

Chautauqua County Reading List for the 1825 visit of the Marquis de Lafayette

The new book *History Unleashed: Lafayette's Remarkable Tour of the Greater Western New York Region* by Christopher Carosa and available for sale at the Fenton History Center and other locations, is the best overall guide to Lafayette's tour. Pages 54 to 83, in particular detail his time in Chautauqua County. They draw on all the older and familiar sources listed here below in chronological order of publication. Most or all are available on line and in many local libraries.

The relevant chapters of Carosa's book are also available free on line by searching for "Lafayette, Westfield" and "Lafayette, Fredonia."

1875 *History of Chautauqua County, New York From Its First Settlement to the Present Time*, by Andrew W. Young.

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/History\\_of\\_Chautauqua\\_County\\_New\\_York/4xltplNmJmgC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Young,+History+of+Chautauqua+County&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Chautauqua_County_New_York/4xltplNmJmgC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Young,+History+of+Chautauqua+County&printsec=frontcover)

Pages 135-142

1894 *History of Chautauqua County, New York*, by Obed Edson

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/History\\_of\\_Chautauqua\\_County\\_New\\_York/dTp5SBOscY0C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Edson,+History+of+Chautauqua+County&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Chautauqua_County_New_York/dTp5SBOscY0C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Edson,+History+of+Chautauqua+County&printsec=frontcover)

Pages 287-289

1904 *The Centennial History of Chautauqua County*, Volume 1

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Centennial\\_History\\_of\\_Chautauqua\\_Cou/Z5XJmFkTe3YC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Centennial+History+of+Chautauqua+County,+New+York,+Volume+1&pg=PA429&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Centennial_History_of_Chautauqua_Cou/Z5XJmFkTe3YC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Centennial+History+of+Chautauqua+County,+New+York,+Volume+1&pg=PA429&printsec=frontcover)

Pages 111-112 and 454-464

Douglas Shepard's account is found at <https://chqgov.com/sites/default/files/document-files/2019-09/Lafayette%20Visit%20%28PDF%29.pdf>

Items about the Marquis de LaFayette in Chautauqua County

From Miscellaneous Information pertaining to: Chautauqua County, New York...collected by Mrs. Mertie Akin, Compiled by Sarie Naetzker Fagerstrom for Miss Elizabeth L. Crocker, County Historian, Chautauqua County, N. Y. n.d. p.2

Fredonia Censor, Jan. 3, 1917

Fredonia: The Hotel Columbia stands just where Hezekiah Barker raised his log tavern in 1808. About 1916 he sold out to the Abell Brothers who built a good framed tavern. In this structure, in an upper room, the collation was liad(sic) when the Marquis de LaFayette came in 1825. With other guests, twenty old soldiers sat at a table with him, twelve of whom saw the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. (p. 3) Twelve years later the hotel was built anew of brick and called the Johnson House. Later it was the Taylor House and then the Park House, then remodeled and called the Hotel Columbia.

From Biographical and Portrait Cyclopeda of Chautauqua County, New York, Butler Fr. Dilley, editor, 1891

Amos Parker entry, p. 358

Amos Parker, an uncle of the subject [uncle to the local Amos Parker], was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and was the tallest man in his regiment. He served with LaFayette, whose life he was instrumental in saving. When the later made his triumphal tour and visit to America in 1824, he had not forgotten the incident and publicly thanked the gentleman.

p. 646, entry Lauren G. Risley, describing his father, Elijah Risley, Jr.

When military titles were not merely honorary, but were a recognition of ability and service performed, he rose step by step from a captain to major-general in the State militia, and in the later position he was honorary escort to General LaFayette when he made his fraternal visit to the United States in 1825.

pp.475-476 John House entry, describing his grandfather, also John House.

His childhood and infancy were passed in the State of his nativity [New Jersey], where he also acquired an education in the common schools. Upon the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, he joined his sympathies with those of his countrymen, entered the colonial army and served as a teamster under LaFayette. He united in marriage with Joanna Pridden, the daughter of a prominent Revolutionary colonel, and after leading a roving life for several years, he, in 1816, settled in Chautauqua County, where he purchased two hundred acres of land, and upon which

Norman Carlson, Chautauqua County Historian, August 2024

his grandson now resides. He continued to improve and cultivate his farm until his death in 1838. He was the father of eight children.