



HERITAGE
FREDERICK

Bridging the Past to the Future

Lafayette in Frederick
-December 29-31, 1824-

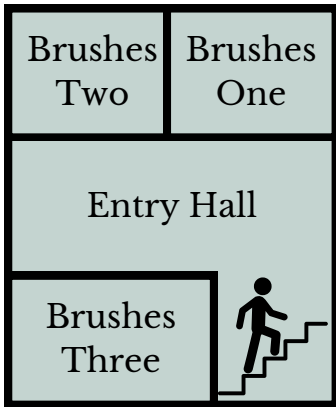
Lafayette in Frederick

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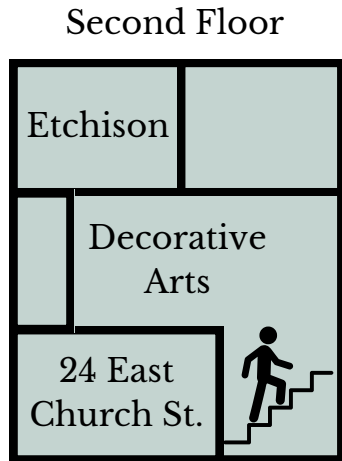
“Our whole town is in an uproar all about Lafayette”

So recorded Jacob Engelbrecht in his diary describing the tremendous excitement and elaborate preparations made by the citizens of Frederick County to welcome General Lafayette to the city in 1824. In response to an invitation from Col. John McPherson, Lafayette agreed to stop in Frederick as he made his way to Washington, D.C., to attend a New Year’s Eve ball at the White House.

Learn about Lafayette’s time in Frederick with this special tour of the Museum of Frederick County History featuring the material culture associated with the General’s visit and its legacy in our community.



First Floor



Lafayette in Frederick

BRUSHES WITH HISTORY

GALLERY ONE

Talbott's Tavern on West Patrick Street was a center of activity during Lafayette's visit to Frederick. On the evening of December 29, 1824, hours after his arrival in the city, the General was hosted at Talbott's Tavern for a celebratory dinner with numerous toasts given by Frederick citizens. On the following morning, the General returned to the tavern to meet with citizens who traveled from across Frederick County for a chance to see the Revolutionary War hero. Lafayette went to Talbott's Tavern for a third time on the evening of December 30, 1824, for a grand ball held in his honor.

In the case to the left of the entrance of this gallery is a watercolor painting of Talbott's Tavern as it appeared during Lafayette's visit by Frederick artist George Augustus Schley.

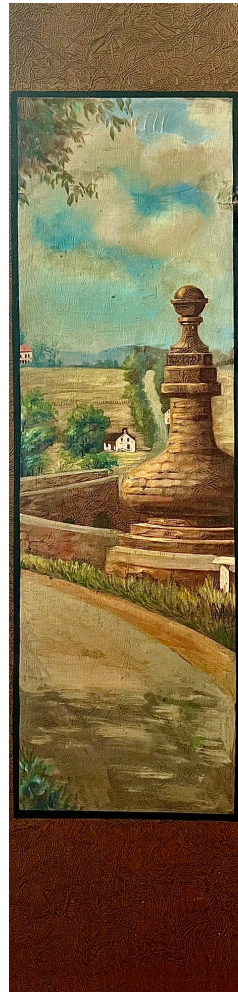


Lafayette in Frederick

BRUSHES WITH HISTORY GALLERY TWO

Traveling west on the Baltimore Pike, Lafayette and his entourage were met at the stone bridge over the Monocacy River east of Frederick by a large committee of invitation, local militia soldiers, and gathered citizens. The General arrived at the bridge around 3:00 in the afternoon on December 29, 1824.

In this gallery, you can see two renditions of Jug Bridge by Frederick artist Helen L. Smith. One of these appears on the painted clock on the mantel piece, the other on the room divider in the recreation of Smith's Palette Shop studio. On the opposite wall is a depiction of the 1785 Frederick County Courthouse where local officials delivered remarks of welcome to Lafayette on the day of his arrival.



Lafayette in Frederick

BRUSHES WITH HISTORY GALLERY THREE

After meeting Lafayette and his companions at the Jug Bridge, the local militia, elected officials, and citizens conducted the General into the city with a grand parade. Military bands played as cannons were fired and the church bells rang. Two triumphal arches were constructed over Market Street at the Square Corner and Fifth Street under which the parade passed on its course to the Frederick County Courthouse. After the parade and celebratory dinner, Lafayette retired to the home of Col. John McPherson on the Court Square. He lodged here for the two nights of his visit.

Frederick artist Virginia James McLaughlin closely studied accounts of Lafayette's welcome parade in the large wall mural reproduced in this gallery. Next to it is a watercolor painting of the McPherson House on Court Square where Lafayette stayed by artist Dorothy Eberstadt.



Lafayette in Frederick

ETCHISON CONNECTIONS GALLERY

The leader of the welcoming committee who met Lafayette at the Jug Bridge over the Monocacy River was George Baer, whose portrait is displayed in this exhibit above the fireplace. Baer served in the Maryland House of Delegates, two terms in the United States Congress, and was the third Mayor of the City of Frederick.

Below his portrait is a landscape of Frederick in the 1840s from the vantage point of Prospect Hall on the south side of the City. Painted by Frederick artist John Johnston Markell, this landscape captures the City much as it appeared during Lafayette's visit. On the far right side of the painting are the Hessian Barracks, which were built during the Revolutionary War to house local soldiers and prisoners of war. Lafayette passed by the Barracks during the parade which welcomed him to Frederick.

Both of these historic paintings were donated to Heritage Frederick by local historian and collector Marshall Lingan Etchison.



Lafayette in Frederick

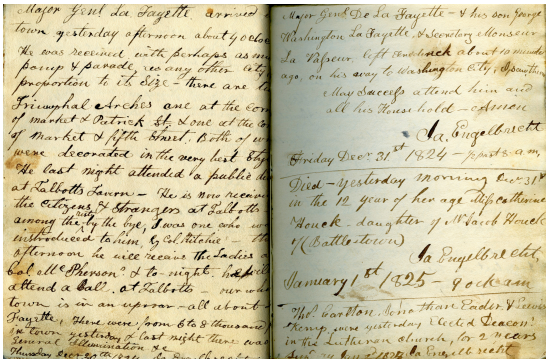
DECORATIVE ARTS GALLERY

Lafayette's visit to Frederick lived on in the memory of generations of local residents thanks, in part, to diarist Jacob Engelbrecht's record of the events surrounding the General's visit.

Engelbrecht's father was a Hessian mercenary soldier brought to North America by the British. He came to Frederick as a prisoner of war and remained after the end of the Revolution.

The account of Lafayette's visit is but one of the many events, people, and experiences Jacob Engelbrecht recorded in his diary that reflect the ongoing struggle for the ideas of the American Revolution. Engelbrecht documented the events of the Civil War and the challenges local African Americans faced as they sought their own liberty and independence from the oppressive systems of slavery and discrimination.

The original diary opened to his account of Lafayette's visit is displayed on the desk Jacob Engelbrecht owned in this gallery.



Lafayette in Frederick

24 EAST CHURCH STREET
GALLERY

Throughout Lafayette's stay in Frederick, he was greeted, addressed, and toasted by the most prominent citizens of the county. They frequently espoused the ideas of the American Revolution: justice, liberty, and equality. Yet, many of these voices represented the privileged upper class who directly (as enslavers) or indirectly benefited from the unpaid labor of enslaved people. This contradiction of philosophy and socio-economic practices reflected the unfinished business of the Revolution and the questions left unanswered by the valiant acts of the founding generation.

The builder of this house, Dr. John Baltzell, served on the planning committee to welcome Lafayette and gave a toast at the ball at Talbot's Tavern in "gratitude for a free and enlightened nation." Discover Dr. Baltzell's story in this exhibit and learn about ongoing research to reveal the lives of the people he enslaved on this property.

