

ANTHONY WAYNE IN LANCASTER.

By William Frederic Worner.

General Anthony Wayne, who had won distinction in several battles of the Revolution and had displayed remarkable skill and courage in the capture of Stony Point on the Hudson, was ordered to command the first detachment of Pennsylvania troops to be sent to Virginia, where he joined Lafayette at Raccoon Ford, on June 7th, 1781. The several regiments of the Pennsylvania Line had, at their places of cantonment in this state, been increased by recruits. Preparations had been made to rendezvous these troops at York.

General Wayne arrived in Lancaster on Monday, May 14th, 1781, according to the following entry in Christopher Marshall's diary:

"May 15th, 1781. Gen. Wayne, with his suite, came to town last evening, on his route to the southward."

The General remained here several days. We have no means of knowing where he stayed. In a letter which General St. Clair wrote to Wayne, it is stated that a number of troops were obliged to pass through Lancaster on their way to York. While in Lancaster, they were to be supplied with provisions, and General Wayne was directed to give attention to this matter in order that the march might not be delayed.

May 18th, 1781, Marshall entered in his diary: "Gen. Wayne, with his suite, left here [Lancaster] yesterday."

General Wayne was in Lancaster in 1792, according to a news item appearing in a German paper published in Lancaster, entitled "Neue Unpartheyische Lancaster Zeitung, und Anzeigs-Nachrichten," (New Nonpartisan Lancaster Gazette, and News Advertiser) Wednesday, June 13th. The account is as follows:

"Last week His Excellency Major General Anthony Wayne passed through this city to take over the command of the troops which are ordered against the Indians. And on Saturday a company of recruits arrived here; they also are marching west (on the march in a westerly direction)."

This same issue of the paper contains the following:

"Pittsburgh. On Thursday, Major General Anthony Wayne, commander-in-chief of the army of the United States, arrived here. On his entry, he was given a salute by the artillery from Fort Fayette. We hear that a detachment of troops, numbering three hundred, are on their way here."

General Wayne was again in Lancaster in 1796. The Lancaster Journal, of Friday, February 5th, of that year, states:

"On Wednesday evening, His Excellency Major General Anthony Wayne, arrived here from headquarters, on his way to Congress. The joy depicted on the countenances of the inhabitants, on this occasion, and the attention shown him by many of our most respectable citizens, is the best possible proof that he deserves well of his country. This morning (February 5th) he proceeded on his journey to Philadelphia."

General Wayne was also in Lancaster, and doubtless for the last time, in June, 1796. The Lancaster Journal, of June 17th, contains the following:

"Yesterday, Major General Anthony Wayne passed through this town from Philadelphia, on his way to Fort Washington."

General Wayne died at Presque Isle (Erie) Pa., December 15th, 1796, at the age of 51, within less than six months after his last visit to Lancaster. He is buried in the rear of famous Old St. David's Protestant Episcopal churchyard, Radnor, near Philadelphia. It was of this church that the poet Longfellow wrote:

What an image of peace and rest
Is this little church among its graves!
All is so quiet; the troubled breast,
The wounded spirit, the heart oppressed,
Here may find the repose it craves.

It is in this beautiful spot that the body of this distinguished soldier of the Revolution finds rest. "After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."

Author: Worner, William Frederic.

Title: Anthony Wayne in Lancaster / by William Frederic Worner.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Wayne, Anthony, 1745-1796.
Lancaster (Pa.)--History--18th century.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1927

Description: 6-7 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; c. 31,
no. 1

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.31

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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