



# James Madison Porter Society

• CONTINUING THE LEGACY •

## *A Parallel Journey*



*Dorothy Peters was a member of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff in Paris during World War II.*

When Gen. John J. Pershing arrived in France with the American Expeditionary Army during World War I, his aide exclaimed, "Lafayette, we are here." They raised an American flag over Lafayette's grave in Paris, where a flag has kept vigil ever since—even during the German occupation in World War II.

Each year on Independence Day, representatives of the American Embassy replace the flag in a

quiet ceremony conducted in the secluded Le Jardin de Picpus cemetery. On July 4, 1996, a small group of Lafayette alumni and friends in the Marquis Society—led by Bob Moss '57—witnessed the exchange. They brought 13 American flags with them to be placed on the grave of the Marquis and then brought back to Easton

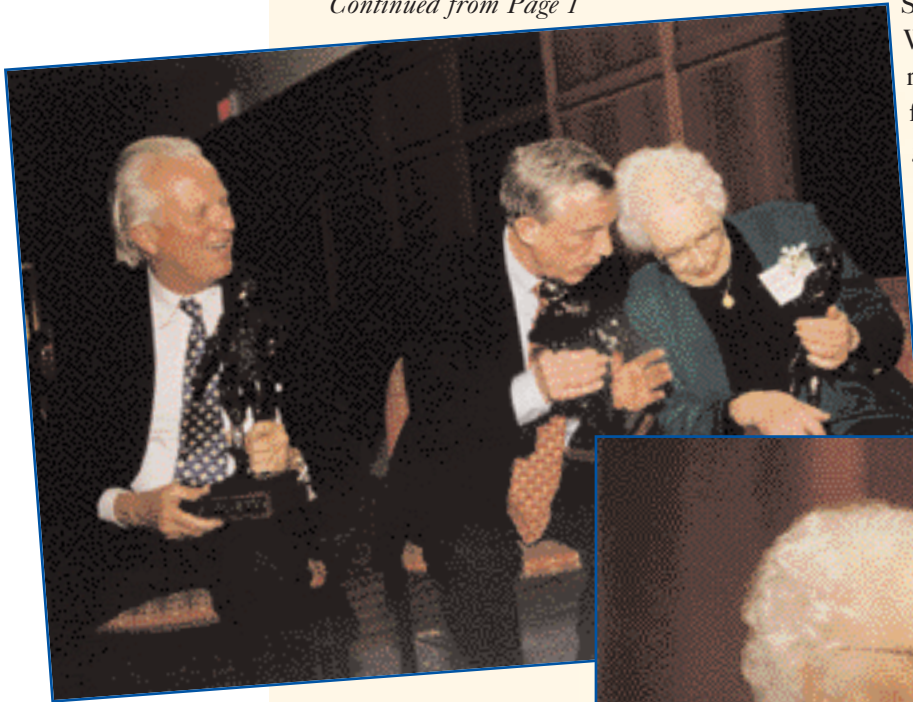
for presentation to outstanding members of the Lafayette community.

Dorothy Gafford was in Picpus Cemetery on that day. The trip to Paris held special significance for her. Fifty-one years earlier, during World War II, young Dorothy Peters from Harrisburg, Pa., displayed her characteristic independence and sense of adventure by enlisting in the Women's Army Air Corp as a stenographer. "My family thought I was crazy, but I wanted to do it and I did," she said in 2003. Her experience and skill placed her on the staff of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and she found herself among the first noncombatant military personnel to enter liberated Paris in 1944. By the time the war ended, she had served in France, England and Germany for a total of 19 months. In a special ceremony at Lafayette College's 2003 reunion, Dorothy was the only woman to receive the special Certificate of Thanks presented by the French Government to American veterans who had helped liberate France.

Another member of Gen. Eisenhower's Paris staff was a young attorney from Easton. Francis J. Gafford, a law and

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*Dorothy and Francis Gafford were inducted into the Société d'Honneur in April 1999. Bob Beane '58 (left) and Bill Conway '70 (center) were also inducted.*

government major in Lafayette's Class of 1931, served as Eisenhower's Assistant Theater Judge Advocate in France and earned a Bronze Star before being discharged in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Although Dorothy and Francis worked within just a few blocks of one another in Paris for well over a year, they returned to Pennsylvania still strangers. Dorothy went back to her civilian secretarial position in Harrisburg, while Francis resumed his private law practice in Easton. In 1947, they shared a city once again, when Francis was appointed Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania and moved to Harrisburg. In 1955, he was named Assistant to the U.S.

Secretary of the Treasury and remained in Washington, D.C., until 1964, when he returned to Harrisburg to resume his former position. After retiring from government service in 1971, he remained in Harrisburg to practice law part time.

It wasn't until a decade after Francis' retirement that Dorothy Peters and Francis Gafford finally met in a local Harrisburg restaurant. They were married in November 1982, each for the first time.



Francis introduced Dorothy to his beloved alma mater, and she quickly made it her own. They attended Lafayette football and basketball games regularly and enjoyed Marquis Society events.

Francis was also an enthusiastic supporter of Lafayette undergraduates. The seriousness with which he had taken his own education

was reinforced by his senior-year *Melange*, which described him this way: "Achievement and diligence have been the guiding principles of Fran's college life. This accounts for his high academic standing, his earnest interest in government and theatricals and his constant efforts to perfect whatever he attempts." True to his passion for education, in the early 1980s he

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• J A M E S M A D I S O N

established the Francis J. Gafford, Class of 1931, Scholarship for the benefit of graduates of Wilson High School.

In 1992, Francis and Dorothy decided to move from Harrisburg to the Kirkland Village Retirement Community in Bethlehem. They were to be among the first residents of this new community. Sadly, however, after less than 10 years of marriage, Francis died before Kirkland was completed. Dorothy moved to a new home and a new city alone. But her remarkable ability to make the best of any situation saw her through the difficult transition.

Now considerably closer to College Hill than she had been in Harrisburg, she maintained her strong ties to the Lafayette family and was a frequent attendee at campus events. She supported the college financially by establishing nine charitable gift annuities that would ultimately endow a new scholarship, fittingly named for them both.

In April 1999, the Gaffords were inducted into the Société d'Honneur, Francis posthumously. Dorothy proudly displayed the statue of the Marquis de Lafayette that is presented to Société members near one of the flags that she had helped place on Francis' grave three years earlier. That flag had been presented to her by Bob Moss in recognition and thanks for her special support and loyalty to the college.

On Feb. 18, Dorothy died peacefully in her home at Kirkland Village. All who knew her were touched by her kindness and sense of humor. A generous bequest from her estate will perpetuate her love for Lafayette College by establishing the Francis J. '31 and Dorothy Gafford Scholarship Fund—an impressive resource for the benefit of deserving Lafayette students.

## Is Lafayette College In Your Will?

Historically, only 30 percent to 40 percent of people who have included Lafayette College in their will have made it known to us.

We want to recognize all those who have chosen to support the college in this important way by listing them as members of the James Madison Porter Society. We would love to hear from you!

*Francis J. Gafford '31 in Harrisburg, Pa., in the summer of 1965 during his second appointment as Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania.*



# Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity is a wonderful way to receive payments for life while supporting Lafayette College.

Here are some sample figures for a charitable gift annuity, based on a gift of \$10,000:

	Age 75	Age 80	Age 85
Rate of annual payout	\$710 (7.1%)	\$800 (8%)	\$950 (9.5%)
Tax-free portion of annual payout*	\$460	\$553	\$709
Charitable deduction (taken in year the gift is made)	\$4,297	\$4,803	\$5,179
	*A portion of the payment is tax-free for an actuarial life expectancy.		

Learn more about how you can benefit with secure payments for life by making a gift to our organization. Send for our FREE brochure by completing and returning the enclosed reply card.



*A student studies on the Société Commemorative Plaza wall with Zeta Psi in the background.*

## WE'RE ONLINE!

Check out our Web page at [www.lafayette.edu](http://www.lafayette.edu). Select "Alumni" and scroll down to "Giving to Lafayette," where you will find the Estate Planned Giving link. Our site gives a variety of information, from establishing a will provision naming the College to descriptions of the various types of life income agreements available through Lafayette. LOG ON!

For additional information on the Porter Society, the ideas highlighted in this newsletter or other estate planned giving opportunities, please use the enclosed reply card to contact Robert H. Nourse or Susan M. Bradlau in the College's Office of Estate Planned Giving. They can be reached toll free at (888) 457-6783, or locally at (610) 330-5037.



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