

A Short Trilogy In Human Nature

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The Literary Club

26 February 2007

I. Ego

Success in war requires resolve and ego. Maintaining the resolve of the enlisted ranks and the junior officers while focusing the ego of the superior officers to a single mission is the combination of the victorious.

General Washington's success in commanding the Continental Army lay, no doubt, in his ability to inspire the ongoing resolve of his troops, but equally in his ability to control the egos of his officers. He was assisted in the latter effort by individuals on many separate occasions. One such occasion which occurred in late May of 1781 involved three of his officers, Major Richard Clough Anderson, General Anthony Wayne and the Marquise de Lafayette.

Richard Clough Anderson was born in Hanover County Virginia in 1750. His family had been well-established in the state since the prior century and he was well acquainted with the environment in which he grew. As a boy he enjoyed the outdoors and spent a good percentage of his life hunting. This gave him a strong knowledge of the Virginia countryside. He took to sea early, but by his 26th birthday he had returned home and soon acquired the appointment of Captain of the company of regulars from Hanover County. Like his father and brothers, he was dedicated to the cause of independence and in 1776 he joined the Fifth Virginia

Continental. Anderson was promoted to Major in 1779 and later Colonel. He was wounded twice and was captured once during the war, though subsequently released in a prisoner exchange. He was present in Yorktown for the surrender of Cornwallis.

Anthony Wayne was born on New Year's Day in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1745. He received a good education and worked as a surveyor in his youth. In 1775 he traveled to Nova Scotia where he participated in an ill fated business venture as a surveyor. He returned to Pennsylvania and served in the Legislature in 1774 and 1775. In 1776 he raised a Regiment, was named its Colonel, and led the regiment into Canada and the Battle of Three Rivers. Throughout the following years Wayne served in the Continental Army progressing to Brigadier-General and directing campaigns such as the Battle of Brandywine, Germantown and the Battle of Monmouth. He conducted the stunning victory at and capture of the British garrison at Stony Point on the Hudson River in the summer of 1779.

Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette was born in 1757. In June of 1777 the Marquis, and a small number of other French officers, whom he had persuaded to accompany him, came to North America to assist the American effort of independence. Immediately upon arrival Congress commissioned him a Major General, although he was not yet twenty.

In 1781 the British concentrated their forces on Virginia. To that time, Virginia had been spared major conflict, but it became the opinion of General Cornwallis that success in Virginia would bring a decisive end to the war in America. In response, Washington ordered General Lafayette to Virginia with a small force to confront a large contingent of British forces under General Cornwallis in the Chesapeake Bay area. Major Anderson was

assigned to serve on Lafayette's staff as an aide-de-camp because of Anderson's knowledge of the Virginia countryside.

From the outset, Lafayette's small force was no match for the British. He was forced to retreat from Richmond in May. With the British marching north for an attack on Fredericksburg, Lafayette sought the immediate assistance of General Wayne, and his Pennsylvania forces, which were marching south. Lafayette indicated to Wayne the route his army would be following in its retreat and the point where the Pennsylvania troops should join him. Lafayette then moved to the point where he was to meet with General Wayne's forces, leaving himself vulnerable to Cornwallis.

At the outset, Brigadier General Wayne, had no intention of joining forces and fighting under the command of his superior officer, Major General Lafayette. The time for Wayne's arrival having passed, Lafayette sent Major Anderson to meet with General Wayne, directing the Major to remain with Wayne and send hourly dispatches to Lafayette until the troops arrived at the meeting point.

When Anderson reached Wayne, "he saluted the General and his staff officers, and, in a friendly and natural manner, asked for pen, ink and paper, and sat down to write." Anderson then repeated the order from General Lafayette that General Wayne was to join his forces with those of Lafayette. Anderson then began to write the first of his hourly dispatches to General Lafayette. Wayne was amazed, and then outraged. "Do you mean to insult me?" he demanded of Anderson.¹

Mad Anthony Wayne was no man with whom to trifle. His temper was renowned. None the less, Anderson reminded Wayne that he carried the command of Wayne's superior officer, to which

¹ Soldier and Pioneer by E.L. Anderson (G.P Putnam's Sons, New York) 1879 page 33.

Wayne responded “Superior! Superior! Do you dare call any damned foreigner, and a boy, ... my superior?”² He then launched into a series of tirades against the Marquis and against Anderson. After listening to these outbursts for some time, Major Anderson confronted the General saying that his mind was filled with gloomy forebodings... He saw that the critical moment had arrived, and told the General that as the only hope of success against a formidable foe lay in voluntary union and subordination, the example he had witnessed that day of an officer high in rank and of distinguished services, refusing to obey the orders of a superior, deprived him of the hope of a useful and permanent success. “General Wayne,” said he, “I look to you to remove these apprehensions.”³

General Wayne, a true patriot, subjugating his ego to his greater dedication to the mission, responded “Tell him I’ll jine him! Tell him I’ll jine him! By God! tell him I’ll jine him tomorrow!”⁴ And so he did, to great affect.

Throughout the summer and into the fall the tides turned in Virginia. By October 19, Cornwallis had surrendered to Washington.

When in 1825 Lafayette visited the United States, his travels took him to Louisville, Kentucky. Richard Clough Anderson, by then a long time Louisville’s citizen, was asked to serve in the welcoming party. Anderson had moved to Louisville in 1783 where he subsequently established his home, “Soldier’s Retreat,” in what is now the suburb of Hurstbourne and raised a large family. As a surveyor, Anderson was active in the settlement of

² Id. at page 34.

³ Id. at page 36.

⁴ Id. at 37. According to the author, this incident was described by J. D. S., a writer unknown to the author, in the *Richmond Whig*, and his article was republished in the *Spirit of the Times*, of October 22, 1843.

much of Kentucky and Ohio, and is the man for whom Hamilton County's Anderson Township is named.

Arriving in Louisville by boat, Lafayette ascended slowly up the steep bank of the river. Upon recognizing Anderson, by then a white haired man in his 70's, he moved forward, embraced Anderson, and with a smile said "Tell him I'll jine him! Tell him I'll jine him! By god, tell him I'll jine him to-morrow!"⁵

Additional Sources:

American Revolution Round Table - Forgotten Heroes – Richard Clough Anderson
(<http://Samson.kean.edu/~leew/arrt/heroes/rc-anderson.html>)

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(http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Anderson_Town,_Hamilton_County,_Ohio)

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(<http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/fall96/Anthony.html>)

Historic Valley Forge General Anthony Wayne (www.ushistory.org/valley
forge/served/wayne.html)

Historic Valley Forge The Marquis de Lafayette (www.ushistory.org/valley
forge/served/Lafayette.html)

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Anthony Wayne Man of Action
(<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/ppet/wayne/page1.asp?secid=31>)

Student of History Banastre Tarleton (www.fusilier.wordpress.com/banastre-tarleton-
article-2000)

⁵ Id at page 60

II. The Question

What makes a boy want to play football?

When young, it hurts to get knocked down.

Later it hurts to fall down, and...

Before long, it hurts just to bend down.

Of falling down or bending down, there's not much to be told.

For there's little magic in growing old.

The knock down, now that's something to talk about.

What is it that makes a boy want to play football?

Not the headaches from practice.

Not the sting of the tackle.

Not the sweat from the heat, nor the pain from the hitting;

So, what is it that makes a boy want to play football?

It must be the need to be one of the guys.

To prove one's self among one's peers

To hit the class stud ... head on and hard,

bouncing him back for the loss of a yard

And to watch as he glares a look of respect.

So what's a boy's *fear* when playing the game?

Not the ring in the ear or sting in the neck.

Not the shuttering *thud* when hitting the deck.

No...It's more than all that, it's the loss, the disgrace,

That satisfied look on the other guy's face

when he knocks you flat as a door,

And you know, as does everyone else in the place,

It was you, only you that allowed them to score.

So, what makes a boy want to play football?

Not the fame, or the fans, no that's not it.

Not pretty girls watching

Though, maybe a bit..

No, what makes a boy want to play football

Is the sweet satisfaction

of knocking the other guy down.

III. The Challenge

A quote from a 59 year old father of a
hard headed,
15 year old,
female,
Computer Jock.

“Gunga Din had it easy.”