

Freedom's View

A Commentary on Government from Atop the Capitol

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BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS

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WASHINGTON, DC ~ National Security Advisor, Michael T. Flynn, has so far denied my requests to regain access to my e-mail account. According to Press Secretary Sean Spicer, Gen. Flynn told the President: "As far as the national security establishment is concerned, there is no greater threat to the nation than Freedom, which is under constant surveillance for any evidence of attempts to subvert the Homeland."

Until my access to it was similarly removed, I was a fan of the PBS series, "Finding Your Roots." Each week the show's host, Louis Henry Gates, Jr., takes famous people through their genealogies. Revelations abounded.

The show has taught me a couple of things: (1) that we often, share many of the characteristics and even life-agendas of people on our family tree, and; (2) that we often express our heritage in ways our ancestors could never have imagined.

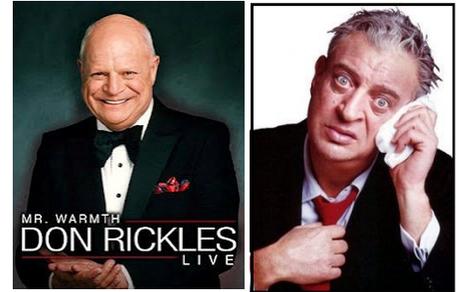
My research suggests that those statements apply well to our 45th President. Former TV host, Donald John Trump, comes from a lineage of famous and beloved characters in the entertainment industry. Chief among them are Don Rickles, Rodney Dangerfield, and Peter Pan.

Like Trump, Rickles is a native New Yorker. Now 90, he grew up the son of Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants from whom he likely learned all about the "chutzpah" which has informed his work as an insult comedian for more than 60 years.

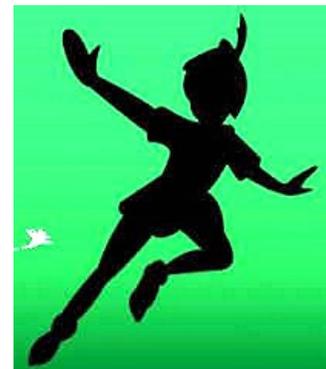
Jacob Cohen (d. 2004), a.k.a. Rodney Dangerfield, was the son of Jewish immigrants, growing up in Queens, New York. His largely absent father, a vaudeville comedian who worked under the pseudonym "Phil Roy," didn't get no respect from Rodney until much later in his life when, after repeatedly begging for his forgiveness, eventually received it from his far more famous son.

J. M. Barrie, being a native of Scotland, understandably never saw fit to emigrate to this country. In 1902 at the age of 42, he fathered his only child, Peter Pan, who ran away from the Barrie household as a young child. Early in the 20th century, Pan took up residence in New York's Neverland District near 8th Avenue and West 45th Street, where he lives to this day. A consummate actor who is widely rumored to have difficulty accepting conventional versions of reality, Mr. Pan's most recent performance was in a 2015 Royal Shakespeare Theater Company production in London.

(Continued next column)



ABOVE: l. Don Rickles as "Mr. Warmth" r. Rodney Dangerfield delivers his famous tagline: "I don't get no respect!"



ABOVE: Silhouette of Peter Pan with his jealously-protective fairy and best friend Tinker Bell: on whom the character, KellyAnne Conway, is based.

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In truth, Mr. Trump is not an exception to either aspect of the above-mentioned rule of genealogical thumb. He proves its truth on a daily basis by: insulting nearly everyone, claiming he gets no respect, and refusing to grow up. If only he were funny.

~ Armed Freedom

## WISDOM FROM OUR FOREFATHERS . . . AND FOREMOTHERS

*Birthday Boys Lincoln and Washington lead off with wisdom for our own day*

### From Abraham Lincoln

1809 - 1865

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

"I desire to so conduct the affairs of the administration that if, at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall have at least one friend left – and that friend shall be down inside me."

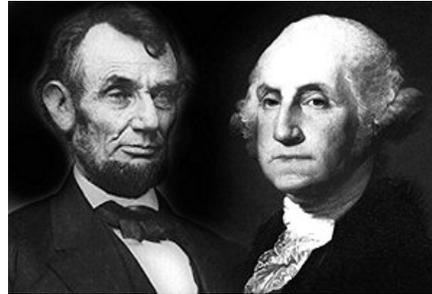
"My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth."

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

"The people -- the people -- are the rightful masters of both congresses, and courts -- not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert it."

"I have endured a great deal of ridicule without much malice; and have received a great deal of kindness, not quite free from ridicule. I am used to it."

"The trouble with quotes on the internet is that it's difficult to determine whether or not they are genuine." *(Inexplicably, some researchers do not credit this immensely useful quote to Lincoln.)*



### From George Washington

1732 - 1799

"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

"Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience."

"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God."

"Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

"Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness."

"One of the many major problems with governing people is that of whom you get to do it; or rather of who manages to get people to let them do it to them. To summarize: it is a well-known fact that those people who most want to rule people are, *ipso facto*, those least suited to do it. To summarize the summary: anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job." *(Sometimes erroneously attributed to the late Douglas Adams in his novel, The Restaurant at the End of the Universe.)*

## Three Foremothers

*(Yes, that's confusing.)*

### Harriet Beecher Stowe

1811 - 1896

*Abolitionist and Author*

"The past, the present and the future are really one: they are today."

"The obstinacy of cleverness and reason is nothing compared to the obstinacy of folly and inanity."

### Sojourner Truth

*(Born Isabella Baumfree)*

1797 - 1883

*Abolitionist and Suffragist*

"Religion without humanity is very poor human stuff."

"If women want any rights more than they's got, why don't they just take them, and not be talking about it."

### Ida B. Wells

1862 - 1931

*African American Journalist: focused on the wide-spread lynching of African Americans*

"The people must know before they can act; and there is no educator to compare with the press."