

*With more roots than the stately oak, the  
Anderson family tree is as distinguished  
—except, of course, for one “Bloody Bill”*

## **Is Your Name Anderson?**

by ALVIN F. HARLOW

**T**HERE ARE TWO great sources of the name Anderson—Scottish and Scandinavian. The Scottish name is a condensation of Andrew's-son, the Scandinavian of something similar, the son of Anders. Both are derived from the Greek word Andreas, which means strong, manly or courageous.

In America today there are many Andersons high in achievement—some of them still spelling the name Andersen—who were born in Sweden, Norway or Denmark. And what oldster among us didn't read in his youth the fairy stories of that kindly old Dane, Hans Christian Andersen?

St. Andrew being the patron saint of Scotland, the Andersons are the ninth most common name

in that country. There were Andersons in England, too, but most of them probably drifted down from Scotland. Sir Edmund An-

derson, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Court in England in the latter 17th Century, was a son of an ancient Scottish family that settled in Lincolnshire—a harsh old bear of a judge who had the disagreeable distinction of presiding at the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Numerous Andersons, like other braw Scotsmen, moved over to Protestant North Ireland in the 16th and 17th centuries, and they or their descendants often came from there to the United States. Hugh J. Anderson, the fourteenth Governor of Maine, for example,



**Anderson**

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was the son of John Anderson, who emigrated from County Down to New England in 1789.

Somehow, an Anderson scion got into Wales, too, for one James Anderson emigrated from there to North Carolina before the Revolution. His great-grandson founded that noted newspaper, the *Atlanta Constitution*.

There is even an Anderson family name which is of German origin, strange as it may seem.

Joachim von Albade, son of a small German prince named Andreas or Andries, wandered from home in the 17th century, seeking his fortune. He went to London, then to Scotland, where he married a "Scottish lady of rank." Next, they drifted over to New York while it was still a Dutch colony, and in registering at the City Hall, Joachim identified himself according to old custom by writing his name Joachim Andriezon von Albade; that is, Joachim, the son of Andries. In the next generation or so, some of his posterity decided to shorten and de-Germanize the name, so they dropped the von Albade, and the Andriezon became Anderson.

Descendants of this immigrant spread to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, some even to the wilderness of Ten-

nessee. Joseph Anderson (1757-1837) of this stock, married a young lady of fifteen (nothing uncommon in those days) with the startling name of Only Patience Outlaw, and after fighting through the Revolution, became an attorney. Later he was one of the first senators from the new State of Tennessee and Comptroller of the Treasury for twenty-one years.

It is curious how many of the Andersons, coming from a northern climate, chose our southern states for their new homes. Captain George Anderson came from Berwick-on-Tweed in 1761 and settled near Savannah. John, crossing the sea from Aberdeen in 1770 or thereabouts, located first in Virginia and then shifted to Pennsylvania. William, migrating from Antrim in Ulster about 1740, reversed John's process, stopping first in Pennsylvania and then going to Spartanburg, South Carolina. Still other Andersons went to North Carolina, and a large family developed in Maryland.

PERHAPS our most notable family of Andersons was that sprung from two Richards, the father aged fifty and the son aged seventeen, who landed at Jamestown, Virginia in 1635. They came from England, though they were of

Scotch origin with a dash of Welsh blood. Richard the second's great-grandson—Robert of Goldmine, they called him, because he lived on Goldmine Creek in Virginia—was noted for having the loudest voice in the colony. He could talk to a neighbor or a servant a mile away, and never complained of the lack of a telephone.

This Robert had a son named Richard Clough Anderson (1750-1826) who, returning a colonel from the Continental army—traipsed off to Kentucky and married Elizabeth Clark, sister of General George Rogers Clark and William Clark, the explorer. There he prospered and grew in wealth as the city of Louisville grew in population. He built a two-masted sailing vessel and shipped via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the Gulf of Mexico, the first cargo of produce to go directly from Kentucky to Europe. The old man wore knee breeches to his dying day—though they had long since gone out of style—and often played the fiddle at dances which he and his wife gave at their handsome mansion, "Soldier's Retreat," just outside of Louisville. He had some notable sons. One, Richard Clough, Jr., served in Congress, was minister to Colombia, negotiated the first treaty ever made

by the United States with a South American country, and was the first American delegate to the Panama Congress in 1826. Death cut short his brilliant career at thirty-eight, and Kentucky named a new county in his honor.

The second son, Larz Anderson, married a daughter of Nicholas Longworth, head of a great Cincinnati family and himself became one of Cincinnati's notable men, as a wealthy attorney and philanthropist. His son Nicholas fought in the Civil War, and his grandson, Larz the Second, was minister to Belgium and Ambassador to Japan. The third son of Richard Clough, Robert, was in command at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in April, 1861, when it was bombarded and finally captured by the newly rebellious South Carolinians.

THE ANDERSONS seem to have been a fighting stock. The army rosters of all our wars are studded thickly with their names. Martin Brewer Anderson, the first President of the University of Rochester, was the son of another Martin who fought in the War of 1812, and the grandson of Jacob, who fought in the Revolution.

They were particularly distinguished on the Southern side in

the Civil War, many serving as Generals. General Richard H. Anderson was one of General Lee's great corps commanders through the Virginia campaigns. In the Battle of Antietam, there were three Generals Anderson on the Confederate side.

The first American wood engraver was an Anderson, Alexander of New York, who lived almost a century—from 1775 to 1870. Our Scandinavian Andersons in America are mostly notable for their work in the sciences. Among those of Celtic or Anglo-

Saxon blood who fleck the pages of *Who's Who*, men of law and medicine, educators, clergymen, journalists and bankers are most noticeable—though they are still in the Army and Navy, too. In authorship, there are at least three famous names today, Maxwell Frederick Irving, and the late Sherwood Anderson.

A highly useful family, the Andersons and—with the single regrettable exception of one Bloody Bill Anderson, Missouri guerrilla of Civil War days—a reasonably law-abiding one.

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