



- EXPO -

# CHAVANIAC

*We are here!*

1917-2017 : CHAVANIAC,  
FRENCH AMERICAN LAND,  
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HELP



JULY 4 > NOVEMBER 11

CHÂTEAU DE CHAVANIAC-LAFAYETTE

Haute-Loire  
le DÉPARTEMENT

“ LES PROPRIÉTÉS DU  
DÉPARTEMENT DE  
LA HAUTE-LOIRE ”



MUSÉE  
DE LA  
GUERRE  
LE PLUS GRAND MUSÉE  
D'EUROPE 18-18

MUSÉE  
AIR +  
ESPACE

La Région  
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Ville le PUY  
enVELAY

LOIRE HAUTE-LOIRE  
Tous en banque  
pour vous





## HUMAN TOLL

**13**  
MILLION DEAD  
INCLUDING 9 MILLION  
OF CIVILIANS.

**1,7**  
MILLION DEAD IN  
FRANCE.

**21**  
MILLION INJURED.

**AUVERGNE**  
130 000 DEAD AND  
MISSING.

**HAUTE-LOIRE**  
11 000 DEAD  
AMONG THE 43 000  
MOBILIZED, WHICH  
REPRESENTS 14% OF  
THE POPULATION  
(MAINLY FARMERS).

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes. A dark blue horizontal bar is positioned across the top, containing the title text in white.

# THE ORIGINS OF THE CONFLICT

## 1914.


Europe was at the heart of great tensions due to the rise of nationalism, the desire of territorial expansion, the traumas generated by old conflicts like the loss of Alsace-Lorraine by France, but also because of economic rivalries along with a complex military alliances system.

A spark is then enough to light a fire smouldering for a long time. In Sarajevo (Austria-Hungary), a nationalist Serbian student murders the archduke François-Ferdinand, heir to the throne. The desire for revenge of Austria-Hungary leads then to the spiral of alliances. Declarations of war follow one another.

Unwillingly, the protagonists are driven into an all-out war because it reaches a new scale and a new intensity, unknown until then, involves more soldiers, causes more deaths and more material destructions than any other conflicts before.

Other events which occurred at this time such as the Armenian genocide (1915-1916), the Russian revolution (1917) and the Spanish flu of 1918, increased the distress of the people.

However, the entry into the war of the United States alongside with the Allies in 1917 contributed to make a difference: the military aid together with the civil society support as illustrated in the recent history of the Château de Chavaniac-Lafayette allowed to accelerate the end of this relentless conflict and bring significant changes.

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# THE ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES INTO THE WAR: TURNAROUND OF THE CONFLICT



After triumphant starts, both from the Allies (France, United Kingdom, Russia...) and the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires...), fighting got quickly bogged down in the trenches, ending all hope of a short war.

On the German and Austro-Hungarian side, the British navy stops their supply with a blockade on the coasts since 1915. In January 1917, the German general staff decides the resumption of full-scale submarine warfare -suspended until then- with the hope of breaking the deadlock. The British intercept a secret telegram mentioning this decision along with an offer for an alliance with Mexico, which would be given Texas and Arizona. Its publication by the President of the United States Woodrow Wilson reversed the American opinion which was more in favor of neutrality. The American Congress declares war to Germany the 6th of April with 373 votes against 50.

The entry of the United States into the war gives to the conflict not just a European dimension, but a global dimension.

# LA FAYETTE, WE ARE HERE!



"[...] America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth [...]" mentions President Woodrow Wilson in his speech to Congress.

The Allies are delighted about the entry of the Americans into the war by their side, especially as they are suffering from the Russian defection (dived into the revolutionary upheaval) and the tragic failure of the Second Battle of the Aisne. General Pétain, who is leading the French army can announce the wait of "Americans and tanks".

In June 1917, the population triumphantly welcomes the landing of 177 Americans of General John Pershing's expeditionary force, in Boulogne-sur-Mer. The famous sentence "La Fayette, we are here!" pronounced by colonel Stanton on Independence day, in front of the Marquis de Lafayette's grave in Picpus graveyard, in Paris, pays tribute to the one whom help remained unforgettable during Independence war (1775-1783).

However, the American soldiers will be involved in fighting only as from October, and they will face their first losses as a consequence.

# EARLY COMMITMENT



From the beginning of the war, a lot of Americans who want to see their country committed alongside the Allies decide to go beyond the prohibition of serving a foreign country, with the risk of losing their nationality. That is how the famous Escadrille La Fayette was born in 1916. Others, following the advice of the American ambassador in Paris, get around it by joining the volunteer ambulance service or the Foreign Legion.

They are sent to the front in October 1914 and face their first losses in November. Among them, there is the young poet and journalist Alan Seeger, who fell in love with Paris where he lived since 1912. Reported missing during the battle of Belloy-en-Santerre on July 4, 1916 for Independence Day, he is the author of a famous poem, one of President Kennedy's favorite, which was written only a few days before his death.

## **I have a rendezvous with Death**

*At some disputed barricade,  
When Spring comes back with rustling  
shade  
And apple-blossoms fill the air—  
I have a rendezvous with Death  
When Spring brings back blue days and  
fair.*

*It may be he shall take my hand  
And lead me into his dark land  
And close my eyes and quench my  
breath—  
It may be I shall pass him still.  
I have a rendezvous with Death  
On some scarred slope of battered hill,  
When Spring comes round again this  
year  
And the first meadow-flowers appear.*

*God knows 'twere better to be deep  
Pillowed in silk and scented down,  
Where love throbs out in blissful sleep,  
Pulse nigh to pulse, and breath to  
breath,  
Where hushed awakenings are dear...  
But I've a rendezvous with Death*

*At midnight in some flaming town,  
When Spring trips north again this year,  
And I to my pledged word am true,  
I shall not fail that rendezvous.*

Alan SEEGER

# ESCADRILLE LA FAYETTE



In 1915, while the air force was just starting, the idea of creating a unit of American fighter pilots within the French Air Service was born. A young lawyer and pilot, Norman Prince, and another American, Dr. Edmund Gros, in charge of the American Ambulance Field Service, both volunteers for the Foreign Legion, are at the root of the project.

Their efforts, firstly rejected because of the neutrality of the United States, are finally successful: "Escadrille Américaine" led by the French Captain Georges Thenault was born on March 21, 1916. Based in Luxeuil-les-Bains, it is composed of 38 Americans who keep their nationality and 4 French.

Because of the German protests about the American neutrality, the Escadrille has to change its name quickly for "Escadrille La Fayette".

After a few battles (Verdun, battle of the Somme, battle of the Aisne, battle of Ypres...), it is stopped on February 18, 1918 as its pilots will go under U.S. command.

Fighter squadron 2/4 La Fayette kept the name in the French Air Force.

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# 1917

## THE ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN FORCES



Forced to go to war, the United States does not have the material resources to lead it: their professional army has only 200 000 men who are not trained enough, and the equipment is totally out of date. Only the modern U.S Navy with a large and qualified personnel is able to escort troops in Europe and act with success in submarine warfare.

In this way, the agreement signed on May 14, 1917 by Marshal Joffre and the Secretary of War of the United States, plans the sending of an expeditionary force to which France will provide armaments and munitions in return for the sending of raw material and a financial support.

On June 28, 1917, the first American Infantry Division lands in Saint-Nazaire, progressively joined by other divisions from the conscription. As a result, four million soldiers are present in November 1918.

This almost immediate influx of people who needs a highly-developed engineering along with the construction of harbors, train stations, railroads, warehouses, hospitals and camps of any kind, establishes the U.S as a major world power.





# THE TESTIMONY OF ARCHAEOLOGY

For 20 years, archaeology takes an interest in the Great War.

It is during the large-scale public works on the territory at the end of the eighties that the excavators surprisingly notice that a lot of constructions were still preserved at only a few centimeters under the ground: front lines, trenches, shelters, camps, hospitals... There are around 670 000 bodies of soldiers from all nationalities who are still at the scene of the battles.

This archaeology of the daily life of soldiers brings a new perspective on a reality which was poorly documented so far.

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## THE HOSPITAL CENTER OF MARS-SUR-ALLIER (NIEVRE)



This hospital complex built at the end of 1917 will employ around 8 000 people. It was spread on almost 330 hectares and 700 buildings, assembling 20 of the 129 hospitals built by the U.S army in 54 French cities.

The sending of 4 million soldiers needed the creation of a huge health network so far absent of the French countryside: electricity, telephone and telegraph network, running water, laboratories... but also distractions.

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# SAMMIES, DOUGHBOYS AND GI'S



At the very beginning of the war, young Americans, often rich and cultivated, commit themselves voluntarily by idealism, adventurous spirit or by desire of glory. However, the call for volunteers does not have the expected effect.

In order to face the lack of recruits and the growing fall of the French troops, President Wilson gets the conscription voted, which represents 9 million mobilizable men from 21 to 30 years old. They were appointed by random drawn and will need to be trained and kitted out. It is the emergence of the working class.

These young soldiers are called "Sammies" which refers to Uncle Sam, symbol of a paternalistic America. They are also called "Doughboys" which comes from the doughnut shape of the button on the soldiers' pea jackets during the American Civil War. Finally, the word GI's (short for "Government Issue") sewn on their uniform, will be used only during World War II.

# NATIVES AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS

14 000 Native Americans are enlisted to go to the European front, especially within the white regiments. Thanks to their commitment, they will obtain the citizenship in 1919, even if they will remain considered as second-class citizens for a long time.



On the contrary, the treatment of the 367 000 African-American soldiers who are American citizens, is very discriminating. Enrolled in regiments with black people only, they hope to obtain more equality by participating to the fighting. But the army disagrees and relegates them to logistical tasks (only 20% were in the fighting units).

Thus, General Pershing refuses to include them to the white contingents, and leave them to the French units who kit them out with the traditional Poilu costume.

## THE “HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS”

The 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, a unit of African Americans soldiers included in the 161st French Infantry Division, is the first one to cross the Rhine river. Their nickname was given by German soldiers who were impressed by the courage and the aggressiveness of these men, 1 500 of whom died while fighting.



# THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN CHAVANIAC

## SUMMER 1916 “CASTLE BOUGHT, WAITING IMPATIENTLY FOR REPORT”

Marie-Louise Le Verrier is a French woman working for disabled veterans. Thanks to this short telegram, she hears about the purchase of the château de Chavaniac-Lafayette, where the marquis de Lafayette was born, by an American charitable foundation.

During her stay in the United States, she hears that the castle is on sale while she is visiting Béatrice Chanler, a rich American woman, very active in the support for the Allies. Both women think about turning it into the equivalent of Mount Vernon, George Washington's residence in Virginia, symbol of the Franco-American friendship. Thus, Marie-Louise Le Verrier is responsible for making inquiries quickly on the spot.

However, John Moffat places a purchase order before her arrival. This rich Scottish man is a friend of Béatrice Chanler and works on a lot of initiative committees.

Interested by the project, he buys the abandoned building and its outhouses for 20 000 dollars, or about 450 000 current euros (about 504 300 current dollars). He gets it on behalf of a new foundation, the “French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund”. The property of the Estate is transferred in 1921 to an association created specifically, the Lafayette Memorial, chaired by John Moffat.

# CHAVANIAC-LAFAYETTE IN 1916

## A TOUGH START



The first idea of turning the castle into a memorial for the Franco-American friendship, celebrating Lafayette's epic, is rapidly facing the geographical reality of an isolated place in the countryside, meaning few potential visitors.

Quite logically, the project becomes then a place to host orphans and war refugees, and a prevention center for tuberculosis.

In an abandoned castle, with a roofing which allows the water through, it is hard to provide the capacity to host a lot of children: no running water, no electricity, damaged roads... But Marie-Louise Le Verrier and her associates, including Clara Perry among others, are getting ready with energy and efficiency to take up this major challenge. Thanks to the network of the Foundation, they get a lot of political supports, especially from the minister of war, Paul Painlevé, who offers materials to build temporary shacks.

They have to clean and organize the dormitories, the refectory and the kitchen according to the repairs, and especially the roofing ones, leaving a great part for improvisation.



# AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN CHAVANIAC



For their arrival in Chavaniac-Lafayette in the spring 1918, Marie-Louise Le Verrier, Clara Perry and Grave Nichols, a committed American woman volunteering in a military canteen, get a warm welcome from the villagers, curious about all this agitation. But everything is missing!

The network of the Foundation together with the help of these American volunteers manages to solve the problems step by step. Clara Perry, originally committed as an ambulance driver, gets an old Ford from the U.S army, transformed into a transport vehicle, faster than the local carts. Likewise, general Gatchell, who is leading the 13th Region of Clermont-Ferrand, provides the castle with gasoline and food. Thus, American soldiers will help for the restoration of the buildings from 1917 to 1919.

More than eighty boys from four to fourteen years old, most of them refugees from a bombed Paris, soon arrive in Chavaniac. With the return of peace, the U.S progressively stops its war effort. However, the French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund keeps providing his support to orphans and frail kids.

# THE END OF THE WAR



Despite the heavy losses suffered by the American Expeditionary Force come to take over from a worn out French army, the German army is progressively pushed back north of the Meuse in September 1918, accelerating the end of the conflict.

In order to face these attacks, the Germans start peace talks. The prospect of an allied offensive against the south of Germany, along with signs of revolutionary agitation within the country, convince the imperial officers to accept quickly the conditions of an armistice considered disgraceful until then. Signed on November 11, 1918 in an isolated wagon in the forest of Compiègne, it ends four years of war. The United States will lose about 116 000 men in total in the conflict.

Furthermore, the American intervention in Europe also represents the meeting between two worlds, permits to benefit from medical innovations and allows to discover new sounds like jazz, or new sports such as basketball and baseball.

It is the emergence of a new way of life in Chavaniac-Lafayette with modern conveniences until then unknown by the population.

# THE FRENCH HEROES LAFAYETTE MEMORIAL FUND



To help with the war in Europe, a part of the American population is getting together to support the Allies, especially with the launch of charities.

Created in 1916, the French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund (FHLMF), behind the purchase of the Château de Chavaniac, is particularly distinguishable by its breadth.

Its founders, the New Yorker Beatrice Chanler (president) and the Scottish business man John Moffat (executive director), two great fortunes, were able to get together a large network of patrons such as the American billionaires Vanderbilt and Rockefeller...

Beyond the initial project which consisted of turning the castle into a memorial, it is also about perpetuating the diplomatic relationships between France and America, and to export values and ideas. The construction of a prevention center against tuberculosis (preventorium), and the reception of little orphans and refugees, are soon added to the urgency of the war.

In 1921, the American association "The Lafayette Memorial Inc", chaired by John Moffat, becomes full owner of the estate. It was transferred in 1966 to the French association "Lafayette Memorial" which runs it until the department of Haute-Loire takes it back in 2009.



# JOHN MOFFAT

## (1879 GLASGOW — 1966 MONTREUX)



Born in Scotland, John Moffat comes from a family who succeeded in iron and coal.

After the death of his father while he is

four years old, his mother marries an English aristocrat and moves to England where John is raised in prestigious schools such as Cambridge.

Thanks to his wealth, he can dedicate himself to different passions: travelling, writing and sports above all. Keen on fishing, he also plays tennis, golf and participates to car racing, sport recently made popular by the Prince of Wales.

When the war starts, he tries to enlist himself without success: he unfortunately has flat feet!

It is even harder to handle when his older brother is killed in 1914, followed by the death of his younger half-brother in 1918.

He goes to the United States in August 1914, where he gets into the good society and put all of his efforts into fundraising for the war effort. Thus, he rapidly becomes the President of the National Allied Relief Committee to which the FHLMF will be connected. Under his presidency, 50 million dollars are collected, which represents more than one billion current euros.

After the purchase of the Château de Chavaniac by the FHLMF, John Moffat takes care of the indoor restoration with the intention of living there. This will be the case with Fern, a young American woman, his second wife, with who he will have two sons.

During World War II, the family lives in the U.S and will only go back to Chavaniac at the end of the conflict. Become honorary citizen of the town in 1957, he keeps supporting the Lafayette Memorial and the Preventorium until the end.

John Moffat dies on July, 1966 in Montreux. He is buried in the park of the castle, at the foot of the terrace he draw, after the personnel of the castle watched over him during two days in the guards' room.

# BEATRICE « MINNIE » ASHLEY CHANLER (1878 — 1946 NEW YORK)



Actress, dancer, singer in theaters and known for her great beauty, Beatrice's talents emerged in musicals. However, the prolonged exposure to theatrical arc lights irremediably damages her sight. She stops her career, and in 1902, she marries the rich politician William Astor Chanler, lieutenant governor of New York State, with who she has two sons. They separate amicably in 1909, after seven years of marriage, particularly because of William's decision to live in Paris.

Highly committed and devoted to the war effort, she is one of the founder of the Lafayette Fund in 1915, which collects funds in order to send warm clothes to French soldiers. These packages are called "Lafayette Kits" which refers to the Marquis's historical gesture who gave clothes to General Washington's troops during Independence War.

When she hears about the selling of the castle, she is at the root of its proposed acquisition by the French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund to turn it into a memorial. She becomes afterwards president of the FHLMF. During the post-war years, she is still mentioned for giving advices to Marie-Louise Le Verrier on how to refurnish the castle, and then doesn't appear anymore.

# MARIE-LOUISE LE VERRIER

(1875 – 1957)



The Parisian Marie-Louise Le Verrier was not meant to become responsible for the Château de Chavaniac, except for her strength of character, her firm hand

and her courage. Married to the teacher Charles Le Verrier with who she will separate later, she is an author of children's books and translates works in English.

During World War I, she begins a tour in the United States in order to collect funds for injured soldiers and civilians. She meets there the New Yorker Beatrice Chanler, president of the Lafayette Kits, and both women are excited about the selling of the birthplace of La Fayette.

She is a feminist above all, and fights for the right to vote for women. However, she gives up this fight in order to fully dedicate her great energy to the Château de Chavaniac-Lafayette, directly in collaboration with the managers of the FHLMF, John Moffat in particular.

She also dedicates a lot of time and efforts to the restoration of the Castle and to the installation of modern conveniences. Thus, the Castle will be linked to the water supply network in 1952 only. However, her family helps her, including her uncle and her brother who participate in the renovation work. She is also present during World War II when the castle receives Jewish refugees clandestinely.

In her memoirs, published in 1951, Marie-Louise Le Verrier tells a story which shows her strength of character: "What would you do Miss, if the war started?" asked me one day an old German man. I answered: "I would deeply regret not to be a man!"

# HOSTING OF ORPHANS FROM EUROPEAN WARS



The States are having troubles to carry the burden of the numerous orphans who are added to the heavy war toll. The FHLMF will ensure a future to some children sponsored by patrons.

Nevertheless, in 1918, because of the bombings in Paris, an emergency hosting is reserved for little refugees who still have a family: the first convoy brings more than eighty boys from four to fourteen years old, quickly followed by other groups including young Russian, Polish and Armenian exiles... Several colonies like this organize themselves in the whole Department and receive the volunteers' assistance.

Finally, in September, at the insistence of sponsors of young orphans, the children, refugees in Chavaniac are transferred and the school-orphanage can open. A serious education is provided: Latin, English, Russian, professional trainings within workshops... Despite some distractions, discipline and severity are essential to manage a hundred orphans.

In 1926, the school finishes its cycle and is replaced by a middle school. At the end of their studies, some children will benefit from Washington-Lafayette scholarships created by the Memorial to enter great schools. Some of them will also be able to do an internship in the United States.

# ENSURING THE WELL-BEING: THE SPORTS CULTURE



The kids' sponsors are not only interested in academic education. In fact, they want to ensure their well-being and this requires the sustained and mandatory practice of numerous sports, typical of the American culture. In the meantime, an academic from Paris, great sportsman himself, is responsible for developing a plan mixing sports culture and teaching.

John Moffat ensures this sports culture himself: he creates a scout troop (one of the first troop in France) and rents a few miles of the banks of the Allier River in order to practice salmon fishing. A golf course with nine holes is arranged in the honor court of the castle.

After the war, the new facilities of the Estate (swimming-pool, football field, tennis court) allow the residents to exert themselves. The football team of Chavaniac-Lafayette wins a lot of games.

Highly beneficial for their education, this system considerably improves the children's grades. Classes stop at noon, and after the nap following lunch, the pupils dedicate themselves to sports: baseball, football, rugby, boxing... before going back to class until 7pm. During the evening, after dinner, they organize chess games to peacefully end their busy days.



# THE CREATION OF THE PREVENTORIUM



During World War I, deaths due to the tuberculosis (illness highly contagious affecting lungs) skyrocket particularly in France. In order to stop the epidemic, laws and healthcare protocols are established, especially thanks to the American innovations in this field.

The Preventorium of Chavaniac, one of the first preventorium in France, at about one mile from the Castle, is established in October 1918 to isolate kids who were not severely infected. The geographical location is perfect for bronchi: 800 meters above sea level and close to pine forests. The patients benefit from hygiene and nutritional measures under medical supervision, but also from education, for free. Step by step, other facilities complete the health services: analytical laboratory, ultraviolet laser system against germs...

Due to advances in antibiotic treatments (in the sixties), the number of patients in the Preventorium will drop, causing several successive changes of status until its final closure in 2008. From 1918 to the present day, around 25 000 kids will be hosted and treated in Chavaniac. More than a hundred doctors, educators and craftsmen will be employed by the institution which had until 500 beds.

# TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL EXPORT OF AMERICAN HEALTH PROTOCOLS



Concerning tuberculosis control, the Americans encourage the development of health education, especially with the help of the Rockefeller Mission (1917-1923).

In Chavaniac, the Preventorium which employs American doctors and nurses mostly, is based on sanatoriums such as the Adirondack Cottage of Dr Trudeau (1885, New York State) or Waverly Hills, built in 1910 in Kentucky.

Without any effective drug therapies, natural remedies are often the best solution. Thus, in Chavaniac and Waverly, a solarium or porch where the patients are confined to bed, summer and winter, allows to ventilate with fresh air and to expel germs. Similarly, heliotherapy by UV exposure from natural light or lamps, also destroys these bacteria.

A healthy diet, protein-rich and with fresh products from the agricultural property of the Estate, contributes to the strengthening of the immune system. Finally, outdoor recreation allows to complete the treatment effectively by galvanizing the mental health of the little patients.

Today, the tuberculosis keeps killing people in underdeveloped countries and we even find some sources of infection in France (Seine-Saint-Denis).




# THE TUBERCULOSIS

This old disease is responsible for one death out of seven in Europe at the end of the 19th century. The invention of tools such as the stethoscope (1818) and the X-rays (1895) facilitated the study and the screening of this disease.

But it is the work of the doctor Robert Koch, which identifies the bacteria at the root of this severe lung infection: tubercle bacillus Koch. However, its detection in sputum and in lesions of sick patients remains long and complicated.

The treatments follow an empirical method, developed at the beginning of the 19th century by different researchers. They recommend fresh-air treatment in the countryside, in institutions (sanatoriums) where the ill persons benefit from a healthy climate, physical exercises and a balanced diet.

It is only in 1943 that the American Albert Schatz isolates the streptomycin, the first effective antibiotic against the disease. Issued in France in 1946, it is largely used in the sixties. However, the scientists rapidly realize the resistance and the bacterial mutations caused by a widespread use of this substance. Today, it is used for very resistant forms of the disease only.





# THE FINANCIAL RESSOURCES



The FHLMF chaired by Ms. Chanler, received a lot of donations, always for a specific purpose according to the patrons' wishes, including a lot of great fortunes: support for the war effort, restoration of the Castle and building of the Preventorium...; support for the residents who will receive scholarships for some of them, retention of a large workforce; development of the park; creation of a "Historial" (wax museum about Lafayette's epic); running expenses...

The resources allocated seem huge for this time. Under the presidency of John Moffat, 50 million dollars are collected by the FHLMF, that is to say more than one billion current euros. The fundraising for the Memorial is very well established: promotional brochures, steady receptions with patrons in the Castle and correspondence with the sponsors about the evolution of their wards.

The offices of the committee in New York have around a hundred collaborators in charge of the management of contributions of more than 150 000 patrons. The funds collected are sent to Paris, to the headquarters of the FHLMF located on Marbeuf Street ensuring the management and the proper functioning of the different groups (each branch is managed by its own committee).

# THE POST-WAR



After the war, the Moffat family enjoys long stays in Chavaniac as the restoration allowed to set up a private part along with guest rooms. The Castle also welcomes donors, members of the Memorial or public figures (Michelin, Clémenceau...) who rub shoulders with residents and staff. The stores of Chavaniac take advantage of this crowd and several hotels open in order to host the pupils' families.

After John Moffat's death in 1966, Raymond Julien Pagès who open the Castle to seminars, and then François Gibert (1986), will take over the presidency of the Memorial Committee.

Big celebrations are organized for the bicentenary of the birth of the Marquis de Lafayette (1957) and then for the Declaration of the Rights of Man (1989), in the presence of French and American politicians. Then, from 1985, the Castle hosts the closing night of the festival of baroque music in la Chaise-Dieu, in the amazing setting of the park.

However, it is hard for the Memorial to bear the cost of maintaining the Castle over the years. That is why in 2009, it is transferred to the Department of Haute-Loire in order to continue the remembrance started in 1916.

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF WORK



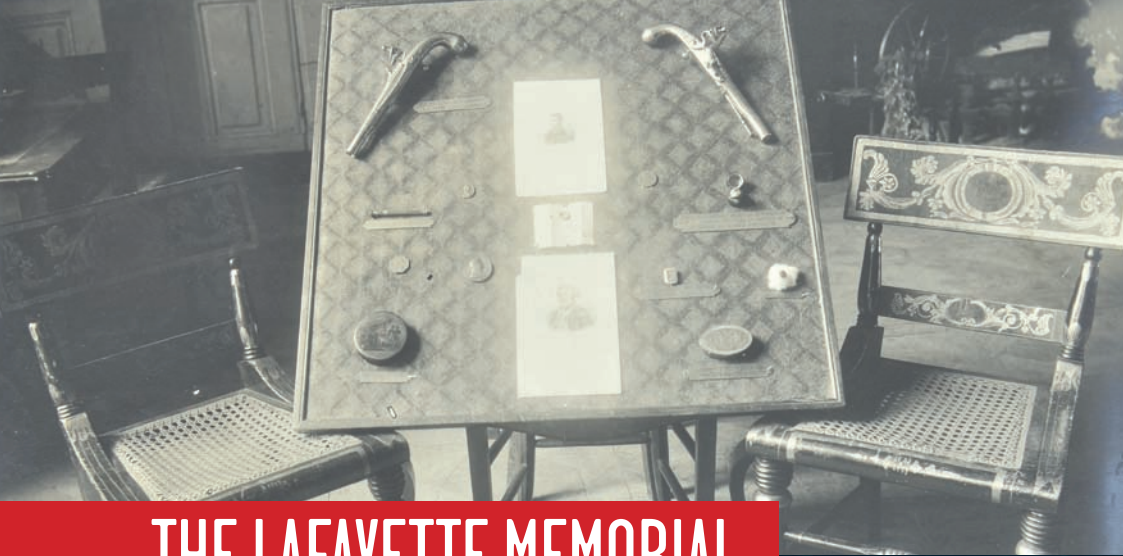
The Château de Chavaniac-Lafayette has elements attesting to its different occupations: the fortified house of the 14th century, modernized by the Marquis de Lafayette, and finally the American period.

After the war, the management of the restoration work is given to Achille Proy, architect of the city of Le Puy but also to Charly Knight (Franco-American) and realized by local and London-based companies.

The most urgent is the roofing, the sanitation, the electricity (1921) and the water pumping station (tap water will be available in 1951 only). The walls are decrepit and the south rear wing is raised with one floor and a square tower, in order to set up the new rooms. Soon, new buildings will be raised to host the activities of the Preventorium and to ensure the autonomy of the Estate. The whole Estate is inaugurated on May 14, 1925.

In 1974, the restoration work can begin thanks to the help of patrons. On August 21, 1989, the Castle and its gardens are registered in the supplementary historic monument list.

Since 2009, the Department of Haute-Loire took over the Castle and led a huge restoration: roofing, windows, restoration of the boudoir of Adrienne de Lafayette and its wallpapers, development plan of the park and reorganization of the classrooms into temporary exhibition rooms in which you are currently.



# THE LAFAYETTE MEMORIAL

The first project of the FHLMF was to turn the Castle into a Memorial or a museum dedicated to Lafayette, Independence War and the heroes of World War I in order to celebrate the Franco-American friendship.

The work, launched in 1920, places this museum on the first floor of the north wing. The most important pieces are given by a descendant of Lafayette: portrait of Washington, of Lafayette when he was young, pair of guns given to Lafayette by Washington... The old kitchen is converted into a "guards' room" and rooms in which Lafayette would have lived are restored: room where he was born, green office (boudoir). The east tower is dedicated to the memory of the Escadrille La Fayette.

In 1974 and thanks to the sponsorship of the Rotary Club, the old museum becomes a Historial, a museum with wax characters evoking the Marquis' epic. It closes in 1996 to give way to the current museum tour.

The Department of Haute-Loire, owner of the Castle since 2009, proceeded to a lot of restorations: reopening of the boudoir of Adrienne de Noailles and the furniture. An overall reflection is under way to provide to the Château de Chavaniac-Lafayette a new museography, more in tune with his time.



# PARK AND GARDENS



The park, which was on sale in 1916, represents 3 hectares and goes along with 40 hectares of lands, woods and meadows.

At the time of Lafayette, the Castle, overlooking a small valley, is brightened up by a tree-lined path about one kilometer long, created in order to show the visitors coming from Paulhaguet.

In 1916, the Estate is sold to FHLMF whom manager, John Moffat, oversees the restoration work and gives it its current aspect. To do so, he relies on a British landscape architect with a typical approach from that time. He mixed historicism and mastery of nature, trying to evoke America, especially throughout tree species: rose garden, English garden with two ponds and a swimming-pool...

After the death of John Moffat in 1966, the park is set aside. To end this process, a management plan of the domain is established for twelve years (since 2012). It is about highlighting the arrangements of the 20th century meanwhile ensuring to reintroduce Lafayette's presence, especially throughout the sense of openness that he initially started.



*I want our kids to get used  
to write legibly.*



Memoirs of Marie-Louise Le Verrier, 1951.  
Archives of Chavaniac-Lafayette (regional  
archives of Haute-Loire).



*1914. I arrived in Chavaniac.  
The roofing of the shack I found  
needs to be redone quickly!  
The inside is full of bats which  
formed long clusters! There are  
rodents inside. Outside, the  
fountain is empty.*



Memoirs of Marie-Louise Le Verrier, 1951.  
Archives of Chavaniac-Lafayette (regional  
archives of Haute-Loire).



## *Useful information*

### **OPENING**

July 4 → November 11 (september 1 - november 11 : close on tuesday)

### **SCHEDULE**

July-August (10 AM - 18 PM)

September-November (10-12 AM / 14-18 PM)

### **BOOKING / DETAILS / RECEPTION AND SHOP**

04 71 77 50 32

[www.chateau-lafayette.com](http://www.chateau-lafayette.com)

**EXPOSITION RÉALISÉE PAR LE DÉPARTEMENT DE LA HAUTE-LOIRE ET LABELLISÉE  
PAR LA MISSION DU CENTENAIRE EN PARTENARIAT AVEC**



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