



Quick historical background



September 6 1757

Birth of Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette

Father dies in a 7-year war battle when Lafayette is 2 years old

Mother dies when Gilbert is 13 years old

Lafayette becomes one of the richest eligible bachelors in France



July 4 1776

Declaration of Independence. War with England

Lafayette is 19 years old. Despite orders from the King of France to not participate, Lafayette buys a boat and embarks to the United States to help



September 11 1777

Battle of Brandywine – Lafayette is wounded but fight with valor

Washington "You served with bravery and military ardour"



May 18 1778

Battle of Barren Hill

Expressed to Washington that Slavery is inconsistent with idealism of American Revolution

Becomes a relentless and persistent Abolitionist both for the USA but also for Europe (France)

Lafayette goes back to France and convinces the King to provide more money, more troops and the French Navy



October 19 1781

Battle of Yorktown - The last significant Battle of the Revolution

French Navy defeats British Navy and blocks supply lines.

American and French military lay siege on Yorktown and defeat General Cornwallis. 25% of British forces are prisoners

Negotiations to end the war



July 14 1789

Storming of the Bastille – French Revolution

Lafayette writes “Les Droits de l’ Homme et du Citoyen” – Equivalent to the Bill of Right.

Does not prevail with his idea of a constitutional Monarchy, must escape France to avoid the guillotine

Prisoner of the Austrian in solitary confinement for 5 years

"the whole nation ardently desire to see you again among them".

President James Monroe



August 15 1824

Lafayette arrives in New York, beginning to a 13-month tour to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence





May 19 1825

“On May 19 at ten o’clock in the morning we arrived on the left bank of the Ohio. The first object that attracted my attention on the other bank, nearly opposite us, was the beautiful City of Cincinnati, spreading itself out majestically on a vast amphitheater at the foot of which the river flowed peacefully at a width of more than half a mile.”

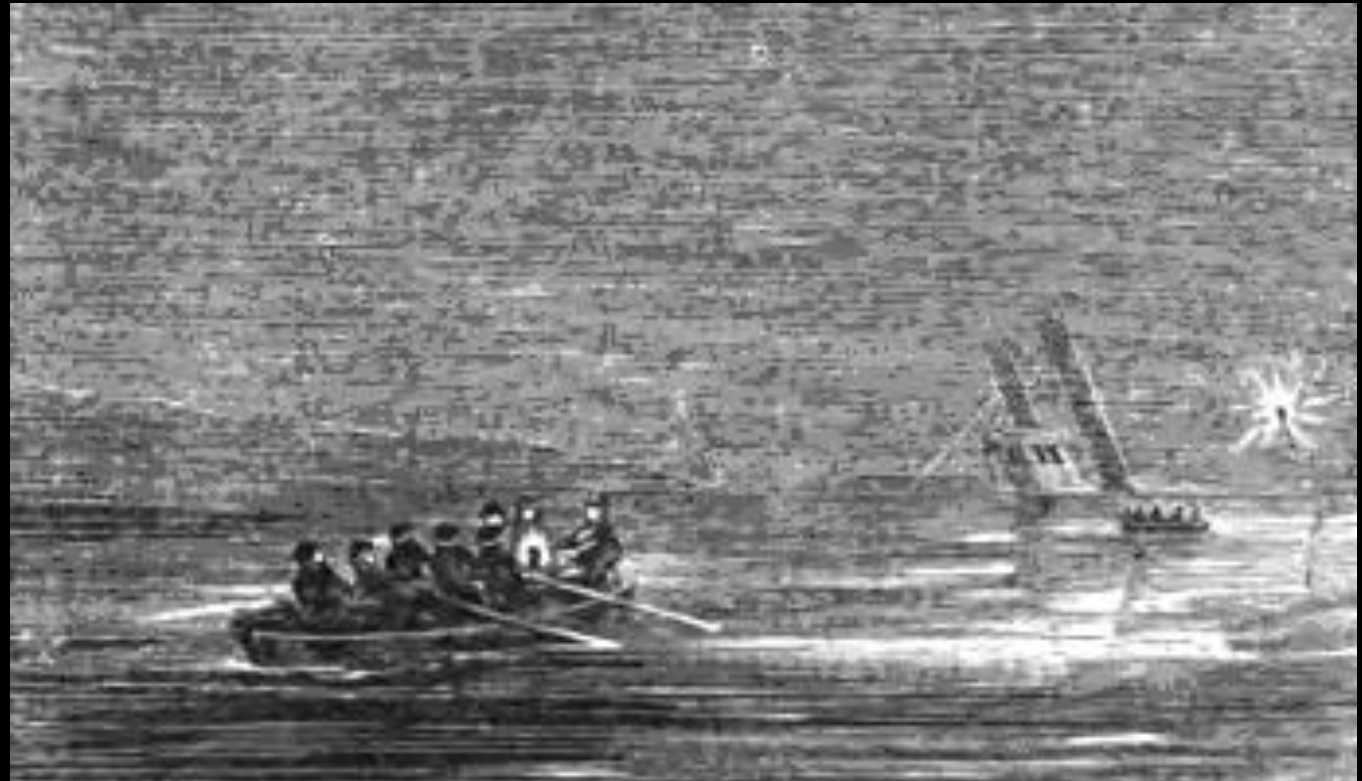
“Slavery and involuntary servitude are abolished there. A Slave becomes free when he touches the happy soil of Ohio”.



May

19

1825





August 1 2022

Cincinnati Council Neighborhood Committee accepts the gift of a marker under the Paddlewheel sculpture on the Riverfront to commemorate the visit of Lafayette in Cincinnati.



May 19 2025

Bicentennial celebration of Lafayette visiting Cincinnati

Beginning of the celebration of the 250 anniversary of USA



**LAFAYETTE'S TOUR**  
ON MARCH 2, 1825, GENERAL  
LAFAYETTE, AN OUTSPOKEN  
ABOLITIONIST, WAS RECEIVED  
NEAR THIS SPOT BY GOV. BURTON  
AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2020

19

Similar Marker





# *Marquis de Lafayette*

## The unsung hero

Lecture at OLLI – October 12, 2022

If you want to know more about the subject

