



Hampton Falls Historical Society

Post Office Box 104

Hampton Falls, NH 03844

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES

September 19 – Sunday at 2:00 PM - in the Hampton Falls Town Hall

“Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: an American Idol”

General Lafayette, born the Marquis de Lafayette in Auvergne, France, was truly an American Idol in the 19th century. The proof is that over 80 counties, cities and towns were named after him as well as streets and roads everywhere. In this program, the translator of Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, a first-hand account of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour of America, will describe the full extent of his reputation and explore its origins. Lafayette’s extraordinary reputation was based on his military record in the Revolution, his friendship with Washington, his continued support of American interests, his story-book life and, perhaps most importantly, his Farewell Tour of America when he visited all 24 states and Washington City as the last surviving major general of the Continental Army. Lafayette’s visits to New Hampshire in 1824 and 1825 will be used to illustrate the grand reception that the American people gave him on his Farewell Tour.

[The speaker is Alan Hoffman, who translated Lafayette’s journal cited above. He has given this presentation over 40 times in many of the states visited by Lafayette. I did some research in the Lane Memorial Library in Hampton and, with help, uncovered a number of newspaper articles describing his 1824 trip on September 1, on a rainy day. Unfortunately I couldn’t find a report on any activities that happened in Hampton Falls other than that the Portsmouth reception committee met him in Hampton Falls and escorted him via Greenland, where there was a charming reception, and finally on to Portsmouth where there were was a grand reception including dinner and dancing. I was hoping to trace his passage over the place where the Old Stage Road bridge was being constructed, and finally completed in 1825. Maybe further research will help. Ed. Note by D. French]

This program is organized by the Hampton Falls Historical Society, co-sponsored with the Hampton Historical Society and the Seabrook Historical Society. Light refreshments will be available. Attendance is free with donations gladly accepted to offset the cost of the refreshments

October 17 – Sunday at 2:00 PM – At the Museum across from the Town Hall

Annual Meeting – with guest Speaker Ted Wall to give a talk on his relative Ralph Adams Cram