

## Anthony Wayne.

**G**ENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE, or "Mad Anthony" as he was popularly called on account of the impetuosity of his charges, like a number of great men whom Georgia delights to honor, was not a native of the state. His daring and skilful work in Georgia after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his subsequent residence in the state entitle him to a place among these sketches.

He was born in Eastown, Chester County, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1745. His grandfather was a native of England, but lived in Ireland before emigrating to America. His father was Isaac Wayne, a native of Pennsylvania and a well-to-do farmer who represented Chester County in the state legislature several times. He was also prominent among the forces operating against the Indians, who at that time were very troublesome in Pennsylvania.

Young Anthony was sent to school to his uncle and passed from there to the Philadelphia Academy. It is said that the love of military amusements interfered somewhat with his education although he was very successful in his mathematical studies. After leaving school at the age of eighteen, he became a surveyor.

In 1773, he was selected as a representative to the General Assembly where he took a firm stand against the demands of Great Britain. He had long desired a military command, and the Revolutionary War furnished him the opportunity of gratifying his wish. He raised a regiment of volunteers of which he was elected colonel, and afterwards received the appointment of colonel from Congress. He accompanied General



*Anthony Wayne*

From the original in the possession of the author.

Thompson to Canada and displayed his military talents at the battle of Three Rivers. On the 21st of February, he was appointed Brigadier-General and, in the following May joined the army of Washington. He shared in the perils and glories of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, and Stony Point. For the action at Stony Point, the first United States Congress voted General Wayne a gold medal and with it thanks "for his brave, prudent, and soldier-like conduct in the well conducted attack on Stony Point." A similar testimonial was voted him by the General Assembly of his native state.

After the capture of Cornwallis, in which he displayed bravery bordering on rashness, he was sent with seven hundred troops to conduct the war in Georgia. Headley in "Washington and His Generals" gives the following account of his work in Georgia: "The enemy outnumbered him three to one; yet he boldly took the field, and kept it in spite of every effort made against him.

"Fearless, untiring, and indefatigable, he made up in activity and promptness what he lacked in strength; and driving his army from one post to another—now hanging on his flanks, and now falling furiously on him in front—he pressed every advantage with such vigor, that in five weeks he had wrested the Georgia state from his grasp, with the exception of Savannah. A strange spectacle met his gaze as he advanced. The British, in order to distress him, gathered together, as they fell, all the provisions and forage, and set fire to them; so that he slowly moved down the river, all along its winding course, far as the eye could reach—from the shores and islands, fires were blazing and vast volumes of smoke ascending; rendering the scene at once fearful and picturesque.

"During these five weeks of almost constant marching and fighting, Wayne exhibited a patience and fortitude equal to his rapidity, and imparted a portion of his spirit to his brave

troops, who cheerfully marched wherever he led, and never in the whole time once took off their clothes to rest. In speaking of the difficult task assigned him, in a letter to Greene, he says: 'The duty we have done in Georgia was more difficult than that imposed upon the children of Israel; they had only to make bricks without straw, but we have had provision, forage and almost every other apparatus of war, to procure without money; boats, bridges, etc., to build without materials, except those taken from the stump; and what was more difficult than all, to make Whigs out of Tories. But this we have effected, and have wrested the country out of the hands of the enemy, with the exception only of the town of Savannah. *How to keep it without some additional force is a matter worthy of consideration.*' True enough, worthy of serious 'consideration,' especially how, with a few hundred cavalry and infantry, to blockade this same town of Savannah, containing more than two thousand troops."

"Receiving, however, a small reinforcement, he kept the field and every advantage he had gained. In the meantime, the British commander had induced the Choctaws and Creeks to join him as allies, and they were far on their way before Wayne got word of it. Immediately putting his troops in motion, he fell furiously upon the former, just as they were approaching Savannah and routed them completely. Hearing of this catastrophe, the British commander sent out a strong party of horse and foot to protect the Creeks, now also marching up. Wayne, knowing of a defile across a swamp, over which the detachment must pass, took with him only one company of infantry and a few dragoons and set out for it with all the speed he was master of. Remembering Stony Point he had all the flints knocked out of the muskets, telling his men to rely solely on the bayonet and sabre. The gallant little band pushed rapidly and noise-

lessly forward, and reached the defile at midnight, when to their surprise they found the enemy already entering it. It was starlight, and Wayne could see by the glittering of the bayonets and sabres, that he was outnumbered two to one; but there was no time for hesitation, and instantly ordering the charge, he poured his enthusiastic troops with such impetuosity on the astonished column, that it broke and fled."

"The Creeks heard of this disaster, but did not prevent their intrepid chieftain from pressing on. Leaving, however, the open country, he kept to the woods and marched so warily that Wayne could get no tidings of him. Stealing thus cautiously through the swamps and forests, he at length, one evening, found himself within a short distance of Wayne's camp. Waiting till all were wrapt in slumber, these stealthy warriors crawled up to the sentinels and dispatched them so silently that the alarm was not given. They then advanced directly upon the camp, and suddenly screaming out their terrific war-whoop, rushed to the attack. With a single bound they swept over the artillery, driving the guard in affright before them, while that thrilling war-cry brought every sleeper to his feet. The men rushed for their arms, but all was terror and confusion. Wayne, however, whom no terror could unbalance, was himself in a moment, and rallying his men like magic, and ordering them not to fire, neither dragoons nor infantry, but trust to their swords and bayonets, led them fiercely against the shouting savages. A tall chief threw himself before him, whom he, with a single stroke of his sword, cut to the earth; but the undaunted warrior lifted with a dying effort his rifle and discharged it at him. His gallant steed sunk dead in his footsteps, but Wayne, springing to his feet, pressed forward on foot amid his men. After a short conflict the savages were routed, and fled leaving their dead chief and thirty warriors behind them. Being now close on Savannah, it occurred to him that the attack was designed to be a com-