A Forgotten Hero of the Revolution

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

AFTER more than a century of neglect of his unmarked grave, tardy honors have at last been paid to a forgotten hero of the American Revolution, whose services were of inestimable value to the cause of liberty, a man who was one of George Washington's closest personal friends and to whose lot it fell to close the dying eyes of the Father of His Country.

This man was Dr. James Craik, chief physician and surgeon of the Continental army. After Doctor Craik's death in 1814, he was buried in the churchyard of the old Presbyterian meeting house in Alexandria, Va. With the passage of years the old burying ground was neglected; weeds covered it and finally all trace of Doctor Craik's grave was lost. Several years ago a movement was started to locate the grave of this patriot and erect a suitable marker. This was done and a small brass tablet was provided by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Through an error, however, this tablet was placed in the wrong spot.

But last year the project was taken up by the Presbyterian Meeting House Restoration committee of Alexandria, and as a result an imposing granite monument, paid for by his descendants, was recently unveiled over Doctor Craik's grave.

Doctor Craik had had a distinguished career even before he became chief medical officer for the patriot army in the Revolution. What that career was is shown by the following sketch of his life, provided by the restoration committee:

Upon the organization of the Virginia Provisional regiment in 1754, Craik was appointed surgeon. The command was at the same time tendered to Maj. George Washington who modestly declined but accepted the lieutenant colonelcy, the command going to Col. Joshua Fry. The regiment was not brought together until, upon the death of Fry at Wills Creek, Washington succeeded to the leadership and the headquarters joined him at Fort Necessity. Here was begun that lifelong intimacy between Washington and Craik, so much treasured by both.

Craik, as medical officer of his regiment, was present at the battle of Great Meadows in 1754 and rendered surgical aid to the wounded in that action. His service extended also over the period of the ill-fated expedition of Braddock toward Fort Duquesne, and he participated in the battle of the Monongahela, where he dressed the wounds of the comander of the British forces and many others of the injured upon that bloody field. Here he witnessed the singular impunity which attended his youthful chief as he performed his duties first as aide and later as commander of the disheartened remnants of the British troops.

When, then, on August 14, 1755, some six weeks after the operations on the Monongahela, Washington was appointed to the command of the Virginia provincial army and assigned to the duty of protecting the Virginia and Maryland frontier from the French and Indians, Doctor Craik still remained as his chief medical officer. The operations thus begun continued for more than three years, during which all the hardships and privations of the hardy frontier troops were shared by the young surgeon, whose service ceased only upon the disbandment of the little army after the capture of Fort Pitt on November 25, 1758.

Upon his retirement from the Virginia provincial service, Craik purchased an extensive plantation at Port Tobacco, in Charles county, Maryland, and erected upon it a spacious mansion which was described by his grandson, Daniel Jenifer, in 1849 as even then one of the "largest, most comfortable and agreeable residences in the country." Here on the 13th of November, 1760, he brought his young bride, nee Marianne Ewell of Belle Air, in Prince William county, Va., and here he passed in active medical practice the years which elapsed until he again followed his friend at his country's call. During this time the Craiks and the Washingtons never relinquished their intimacy, and the interchange of visits between Port Tobacco and Mount Vernon were the source of the sincerest pleasure to both.

When the occurrences arose which culminated in the War for Independence, Doctor Craik was an active patriot. As early as 1774, he was conspicuous in a meeting of the citizens of his county at Port Tobacco, at which were adopted a series of resolutions in which the people pledged themselves that if the act of parliament to blockade the port of Boston was not promptly repealed the inhabitants of the county would join with the several counties of Maryland and the principal colonies of America to break off all commercial communication with Great Britain and the West Indies. Craik was a member of the committee of correspondence selected to carry out these resolutions.

So valuable to the cause was the presence of Craik in Maryland and so deeply were planted the rootlets of his social and professional relations that Washington hesitated a considerable time after assuming command of the American forces to ask his old friend to again place his medico-military experience at the disposal of his country. But in April, 1777, in a most cordial letter he tendered to him his choice between the positions of "senior physician and surgeon of the hospital with pay of $4 and six rations per day and forage for one horse" and "assistant director general, with pay of $3 and six rations per day and two horses and traveling expenses found" in the middle department.

The latter position the doctor accepted and soon entered upon his duties. On the arrival of Count Rochambeau and his forces Craik was ordered to join them at Newport, R. I., and to organize their hospital department, a task which he accomplished with the most complete success.

On the reorganization of the medical department, October 6, 1780, Doctor Craik was appointed the senior of the four "chief hospital physicians and surgeons," being the third officer in rank in the Medical corps, and upon the resignation of Director General Shippen and the promotion of Dr. John Cochran, "chief physician and surgeon of the army," he was advanced to the second place under the latter title. This position he held until mustered out at the end of the war, in 1783, after personally participating in many of its most important events, including the capitulation at Yorktown.

At the close of the war, he returned to his home at Port Tobacco, but shortly after, at the earnest solicitation of his late chief, he removed to Alexandria, near Mount Vernon, where he continued in agreeable association with the Washingtons until his death. In 1798, when war with France seemed inevitable and Washington was again summoned to lead the army, he made the appointment of Craik at the head of the medical department one of the conditions of his own acceptance of the command, remarking, "I have already been applied to by a gentleman to recommend him for director of the hospital, which I have refused, as well on general grounds as because I should prefer my old friend, Doctor Craik, who, from forty years' experience, is better qualified than a dozen of them together."

Craik was accordingly commissioned physician general of the army, July 19, 1798, with the pay and emoluments of lieutenant colonel, but without rank. With the proverbial negligence of military legislation, the act organizing the provincial army provided only for regimental surgeons and surgeon's mates. Fortunately, however, James McHenry, the secretary of war, had himself served as a medical officer during the Revolution and in him Craik found a strong support in developing a properly organized "medical establishment," an act for the materialization of which was passed by congress, March 2, 1799.

The determined attitude of the United States, her prompt resort to arms and the reappearance of her illustrious soldier at the head of the army, however, was sufficient to repress the warlike ardor of France, and, peace speedily prevailing between the two nations, the army was disbanded, Physician General Craik's services officially terminating on June 15, 1800.

Long before the latter date, however, he had returned to his beautiful Virginia home, where in December, 1799, it fell to his lot to close with his own hand the dying eyes of his faithful and famous friend, General Washington.

Of that solemn hour, Craik himself wrote: "I, who was bred amid scenes of human calamity, who had so often witnessed death in its direst and most awful forms, believed that its terrors were too familiar to my eye to shake my fortitude; but when I saw this great man die it seemed as if the bonds of my nature were rent asunder, and that the pillar of my country's happiness had fallen to the ground."

Washington's own testimony to the relations between them was witnessed by the clause of his will which specified that: "To my compatriot in arms, and old and intimite friend, Doctor Craik, I give my bureau (or as the cabinet makers call it, tambour secretary) and the circular chair, an appendage of my study."

Doctor Craik survived this event 15 years, the latter portion of the time in honored retirement, being remembered by his grandson at this period as "a stout, hale, cheery old man, perfectly erect, fond of company and of children and amusing himself with light work in the garden." He remained vigorous to the last and passed away February 6, 1814, at the age of sixty-four.

NEARBY AND YONDER

By T. T. Maxey

Central Park

CENTRAL PARK, in the very heart of New York City, is Manhattan's chief and most-spacious breathing space, and the most valuable parked area in the United States.

About two and one-half miles long (north by south) and approximately one-half mile wide, it comprises about 840 acres of which one-half are wooded, and 286 in lakes and reservoirs. It has nine miles of drives, 30 miles of walks and seats for about 10,000 visitors. The present-day value of the land is almost incomputable. It has numerous gates which have admitted as many as 200,000 persons on a single afternoon.

There is a mall or spacious, shaded promenade, lined with statues, where travelers from many climes have shown themselves, but for the most part it presents a rugged, pastoral and refreshingly natural effect—some 40,000 shrubs, 10,000 trees and 50,000 smaller perennials having been recently added. Although the park is looked upon from all sides by great hotels, clubs, apartment buildings and homes of the wealthy, it has sections into which one can disappear and imagine himself amidst a far-away forest wilderness.

Outstanding among its many attractions are two reservoirs, the largest covering 96 acres and holding a billion gallons of water, a natural cave, several charming lakes, a menagerie, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an obelisk — Cleopatra's Needle — which was erected at Heliopolis, Egypt, about 1500 B. C., and which long stood before the Temple of the Sun, and several hundred cherry trees, presented to the City of New York by the government of Japan.

• • •

Wholesale Housekeeping Awheel

KEEPING house on wheels and in a wholesale manner is a peculiar business, yet one company in America makes a special business of it. It owns and operates several thousand of what might be called hotels, but are known as sleeping cars. Each car accommodates about thirty persons and provides sleeping accommodations by night and sitting room by day. These cars are attached to through trains on important railroads in all parts of the country and save the public millions of hours of valuable time by enabling it to sleep while it travels.

The endless and tireless supervision and labor necessary to assure cleanliness—some 4,000 cleaners in some 375 yards are kept busy—the item of laundry alone totals approximately 250,000,000 pieces annually, and convenience, to say nothing about the proper distribution of these cars to meet the varying demands of the public in all parts of the country, is both a monumental and a costly job.

The immense quantities of supplies required astounds the unacquainted. Some 7,000,000 pieces of linen—including sheets enough, placed end to end, to span the Atlantic—are ordinarily carried in stock, half on cars and half in storerooms scattered all over the nation. In one year, 3,000,000 paper bags to protect women's hats from dust, 3,500,000 boxes of matches for smokers, 4,000,000 cakes and over 126,000 gallons of liquid soap and 84,000,000 paper drinking cups were among the supplies purchased.

Thirty-six million persons have taken advantage of the service provided in one year, during which time each car operated traveled an average of 154,000 miles.

• • •

Octagon House

THAT "The luxury and display of a past generation become the beauty and pride of the present" has come to pass in the case of Octagon house in the city of Washington, where once was held elaborate entertainments that were the talk of the town and today, by virtue of its simple charm and ancient origin, has become one of the prized and much-visited mansions in this nation.

Construction of this relic was started 130 years ago. It was the fine home of Colonel Tayloe, of Virginia, a prince of entertainers who possessed great wealth for his day, who resided here for many years, during which time diplomats, men distinguished in affairs of state, war and peace were welcome within its walls.

But Octagon had been marked by Fate to play another role. Along came the British in 1814 and burned the White House. Octagon became the temporary White House and home of President James and Mrs. Dolly Madison. In it the celebrated Treaty of Ghent, binding England and America in peace, was signed by President Madison and Mrs. Madison presided over gorgeous parties that set the tongues of the nation to wagging.

Subsequently, Octagon functioned as a home for a girl's school, housed a government department and became a tenement house. Finally it became and incidentally still is the official home of the American Institute of Architects. Realizing what a treasure it was, they set out to restore the venerable place in all its pristine loveliness, and their love for it seems destined to insure its preservation for generations to come.

(©, 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

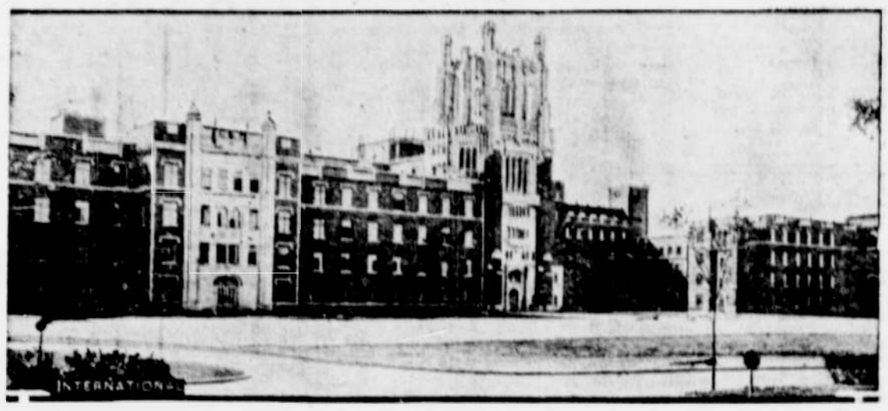
Old and New Combined

Inside the pedestal on which Cleopatra's needle stands are several jars containing British coins, a railway guide, a number of children's toys, copies of newspapers and a map of London.

Self Assertion

Most of the books designed to develop "personality" are probably sold to men who think you can correct a traffic jam by tooting your horn.—Newcastle Courier.

University of Iowa's New Medical Unit



This is the new medical unit of the University of Iowa, declared to be one of the finest in the world, which was dedicated recently. Scientists and educators of world repute were at the dedication. The hospitals and laboratory buildings have been erected on an 80-acre tract during the last five years at a cost of $4,500,000, half of which was donated by the Rockefeller foundation.

Tightens Rules for U. S. Envoys

Youthful Diplomats Find They Must Learn Foreign Customs.

Washington.—Young gentlemen with Harvard accents, who feel at home in a tail coat, spats and stove-pipe hats and who rushed hastily into the revamped career of foreign service of the government, are awaking to the sad fact that diplomatic life is not all pink tea and cocktails, to say nothing of beer and skittles.

They are actually being required to learn something about the manners, customs, politics and other things of the foreign lands to which they are assigned. Also, which is quite a change in policy, they are being required to stick at each post until they do so learn instead of skipping about from capital to capital.

Expected to Settle Down.

Inquiry at the State department develops that diplomatic secretaries are now expected to remain at a post abroad for periods up to four years at a stretch. Examination of the records of many of the present-day seniors in the service shows that they were shifted about four or five countries on opposite sides of the world in a similar period in the past.

Even more drastic, however, is the study being made of reports from all foreign service personnel in the field, consular or diplomatic. Where there is evidence that the official correspondence is based merely on reading newspapers casually at the post involved and then sending in lengthy clippings and a few general remarks on the political, economic or commercial matters involved, the reporter is promptly shown the error of his ways. The next mail will bring him a departmental injunction to do a little real research on his own hook if he expects to get a high-efficiency rating at home.

Candidates Are Surveyed.

By way of illustration of this change, the executive decree setting aside the Near East as a zone of foreign service specialization is worthy of note. It means that an incoming group of foreign service candidates is surveyed and hand picked for men of promise.

These selected youngsters are told that if they elect Near Eastern specialization they will be sent as vice-consuls to such a post for an 18-month probationary period. During that time, in addition to doing their routine work up to the handle, they must disclose the initiative and brains to do something in original research in their territory. No suggestions as to the subject are made. They must pick out the job themselves.

Having accomplished that, the youngster is given three years' intensive study in Near Eastern languages, being required to learn Turkish, Arabic and Persian, one of them very thoroughly and the other two well. Having proved by that time his serious purpose of having actual knowledge and understanding of the Near East, he will be kept on duty there at various posts thereafter as a key man in the foreign service system and a mark in efficiency at which others may shoot.

Card Mailed in 1883 Is Sent on Its Way

Berlin.—A new duration record for the transmission of mail is believed to have been established by the little Dutch frontier town of Roozendaal.

A workman, recently repairing a letter box there, discovered, firmly lodged in a dark corner of the interior, a postal card which had been mailed on December 31, 1883.

The card itself was addressed to a man in Steenbergen, Holland, and conveyed cordial New Year's wishes from the sender. Although its postage stamp had long since become obsolete, the postal authorities decided that the card should be delivered.

Milwaukee Boy Makes Dresses for Sisters

Milwaukee, Wis.—Years ago when Mrs. Margaret Huepper's five daughters were growing up she had visions that the day would come when they could help her with the sewing. But it was her youngest son, Jack, who turned out to be the family "seamstress."

Jack, now twenty-eight, makes all the dresses and coats for his mother, his two sisters who live at home, his three married sisters, and two nieces. Besides he makes curtains, lamp shades, pillows and fancy bags.

Dressmaker Jack also does some outside work and numbers among his customers a number of society women.

"I love the work," he says. "It's my pastime. Other people have their hobbies. This is mine."

It takes Jack nine hours to make ordinary dresses and 15 for evening gowns. He does his work at night, as he is a cost accountant in the daytime.

MUSSOLINI AS SAINT

Model of the projected modernistic monument to Mussolini, who is posed in a most saintly role—book in hand, and eyes gazing upward. The monument, which will be erected in Rome, is the work of the well-known Italian sculptor, Enrico Glicestein.

Guard $500,000 Gem Exhibited in Court

New York.—Guarded even more closely than the most dangerous criminals, a diamond was placed before the bar in Customs court in a suit to decide its right to free entry.

The stone, known in the Middle ages as the "Cyclopean Eye" of the god Siva in a temple at Nassak, India, weighs more than eighty and one-half carats and is valued as high as $500,000. It was carried to court in a special car and throughout the court proceedings was flanked by armed guards.

It was brought to this country in March, 1927, by Evon F. Bandler, New York agent for a firm of Parisian jewelers. It was granted free entry as an artistic antique, but American jewelry interests appealed from the Treasury department ruling. Decision was reserved.

Here's What a Man-Eating Shark Eats

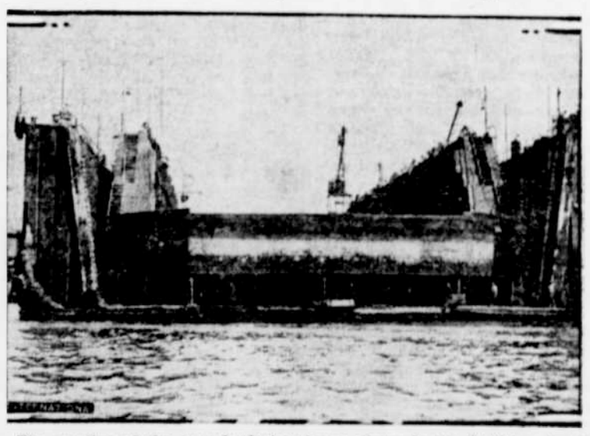
Miami, Fla.—Would you like to know what a man-eating shark really eats?

Here is a list of choice foods which a local taxidermist found in the interior of a six-foot leopard shark, caught by Leon Maxim, chief of the Hotel Everglades here.

One porcupine fish; two leather jack fish; six rabbit feet; six chicken legs and a sprinkling of feathers; two pigeons, banded on the leg, numbers "7" and "8"; six anchovies; a cowfish; a lizard fish; a saber fish; a toad fish and a variety of unidentified specimens.

Maxim got the big strike on board Capt. O. L. McNeil's "Flagwood" while cruising in the vicinity of Fowey Rock light.

Drydock in Drydock for Repairs



The smaller of the two drydocks shown above is the 6,500-ton drydock of the Atlantic works, East Boston, which was placed in the neighboring 10,000-ton drydock of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding company for repairs. Four tugs were used for an hour in jockeying the smaller dock into position.

Another "Tong" War

A policeman was walking his beat in a residential district when a badly battered house-to-house salesman rushed up to him.

"Say, officer," he panted, pointing to a red-headed iceman, who had just climbed on his wagon, "I want that man arrested. Just look what he did to me!"

Stalking majestically into the street, the policeman waved the ice-wagon to halt, and demanded of its driver, "Did you hit this man?"

"Oi did," was the shameless reply.

"What for?"

"Allenation ov affections," replied the iceman. "He sold Bridget Nolan's missus wan av thim electric ice-boxes."

Crocodile's Dinner-Call

In Njango, a village on the shores of Lake Victoria, Uganda, an African by the use of a peculiar call can summons an 11-foot crocodile from the depths of the lake and make it eat fish from his hand! On Saturdays and Sundays, when hundreds of natives arrive at the little village from the surrounding territory, the African exercises his peculiar power, making the crocodile eat scores of fish supplied by the admiring crowd.

This sale of fish is making the native a rich man, and so strange is the sight that motor buses are now making special runs to Njango.

Trust not him that seems a saint.

Snow and Cold

In moderate climates it seldom snows when temperatures are extremely low. High barometric pressure usually exists where it is very cold, and moist air is driven from high to low pressure areas.

The Way of Things

In time one can get used to anything; but he gets used to luxury a lot more quickly than he does to deprivation.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Concerning Finny Tribe

In connection with fish and fishing, two facts may not be generally known. One is that fish, unlike birds, beasts, and insects, have no means of communicating with one another; their utmost power of vocal sound is the emission of just a feeble noise as a result of injury, or when in danger of being swallowed up. The other is that though the profession of ensnaring fish is of the very humblest, yet a fisherman, Abu Ahujah al Bouyah, of the province of Delem in Persia, was the proud father of three sons—Imad, Rusken, and Moez—all of whom rose to sovereign power!

Thought for Today

We've all got to go to school, I expect, and we don't all get the same lesson to learn, but the one we do get is our'n, 'taint nobody else's, and if it's real hard, why, it shows the teacher thinks we're capable.—Rose Terry Cooke.

BOYS, 13 AND 14, PREACH FROM PULPIT REGULARLY

Unusual Oratorical Abilities Influence Two Youths to Take Up Religious Work.

Kansas City, Kan.—Two boys, with a combined age of twenty-seven years, already have taken up their life work of preaching the Gospel in the neighboring states of Missouri and Oklahoma.

The oldest is Jack Yancey, fourteen, who is assistant pastor of the Central Methodist church in Picher, mining town of the Oklahoma lead and zinc field. The other is Delbert Chostner, thirteen, of Dielstadt, Mo., an ordained preacher of the Missionary Baptist church.

Oratorical abilities displayed by Jack Yancey caused the regular minister, Rev. W. O. Bucy, to ask him to fill the pulpit occasionally and to help with the other church work.

Jack gladly consented, and since then he has spoken before large congregations.

Jack, who is a Boy Scout with five merit badges, plans to go to a theological seminary after he finishes high school. When he was graduated from the grade school he delivered the commencement address to his own class. He lives with his grandparents, his mother having died five years ago.

Delbert Chostner has preached from a number of pulpits in Missouri and Illinois.

He became interested in religion a year ago when Rev. C. W. Holmes, an evangelist, was conducting a meeting at Dielstadt, where Delbert lived with his grandfather. Delbert was ordained in October and has received invitations to preach in churches in New York and other distant cities.

It isn't hard to be poor; it's easy.

Roman Road Dug Up; Relic of First Century

Naples.—The ancient Roman road, built by the Emperor Domitian, and known as the "Via Domitiana," traces of which were found during recent land reclaiming operations near Literno, anciently known as Liternum, has been laid bare for a distance of 400 years near the village of Varcaturo.

The ancient road, built in the First century of our era, is in excellent state of preservation, and follows the usual system of large stones of circular and oblong shapes pressed into the ground.

The road in the section excavated measures between four and a half to five yards wide, and was constructed to allow the passage of two lines of traffic in opposite directions.

Blocks of Vesuvian stone run along the road at intervals of ten yards on either side. They are a couple of feet high and of triangular form. Traces of milestones also have been found along the road.