



Waynesboro Historical Commission
2006-2007

R.Allen Brahin
Cathy Lang
Joseph E. Morse
Judith Walden
Constance Paradiso
Clair F. Myers
Ellie Woosley
Kerford Brooks
Jerry Layman
Mary Echols
Megan Montgomery



WAYNESBORO
VIRGINIA
and
General Anthony Wayne

Written & Published by the
Waynesboro Historical Commission
2006-2007
Founded 1971
Waynesboro, Virginia

Dedication

This publication is dedicated to our fore bearers who developed a shallow crossing in the South River into the City of Waynesboro, a community worthy of its namesake General Anthony Wayne.



Although he did not spend a night at the hotel, Elvis Presley stopped by one afternoon, and after staying several hours, he changed his clothes and headed for an evening engagement.

Alterations began taking place in 1950 with a 4-story addition, adding 20 rooms. Another 10 rooms were added in 1956, bringing the total to 70. By 1960 the name was changed to the General Wayne Motor Inn and other changes began. The lobby was relocated and a new kitchen and banquet room were made. The lounge was redone and named the Alleghany Room and in 1962 the Brunswick Room was added. The old kitchen and part of the coffee shop became the Wayne Cavern. In 1969, seven bedrooms on the second floor opened for classroom space for General Electric with 25 students attending weekly.

In 1987, actor Raymond Burr – most famous for television’s “Perry Mason” and “Ironside” – made a sweep through the area and stopped at the hotel.

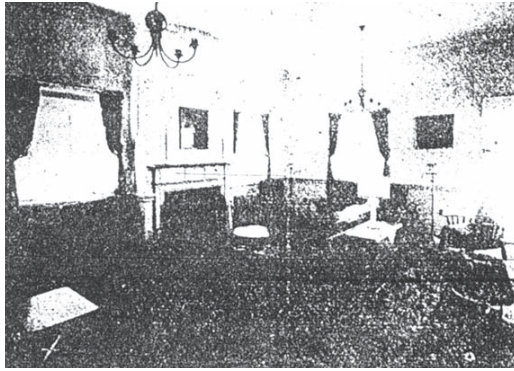
Gradually the rooms became used as residential living, some having 1, 2 or 3 room suites with full maid service. Others became apartments. Meals were provided in the banquet hall on Friday nights and on the weekends and then only on Sunday. Looking to convert the building into a retirement community, owners BMC Properties decided the expense would be too great. After being vacant for about 2 years, Fishburne Military School received the property in 1999 as a gift from BMC Properties. A 5-year plan was begun in 2001 to renovate 63 rooms, banquet facility and a full kitchen. The cost for this is estimated to be between \$2.5 and 5 million. The building is currently named Barger Hall.



LATE IN 1947, Waynesboro concluded an annexation suit and expanded the city limits (in this particular picture) from the corner of West Main St. and New Hope Road, west to where Skyline Drive-In Theatre now stands. Here, symbolically, City Council pulls up the sign from in front of W. H “Happy” Plumb’s home, at 1012 W. Main St. preparatory to placing it at the new boundary line. Shortly after his key annexation. Waynesboro became a city of the first class, so named by the Virginia General Assembly. In this picture are (from left) W. E. Moore, city attorney, Councilmen Dr. C. C. Bowman, S. C. Heatwole, Francis S. Loth, Mayor S. H. Hall and Councilman W. B. Courtney.

Hotel General Wayne had 40 guest rooms, 12 of them corner rooms and all but four of the 40 had private baths. A coffee shop seated 45 and a main ballroom held 200. There were red and white umbrella topped tables on the veranda. A neon sign, six feet in length, with HOTEL in red was erected along the western edge of the building, overhanging the sidewalk. It was generally agreed that the sign was not a detraction to the area and it could be seen as you drove on Main Street. A single room rented for \$1.75 per night.

Cozy Lounge Will Attract Guests



Here, in this lovely lounge just off the lobby on the main floor, guests at the General Wayne will find pleasant comfort. Here are chairs and settees, splended light for reading, a fireplace, writing desks, and a door opening directly onto the veranda.

Many activities and groups functioned at the hotel. It was the meeting place for Jaycees, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Exchange, Toastmasters and Women's clubs. A number of celebrities also stayed at the General Wayne. Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower were guests when he was Chief of Staff, prior to his presidency. Others in the government were: Ezra Benson who was Secretary of Agriculture, a number of U.S. Senators and House of Representatives members and until at least 1967, every governor of Virginia had spent a night at the hotel.



FAMOUS GUESTS have been numerous at the Hotel General Wayne. The nation's number one family, President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, were guests at the local hotel when Ike was Chief of Staff. The Eisenhowers are shown emerging from the front door of the hotel, with T. H. Lawler, hotel manager, standing at the right. -News Virginian Photo

During World War II, The General Wayne served as headquarters for war bond rallies. One such drive was a \$200.00 a plate luncheon with actress Greer Garson as the guest speaker. She visited several more times during the bond drive.

Another spokesman during the bond drive was actor Edward Buchanan. Other registered guests included Hollywood cowboys Tex Ritter and Rex Allen.

The legal founding of Waynesboro, Virginia, began with a petition to the Commonwealth of Virginia on 17 September 1800. The document referred to the town as "Waynesborough," and on 8 January 1801, the government at Richmond officially recognized the town.

Prior to 1798, the town was known as Teasville or Teesville. Both spellings are found in area journals and letters from the period. Unfortunately, the exact spelling has been lost to the mists of time. We do know that the Tees or Teas family ran a tavern/inn lending the name to the small settlement.

The name "Waynesborough" was a nod to General Anthony Wayne. That the town was named in his honor is clear. What is less certain is whether the name refers to General Wayne's home in Pennsylvania, or to the man himself.

Anthony Wayne was born New Years Day, 1745, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, at the family estate of Waynesborough. Wayne's family had been in Pennsylvania since 1722, when his Protestant grandfather and namesake, arrived from Ireland.



Waynesborough, the Wayne family home near Paoli, Pennsylvania, built in large part by Isaac Wayne, the general's father. It stand today much as it was when Isaac completed it in the early 1740's. Here Anthony was born. He inherited the valuable estate with its pastures, herds, and tannery, when he was twenty-nine years old. (Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

Grandfather Anthony Wayne built up the family seat until he died in 1739. That same year, Isaac Wayne inherited Waynesborough from his father Anthony. Isaac was an active member of St. David's Church, a member of the Provisional Assembly, and saw three tours of active duty on the western frontier of the province. He was an industrious and prominent citizen of Chester County.

Like all fathers, Isaac had great hopes for his young son, Anthony. As the only male child, Anthony was expected to maintain and if possible expand and improve on the estate his grandfather and father built up. However, it soon became clear that young Anthony did not share his father's temperament for agriculture.

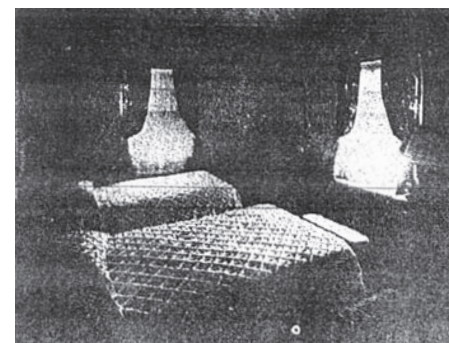
The child would take every opportunity to stage mock battles and skirmishes enlisting whomever might be at hand. Despite the elder Wayne's military experience, Isaac wanted Anthony to receive a solid education. To that end, Anthony was sent to study at the school of his uncle Gabriel Wayne. The student continued the military re-enactments, prompting the schoolmaster to write Isaac about Anthony. Gabriel was vexed by his new charge and indicated that a soldier's life might be his fate. Isaac was not pleased by the letter and informed Anthony that unless his academic progress improved, he would be brought home and made to do an endless stream of odious farm chores. The young student made an astonishing change in his academic efforts and in less than two years, absorbed all his uncle had to offer. Mathematics, in particular, demonstrated Anthony's newfound focus.

Isaac and Gabriel Wayne decided that Anthony would benefit from enrollment in the Philadelphia Academy. After two years in Philadelphia, Wayne took what he learned and returned to Chester County to embark on a career as a surveyor. In this, he was quite successful and well regarded. Anthony Wayne's circle of acquaintances grew to include Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

Franklin, among his numerous other interests and ventures, speculated in Nova Scotia lands. Wayne was selected to act as agent and surveyor. Over the next few years, Wayne traveled back and forth between Nova Scotia and Pennsylvania. This continued until the venture collapsed.

parsonage plus the Ellison property at the top of the Main Street hill and the Brunswick Inn at Wayne and 13th Street. Prices for these sites ranged from \$7,500 to \$20,000. On March 18, 1937 the Fishburne/Painter property plus a strip from Bethany Lutheran Church was chosen. The lot was 104 feet along Main Street and 225 feet deep. (In the News-Virginian of 3/11/37, the property was listed as Fishburne/Peale, but the 3/19/37 article listed the property as Fishburne/Painter.)

Several names were proposed for the new hotel. Among them were the Hotel Wayne, the Anthony Wayne and Teas Tavern (to keep alive the name of Widow Teas who ran an establishment in the area where George Washington once stayed. It had been said that he found the place to be particularly displeasing). The most votes were for the Anthony Wayne, but one already existed in Waynesboro, PA and was figured to be too confusing. To honor the war hero, the name General Wayne was selected.



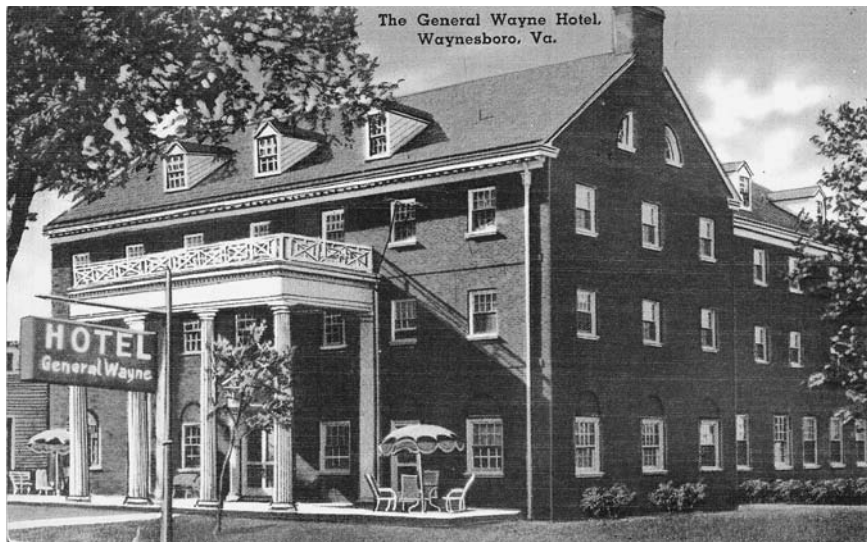
The General Wayne has 40 guestrooms, many of which are furnished with twin beds like the one above. All but four of the guestrooms have private baths and 12 of the 40 are corner rooms. Each room has lovely drapes, candlewick bedspreads, and matching carpets.

Virginia Atmosphere is Found Here



In the coffee shop, to be opened for regular business at the General Wayne beginning Thursday, will be found a breath of "Ole Virginnie" with its Colonial maple furniture and matching dishes and drapes. The coffee shop can be entered from the lobby or front veranda and the management promises good food always.

Harry Brooks was hired as general contractor. When the project was completed on May 1, 1938, Brooks Contracting had billed \$79,616, heating and plumbing costs were \$12,304, electrical work at \$13,000 and kitchen equipment at \$2,500. The kitchen was serviced by both electricity and gas. A 100-line switchboard and 46 station telephones were installed.



Hotel General Wayne

The idea for a new hotel in Waynesboro began in 1929. It lost steam but not hope as the Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce kept it alive. E.I. du Pont Nemours and Company was coming to the city and they wanted and needed space for visitors.

Twenty-nine local men agreed to start the financing and plans were underway in 1936. Since the Great Depression would last until 1941, this was a large and possibly risky venture. Partnering with Genoble Hotels of Pennsylvania, the gentlemen began planning and organizing. Several companies came on board: Wayne Mutual Telephone, Blue Ridge Grocery, Wayne Motor Sales and Hughes and Coyner Fuel Company.

Figuring the cost of the project to be around \$100,000, money needed to be raised. Bonds were sold at 5-½ % and were placed with Peoples National Bank of Charlottesville, Citizens-Waynesboro Bank and Trust and First National Bank of Waynesboro. By March 1937, \$60,000 worth of the bonds had been sold.

Daley Craig was hired as the architect and a site committee began looking for a suitable location. Proposed were the Fishburne/Peale lot with a strip from Bethany Lutheran Church, the Main Street Methodist

Anthony Wayne then settled into the life of a country gentleman. He married, started a family, and expanded his surveying and other vocations to include a tannery.

In 1774, Isaac Wayne signed over Waynesborough to Anthony. As part of the agreement, Anthony was to pay his mother an annual annuity. After a few years, Wayne began neglecting his obligation. Unfortunately, this pattern of behavior was common in Wayne's personal and family life. Only in his last days did he admit that he was a negligent father.

Wayne's rural life was forever changed by political events taking shape in 1774. He was an early and passionate patriot. Wayne enjoyed less than satisfactory dealings with the politicians he encountered while in Nova Scotia. He quickly became associated with those who were critical of Parliament. The prospect of war undoubtedly appealed to Wayne's martial leanings as well. Anthony Wayne's grandfather and namesake was with William at the Boyne in Ireland and his father Isaac Wayne fought in the Seven Years' War.

The years 1774-1775 found Wayne elected to the fledgling Pennsylvania legislature as well as the Committee of Safety. However, fate was to cast Wayne as a soldier rather than a politician. On 3 January 1776, he was appointed Colonel of the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion.

Wayne's early war record was somewhat uneven. He was extremely effective as Commandant of Fort Ticonderoga, gaining valuable experience in dealing with ill-disciplined, unruly troops. Matters were complicated as the fort was located at the end of a tenuous supply line, yet of enormous strategic importance. Wayne even had to settle a mutiny during his tenure. The experience would prove valuable to him during later campaigns against the British and American Indians. For his efforts, Colonel Wayne was promoted to Brigadier General in 1777, and ordered to join Washington's army at Morristown. The newly minted general did not fare well. At Paoli in September of 1777, British General Charles "no-flint" Grey ordered a surprise night bayonet charge. Wayne, despite being routed, managed to save his guns and evade injury or capture. In escaping, Wayne avoided joining General Hugh Mercer as the only



Anthony Wayne, engraving of original painting by Alonzo Chappel of the brigadier general in the Continental Army. Indiana Historical Society Library.

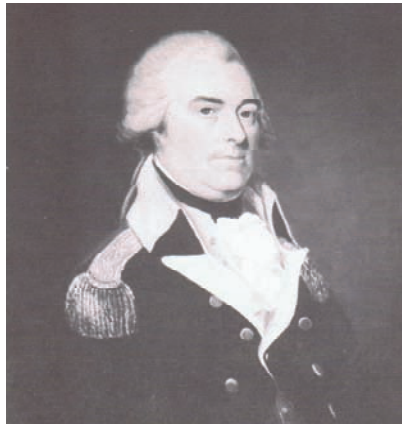
folks wanted to honor an under-appreciated Revolutionary War hero, or perhaps to acknowledge Anthony Wayne's pivotal role in securing stability and safety for the frontier and Northwest Territory. It is even possible that a combination of these factors allows modern Waynesboro to be a constant reminder of an honorable American.



A FAMILIAR LANDMARK to visitors from the south and west was this archway. This was located near the intersection of US 340 and 250. If you stand on the Burger King-Drumheller's Exxon-Wayne Amoco-Ray's Texaco corner and look east, this arch would have been right in front of you. A similar arch was erected at the east entrance to Waynesboro somewhere near the present city limits. This arch was reportedly blown down in a storm about 1937 and never replaced. The columns were relocated to Coyner Springs Park and used to erect the pavilion.

badly decomposed after twelve years underground. When the General's coffin was opened everyone was surprised to discover that the remains were remarkably preserved, with only a leg and foot compromised. Isaac Wayne was not prepared for this, as his sully was not large enough to transport an entire body. Dr. Wallace determined to dismember the body, boil the flesh from the bones, and remove only the bones. The boiled flesh and medical instruments were then returned to the original grave. Once the grisly task was completed, the bones of Anthony Wayne were brought back to Radnor for burial.

Isaac Wayne later expressed regret at the way he was forced to deal with his father's remains. If the doctors he consulted had given him a more accurate idea of what to expect, he would have left the body in Erie and erected a fitting memorial over the grave. In 1811 the Pennsylvania State Society of the Cincinnati held a memorial to Wayne and erected an appropriate monument over the new gravesite.



Anthony Wayne, by Edward Savage, oil painting executed in 1795, after the general's triumphant return to the Philadelphia from his Indian campaign in the Northwest Territory. The New-York Historical Society, New York City.



Battle of Fallen Timbers, August 20, 1795. In this early illustration General Wayne is brandishing his sword as he leads his troops into action. *Indiana Historical Society Library.*

History does not record the events that led Teasville (or Teesville) to be renamed Waynesborough. One could speculate about the large influx of Pennsylvanians who came into the region via the Valley Road. Perhaps these same folks wanted to honor a hero from their home state. One could also suppose that local

American Army general to be bayoneted to death. Still, Wayne requested a court-martial and was acquitted of negligence. The Battle of Germantown in October 1777 did not play out favorably either. While some blamed the collision between Wayne and Stephen for the failure of Washington's attack, when all the facts are examined, such criticism lacks validity.

In July of 1779, General Wayne's martial luck was turning for the better. He scored an impressive and brilliant victory at Stony Point. Wayne's planning and execution were top-drawer. The dawn of 1781 found Wayne dealing with yet another mutiny. Once again, Wayne's judgment averted disaster. Months after, in July, he found himself marching to support Lafayette. Ironically, Wayne's rashness at Green Spring, Virginia caused him to get into a position only his coolness and clarity of thought would extricate him from. This rashness earned Anthony Wayne the sobriquet "Mad." This was not a reflection of an unstable psyche, rather it was an outgrowth of a commanding officer who had the courage of his convictions. George Washington was an excellent judge of character who in describing Wayne's command style



Wayne Wounded at Stony Point. Personally leading his men in the night attack, Wayne carried the citadel with the bayonet and gave fresh inspiration to Washington's victory-starved army at one of the low periods of the war. A musket ball hit him in the forehead as he neared the top abatis. Blood gushed and the wound appeared fatal but he insisted that the men carry him into the British works so that if he died, he could die at the head of the column. (*Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*)

said: “the spark of daring might flame into rashness, but it was better to have such a leader and occasionally to cool him to caution than forever to be heating the valor of men who feared they would singe their plumes in battle.” The “Mad” moniker was an outgrowth of Wayne’s temper, intensity, and character. Soldiers through the ages have attached pet names to commanding officers, complimentary and unflattering.

After being detached for the Georgia Expedition, and negotiating treaties with the Cherokee and Creek Indians, Wayne left the army in November of 1783; a brevet major general. After a failed business venture in Georgia, Wayne returned to Pennsylvania in 1784-1785 to serve in the state legislature. In March of 1792, Wayne experienced an interesting turn of events. After being elected to Congress from Georgia, his seat was declared vacant due to election irregularities. Fate intervened, and that same month Wayne was appointed major general and commander



John Trumbull’s “Surrender of Lord Cornwallis,” oil on canvas, 1787-1794. Identifying individuals important in Wayne’s life: General Lincoln (center) accepts the surrender while Washington looks on; Wayne is sixth from the right among the mounted American officers; third to his left is Henry Knox, fifth is Timothy Pickering; fifth to his right is Baron von Steuben, sixth is Lafayette; among the standing American officers, second from the right is Walter Stewart and fourth from the right is Alexander Hamilton. Yale University Art Gallery.

Inset above: Detail from Trumbull’s painting. Reading from left to right: General Gist, General Anthony Wayne, General Hand. General Peter Muhlenberg, and Major General Henry Knox



in chief of the army. President Washington wrote to Wayne and made it clear that the army had to be put right, and the western Indian problem had to be dealt with decisively. This was due to a series of political and military missteps. Wayne’s previous two predecessors, along with Congress, left the army in shambles. Once again, Wayne proved to everyone that he understood soldiers and strategy. Wayne drilled the remaining troops relentlessly. When they were ready, the troops were moved to a staging area near present-day Cincinnati. Receiving orders to move north, Wayne had several engagements with hostile Indians culminating in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794. The Indians had selected an area of woods destroyed by a tornado. General Wayne played a shrewd tactical game and won the day as the enemy fled from “the sharp end of the guns.” By 1795, the Indian threat was over, and settlement accelerated into the Northwest Territory. This was a critical victory for the young country, and a fitting swan song for Anthony Wayne. On 15 December 1796, he died an excruciating death at the age of 51 as a result of severe gout while returning home from the occupation of Detroit.

However, a peaceful final rest for Wayne would turn truly bizarre. He was buried at Presque Isle, now Erie, Pennsylvania. Brass tacks were inserted into the top of his coffin showing his initials, age, and year of death. The tacks were the only adornment to the simple wooden coffin.

In the fall of 1808, Wayne’s daughter Margaretta, while seriously ill, suggested to her brother, Colonel Isaac Wayne, that their father’s remains should be re-interred in the family plot at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Radnor, Pennsylvania. The following spring, Isaac Wayne enlisted the assistance of Dr. J. C. Wallace and the two traveled to Erie by sulky, a small, light, two-wheeled buggy. The Colonel has been assured by leading medical men that his father’s body would be