

# Maj. Gen. Lafayette Spent Night at Durfee Home Here

Maybe George Washington didn't—but Lafayette slept here.

A story by Charles D. Davol given before the Fall River Historical Society on April 6, 1942, tells how in 1778, the 20-year-old major general in the Continental Army was serving at the headquarters of General Sullivan in the Abraham Brown house on Main Road, Tiverton, just North of what now is called Lafayette Road.

Liaison officer between the Americans and the French, part of the young major General's duties was to carry correspondence between his trusted friend General Washington, and French Admiral D'Estaing.

After the British captured the entire island of Rhode Island, he came several times through Fall River en route to Boston and Providence.

It was on one of these trips that he was entertained at the home of the Hon. Thomas Durfee, whose son, Col. Joseph Durfee, served under Lafayette.

The Thomas Durfee House originally stood on the Bristol Country Courthouse site, but has twice since been moved, and now is a 94 Cherry Street.

Lafayette stayed the night in the bedroom on the second floor.

For the Durfee hospitality, the famous marquis, upon his return to France, sent two French hounds as a thank-you present!

Other historical records of the time show that Lafayette spelled the name of his headquarters town as "Tyverton."

The young French officer also was entertained by Capt. Nathaniel Briggs, who lived across the road from the Army headquarters in Tiverton.

This Capt. Briggs, whose ghost is supposed still to return to the house where he lived, introduced Lafayette to a drink called the "flip".

The ingredients of the "flip" are not revealed, but the concoction so intrigued Lafayette, that while sending along the French hounds for the Durfees, he also remembered Capt. Briggs, and shipped to him a set of "flip" glasses and a tankard.

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James Madison Morton was nominated as a justice of the State Supreme Court by Gov. Brackett on Sept. 10, 1890.