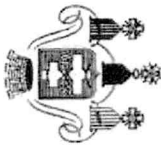


# SAINT-DIÉ DES VOSGES - FRANCE

GODMOTHER OF AMERICA (1507)

HOME OF JULES FERRY (1884)

LIBERATED by the U. S. ARMY in Nov. 21, 1944



On the fourth of July, 1884, Anniversary of Independence Day in the United States.

In the presence of Mr. JULES FERRY, Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and in the name of the Committee of Franco-American Union who sponsored this national demonstration, Count FERDINAND de LESSEPS presented the colossal statue of LIBERTY LIGHTING THE WORLD, work of the sculptor A. BARTHOLDI, to His Excellency Mr. MORTON, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris. — inviting him to interpret the sentiments which the statue represents.

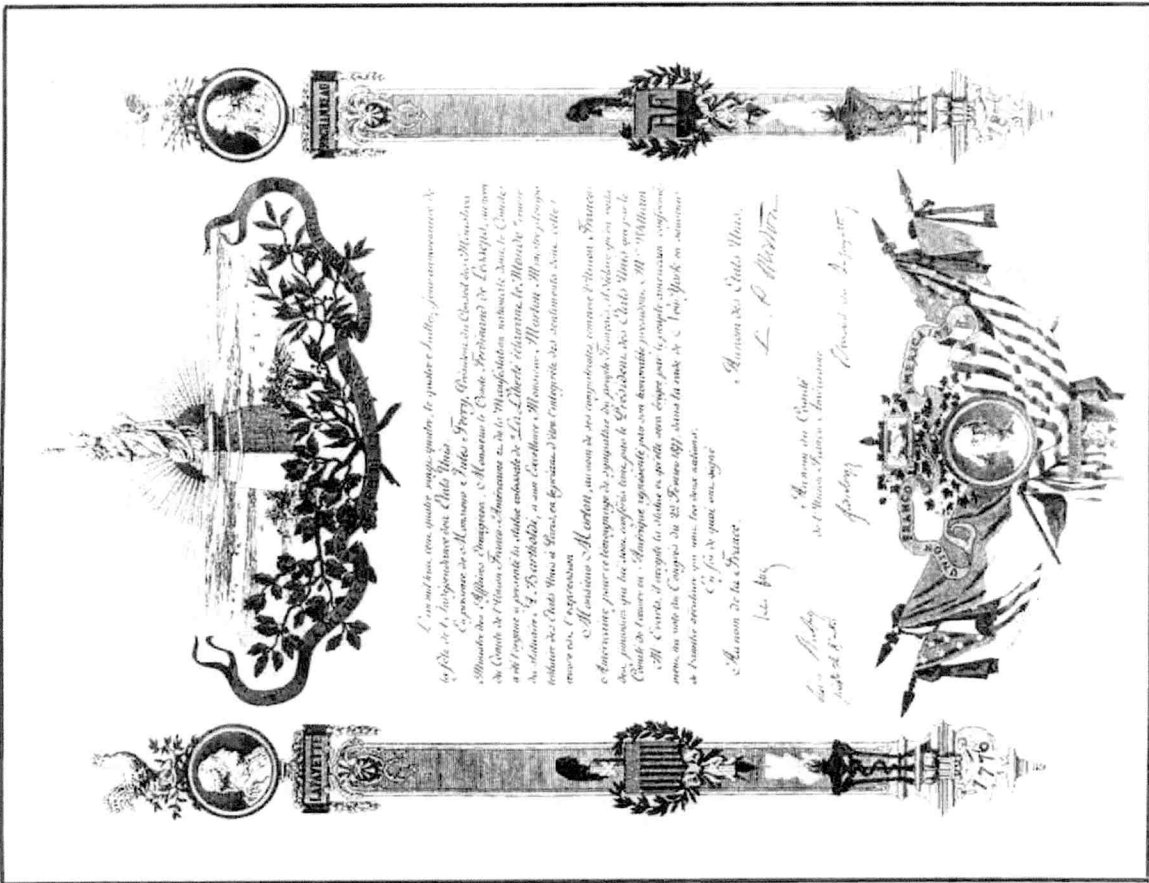
Mr. MORTON, in the name of his countrymen, thanks the Committee of Franco-American Union for this testimony of sympathy from the French people. He declares that in virtue of the powers bestowed upon him by the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, as well as those conferred on him by the Committee of the Organization in America as represented by its honorable president Mr. WILLIAM M. EVARTS, he accepts the statue and agrees, that in accordance with the act of Congress of February 22, 1877, the statue will be erected by the American people in New York Harbor in memory of the long-standing friendship that unites the two nations.

In witness whereof have signed :

On behalf of France : Jules FERRY  
On behalf of the United States : L. P. MORTON

On behalf of the Franco-American Union: Committee :

Henri BRISSON President of the Chamber of Deputies  
Ferdinand de LESSEPS Edmond de La FAYETTE



FACSIMILE AND TRANSLATION of the Deed of Donation in which Jules Ferry, Prime-Minister of France, on July 4, 1884, in the name of France and of all the French school children, offered the STATUE OF LIBERTY to America.

# BAPTISM OF AMERICA

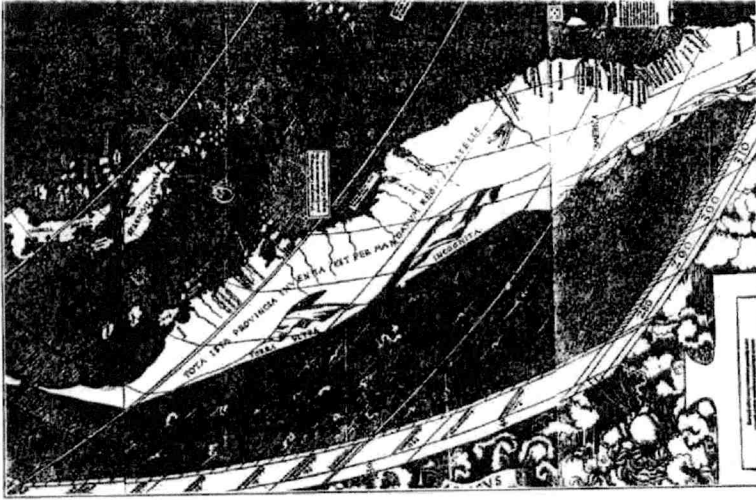
in the city of Saint-Dié des Vosges, FRANCE  
in the Year 1507

**COSMOGRAPHIAE**  
 Capadociani/Pamphiliam/Lidiam/Ciliciā/Armenias maiore & minore. Colchiden/Hircaniam/Hiberniam/Albaniam et præterea multas quas singulatim enumerare longa mora esset. Ita dicta ab eius nominis regina.  
 Nunc yō & hę partes sunt iacius iustratę & alia quarta pars per Americū Vesputiū (vt in sequentibus auditur) inuenta est. quā non video cur quis iure veter ab Americo inuente sagacis ingenij viro Amerigeni quasi Americi terrā / sine Americam dicendū & Europa & Asia a mulieribus sua fortia sint nomina. Eius sūū & gentis mores ex his binis Americi navigationibus quę sequuntur liquide intelligi datur.  
 Hunc in modū terra iam quadripartita cognoscitur: sunt tres primę partes cōiunctes: quarta est insularū omni quaq; mari circūdata conspiciat. Et licet mare vnū sit. quędammodū et ipsa tellus / multis tamen sinibus distinctum / & innumeris repletum insulis varia tibi noia affumit: quę et in Cosmographeæ tabulis cōspiciuntur. & Pricianus in translatione Dionisij talibus enumerat verbis.  
 Circuit Oceani gurges tamen vndiq; vastus Qui spūs vnus sit plurima nomina sūpit.  
 Finibus Hesperij Atlanticus ille vocatur  
 At Boreę qua gens fuit Armia ipsa sub armis  
 Dicit ille piger necnō Sauridę Mortuus est alijs.



**FACSIMILE AND TRANSLATION**

of page 36 from the  
 "COSMOGRAPHIÆ INTRODUCTIO"  
 of Martin Waldseemüller, Canon of  
 Saint-Dié, printed in 1907 on the Printing  
 Press of Canon Gautier Lud at Saint-Dié.



The first map where was printed the name of America. Saint-Dié 15

## COSMOGRAPHIÆ

How did it happen that in a small quarto published in Saint-Dié on the 25th. of April 1507, under the title of "Cosmographia: Introductio," the name America was proposed in the following manner?

Up to this time all the known parts of the world had been thoroughly explored. Then Americ Vespuce discovered a new continent, which will be discussed forthwith. I do not see why this new land should not be named for the man who discovered it with so much perspicacity: Amerige, meaning Land of Americ, or **AMERICA**. Were not Europe and Asia named for women? As for the position of the new land and the customs of its inhabitants, these are fully explained in the account of the four voyages of Americ. The world, then, consists of four parts, of which we knew only the first three. — the three continents. The new fourth part is an island — at least that is the present thought, as the sea surrounds it on all sides

Under the sponsorship of the Duke of Lorraine, René II, the Collegium Vasogense in Saint-Dié kept in touch with the great discoveries of the Renaissance. This learned group, mainly ecclesiastical, was at the same time a focus of class Humanism with Italian affinities, and an agency for printing and wood-engraving in touch with Rhenish discoverers. So it happened that a new edition of the geography of Ptolemy, planned by the Collegium, considered the new extension of the known world. Vespuce's letters, relating his travels, were also translated into Latin and discussed by Mathias Ringmann and Martin Waldseemüller in their introduction to the Cosmography.



ODETTE GENUÉE  
Epinal, France

After considerable correspondence with several French individuals familiar with the efforts of the French underground during WW II, it was finally determined the lady with the gold front teeth that Major Munson encountered in St. Die when the town was liberated was Odette Genuée. The source from France believed Odette could be located by contacting the Newspaper Office in Epinal, France. In 1991 Mr. and Mrs. Munson visited Germany, Italy, and France and stopped in Epinal hoping to be able to locate Odette. Their effort failed, but the newspaper offered to run a short story about the American who was looking for French individuals who helped him in the liberation of St. Die. The article specifically stated the American was attempting to locate Odette Genuée. The article published by the newspaper, brought results and Odette was located. In her initial correspondence with Orville Munson, Odette forwarded the picture shown here that was taken in April 1991 when she had her 76<sup>th</sup> birthday. In her letter she stated, "I belonged to a group of Underground Forces, serving as liaison agent for the American Forces ...."

# AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

Dinozé  
88000  
FRANCE



TELEPHONE  
29 82 04 75

26 August 1991

Mr Orville O. Munson  
PO Box 574  
Tahlequah OK 74465-0574

Dear Mr Munson,

Following your visit at the American Cemetery, I received a call from a neighbor of Mrs Génuee who indicated to me that she could be the Odette you were looking for. I then went to see her and she told me that she would write to you.

Mrs Génuee unfortunately does not write English. She wrote a letter and sent it to me for translating it and forwarding it to you.

Please find, enclosed, the correspondence, with a translation, which I take pleasure in forwarding to you. Mrs Génuee will very obviously be very happy to hear from you. If you can't find anyone in your neighborhood to write French, I told Mrs Génuee to not hesitate to contact me for help in translating your letters if necessary.

If I may be of assistance to you, please let me know. I hope you'll eventually find all the people you are looking for.

Roland B. Prieur  
Superintendent

Epinal 22 August 1991

Mrs Odette Génueé  
41, Chemin du Petit Chaperon Rouge  
88000 EPINAL FRANCE

To : Mr Orville O. Munson

Dear Sir,

I was surprised, last week, to read in the local newspaper "La Liberté de l'Est", an article of research concerning me, (from you)....I will therefore try, 47 years later, to refresh my memory, to bring back some souvenirs. After the liberation of Epinal, I belonged to a group of Underground Forces, serving as liaison agent for the American Forces and I was in contact with Captain Green and Captain Nelson.

Time goes by for everyone; I lost my husband in November 1988. We've had no children, and I was 76 years old last April.

I deeply regret the error made in the newspaper article and I am sorry that we didn't get to meet.. But, what can we do! For those young journalists, we are forgotten people, despite the fact that my husband spent his whole life working for this same newspaper, as the chief composer.

We had the pleasure of seeing again Captain Green who had gathered his old partners for a nice reunion, in 1952 and again in 1976. Alas, I learned from Louis Courroy that Captain Green had past away. Captain Nelson came back as well, with his wife, in September 1953.

I hope that we will establish a contact, thanks to the kindness of Mr Roland B. Prieur, the Superintendent of the American Cemetery, who has visited me and offered to translate my correspondence and forward it to you. Perhaps you could do the same if you wish. Life continues for both of us and if these few words can be helpful, to you, I'll be happy to oblige again.

I enclose a photo taken on my 75th birthday, in April 1991. You'll notice that time has gone for me as it has probably gone for you.

Hoping that souvenirs will come back to mind, with the exchange of correspondence, I send you best regards and friendship.

signed

Odette Génueé

Orville O. Munson  
P.O. Box 574  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465 USA

21 March 1992

Bruno Theveny  
40, quai des Bons-Enfants  
La Liberte del'est  
Epinal, 88001 France

Dear Bruno: (Regards liberation of St. Die in World War II)

It was my good fortune to meet you last August while traveling through France and Epinal in particular. You gave me the above address if perchance I wrote a human interest story that might interest your readers. The story is on the actual liberation of St. Die and gives the blow-by-blow description of what happened to include the participation of Free French Resistance Fighters who assisted.

The story is of a very personal nature and has never been released before for publication. It is believed a number of people within St. Die may well remember the day and want to know what actually transpired. They may want to know what was the thinking process as it pertained to the man on the ground from the USA.

The story includes names of individuals who participated and facts never told before. It gives tribute to an American soldier who lost his life in the liberation process and is presently buried in the American Cemetery in Epinal.

Please be advised the article is in english only. If you are interested, and translation is required prior to acceptance, please advise.

If you have no interest in the story please let me know as soon as possible..

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With best possible regards,

  
Orville O. Munson

