



**The American Society of
Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. VI, No. 6
June 2026**

***America250
Part of a series***

Captain Louis d'Ohicky Arundel
*First French volunteer officer
Killed for American Independence
July 9, 1776*

and other forgotten French volunteers of 1776



Cover illustration:

Wood engraving by Vernon Wooten depicting Capt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel and his experimental mortar before the explosion that killed him (AI colorized).

Click on all the photos below for direct access to sources and original reading materials.

Editorial

As part of our America250 series, this Bulletin is dedicated to the more than 200 French volunteers who joined the Continental Army and fought for the independence of the United States prior to the Treaty of Alliance of February 6, 1778, and France's formal entry into the war on the side of America — before the thousands of regular French soldiers and sailors who followed.

Among them, one figure deserves a special tribute. **Artillery Capt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel** is considered the *very first French volunteer officer killed in action for American independence*, merely 5 days after the Declaration of Independence.

On July 9, 2026, we will inaugurate a bronze marker at Gwynn's Island, Virginia, co-signed with our friends and partners of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, exactly 250 years to the day after the Battle of Cricket Hill near Gwynn's Island, Virginia. Although little known until recently, his sacrifice stands as a remarkable and largely overlooked chapter in the history of Franco-American relations.

We are indebted to Patrick H. Hannum, who wrote a thorough article last year on the circumstances of his death, as well as Michael Rhodes and Fred Lyon, of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, for the organization of this event.

We will also present a few other figures among this group, notably those who joined early in 1776, a year before Lafayette. We are indebted to Prof. Norman Desmarais, whose recently published book "George Washington's Dilemma" provides several heretofore largely forgotten biographies. Count on us to continue to honor other such brave volunteers from France in our next America250 Bulletins.

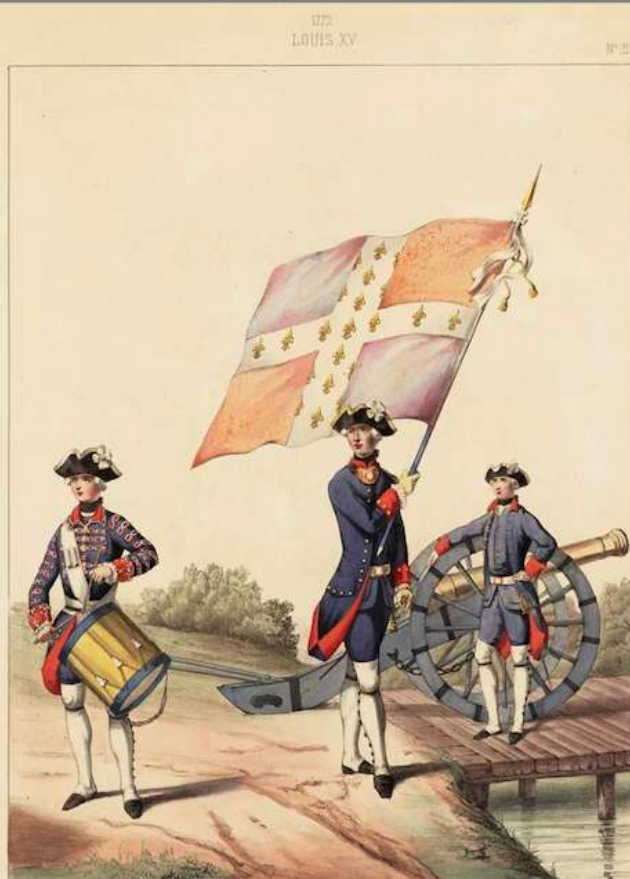
Part Two of this Bulletin continues our tradition of honoring a particular American volunteer who, conversely, fought and died for France 241 years later. This month we will honor **Sergeant Dudley Tucker**, "Mort pour la France" on July 8, 1918 at Chaudun near Vierzy, Département of Aisne.

Part Three of this Bulletin lists several **News and Save the Dates**. As we approach the 250th anniversary of Independence Day on July 4, we wish you the happiest of celebrations, wherever you live on both sides of the Atlantic. **Happy birthday, America!**

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Thierry Chaunu
President, The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.
Délégué Général du Souvenir Français pour les Etats-Unis.

Historical Context

The need for engineers and artilleryists



Above:

Top Left: Artillery School Emblem, by Jojoj770170 — Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=125017952>

Top Right: Corps Royal d'artillerie, Régiment de Metz

<https://we.ahp-numerique.fr/s/mathsinmetz/item/230#lg=1&slide=5>

Bottom Left: A 12-pounder Gribeauval cannon is located in Les Invalides in Paris, By PHGCOM - self-made, Les Invalides, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5223023>

Bottom Right: 12-inch Gribeauval mortar, By PHGCOM - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5283907>

In July 1776, the Continental Army was in dire need of professional soldiers, especially engineers and artillerymen, who were indispensable to conduct modern warfare.

As we narrated in our February 2023 Bulletin: "**George Washington's French engineers**", the French had achieved pre-eminence in this domain in Europe.

<https://conta.cc/3XBjgMp> (original version in English)

<https://conta.cc/412e0Nr> (version en français).

- In the 18th century, several artillery schools existed. The first artillery officer school was established by Louis XIV in 1679 in Douai, adjacent to the University of Douai and the Douai cannon foundry. Subsequently, additional schools were founded in Metz and Strasbourg. In fact, the king had established a royal fusilier regiment in 1671, responsible for artillery and composed of four

companies: the gunners, the sappers who dug trenches, and the carpenters along with other artillery workers who served as pontoons. Later, more schools were established in La Fère, Besançon, Grenoble, Auxonne, Metz, Perpignan, and Valence. Thus, according to Pierre Lemau de La Jaisse, there were five schools by 1680: as per the General Map of the French Monarchy from 1720, they were located in Metz, La Fère, Strasbourg, Perpignan, and Grenoble; and according to the Royal Almanac, there were seven by 1789: in Valence, Douai, Auxonne, La Fère, Metz, Besançon, and Strasbourg.

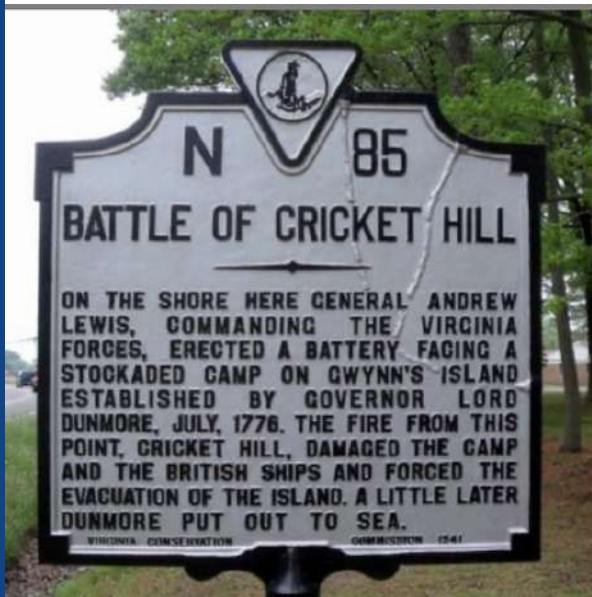
- In addition to the main school in Mézières, 1779, "students in the Royal artillery Corps" were dispatched to smaller sections in each of the regimental schools located in La Fère, Metz, Strasbourg, Auxonne, Besançon, Douai, and Verdun.

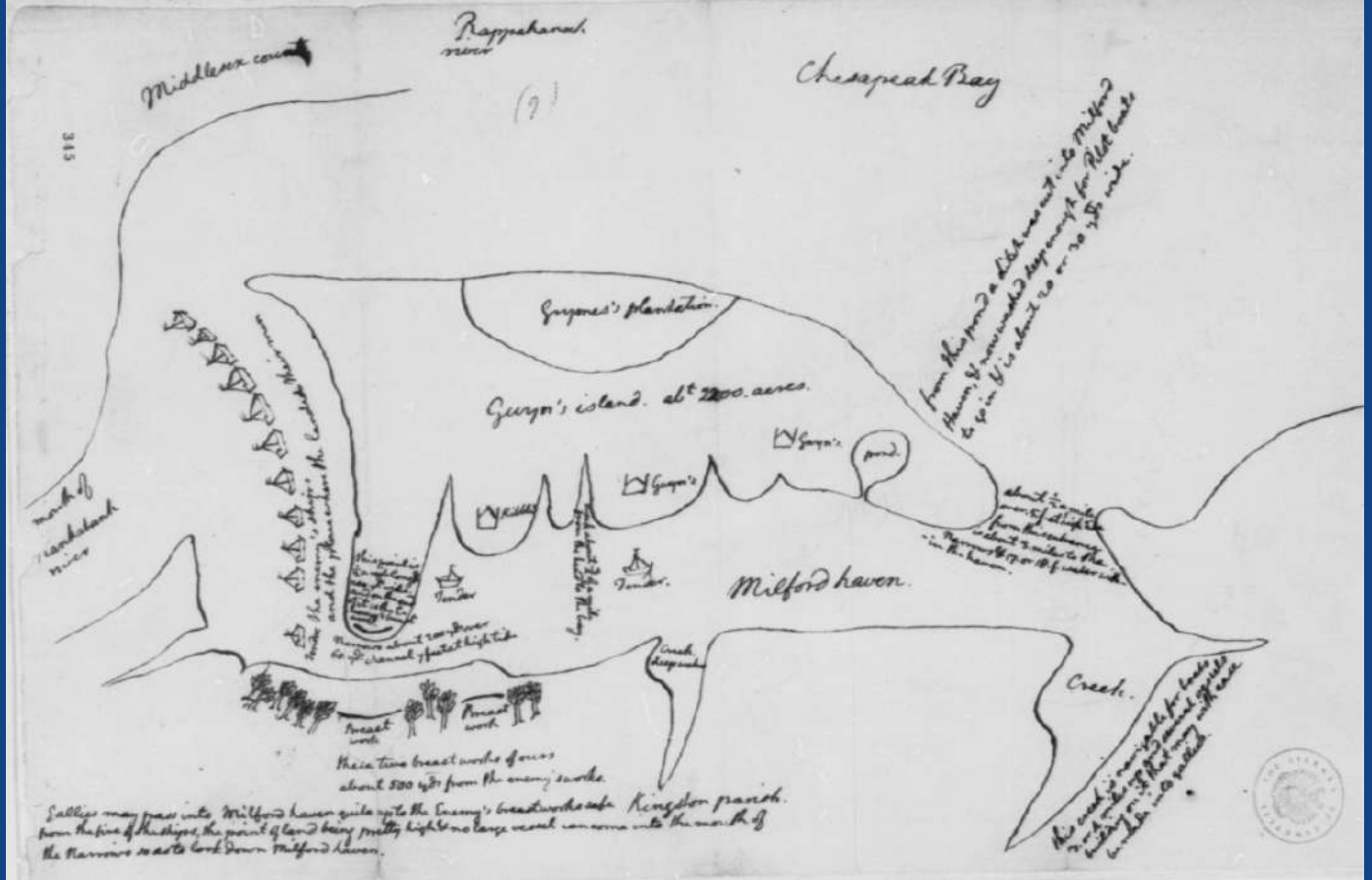
- This explains why several of the French volunteers recruited in Paris were learned officers (although, as we related in our past Bulletins, among them were soldiers of fortune and downright impostors).

- Information sources about Captain Louis d'Ohicky Arundel, the headliner of this Bulletin, are not plentiful. He may have been one of these disgruntled officers looking for an opportunity to advance in rank, or simply an idealist bored in his regiment stationed in Saint Domingue (today's Haïti) looking for action and glory.

One thing is certain: he was valiant and brave, if a bit over-confident, as the circumstances of his demise suggest.

The Battle of Cricket Hill: July 9, 1776





Above:

Top Left: Marker erected in 1941, Battle of Cricket Hill, Gwynn Island, VA.

Our marker will pay tribute to Cpt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel who commanded the guns and fired successfully on the British ships, Photographed by Bernard Fisher, April 25, 2010,

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=30136>

Top Right: aerial view of Gwynn Island, VA. photo: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/05/battle-of-gwynns-island-lord-dunmores-last-stand-in-virginia/>

Bottom: Map of Action at Gwyn's Island, Chesapeake Bay, Series 1: General Correspondence, pen-and-ink sketch and handwriting by Thomas Jefferson, ca. July 1776, Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress, Public Domain

https://www.loc.gov/resource/mj1.001_0555_0555/

The Battle of Cricket Hill/Gwynn's Island (July 9–10, 1776) was a pivotal engagement that forced Virginia's last royal governor, **Lord Dunmore**, to permanently abandon the colony after a prolonged standoff.

- The action took place just five days after the Continental Congress declared Independence on July 4, 1776 — meaning the Patriots were quite literally fighting to make that declaration a reality almost immediately after it was signed.
- Virginia itself had moved quickly: its Convention government had approved a new state constitution in late June and stood up the First Virginia Commonwealth on July 5, the very day after Independence was declared. The battle thus took place in the earliest days of Virginia's existence as a self-governing state.
- Lord Dunmore, Virginia's last royal governor, had been a thorn in the Patriot side for over a year by this point — he had fled the colonial capital of Williamsburg as far back as June 1775 and had spent the intervening months waging a disruptive naval and amphibious campaign from ships in the Chesapeake, trying to keep Tidewater Virginians from fully committing to the Patriot cause.
- **Captain Louis d'O'hickey Arundel**, a French-born artillery officer from Strasbourg in Alsace, was recruited to lead and train Virginia's fledgling artillery unit — a role he took on with evident dedication despite limited resources and a tight timeline.
- Under his command, seven Patriot guns opened fire on July 9, landing effective hits on Dunmore's flagship and driving British vessels and forces into retreat — a tactically successful opening blow.

- During the battle, Arundel attempted to deploy an improvised wooden mortar, a type of weapon with a long military history that he would have known from his professional training. The weapon failed catastrophically, and he died from his injuries — the only recorded Patriot casualty of the engagement.
- Captain Arundel is believed to be buried in the vicinity of the battlefield, as was common practice at the time. Locals had other pressing issues due to the war and if a document exists leading to the exact site, it has been lost. Unfortunately, we do not know the exact location of his burial site.

- His artillery's success broke Dunmore's hold on Tidewater Virginia, freeing the state to contribute troops and resources to the broader Continental war effort .

Driving Dunmore out was therefore not just a military objective but a deeply symbolic and political one — it meant royal authority in one of Britain's most important colonies was finally, physically extinguished right as independence was being proclaimed.

Who was Louis d'Ohicky Arundel?



Above:

Unfortunately, we couldn't find any portrait of Louis d'Ohicky Arundel. Although these uniforms, when they were supplied, came a bit later, the action itself may have been similar.

Illustration: "American Continental Army: Artillery Uniforms of 1777-83" watercolor on paper, By Henry Alexander Ogden (1856-1936), from *Uniform of the Army of the United States Illustrated*, by Lt. Col. M. I.

A French officer of Irish descent

Origins and background

- His full name was Louis d'Ohicky Arundel — though English records simplified it to "Dohickey Arundel." He signed his name as D'Ohicky Arundel, although some French military records spell it "O' Hicky d'Arundel (Louis)". In addition, there are family members listed on genealogical sites, spelled "Ohicky": Thomas Ohicky (b. 1760), Marie-Elisabeth Ohicky (b. 1766), Marie Louise Ohicky (1769)...

He was born in the Province of Alsace, from an old Irish or Welsh family established in France since the 1600's, which likely explains the hybrid French-Celtic name.

- He studied artillery at the Ecole Royale d'Artillerie de Strasbourg, and after obtaining his brevet, was sent as a lieutenant of artillery at the Regiment du Cap, stationed on the island of St. Domingue (present-day Haiti).

His motives for requesting a leave of absence and becoming a volunteer are not known.

Path to service

- We often read the adjective "European" referring to the hundreds of volunteers applying to serve in the Continental Army. In fact, except for some individuals notably from Poland or German States, they were all French. Besides, no one could embark from France to America with the tacit authorization of the Royal administration.

- Recommended to Congress on February 5, 1776, he was interviewed by Major General Philip Schuyler and apparently impressed him immediately — his captain's commission was dated just three days later, on February 8. He reportedly spoke rudimentary English.

- He trained his artillery unit for a full month before the Declaration of Independence.

Character and motivation

He paid his own way to Virginia — no small thing — after receiving only a modest sixty-dollar advance, suggesting genuine commitment rather than mere opportunism.

The Virginia Gazette's obituary captured him well: *"his zeal for the service cost him his life"* — and future Virginia governor John Page called his loss *"irreparable."*

The wooden mortar experiment that killed him, while fatal, wasn't recklessness born of ignorance — as a trained artillery officer he would have known such improvised weapons had legitimate military precedent stretching back centuries. He may simply have been over-confident, after successfully chasing the British ships away with his bombardments.

- He holds the distinction of being the first known French volunteer officer to die in service to the United States, falling just five days after the Declaration of Independence.

- Captain Arundel did not live to see Virginia's first official Independence Day celebration, held on July 24, 1776 in Williamsburg — a poignant detail that underscores how immediate and costly the struggle for independence was from its very first days.

He remains a poignant and somewhat overlooked figure: he is considered the first known French volunteer to die for American independence, gone before he could see either Virginia's first Independence Day celebration or the ultimate victory his efforts helped make possible.

His contribution deserves far more recognition than it typically receives, and the inauguration of a bronze plaque in his honor on the anniversary of his death, 250 years later, will be a long overdue tribute.

Dedication

**Marker honoring
Capt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel
*First French officer Volunteer killed
of the American Revolutionary War*
Gwynn Island, VA.
July 9, 1776 - 2026**



Above:

Left: Collage of the new additional plaque, co-signed with the Virginia S.A.R., which will be installed next to the "Dunsmore's last stand" bronze plaque and a new interpretive marker. Photo courtesy of VA-S.A.R.

Right: aerial view of Gwynn Island, VA. photo: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/05/battle-of-gwynns-island-lord-dunsmores-last-stand-in-virginia/>

On Thursday July 9, 2026, at 10:00AM, at Morningstar Marinas, 249 Mill Point Rd, Hudgins, VA 23076 we will inaugurate a bronze marker funded by our Society honoring Capt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel at a ceremony organized by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, exactly 250 years later after the tragic death of the first French casualty of the War of Independence. Virginia and French Embassy officials will be present, see more details in Part III of this Bulletin further below.

Invitation can be accessed at:
<https://forms.gle/BQAYJa11QALh8hrd8>
for a link to the sign up form and RSVP.

In our March 2025 Bulletin, we publicized an article written by Mr. Patrick Hannum published in the Journal of the American Revolution of February 26, 2025. We are indebted to his research for this Bulletin and the bio included in the program which will be distributed during the ceremony.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2025/02/cricket-hill-and-gwynns-island-captain-arundels-only-fight/>

A selection of Early French Volunteers 1776 - 1777

Gilles Barazer de Kermorvan
Lt. Colonel, Continental Army
July 1776



Above:

Since we do not have portraits of these volunteers, we chose to pay tribute to their place of birth (when known). Maybe, if you are traveling through different regions of France, this will inspire you to make a detour and visit these most charming towns and villages!

Left: Coat-of-Arms of Châtaudren, Côtes d'Armor (near Saint Brieuc) <https://collectivite.fr/mairie-deleguee-chatelaudren-22170>

Right: View of the small coastal river Leff which runs directly through the town centre:
<https://www.brittanytourism.com/destinations/the-10-destinations/saint-brieuc-bay-paimpol-les-caps/chatelaudren/>

As narrated in our January Bulletin, prior to the expeditionary force sent by France, many young and older men volunteered to fight alongside the Americans.

The first of these volunteers was a Breton from Châtaudren, located between Saint-Brieuc and Guingamp, named Gilles Barazer de Kermorvan.

He had served three years in the Turkish army and had been promoted to colonel by the sultan. It is possible that Vergennes, who had previously been an ambassador in Constantinople, facilitated his connection with Barbeau

Dubourg. The Americans were in need of artillery and engineering officers, a fact that Barbeau was aware of.

In April 1776, he sent Kermorvan to America, where he received a commission as an engineer and the rank of lieutenant colonel from Congress in July, contributing to the fortification of Billingsport on the Delaware.

His character likely suited him better for more daring actions, as he transitioned to the riflemen, where "his zeal and intrepidity" proved invaluable during perilous reconnaissance missions against General Burgoyne's British army.

Marie Louis Amand Ansart de Maresquelle
Col., Inspector of Foundries of Massachusetts
December 6, 1776



Above:

Top: Lille: Place du Général-de-Gaulle (Column of the Goddess, the Old Stock Exchange, and the Belfry), photo By Saber68 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=28485758>

Insert: Coat-of-arms of Lille

Left: a view of Woodbine cemetery, Lowell, MA,

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2222590/woodbine-cemetery>

Right: Reproduction of a portrait of Louis Ansart,

<https://blogs.lowellsun.com/history/2018/04/14/the-famous-frenchman-who-settled-in-dracut/>

Marie Louis Amand Ansart de Maresquelle, (at times **Marisquelles**, but most genealogical documents are spelled Maresquelle), born **Ansart du Fiesnet**, was another fascinating figure!

Origins & Early Career

- Born in 1742 in Lille, Hauts-de-France, into a family with deep ties to military manufacturing — He was the nephew of **Marc René, marquis de Montalembert**—the renowned French military engineer from whom the future Colonel acquired his knowledge of metallurgy.
- He trained at the prestigious École royale du génie de Mézières and worked closely with his uncle, studying ironwork and fortification.
- He served as a military engineer under Lieutenant General Jean-Baptiste Vaquette de **Gribeauval**, one of the foremost artillery reformers in Europe, and rose to become a captain of infantry and a trusted confidant of King Louis XVI.

Arrival in America & Cannon-Making Innovation

- He set sail in 1776 and arrived in Massachusetts on December 6, 1776, going directly to the General Court at the State House to present his credentials.
- He proposed a revolutionary cannon-casting method: rather than casting around a cylinder (which left air pockets that could cause cannons to burst), he would cast solid cannon barrels and bore them out — producing one every 24 hours.
- Massachusetts appointed him Colonel and Inspector of the Foundries of Massachusetts, a role he held for the duration of the war. He built casting furnaces at Stoughton, Titicut, and Bridgewater.

Combat Service

- When General Sullivan assembled forces to oppose the British at Newport, Ansart volunteered for the front, explicitly asking for no command — demonstrating a selfless commitment to the cause.
- He was appointed aide-de-camp to General Sullivan and served alongside notable figures including General James Mitchell Varnum and the Marquis de Lafayette.
- He was wounded in action at the Battle of Rhode Island (likely at Quaker Hill), an injury serious enough to incapacitate him for the rest of the war.
- After recovering, he was appointed on August 31, 1778, to help erect harbor defenses for Admiral d'Estaing's fleet in Boston Harbor.

Personal Life & Later Years

- He married a Boston woman, Catharine Wimple, and settled into Boston society, eventually fathering twelve children. The family relocated to Dracut (now Pawtucketville, Lowell), Massachusetts around 1784, where some of his children intermarried with the family of General Varnum, who was originally from Dracut.
- After a visit to France at the start of the French Revolution, he chose to make his allegiance to his adopted country permanent, successfully applying for U.S. naturalization in 1793 — shedding all his French names and titles to become simply "**Louis Ansart.**"
- He died peacefully in his sleep on May 22, 1804.

Legacy

- Ansart is a largely overlooked figure of the Revolution, yet his contributions were substantial and multifaceted: he brought cutting-edge European cannon-

casting technology to a fledgling nation desperately short of artillery, served bravely in combat despite having no obligation to do so, and ultimately chose America as his permanent home. His story is a remarkable example of immigrant commitment to the ideals of the new republic.

- He is buried at [Woodbine cemetery](#) in Lowell, MA. This is a private cemetery with about 175 tombs and we do not know if his grave is visible. If able to, our Society will plan a wreath-laying ceremony to honor this Patriot.

Jean-Baptiste Hamelin

2nd Canadian Regiment, Continental Army

December 16, 1776



Above:

Left: French-Colonial Home Site Of Jean Baptiste Hamelin, Photographed by Jason Voigt, October 1, 2019 <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=132349>

Top Right: Marker "Le Petit Fort" photo by Chris Light - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=48208170>

Bottom Right: Marker Home site of Hamelin, Photographed by Jason Voigt, October 1, 2019 <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=132349>

- **Jean-Baptiste Hamelin** (1733-1804), was a French-Canadian soldier and officer who joined the American War of Independence on December 16, 1776. He served in the 2nd Canadian Regiment in the American Continental Army, commanded by Moses Hazen, an American living in Quebec who fought on the side of the Americans during the American Revolution.

- He was sent by **Augustin de la Balme** to command the attack on Fort Saint-Joseph, which had been occupied by the British since the Treaty of Paris in 1763. If the attack on Fort Saint-Joseph was a success, subsequently the British forces regained the upper hand and captured some of the attackers entrenched in Petit Fort, a small fort located in the same region.

- The fact that the French government has no documentation of the fort only suggests that it was not built and maintained by the French government. The only assumption that can be made is that the fort was built after the French reopened Fort St. Joseph in 1717.

- We will present Augustin de la Balme, who came with Lafayette in 1777 as a volunteer, and who became the Continental Army's Inspector General of Cavalry, in a future Bulletin.

Marker, "French-Colonial Home Site Of Jean Baptiste Hamelin"

999 East 1st Street, East Saint Louis IL 62206

GPS: [38.570700, -90.187800](#)

• **Inscription:**

“With this marker we honor **Captain Jean Baptiste Hamelin** and the citizens of Cahokia for their sacrifice, and the role they played in the American Revolutionary War. In the latter days of the Revolutionary War, both American and British had ambitions to control the Mississippi River transportation route. In May 1780, the British attacked all the Mississippi river towns, including Cahokia. In retaliation, Captain Jean Baptiste Hamelin led a group of Cahokians against the British Fort St. Joseph in Michigan. Hamelin's forces captured the British traders and trade goods and headed for home. A party of British caught up with them on December 5, 1780. Hamelin's forces suffered casualties and some were taken prisoner; others escaped back to Cahokia. Captain J.B. Hamelin lost his life fighting for the fledgling American Country.

Jean Baptiste Hamelin was from a prominent French-Canadian family who had arrived in Canada in the 17th century. His forebears were Seigneurs in Grondines, Quebec. Several generations of Hamelins became fur traders and voyageurs and had deep ancestral roots in Michilimackinac, MI and Cahokia. J.B. Hamelin served in the Second Canadian Regiment of the Continental Army, until he was recruited to serve with George Rogers Clark in Cahokia in 1779. The Hamelin home site was discovered and excavated by the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program (ITARP) in the spring of 2007. The home site was occupied around 1760-1780, and included period 'Poteaux En Terre' (post-in-ground) structures identified as a dwelling, barn and outbuildings.”

Erected 2013 by Illinois State Historical Society.”

Marker, “Le Petit Fort”

N 25 E, Chesterton, IN 46304

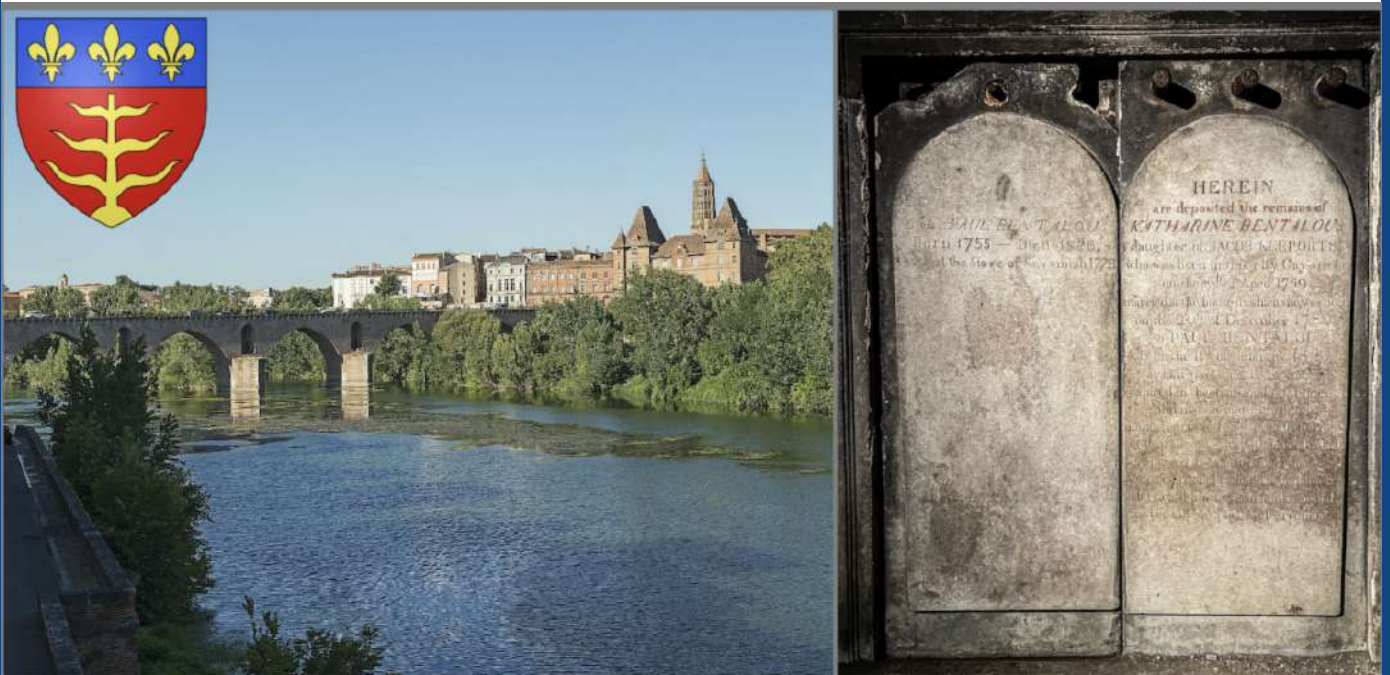
GPS: [41.660750, -87.062467](#)

• **Inscription:**

“At Le Petit Fort, near this site, a battle was fought on December 5, 1780, between American forces under command of Lt. Thomas Brady and **Jean Baptiste Hamelin** and British forces under command of Dahreau de Quindre.

Erected 1957 by Indiana Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.”

Paul Bentalou
2nd Lieutenant, Continental Army
September 15, 1776



Above:

Left: Resting place of Colonel Paul Bentalou, Westminster Burial Grounds, Baltimore, MD

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DSftIRyjpmx/>

Right: View of Montauban, native town of Colonel Bentalou, showing the Ingres Bourdelle Museum (formerly the bishop's palace) and the Tarn river ,By Didier Descouens - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27886485>

Colonel Paul Bentalou (born in Montauban, France, August 15, 1755 – died in Baltimore, MD, September 26, 1826) was a French Continental Army Officer & Baltimore Notable.

Early Life & Military Beginnings

- Born in Montauban, France; enlisted in the Royal French Dragoons at age 15
- Motivated by democratic ideals, he sailed to the United States in 1776 to join the American cause for independence
- Commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant of Cavalry, German Regiment, on September 15, 1776; promoted to 1st Lieutenant on June 21, 1777, he was also a member of the Baltimore Mechanical Company.

Service with General Pulaski

- Met the renowned Polish cavalry commander **Count Casimir Pulaski** at the Battle of Brandywine; Pulaski, impressed by the young officer, had him transferred under his command as a Captain of Cavalry
- Served for two years as Aide-de-Camp to General Pulaski in the famed Pulaski's Legion
- Fought at the Battle of Egg Harbor (October 15, 1778)
- Played an instrumental role in saving Charleston under General Lincoln's command (February 1779)
- Distinguished himself at the Siege of Savannah (October 9, 1779): despite being wounded, he personally carried the mortally wounded General Pulaski off the battlefield
- Paroled by the British following Savannah, he spent the remainder of the war in Baltimore as a Recruiting Officer. He met and married Elizabeth Keeports in Baltimore in 1780 at that time.

Post-War Life in Baltimore

- Retired from active service on June 1, 1781, and settled permanently in Baltimore
- Commanded a local volunteer cavalry company in 1798
- Built a successful career as a shipping merchant
- Served as U.S. Marshal for the District of Maryland from 1817 until his death in 1826
- Died in Baltimore following a fall in a warehouse. He is buried in the catacombs under the church at Westminster Burial Grounds in Baltimore.

Legacy & Authorship

- A staunch defender of Pulaski's reputation, he authored A Reply to Judge Johnson's Remarks on an Article in the North American Review Relating to Count Pulaski (Baltimore: J. D. Toy, 1826), written to refute derisive comments about the late general
- Also wrote a lesser-known pamphlet on the slave trade's effect on Baltimore's shipping industry
- Commemorated in Baltimore with a street bearing his name
- An elementary school was named in his honor, until the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners unanimously voted to rename it Mary Ann Winterling in 2009, to honor a school principal who had passed away from cancer earlier that year.

Sic transit gloria mundi...

René Étienne Henry Gayault de Boisbertrand
Aide-de-Camp, Continental Army
October 1776



Above:

Top: Cathedral of Bourges, province of Berry, photo: TC © ASSFI 2026

Insert: Coat-of-arms of the City of Bourges, département du Cher

In the absence of portraits of our volunteer, we imagine his time serving Gen. Lee in New Jersey by showing these two illustrations:

Bottom Left: "The American Soldier – 1775, an aide-de-camp of General George Washington and General Artemas Ward at the Siege of Boston" by H. Charles McBarron, Jr. - United States Army U.S. Army Center of Military History, The American Soldier series: Set 3. CMH Pub 70-1-3., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=57461975>

Bottom Right: capture of American General Charles Lee by British troops at Widow White's Tavern in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, on December 13, 1776
unknown artist, New Jersey State Museum

<https://www.britishbattles.com/war-of-the-revolution-1775-to-1783/battle-of-monmouth/>

René Étienne Henry Gayault de Boisbertrand was born December 29, 1747 in Bourges, France; he died January 1, 1823 in Paris

He is also known as René Gaiault de Boisbertrand; René-Etienne-Henry Vic Gaiault (or Gayault) de Boisbertrand.

- He was the eldest son of Étienne Henry Gaiault de Vic, Provost General of the Maréchaussées of Berry — an office that remained in the family for over a century.

Military career beginnings:

- He entered the Hainault Regiment as second lieutenant on July 10, 1763, • Promoted to lieutenant on April 20, 1768
- Became lieutenant supernumerary of the Maréchaussées on June 15, 1768
- Appointed Provost General of the Maréchaussées of Berry on May 20, 1772

Role in the American Revolution:

- He was one of the first Frenchmen to join the American War of Independence
- He was persuaded by Pierre Penet and Jacques Barbeu-Dubourg to join the Continental Army and carry dispatches and correspondence from Dubourg to Benjamin Franklin in America, and was granted a two-year leave of absence on June 23, 1776. He traveled to Nantes, where he waited over two months for his ship; during this time, he inspected weapons supplied by Monthieu and La Tuillerie, finding some to be defective.
- On September 10, 1776: Sailed from Nantes; intercepted by an American privateer and taken to New Bedford as a prisoner, but promptly released; met with Penet's associate Couleaux, to whom he entrusted his dispatches
- He traveled to Philadelphia to meet the Continental Congress, then joined General Lee's army in New Jersey, serving as his aide-de-camp
- On December 16, 1776, he was seriously wounded and captured at Basking Ridge. He was imprisoned for two months in New York, then sent to England and confined to Forton Prison
- He escaped July 23, 1778, returning to France in 1779 — only to find his hereditary post had been given to his brother due to his overstayed leave
- He made two requests for reinstatement in the army at the rank of brigadier general; both were denied, reportedly due to his poor physical condition. However, he was made a Chevalier of Saint-Louis in 1788
- He retired at the rank of Major General (Maréchal de Camp) on March 1, 1791, was admitted as colonel to the Invalides (military pensioners' hospital) on June 20, 1820.

François Gray, Marquis de Malmédy **Brigadier General, Rhode Island Militia, 1776** **Colonel, Continental Army, 1777**



Above:

François Gray, Marquis de Malmédy was born ca. 1750, possibly at Birey in Meurthe et Moselle; died November 1781 in Sumter County, South Carolina

- He was also known as: **François Lellorquis de Malmédy**, François Malmédy-Gray Francis de Malmédy; variations include Malmady, Malmedy, and Malmédy-Gray... He was reported to be descended from a Scottish family named Gray that settled in France a few generations before.
- He is believed to be the son of François Charles de Gray de Malmédy, a Captain of Grenadiers, and Marie Sébastienne Charlotte Le Masson de Vandelinourt, even though he is not listed in genealogy trees among their 15 children.

Pre-American Service

- He served as a second lieutenant of cavalry in the French Army prior to 1776
- He spoke no English; described as hot-headed and arrogant, often refusing assignments he considered beneath his station

Early American Appointments (1776)

- He arrived in America and was rapidly promoted through several ranks:
- Brevetted major in the Rhode Island Line, Continental Army, on September 19, 1776
- Appointed brigadier general in Rhode Island on November 7, 1776, largely on a recommendation of Charles Lee that included the warning, "You must excuse his heat of temper at times."
- Named brigadier general, chief engineer, and director of defense works in the Rhode Island Militia in December 1776

Continental Service (1777–1781)

- He received a Continental commission as Colonel on May 10, 1777
- He fought at the Battle of Monmouth under Major General Charles Lee on June 28, 1778
- He commanded a light infantry company at the Battle of Stono Ferry on June 20, 1779
- Following Gates's defeat at Camden, accused of spreading dissent against General Greene and calling for his dismissal. He was sent by Greene to the North Carolina legislature ahead of the Battle of Ninety Six to obtain supplies and militia — a mission he struggled to fulfill
- He commanded the North Carolina Light Dragoon Regiment at the Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781

- He was reported as "hot headed and arrogant" and several of his letters to George Washington can attest to this trait of character.

Still, a memorandum dated at Middlebrook on 8 Feb. indicates that: "*A Certificate [was] granted to Colo. Malmedy, specifying the Dates of his Commissions, Adding that as far as his Conduct had fallen under the Generals Observation it had been that of a brave intelligent Officer*" (DLC:GW; the original certificate has not been found). Malmedy enclosed GW's testimonial in a letter that Congress read on 23 Feb. and referred to the Board of War; and on 9 Mar. the Board of War recommended to Congress that he be given leave to join the Southern Army (JCC , 13:238, 296–97).

- Malmedy remained in service in America until 1780.

Killed in a duel

- He was killed in a duel by Major Smith Snead of Virginia at the High Hills of Santee, Sumter County, South Carolina in November 1781, following his refusal to carry dispatches to the Governor of North Carolina.

Augustin Florat de Florimont

Artist & Soldier

Captain, Continental Army

September 29, 1776



Above:

Soldiers in Uniform by Jean Baptiste Antoine de Verger, (1762-1851), watercolor, 1781, Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library. In the absence of pastels from Jean Augustin Florat de Florimont, we chose to illustrate this chapter with this painting from another French soldier-artist, who was in the Régiment du Royal-Deux-Ponts under the command of Rochambeau. This watercolor depicts the variety of soldiers fighting for American independence, depicting, from left to right, a Black soldier from the First Rhode Island Regiment, a New England militiaman, a Western Frontier rifleman, and a French officer. An estimated 5,000 African American soldiers participated in the Revolutionary War. Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=169700081>

Augustin Florat de Florimont was born ca. 1740 in the paroisse de St Leu-St Gilles in Paris (3e arrondissement); died Philadelphia, 1784.

- He is also known as: Austin Florimont; variations include Florat and Florimont.

Military Career

- By 1776, he was an officer in the **French colonial troops in Guadeloupe**, holding a captaincy in a colonial regiment with some financial means. Driven by ambition and the adventurous spirit common among French officers of the era, sought to fight for American independence — despite speaking not a word of English.
- He obtained permission from his superior, **General Darbault**, to offer his services to the new American republic, departing Guadeloupe in the spring of 1776
- Landed at Newburyport, Massachusetts, carrying a strong letter of recommendation from General Darbault to General Washington
 - Traveled to American Army headquarters in New York, where Washington reviewed his credentials and recommended him to the Continental Congress
- On July 29, 1776, Congress granted him a captain's commission in the American Army, signed by John Hancock, President of Congress
- Washington then wrote a letter on his behalf to General Schuyler, commander of the Army of the North, where many French-speaking officers and troops — many from Canada — were grouped
- Having served in the corps de génie (engineering corps) in the French Army, Schuyler confirmed his rank of captain and appointed him assistant to the

- military engineers overseeing fortifications along the U.S.-Canada border
- Sent to Fort Ticonderoga (Carillon), where he worked alongside Colonels Pélissier and Baldwin to maintain the region's fortifications
- Subsequently served in Canada

Artistic Career in America

- After the war, briefly settled in Boston before moving to Philadelphia.
- On January 6, 1781, advertised in the *Pennsylvania Packet* as:
"Austin Florimont, limner, lately arrived in this city, who is peculiarly happy in his likenesses, paints miniature and crayon pictures of all sorts at very reasonable prices"
- He practiced as a portraitist, miniaturist, history and landscape painter, and teacher, opened a gallery in 1783, offering lessons in painting and drawing
- Also advertised in Baltimore on January 28, 1783, indicating a European origin. One source suggests he may have also worked as a French dancing master...

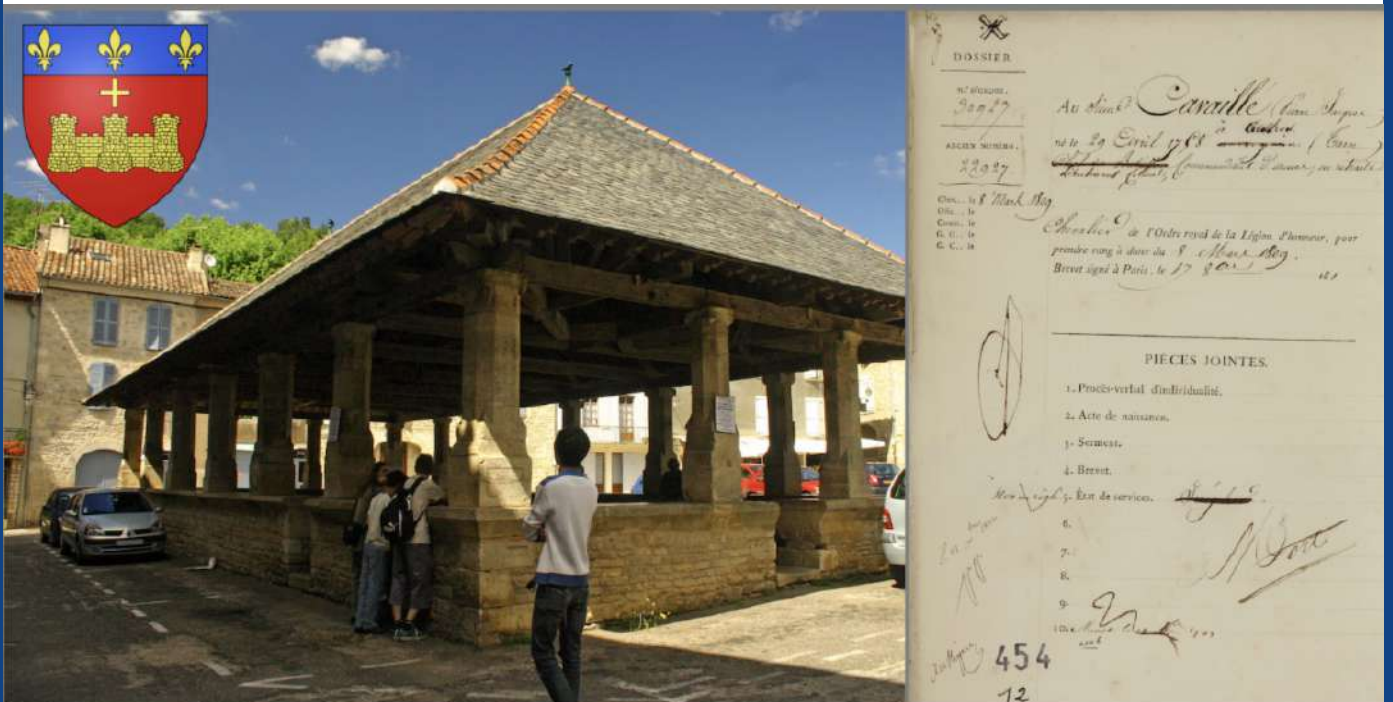
Later Life & Death

- After the war, made numerous petitions for unpaid wages owed from his military service
- On November 23, 1781, seriously ill in Philadelphia, made a will nominating François Cazeau as executor — with no family members mentioned
- Died in Philadelphia in 1784; exact date not yet established
- Cazeau subsequently petitioned for the release of Florimont's unpaid wages while winding up the estate in early 1785.

Pierre Jacques Cavallé

Ensign, Georgia Regiment, Continental Army

January 14, 1776





Interior of the old Jersey Prison Ship, in the Revolutionary War.

"I found myself in a leathern prison, among a collection of the most wretched and disgusting looking objects, ghastly with labour, exposed to sun-
 tation, and surrounded with the horrors of sickness and death. Here, thought I, must I
 linger out the morning of my life in tedious days and sleepless nights, enduring a weary
 and degrading captivity, until death shall put an end to my sufferings, and no friend will
 know of my departure."—Page 217.

Above:

Top Left: Village of Caylus, Tarn, view of village square

Insert: Coat-of-arms of the village of Caylus

Right: Annotated title, [LH/454/12] - Paris (Paris, France) - National Order of the Legion of Honour,
<https://en.geneanet.org/archival-registers/view/512239?individu filter=3789366>

Bottom: Interior of prison ship *HMS Jersey*, Library of Congress Prints Division, Public Domain,
<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a09150/>

Pierre Jacques Cavail   was born April 29, 1758 in Caylus, in the Tarn region of France; he died ca. 1821.

- Has a simple infantryman in the French Royal Army who volunteered to fight for the American colonies!

Early Revolutionary War Service (1775–1778)

- He left France in November 1775 and joined the Georgia Regiment on January 14, 1776 as an Ensign (back then the rank was used also in the Army) — among the earliest French volunteers to enlist in the Continental Army
- He was captured on August 19, 1777; exchanged on December 15, 1777
- He went to sea from February 5 to April 25, 1778

2nd Capture, Escape & Return to France

- However he fell ill and attempted to return to France, but was captured again by a British privateer and taken to Plymouth, England, before managing to escape alongside six companions. He was subsequently wounded and taken prisoner again; released thereafter

Post-War Service in Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti)

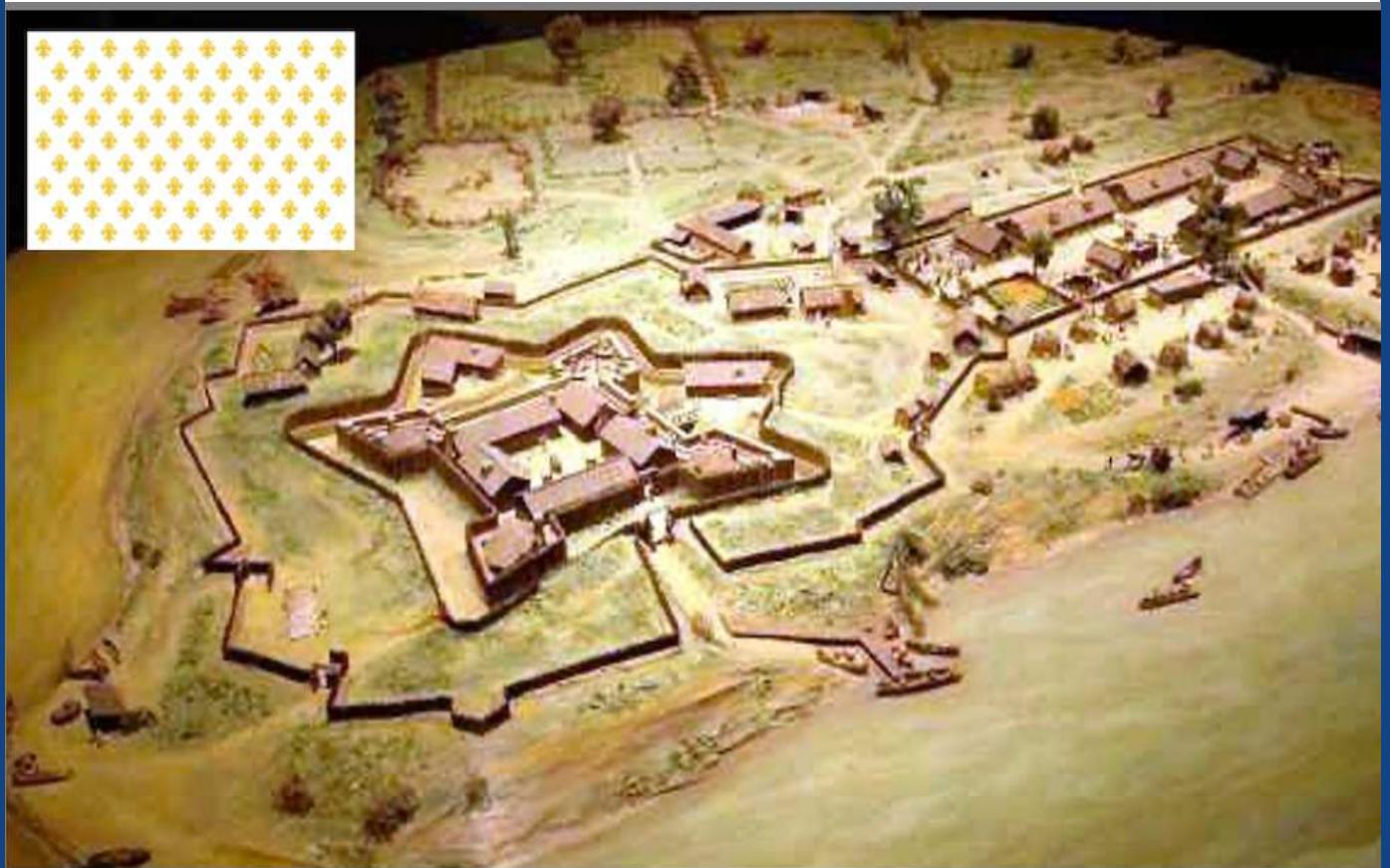
- He traveled to Saint-Domingue in September 1784, where he served as captain of the Cape militia (Cap-Fran  ais)
- In 1790 and 1791, he served as aide-de-camp to **Colonel Anne-Louis de Tousard** — a fellow veteran of the American Revolutionary War who had resigned his French artillery commission to fight for the colonies and later served as an officer on Washington's staff. During the early stages of the Haitian Revolution, Tousard led soldiers in the suppression of the slave

rebellion in engagements at Port-Margot in September 1791 and Fort-Dauphin in November 1791. Cavaillé served alongside him during this tragic period.

- He was made chevalier de la Légion d'honneur on March 8, 1809 as "Chef de bataillon" (Major), later annotated during the Bourbon Restoration as "Commandant d'armes".

Last November 2025, we paid tribute to the hundreds French P.O.W. of the American Revolutionary War in New York by laying a wreath at the invitation of the Sons of the American Revolution. Regardless of the actual site of detention, and beyond the individual case of Pierre Jacques Cavaillé, it was a gesture of respect and remembrance for all those who suffered in sordid conditions, and the thousands American Patriots who died in jail.

Paul Louis Celoron de Blainville
Lieutenant, Continental Army
September 1776



Above:

The French Fort Duquesne (today's Detroit, Michigan) and the outlying buildings in 1755, where de Blainville was born. <https://www.brooklineconnection.com/history/Facts/FortDuquesne.html>

Insert: French royal flag "fleur-de-lysé" (1643-1790)

Paul Louis Celoron de Blainville (variations include Seleron and Celeron) was born 1753 in Detroit; This surname is the family of the famous explorers who claimed much of the Grand plains and Rocky Mountains for France, all the way to the Dakotas.

French Military Training (1774–1775)

- Paul Louis was sent to France for his education and military training.
- He became a cadet at Rochefort on October 17, 1774
- Commissioned second lieutenant in the Martinique Regiment on July 12, 1775

American Revolutionary War Service

- Joined the Continental Army as a volunteer in September 1776 and appointed lieutenant the same year

- Became a lieutenant in James Livingston's First Canadian Regiment on December 18, 1776
- Marched to the relief of Fort Stanwix
- Fought in Learned's Brigade at Saratoga, taking part in the battles at Stillwater and Saratoga — where he received a bayonet wound in the leg on October 7, 1777
- Hospitalized at Albany to recover; rejoined his regiment thereafter
- Served with Varnum's Brigade at Valley Forge

Later Campaigns & Wounds (1778–1779)

- Fought at Monmouth — wounded again!
- Fought at Newport
- Promoted to captain in 1778
- Awarded Knight of the Order of Saint Louis on July 29, 1778
- Became a captain in Pulaski's Legion in 1779
- Engaged in combat at Charleston on May 11, 1779; taken prisoner on May 12, 1779 — likely paroled or informally released shortly after, as was common practice for officers during the Revolutionary War
- Fought at Savannah — wounded a third time! as he received a bullet wound to the head on October 9, 1779
- Formally exchanged on November 26, 1782, suggesting a subsequent recapture between Savannah and the war's end

End of Service

- Congress retained him in American service on January 21, 1782
- His resignation was accepted on July 1, 1782

Antoine Félix Wuibert de Mézières
Lieutenant Colonel, Continental Army
June 24, 1776



IN CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, TO

Anthony Felix Wiebert Esquire

WE, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *An Engineer with the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel*

in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Engineer* by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Engineer*. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

DATED at *Philadelphia June 24th 1776*

By Order of the CONGRESS,

ATTEST.

W. Thompson

John Hancock PRESIDENT.

Above:

Top: View of the Place Ducales, Charleville-Mézières, Ardennes, by Dietmar Rabich, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=56591266>

Insert: Coat-of-arms of the town of Mézières, before its fusion with the town of Charleville in 1966.

Bottom: Continental Congress Printed Commission of Lieutenant Colonel to "Anthony Felix Wiebert Esquire" (Antoine F. Wuibert), June 24, 1776, Library of Congress Prints Division, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, Public Domain

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mgw445278/>

Antoine Félix Wuibert de Mézières (also known as: Anthony Felix Wiebert, Wuybert, De Vibert) was born January 8, 1741 in Mézières, Ardennes, northern France; died after 1807, place of burial unknown.

- One of the earliest foreign volunteers to the American Revolutionary War, arriving before the United States declared independence
- Came to America after years serving as a surveyor in Saint-Domingue under his godfather, engineering general Antoine Jean Jacques Du Portal

Entry into American Service (1776)

- Commissioned by the Second Continental Congress on June 24, 1776 as Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers — his commission signed by John Hancock and notably *the very first official document to use the term "The United States"*
- Fought at the Battle of Fort Washington in 1776
- Captured by the British and endured two years of harsh imprisonment

Service with John Paul Jones (1779)

- Released and passionately appealed to Benjamin Franklin to return to service, describing himself as "a True son of our cherished Liberty"; Franklin arranged his posting to John Paul Jones' squadron at Lorient
- Met John Adams at Lorient in May 1779, who dismissively noted in his diary that Wuibert showed "no great discovery of skill or science" — a judgment soon proved wrong
- Commanded Bonhomme Richard's principal battery of twenty-eight 12-pound guns at the Battle of Flamborough Head, September 23, 1779
- Wounded in the thigh and arm during the battle, he rejoined his Irish marines on deck, their musket fire so accurate the British believed they were using rifles
- After Jones' famous "I may sink, but I'm damned if I'll strike!", the battle was won; Jones appointed Wuibert "Governor General" over nearly 500 British prisoners at Texel, Dutch Republic

Second & Third Captivities (1780–1781)

- Captured again by the British frigate HMS Greyhound in March 1780; shuttled between Saint Lucia, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Jamaica before being exchanged in August 1780
- Captured for a third time in April 1781 when the Confederacy was intercepted off the Delaware Capes; imprisoned aboard the notorious prison ship HMS Jersey ("Hell") in Brooklyn before being finally exchanged on September 3, 1781

Final War Service (1781–1783)

- Arrived in Philadelphia November 8, 1781; fellow French engineer Duportail praised him to Washington as "the oldest Lieutenant Colonel in the Corps" and "a very brave Man" per John Paul Jones
- Served as chief engineer at Fort Pitt under Brig. Gen. William Irvine from April 1782, overseeing the western theatre of the war
- Discharged November 3, 1783; became a founding member of the Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

Post-War

- Became a founding member of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery in 1788, having witnessed slavery's horrors first-hand in Saint-Domingue
- Plagued by failed land deals and financial difficulties; lost 450 acres of Ohio land and his investment in the fraudulent Scioto Company
- Married twice; had four children; last recorded in 1807 — his place of burial remains unknown...

Anthony Chevalier
Soldier, 8th Virginia regiment
April 1776





Above:

View of Saint-Malo, Brittany, Photo: <https://www.thalasso-saintmalo.com/en/tourism/>

Insert: Coat-of-arms of Saint-Malo

Bottom Left: Plot Section 111, lot 2324 (Veterans Memorial Lot), Revolutionary War Veterans marker at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum, Dayton, Montgomery County, OH

GPS: [39.7436485](#), [-84.1774521](#)

Photo added by KDB, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/154278200/anthony-chevalier>

Bottom Right: Canon and markers on plot, photo: by Rev. Ronald Irick, Nov. 26, 2021

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=241189>

- **Anthony Chevalier, also spelled Chevallier**, born in St Malo, France in 1753, died 1820, was a soldier who fought for the independence of the United States. It is thought his father had moved family to England to escape persecution before Anthony sailed in 1773 from Westminster, England on board the 'Virginia' to come to America. He came as an indentured servant, occupation 'brickmaker.'
- In April 1776 he enlisted in 8th Virginia Regiment at Winchester VA and fought in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, siege of Savannah, and taken prisoner at Charleston. He was discharged at Charleston 21 Apr 1780. Family lore says he was an interpreter between Marquis de Lafayette and Gen. Washington's officers. No evidence found to verify, but Lafayette was at the Battles of Brandywine and Monmouth, and at this early stage his English was not yet fluent, so this story may be possible.
- DAR spells his name **Chevaller**, although the tombstones of two his daughters in Iowa (Charlotte and Hannah) are all spelled Chevalier.

Marker, « Revolutionary Soldiers »

Woodland Cemetery, 118 Woodland Ave, Dayton, OH 45409

GPS: [39.743649](#), [-84.177452](#)

• Inscription:

“We honor these Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots
Who are Buried in Unmarked Graves in Montgomery County, Ohio”
Erected 2013 by Jonathan Dayton Chapter, NSDAR (National Society Daughters of the
American Revolution).”

Louis-Joseph d'Escudier de Beaulieu
1776



Above:

View of the castle of Beaucaire, Gard, on the banks of the Rhône river

Insert: Coat-of-arms of the city of Beaucaire

Louis-Joseph d'Escudier de Beaulieu, (sometimes referred to as Joseph-Louis), born in Beaucaire in the province of Languedoc (today located in the Département du Gard) in October 18, 1753. He died post 1829 at an unknown date. He attained the rank of second lieutenant in the Marine Regiment on April 13, 1769, but was discharged on January 31, 1774. During that same year, he served in the regiment stationed at Port-au-Prince.

- He arrived in the United States in 1776, was captured, and subsequently exchanged on January 25, 1777. On August 1, 1778, he was assigned to Pulaski's Legion, where he commanded the 1st Troop of Dragoons. He received a promotion to captain on September 30, 1779, and was discharged on November 15, 1783. Throughout his service, he sustained three injuries. He was captured at Savannah in 1779 and later suffered severe wounds at Charleston.
- In total he fought during 8 campaigns and was wounded 14 times!
- He was admitted to the Society of Cincinnati in 1783. He returned to France on January 15, 1784, and was honored as a Knight of Saint Louis in 1791.
- On April 1, 1791, he was appointed as aide-de-camp to Lieutenant General de Sombreuil. He emigrated either in 1791 or 1792, served in the army of the Duke of Bourbon in 1792, and traveled to England on January 1, 1793.
- Following this, he moved to the United States, where he operated an inn at Asylum, at Towanda in Pennsylvania for a period.

Certificate for Louis-Joseph de Beaulieu, 8 May 1784

[Philadelphia, 8 May 1784]

I do hereby certify, that from Papers which have been produced to me, it appears that Mr Louis Joseph de Beaulieu has borne the rank of Lieutenant in the Service of the United States of America—that he has been appointed a Captn therein by brevet—that he has been dangerously wounded in several actions, in all of which he has behaved with great zeal and bravery—and in other respects has discharged the duties of an Officer & Gentleman to the approbation of all who are acquainted with him. Given under my hand this 8th day of May 1784.

Go: Washington—late comr in Chief Amn Army

A word about Beaucaire and its volunteers:

At the census of 1791, the town had 8,510 inhabitants. One can surmise this figure was approximately 8,000 some 15 years above. Six other sons of Beaucaire volunteered to fight for American independence:

- **Jean-Baptiste Joseph d'Amphoux** enlisted at the age of 17. Initially serving as a royal naval guard, he progressed to the rank of midshipman and ultimately became a lieutenant, participating actively in the American campaign. He was assigned to the *Souverain* within Guichen's squadron and later to the *Triomphant* in Grasse's squadron. Born in 1763, he passed away in Nîmes in 1806.

- **Jean-Baptiste Gabriel de Courtois** joined the military at 19, also beginning his career as a naval guard before advancing to lieutenant. In 1791, he emigrated to London and concluded his service with the rank of frigate captain.

- **Alphonse Conil**, who enlisted at 19, left behind scant records. It is reported that he was sentenced to death during the tumult of the French Revolution.

- **Isidore de Forton**, born in Beaucaire in 1767, began his military service at 16. He served as a Marine Guard and subsequently as a Lieutenant. During the Revolution, he emigrated to Germany to support the French Princes, later returning to France to participate in Napoleon's campaigns in Belgium. He concluded his career as a Commander before retiring to Beaucaire, where he died in Sète in 1831.

- **Jean-Baptiste Fressenjat** initially served as a soldier in an infantry regiment during the Seven Years' War, where he incurred multiple wounds. He then traveled to St. Lucia in the West Indies, where he commanded a militia corps during the War of Independence. In 1783, he was made a Knight of St. Louis and died at an advanced age in St. Lucia in 1804.

- **Joseph de Porcelet** held the title of Marquis de Maillane and served as a major in the King's Navy.

These volunteers from Beaucaire shared the commonality of enlisting at a young age in combat units. Of noble lineage for five of them, a military career was a hereditary pursuit.

Other Early Volunteers of 1776



Above:

We wish photography had been invented 50 years before!... No portrait or drawing depicting the volunteers below have been found. Maybe there are a few to be discovered, in unidentified families' attics, provincial museums, or antique shops... Therefore we chose these two illustrations, as they probably looked quite similar.

Left: Self portrait of **Jean-Baptiste-Antoine de Verger**, a lieutenant in the Royal-Deux-Ponts Regiment of the French Army, Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=124138169>

Right: Jean-Baptiste-Antoine de Verger painted this portrait of a Continental artilleryman following the Siege of Yorktown. This soldier is holding a linstock, a tool used to ignite the propellant powder charge of an artillery piece. Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library,

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/virtualexhibits/picturing-washington-s-army/pages/continental-artillery>

Among the mostly forgotten 200 French volunteers:

- **Jasme Henry de La Clause** declared on December 1, 1780, that he had served the United States from March 1776 until July 26, 1780. He was a member of Pulaski's Legion and returned to France on September 4, 1780, due to poor health.
- **Jacques Bégard** (born May 5, 1732) commenced his career as an artillery worker on May 1, 1749. He attained the rank of corporal on September 15, 1755, and actively participated in the Seven Years' War. His involvement included several battles, and he ultimately retired on September 22, 1775. On October 20, 1776, he was appointed as a second lieutenant of artillery in the colonies. He departed for Virginia on December 14, 1775, where he remained until 1779. In July 1789, he served in the National Guard and was honored with the Cross of St. Louis on July 28, 1792.
- **Jacques Antoine de August Franchessin**, (1741- January 1, 1791) enlisted in the Marine Regiment as a lieutenant on March 1, 1756. Subsequently, he was elevated to the rank of captain on March 27, 1761, and was discharged in 1763. From 1770 to 1772, he served under Baron de Vioménil in Ologne. On December 15, 1772, he transferred to the Rouergue regiment as a captain. In 1774, he was honored with the title of Knight of Saint-Louis.

He traveled to America as a volunteer and received the appointment of lieutenant-colonel on July 20, 1776, marking the first brevet awarded by the United States. He was assigned to the flying camp and returned to France prior to 1779.

- **Philippe Louis chevalier de Failly**, born June 18, 1735 - died September 24, 1804, He attained the rank of lieutenant in the Royal Walloon Regiment on April 17, 1746. In 1763, he transferred to the Aquitaine regiment and received a promotion to captain on September 10, 1769.

In 1772, he was honored as a Knight of Saint-Louis.

He moved to the Anjou regiment in 1776, which was deployed to the United States in 1777.

During his service, he fought under Gates at Saratoga, under Washington at Valley Forge, and under Lafayette at the battles of Monmouth and Newport.

On August 13, 1777, he was elevated to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, demonstrating "courage and a will that made him famous among the insurgents."

He was granted the brevet of colonel on October 27, 1778, and he concluded his service at the end of that year.

- **François Guilmat**, (Gilmat) enlisted in the 2nd Canadian Regiment, known as "Congress's Own," as an ensign in the year 1776. In August 1780, he received a promotion to the rank of lieutenant and continued to serve until May 1782.

- **Jean Louis Imbert** came from Martinique and did not speak a word of English. He joined as a volunteer. He worked as an engineer without a specific designation, having been commissioned by Congress with the rank of captain on September 19, 1776, and was granted one month's salary in advance to cover his expenses. He went back to Saint Domingue in April 1777.

- **Bernard Maussac de La Marquisie** (Moissac, Lamarquisie, Marquesi) held the rank of captain of engineers within the Continental Army. On September 9, 1776, Congress approved an advance payment of four months' salary, amounting to 106 and two-thirds dollars, for him. He was part of the northern army and journeyed to Canada alongside American commissioners Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase, and Charles Carroll. At West Point, he served as an engineer under the supervision of Kosciuszko. He also facilitated correspondence from Frederick William baron de Woedtke to Benjamin Franklin. During the French Revolution, he faced persecution in France and reached out to the Massachusetts Society of Cincinnati for financial assistance.

- **Laurent Olivie** joined the 2nd Canadian Regiment, "Congress's Own" as a lieutenant in February 1776. He was promoted to captain in April 1777 and brevetted a major in 1783. He served until June 1783 when the regiment was disbanded.

- **Penet, Ignatius** was appointed as a brevet captain in the Continental Army on October 14, 1776. Subsequently, he acted as a volunteer aide-de-camp to General Washington. On January 6, 1781, he received a promotion to lieutenant in Armand's Partisan Corps, where he continued to serve until the conclusion of the war.

- **Jean Antoine Justin Prat, also known as de Montfort- Malaret**, born on April 14, 1751 in Figeac (Dept du Lot), was a lawyer in the regional parliament during the reign of Louis XVI.

He served in the United States from January 1776 until January 1789. He was promoted to lieutenant, and subsequently to captain and major in Pulaski's Legion and fought at the Battle of Brandywine.

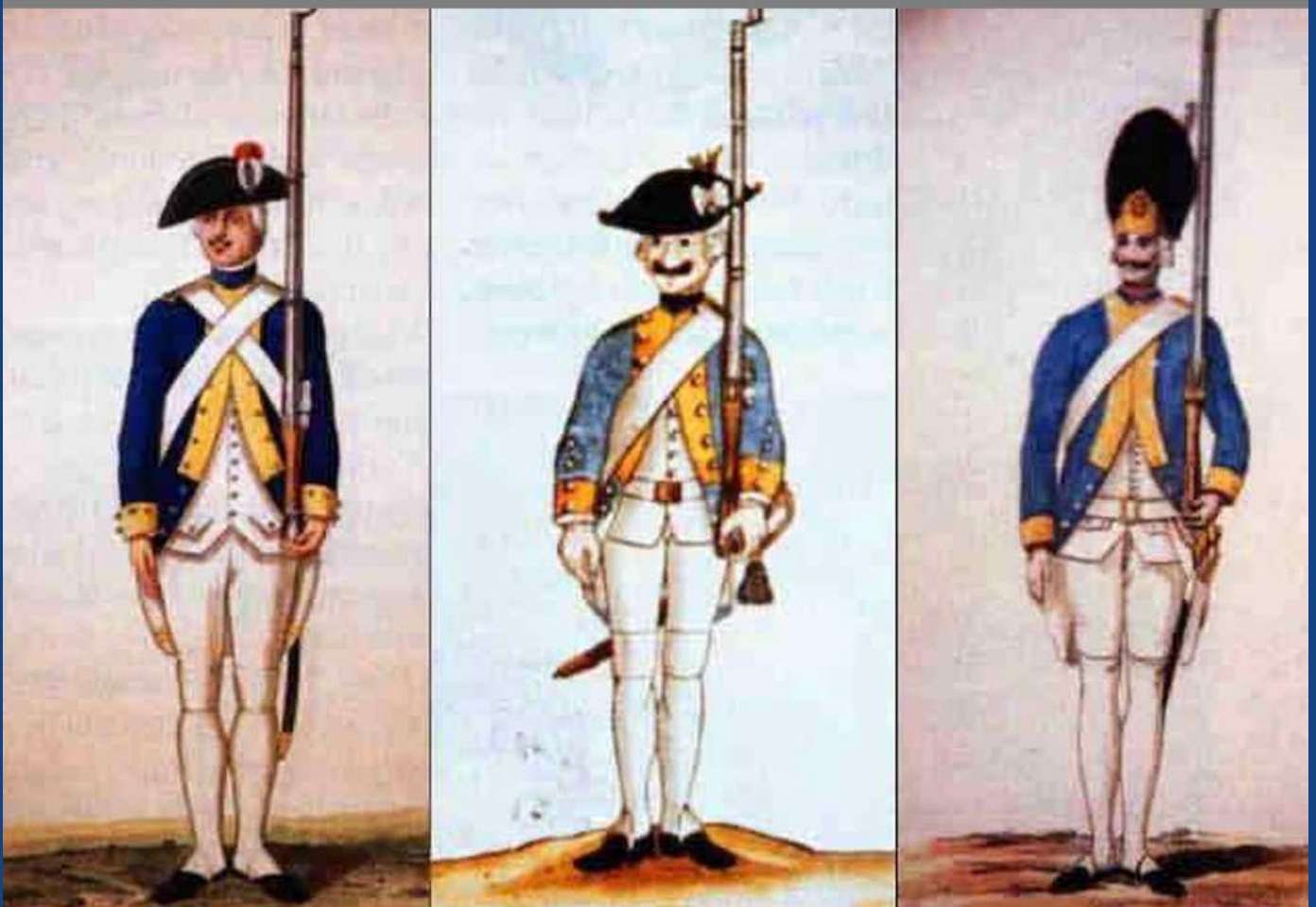
During the French Revolution, he attained the rank of captain in the 83rd Infantry Regiment on January 13, 1792.

- **St. Martin** was appointed by Congress on July 23, 1776, as an engineer with the rank of lieutenant colonel, assigning him to New York to serve under General Washington. He was wounded during the Battle of White Plains on October 28, 1776.

To be continued! We will continue in future bulletins to honor those who served and fought for American independence!

EPILOGUE

**Volunteers from 1776-78, from 1914-17, 1939-41...
Same values and high ideals?**



Above:

From left to right: a fusilier, a chasseur and a grenadier of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment, pastel attributed to Jena-Baptiste du Verger <https://www.americanrevolution.org>

"Dulce bellum inexpertis"

"War is sweet to those who have never experienced it"
(Erasmus, after Pindar, 1515)

As many professional historians have established, motivations were varied. Inevitably, some were hotheads ("têtes brûlées"), attracted by a chance to fight the hereditary enemy ("Perfidious Albion"), while others saw an opportunity to evade creditors, a burdensome family, or amorous entanglements — or simply to escape boredom and seek glory. Still others were fraudsters and impostors eager to reinvent themselves under a new identity. Some had been conveniently authorized by superiors who saw in this venture a welcome opportunity to dispatch their most troublesome or unruly subordinates across the Atlantic, or the Caribbean sea.

But, as irritating and frustrating as these soldiers of fortune may have been to Gen. Washington and other Continental Army officers, they were a minority.

The majority of the 200 volunteers who came to fight alongside the Insurgents were competent and proved their worth on the battlefield — erecting fortifications, creating military units from scratch, and training American soldiers in the science of modern warfare, particularly in artillery. Some were covert envoys from the French military establishment — for we are concerned here with the covert phase of French support prior to the official signing of the Treaty of Alliance of February 6, 1778 — while others arrived with the discreet blessing of their superiors.

Their motivation? The opportunity to fight the English, to give them a taste of their own medicine, is certainly the reason most often cited. But one can make the case — and we do — that this explanation overlooks other factors equally decisive: let us not forget that these men were children of the Age of Enlightenment. The ideals of Liberty, the appeal of a more modern form of government free from despotism, the widely felt sense that a new era of human progress and happiness was dawning, the glory of coming to the rescue of an oppressed people — all of these forces were at work, and none embodied them more fully than Lafayette, who brought so many of these volunteers with him beginning in 1777.

When we read letters from American volunteers departing for France as early as September 1914 — two and a half years before their country officially entered the war — we are struck by the same ideals: a love of freedom, of democracy, and of France, its people, and its culture. The same could be said of those brave Americans who joined the French Army in 1939, or the Free French forces in 1940 and 1941, before their government finally declared war in December of that year. Their letters cast the struggle as a defense of Western civilization against barbarity — words that would echo in the U.S. Army booklets printed in the millions: "*Why Do We Fight?*"

Hollywood produced hundreds of documentaries to inspire patriotism and a belief in democracy. If the commemorative events of America250 carry a similar ambition, then we may properly pay our respects to those brave American and French soldiers of 1776 who fought, and bled, side by side!

PART TWO

Tribute to the American Volunteers who joined the Lafayette Flying Corps:

Every month, we are paying tribute to an American volunteer who fought for France, freedom and democracy. This month, we honor:

Sergeant Dudley Gilman Tucker
"Mort Pour la France"
July 8, 1918
at Chaudun (Vierzy, 02 - Aisne, France)

Note*: "**Mort pour la France**" meaning "Died for France," is a legal term in France. It is an honor given to men or wome who lost their lives in conflicts while serving the country. This phrase appears on their death certificates. Both French citizens and foreign volunteers can receive this recognition.



Ord. _____ Arm.-Aux. _____
Mec. _____
Nom Tucker
Prénoms Dudley
Grade Caporal: 10.12
Recrutement 1^{er} Int. Seine N° M^{le} au Recrut^{mt} 11. 12. 17
Classe 1917 N° M^{le} au 2^e Groupe d'Aviation _____
Engagé } le 1^{er} mai 1917 au 1^{er} Et. T. H. Anahor
Appelé }
Passé à l'Aviation le 1^{er} mai 17 en qualité de Elev. Pilote
Emploi à l'Aviation Pilote: 9. 12 Division Spad 7^e Esc.
Venu de Paris le 20. 12. 17 à 12^e
Né le 7. Avril 1887 fils de James Gilman
A New York Kimball Caroline
Célibataire, marié, veuf, divorcé, père de _____ garçons et _____ filles
Profession avant la mobilisation Travailleur Usine
Mobilisé le 1^{er} mai 1917 au 1^{er} Et. T. H. Aviation
Avard. Paris.

A. C.
Décorations { Chevalier Légion d'honneur. Médaille Militaire.
Officier Croix de guerre. Coloniale.
Citations { Régiment ou Aeronautique Brigade Division Corps d'Armée Armée
Signature : Dudley G. Tucker



PARTIE À REMPLIR PAR LE CORPS.
Nom TUCKER
Prénoms Dudley
Grade Sergent
Corps 2^e Groupe d'Aviation 3^e Esc.
N° 41409 au Corps. — Cl. E. T. 1917
Matricule 12176 au Recrutement Paris Central
Mort pour la France le 8 juillet 1918
à Chaudun Tarn-et-Ar. (aisme)
Genre de mort Dépassé
Né le 7 avril 1887
à Nass. York Département Etats-Unis
Ars^l municipal (p^r Paris et Lyon), }
à défaut rue et N°.
Jugement rendu le 25 Mai 1927
par le Tribunal de Le Mans
acte en jugement transcrit le 26 juillet 1927
à Chaudun Seine
N° du registre d'état civil _____
969-708-1022 (26A3A)

Above:
Top Left: Photo of Dudley Tucker in his French pilot uniform, from the book "Memoirs of the Harvard Dead in the war against Germany" by Mark Antony de Wolfe Howe, 1924, p.138
https://www.uswarmemorials.org/html/people_details.php?PeopleID=1963
Top Right: Livret Militaire, Mémoire des Hommes, Ministère de la Défense,
https://www.memoiredeshommes.defense.gouv.fr:443/ark:40699/m00523a02e6541fe.moteur=arko_defaut_66fa612acbc0d
Bottom Left : War monument in Raymond, New Hampshire, in front of the Dudley Tucker Library
<https://libraryvisitsproject.blogspot.com/2020/09/530-dudley-tucker-library-raymond-new.html>
Bottom Right: Livret Militaire, Mémoire des Hommes, Ministère de la Défense,
https://www.memoiredeshommes.defense.gouv.fr:443/ark:40699/m00523ad2a6e6d6a.moteur=arko_defaut_66fa612acbc0d

Dudley Gilman Tucker

Rank: Sergeant

Unit: Régiment de marche de la Légion étrangère (RMLE)
Transferred: Lafayette Flying Corps
Classe 1917 (EV)
Bureau de recrutement Seine bureau central (75)
Matricule au recrutement 12176
Date of Birth: April 7, 1887, in New York, NY
Date of Death: 1918-07-08
Cemetery: Lafayette Escadrille Memorial, France
Mention: officially declared "Mort pour la France" on May 25, 1921
Decorations (posthumous): Médaille Militaire, French Croix de Guerre

Dudley Gilman Tucker was born on April 7, 1887 in New York. He was the son of Gilman Henry Tucker and Caroline Low (Kimball) Tucker. He graduated from Harvard University in 1907. Ten years later on May 9, 1917, Dudley enlisted in France's Service Aeronautique. He underwent aviation, aerobatic, and gunnery training at Avord, Pau, and the G.D.E. earning his brevet on the Caudron on September 30, 1917 and graduating from the training pipeline on January 26, 1918. He was first assigned to Escadrille SPA 74, and shortly thereafter he was transferred to SPA 15. He participated in many patrol sorties from Rheims to Montdidier.

On July 8, 1918, Sergeant Tucker and four of his pilot peers were patrolling the Marne salient when they engaged in the defense of two French reconnaissance aircraft being attacked by a dozen German Fokkers. Tucker was considered missing when he failed to return to his aerodrome following this combat. After the war, German records helped to learn of his demise and to locate his remains buried in a churchyard in Checrise. He was moved to the U.S. Military Cemetery at Seringes-et-Nesle. Later, he was moved to the Lafayette Memorial just West of Paris. In 1922, he was posthumously awarded France's Médaille Militaire and the Croix de Guerre.

Source of information: "The Lafayette Flying Corps: The American Volunteers in the French Air Service in World War One," by Dennis Gordon. Schiffer Military History, Atglen, PA: 2000

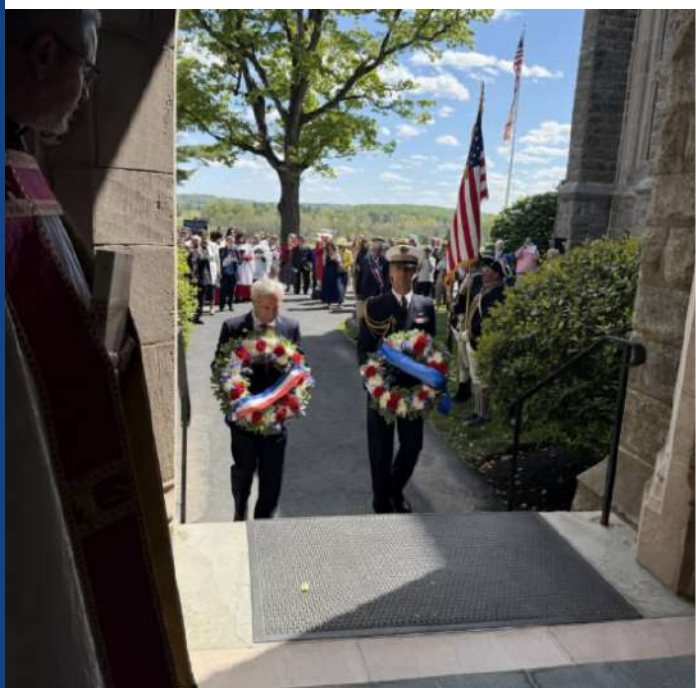
• **Burial:**
[Lafayette Escadrille Memorial](#)
Marnes-la-Coquette, Département des Hauts-de-Seine, Île-de-France, France

• **Memorial Plaque, Dudley Tucker Public Library**
Note: Dudley Tucker is listed among 46 others killed in WWI, but the bronze medalion features his likeness.
Also, the Public Library, inaugurated in 1909, was named after his father Gilman Henry Tucker, an executive at the American Book Company and a descendant of Governor Thomas Dudley of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The monument was unveiled on Memorial Day, 1926.
6 Epping St, Raymond, NH 03077
GPS: [43.036876,-71.182904](#)

• **Inscription:**
Dudley Gilman Tucker
Sergeant in French Air Service
Killed in action near Soissons
July 8, 1918"

May 3rd, 2026
Celebration of French Alliance Day
George Washington Memorial Chapel
at Valley Forge, PA.





Above: photos courtesy of Gardiner Pearson, Washington Memorial Heritage

On Sunday May 3rd, as every first Sunday of May, we were honored to join our friends and partners of the Washington Memorial Heritage at the Washington

Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge to celebrate “French Alliance Day”.

When news of the Treaty of Alliance, Friendship and Commerce between France and the United States signed in Paris on February 6, 1778 and ratified by Congress May 4, 1778 reached Valley Forge, General George Washington issued the following general order: “It having pleased the Almighty Ruler of the universe to defend the course of the United States, and finally raise up a powerful friend among the princes of the earth, to establish our Liberty and Independence upon a lasting foundation, it becomes us to set apart a day for gratefully acknowledging the Divine goodness, and celebrating the important event which we owe to His Divine interposition.” (General Orders, May 5, 1778). Located at the center of Valley Forge National historical park, only 30 minutes drive from Philadelphia, the chapel is one of America's most beautiful place of worship.

Watch the wonderful video “French Alliance: a Love Story” produced by the Washington Memorial Heritage at:

<https://youtu.be/Lk9kz5OLXCc?si=BK6Ji0RSyeKQRut6>

Our sincere thanks to: The Reverend Tommy Thompson, Rector of the Washington Memorial Chapel, David Lauhoff, President, Washington Memorial Heritage, Pat Nogar, Executive Director, Mark Thompsson, Development Director , Gardiner Pearson, VP and past president, Adam Gresek, Director of Visitor & Community Engagement, Valley Forge National Historical Park, and all distinguished representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Members of the Society of Cincinnati, the American Friends of Lafayette, re-enactors and other members of patriotic associations for hosting such a moving tribute.

After remarks by Captain Christophe Charpentier, Naval Attaché at the French Embassy, we laid a wreath of Le Souvenir Français while the carillon played both nations' national anthems, followed by a buffet reception, where our Society was honored with a Certificate.

**May 3, 2026
Messe du Souvenir
Federation of French War Veterans
Église Notre-Dame, New York**





Photos: Daniel Falgerho, Federation of French War Veterans, Inc.

"In 1919 the French Veterans of the First World who founded our Federation stipulated that the members would celebrate the anniversary of Armistice Day by attending religious services and enjoying a good lunch. Armistice Day became Veterans' Day, November 11.

After the Second World War, Victory Day marking the end of the war on May 6, 1945 became part of the tradition. We observe this tradition each year on a Sunday as close as possible to May 8 and November 11.

Last Sunday we attended Mass celebrated by our Chaplain, Father Peter Heasley, Pastor of the Church of Notre Dame-Corpus Christi. In attendance were Myriam Gil, Deputy Consul General of France, Colonel Arnault Rougier, Military Adviser to the Military Mission of France to the United Nations, Lt. Col. Patrick du Tertre, President of the Association of French Reserve Officers in the US, Dr Géard Epelbaum, former President of the Committee of French Speaking Associations, our President Alain Dupuis, Henri Dubarry, Treasurer, Paul Garabedian, Secretary, Jean Le Gall, Color Guard and his wife Maria Le Gall and Daniel Falgerho, Vice President.

Col. Arnault Rougier, Lt Col. Patrick du Tertre and Alain Dupuis laid a wreath in front of the Memorial Plaques bearing the names of those who died in the two World Wars not only French but also American aviators who served in Escadrille Lafayette and Volunteers of the Ambulance Corps of the American Field Service. Our friend Jacques Letalon performed the National Anthems on trumpet.

We repaired for lunch at Brasserie Le Monde where Patrick du Tertre bestowed the Service Medal of The Union Fédérale des Anciens Combattants on Henri Dubarry, Paul Garabedian and Jean Le Gall."

Text: Federation of French War Veterans

May 13, 2026

**Visit of the Tomb Guards
Châlons-en-Champagne
Arc de Triomphe, Paris**





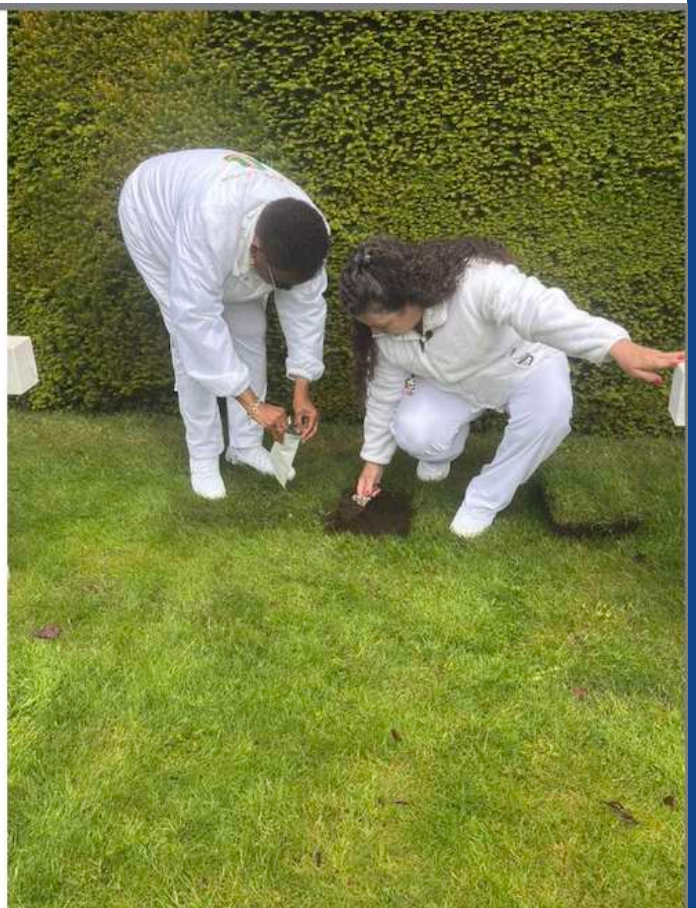
Tomb Guards in France

A delegation of Tomb Guards of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery went to France on a pilgrimage to several American cemeteries. Thanks to Général de brigade (2s) Michel Billard, General Delegate of Le Souvenir Français in the Département de la Marne, they were welcomed by Mayor Benoist Apparu at the City Hall of Châlons-en-Champagne, where the American Unknown Soldier of WWI was selected to be repatriated to the United States in 1921.

On May 18, they rekindled the Flamme de la Nation at the tomb of the Soldat Inconnu under the Arc de Triomphe, in the presence of Bryan Schell, Commander, Paris Post #1, American Legion.

Their participation ceremony was facilitated by Le Souvenir Français Headquarters in Paris.

May 11 - 20, 2026 Gold Star Mothers in France to collect "Sacred Soil"





A delegation of Gold Star Mothers went to France and Belgium on a pilgrimage to several American cemeteries. They collected "Sacred Soil" placed in vials which will in turn be placed in a stone marker installed at Arlington National Cemetery. Their trip was sponsored by the American Battlefields Foundation.

The rededication of the marker is a project initiated by Les Amis de Renée et Gaston Deblaize, the Association Nationale des Croix de Guerre et de la Valeur Militaire, Le Souvenir Français, with the active and leading support of the United War Veterans Council, and the American Legion Post#1 in Paris. Read below about the details of the rededication ceremony on July 5th, 2026

The Gold Star Mothers also rekindled the Flamme de la Nation under the Arc de Triomphe on May 18th.

**May 15, 2026
Flanders Field
Clinton Park, NYC**



Above: All photos by Daniel Falgerho, Federation of French War Veterans, Inc.

Top: Group photos of officials and military representatives from Allied nations. Middle: (Left) Paul Hegge, General Representative of Flanders to the USA, and (Right) Mr. Filip Vanden Bulcke, Consul General of Belgium. Bottom: (Left) Terry Holliday, Former NYC Commissioner, Veterans Affairs, Alain Dupuis, president French War Veterans, Brig. Gen. Guillaume Ponchin, Veteran Henri Dubarry, Thierry Chaunu. (Right): Brig. Gen. Guillaume Ponchin and MAJ. Céline Berg laying the French wreath.

Every year, we are honored to be invited by the Delegation of the Flanders Government at the General Consulate of Belgium to attend a moving

ceremony at Clinton Park in New York to commemorate the battles of Flanders of WWI. Several military representatives from many Allied nations were present.

A wreath was laid by Brig. Gen. Guillaume Ponchin, head of the Military and Defense mission at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, and MAJ Céline Berg, French Army.

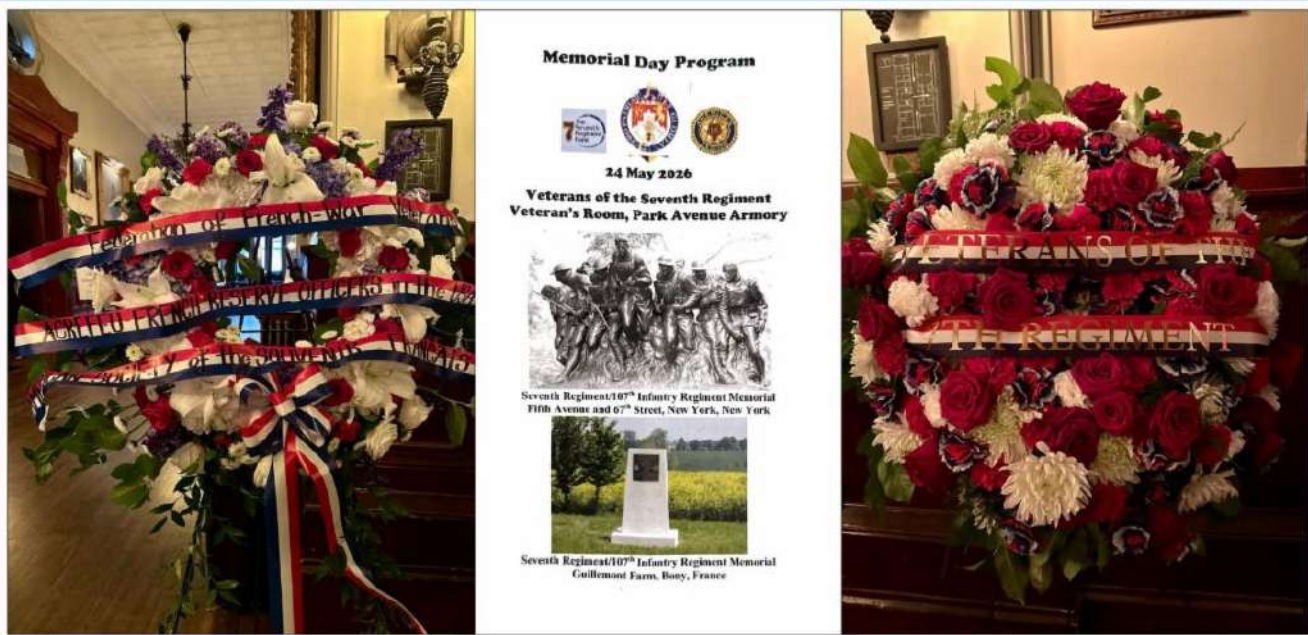
Alongside its British and Commonwealth Allies, France lost 140,000 of its soldiers in these particularly ferocious battles of WWI where mustard gas was employed for the first time in the history of warfare.

*"If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields"*

May 24, 2026

**Memorial Day with the
Veterans of the Seventh Regiment,
New York National Guard, Park Avenue Armory**





Above: Photos: Daniel Falgerho, Federation of French War Veterans, Inc.

On Sunday May 24, the eve of **Memorial Day**, we paid tribute to all American service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to defend Freedom and democracy.

We were honored to be invited by Brig. General Thomas J. Principe, president of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City.

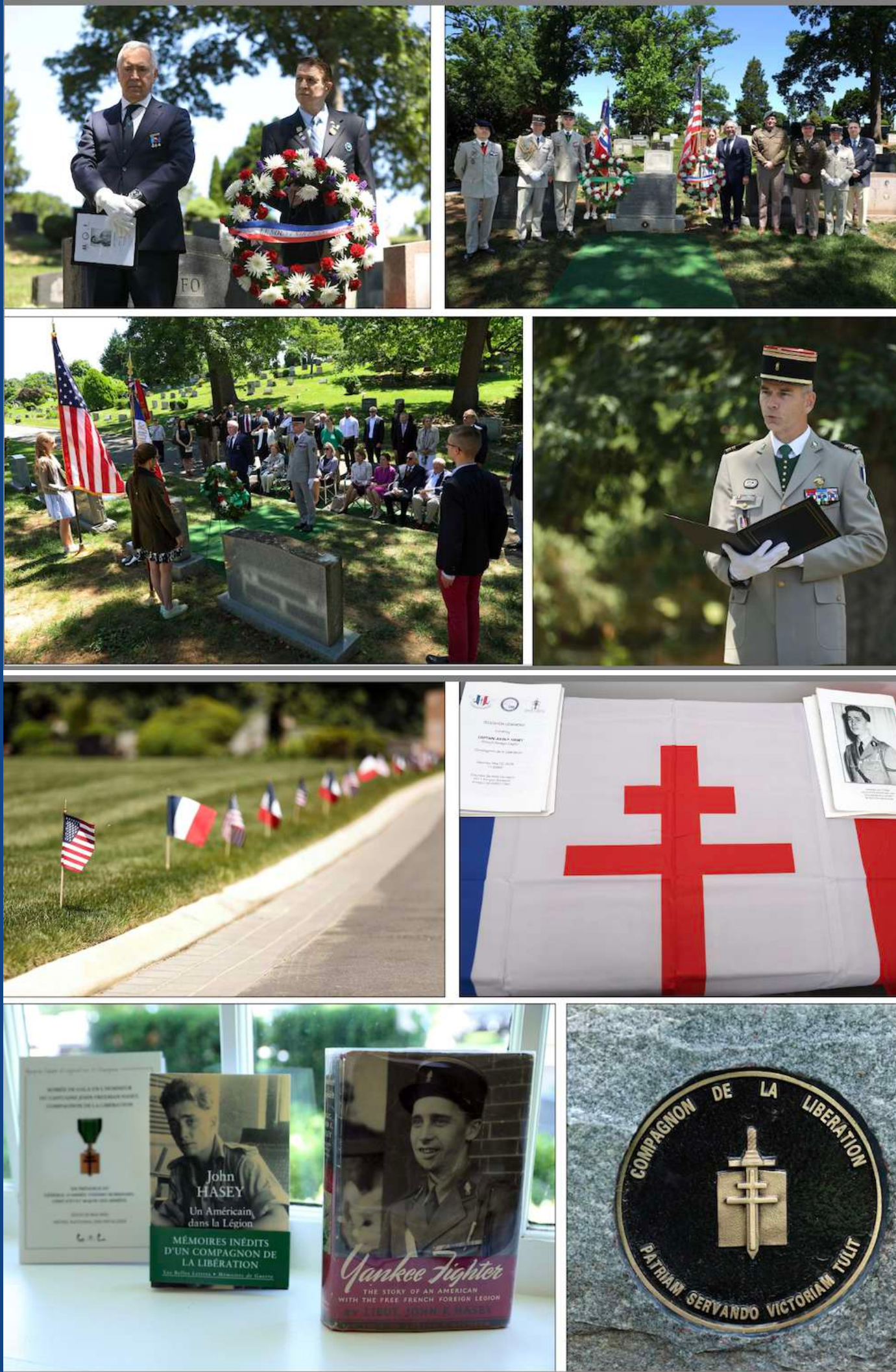
Ms. Myriam Gil, Deputy General Consul at the General Consulate of France in New York, Alain Dupuis, president of the Federation of French War Veterans, Inc., LCL(H) Patrick du Tertre, co-president and Founder of TheFrenchWillNeverForget, also president of the Association of French Reserve Officers in the United States (ACREFEU), Lt.Cdr. (H) Thierry Chaunu, French Navy, president of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc., and Lt. Pierre Gervois(R), French Air Force, laid a wreath next to the wreath of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment.

Brig. Gen. Principe recalled in a moving speech the crucial role of the French Army and Navy during the War of Independence, as well as the brotherhood that has been forged through two World Wars and endures ever since among armed services members of both nations.

Ms. Gil echoed these sentiments and paid tribute to the historic and unbroken ties of alliance and friendship between France and the United States since 1778.

May 30, 2026
Honoring Capt. John F. Hasey
French Foreign Legion • Compagnon de la Libération
Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, VA





Above:

All photos courtesy of our members Daun & Wally Frankland, owners of Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, VA, and photographer Chi-Chia Chang of Caffeine Image

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, we had the honor of gathering at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, to celebrate the memory of Captain John Hasey — "Compagnon de la Libération" and one of the four Americans to receive this prestigious distinction, awarded personally by General de Gaulle to very few individuals (a total of 1,038) among those who answered the call of Free France.

A man of a remarkable and extraordinary life, John Hasey served as a Free French Foreign Legion officer, fighting with distinction in Eritrea and Syria.

Before the war, he had worked as a high jewelry salesman at the legendary house of Cartier — quite the contrast to the battlefields that awaited him in 1941! After the war, he embarked on a distinguished career with the CIA from 1945 until his retirement in 1974.

His story was captured in his 1942 book *"Yankee Fighter: The Story Of An American In The Free French Foreign Legion"* — and we are thrilled to share that it has just been published in French for the very first time, with a new English edition also forthcoming in the USA!

Col. Thibaud Thomas, Military Attaché at the French Embassy, delivered remarks. Col. Thomas Labouche, French Liaison Officer at the Pentagon, read remarks from Richard Hasey (Capt. John Hasey's son), who received a Certificate of Honor from Le Souvenir Français.

It was a beautiful and moving ceremony, bringing together admirers of this extraordinary man whose courage, adventure, and devotion continue to inspire us all.

A heartfelt thank you to all who joined us to keep his legacy alive, and in particular to our esteemed members Wally and Daun Frankland, proprietors of the cemetery, whose generosity made this event possible!

To read more:

May 2022 Bulletin: Tribute to the 4 Americans "Compagnons de la Libération"

<https://conta.cc/3LuiMKH> (original version in English)

<https://conta.cc/3LxHp9k> (version en français)

Inaugurations & events

You are cordially invited to attend!

**La Patrouille de France in the East Coast
"Liberté250"**



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026 - VOL. CCLXXXVII NO. 134

WSJ.com

★★★★ \$5.00

DJIA 50872.11 ▲ 86.10 0.17%

NASDAQ 25678.82 ▼ 1.0%

STOXX 600 618.64 ▼ 0.5%

10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 6/32, yield 4.527%

OIL \$68.20 ▼ \$3.10

GOLD \$4,260.00 ▼ \$75.90

EURO \$1.1543

YEN 160.37

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **Kalshi plan to require** that participants in some prediction markets disclose the identity of their employers after an advisory committee recommended tighter security measures to deter potential insider trading and market manipulation. **A1**

Anthropic released a next-generation "Mythos" model to the general public with guardrails that move dangerous capabilities related to areas such as cybersecurity and biological research. **B1**

The nascent tech-stock re-bound ended in a lurch, with Nasdaq falling 1% in its biggest blown gain since January and the S&P 500 shedding 1%. The Dow rose 0.2%. **B1**

Home sales in May posted the biggest rise this year, a sign that the housing market's spring selling season may be showing signs of life for a sluggish start. **A2**

From France, an Early Happy Birthday, U.S.A.



SMOKING: Planes of the Patrouille de France, the country's aerobatics demonstration unit, perform a patriotic flyover of New York's Hudson River and the Statue of Liberty on Tuesday to celebrate the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence.

U.S. Hits Iran Sites Following Downing Of Copter

Tehran officials said the strikes were targeting the air base after water reservoir was hit, killing two crew members.

The U.S. launched strikes on Tuesday in response to the downing of an Apache helicopter in the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. Central Command said.

By Shelby H. Jones, Jared M. Alexander and Lara Selman

The strikes, which the Pentagon said were for self-defense, were part of a response to an Iranian missile attack on U.S. ships in the Persian Gulf.

The "Liberté 250" mission is a special tour of the famous "Patrouille de France" organized in the United States to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence and honor the Franco-American friendship.

For over a month, the nine Alpha Jets will fly over historic sites along the East Coast of the United States (we apologize to our readers for the late notice).

Stops on the *Liberté 250* Tour

June 13–14: Ocean City, MD – Ocean City Air Show.

June 15: Yorktown Victory Monument, Williamsburg and Chesapeake Bay, VA – Tribute to the 1781 Battle of Yorktown, where France made a decisive contribution to this key victory in the Revolutionary War.

June 20–21: Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MA.

June 22: Washington, DC – Flyby above the National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington.

June 27–28: Baltimore, MD – Sail250 Maryland and Airshow Baltimore in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S.

July 4: New York, NY – Fourth of July event at the Statue of Liberty.

**Inauguration
Rochambeau Memorial Park
Meadowview Park, Middlebury, CT
June 27, 2026
1:00PM - 3:00PM**

Rochambeau Memorial Monument Project

To Be Built at Meadowview Park



Middlebury's Role in the American Revolution

The Rochambeau Monument Project is a major initiative of the Middlebury Historical Society, commemorating a pivotal moment in our town's Revolutionary War history.

Timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the start of the Revolutionary War, the monument honors the French troops who marched through Middlebury in 1781 under the leadership of General Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau.

The field where the French Army camped is still intact, unchanged for centuries, thanks to the dedication and preservation efforts of generations of owners, up to this very day with Lawrence & Mary Janesky (who also contributed generously to the fund raising).

The Memorial Park and bronze statue of a regular French Private by renowned artist Tony Falcone will be inaugurated on Saturday, June 27, 2026.

As Ms. Alice DeMartino, Board Secretary of the Middlebury Historical Society wrote:

"What makes this monument especially distinctive is that it does not portray a general or statesman— instead, it honors the *French foot soldiers* themselves: the men who marched, suffered, and in many cases died for American independence. Their courage and sacrifice are too often overlooked. Our project includes a major fundraising effort, a commissioned sculpture by Tony Falcone, and educational materials for the public".

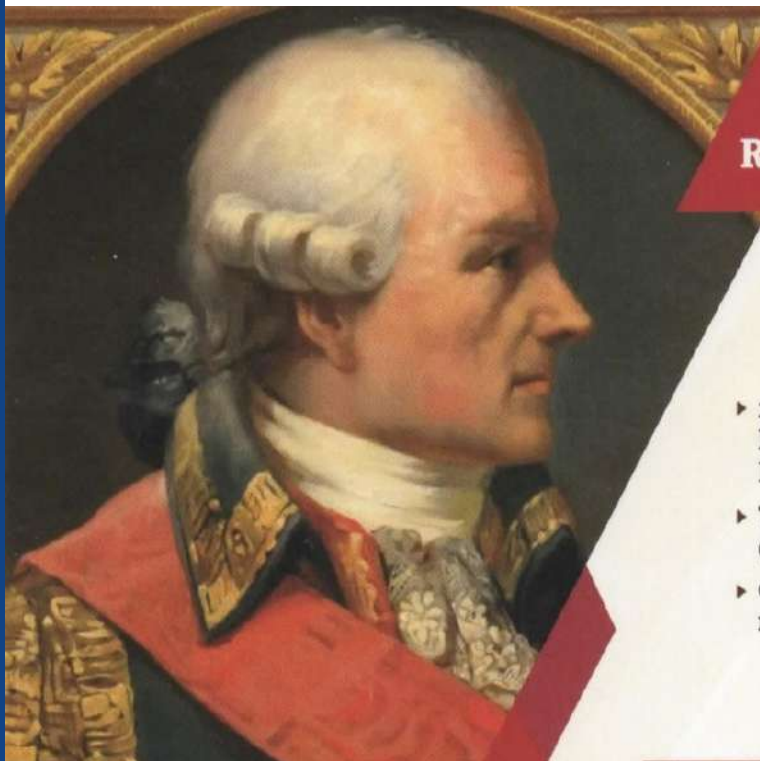
Our Society is honored to contribute to the erection of the bronze statue of a French soldier, and will be represented by our 1st Vice President, Lt.Col. (H) Patrick du Tertre on the day of the inauguration, June 27, 2026.

The ceremony will take place from 1:00PM until 3:00PM and will take place at Meadowview Park, 190 Southford Rd, Middlebury, CT 06762. GPS: [41.5184169](#), [-73.1378729](#) . It is easily accessible via I-84, only 86 miles from Manhattan.

The inauguration is free and open to the general public.

The Middlebury Historical Society need your help!
We invite you to visit our dedicated website to learn more:
<https://www.middleburyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Rochambeau's 301st birthday celebration Yorktown, VA July 1st, 2026



**The Virginia
Washington-Rochambeau
Revolutionary Route Association**

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND
A CELEBRATION TO HONOR:**

- ▶ 301st Anniversary of the birthday of French General Rochambeau, Commander of French Forces during the American Revolution
- ▶ Three Commanders & Heroes of Yorktown (Washington, Rochambeau & de Grasse)
- ▶ Completion of the Virginia W3R/WARO route-redesignation project
 - Arlington to Yorktown
 - DeJarnette to Gloucester

NOTE: Directions/Parking: York County Tourism, VA (visityorktown.org)

Presented by  

Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
The Historic Yorktown Freight Shed
www.visityorktown.org/240/Freight-Shed
331 Water Street, Yorktown, Virginia 23690
The event is free and open to the public. Reservations required.
RSVP to w3r.virginia@gmail.com no later than 4:00 p.m., June 19, 2026. Call (757) 696-1781 for more information

Greetings from the Virginia Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R-US.ORG/VA/)

July 1st is rapidly approaching, and so is our third annual celebration of French General Rochambeau's birthday. The spirit of this incredible General and his contributions to American independence live on as we recognize the 301st anniversary of his birth.

<https://ouramericanrevolution.org/index.cfm/people/view/pp0028>

On that day, we will also celebrate:

- The accomplishments of the three commanders and heroes of Yorktown (Washington, Rochambeau, and de Grasse)
- Completion of the Virginia W3R/WARO route redesignation project, a 6-year project to remark the route as a National Historic Trail

Numerous local dignitaries and many of our volunteers, supporters, and special guests will be in attendance. Light hor-d'oeuvres, cake, and nonalcoholic beverages will be served. Bring a guest. ***The event is open to the public; reservations are required.***

RSVP no later than June 19, 2026, with your name, organization, and number in your party: w3r.virginia@gmail.com

Donations to support this and other events, and to help fulfill our mission “to enlighten, educate, and foster wholesome activities that improve the lives of everyone,” are always welcome. We depend on your support. If you would like to help, our address is, W3R-VA, P.O. Box 81, Yorktown, VA 23690. Volunteers and new members are also welcome.

Celebration of July 4th in New York

An Atlantic crossing from Brest to New York by sailboat to celebrate 400 years of the French Navy



250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

& 400 YEARS OF THE FRENCH NAVY

TRANSATLANTIC

INTREPIDE

SAIL FOR LIBERTY

As a symbol of enduring friendship, cadets from the French Naval Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy will cross the Atlantic in May 2026 aboard the “Intrepide”.

This sailboat, acquired in 2023, is named after the 74-gun ship that distinguished itself in the American Revolutionary War. After sailing 10,000 nautical miles from Brest to Norfolk, the crew will continue to Annapolis and finally New York for the 250th July 4th celebrations.

Beyond a sporting feat, this challenge provides officer cadets with vital hands-on training that strengthens leadership and combat readiness, while honoring a shared legacy and promoting the reputation of both navies.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS A PARTNER!



« Intrepid is a life changing investment for us since it reinforces our cooperation today and prepares us our interoperability for tomorrow. We know 10 years from now we will meet again during our career and the bonds the intrepid already creates is just the starting point of a new adventure for all our school.»

John, midship

CELEBRATING A

250-YEAR

OLD FRIENDSHIP

THE PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 5, 1781: BATTLE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

The first French-American naval cooperation. Although mostly known to maritime historians, this crucial naval battle was strategically decisive in the outcome of the American Revolution – and is, to this day, remembered by the French Naval Academy and units of the French Navy. The relationship between France and the United States is deeply rooted in shared history, common values, and a strong alliance that spans military, economic, and diplomatic cooperation. France, as the U.S.'s oldest treaty ally, provided crucial support during the American Revolution. Through their enduring friendship and shared objectives, France and the United States continue, to this day, to strengthen their alliance for a peaceful, prosperous, and secure world.



Thus, in addition to strengthening ties within the French-American crew of the “Intrepide”, another goal of this demanding crossing is to continue exchanges ashore, reinforcing the bonds of friendship between our two nations.

THE TEAM

As the undergraduate college of the country's naval service, the US Naval Academy prepares young men and women to become professional officers of competence, character, and compassion in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Cadets from the USNA undergo a rigorous academic and military education, preparing them to navigate the complexities of modern naval operations. Just like their American counterparts, French naval officers are trained to handle the most sophisticated and challenging systems, contributing to both the French Navy and to global maritime security.

The participation of both French and American officer midships in this transatlantic crossing will be a unique opportunity for them to forge stronger bonds as future defenders of their respective nations.

The shared experience at sea, and navigating the challenges of a transatlantic voyage together, will create lasting connections and deepen mutual understanding between them.



A CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE AT SEA

This crossing offers the officer cadets a unique opportunity to develop both technical and human skills that are crucial for their future command roles. They will need to prepare to manage a large sailing vessel, applying precise navigation techniques, coordinating maneuvers, and assuming various responsibilities on board.

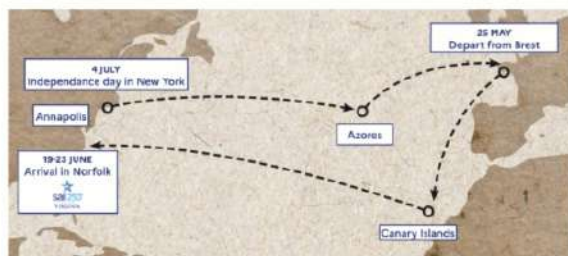
In the face of the challenges posed by the crossing and unpredictable weather conditions, they will need to demonstrate resilience. Managing sleep, nutrition, and task distribution on board will be crucial to maintaining their endurance throughout the journey. The role of watch leader and the organization of shifts will highlight their ability to lead and maintain a smooth and efficient organization. This crossing will thus serve as a true training ground for combativeness, where success will depend on collective effort, perseverance, and solidarity.





Cadets from the USNA and French Naval Academy and 4 skippers from the French Naval Academy (Ecole navale)

To complete this 10,000-nautical-mile crossing, the crew will have to prepare themselves physically, train to maneuver the exceptional and demanding sailboat "Intrépide", and complete offshore training, World Sailing course, first-aid training, etc.



2025 – EARLY 2026 : PREPARATION

- **Spring 2025:** refit of the Intrepid; overhaul of hull, rigging and fittings. Purchase of a new mainsail.
- **Autumn 2025:** 20 days of ocean sailing. Training courses for crew members: first aid, and rescue.
- **Winter 2025:** sailboat configuration for the transatlantic journey and short navigation voyages.
- **Spring 2026:** Welcome French students and short navigation voyages.

MAY TO AUGUST 2026 : THE TRANSATLANTIC

- 20 May : Welcoming the USNA students
- 5 May: Depart from the French Naval Academy in Brest
- 19–23 June: Arrival in Norfolk and participation in SAIL 230, a global gathering of tall ships and military vessels attended by Admiral Pierre Vardier, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
- 23 June: Arrival at the USNA in Annapolis, French-American exchanges and events
- 4 July: Participation in the Independence Day celebrations in New York
- End of July: Return to France

By supporting us, you will be actively participating in every stage of this journey. Every 10 nautical miles covered represents a contribution of \$290 towards the following costs:

- Preparation Upgrading and acquisition of a new mainsail
- Equipment required for a long-distance crossing:
- Specific training for the crew
- Logistics expenses

The total estimated budget for the crossing is 290,000 US dollars.



THE SAILBOAT, THE INTRÉPIDE

L'intrépide is a 70-foot carbon sailing yacht with a technical, sporty, and demanding character, designed for offshore crowd racing. Developed by New Zealand skipper Chris Dickson, renowned for his participation in the America's Cup, it was specifically built to win the Transpacific race. Its design combines simplicity, performance, and reliability.



The Intrépide
74 gun ship of the
line, built in Brest
from 1745-47

Designed to challenge the Royal Navy, the Intrepid took part in several major conflicts: the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years' War, and the American War of Independence. Armed with 74 cannons and carrying 750 crew members, it distinguished itself in the Second Battle of Cape Finisterre (1747), the Battle of Quiberon Bay (1759), and the Battle of Martinique (1760).

SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

By supporting this project, you:

- Empower future naval leaders
- Strengthen the bond between the U.S. Naval Academy and the French Naval Academy through an unforgettable maritime adventure
- Celebrate the enduring French-American friendship
- Help showcase the excellence and reputation of our two navies worldwide

COMPANIES

REASONS TO SUPPORT

- To have visibility during the crossing and at various stopovers and events
- To participate in exclusive moments around the celebrations of these anniversaries
- The chance to benefit from the feedback of our migrants

Contact us for more information
partenariats@ecole-navale.fr

Together, let's turn their maritime adventure into a lifelong legacy and celebrate the French-American friendship.



Scan to support them today



The **École navale**, which trains tomorrow's French Navy sailors at its Lanvéoc-Poulmic site in Finistère, Brittany, and its American counterpart, the **United States Naval Academy** (USNA), will cross the Atlantic in May 2026. It is organized as part of the 400th anniversary of the French Navy and the 250th anniversary of American independence.

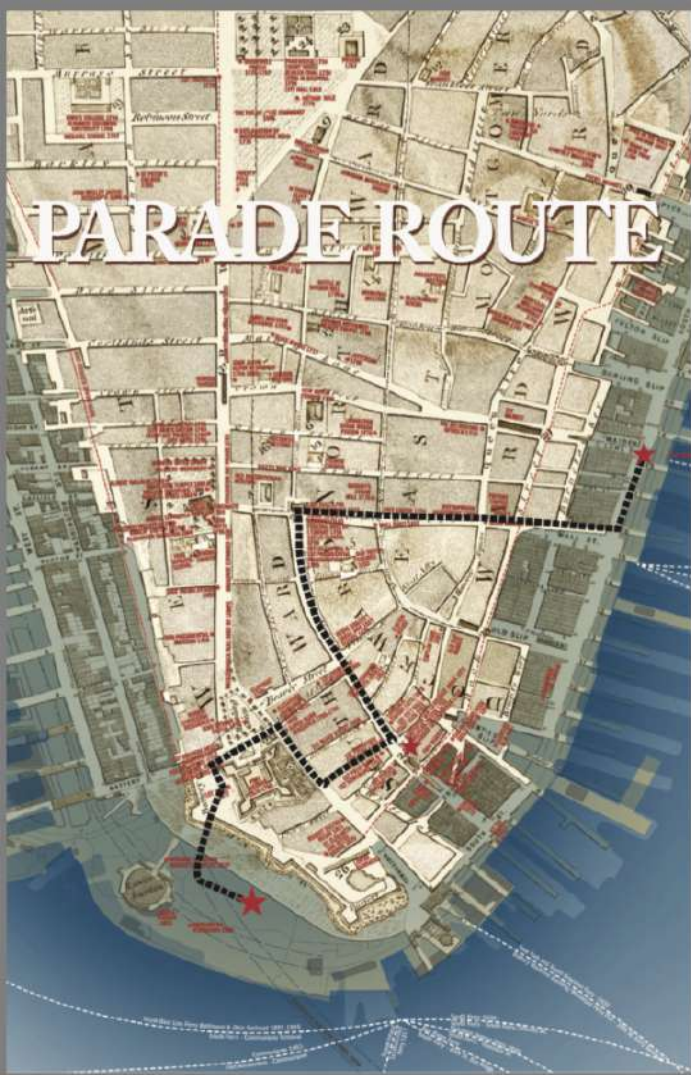
We are issuing an urgent appeal to our supporters and Franco-American companies to contribute to the success of this project, which will culminate on July 4 in front of the Statue of Liberty.

***Please contact us if you could assist in hosting one of the Cadets
at your home in New York (July 2-July 6)!***

RSVP@SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org

July 4th, 2026

The Lower Manhattan Historical Association
The 11th Annual Independence Day Parade



The 250th Anniversary of the Founding of America

PROGRAM

- 11:30 am

Annual 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery Fifty Round
"Salute to the Nation"
Veteran Corps of Artillery State of New York
The Battery
- 12:00 pm

Flag Raising Ceremony
"Star Spangled Banner" by Gary Hess, Bugler
Veteran Corps of Artillery State of New York
Castle Clinton National Monument, Battery Park

Lower Manhattan Historical Association
James S. Kaplan
Co-Founder and Chair, Lower Manhattan Historical Association
- 12:15 pm

Independence Day Parade Marcher Assembly
Battery Wood lawn

Welcome
Paula Recart
President, The Battery Conservancy

Parade Opening Remarks
Ambrose M. Richardson III
President, Lower Manhattan Historical Association

America&Spain250 Initiative
M. Begonia Santos
President & CEO, Queen Sofia Spanish Institute

Grand Marshal
The Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President
- 12:30 pm

The 11th Annual Independence Day Parade
Excelsior Marching Band, The New York Chinese Band
NYPD Emerald Society Pipes & Drums

Parade ends at the Seaport - Promise Of Liberty
Jonathan Boulware
President and CEO, South Street Seaport Museum

Left: Route of July 4 parade, superimposed on multiple historical maps that mark different periods with a snapshot of Colonial Manhattan as it looked at each era: The Ratzer 1767 map showing Manhattan's original shoreline overlaid on the Harrison's 1852 map (which was the first to show the buildings and streets) overlaid on the current map in the background.

Dedication

The Sacred Earth Marker

From France to America

Arlington National Cemetery

July 5, 2026 at 11:00AM

The Sacred Soil Marker of Arlington

Restoring a lost memorial honoring America's fallen World War I heroes and their mothers

UNITED STATES of AMERICA
EMBASSY and CONSULATES
FRANCE

La Borne de Terre Sacrée d'Arlington

Restauration d'un mémorial dédié aux Américains morts en 14-18 et à leurs Mères



INVITATION

Celebrating 250 years of alliance and friendship
between France and the United States
by remembering our shared legacy of service and sacrifice

You and your guest are cordially invited to the re-dedication ceremony and wreath-laying

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026 at 11am

Arlington National Cemetery

THE SACRED SOIL MARKER OF ARLINGTON

Restoration of a lost memorial
honoring America's World War I fallen
featuring Sacred Soil gathered from WWI battlefields
by today's American Gold Star Mothers

Cocktail lunch follows at the French Embassy
4101 Reservoir Road NW , Washington, DC 20007

(mandatory information will be requested when registering to attend and park at the Embassy)

Please **Accept or Decline** for you and your guest **before June 29:**

[Link to the Registration Form](#)

For question or more information: Chloë Appert - cappert@abmf.org / Ryan Hegg - rsvp@uwvc.org

Organizing Partners



Special Thanks to:



Mr. and Mrs. Pierre and Jennifer Oury

The Johnson Family Fund

For RSVP, please click [HERE](#)

The Sacred Earth Markers, containing earth from World War I battlefields, were conceived in early 1927 by sculptor Gaston Deblaise, a French veteran of that war. Their purpose was to provide a tangible form of remembrance to families of soldiers who died on the field of honor, "those whose graves are made of wounded earth."

Seven large Sacred Earth Markers were created in the late 1920's and early 1930's. The only one to be placed outside France was presented to the Arlington National Cemetery at Arlington in 1929. Unfortunately, this memorial was destroyed in 1938.

A new **Sacred Earth Marker** will be dedicated on **July 5, 2026** in Arlington as part of the celebration of Franco-American relations for the 250th anniversary of the Independence of the United States.

Wishing to express his gratitude for the life-saving arrival of American troops in 1918 and moved by their courage at the front, Gaston Deblaise sculpted a large Sacred Earth Marker to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

This marker was escorted to the United States in February 1929 by General Eugène Mariaux, Governor of Les Invalides and Director of the Army Museum.

The marker was placed west of Clayton Avenue in the Section 18 of the cemetery, where many American soldiers who fell in France during the First World War were buried.

In March 1929, a delegation of 39 French veterans traveled to the United States for a goodwill tour, intended to reciprocate a similar visit made by representatives of the American Legion in 1927. The group was led by Admiral Emile Guépratte, founding president of the Association of the Croix de Guerre, General Boulet Desbareau, and the Count de Pusy de Lafayette, a descendant of the Revolutionary War hero. The rest of the party consisted of French recipients of the Croix de Guerre, including a nurse, Elizabeth Sancerne.

Upon arriving in New York City on March 11, the group was received by the American Legion, local French leaders and Mayor Jimmy Walker. The delegation next traveled to Philadelphia, and then on to Lafayette, Indiana, before returning east to Washington, D.C. While the party was traveling, news arrived of the death of French General Ferdinand Foch, the supreme commander of the Allied armies on the Western Front at the end of World War I. The passing of this French national hero dominated the news cycle and overshadowed the rest of the tour. Nonetheless, on March 21, the delegation was received at the White House by President Herbert Hoover.

The next day, March 22, 1929, at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, the delegation placed soil from the American battlefields of the Great War (Aisne, Marne, Bois Belleau, Château-Thierry et Montfaucon) into the marker, and it was permanently sealed.

In the 1930's the Arlington Sacred Earth Marker and its overseas counterparts played a significant role in joint Franco-American remembrance efforts. From 1930-1933, the U.S.

and French government began a series of pilgrimages for American mothers and widows to visit the graves of their lost loved ones. Unfortunately, due to an apparent flaw in its construction, the original Sacred Earth Marker at Arlington did not last long. After nine years of exposure to the elements, the marker deteriorated. Its remnants were removed in September, 1938.

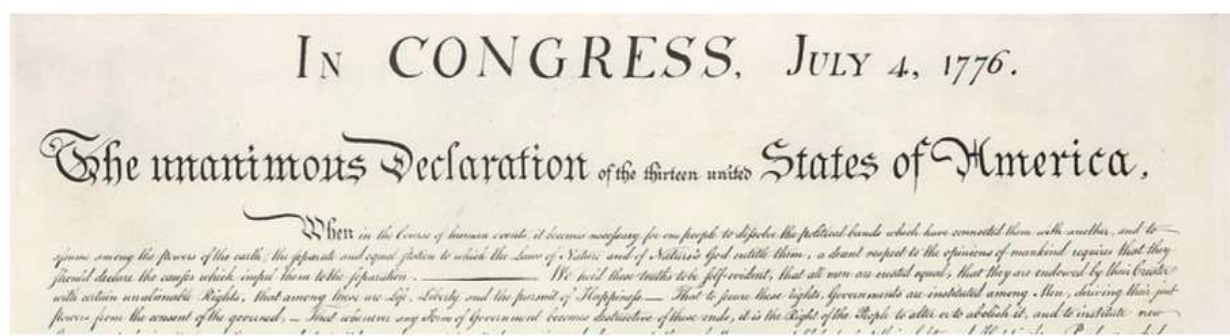
The new identical marker was created using plans provided by the Friends of Renée and Gaston Deblaize Association.

The following organizations have supported this patriotic endeavor:

- The United War Veterans Council (uwvc.org)
- The Friends of Renée and Gaston Deblaize
- The American Society of Le Souvenir Français (www.SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org)
- The Croix de Guerre association (croixdeguerre-valeurmilitaire.fr/)
- The French Naval Academy (ecole-navale.fr/)
- The US Embassy to France (fr.usembassy.gov/fr/)
- American Battle Monument Commission (abmc.gov)
- American Battle Monument Foundation (abmf.org)
- The American Gold Star Mothers (americangoldstarmothers.com)
- American Legion, Paris Post 1 (parispost1.com/)
- VFW Dept of Europe (vfweu.org)

For RSVP, please click [HERE](#)

The Reading of the Declaration of Independence
Live simulcast from Chavaniac-Lafayette & Picpus
July 8th, 2026
11:50AM EDT



**The Reading of the American Declaration of Independence in France
at Chavaniac-Lafayette and at Picpus**



The state of Hawaii's America250 Commission has a great initiative planned for July 8th, 2026.
All around the world people will be reading the Declaration of Independence at public gatherings.
We thought it would be a great idea to do this in France.
Thanks to AFL and Club Lafayette members Agnès Stiesz and Myriam Waze, this will be happening!

On July 8, 2026 at noon EDT or 6:00 pm in France, we will be able to watch the Reading
at BOTH Chavaniac (Lafayette's birthplace) and Picpus cemetery (Lafayette's resting place).
At Chavaniac, Myriam will have the Declaration of Independence read in English,
and then Agnes will host the reading at the Picpus Cemetery in French.
We expect many attendees in-person at the readings in France...
and you can watch and listen LIVE from your home.

On July 8th, the program will start at 11:50am EDT (5:50pm in France)
and you can see it all using the **Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87469601601>**

We ask everyone to be on site by 17:25 pm at the latest at Chavaniac & at Paris:
- Picpus cemetery: 35 rue de Picpus, Paris 75012.
- Chavaniac: In front of the castle Chavaniac-Lafayette.



At Chavaniac, Myriam Waze will have the Declaration of Independence read in English, and then our Society Member Agnes Stiesz will host the reading at the Picpus Cemetery in French.
You can watch and listen LIVE from your home in America!

On July 8th, the program will start at 11:50am EDT (5:50pm in France) and you can see it all using this Zoom link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87469601601>

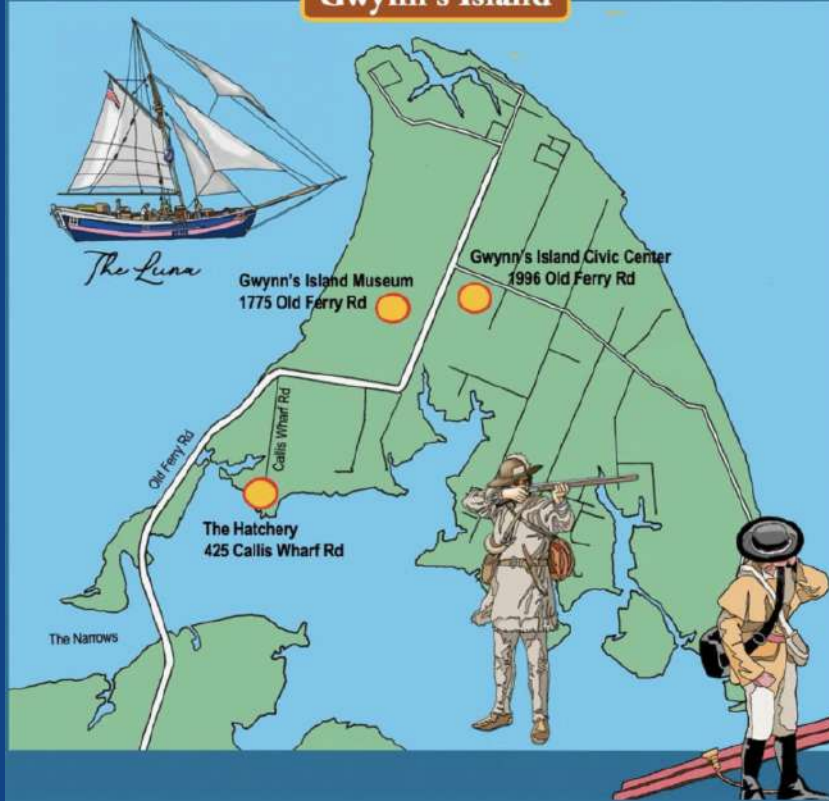
Dedication

Marker honoring
Capt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel
*First French officer Volunteer killed
of the American Revolutionary War*
Gwynn Island, VA.
July 9, 1776 - 2026

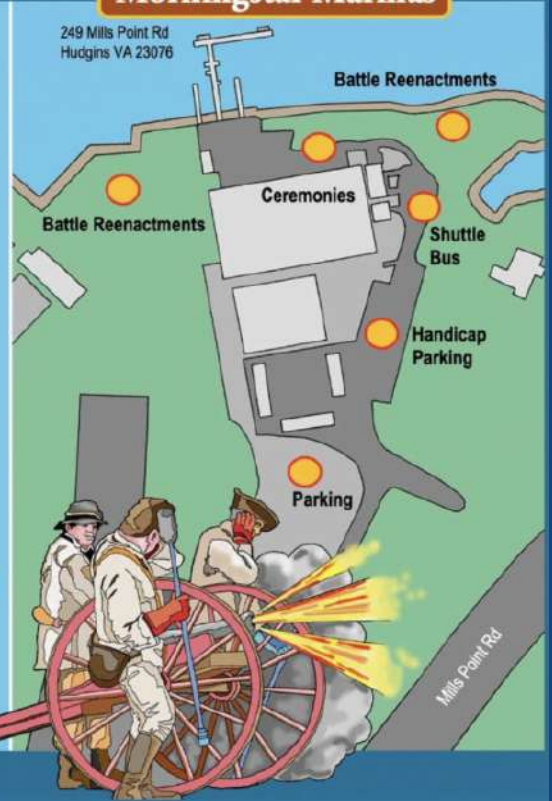


Gwynn's Island, Va
Aerial Photo by Bob Thomas July 2012

Gwynn's Island



Morningstar Marinas



Schedule of Events

Thursday, July 9th

At Morningstar Marinas
249 Mill Point Rd, Hudgins, VA

10:00 am - Capt. Louis d'Ohickey Arundel
Memorial Marker dedication ceremony

10:45 am - Battle of Cricket Hill
interpretive sign dedication ceremony

11:30 am - SAR/DAR/C.A.R. Battle of Cricket
Hill 250th celebration ceremony, followed
by cannon demonstration by 18th century
replica schooner Luna and musket/rifle
demonstrations by SAR Color Guard

On Gwynn's Island at The Hatchery

1:00 - 4:00 pm - Intermittent tours of the
Luna and other colonial-period boats

Friday, July 10th

On Gwynn's Island 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Hatchery dock

425 Callis Wharf Rd - Intermittent tours of
the Luna and other colonial-period boats

Gwynn's Island Museum

1175 Old Ferry Rd - Open to the public

Gwynn's Island Civic Center

1996 Old Ferry Rd - Setup day for main
reenactor encampment. Reenactors,
sutlers, and vendors will be arriving and
establishing camp. There will be limited
demonstrations, interpretive event, and
vendors - the public is welcome.

All free of charge

The 250th Anniversary of The Battle of Cricket Hill



In May 1776, having been driven away from the
Portsmouth area by Patriots, John Murray, the Earl of
Dunmore and the last Royal Governor of Virginia
arrived at Gwynn's Island with a flotilla of some 100
vessels housing Loyalist supporters protected by
British warships.

Patriot forces under the command of Brigadier General
Andrew Lewis established a presence on the mainland
just across from Dunmore's encampment. For six weeks
they dug in, receiving naval cannon fire from
Dunmore's forces and returning fire with muskets and
rifles. During this time, the Patriots built earthworks
for two batteries of cannon.

The Battle of Cricket Hill, aka: the Battle of Gwynn's
island, took place on July 9, 1776, when Patriot forces
bombaraded the British ships at anchor on Gwynn's
Island, forcing Dunmore and his entourage to
reembark and flee.

This was a signal victory for the Patriots just five days
after the Second Continental Congress adopted the
Declaration of Independence.

Special Thanks to:

Morningstar Marinas
Gwynn's Island Civic League
Gwynn's Island Museum
Mathews Memorial Library
Salem Museum
Mathews County Visitors Center
Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad
U.S. Fleet Forces Band
French Army NATO
The Joseph M. Ruffin Foundation
and All Our Donors

250th Anniversary of The Battle of Cricket Hill Gwynn's Island July 9-12, 2026



P.O. Box 853
Mathews, VA 23109
m250ch@gmail.com

Schedule of Events (Cont'd.)

Saturday, July 11th

On Gwynn's Island 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Hatchery dock
425 Callis Wharf Rd - Intermittent tours of
the Luna and other colonial-period boats
Gwynn's Island Museum
1175 Old Ferry Rd - Open to the public

Gwynn's Island Civic Center
1996 Old Ferry Rd - The main reenactor
encampment complete with sutlers and
vendors set up on the grounds. There will
be reenactments, demonstrations, and
interpretive events.

Sunday, July 12th

On Gwynn's Island 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Hatchery dock
425 Callis Wharf Rd - Intermittent tours of
the Luna and other colonial-period boats

Gwynn's Island Museum
1175 Old Ferry Rd - Open to the public

Gwynn's Island Civic Center
1996 Old Ferry Rd - The main reenactor
encampment complete with sutlers and
vendors set up on the grounds. There will
be reenactments, demonstrations, and
interpretive events.

Saturday & Sunday, July 11 & 12th
Battle of Cricket Hill reenactments with
British troops on Gwynn's Island near
The Hatchery, and Patriot troops on the
mainland at Morningstar Marinas, with the
Luna and colonial-period boats participating.
These are black powder firing events with
cannons, mortars, muskets, and rifles.

All free of charge

Please join us!!

You are invited to join us for the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill / Gwynn's Island, in the presence of Mme Caroline Monvoisin, General Consul of France in Virginia.

*We will unveil our bronze plaque honoring **Capt. Louis d'Ohicky Arundel**, co-signed The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. and the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.*

When: Thursday, July 9, 2026, beginning at 10:00 AM

Where: Morningstar Marinas, 249 Mill Point Rd, Hudgins, VA 23076

This is a family-friendly event open to the public at no charge.

The Battle of Cricket Hill took place on July 9, 1776 when Patriot forces bombarded the British ships at anchor on Gwynn's Island, forcing Lord Dunmore and his entourage to re-embark and flee. This was a signal victory for the Patriots just five days after the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

The Mathews VA250 Committee in partnership with the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc., will conduct opening ceremonies for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill.

Ceremonies begin at **10:00 AM** and include dedication of a memorial marker to the only Patriot casualty and a Road to Revolution interpretive sign of the battle, followed by a formal ceremony hosted by Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution, complete with Color Guard, wreath-laying service, as well as musket and cannon fire. The US Fleet Forces Band and a French Army NATO delegation will participate. And our keynote speaker will be Andrew Lawler, author of "A Perfect Frenzy".

Invitation details are attached, and all are encouraged to register using this [REGISTER](#) link.

Our celebrations actually continue on through the weekend - July 10 through 12. Registrations are not necessary to attend these continuing celebrations.

We look forward to your participation in the celebration in this historic and pivotal battle of our American Revolution.

Annual Tribute to France Newport, R.I. July 11, 2026



Every year, Prof. Norman Desmarais, Regional Delegate of our Society for New England and our president Thierry Chaunu, lay a wreath at the foot of the

Statue of Rochambeau and the Monument to the French Fleet at King Park, Newport, R.I.

Yves de Ternay, General Secretary, also lays a bouquet on the tomb of his ancestor Admiral de Ternay who commanded the French fleet that brought Rochambeau and his army to America on July 11, 1780. The admiral is buried at the historical Trinity Churchyard, along 2 French officers of the frigate Hermione.

H.E. Mr. Laurent Bili, Ambassador of France to the United States, will be present. The entire city celebrates the arrival of the French troops with re-enactors and many activities.

The event starts at 9:30AM and is open to the public, no RSVP required.

Bastille Day in Central Park
Free Concert
Sunday, July 12, 2026, starting at 5:00PM
Entrance at 72nd Street & Fifth Avenue



City Parks
SUMMERSTAGE 40

CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN NEW YORK & CAFUSA
present

BASTILLE DAY

A French music festival in Central Park

MICHEL POLNAREFF
LAURENT VOULZY

BLACK M
& LEGENDS OF THE 80'S

DAVID ET JONATHAN • DÉBUT DE SOIRÉE BY SACHA
JEAN SCHULTHEIS • GOLD BY ALAIN LORCA • PARTENAIRE PARTICULIER

SUNDAY
JULY 12TH, 2026
5PM-10PM

FREE ENTRANCE
Enter the park on 72nd street and Fifth Avenue
(Rumsey Playfield), Central Park, New York City

A stylized illustration of the Statue of Liberty in green, holding a French flag in her right hand. She is standing on a globe. The background of the poster is purple with a pattern of small white dots.

The C.A.F.U.S.A., Committee of French and Francophone Associations (to which our Society is a member) is organizing a raffle as part of the Fête Nationale celebrations. This year's event will take place on Sunday, **July 12** in Central Park in partnership with the French Consulate in New York. The drawing will be held on July 13 (the following day), and the lucky winners will be notified by email.

This raffle is the committee's main annual source of funding!

Buy your raffle tickets NOW:
(\$15 each; 5 for \$60)

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/bastille-day-2026-concert-affle>

The lots are simply exceptional!

- 2 Round-Trip Airfare : New York – Paris – New York Courtesy of French Bee;
- Round-Trip Airfare : New York – Bermuda - Courtesy of BermudAir;
- Two-Night Stay at the Sofitel Hotel in New York - Courtesy of Sofitel Hotels & Resorts
- Dinner for Two at a Restaurant by Chef Daniel Boulud;
- \$500 Gift Card for Maison Passerelle — Enjoy a memorable fine dining experience at Maison Passerelle by Chef Gregory Gourdet, Courtesy of Printemps;
- \$100 Printemps Gift Card — Redeemable in-store at Printemps New York;
- Longchamp x Jeremy Scott Collector's Edition Handbag — An exceptionally limited-release piece celebrating 20 years of creative collaboration between Longchamp and Jeremy Scott, Courtesy of Longchamp;
- Original Lithograph by Émile Bellet "Adossée à la Mer" — generously donated by the Paris American Club;
- Professional Teeth Whitening Session - Courtesy of Dr. Gérard Epelbaum
- Dermatology Consultation - Courtesy of Dr. Sylvie Epelbaum;
- Two Complimentary Tickets to the Entraide Française Concert - Courtesy of the Entraide Française
- Alliance New York- Memberships
- One Family Membership;
- One Friends of Cinema Membership;
- Private United Nations Visit and Lunch Experience - Hosted by Sibylle Eschapasse;
- L'Oréal Professional Hair Dryer - Courtesy of L'Oréal
- Signed and Framed Photograph of an Alaskan Bear From the book by Patrick Pagni "Bears' Eyes" - Courtesy of Patrick Pagni

Dedication

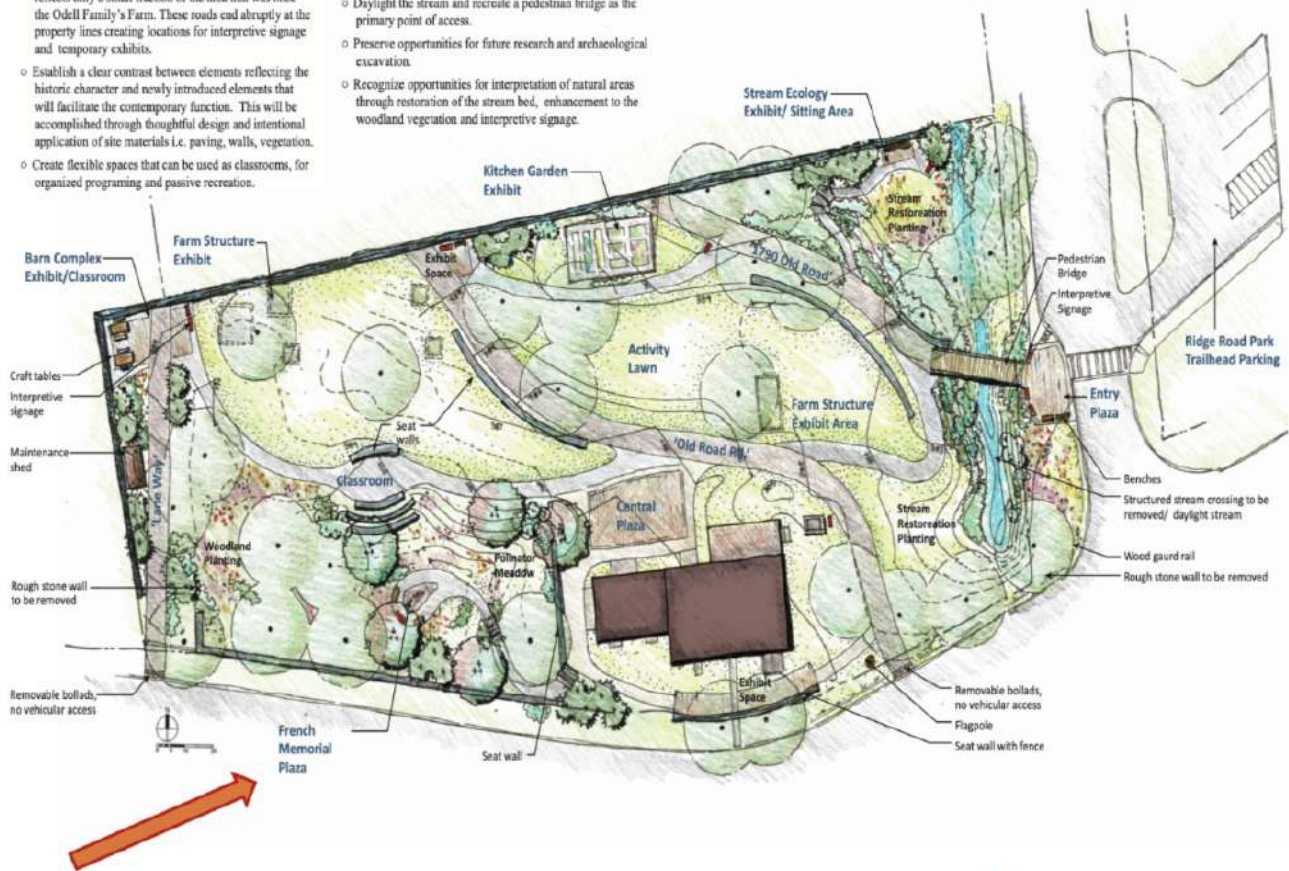
**of our Memorial honoring
Four soldiers of the
Royal Deux-Ponts
Odell Rochambeau Museum
Greenburgh, NY**

New Date! October 10, 2026



DESIGN OBJECTIVES:

- Highlight the old farm roads. Recreating segments of the historic farm roads will recognize that the current site reflects only a small fraction of the area that was once the Odell Family's Farm. These roads end abruptly at the property lines creating locations for interpretive signage and temporary exhibits.
- Establish a clear contrast between elements reflecting the historic character and newly introduced elements that will facilitate the contemporary function. This will be accomplished through thoughtful design and intentional application of site materials i.e. paving, walls, vegetation.
- Create flexible spaces that can be used as classrooms, for organized programming and passive recreation.
- Establish a logical, accessible, and interesting pedestrian circulation concept.
- Daylight the stream and recreate a pedestrian bridge as the primary point of access.
- Preserve opportunities for future research and archaeological excavation.
- Recognize opportunities for interpretation of natural areas through restoration of the stream bed, enhancement to the woodland vegetation and interpretive signage.



ODELL HOUSE ROCHAMBEAU HEADQUARTERS SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Town Of Greenburgh, New York | October 23, 2023



Our granite memorial honoring 4 Soldiers of the French Army who died in the vicinity while American and French troops camped side-by-side will be inaugurated this Fall. This was the site of Rochambeau's headquarters from July 6 to August 19, 1781, and the site where Rochambeau and George Washington met to adopt the winning strategy to march to Yorktown. The names of the 4 Soldiers of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiments engraved on the memorial are:

David Petter, † July 18, 1781
Antoine Houllier, † July 31, 1781
Adam Steel, † July 14, 1781
Johannes Anneury, † August 9, 1781

Save the Date! dedication October 10, 2026.

A confirmation will be announced by Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters and their president Susan Seal.

Click on the photos above to watch the video produced by the Odell Rochambeau Museum, "Dear France, thank you"

**Dedication
of our Memorial to French Navy Sailors
Riverwalk, Yorktown, VA
October 18, 2026**



Location of granite memorial

In 2022, we installed an interpretive marker dedicated to Admiral de Grasse explaining the crucial role of the French Navy 1778-1783. It has been seen by thousands of tourists on the Riverwalk, a few steps from the 4 sculptures of General Washington, Rochambeau, Lafayette and admiral de Grasse.

We have received the authorization from Yorktown authorities to install a granite memorial "to the Memory of 3,520 French Navy sailors who lost their lives for American independence", who do not have tombs as there are resting at the bottom of the ocean. We have received the support from the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The inauguration is planned for October 18, 2025, on the eve of the 245th anniversary of the joint French-American victory.

Details will be announced this summer.

**Re-dedication
of the
Lapérouse Memorial
and inauguration of our Society's marker
Maui, Hawaii
Postponed to Fall 2026 (date to be announced)**



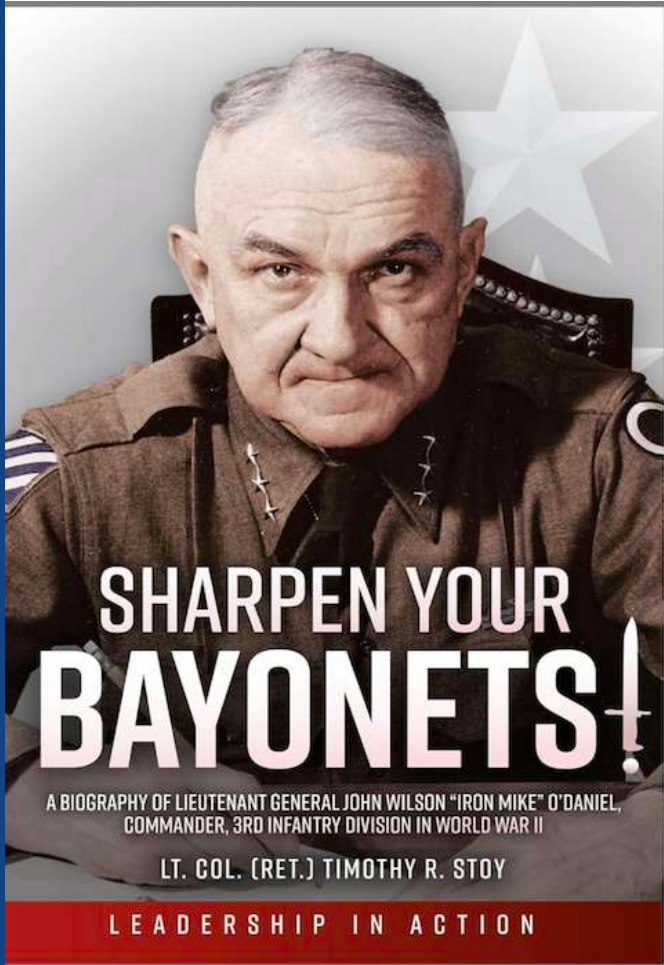
This restoration of the lava rock monument and installation of the marker would not have been possible without the constant support of **Marc Onetto**, West Coast Regional Delegate. Our interpretive marker, in three languages (English, Hawai'iian and French) and in Hawai'iian style, was installed last October and already visited by many tourists.

We were hoping to officially re-dedicate the site by the end of May 2026. Due to the French Ambassador's other pressing obligations, the ceremony has now been postponed until the Fall of 2026.

We will announce the exact day of the rededication ceremony in a future Bulletin!

Publications from our Members:

LTC Timothy R. Stoy, U.S. Army (ret)
 CPT C. Monika Stoy, U.S. Army (ret)





Outpost 5845, International
Society of the 3rd Infantry Division



The Rock of the Marne!

*Outpost International President Monika Stoy invites you to
a commemoration of the 108th anniversary of the 3rd Infantry Division's immortal stand
on the Marne River in France on 15 July 1918*

*Wednesday, 15 July 2026 09:15 Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns
0930 Commemorative ceremony at the 3rd Infantry Division Monument in Arlington National Cemetery*

RSVP by 30 June 2026 to Tim Stoy, timmoni15@yahoo.com, (571) 419-8915.

Photos: courtesy Lt. Col Stoy and Col. Monika Stoy in France, 3rd Infantry Division

Our friends and esteemed members of our Society **LTC Tim Stoy**, US Army, ret. and **CPT C. Monika Stoy**, US Army, ret. never cease to honor the Fallen throughout American cemeteries in France. Above are recent photos of their visit. In addition, Tim Stoy published this captivating book. "**Sharpen your baionets!**" which we heartily recommend to our readers.

"John Wilson "Iron Mike" O'Daniel was one of the U.S. Army's great fighting generals of the 20th century. He began his military career with the Delaware Militia in 1914, served on the Mexican border in 1916, received a Distinguished Service Cross in World War I, was Mark Clark's man for hard jobs in the early days of World War II, and commanded the storied 3rd Infantry Division from Anzio to the end of the war in Europe, ending the war in Salzburg after liberating Munich, and Hitler's Berghof and Eagle's Nest on the Obersalzberg, Bavaria, Germany. "Iron Mike" commanded I Corps in Korea 1951–1952 and ended his career as the Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Vietnam in the early days of American involvement there.

LTC Stoy paints a vivid picture of this great American warrior who played an important role in World War II, became an ardent anti-Communist crusader after duty in Moscow as Military Attaché 1948–1950 as the Cold War intensified, laid the foundation for the Army of

the Republic of Vietnam, and remained an ardent supporter of President Ngo Dinh Diem while serving as Chairman of the American Friends of Vietnam from his retirement in 1956 until 1963, shortly before Diem's assassination."

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If you have not done so already....
Please renew now your Membership!

Whether you are renewing, joining us for the first time, or after an absence, we send you our warm greetings of welcome.

Your contribution is essential to our activities!

- \$ 25 for Veterans and Students
- \$ 50 for a membership (\$80 for a couple)
- \$100 for a Supporting Level membership
- \$150 for a Benefactor Level membership
- \$250 donation for the 'America250 special fund' (installation of a bronze plaque at Gwynn Island, VA)
- \$500 donation for our granite memorial at Riverwalk, Yorktown, VA to honor the 3,250 French sailors who died at sea for the independence of the United States (1778-1783)
- Any amount for the sculpture of Le Petit Prince and Antoine de Saint Exupéry in Miami (with \$1,000, *your name will be on the Donors plaque inside the Museum*)
- **We are an IRS-qualified 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Dues and/or donations are tax deductible. Donations of \$250 or more automatically include membership for 2026**

Note: If you joined in the final quarter of 2025, your membership is automatically extended through the entirety of the calendar year 2026.

The list of our activities, achievements, projects, is extensive and can be discovered on our site: www.SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org as well as our monthly Bulletins.

Please help us promote the historical ties between France and the United States. We thank you for your membership and any donations you may make to help us promote our missions and values!

***You can send your Membership or donation
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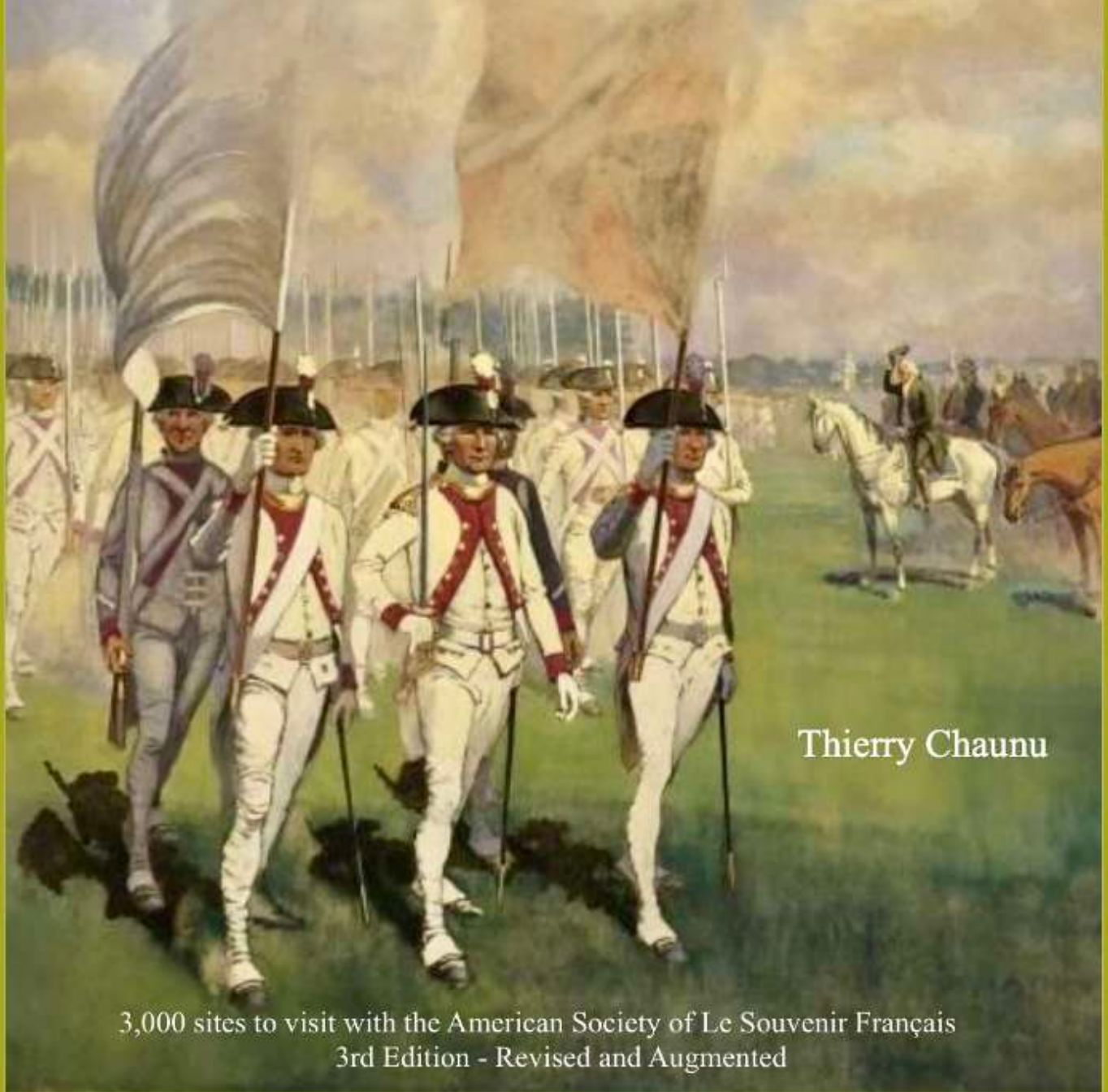
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*You will receive a Membership e-card, a donation receipt,
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OUR MISSIONS:

- To preserve the memory of the French soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives for freedom, and who are buried in the United States.
- To honor French Citizens who did great deeds in the United States, or with a strong connection with the United States,
- To promote the appreciation for French culture and heritage in the United States, and the ideals that unite our two nations, in order to pass the torch of memory to younger generations.
- To strengthen the long-standing traditional bonds of friendship between the American and French peoples, and to this end: erect or maintain memorials and monuments and encourage historical research, public presentations and publications in the media.

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We are pleased to announce that W. Robert Kelly, Jr. is our new Regional Delegate for Virginia as of June 1st, 2026. More details in our next Bulletin!

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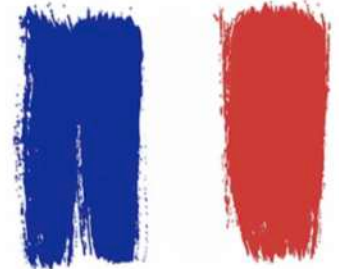
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MONTHLY BULLETINS

OUR AIM: To turn the spotlight on a famous, or less famous, episode or historical figure during the long shared history between France and the United States, with illustrations and anecdotes.

**You can have access to our past monthly Bulletins
(in English and French) at: www.SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org**

Click on the illustrations on each page for further access to sources and references



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Contact: Thierry Chaunu, President
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