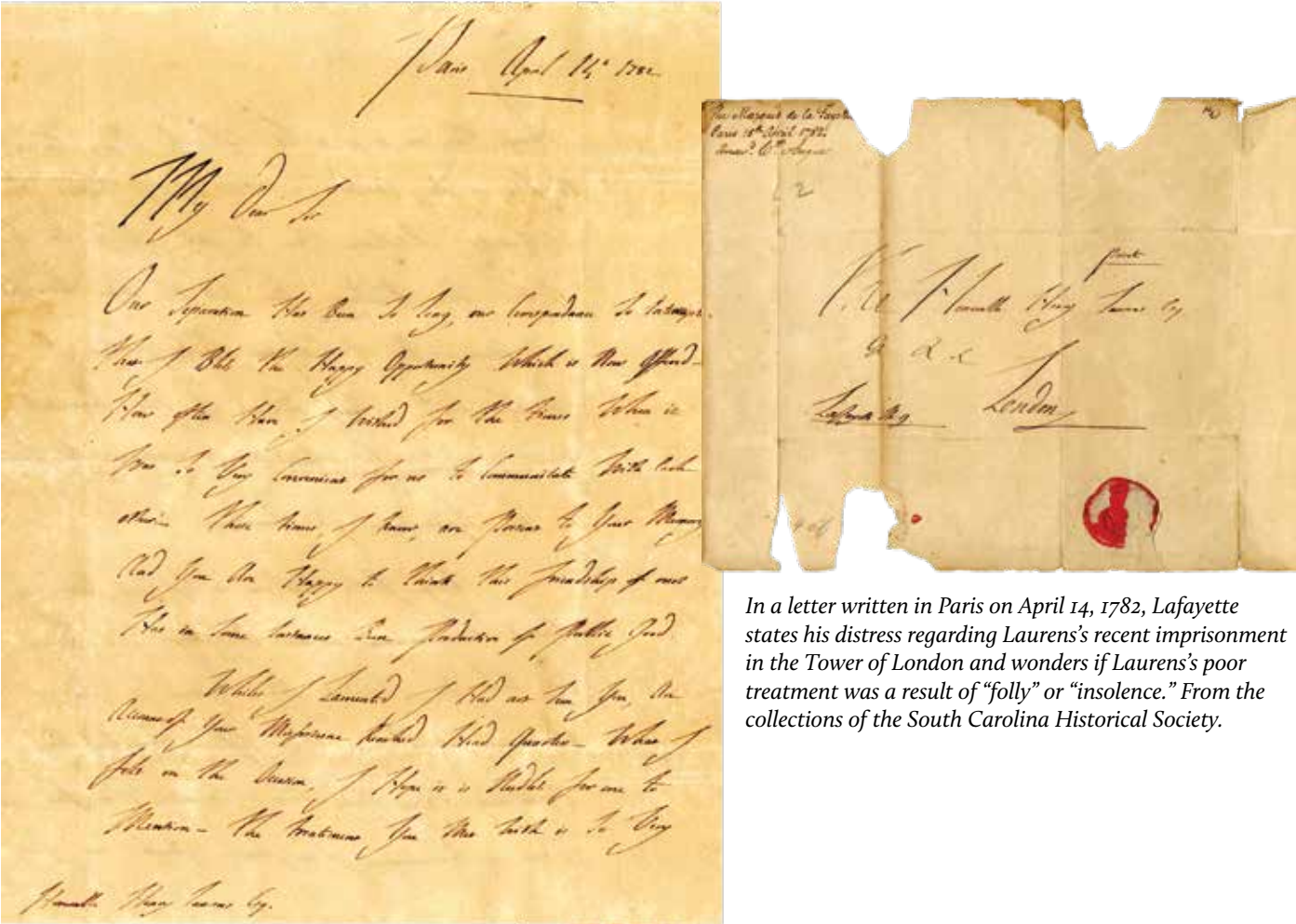
Less explored in both history and popular culture, however, is the warm friendship that existed between

Lafayette and John Laurens’s father, Henry Laurens. A prominent Charleston merchant, planter, and political leader who was the featured subject of our Fall 2024 *Carologue* issue, Henry Laurens was one of the first people Lafayette met upon arriving in Philadelphia in July 1777. Having recently arrived in Philadelphia himself to serve in the Second Continental Congress, Henry Laurens wrote in favor of Lafayette receiving a military commission from Congress but did not take a personal shine to the younger man until a shared carriage ride a few months later. Likely bonding over their knowledge of French and zeal for the revolutionary cause, the two began corresponding while Lafayette was recuperating from a battle wound. This correspondence would continue for the rest of the war and traverse multiple continents.



In a letter written in Pennsylvania on December 14, 1777, Lafayette pleads with Laurens to take care of himself and value his health over the demands of Congress. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

The SCHS Archives holds a series of sixty-four letters sent by the Marquis de Lafayette to Henry Laurens. These letters are part of our Henry Laurens Papers, which we are working to digitize and make available on the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL). Although these letters are only a portion of the correspondence that passed between Lafayette and Laurens, they still capture some of the most significant moments in the war for both of them and reveal the goodwill and camaraderie they had developed. Beginning in September 1777, the first few letters are short and practical in nature, relaying news from Washington’s camp (including updates on the well-being of John Laurens) and Lafayette’s requests for military commissions for other Frenchmen. But as the war continued into another winter, Lafayette’s letters became longer and more personal. In one letter dated December 14, 1777, for instance, Lafayette responds to a previous letter from Laurens in which Laurens lamented his demanding duties as the new president of the Continental Congress. In addition to refusing Laurens’s apologies for not responding sooner, Lafayette pleads with Laurens to take care of himself and value his health over the demands of Congress, even ordering Laurens to set aside their friendship until it is more convenient for him. During the early months of 1778, Laurens became one of Lafayette’s



In a letter written in Paris on April 14, 1782, Lafayette states his distress regarding Laurens’s recent imprisonment in the Tower of London and wonders if Laurens’s poor treatment was a result of “folly” or “insolence.” From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

ette’s closest confidants as Lafayette used their letters to vent about the ill-fated Canada expedition and General Horatio Gates’s attempt to replace Washington as the head of the Continental Army. Until his return to France in 1779, Lafayette wrote to Laurens frequently and often expressed his “most tender affection and friendship” for the elder statesman.

But out of all the letters that speak to the friendship of Lafayette and Laurens, perhaps the most powerful letter is the one that Lafayette wrote on April 14, 1782. In this letter, Lafayette states his distress regarding Laurens’s imprisonment in the Tower of London. Captured at sea by a British warship in the fall of 1780, Laurens spent over fifteen months as a prisoner in the Tower of London. By 1782, Laurens had been released from his imprisonment, but his health and personal circumstances had suffered greatly. Lafayette expresses his anger over this, stating that he cannot decide if Laurens’s poor treatment was a result of “folly” or “insolence.” Nevertheless, Lafayette declares that he cannot help but be proud of “the Noble, Steady Conduct of My Respectable friend, Whom Every Instance Has proved to be a true Representative of America.” In the post-script of the letter, Lafayette men-

tions his wife’s attempts to get letters delivered to Laurens during his imprisonment and requests that he be allowed to assist Laurens with a line of credit.

The letters from Lafayette in the SCHS collection end a year later in 1783, two months before the signing of the Treaty of Paris that officially ended the Revolutionary War. Encumbered by the circumstances of their personal lives and no longer connected through the common cause of war and revolution, communication slowly stalled between the two. In a letter to a friend named John McQueen in September 1785, Laurens would explain that he owes a significant piece of correspondence to Lafayette but has been consumed by his efforts to rebuild his estate. Still, he urges McQueen to meet with Lafayette in Paris and communicate his most “affectionate Compliments with assurances that I bear the warmest friendship & regard for him.” Until the very end, it is evident that Lafayette and Laurens had the utmost respect and care for each other, which has made Lafayette’s letters some of my favorite documents to digitize in the collection. I urge you to look for these letters as more of the Henry Laurens Papers appear on the Lowcountry Digital Library.

—Annette Guild



Meet Our Summer and Fall Archives Interns



Maddy DuBois

In June, I began my internship with the South Carolina Historical Society. Throughout my time with the SCHS, I was able to learn about archival procedures for organizing artifacts, how to describe historical documents, and how to read handwritten texts. Over the summer, I had the pleasure of assisting in various projects that contributed to the organization and daily functioning of the society. Specifically, my projects included logging collections of land grants, cataloging new artifacts, and my personal favorite, organizing postcards in the visual materials collections. Working with the collections of new artifacts allowed me to view South Carolina’s history through different lenses over time. One of the first collections I was able to work on involved inventorying newspaper articles from World War II. Many items in this collection focused on the “home front” of the war and involved actions that citizens could take to benefit the war effort. Many of these were Charleston-specific and included advertisements for war bonds or publicized Charleston fundraising efforts like balls to gather funds for local soldiers at war. While at the SCHS, I was also able to

assist with postcards in the visual material collections. Through working with these, I gained insight into what individuals found important enough to share with others during their travels, along with where South Carolinians were traveling to throughout the world. Seeing how these travel destinations have changed over time was fascinating, especially locations in Charleston that I was able to visit in person throughout my summer. During my time in Charleston, I also had the opportunity to assist with projects at the SCHS Museum. There, I worked to catalog varying collections, from those that included deeds for houses located throughout Charleston to collections of papers from local law offices. As I reflect over my time in Charleston this summer, the work that I was able to do with the SCHS collections focused my appreciation of their significance to South Carolina’s history. Being in Charleston while working with these collections was a bonus as I was surrounded by rich historical backgrounds in places that I would pass on a daily basis. While I am not certain what my future career path will look like, I have loved getting to examine original artifacts and learning stories of people from the past while growing my love for history.

Maddy DuBois is a senior at Sewanee: The University of the South majoring in psychology and minoring in history and business.

This semester, I had the privilege of interning at the South Carolina Historical Society, which provided a one-of-a-kind opportunity to immerse myself in South Carolina’s rich history while helping to preserve it. As a student interested in archives and historical research, I found this internship to be both inspiring and transformative. During my time at the SCHS, I worked on a range of projects that utilized many of the skills of an archivist. My responsibilities included learning to use microfilm and writing finding aids—tools that help researchers navigate the society’s resources. I also worked on digitization projects, scanning historical documents, and formatting transcriptions for transfer to the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL). These initiatives underlined the significance of making history accessible in the digital age. One of the most intriguing aspects of my internship was working on specific assignments. I worked on a project to uncover the stories of people of color in the Bank of Charleston collection, which served as a powerful reminder of the multiple narratives that exist within archival data. I also assisted with research on South Carolina SPCA and Rutledge family documents, understanding how archival items relate to larger historical

settings. Beyond the hands-on archival work, attending staff meetings and conducting inventory deepened my understanding of the operational aspects of archival management. Collaborating with the SCHS team was a highlight; their knowledge and passion for South Carolina’s history inspired me daily. This internship validated my desire to become an archivist and gave vital practical experience to supplement my academic education. I’m extremely appreciative to the SCHS for giving me this opportunity. It has been an honor to contribute, however slightly, to the preservation of South Carolina’s historical legacy. This experience will serve as a foundation for my future research in archives and public history.

Laura Bradham is a junior at the College of Charleston majoring in integrated studies with concentrations in arts management and art history.



Laura Bradham



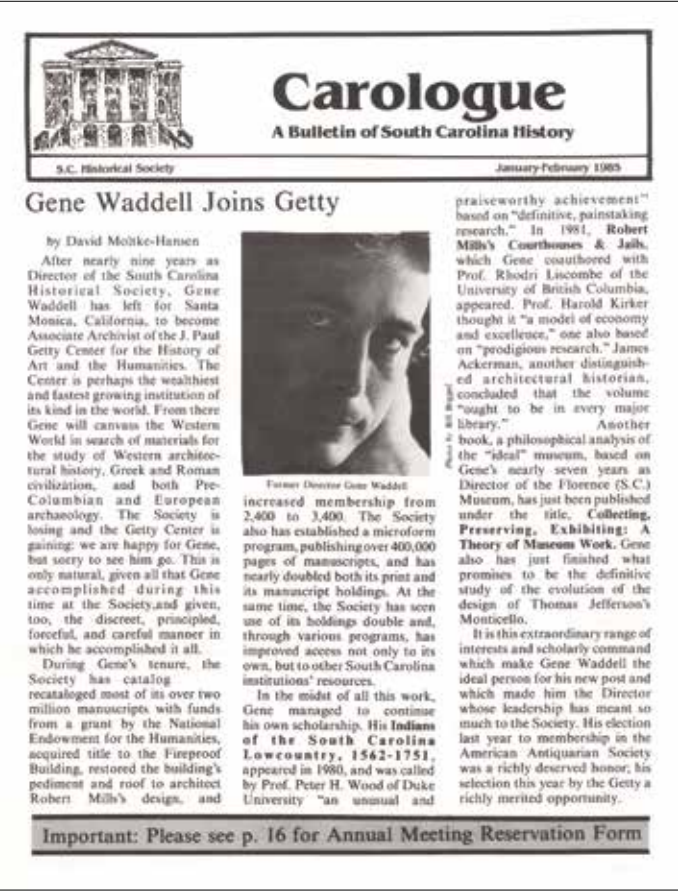
REMEMBERING THE EARLY DAYS OF CAROLOGUE

By Stephen Hoffius

In 1987 I was working in the PR department of the College of Charleston when my friend Harlan Greene, who was then assistant director of the South Carolina Historical Society, asked if I’d be interested in changing jobs. Elise Pinckney had retired as editor of the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, so there was an opening. But the job turned out to be much more than just that one editing job, and probably more than Harlan realized, because the director, David Moltke-Hansen, kept coming up with new and varied projects. I said yes, and fortunately so did the folks at the society.

In addition to the *Historical Magazine*, I would be writing and editing the society’s fairly new general-interest magazine, *Carologue*. That was ironic because I had self-published a book entitled *Carologue* in 1972, and Harlan had taken the name from me without my knowing why. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a best-selling periodical called the *Whole Earth Catalog* was a hippie guide to resources for farming, starting your own business, doing artwork, and more. I was fascinated, and in 1971, the summer after I dropped out of Duke University, I read *The Last Whole Earth Catalog* page by page, item by item. I had two criticisms: There was very little about the South and no politics. So a friend, Arnie Katz, and I determined to produce our own Carolina Catalog, that we called *Carologue: access to north carolina*. It was all Tar Heel State, nothing Palmetto State. In December 1972 we published five thousand copies and pretty much sold out before the end of the year. With the profits (copies sold for \$2.00 retail, or \$1.20 wholesale, so where did the profits come from?), we were able to publish two other spinoff books, one a guide to North Carolina environmental groups, and the other a feminist guide to women’s resources in the state. We hadn’t done anything with the name *Carologue* in several years.

One day, probably in late 1984, Harlan came over (not hard, since my wife and I lived on the second floor of a house on Charlotte Street in Charleston and Harlan lived in the basement), and asked if I was doing anything with  
(Continued on page 22)



Published in January 1985, the first issue of Carologue featured an article on “Mr. Bowman’s Windmill” by William P. Baldwin Jr. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.





## LOOKING BACK: TEN YEARS OF THE SCHS ARCHIVES AT THE ADDLESTONE LIBRARY

On a cool December morning in 2014, moving trucks arrived at the Fireproof Building, ready to transport the holdings of the state's largest private manuscript repository, nearly 160 years' worth of collecting the letters, journals, maps, plats, drawings, photographs, books, pamphlets, and other records spanning the history of the state of South Carolina. The collections of the SCHS are vast and priceless, not to mention meticulously organized into thousands of numbered and labeled archival boxes and folders of varying sizes. The job of relocating such a large and varied collection to a new location, even though it was just across town, was a monumental task. It required years of planning and preparation and a dedicated team of staff members, a supportive and motivated group of board members, and a moving company specializing in archive and library moves. Over the course of three days, almost four thousand manuscript collections, ranging in size from a few folders of documents to one hundred boxes of papers, along with thousands of books, pamphlets, visual materials, maps, plats, and artifacts, were relocated to the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library.

The decision to partner with the college and move the collections of the SCHS to the Addlestone Library was made for a number of reasons—the need for more space, better climate control for the collections in state-of-the-art archival vaults, and the ease of access (including elevators, an amenity not available in the Fireproof

Building prior to being renovated in 2018). The move also has allowed SCHS staff to work more often with College of Charleston students and faculty and to work more closely with the Lowcountry Digital Library, which is hosted by the college. The co-location of the collections of the SCHS and the college's Special Collections department has given researchers access to a preeminent collection of South Carolina and southern history from two separate renowned institutions, all from one shared reading room and service desk.

Quite a lot has been accomplished since the shared reading room was opened in January 2015. Over 14,000 researchers have visited from all over the country and all over the world, nearly 20,000 call slips have been submitted for collections being requested by researchers, about 750 linear feet of collections have been acquired and added to the SCHS collections, and almost 19,000 image files of digitized SCHS collections have been added to the Lowcountry Digital Library. In addition to these accomplishments, SCHS Archives staff have welcomed numerous groups, both students and life-long learners, for archival orientations and pop-up exhibits showcasing highlights from the SCHS collections. All of this would not be possible without our supportive partners at the College of Charleston Libraries and the many SCHS supporters who helped make the move a reality!

—Molly Silliman

## SCHS ARCHIVES BY THE NUMBERS SINCE MOVING TO THE ADDLESTONE LIBRARY IN 2015...



**756** LINEAR  
FEET OF ITEMS  
ADDED TO THE  
COLLECTION



**14,106**  
RESEARCHERS  
ASSISTED IN THE  
READING ROOM



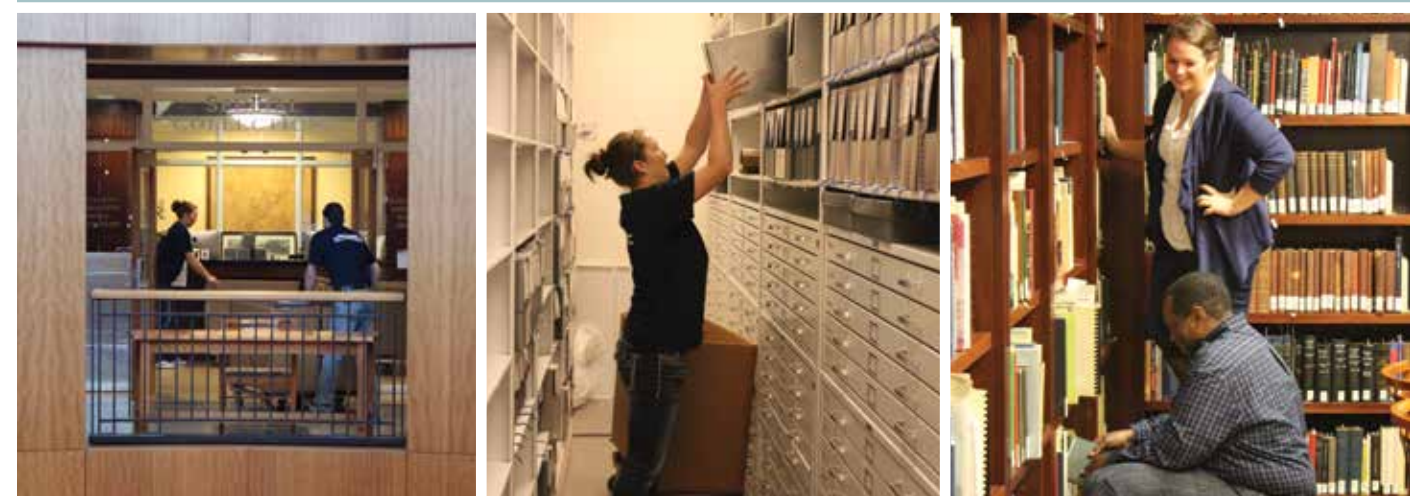
**18,737** IMAGE  
FILES ADDED TO  
THE LOWCOUNTRY  
DIGITAL LIBRARY



**18,503**  
CALL SLIPS  
SUBMITTED FOR  
ITEMS & COLLECTIONS



RESEARCHERS FROM  
**46** STATES AND THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
**20** COUNTRIES



Above, from left, movers steer boxes through the entrance to the reading room shared by the SCHS and the College of Charleston's Special Collections at the Addlestone Library on December 17, 2014; a mover places materials in the new SCHS vault; SCHS staff members Molly Silliman and Eric Fulton share a laugh while shelving books in the reading room. Opposite, from left, movers load flat files from the Fireproof Building onto a moving truck parked on Chalmers Street on December 15, 2014; a temporary ramp is constructed over the Fireproof Building's central staircase between the second and third floors to facilitate the hauling of materials; movers roll carts of materials on the second-floor landing after they have been carefully wheeled down from the third floor. Photographs by SCHS staff.



# Lafayette's 1825 Tour of South Carolina

## 1. Cheraw

From August 1824 to September 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette—the last surviving Revolutionary general—toured the United States, visiting all of its (then) twenty-four states. His first stop in the Palmetto State was Cheraw, which he reached late on the evening of March 6, 1825. He spent the night at a home built by Dr. William Ellerbe, now known as the Lafayette House.



## 2. Bethune

Lafayette spent the night of March 7 at the plantation of Lovick Young.

## 3. Camden

Lafayette arrived in Camden on March 8 and proceeded to the Kershaw-Cornwallis House, the headquarters of General Cornwallis during the British occupation of Camden. He then continued to the home of John Carter, later known as Lafayette Hall, where he was to spend the night. After a banquet at Masonic Hall, a ball was held in his honor at the Camden Hotel. On March 9, he visited Bethesda Presbyterian Church and laid the cornerstone of the monument to Baron de Kalb (shown above), who was killed during the Battle of Camden.



## 4. Columbia

Upon his arrival in the capital on March 10, Lafayette proceeded down Main Street and went to the Gervais Street home of Isaac Randolph (shown at right), which would serve as his lodging while in town. He visited the campus of South Carolina College that evening. Lafayette was also addressed by Governor John Laurence Manning, and a ball was held in his honor in the basement of the State House.

## 5. Orangeburg

Lafayette spent the night of March 12 at the residence of Mrs. Fitz, known as “Half Way House” due to its location between Columbia and Charleston.



## 6. North Charleston

Lafayette spent the night of March 13 at the Elms, a plantation owned by the Izard family and now the site of the Charleston Southern University campus.



## 7. Charleston

Lafayette first proceeded to City Hall upon entering Charleston on March 14. That evening, he attended the theater, located at the corner of Broad and New Streets, and then went to his lodging at St. Andrew's Hall on Broad Street (shown at left).

On March 15, Lafayette had breakfast at the house of General Pinckney and met with clergy, judges, members of the bar, and officers of the Second Division of the South Carolina militia. After afternoon visits to several prominent Charleston homes, Lafayette proceeded to City Hall for a public dinner and viewed fireworks at the Orphan House.

Lafayette stayed at St. Andrew's Hall for much of March 16, receiving faculty and students of the Philosophical and Classical Seminary with Bishop England, representatives of the South Carolina Encampment of Knights Templars and the Lafayette Encampment of Georgetown, and French descendants of Charleston. A ball was organized at the theater in the evening, and Lafayette also attended a reception at the headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati on Church Street.



## 8. Edisto Island

On March 17, Lafayette boarded a steamboat at Charleston's Fitzsimon's Wharf and set sail for Edisto Island. There, he visited the home of William Seabrook and attended a baptism ceremony for the Seabrooks' daughter, Carolina Lafayette.

## 9. Beaufort

Lafayette disembarked at the Beaufort wharf late on the evening of March 18. After passing through an illuminated triumphal arch, he attended a reception and purportedly addressed the townspeople from the steps of the Verdier House before continuing on to Savannah, Georgia.



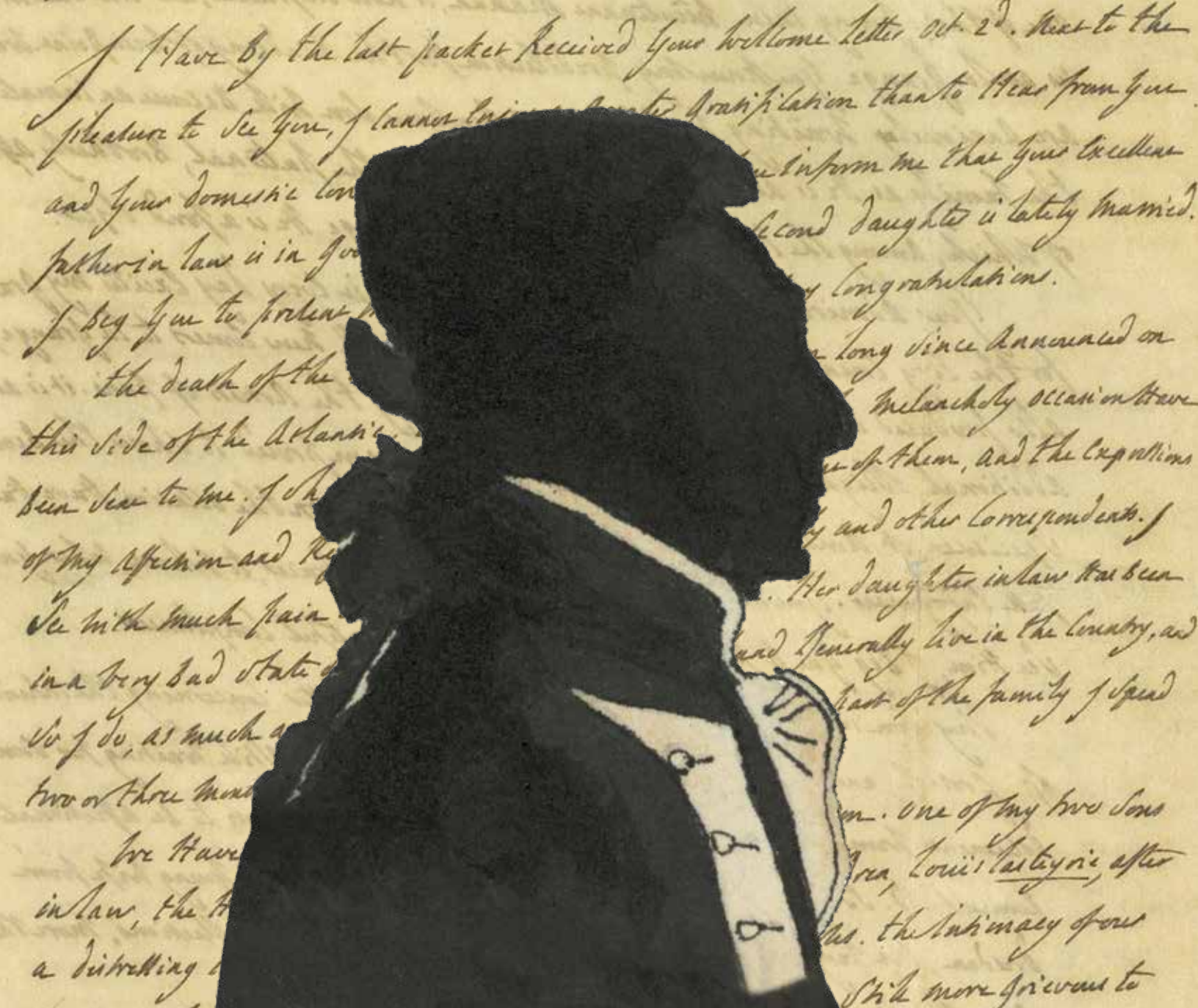
## 10. Hamburg

While visiting Augusta, Georgia, Lafayette traveled to the newly established town of Hamburg, located on the opposite bank of Savannah River.



Map of Lafayette's South Carolina tour (Voyage du Général Lafayette aux États-Unis, 1827) and photograph of Cheraw's Lafayette House courtesy of the Library of Congress; all other images from the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.





# More Ardour than Experience: LAFAYETTE'S PURSUIT OF LIBERTY AND HIS SOUTH CAROLINA CONNECTIONS

BY MOLLY SILLIMAN

In his personal memoirs and correspondence, the Marquis de Lafayette recalls that upon hearing of the events unfolding in the American colonies in the 1770s, his “heart espoused warmly the cause of liberty,” and he felt an immediate calling to go to America and offer his services to help the fight against the British. In late 1776, the scarcely nineteen-year-old Lafayette approached Silas Deane, a Connecticut delegate to the Continental Congress who was in France, tasked with garnering support for the American cause. Admitting he had more “ardour for the cause” than experience in warfare, the young French nobleman entered into an agreement with Deane and made plans to depart for America.

In late April 1777, Lafayette set sail, with a handful of other French officers and the German-born military strategist Johann de Kalb. On June 13, 1777, Lafayette first set foot on American soil at North Island on Winyah Bay, near the port of Georgetown, South Carolina. Although his service to the Continental Army would take him to Pennsylvania, New York, and beyond, his connections to South Carolina and South Carolinians remained strong throughout his life, as evidenced in several collections in the SCHS Archives.

Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was born into the French nobility at Chateau Chavaniac in the Auvergne region of southern France on September 6, 1757. He seemed destined to follow in his father's family's footsteps in pursuing a career in the French royal army. Sadly, Lafayette's father was killed while serving as a colonel in the King's Grenadiers in the Seven Years' War, when the younger Lafayette was not yet two years old. After the death of his father in 1759 and his mother in 1770, Lafayette became one of the wealthiest aristocrats in all of Europe, inheriting money and property from his maternal grandfather's estate.

The young nobleman received a classical education and joined the King's Musketeers, attending military training at Versailles. In April 1773, Lafayette became a Brevet Lieutenant in the elite Noailles Regiment in the French army. The next year, he married Adrienne de Noailles, whose father was the Duc de Noailles. This match only increased his position at the French court, and his wealth and place among the French aristocracy would eventually give him the means to support the American cause financially and militarily as well as diplomatically, through garnering crucial French support for the American cause.

In his memoirs, Lafayette describes the evening in 1775 when he first heard of the unrest developing in the American colonies and the moment he decided to volunteer his services to the cause. While stationed in the French city of Metz, he attended a dinner with fellow

army officers given in honor of the Duke of Gloucester, brother to King George III. The Duke informed the attendees of news from the colonies, including the Battle of Lexington and the election by the Second Continental Congress of George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

Lafayette recalls feeling that the American fight for freedom from Great Britain was the last struggle for liberty, and that if it were defeated, mankind would have no hope for freedom and equality. He also writes in his memoirs that, if Great Britain were to triumph in its fight to retain possession of the American colonies, his own country's colonial ambitions and naval power would be diminished, weakening France's standing in the centuries-long, recurrent conflicts between the two countries. A desire for military glory, concerns over his own country's political power, and his feeling that America's pursuit of liberty was mankind's pursuit of liberty led the young nobleman to venture across the Atlantic.

In December 1776, with limited funds available from Congress for transporting volunteers from France, Lafayette purchased and provisioned a ship using his own wealth and named it *La Victoire*. Lafayette, de Kalb,

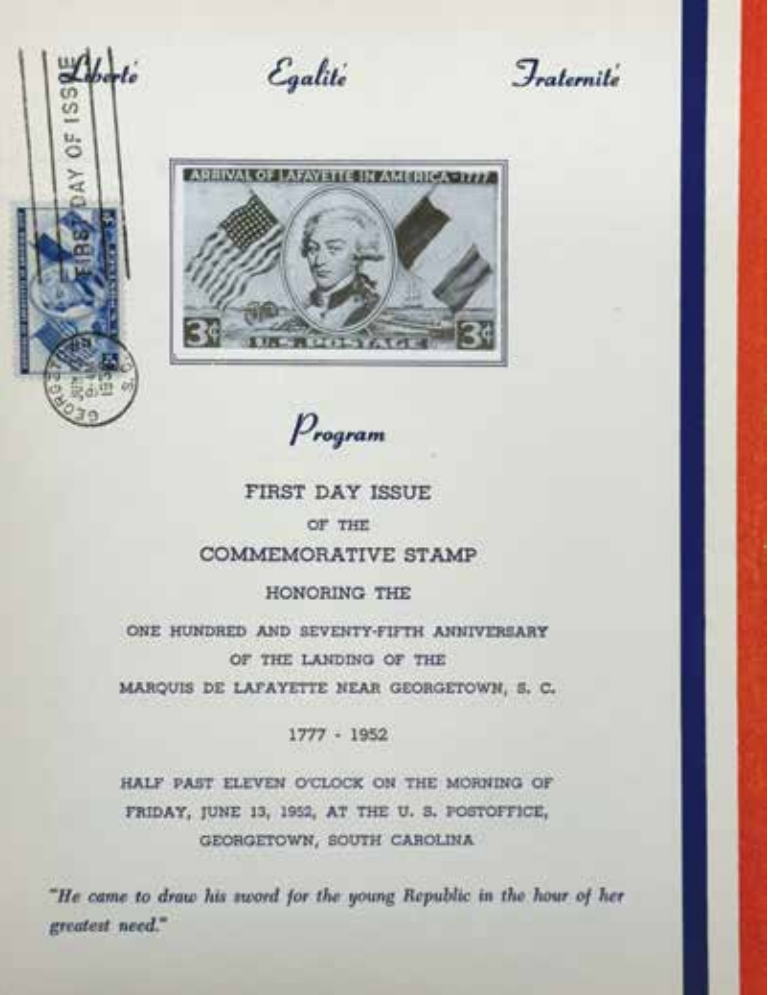


Lafayette is depicted in a 1788 portrait by the French artist Louis-Léopold Boilly. Boilly portrait courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, Lafayette silhouette (opposite) courtesy of the Library of Congress, 1826 letter from Lafayette to Francis Kinloch Huger (opposite, background) from the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.



and the others aboard his ship fled France in secrecy, since Louis XVI had forbidden French officers to join the American army. Despite covertly supporting the American cause, the French king was concerned about openly declaring war against the British.

Leaving Bordeaux, Lafayette made it across the border to Spain and sailed from San Sebastian in April 1777. After roughly two months at sea, Lafayette intended to sail directly to Charleston, but the number of British ships present prevented a direct landing there. *La Victoire* headed up the coast and anchored off North Island on June 13. Lafayette and a few others rowed ashore and were met by a small group of enslaved men, who led Lafayette to the nearby home of Benjamin Huger. Benjamin Huger was a Major in the Fifth South Carolina Regiment of the Continental Army and was at his summer home with his young family, including his three-year-old son Francis Kinloch Huger, who would prove important in Lafayette’s later life.



A souvenir program details events celebrating the 1952 issue of a commemorative stamp honoring the 175th anniversary of Lafayette’s landing at North Island, near Georgetown, on June 13, 1777. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

Lafayette and his party spent the night at the Hugers’ home, and he notes in a letter to his wife Adrienne, sent on a ship from Georgetown laden with rice for the French market, that the manners of the people he met with were “simple, honest, and altogether worthy of the country where everything re-echoes the beautiful name of *liberty*.”

Lafayette, de Kalb, and the other French officers made their way to Charleston, where they were welcomed by President of the Assembly John Rutledge, and Generals Robert Howe and William Moultrie. In another letter to his wife dated June 19, 1777, Lafayette describes Charleston as “one of the most beautiful and well-built of cities,” and her people among the most agreeable, with a “love of country and liberty, and an easy equality.”

Although Lafayette would later become well known for his strong abolitionist views, at this time, like other notable figures of the American Revolution, he saw no irony in making a statement on the “easy equality” of the people, while most of the population of South Carolina was enslaved and lacked the freedom and liberty he so ardently championed.

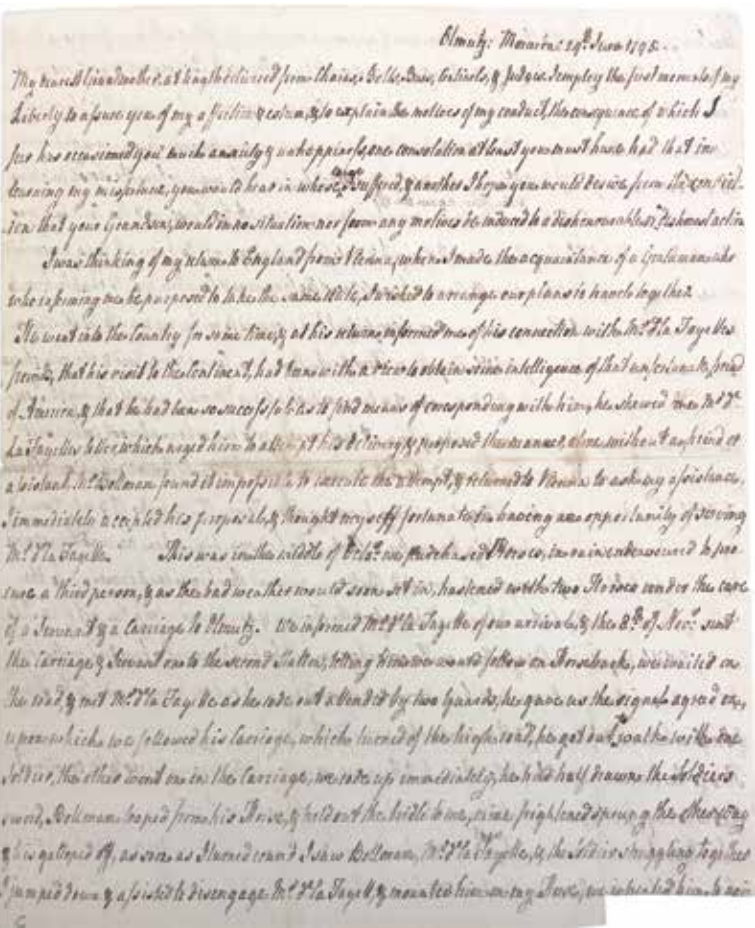
He would become more vocal about freedom for enslaved people after forming close friendships with Henry and John Laurens of South Carolina. He was possibly influenced by the younger Laurens, who advocated emancipating enslaved people in exchange for their military service. Lafayette and John Laurens served together on Washington’s staff, and the two formed a friendship that would last until John Laurens’s death on August 27, 1782. Lafayette maintained a close relationship with Henry Laurens as well, and they wrote numerous letters back and forth throughout the war. Their friendship began in September 1777, when Laurens provided the wounded Lafayette a ride to the Moravian community in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for medical care, after the Marquis had been wounded in the Battle of Brandywine.

Having arrived in Philadelphia in late July 1777, Lafayette was named a Major General by Congress. He volunteered his services without pay, and he became an aide-de-camp to General Washington in August 1777. In addition to his service in the Battle of Brandywine, the Marquis distinguished himself through his leadership at Valley Forge, the Battle of Rhode Island, the Battle of Monmouth and others. He formed a close friendship with Washington, and his fierce loyalty to the Commander in Chief was one of the most influential relationships of his life. In fact, Adrienne gave birth to a baby boy on December 24, 1779, and the couple named him George Washington Lafayette.

In January of that year, Lafayette had been sent back to France to petition the French court for support. General Washington needed supplies, troops, and money, and Washington relied on Lafayette’s diplomatic skills and influence to persuade King Louis XVI and the French ministry to increase support for the American cause. By February 1780, Lafayette had convinced Louis, and he was given a formal send off by the court at Versailles on his return to America to resume his service in the Continental Army. With Savannah and Charleston in British hands by May 1780, the news of thousands of French troops on their way was welcome to Washington. Lafayette again distinguished himself during the Battle of Yorktown. Leading up to the battle, troops under his command harassed and chased General Cornwallis and his troops across Virginia and eventually trapped him in time to be met with Washington’s army, French forces under General Rochambeau, and the French West Indian fleet. The Patriot forces succeeded, and General Cornwallis surrendered. Lafayette was hailed a hero, not only for his military leadership, but also for his role in securing French support for the war.

In 1782, Lafayette returned to France with great fanfare, including a formal reception from King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. He returned to his home country a hero, and just a few short years later, he was elected as a representative of the French nobility to the Estates General in Paris. In this capacity, he advocated for freedom of religion and for freedom for enslaved people. In 1789, he co-authored and presented the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen to the National Assembly in Paris and was elected as Vice-President of the assembly. As the tide of the French Revolution turned against the aristocracy and the Reign of Terror began, Lafayette was forced into exile. In Belgium, Lafayette was arrested and turned over to the Austrian government. France had declared war on Austria in April 1792, after Austria threatened portions of France in what they deemed a defense of monarchies from the revolutionary forces in France. Lafayette was sent to prison in Olmutz, Austria, a town now in the Czech Republic. Adrienne was imprisoned in Paris, and many members of her family were guillotined during the Reign of Terror. Lafayette was imprisoned for several years, and it was during this time that Francis Kinloch Huger attempted to rescue the Marquis from captivity.

Francis Kinloch Huger was born on September 17, 1773, in Charleston to Benjamin and Mary Kinloch Huger. He was three years old when his father welcomed Lafayette to his plantation near Georgetown after Lafayette’s

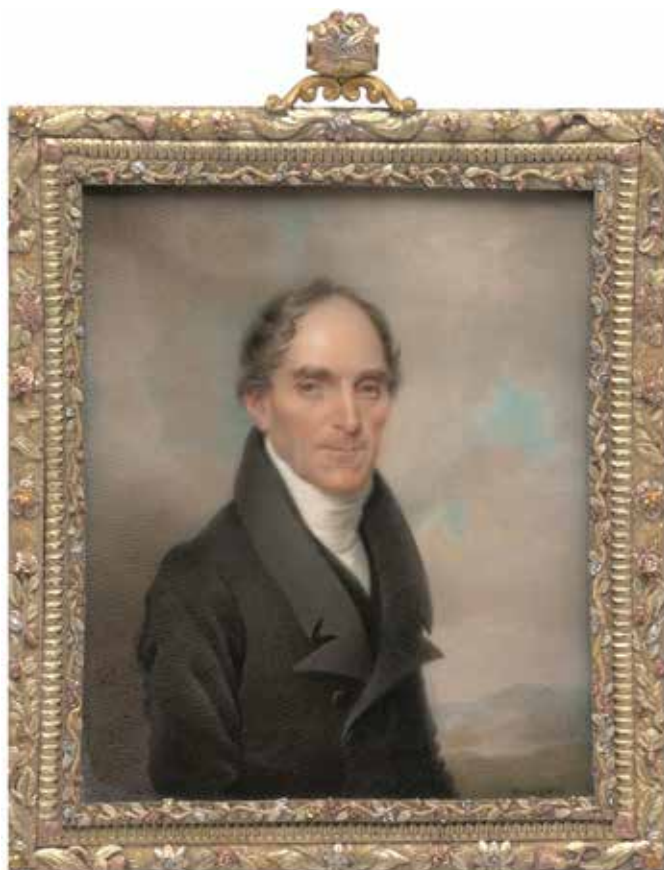


In a letter to his grandmother dated June 24, 1795, Francis Kinloch Huger writes of a failed attempt to rescue Lafayette from a prison in Olmutz, Austria. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

arrival in America. Sadly, Major Benjamin Huger was killed in 1779 in Charleston, and the young Huger was later sent to England for his education, where he studied medicine. While in Vienna in 1794, Huger heard of Lafayette’s imprisonment and met another physician, Dr. Erich Bollman, who, with support from friends of Lafayette angry at his imprisonment, was planning to attempt a rescue. At Olmutz, the Marquis was allowed the occasional walk accompanied by prison guards, and the two men planned to overpower the guard assigned to walk with Lafayette once out of sight of the prison carriage. Then, they would escort Lafayette across the border into Prussia using a carriage staged at a nearby location.

Huger wrote in a letter to his grandmother (in the Huger Family Papers in the SCHS Archives) of the rescue attempt and described where the plan went wrong, writing “Bollman leaped from his horse & held out the bridle to me, mine frightened, and [the horse] galloped off. As soon as I turned round I saw Bollman, M. de la Fayette & the soldier struggling together. I jumped down, & assisted to disengage M. de la Fayette and mounted him on my horse.” They urged Lafayette to escape on the horse,





*Painted by Charles Fraser, this miniature portrait of Francis Kinloch Huger was commissioned by the City of Charleston and given to Lafayette when he visited in 1825. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*

saying that they would immediately follow. Lafayette set off but eventually got lost and was recaptured. Huger and Bollman also initially escaped the prison guards but were later captured and taken to Olmutz prison. Despite the rescue failure, the attempt solidified a friendship between Lafayette and Huger. Huger goes on in the same letter to describe Lafayette as “the old commander, who was more kind to me, and complimented me for conduct ... & said if he had a friend he would wish him to be an American.”

Another collection of correspondence between Francis Kinloch Huger and Lafayette related to his rescue attempt includes letters to Thomas Pinckney, who would become Huger’s father-in-law in 1802 when he married Harriott Lucas Pinckney. Huger writes to Pinckney describing the failed attempt, updating him about his fate, and asking Pinckney, who was serving as U.S. minister in London, to convey his news to his mother back in South Carolina. Huger writes that the attempt was unsuccessful because of “accidents it was not possible to guard against—first our being separated from the Horse on which Bollman and myself rode, in consequence of this M. L. mistaking his way.” Pinckney also corresponded with Lafayette and Adrienne during his imprisonment. In

his letter books in the SCHS collections, there are letters to Adrienne from Pinckney where he describes trying to get information on her husband’s condition and efforts to help her and her family move from France, assuring her that America will do everything it can to assist.

Also included in the Francis Kinloch Huger collection is a copy of a letter from Lafayette, written shortly after his liberation in September 1797, thanking Huger for his rescue attempt and professing his friendship. He writes that “inexpressible affection and boundless gratitude ... bind me to you by everlasting ties of admiration and love.” And indeed, the two would maintain a friendship and correspondence for decades. Later letters to Huger discuss updates on family members and acquaintances, as well as discussions of political events in the United States and France. During Lafayette’s return tour of the U.S. in 1824–25, Huger joined Lafayette in his triumphal tour of the city of Charleston. In the journal of the tour by Auguste Levasseur, Lafayette’s private secretary who accompanied him, he writes that of all the fanfare on display, “what moved the General most was the touching and generous idea of the citizens of Charleston to have him share the honors of his triumph with his brave and excellent friend, Colonel Huger.” Similarly, he goes on to explain that “the three days that General Lafayette spent in Charleston were marked by fetes whose brilliance and good taste enraptured him; but, of all the refined attentions that they lavished on him, the one that moved him most was the gift which the City gave him of a beautiful portrait of his friend Colonel Huger.” The miniature portrait, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, was painted by renowned Charleston artist Charles Fraser.

The numerous towns, counties, colleges, town squares, streets, and other landmarks named after Lafayette across the United States are a testament to the enduring legacy of the Marquis and his pursuit of liberty for both the American colonies and for people around the world. His connections to South Carolina and the legacy he left was still strong in 1952, when the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring the 175th anniversary of the landing of the Marquis de Lafayette near Georgetown. The stamp featured a rendering of the landing spot near North Island, and the town of Georgetown was the site of the first day sale and a special program honoring the release of the stamp. Now, in 2025, the 200th anniversary of his return tour and visit to South Carolina is another opportunity to highlight Lafayette’s connections with our state and share the importance of preserving archival collections such as these that illuminate his life, his relationships, and his role in the founding of the United States. ♥

*Molly Silliman serves as senior archivist at the SCHS.*



# Lafayette the Abolitionist

BY SYDNEY DERRICK

The Marquis de Lafayette is known for his full embrace of the American cause for liberty from Great Britain, but what may not be as well known is that he believed in liberty for all—regardless of race. Over time, he became a staunch abolitionist, developing plans for emancipation in America, joining anti-slavery societies, and speaking with groups that promoted education for African Americans.

It’s not known exactly when or how the Marquis de Lafayette’s opinions about slavery’s harm developed. According to some sources, he met an enslaved man named James during the American Revolution. James lived in Virginia and was pressed into service in 1781 for the American cause, which his enslaver, William Armistead, supported. Over time, James served as a spy for Lafayette, a role he may have enlisted in willingly. He posed as an escaped slave and gained access to General Charles Cornwallis of the British Army, staying in contact with Lafayette to report British troop movements and supplying Cornwallis with misleading information that helped the Americans win at the Battle of Yorktown.

James was not automatically freed after the war, despite a 1783 Virginia law that granted freedom to those

who had served as soldiers. Technically, James had been a spy—not a soldier. But he continued to advocate for himself, and Lafayette wrote a letter of support to the Virginia House of Assembly on behalf of his claim. By 1786, he was free. James would later take a surname to honor his former general—some historians say he went by James Lafayette, while others say his last name was simply Fayette.

James was not the only enslaved person Lafayette would try to free. After the Battle of Yorktown, Lafayette created a plan to free others in bondage—and reached out to George Washington to help him. In 1783, Lafayette wrote to his longtime friend detailing a plan to buy a plantation in the French colony of Cayenne, in French Guiana in South America. He would pay the workers there, who were enslaved at the time, a wage. He would also provide them with education and keep punishment for all workers—regardless of color—the same. He hoped that this would prepare those who had been enslaved for gradual freedom and increase the working population, so that the plan would be economically viable for others to employ elsewhere.

Lafayette invited Washington to do the same, though Washington declined. After the American Revolution,

*(Continued on page 22)*

*Top, left, Lafayette is pictured in an 1825 portrait by Rembrandt Peale. Top, right, James Armistead Lafayette is shown in a portrait after John B. Martin that accompanied a facsimile of Lafayette’s original certificate commending him for his Revolutionary War service. Lafayette portrait courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; James Armistead Lafayette portrait courtesy of Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library.*



“Remembering the Early Days of Carologue”  
(Continued from page 11)

the name “Carologue.” I wasn’t. He nodded and left, with no suggestion of what he had in mind. A few months later, in January 1985, the society produced the first issue of *Carologue*, edited by Susan Walker, with a two-page story by Billy Baldwin (still worth reading).

So in 1987 I returned to *Carologue* (my first issue was Spring 1988), and edited it for about twelve years. Despite the low pay and balky heating-and-air system, the work was great fun and I still think fondly of several of the issues we published. We tried to provide historical stories that, unlike the scholarly *Historical Magazine*, would be entertaining as well as enlightening, from every corner of the state.

When the society received the plantation guest books of wildlife artist John Henry Dick, filled with his beautiful paintings, sketches, and travel notes, I knew who would love them, and asked novelist Josephine Humphreys if she’d look them over and write something up for *Carologue*. She did, and the result was—and still is—spectacular. Somehow interim director Daisy Bigda found the funds to publish double the usual number of pages, all in color.

We published a history of the Anderson automobile, built from 1916 to 1925 in Rock Hill, and arranged with a photographer who worked with an old-time box camera to shoot the State Museum’s 1922 car. In about four hours he took a total of only about six shots, but that was a great cover.

I went to a conference on post-World War II civil rights events in Greenville, most unknown outside of the city, and the panelists agreed to let us publish several of the papers.

We published a fold-out cover (11 by 25 ½ inches!) of a painting of Legareville, the Johns Island village wiped out by a hurricane in the late 1800s.

David Soliday allowed us to print one of his beautiful aerial photos of Combahee River rice plantations to introduce an article and two-page map by my friend Robert B. Cuthbert identifying dozens of antebellum Combahee plantations.

We proclaimed the best Major League Baseball players from the state, illustrated with baseball cards, and the best musicians from the state, illustrated with album covers.

And amazingly, after many issues and editors, through many changes of focus, forty years after the first issue, *Carologue* is still going strong and is still fun to read! ♥

*Stephen Hoffius was director of publications for the SCHS from 1987 to 1998.*

“Lafayette the Abolitionist”  
(Continued from page 21)

he returned to France, where he remotely managed the venture in Cayenne for a short time. His hopes for the clove and cinnamon plantation were dashed, however, when the revolutionary government came into power in France and seized Lafayette’s lands there. The French revolutionaries eventually emancipated the workers, but that emancipation was rescinded when Napoleon came into power.

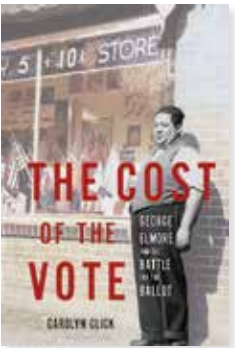
Lafayette made his views on slavery clear through his memberships in organizations on both sides of the Atlantic. In 1785, he wrote to Alexander Hamilton about wanting to join the Association Against the Slavery of Negroes in New York, and in the late 1780s, he joined the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. By 1788, he was a member of a society established in Paris for the abolition of the slave trade. And on his farewell tour of America in 1824–25, he attended a meeting of the American Colonization Society, which championed a plan to manumit enslaved people and send them to colonize the new African nation of Liberia. While there, he accepted the position of vice president of the organization for life.

During his return tour, he made appearances at places that encouraged freedom for all Black people. He visited the African Free School in New York City, spoke with African American veterans of the War of 1812 in New Orleans, sat for an interview with the *African Repository and Colonial Journal*, and argued for emancipation while visiting his friends Thomas Jefferson and James Madison at their Virginia plantations.

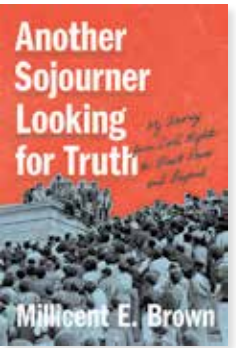
There is an incident, possibly apocryphal, related in several accounts of the South Carolina portion of Lafayette’s 1824–25 American tour. Dr. Maurice Moore claims in his book about life in York County, South Carolina, *Reminiscences of York*, that Lafayette encountered an old man named Pompey while he was in Columbia. The man, who was Black, was at first barred entrance to the home where Lafayette was entertaining guests but eventually made his way past the guard. When he approached Lafayette, the Frenchman remembered him as a “servant” that waited on him when he landed in South Carolina in 1777. When they greeted each other again, Lafayette called for champagne and the two drank it together—certainly an unusual sight at that time. It should be noted, however, that another account of the story lists the man’s name as Fortune and their reunion as happening in Lancaster. ♥

*Sydney Derrick serves as librarian at the SCHS.*

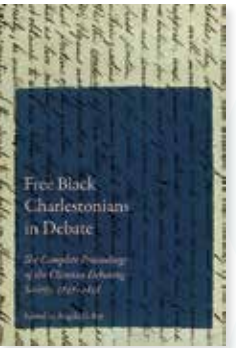
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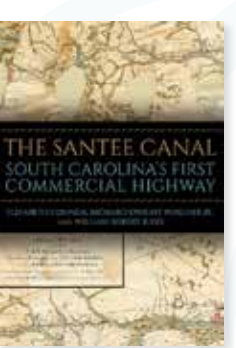
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