



Daughters of the American Revolution

ROCHAMBEAU CHAPTER

# THE NSDAR IN FRANCE

## *MONUMENTS & LANDMARKS*

February 2014

# Preface

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Because of the close, historical ties between the United States and France, there are many American landmarks in France – and many excellent guides covering them. But some of these monuments have a special meaning for the Daughters of the American Revolution, who have been present in France for over a century. In some cases, the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has directly contributed to their funding. Other landmarks have been "adopted" by the Rochambeau Chapter, since its creation in 1934, as places where its members gather to pay tribute to the long-lasting French-American friendship which unites them in their common heritage and unique bi-cultural tradition.

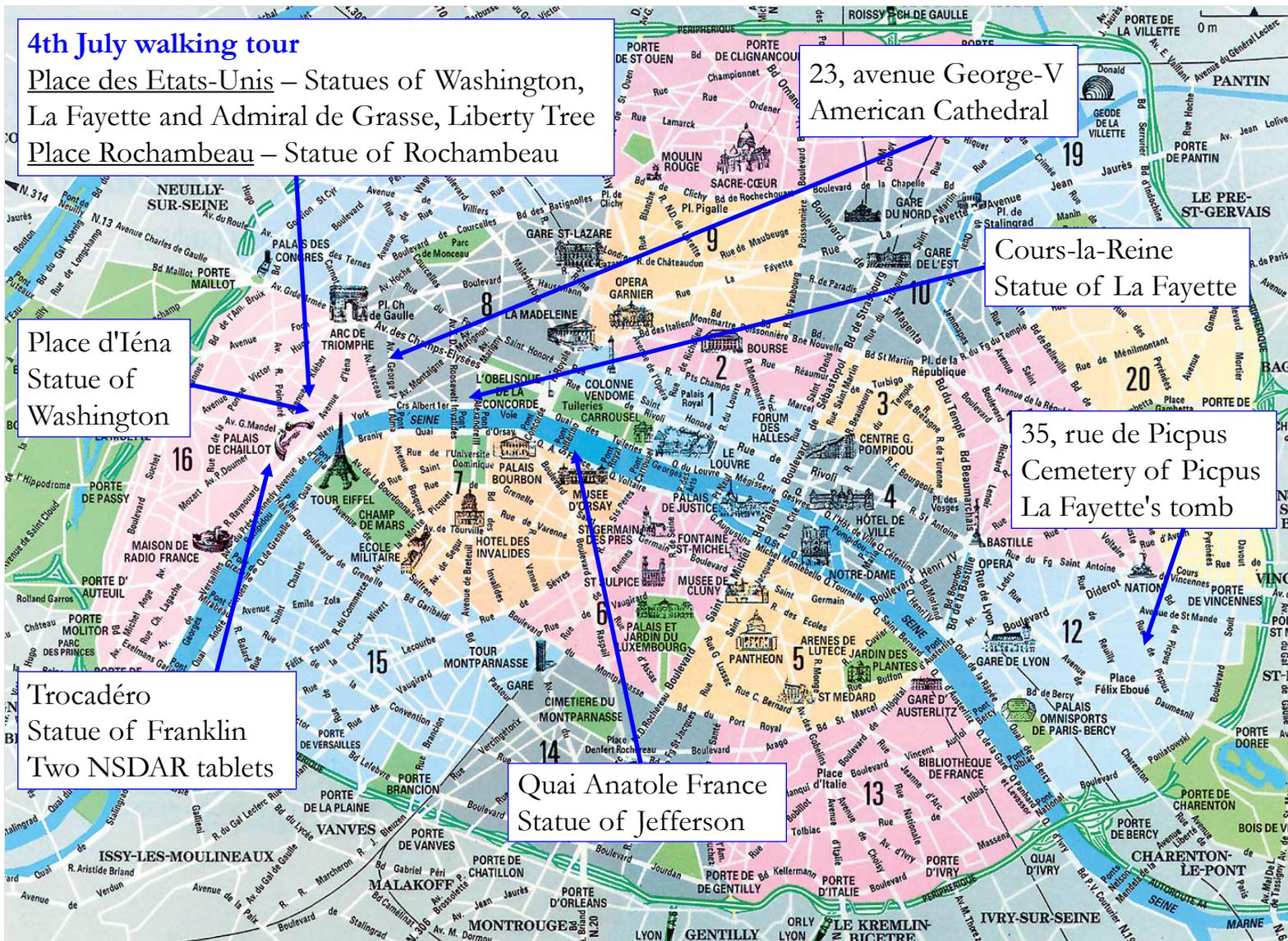
This guide to NSDAR monuments and landmarks in France is presented by our Chapter as part of its "Open Hospitality" initiative to promote bi-cultural exchanges between its members, associate members and other NSDAR members, direct descendants of French or American patriot ancestors who fought for the cause of American independence.

After launching this project several years ago, I would like to thank the members of the Rochambeau Chapter who have taken it forward, beginning in 2011 with Marisol Beigbeder, Ellen Hampton, Katherine de Meaux and Marie-Françoise de Pesquidoux. Thanks to Mary Fossourier's initiative and contribution last Autumn, this work has been further researched and expanded by Katherine de Meaux and Christine Roger. *Bonnes visites !*

*in DAR friendship,*

Lucy WILLIAMS MORIN, Regent – Rochambeau Chapter, France – February, 2014

# Paris Tours



**4th July walking tour**  
Place des Etats-Unis – Statues of Washington,  
 La Fayette and Admiral de Grasse, Liberty Tree  
Place Rochambeau – Statue of Rochambeau

23, avenue George-V  
 American Cathedral

Cours-la-Reine  
 Statue of La Fayette

Place d'Iéna  
 Statue of  
 Washington

35, rue de Picpus  
 Cemetery of Picpus  
 La Fayette's tomb

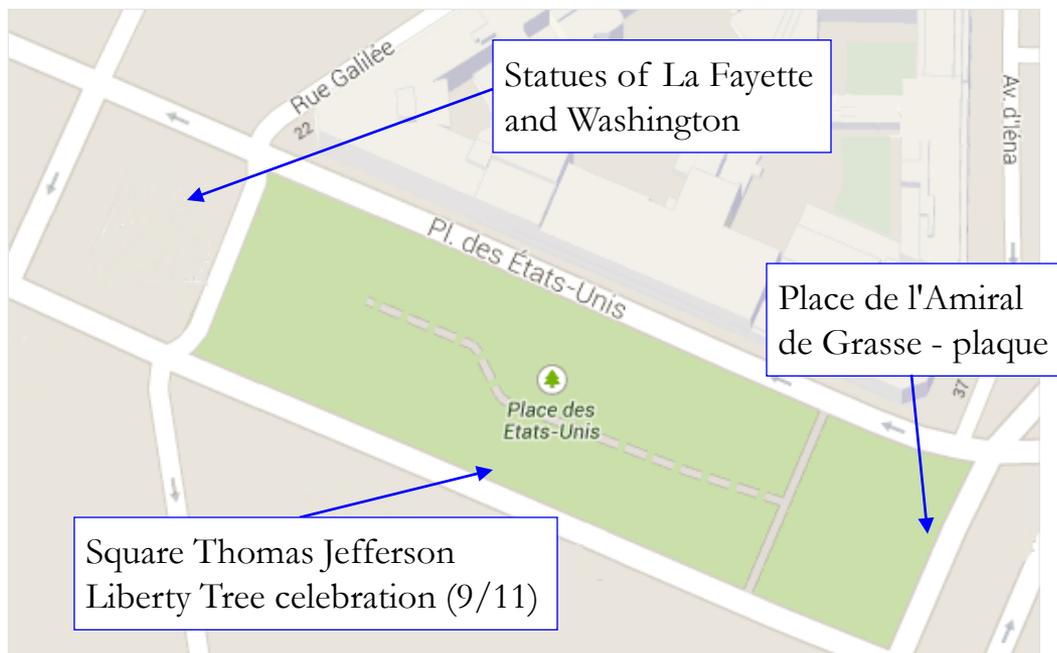
Trocadéro  
 Statue of Franklin  
 Two NSDAR tablets

Quai Anatole France  
 Statue of Jefferson

# Place des Etats-Unis

Paris – 16th arrondissement

- The Place des Etats-Unis is bordered by streets. The park in the center is officially named *Square Thomas Jefferson*, while buildings, on three sides, form the *Place des États-Unis*. The eastern end of the square faces the avenue d'Iéna and is called Place de l'Amiral de Grasse.
- Many landmarks linked to American history are to be found in and around the park.



On July 4th each year, the Rochambeau Chapter participates in wreath-laying ceremonies, alongside public authorities and veterans, to remember and honor the Founding Fathers of American Independence.

All DAR members are welcome to join.

# Statue of Washington & La Fayette

Place des Etats-Unis | Paris – 16th arrondissement

- The sculpture of La Fayette and Washington was offered in 1895 to the city of Paris by Joseph Pulitzer as a "*tribute to France, in recognition of its generous participation in the fight of the people of the United States for Independence and Liberty*".
- The sculpture is the work of Auguste Bartholdi, author of the Statue of Liberty.



# Admiral de Grasse (1722 – 1788)

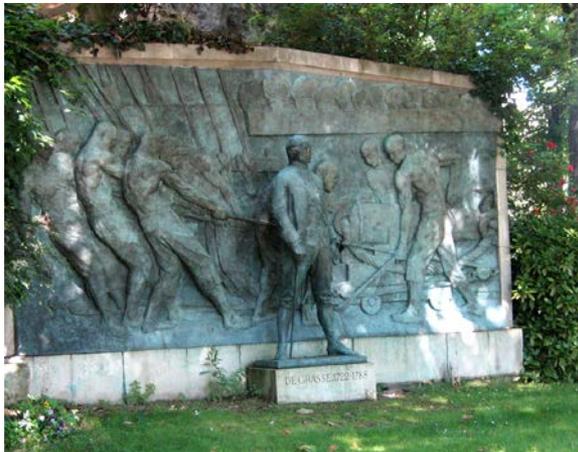
Plaque - Place de Grasse | Paris – 16th arrondissement

Monument – Gardens of the Trocadéro | Paris – 16th arrondissement



First laid in 1995, the plaque commemorating Admiral de Grasse is located at the southeast corner of the Place des Etats-Unis, at the intersection with the Avenue d'Iéna. Under a medallion with the profiles of Washington, de Grasse-Tilly and Rochambeau, the inscription reads:

*"On 5 September 1781, the naval forces, under the command of Admiral de Grasse, won a decisive victory over England in the bay of Chesapeake (Virginia) leading to the capitulation of the English fort of Yorktown, and then, two years later, recognized by the Treaty of Versailles, to the independence of the United States of America".*



Another monument to Admiral de Grasse, by Paul Landowski (1931), is located in the gardens of the Trocadéro, at the corner of Boulevard Delessert.

# Statue of Rochambeau (1725 – 1807)

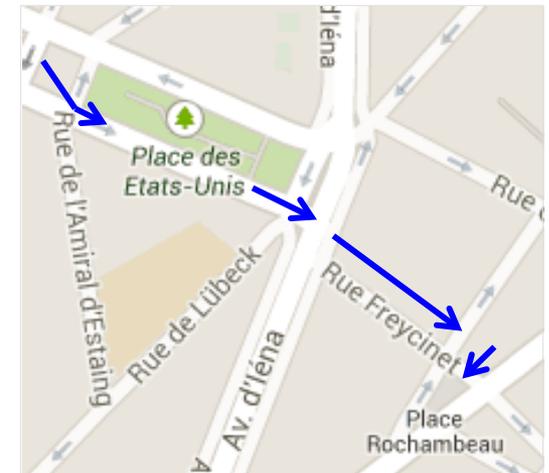
Place Rochambeau | Paris – 16th arrondissement



Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Count of Rochambeau, was Commander of the French ground forces during the battle of Yorktown on 19th October, 1781.

The inscription on the statue, erected in 1933, quotes a letter from Washington to Rochambeau of 10 May 1783: *"To the generous support of your Nation and to the courage of your troops should be attributed, to a large degree, this independence for which we have fought and after a severe conflict of more than seven years, have obtained"*.

On July 4th, the ceremonies that pay tribute to the French and American Founding Fathers of American Independence start at the Place des Etats-Unis and end at the Place Rochambeau.



# Liberty Tree

Place des Etats-Unis | Paris – 16th arrondissement

A red oak tree from America was planted in February 2002 by the municipality of the 16th arrondissement of Paris in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.



The Rochambeau Chapter participates each year in the 9/11 commemoration. NSDAR members are welcome to join.



# Statue of Washington (1732 – 1799)

Place d'Iéna | Paris – 16th arrondissement

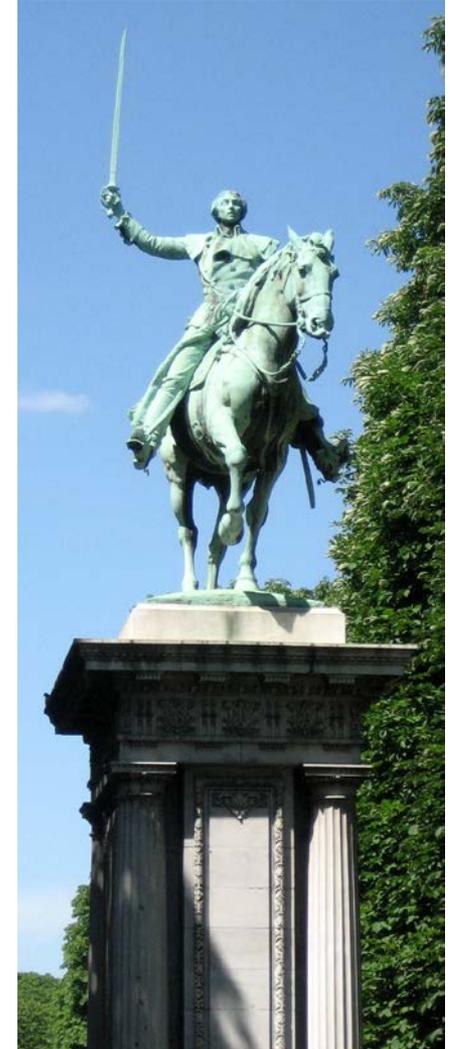


- The bronze equestrian statue of George Washington, by American sculptor Daniel Chester French, faces the Guimet national museum of Asian arts.
- The inscription says: "*Given by the women of the United States of America in memory of the friendship and brotherly aid given by France to their ancestors during their battle for independence*".
- The NSDAR joined in the fund-raising for this statue, which was inaugurated for the Universal Exhibit, on July 3, 1900.

# Statue of La Fayette (1757 – 1834)

Cours-la-Reine | Paris – 8th arrondissement

- The statue of La Fayette by Paul Wayland Bartlett was inaugurated on July 4th, 1900 – the day after the statue of Washington was inaugurated on the Place d'Iéna.
- Five million school children of the United States participated in the subscription for the statue, while the NSDAR funded the pedestal.
- The inscription says: "*Erected by the school children of the United States, in grateful memory of Lafayette, statesman, soldier, patriot*". And on the base: "*This stone is a tribute of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution to the illustrious memory of Lafayette, the friend of America, the fellow soldier of Washington, the patriot of two countries*".
- Placed in the courtyard of the Louvre museum, the statue was moved in 1985 to the Cours-la-Reine near the Grand Palais, on the right bank of the Seine river, in the green alley that links the Invalides bridge to the Alexandre III bridge.



# Around the statue of Benjamin Franklin...

Square de Yorktown – Trocadéro | Paris – 16th arrondissement



- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was Ambassador to France and lived in Paris from 1776 to 1785. He was a signatory to the Treaty of Paris, which ended the war against England.
- The NSDAR placed a stele and a tablet close to the statue.

The tablet, first laid in 1983 and more visible, says: *"On September 3, 1983, the bicentennial of the Treaties of Paris and Versailles which secured the peace and established the independence of the United States of America, this tablet was*

*offered by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution as a grateful tribute to the architects of these treaties who dedicated themselves to 'the best of all works – the work of peace' (Benjamin Franklin)".*



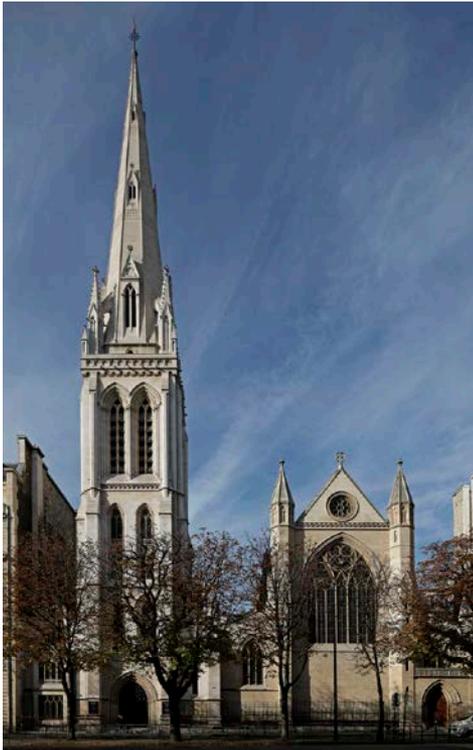
The stele presents a list of the French who died at Yorktown and says: *"In appreciation of the service of these men who made the supreme sacrifice in the Yorktown campaign, 1781 – this tablet is erected by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution – October 19, 1931".*



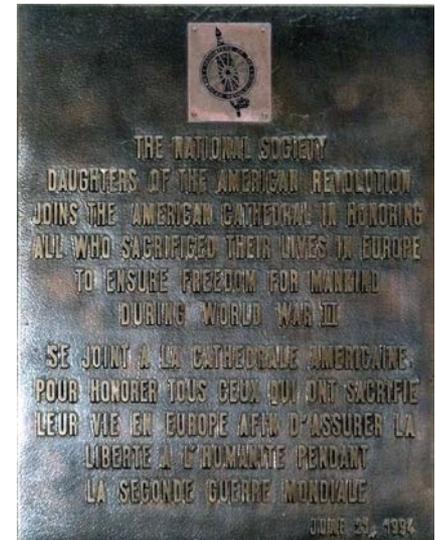
# American Cathedral in Paris

23, avenue George V | Paris – 8th arrondissement

- The American Cathedral in Paris, Episcopal Church of Anglican Communion and a historic monument, was consecrated on Thanksgiving Day, 1886.
- In 1994, the NSDAR donated a bronze plaque and several marble plaques to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Normandy Landing during WWII.



- The plaques are located at the entrance of the Cathedral's Memorial Cloister, a war memorial erected in 1923 to the memory of victims of the First World War, now also dedicated to the memory of all civilians and soldiers who died or disappeared in Europe during World War II.



# Picpus Cemetery

35, rue de Picpus | Paris – 12th arrondissement



The gardens of the ancient convent of Picpus are the burial site for the 1,306 victims of the 'Terror' who were guillotined during June-July, 1794, then thrown in common pits.

General La Fayette, symbol of Franco-American friendship, is buried in the cemetery created after the French Revolution, with his wife Adrienne de Noailles. An American flag, changed each year on July 4th, has always flown over his grave even during the Second World War, under German occupation.



Since 1917 when General Pershing visited Picpus, the American Ambassador in France has paid tribute to this patriot each year on July 4th, when a wreath-laying ceremony is organized by the SAR with representatives of the Society of the Cincinnati and of State France for the NSDAR.



# Statue of Jefferson (1743-1826)

Quai Anatole France | Paris – 7th arrondissement



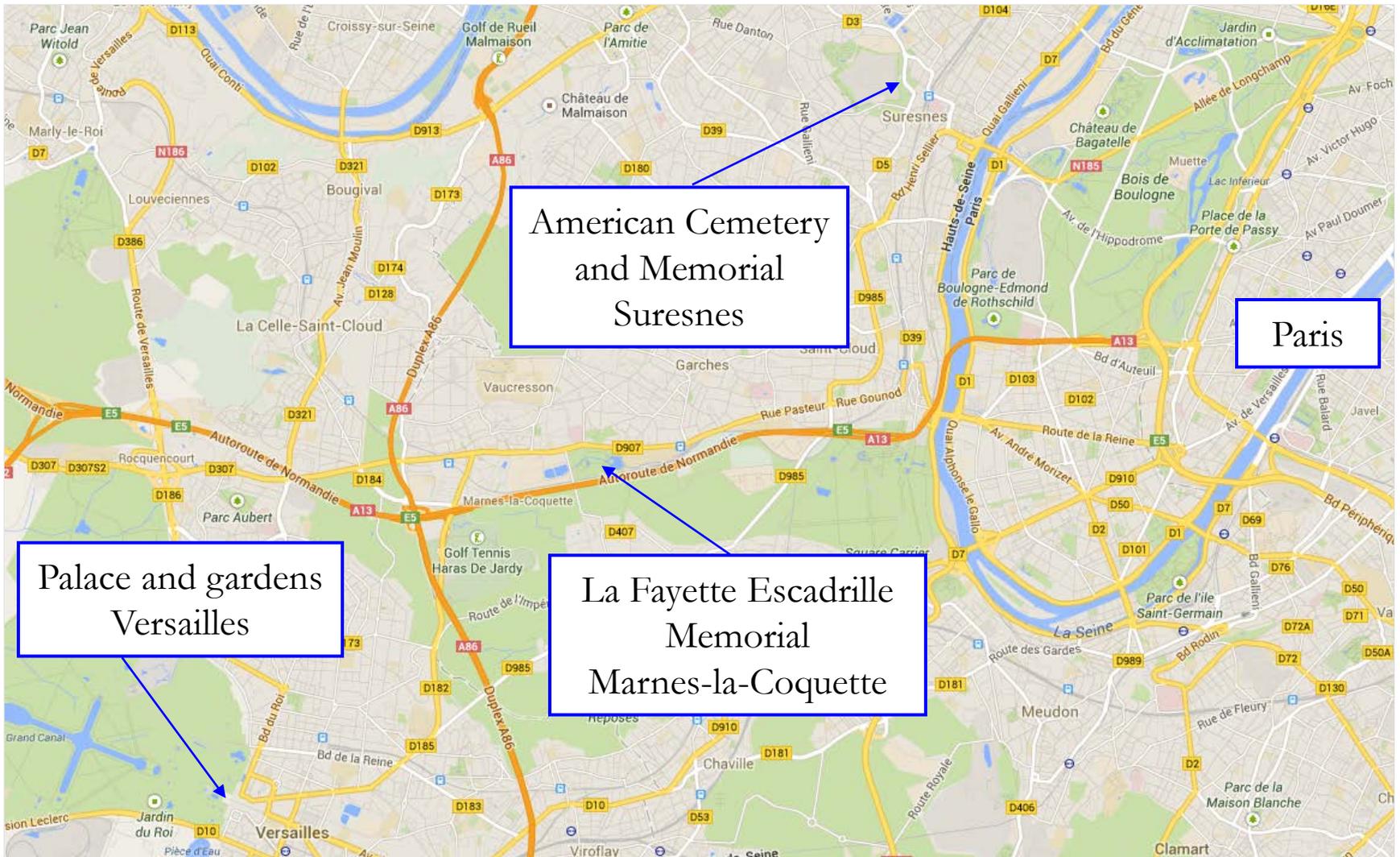
A bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson by contemporary sculptor Jean Cardot was inaugurated on 4th July, 2006 – opposite the hôtel de Salm, now the palace of the Legion of Honour. Jefferson holds in his hand the plans for his Monticello residence.



Third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson was Ambassador to France from 1785 to 1789. It is said that he walked by the hôtel de Salm every day to admire its architecture, which inspired him for Monticello.



# Around Paris | To the West



# La Fayette Escadrille Memorial

## Marnes-la-Coquette | Hauts-de-Seine Department



The La Fayette Escadrille Memorial honors the American volunteer pilots who flew with the French military prior to and after the United States' entry into World War I. It is located ten miles west of Paris, in the Villeneuve-l'Étang park of Marnes-la-Coquette.

*26 May 2012 – The DAR flag, on the left-hand side*

On Memorial Day, celebrated at the end of the last week of May, and on 11th November, the Regents of State France and of the Rochambeau Chapter participate in the wreath-laying ceremony organized at the foot of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial, in the presence of French and American authorities and veterans.



# Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial

123, boulevard Washington à Suresnes | Hauts-de-Seine Department



Eight miles west of Paris, on the Mont-Valérien hill, the American Cemetery and Memorial of Suresnes shelters the remains of more than 1,500 American who died during the two world wars of the last century.

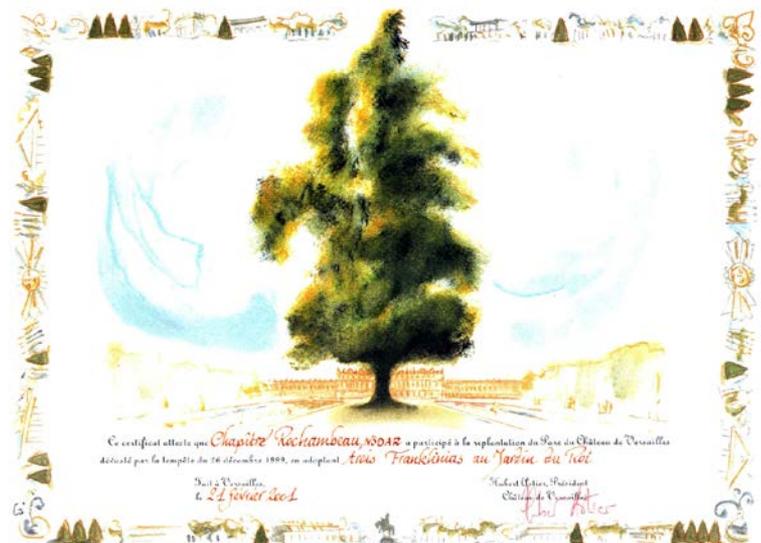
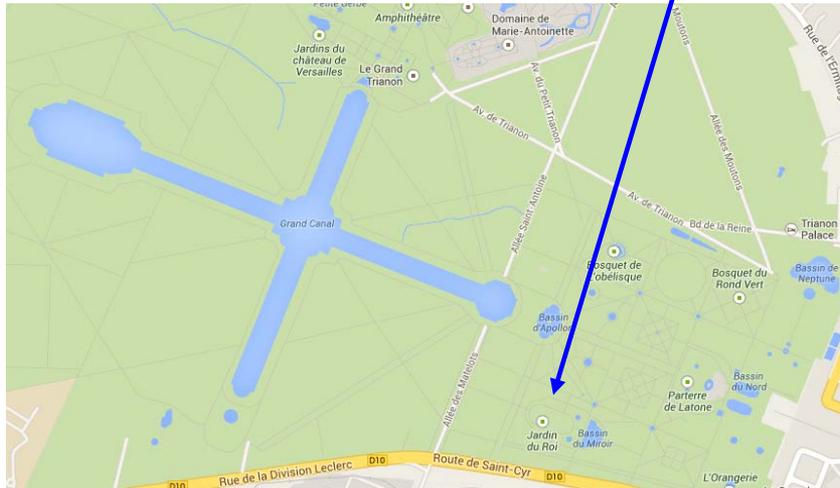


On *Memorial Day*, celebrated at the end of the last week of May, members of the DAR Rochambeau Chapter join the Royal Auvergne Society of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) for the wreath-laying ceremony organized at the American Cemetery and Memorial in Suresnes by American authorities, in liaison with the veterans' associations.

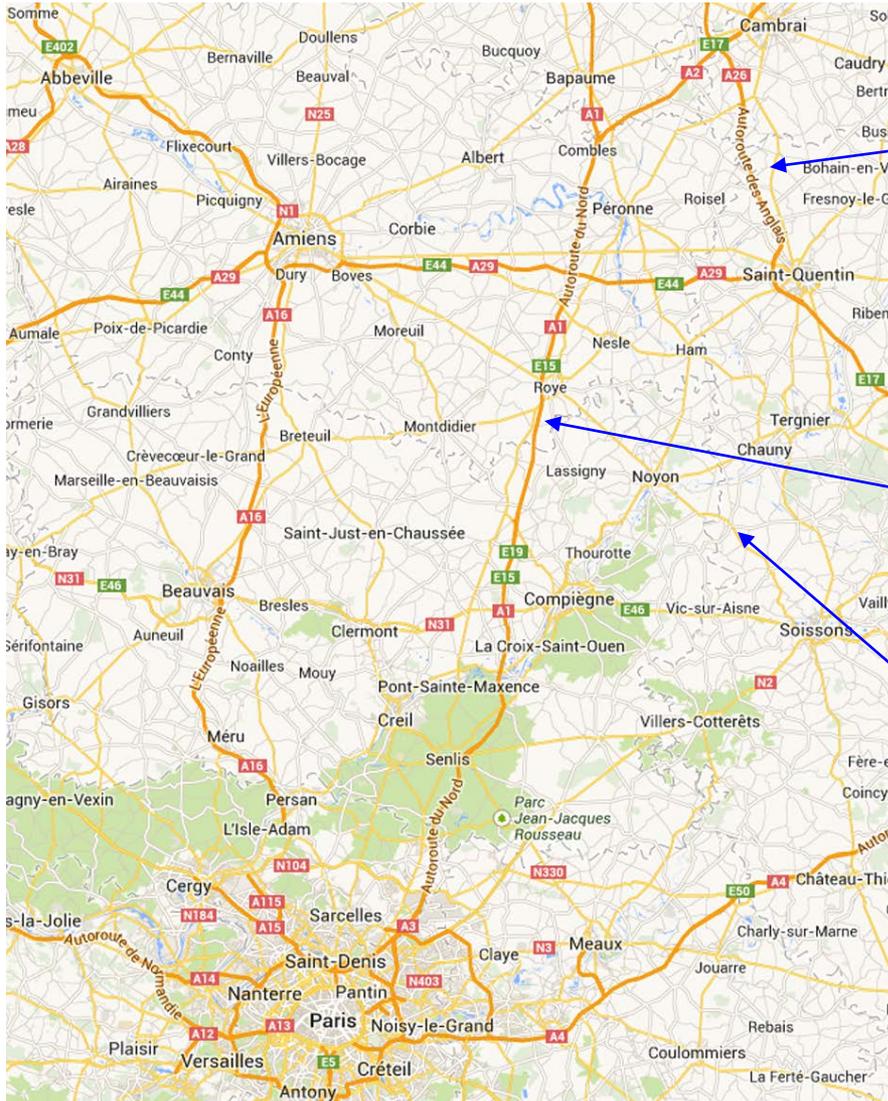
# Versailles

Situated fifteen miles west of Paris, the Château of Versailles has always drawn strong interest from American associations, foundations and private companies, who have contributed to preserving the palace and its gardens. Together with the Treaty of Paris, the Treaty of Versailles, signed on September 3, 1783, has ended the American War of Independence against England.

As confirmed by the certificate below, the Rochambeau Chapter participated in the re-planting of the gardens of Versailles palace after the devastating storms in 1999. Three *Franklinias*, donated by the Chapter, were planted in 2001 not far from the palace, to the south of the Grand Canal, in the *Jardin du Roi*.



# North of Paris | Picardy tour



Somme American  
Military Cemetery  
  
Village of Bony  
Aisne Department

NSDAR Fountain and  
Waterwork Memorial  
  
Village of Tilloloy  
Somme Department

National Museum of  
Franco-American  
Cooperation  
  
Village of Blérancourt  
Aisne Department

# NSDAR Fountain and Waterwork Memorial

## Commune of Tilloloy – Somme Department

- In 1921, funds collected by the NSDAR to offer relief to France after World War I were allocated to the construction of a waterworks system in the village of Tilloloy, which had been destroyed during the war.
- The NSDAR also donated a fountain and memorial, with the following inscription:  
*"As mark of sympathy for the cruel sufferings of the French people during the Great War and with the wish to prove useful, this fountain and the waterwork restoration of the commune are given to Tilloloy by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution of the United States of America – August 1921".*



# American Military Cemetery

## Commune of Bony – Aisne Department

*"In commemoration of the dedication of the Somme American Military Cemetery Chapel by Mrs. William A. Becker, President General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, May 30, 1937 – Mrs. Charles K. Kemper, President General, NSDAR, September 20, 1997".*



Close to 2,000 WWI victims were laid to rest in Bony, including Helen Fairchild, nurse and NSDAR member.



# French-American Museum of the Château of Blérancourt

Commune of Blérancourt – Aisne Department



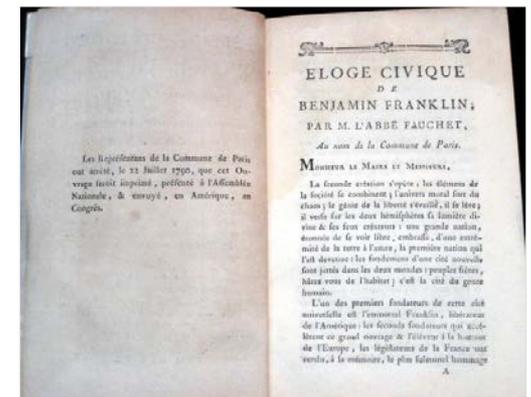
The remains of the Blérancourt castle, built in the 17th century, were headquarters for Anne Morgan's *Comité américain pour les régions dévastées*, a humanitarian aid structure that brought relief to France during and after World War I.



The French-American museum was organized from the 1920's onwards, with collections from the 18th to the 20th centuries and remarkable *Gardens of the New World*.

The museum\_site has undergone extensive renovation in recent years and will only fully re-open at the end of 2015. Only the Anne Morgan and Library pavilions, as well as the gardens, are currently open to the public.

In support of this unique museum dedicated to French-American friendship, the Rochambeau Chapter has made several donations in recent years, in particular a print by American artist Kenneth Armstead and rare books linked to French-American history.



## And more...



We have tried to be exhaustive, but other NSDAR landmarks in France may have escaped our attention – please let us know of any other information relevant for this project.

*The authors*

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# References

As mentioned in the Preface, there are many excellent guides to American Landmarks in Paris and in France. If we were to choose one book as a travel companion, it would be Daniel Jouve's *Paris, the birthplace of the USA – a walking guide for the American patriot*, published in 1997 and co-authored by his wife Alice Jouve, born in Boston, graduated from the Sorbonne and a confirmed guide to American historical places in France. Available through online bookstores.

NSDAR members may also wish to refer to webpages on Wikipedia which give a lot of information on patriots, sites or events. In addition, we have found the following pages interesting:

- For a short overview of Benjamin Franklin's time in France, in English only:  
[www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/history/franklin.html](http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/history/franklin.html)
- For some insight into George Washington's friendship with the Marquis de La Fayette, in English only:  
[www.mountvernon.org/educational-resources/encyclopedia/washington-lafayette](http://www.mountvernon.org/educational-resources/encyclopedia/washington-lafayette)
- The website of the Franco-American Museum at Blérancourt, in French only:  
[www.museefrancoamericain.fr](http://www.museefrancoamericain.fr)
- The La Fayette Escadrille Foundation's webpages, interesting and of high quality, in French only:  
[rdisa.pagesperso-orange.fr/html/Frames/la%20fayette.html](http://rdisa.pagesperso-orange.fr/html/Frames/la%20fayette.html)
- The website of the American Embassy in Paris, with excellent pages in English on historic places in Paris:  
[france.usembassy.gov/milestones.html](http://france.usembassy.gov/milestones.html)
- The website of the American Battle Monuments Commission, in English only: [www.abmc.gov/home.php](http://www.abmc.gov/home.php)
- The website of the American Cathedral in Paris, in English only: [www.americancathedral.org](http://www.americancathedral.org)

The DAR Rochambeau Chapter website, in English and in French, can be consulted at the following address:  
<http://www.rochambeau.darfrance.org>

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This guide is based on public information, available in particular on the internet, and on private sources linked to the history of the Rochambeau Chapter and of the NSDAR in France. Prepared by members of the Rochambeau Chapter for private, non commercial purposes, it is meant for the sole use of members of the NSDAR. The content does not commit anyone but the Rochambeau Chapter and cannot be attributed to the NSDAR. It is covered in France by the *code de la propriété intellectuelle*. No part of this presentation may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photographic or mechanical. Basis for maps by Google Maps. Credits for pictures as follows.

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page 13: cimetière of Picpus | general view: credit LPLT / Wikimedia Commons – tomb of General La Fayette: by courtesy of the author, credit Soundlandscapes / soundlandscapes.wordpress.com, all rights reserved

page 14: Jefferson | statue: credit Luu / Wikimedia Commons – hôtel de Salm: credit TCY / Wikimedia Commons

page 16: La Fayette Escadrille Memorial, general view of the memorial and Memorial Day ceremony on 26 May 2012 – by courtesy of SIRPA AIR, © R. Nicolas-Nelson / Armée de l'air, all rights reserved

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page 22: French-American museum of the château of Blérancourt | pavillon: credit Marius Tielen / Panoramio.com, licence <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0> – jardins: credit Szeder László / Wikimedia Commons

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