Agnes L. Starrett, Director of the University of Pittsburgh Press, through whose general supervision this fine book has been added to our shelves. While our happiness should not depend on where we live, we certainly have a fuller life through a better knowledge of our own backyard.

_Pittsburgh_  

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This is a significant book. It is the first instance of a reproduction of any portion of the Anthony Wayne papers as found in the principal collection of his manuscripts in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Library in Philadelphia. This published body of sources from the Wayne collection discloses for the first time the connected story of the difficulties in raising an army in the United States in the late 18th century, its discipline and training, the problems of re-enlistment, supplies, desertion, and the like, together with the details of the military campaign against the Northwestern Indians, the peace settlement, and the juxtaposition of the Jay treaty with the whole western issue of that period. Incidentally, it also throws much light on the character of Anthony Wayne—at once a man of despair and of courage—truly an ambivalent character. The work likewise reveals the pertinacity of the private soldier after a year or more of severe discipline.

Although not stated by Mr. Knopf, the presumption must be that limited funds dictated his selection of papers for publication. He has confined the project to letters passing between Wayne and the successive secretaries of war, Knox, Pickering, and McHenry, 1792-1796. Whatever the reason, it was a wise decision. Everything of significance is detailed within these rather narrow limits. The letters of each of the four men, with the possible exception of McHenry, are filled with pertinent information. The work is then divided into five parts, corresponding with the years 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, and 1796, and each section is prefaced with a page or two summarizing its contents. There is no objection to such an arrange-
ment although there were other options. The book also contains the editor's introduction, in which he stresses the importance of Wayne's victory at Fallen Timbers and his negotiation of the treaty of Greene Ville, all of which cleared the way for the active settlement of the old Northwest.

But what of the details? A reviewer cannot even begin to enumerate them; but a few items are of more than passing interest. First of all, Wayne was appointed, pursuant to a new act of Congress, to create an army and to lead it against the northern Indians who had severely defeated Harmar in 1790 and St. Clair in 1791; their general attitude, aided and comforted by the British, continued hostile. However, before Wayne could move against them in 1793 he must await the outcome of overtures by a peace commission headed by Timothy Pickering. This was a trial for Wayne, whose patience was difficult to maintain. His army, when finally constituted, had descended the Ohio to Fort Washington, where, at a site he called Hobson's Choice, he awaited the conclusion of Pickering's venture. By the time he learned of the Indian refusal to treat, it was too late to take the field in 1793. Late in the year Wayne moved his forces to Fort Jefferson, and then, early in 1794, to Fort Greene Ville, where preparations were made for the final advance against the hostile tribes. Among Wayne's objectives was the establishment of Fort Recovery, on the site of St. Clair's defeat; and it was here that occurred the first bloody encounter with the Indians who were driven off when they attacked that post in force on June 30, 1794. From this point, Wayne's correspondence tells the story of his steady, careful march in pursuit of the Indians, until they were finally encountered at Fallen Timbers in the shadow of British-occupied Fort Miami, where they were defeated on August 20, 1794. This is not the whole story.

Another year was required to assemble the chiefs of the defeated tribes to subscribe to the treaty of Greene Ville, the importance of which is properly expressed in the correspondence. Subsequently, Wayne spent several months on furlough, and in August, 1796, he was in Detroit, where he accepted the surrender of that town and fort by the British. While in the progress of his return east late in 1796 to make his headquarters at Pittsburgh he became ill at Presque Isle and died December 15, 1796.

From time to time Wayne's feeling of disquietude as he was
confronted by a long succession of dilemmas and embarrassments was frankly confessed to his superiors. The reasons for his anxious suspense were many, and among them was the frequent defections of army contractors for furnishing supplies. Seasonal clothing, footwear, food, and medical supplies were invariably late and rarely in sufficient amount. The lack of postal facilities (mail service not having been established) between Philadelphia, Fort Washington, Fort Greene Ville, and other military posts also spelled a slow down of action. Weeks passed before Wayne’s reports reached the Secretary of War, and the latter’s instructions were similarly delayed. Moreover, frequent rumors of disaffection in Kentucky, and Wayne’s knowledge of the conspiratorial gestures of Wilkinson, his second in command, together with the latter’s constant demand for a court of inquiry relative to the commander’s conduct, did not serve the best interests of the army, or of the nation.

The constant pressure of governors of states to utilize the militia rather than regular army troops was another irritant. “In fact, everything has already been done for the protection of the frontiers that can be reasonably expected... and permit me once more to observe, that if an army of fifty thousand men, regular troops were strung along the N. W. side of Ohio, they would not be enough to quiet the minds of those people—unless you employ their Militia,” he thus wrote to Secretary Knox in 1792.

Anxiety respecting the British occupation of Detroit, their construction of a fort at the mouth of the Maumee, and their consistent circulation of propaganda among the Indians is also part and parcel of Wayne’s complaint; “delicate and disagreeable situation” was an expression he often used.

The papers afford a view of the secretaries of war that is also unique. A reading of the letters of Henry Knox reveal him as almost illiterate, but when one finishes reading a long line of his letters a distinct impression of honesty, ability, and forbearance has been created. Pickering was a man of quite different stamp. His letters are generally lengthy, and composed in the finest English, yet in the same spirit that motivated Knox. Wayne did not hold any particular respect for Secretary McHenry, whose letters were short and rather pontifical. He considered the Indian war in the Northwest as finished and began to strip Wayne’s army of some of his best troops for use in the southern states.
There are few categorical rules of editing: application of the principles of historical criticism to determine the authenticity of a manuscript and faithfulness in its accurate reproduction is, I should say, the most fundamental rule. In this regard, Mr. Knopf has succeeded well in executing a very difficult task.

Although Mr. Knopf does not tell us, the assumption is that documents he presents are based on literal transcriptions of the originals, some of which are apparently in poor condition, and from my own experience I realize how difficult is the work of transcription. A question, however, arises in two instances whether a correct reading has been made. On page 164, line five from the bottom, the word "war" is undoubtedly "way" in the original. And on page 286, line seventeen from the top, the word "is" was doubtless "if" in the original manuscript. An error of a different class is an inverted caption on page 427.

Another minor caveat is entered respecting annotations, which are to a large extent devoted to brief sketches of various characters which appear in the text. It is my belief that such information is useful only to genealogists. At any rate, notes of such a character, when used at all, should be few and relate only to really important individuals. On the other hand, references are plentiful in the body of the text to letters and other documents not printed and with no editorial advice as to the location of the papers or whether they now exist. For example, a series of four letters from Wayne to Secretary Knox are mentioned (p. 313), of which only two are printed; the others are not again mentioned. A second illustration, among many of the same character, is that of a letter from Secretary of War Knox to Wayne (p. 363) containing an allusion to the receipt of eight letters by Knox of which five are printed; the three unprinted papers evoke no footnote attention. There is scarcely a document in this book that does not embody a reference to the receipt of letters which are not printed and apparently not found. Short footnote references in such instances are needed.

The index seems sufficiently complete; but with the exception of two entries, Indians and Legion, there is no approach to a breakdown of subject matter. A highly commendable select bibliography is appended. A few maps appear among the illustrations, and there are also reproductions of portraits of a number of contemporaries, including Wayne.

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