

**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**



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Lafayette's Birthday Party

When: Saturday, September 8 from 9:30 am -9:30 pm

Who: The Public is Cordially Invited to a Revolutionary Event on the Banks of the White Clay Creek. Children Welcomed!

How Much: \$5 per person; \$10 for families at the door.

Where: Hale Byrnes House, 606 Stanton-Christiana Road, Newark, Delaware 19713, Delaware Park Exit 4B off I-95. Just north of intersection of Route 7 N & Route 4.

What: Lafayette's Birthday Party: 1st Maryland and 1st Delaware Regiments will be there with an encampment all day Saturday with living history demonstrations starting from 9 am.

Demonstrations will include the following:

1. Local Militia Encampment - All Day – 9 am to 9 pm
2. 18th Century Cooking/Cleaning Demonstrations - 9:15, 12:15, 3:15
3. Militia Arms and Accouterments Demonstrations - 9:30, 12:30, 3:30

4. Muskets and Rifles - Gunsmith display and presentations
5. Music Demonstrations - 9:00, 12:00, 3:00
6. Manual of Arms Demonstrations - 9:45, 12:45, 3:45
7. Battle of Cooch's Bridge Overview - 10:00-10:30
8. The 1st Maryland, 1st Delaware - Washington's Continentals - 10:30-11:00
9. Continental Soldiers, Militiamen, and Riflemen of the American Revolution
Overview: 11:00-11:30

10. Evening: Covered Dish Dinner. Please bring a dish to pass.
Special Guest: young Lafayette, portrayed by Benjamin Goldman of Philadelphia.

11. House Tours will be offered at 11:00 am, 1:00, 3:00 and 8:00 pm

WHY:

The week of September 3 - September 11, 1777 was a hectic and frightening time for the residents of Northern New Castle County. The area was full of American soldiers and their opponents, the British, Hessian, and Scottish Highland Regiments, whose goal was to capture the Rebel stronghold of Philadelphia.

On September 3 the Battle of Cooch's Bridge was fought.

On September 4 the British raided historic Christiana.

On September 6, a Council of War was held by George Washington at Quaker Pacifist Daniel Byrnes's house near Stanton. That meeting was attended by Knox, Greene, Sullivan, and many other prominent patriots, including young Lafayette, who turned 20 that day.

On September 7, Clement Biddle commandeered 40 wagon loads of wheat and flour—and 8 large wheels of cheese—from Daniel Byrnes's mills;

on September 8 the American and the British soldiers headed north to Chadds Ford. A brilliant Borealis was seen in the sky that evening, causing many to wonder of what it might portend.

On September 11, 1777, the Americans were soundly defeated at the Battle of the Brandywine .

September 12, 1777 Wilmington was occupied by the British who stayed in control of the city until October 19-20.

For additional history please visit the History Page links at www.halebyrnes.org

A Note on Ben Goldman as Lafayette.

Ben Goldman began his acting career at a young age. Active in his high school's theater program, Ben continued to pursue his dramatic passion at New York University, studying Dramatic Literature and French. Ben's fluid French and impeccable French accent, cultivated when he studied abroad in Paris as an NYU undergraduate, combine for an impressive artistically-authentic portrayal. Other talents include a rich singing voice, as part of a barbershop quartet Ben formed before he completed his Bachelor's Degree at NYU.



In 2007, the American Historical Theatre tapped Ben to portray the young Lafayette, who had just turned 20 at the Hale Byrnes House, days before the Battle of Brandywine. Ben's uncanny resemblance to the youthful Lafayette, the actor's ease with the French language and spot-on French accent, as well as his quick wit and intelligence converge for a convincing portrayal of the young Lafayette.

When the White House commissioned American Historical Theatre to create and perform *On Fire For Liberty*, Goldman was the natural choice for the young Marquis de Lafayette. The two-person play highlighted the friendship between two people, Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington, and between two countries, France and the emerging United States. *On Fire For Liberty* was performed with great success in the East Room of the White House for guests that included President George W. Bush and French Republic President Nicolas Sarkozy. President Sarkozy prided himself on knowing who was French and who was not, but laughed heartily when he discovered that Ben was native to the United States and not to France.

A Note About 1st Delaware Regiment Re-enactors

Please visit their website at
<http://1stdelawareregiment.org/history/>



John Foskey: fliesonly17@gmail.com

The creation of the 1st Delaware Regiment was a long-time dream of local resident, John Foskey. John, who calls himself the “Chief 18th Century Chef” for the Hale Byrnes House is a frequent participant in our events.

Under the leadership of John Foskey and Hale Byrnes Board member, Chris Mlynarczyk, 1st Delaware has become a welcome addition to local re-enactments and events.

Chris is the President of the 1st Delaware Regiment -- a living history group portraying Delawareans throughout the Revolutionary War. He is also a member of both the Company of Military Historians and the American Legion.

A 1993 graduate of the University of Delaware, Chris has worked in the investment management industry for the past 15 years. He is currently based in Philadelphia.

Chris is a former USAF officer, having served at Griffiss Air Force Base (AFB) in Rome, NY and McGuire AFB in Wrightstown, NJ. Chris worked with regular and special munitions and B-52 bombers while at Griffiss AFB and then with C-141 cargo and KC-10 air refueling aircraft when stationed at McGuire AFB. Chris also worked with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) while at McGuire AFB.

In his spare time he is a semi-professional photographer. Chris has travelled and photographed all over the world and has been published in local newspapers and websites.

Any one interested in joining 1st Delaware is encouraged to

Contact: Chris Mlynarczyk cemm0007@gmail.com
website: <http://1stdelawareregiment.org/history/>