

THE ARMY IS LIFE OF GEN. JOFFRE, THE COOPER'S SON, WHO BECAME FRENCH MARSHAL

The Idol of France" Has an Unrivalled Career as a Constructive Soldier Who Has Never Failed to Produce Results

Vision, Strength of Purpose and Taciturnity Are the Principal Traits of the "Hero of the Marne," Who Overturned the Well-Laid Plans of the German War Office and Made the Invading Teutons Nibble at the Bait of a Captured Paris

General Joffre's Birth Certificate

IN THE year 1852, on the Fourteenth of January, at ten o'clock in the morning, there appeared before us, LAMOUROUX Louis, mayor and civil officer of the Commune of Rivesaltes, district of Perpignan, department of Pyrenees-Orientales, Gilles JOFFRE, cooper, 29 years of age, domiciled at Rivesaltes, who reported the birth of a child of masculine sex, born on the 12th inst. at 8 o'clock in the morning, in his house located in the town, of whom the parents are he, Gilles JOFFRE, and Catherine PLAS, his wife, no profession, 29 years of age, of Rivesaltes, and that he intended to name the aforesaid child Jacques-Joseph-Cesaire. This declaration was made in the presence of Etienne BERDAGNE, vintgrower, 50 years of age, and of Jean-Pierre-Raymond RAZOUS, former clerk of a notary, 25 years of age, both residents of Rivesaltes, and the legal witnesses who signed this document together with us and the father after having read it.

GILLES JOFFRE, E. BERDAGNE, PIERRE RAZOUS, L. LAMOUROUX.

By ALEXANDER KAHN

ONLY three generations of Joffres can be traced on the registry books of France.

It was on June 18, 1773, that the first Joffre was entered among the births of the year in the sleepy town of Rivesaltes in the Pyrenean Mountains. He was given the name of Gilles, and as far as his fragmentary history can be traced he was the son of a Spanish refugee who had come to the country for political reasons. This refugee's name is believed to have been Gouffre, which he transformed into the French form of Joffre.

Gouffre or Joffre was not a prosperous man, but his industry was known throughout the adjacent country, where the general opinion reigned that he was far too honest to be a successful merchant. When he died it was his son, also named Gilles, and born on December 19, 1825, who succeeded him in the humble establishment at Rivesaltes. Like his father, he apparently had a very hard struggle for existence, and though the family never knew real want it never reached any measure of comfort or prosperity.

Gilles Joffre, the second, was the father of several daughters, and at one time it seemed that the direct family line of the Spanish refugee was to come to an end, when at the age of forty-three there was born to him a son, who was destined to be the father of the man whose future history will call the savior of France.

Soon after the birth of the boy Gilles Joffre's wife died, and the child grew neglected and uncared for; but so sound was the kernel of honesty and industry he inherited from his grandfather that, instead of joining one of the numerous bands of freebooters and adventurers that infested the Pyrenees at that time, no sooner did he grow old enough to learn a trade than he applied for work to a cooper, and local vintgrowers etc. have a saying about "a barrel as good as Gilles Joffre used to make."

The dreams of riches through commerce seemed to have become extinct in the Joffre family with the advent of this cooper. Gilles Joffre was content to remain a simple laborer until his marriage, on the date of which, together with the small dowry brought to him by his wife, he came into possession of the tiny inheritance left to him by his mother.

With this money he started out as a proprietor of a shop of his own, and in the home he built for himself and his wife in the narrow tortuous street that used to be called the Rue des Religieuses, there was born on January 12, 1852, his first child, who was named Joseph Jacques Cesaire Joffre, and who grew to be the present Generalissimo of the French army.

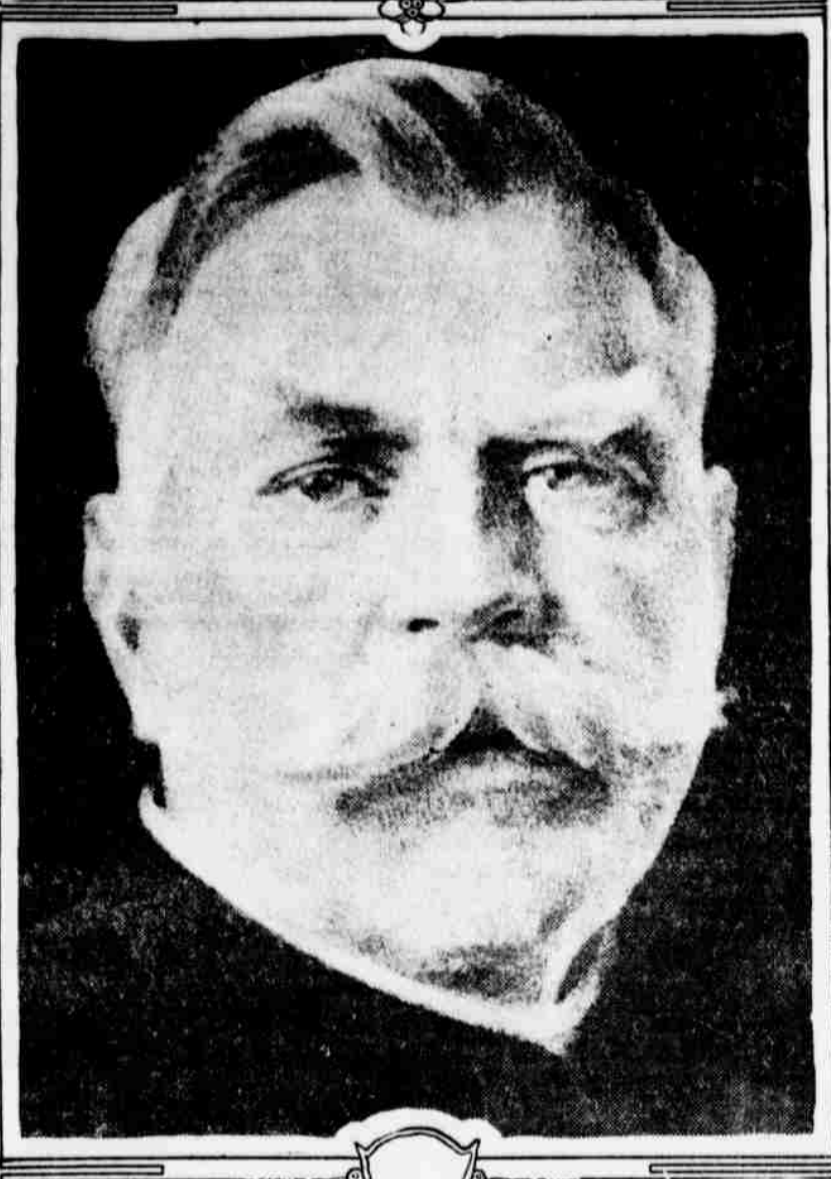
The humble home in the Rue des Religieuses by the side of the shop, came to harbor in the course of time eleven children of which but three—two brothers and a sister, Mme. Artus, the widow of a captain of artillery—remain alive today.

The town of Rivesaltes stands on the banks of the River Agly about nine miles from the city of Perpignan. It is a town of bleak and forbidding aspect with about 6000 inhabitants. The Joffre home, now 11, Rue de Orangers, is like its neighbors, humble, plain and inartistic, and its interior construction is quite primitive compared with the modern dwelling of an average workman.

As late as 1855 Gilles Joffre continued to live in the Rue des Religieuses dwelling, and then he was induced to change his domicile for a more pretentious home on one of the boulevards of Rivesaltes.

The childhood of General Joffre differed but little from the childhood of thousands of other boys and girls who went to school and played in the streets of Rivesaltes with him.

He was a good scholar, but not brilliant; neither was he industrious to a degree to justify the saying that "industry and tenacity of purpose are the essential qualities of true genius." But he was silent.



J. Joffre

THE TWO GREATEST GENERALS OF THE TWO GREATEST REPUBLICS

Jacques Joseph Cesaire JOFFRE, Ulysses Simpson GRANT

January 14, 1852, Early Life, April 27, 1822

Military Training, Active Service

Rise to Power

Characteristics

Principal Failing

Good cigars.

Reticence, Fearlessness, Determination, Patience, Vision

Reticence, Fearlessness, Determination, Patience, Vision

Principal Failing, Bad cigars.

Good cigars.

Reticence, Fearlessness, Determination, Patience, Vision

Principal Failing, Bad cigars.

Born in a Little Rural Community, the Modern Napoleon Won Continuous Honors Through the Keeness of His Fine Mind

Saw Service in Franco-Prussian War, Where He Won Commendation of General MacMahon; Later Captured Timbuctoo Subjugated the Sudan, Fortified Madagascar and Constructed the Complete Line of French Defenses

exploits of a boy who lacked the distinguishing earmarks of genius to such an extent that even as late as 1911, when M. Caillaux, then Prime Minister, and M. Messimy, then War Secretary, urged upon President Fallieres General Joffre's eventual appointment as Generalissimo of the public at large was asking—Joffre? But who is Joffre?

No record of a striking exploit on his part whilst at this private school can be found, no exploit of the kind that would be out of the ordinary is known; Joffre was but one of the gray mass of pupils, diligent, very brilliant? Not he.

Yes! there is a characteristic trait of the then schoolboy, that is frequently referred to in the immediate family circle, but which, if noticed at all, by teachers or pupils, was probably ascribed to an absence of linguistic aptitude—General Joffre could not master German, and was, in consequence, the fourteenth on the list of successful candidates to be admitted to the Polytechnic.

General Joffre knows German now, but it is significant that, even before the Prussians succeeded in humiliating France, the Frenchman who was to be chosen to humiliate Prussia, felt an aversion to the language of the foe.

LIFE AT POLYTECHNIC

It was in 1869 that General Joffre entered the Polytechnic. It was but a year later that, with the rank of second lieutenant, he entered the army that defended Paris against the besieging Prussians.

This was more than forty-four years ago. A lad of but eighteen, scanty, General Joffre fought for a lost cause. He saw his country torn and bleeding; he saw the proud standard of France brought to the dust by a centuries-old enemy; he saw Alsace and Lorraine cut off from their mother country; he saw France's pride trampled underfoot by the brutal Bismarck; he heard the wails of widowed women and orphaned children; but if he suffered, if he grieved, if he craved revenge, he said not a word. Silent Joffre he was before the war; silent Joffre he remained through the years; for, silent Joffre he was all through the years that came after, and silent Joffre he is to this day, leading France's armies in the cause of all humanity.

"I remember Joffre at the Polytechnic, but only very hazily," said a retired captain, who, with the rank of second lieutenant, mentioned to him, and he would surely be angry were he to know that any one of his former comrades spoke of him, for orders, formal orders, have been issued practically forbidding the giving out of any details of the General's former or present life.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

STUDENTS IN PAJAMAS STOP HAVERFORD FIRE

Collegians Dash From Beds to Save Blazing Automobile From Cynwyd

The "pajama" fire brigade from Haverford College made a decided "hit." Dressed in their night attire, virtually the whole body of students turned out with fire extinguishers when a large touring car caught fire shortly after 10 p. m. almost in front of the college door.

Besides Mr. Haynes, there were several passengers in the car, including some children. They had a narrow escape, as Mr. Haynes did not discover that the car was on fire until one of the lights went out and he stopped to light it.

Hanscom's Our cafeterias (self-serve), 929 Market and 734 Market St., are a real boon to hurried people; prices exceedingly modest.

Remember, we cater for weddings, receptions, banquets, etc., and do it right.

The New Queen Quality Buckled "VOGUE"

The Vogue of Buckles

IN New York—five out of six of the most fashionable women are wearing these buckle pumps.

No mode for years has so securely caught fashion's fancy.

Hundreds of budding styles of ready-made, especially designed for the woman who wears every woman should have at least one pair.

A Quick Service Stocking Department Just Inside the Door

1230 Market Street and Stockings for the family

FAST THROG IN PARK WILL RECEIVE ENVOYS

Joffre, Viviani and Others to Pass Through Lane of Sympathizers

A great lane of people will be formed in Fairmount Park Thursday afternoon, through which Marshal Joffre, M. Viviani, French Minister of Justice, and the military experts in the special Entente War Commission will pass.

That will be only one of the features that will mark the reception to the distinguished visitors. Mayor Smith, the members of his executive committee are hard at work upon plans, and the event is expected to be one of the greatest in the long list of Philadelphia's public receptions.

More than 20,000 school children are to be massed in Fairmount Park to share the welcome to the distinguished guests. The colossal task of assembling these children along the slopes and drives of the park, where they can see the hero of the army of France, will be undertaken by the heads of the various city departments, who have been requested by the Mayor to give their full cooperation in making the day the greatest event in the history of the schools.

It is the plan of the Mayor and the heads of the city schools to form a vast human lane in the historic park. Through this lane the eminent guests of Philadelphia will slowly ride to the William Penn Mansion, where more than 12,000 pupils of the higher grades will join in exercises befitting such an occasion.

In every school in the city on the day preceding the reception, there will be a display of the flag of Lafayette and the important part which France played in the shaping of our Republic. Mayor Smith will have circulated among the children brief biographical sketches of the members of the war council who will share in the honors to be paid the famous leaders.

Properly to prepare these life stories of Marshal Joffre, M. Viviani and their distinguished countryman, Dr. Ernest La Place, president of the allied French clubs in Pennsylvania, held long-distance telephone conferences yesterday with M. Jusserand, the French Ambassador in Washington, and members of the embassy, who have promised their co-operation in furnishing such data as may be required.

Doctor La Place is also in charge of the assignment of automobiles for the various members of the party. As some of the commissioners are unable to understand English, the grouping will be such that it will be possible to have a French-speaking guide in every automobile reserved for them. A special committee will be appointed tomorrow by the Mayor to take charge of the immediate details connected with the occasion.

To make the occasion of the visit of the War Commissioners the most significant in the history of the city since Lafayette was the guest of the nation and the municipality in Independence Hall, the Mayor will call upon every resident individually to share in the public greeting.

Civic and military organizations not included in the formal program are requested to march with their bands to Fairmount Park, where they will be reviewed by the city's guests as they pass in their automobiles on the way to Valley Forge.

Chestnut street, the route to be taken by the commissioners on their way to Independence Hall, will be canopied with the colors of France, according to the plans of the merchants and business men whose places are located there. The Mayor will ask the occupants of buildings along the other streets to be traversed by the visitors similarly to decorate for the occasion.

As souvenirs of the city's admiration for the French nation, to be expressed through its envoys, the Mayor will give to every member of the party a book containing the program of the reception, news of the place to be visited and historical sketches of the landmarks. These books will be limited in number.

The members of the Mayor's reception committee are to receive a souvenir, a special badge which will bear inscriptions appropriate to the occasion. The designs for the medallions to be attached to the ribbons will be submitted at a subsequent meeting to be held in the City Hall this afternoon.

At this meeting the Mayor will also consider the naming of the general committee which will be invited to attend the banquet at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

About 500 reservations are to be made for the dinner.

In addition to the municipal banquet there will be special dinners in a number of hotels. The veterans of the French army which opposed the Prussians in 1870 will be honored by their compatriots in the Cafe L'Aliglon.

EXTRA GUARDS AT DINNER Admission to the main ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford, where the banquet is to be held, will be strictly limited to persons who receive the Mayor's tickets. A force of detectives under the personal direction of Director of Public Safety Wilson will be scattered among the diners, while Secret Service men, co-operating with agents of the Department of Justice and Postoffice inspectors, will rigidly enforce the Mayor's order not to permit any person to enter the ballroom who is not provided with the proper credentials.

Admission to Independence Hall during the ceremonies there will also be limited by the Mayor. A special military guard and mounted police are to be stationed in front of the historic chamber. Wilfred Jordan, the curator, has been requested by the Mayor to explain to the visitors the various matters of interest associated with the hall.

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PLAN RELEASE OF SCHOOL BOYS FOR GARDENING WORK

Board of Education Will Discuss Proposal Today to Help in Production of Food

A proposition to release all high school boys of sixteen years old and over for work on farms to help in the accumulation of a national food supply will be taken up today at a meeting of the committee on higher schools of the Board of Education.

It is proposed to release boys for farm work who have made an average of seventy or more in their studies. A plan for the release of all boys from ten to sixteen years old for work on vacant lot gardens in the city and suburbs will also be considered.

It is proposed that all the unutilized land in each section of the city be developed by the schools in the particular district. In the southern part of the city all the vacant land will be placed under cultivation by the students of the Southern High School, while in West Philadelphia the hundreds of acres available will be tilled by the students of the West Philadelphia High School for Boys, Germantown, Germantown and Northeast High Schools will cultivate vacant lots in their particular districts. It is expected that in a few days a call will go out for pupils of the girls' high schools who are competent to handle clerical work.

PRINCESS WITH PAST HELD UP AT PORT

Entrance Denied Mme. Catherine Radziwill by New York Immigration Authorities

NEW YORK, April 30. A princess with a checkered past was escorted this morning from a liner to Ellis Island for hearing before the immigration board. She is Mme. Catherine Radziwill and her intrigues are reported to stretch from the courts of half a dozen European capitals to far-off Cape Town, where her forgery of the name of Cecil Rhodes once begot her a term in prison.

"Princess" Radziwill, as she prefers to be called, now is the wife of Eugen Kolb, a German engineer of Munich, and therefore a German subject. She was held up because she has been convicted of a felony. She served sixteen months' imprisonment at Cape Town for forging the name of Cecil Rhodes, the South African mining Croesus to promissory notes for \$200,000.

Incidentally it was announced the Princess, who is past sixty, but is still a striking personality, would lecture at the Biltmore under the patronage of several women on wealth and prominence, including Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Mrs. John Hays Hammond, Mrs. Otto Kahn and others. Since the detention of the Princess became public, several of these women have "washed their hands" of the entire affair.

The Princess was detained as she was about to enter a taxicab on the South Brooklyn pier. The Princess was billed to lecture on her "Personal Experiences at Imperial Courts."

Police Court Chronicle J. Franklin Devonshire! That was the name he whispered to Magistrate Stevenson.

The prisoner didn't look anything like his name. There was evidence that he and prosperity had been strangers for some time. His coat belonged to an indefinite past and his vest—there were four of them—had long ago lost all ambition in the way of style. His trousers seemed to hang together more by good luck than good management and his shoes had lost their figure.

The prisoner was mild in his demeanor and appeared to be decidedly harmless. "I only desire to elicit a little information," said Devonshire, as he gazed through a maze of overhanging hair. "Ask it," said the judge.

"Why am I arrested?" The question so enraged the cop who brought the prisoner to the court that he gasped for breath. Then the bluscoat announced that, except for upsetting garbage cans, begging on the street, fighting with housekeepers, getting thrown out of saloons and beating dogs and cats, Devonshire was all right.

"You have been misunderstood," said the judge, "so in order that your motives will not be misconstrued in the future you may rest at Holmesburg-on-the-Belaware for the next thirty days."

Annual Clearance Sale Begins today. This entire week will be devoted to the disposal of discontinued sterling silver and silver-plated articles, at greatly reduced prices. We advise an early inspection of these unusual values. S. Kind & Sons, 1110 Chestnut St. DIAMOND MERCHANTS—JEWELERS—SILVERSMITHS. Goods purchased during this sale cannot be exchanged.

Handsome Portrait of Marshal Joffre

Given FREE with Next Sunday's

PUBLIC LEDGER

This portrait is printed in four colors and is suitable for framing. Tell your newsdealer to reserve a copy of next Sunday's Public Ledger for you.