



The Winchester Jumelage

P. O. Box 453
Winchester, MA 01890

781 729 7669
voice and facsimile

www.winchestermass.org/germain.html
Jumelage1@aol.com

January, 2005

Dear Members: Bonne Annee!

It's a frigid January day, white flakes drift past the window as dusk falls (and our valorous and doughty Patriots vanquish their foes under the lights in Foxboro).

Your Jumelage board, seemingly in hibernation, has in fact been quietly at work, planning to mark this year's 15th Anniversary of the creation of the "jumelage" between Winchester and St Germain en Laye.

To celebrate this 15th Anniversary, we expect a substantial delegation of our St Germain friends to join us in mid-September, first on a week-long tour of coastal Maine, and then at a gala Anniversary Dinner here in Winchester. A Maine-savvy committee, including Anne Neilson, Ellen Browning, Ed Davis and Cynthia Latta is developing a stunning mix of sights, activities, lobsters and accommodations: if that sounds tempting to you, let us know!!!

But what are we up to right now??

Well, we're hosting our legendary Taste of France dinner again, this time on Saturday evening, February 5, as a mid-winter break, at the Ledges clubhouse as usual. As always we guaranty pretty good food, pretty good wine, great company, fun entertainment, and all at an unbeatable price: it's absolutely free! The "official" theme this time is "bistro food", but (as you may have noticed at past Taste of France dinners), our chefs have been known to stray from the official theme; the one constant is that everyone has a wonderful time.

A special feature at the Taste of France this year will be a movie (with added commentary by participants) on last October's joint Winchester/St Germain trip to the La Rochelle area of France. Made (and edited onto DVD) by Thierry Frantzen, a long-time St Germain supporter of Jumelage, this movie captures the joyful spirit of this wonderful trip, and the friendship we experienced. So, join us at the Taste of France dinner on February 5! and plan to participate in our other activities this year. In addition to this Fall's 15th Anniversary activities, we expect to host several young people from St Germain as "interns" with local businesses this Summer, and we will need host families (and also tennis or swimming or boating partners). Try it, you'll like it!

Regards,

Philippe Koenig, President

Membership Drive Underway

The Winchester Jumelage is proud of its responsibility for representing our town in an ongoing relationship with St Germain en Laye, a thriving and sophisticated town on the outskirts of Paris. To meet this responsibility, we provide a range of activities that benefit both communities and that contribute, on a person-to-person basis, to improved understanding between our peoples and cultures. We also have a lot of fun doing it. You can "visit" St Germain en Laye in the photographs on our Web site – see the letterhead for our address. We are now in our annual appeal for continued interest and membership participation in the Winchester Jumelage. Membership in the Winchester Jumelage provides a unique opportunity to:

- **participate** in adult exchanges with our friendly and hospitable St Germain en Laye counterparts – see current information re: the 15th anniversary trip to Maine this September.
- **support** exchange programs in the High School and sponsor summer interns from France.
- **enjoy** an array of social functions throughout the year, including a Taste of France event the evening of February 5, 2005. Jumelage programs are based upon members' input, and most of the Winchester-based programs are free. Adult exchange programs are very affordable and incredibly enjoyable and rewarding. Become a member and join in the fun. We have three levels of membership, and we invite you to participate in proportion to your level of appreciation for what we are trying to achieve:

\$20 - Individual \$50.- Family \$100 - Patron
Send your check to the address in our letterhead. The check will have your name and address – but, update if needed – and, you tell us your level of participation by the amount of the check – also, please send us your email address so we can keep you up to date on happenings.

Winter Taste of France Dinner Feb 5, 2005

Our bi-annual Taste of France dinners are fast becoming a yearly tradition and now it's time for our Winter one. The theme for this dinner is French Bistro and there will be musical entertainment.

The same rules apply. Its **FREE**. Board members are providing the entrees centered around fish and chicken and other attendees are asked to bring a dish of their favorite appetizers, dessert, vegetables, salad, etc.

Please RSVP to Jack Roll, 781.729.0391 so we can plan for adequate wine supplies. Its Feb 5, 2005, at the Ledges Club House, 7 Wainwright Road, Winchester, starting at 6 P.M.

Winchester Interns to France

If you have a high school or college age student who would like to spend some time in St Germain en Laye this summer as an intern, please contact Philippe Koenig for information and opportunities. Interns will be hosted by St. Germain families and work in the town.

Host Families Needed for French Interns

Hosting a young adult from France has been one of the events that mark the summer season here in Winchester. This year we are again looking for host families for 2 to 4 weeks. The French Interns work in businesses in downtown Winchester during their stay and do not need supervision. Please contact Annette Lanigan, 781.729.7425, if you can host during the months of July or August this summer.

Try Out www.bonjourparis.com

Plans under way for Jumelage 15th Anniversary Trip in September 2005

Yes its been 15 years, since Winchester and St Germain en Laye became Jumelage sister cities. To celebrate this event, our friends from St. Germain will visit us this September. Part of the celebration will include a joint trip to Maine, continuing our nautical theme from our LaRoche exchange. The planned dates of the Maine trip are Sept 10 - 17. Mark your calendars and plan to participate. More details will be provided in a few months. If you would like to participate in the planning of this trip, contact the trip planning committee, Anne Neilson, Ellen Browning or Ed Davis.

Summer 2004 Internship Program in Winchester

This past July and August, the Jumelage sponsored 3 interns from St Germain en Laye. Nicolas Ménard worked at BookEnds and was hosted by the Lanigans. Sébastian Durand worked at the Winchester Library and was hosted by Ms. A. Markham. Isabelle Fetet worked at LaPatisiere and was hosted by the Sjo/Bottaro family.

The following was composed by Nicolas and Sébastian, shortly before their departure.

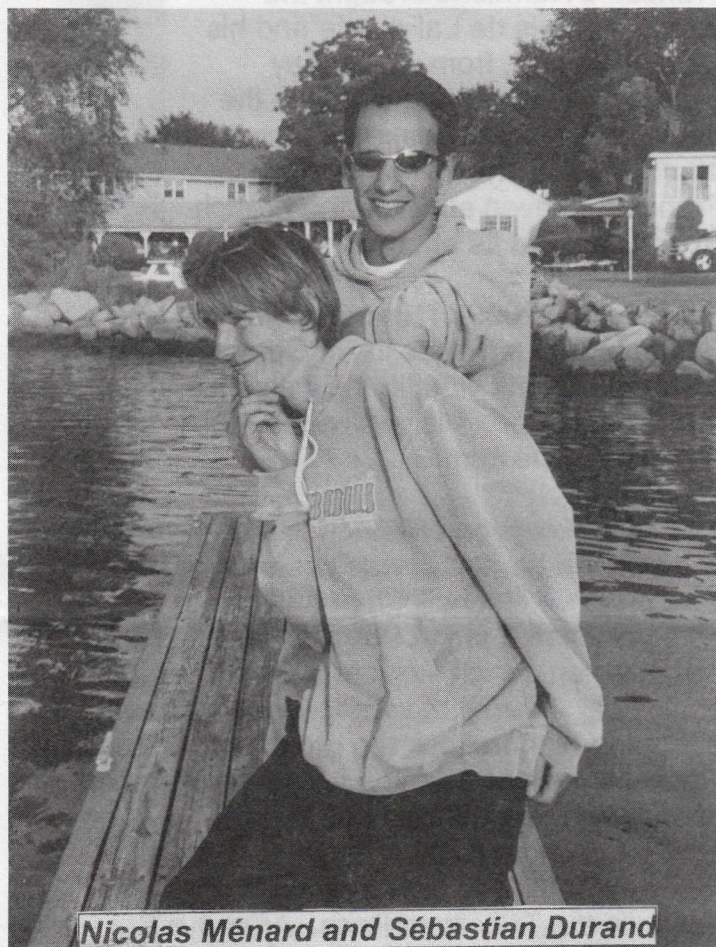
"The trip almost finish, we feel bad into having to leave such a wonderful place. Indeed, we didn't have one boring moment. During the week, our schedules were "provided" by the library for Sébastian and the Book Ends for Nicolas. But what we didn't expect is that we would be so busy during the week end. We had every Sunday the opportunity to go to the beach and spending good time in a beautiful boat. Some evenings in Boston were also very exiting: a beautiful city where people look so nice. "The Blue man group" show was also really amazing.

As regards our work, we definitely enjoy them and it is great to get such an experience.

We are aware of being lucky to get this internship program. Thanks to this program, we

discovered a new way of thinking and we are looking forward to coming back in US.

We thank the members of the Jumelage association and specially the library and book shop staff and of course, Mrs. Markham and Mr. and Mrs. Lanigan. Because without them, such a pleasant trip wouldn't be possible."



Nicolas Ménard and Sébastian Durand



Marissa Bottaro, Isabelle Fetet and Gail Sjo

Fall 2004 Trip To POITOU/CHARENTE Enjoyed by All

The building of a replica of the frigate, l'Hermione, provided the theme for the Fall 2004 Jumelage exchange trip to France. L'Hermione brought the young Marquis de LaFayette and his crew to Boston, from which they eventually joined Washington in the battle of the Chesapeake on March 16, 1781. LaFayette returned to France and even survived the French Revolution and its aftermath.



Eventually (~2009), l'Hermione will sail to Boston and our friends in St. Germain will be on hand to participate in the welcome, in a return exchange. Visit www.ville-rochefort.fr or www.hermione.com.

The joint excursion of Winchester (14) and St Germain en Laye (19) was centered in the seaport of La Rochelle, a beautiful and historic port city located in the Poitou/Charentes sea coast region, which lies just below the Brittany peninsula. From that vantage, day trips with our guide Marion, took the group around the La Rochelle region, returning for gourmet dinners of excellent French food and wine.

Monday 9/27: We arrived in La Rochelle at noon via the TGV from Paris. After our first lunch in the local casino, we are treated to a horse-drawn carriage tour of the town. Later we visit the museum "of the new world" with its Canada and Acadia themes.

Tuesday 9/30: Tour of Ile de Ré, including Abbaye of the Chateliers, Ars en Ré, St Clement des Baleines, Lunch in Saint-Martin and visit of the artisan chocolatier "Ile de Ré Chocolats". Some of us got some exercise thru a bike tour of the island in the afternoon, while others view the salt harvest according to traditional methods. We all got salt souvenirs.

Wednesday 9/31: Marais Poitevin. A day in the marshes known at the "Green Venice", which have been partially drained over the centuries, through a series of canals, and now afford leisurely tours in flat bottom boats. The

weather is fine this afternoon, showing the fine green colors, the reflected light in the water and the ever changing banks with quaint local houses. Earlier, we tour the village of Coulon on the small road-train "Pibalou".

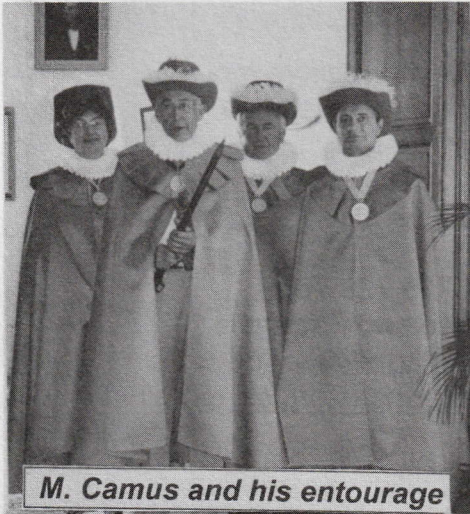
Thursday 10/1: Cognac and Chateau de la Rochefoucauld. Visit town of Cognac and private visit of the Camus cognac distillery and the Camus family castle, where M. Camus himself is waiting for us for a banquet lunch, with the local cognac wine, Pineau and a splendid cognac "Tres vieille reserve 1942". In a playful ceremony we are all enthroned as knights of the "Verre-Galant Confrerie", after correctly answering questions, whose correct answer is always "Cognac". In the afternoon, we visit the Chateau of La RocheFoucauld and are welcomed by Comtesse Edmée de La Rochefoucauld, whose family has had the castle for 1000 years. We are all impressed with the family libraries. Her son, the 21th Duke, lives in St. German en laye.

Friday 10/2: Rochefort and Brouage. We visit the Hermione shipyard and view the "bones of oak" that compose the interior of the ship. Next is the Corderie Royale, the royal rope factory, where we receive a personal tour by the director. In the afternoon we visit writer Pierre Loti's eclectic house and then its a stop in Brouage, a medieval town, where Champlain was born. Our farewell dinner that night is in a private room of "chez Andre" restaurant, where we had a first evening meal. Outside the window is the 2 towers of the ancient port, bathed in moon light.

Saturday 10/3: Return to St Germain en Laye and a reception in town hall with the major, M. Lamy, who wishes us a good trip home. Many thanks to Jean Vidal, who organized this very successful trip.

If you haven't yet gone on a Jumelage excursion, they provide a unique opportunity to see some special area of France, and to do it in the company of a fun, friendly, and fun-loving group of St Germainois who are both co-visitors and guides to French life.

Highlights of Fall 2004 Trip To POITOU/CHARENTE



M. Camus and his entourage



Floating in the Marais Poitevin



Jumelage members at the Hermione shipyard



Tasting Cognac grapes



Construction on the Hermione.



Judi Muggia, Mayor Lemay and Philippe Koenig, at the reception in St. Germain en Laye

Members of the Board

Philippe Koenig, President	729-0391
Kevin Drum, Vice President	721-2184
Ed Davis	729-9256
Lucy Delaney	729-5850
Kevin Drum	721-2184
Annette Lanigan	729-7425
Judie Muggia	729-3383
Carrie Shaw	935-5281
Jack Roll	729-2977
Peggy Roll	729-2977
Susie Vrotsos	729-5854
Betsy Molloy	721-1087

If you would like to receive more information on the Jumelage or on St Germain en Laye.

Please contact us at:

718 729 7669
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Jumelage1@aol.com
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