

# The Nation's Guest



Portrait of Marquis de La Fayette by Samuel F. B. Morse, 1826, oil on canvas, New York City Hall

In 1824, Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, the last living Major General of the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), accepted an invitation to return to the United States in advance of America's 50th Birthday. The man, who first journeyed to America as a nineteen year old volunteer for the cause of American Independence, arrived in New York City to adoring crowds on August 16, 1824. His trip was meant to last only three months so he could visit the original 13 colonies (now states). His "Rock Star" Tour instead lasted 13 months, covering 24 states and over 6,000 miles.

In advance of America's 250th Birthday, the American Friends of Lafayette are celebrating the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour by re-enacting the entire journey. Our area is proud to host General Lafayette, the Nation's Guest.

Thank you to our generous sponsors  
and community partners.

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*If you would like to sponsor this event  
or others like it, please visit  
[Lafayette200CNY.org](http://Lafayette200CNY.org)*



## Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour

WITH STOPS AT ROME, ORISKANY,  
WHITESBORO, UTICA, AND LITTLE FALLS

*June 9 & 10, 2025*

**[Lafayette200.org](http://Lafayette200.org)  
[Lafayette200CNY.org](http://Lafayette200CNY.org)**



# **Local Events**

Organizations in Oneida and Herkimer Counties will host General Lafayette, portrayed by a professional interpreter, as he travels through our area on Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10, 2025 for the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour promoting patriotism and America's Semiquincentennial. The National Bicentennial Tour will be traveling from Buffalo to Boston, as Lafayette originally journeyed.

## **Monday, June 9, 2025 Rome, NY**

**4:30 pm** Events kick off with the unveiling of a Pomeroy Foundation Lafayette Trail Historic Marker in front of one of the oldest buildings in Rome, the Arsenal House at 514 Dominick Street.

**5:30 pm** An interactive indoor presentation by Lafayette "himself" from the American Friends of Lafayette at the nearby Rome Historical Society (200 Church St., Rome).

**6:15pm** The presentation will continue with a walking tour to Rome's Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldiers.

**6:45pm** The walking tour concludes at Fort Stanwix National Monument.

**7:00 pm** Soiree at Arsenal House. Advance registration required for this event. Please visit [Lafayette200cny.org](http://Lafayette200cny.org) for details.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[ROMEHistoricalsociety.org](http://ROMEHistoricalsociety.org)**

## **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 Oriskany, NY**

**9:30 am** The Village of Oriskany will greet General Lafayette with a ceremony near the site where he was originally welcomed by fellow Yorktown veteran and Oriskany resident, Col. Gerrit Lansing, who also enlisted in the American Revolution as a teenager. Lansing went on to settle at Oriskany, where he invested in a woolen mill that served the community for 200 years. (Oriskany Museum, 420 Utica St., Oriskany)

**10:30 am** A breakfast fundraiser at Oriskany American Legion Post 1448 (7908 NY-69, Oriskany) adjacent to the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site hosted by the Battle of Oriskany Historical Society. The menu will feature pastry recipes from the 1820s. Regency dress encouraged. Please inquire for tickets.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[ORISKANYMUSEUM.COM](http://ORISKANYMUSEUM.COM)**

## **Continued in Whitesboro, NY**

**12:30 pm** Lafayette will meet the Mayor of Whitesboro and the Whitestown Town Supervisor on the village green in front of the original 1807 Whitestown Town Hall (8 Park Avenue, Whitesboro). Also welcoming the General will be a DAR descendant portraying Mrs. White, who greeted the General in 1825.

From here, Lafayette will board a six-horse drawn carriage to be carried east to Utica along Oriskany Boulevard. Lunch will be available for purchase before and after the ceremony.

## **Continued in Utica, NY**

**2:00 pm** Lafayette will arrive by carriage and greet the crowd, Oneida Nation representative Ray Halbritter, and other local dignitaries at the Doubletree by Hilton (102 Lafayette St., Utica) followed by the dedication of Lafayette Park nearby on Genesee St.

## **Continued in Little Falls, NY**

**5:30 pm** Lafayette will lay a wreath at the gravesite of Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer (200 St. Rt. 169, Little Falls) followed by candle-lit tours of Herkimer Home.

**6:30-7:30 pm** Await Lafayette's arrival with a visit from the Utica Zoomobile near Benton's Landing (3 Mohawk St., Little Falls), sponsored by the Little Falls Rotary Club.

**8:00 pm** Lafayette arrives by boat on the Erie Canal to meet and greet Little Falls dignitaries at Benton's Landing.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[LAFAYETTE200CNY.ORG](http://LAFAYETTE200CNY.ORG)**

## **Be Our Guest**

Travelers seeking overnight accommodations may inquire at Doubletree by Hilton Utica, a historic hotel in downtown Utica centrally located to these events. For reservations, please call the General Manager, Ann Marie, at 315-724-7829.

Amtrak service is available to Utica and Rome. For information on other accommodations and additional things to see and do while visiting the Mohawk Valley, please visit:

**[oneidacountytourism.com](http://oneidacountytourism.com)  
[experienceherkimercounty.com](http://experienceherkimercounty.com)**

*For additional questions, please contact Committee Coordinator, L. Raney, at 315-725-3989.*