The astonishing Croghans will live forever in history and mystery. The first of the Croghan clan to come to North America was George Croghan of County Roscommon, Ireland. He was the most amazing of them all! He was thirty-one years old when he reached our shores in 1741. His services to our country began soon thereafter. The fact that his life was often in jeopardy in his dealings with the Indians, and that he also faced death when he was in battle against the French and Indians is well known. His health had to be rugged and his mind strong to endure the dangers, hardships, and unusual experiences which he survived. He had a God-given gift of persuasion which

Mrs. Bothwell, a frequent contributor to The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, writes again on a family of particular interest not only in the annals of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys but of eastern United States and the old Northwest.—Ed.

1 Miss Margaret Croghan of Pittsburgh, who is eighty-seven years old, stated several years ago that George Croghan must have been a native of County Roscommon, Ireland, for that is where the Croghans had their roots. She said that her father had been born there, and that "he was a first cousin of William Croghan whose daughter married Schenley." Extensive research, which was done at my request in Ireland by Michael J. Lucas, of Dublin, whom I have never met — and who would not accept remuneration for his services — indicated that Miss Croghan's information had substance. Mr. Lucas had to discontinue the research because of the inroads it was making upon his valuable time as senior member of the law firm of Michael J. Lucas & Son.


3 Colonial Records, Pennsylvania Archives, Bouquet Papers, and various other reliable sources, contain ample proof of the dangers to which he was often subjected.
worked like a charm for him in the missions entrusted to him. He was not without faults, and in that regard he was like all other mortals.

Monuments have been erected to men whose deeds in behalf of our nation were not half as valorous or as beneficial as the services which George Croghan rendered to it under the worst conditions known to man. He was no synthetic hero, but a hero by reason of his superb courage during numerous perilous missions and expeditions. He was truly a dauntless man. As with all men of all the ages, he served his own interests well at times.

Many persons who are as familiar as mortals can be with his life agree with the following appraisal of him by the noted historian, Albert T. Volwiler:

Insofar as any one man can influence history, Croghan had much to do with laying the foundations upon which George Rogers Clark, the American diplomats at Paris in 1783, and the authors of the Ordinance of 1787 built. George Croghan, Sir William Johnson, Benjamin and William Franklin, George Washington and others, in their great land operations, performed services for the small settler similar to those which after the Revolution were performed by the state and federal governments. Croghan and his associates dreamed of towns and cities and commonwealths teaming with people.

George Croghan was one of the most maligned men in American history. He was a zealous patriot, yet during the Revolutionary War he had the heartrending experience of being charged with treason. He was exonerated, but the damage to his reputation and to his financial status was irreparable. That outrageously unfair charge was made against him even though he was "Chairman of the Pittsburgh Committee of Correspondence" and had "helped" Virginia's "Governor Patrick Henry plan the defense of the frontier in 1777." Croghan's health had been seriously impaired, long prior to the charge of treason.

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4 Volwiler, *George Croghan and the Westward Movement* (1926), 334-335. Another historian, Nicholas Wainwright, *George Croghan, Wilderness Diplomat* (1959), 1, stated: "Croghan was recognized as the leading negotiator with the western tribes during the colonial period. No man led a more adventurous life in Colonial America. No man witnessed as many historic moments in the conquest of the old frontier."

5 Ibid., 303, "On Nov. 12, 1778, Croghan had his day in Court, cleared himself of treason, and then went to Lancaster. He would have liked to return to Pittsburgh to protect his real estate holdings which were overrun by squatters but it seemed unwise."

6 Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, X, 250, *et seq.*, published "An Alphabetical List of Persons Attainted of High Treason in Pursuance of the Treason Laws for the State of Pennsylvania." On p. 252 is the following: "Croghan, George, surrender'd & disch'd." The certification as to the correctness of the list was made "on the 28th day of Nov., A.D. 1783."

7 Ibid.
made against him, by his many years of faithful service to our country in its period of severest hardships.

It can be surmised that the suspicions frequently and venomously voiced against him caused the Continental Congress to appoint Colonel George Morgan as Indian agent in his stead in April 1776.  

His defamers had some "live" verbal ammunition to fire at him by reason of the fact that Augustine Prevost, the husband of his beloved daughter Susannah, was an officer fighting against the American forces in the Revolutionary War. If ever a man had ample cause for headaches and heartaches, George Croghan had!

There was no cessation of attacks upon his reputation by his detractors, and they even levelled their guns of animosity at some of his closest relatives.  

Through the years many persons have read that Croghan had an Indian daughter. One writer stated that he had two Indian daughters, but offered no proof to back up that printed statement. Is there irrefutable proof that Croghan had even one Indian daughter? Was the story that he had an Indian daughter possibly concocted and circulated to discredit him and ruin him completely?

Numbered among the men who damaged Croghan's reputation and his position in life, in the twilight years of that life, was George Washington. Land matters were the chief bone of contention between those two fearless, famous men named George. Their land feud was a fatal mistake on Croghan's part, for his power was waning swiftly at that time while Washington's was rapidly increasing.

In earlier years, Washington and Croghan sometimes worked in

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8 W. V. Byars, _B & M Gratz Papers, 1754-1798_ (Mo. 1916); p. 24 of "Editorial Summary of Papers and Events, 1754-1800" — "Of Croghan, it may be said from what is most characteristic in his life, that if Congress had continued him in its service, he would have been, first of all, true to every kinsman and friend of his past, Whig or Tory, white or red, but he would have risked life and all that remained of fortune in the service of Congress, as a matter of routine duty, as he had done for the King . . . the great pioneer has against his record in the Gratz papers and their related documents, no suggestion that he ever betrayed any confidence he had invited . . . ."

9 Croghan's half-brother, Edward Ward, Edward's wife, their son John, Major Thomas Smallman and a bound girl were evicted, on Nov. 26, 1779, from a house which Ward and Smallman owned and had established at "The Point" not long after Fort Duquesne became Fort Pitt. The eviction occurred when Col. Daniel Brodhead inflicted military rule upon the citizens of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Ward was ill at the time and John was suffering a broken leg which he had incurred while on a military expedition. _The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, XLIII_, 116-120. _Ibid.,_ 120-121. Edward Ward's son, John, was subjected, in 1781, to an undeserved court-martial and was acquitted.
unison for the good of the nation. One such occasion was on July 9, 1755, when Major General Edward Braddock, in his futile attempt to seize Fort Duquesne, suffered the fatal wounds which ended his life four days later. On that day, Croghan and Washington "helped to place Braddock on horseback and later into a wagon" and "their fire helped to keep back the enemy as they recrossed the Monongahela." 

Their private land feud intensified the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary dispute, and it was inevitable that George Croghan was counted out, so to speak, or, as he might have expressed it, that he found himself on the short end of the stick.

(See Appendix for an account of their feud regarding Chartiers Creek land which ultimately became a part of Washington County.)

Pennsylvania owes a debt of gratitude to him. No matter to what distant place he ventured, his base of operations was usually Pennsylvania. His remains lie in Philadelphia in an unmarked grave.

Periods of George Croghan's life are shrouded with a veil of mystery, and one period relates to his life with his wife. Some day that veil may fall into shreds, but much remains concealed behind it now. His wife's name, it seems, was Ann Heron, and America's first William Croghan is said to have been their son. Dr. Samuel W. Thomas is responsible for that important information coming to light. A genealogy which he received from Mrs. U. M. Leavett-Shenley, in early 1964, contained that data. He wrote regarding it:

William Croghan appears in the records in connection with George Croghan 1755. He married Ann Heron. Major William Croghan, son of the above 1752-1822. Born in Virginia . . . . It was prepared by Mary Jessup Stitgraves of Boston many years ago . . . . The records are supposed to be documented rather than family tradition.

10 Volwiler, fn. 98.
11 Ibid.
12 Wainwright, 310 — "His gardener brought the corpse to town, and it was interred in St. Peter's churchyard . . . A marker with an inscription was set at Croghan's grave, but before long it yielded to the elements."
13 Dr. S. W. Thomas is Research Director, Locust Grove Restoration, Louisville, Kentucky, which is sponsored by Historic Homes Foundation.
14 Dr. S. W. Thomas informed me, in a letter dated Jan. 30, 1964, that "Mrs. Leavett-Shenley is the granddaughter of Mary Croghan Shenley. She says Shenley put the 'c' in the name." Dr. Thomas stated, in a letter dated Aug. 10, 1964, that he had "heard a short time ago that Mrs. Leavett-Shenley had died."
15 Dr. S. W. Thomas's letter to me, dated March 5, 1964, contained that significant information.

Author's comment: Now, as to Mary Jesup Sitgreaves (or Stitgraves), Mrs. Alberta McLean, a granddaughter of Mrs. Mary Croghan Shenley, stated, in a letter dated May 29, 1949, to Mr. Charles Shetler, that "Miss Sitgreaves mother was at school with Grand Mama, they were cousins and
There is in existence a letter that makes it appear that William's father was a Nicholas Croghan of Dublin, but if Nicholas actually existed all trace of him seems to have been lost.\(^{16}\)

The question naturally arises, if William was actually George's son, why was the world permitted to think of him as George's nephew? George may have thought that his son's way through life would be smoother if the world believed William to be his nephew rather than his son. George may have decided to save William from the type of character assassination he had suffered. Again, the two, father and son, may have had irreconcilable differences, and they may have been willing for the world to be kept in ignorance of their true relationship. A very elderly resident of Washington County, a former squire, stated, several years ago, that it had been a legend in that County that William was George's son.

William was a man who, in his youth, may have been difficult to control. George is said to have had William come from Dublin to America in 1768, when William was about sixteen years of age, and to have maintained him in Philadelphia "at the Indian Queen Tavern."\(^{17}\) William, at a later date, resided in the area that became part of Washington County.

William was portrayed in an unfavorable light by James Innis of Washington, Pennsylvania, in his last will and testament.\(^{18}\) In an "Item" in that will, Innis wrote:

> Whereas a William Croghan whom I, in the year 1774, rescued from Beggary, Drunkenness, Contempt & want, took under my protection & patronage, & in the year 1776 procur'd a Captaincy in the eighth Virginia Regiment, & a Com-

Mary Croghan (who later became Mrs. Schenley) apparently lived a great deal with this aunt."

It would seem, from the relationship described by Mrs. McLean, that the genealogy is accurate. A mimeographed copy of Mrs. McLean's letter to Mr. Shetler is in the archives of the Penna. Div. of Carnegie Library, in the Oakland section of Pgh. It was brought to my attention by Mrs. Julia Cunningham, head of the Penna. Div., and I am indebted to her for acquainting me with it. The letter was written to Mr. Shetler when he was assembling data for his article, "James O'Hara's Landholdings in Allegheny County," \textit{WPHM}, XXXIV, 22-33, inc.

\(^{16}\text{See Explanatory Note to "William Croghan, Jr., and Three of His Letters," WPHM, XLVII, 269.}\)

\(^{17}\text{Wainwright, 260.}\)

\(^{18}\text{W.B. 1, 129, \textit{et seq.}, Washington Co., Pa., records. The will was signed on Jan. 14, 1791, and was probated on April 8, 1791. Testator's signature to the will is spelled \textit{Innis}, but his surname was spelled \textit{Innes} by his executors, Alexander Addison and Mathew Ritchie, in a notice in the \textit{Pittsburgh Gazette} of Aug. 16, 1794, relating to his estate. He was referred to in that notice as "Major James Innes." He was the same James Innes who was one of the executors of the last will and testament of George Croghan who died on Aug. 31, 1782.}\)
pany, & who if anything is solely indebted to me for it, has by every fraudulent
Artifice, Base, insidious practice . . . obtain'd from me a Bond with judgment
without any settlement, which has been enter'd up against me tho on a fair
statement of Accts between us . . . . there is at this time truely a Ballance
due from the sd Croghan to me of £ 44 18 8 . . . .

He made a more bitter denunciation of William in the next few lines,
and directed that legal means should be employed to compel William
to meet the financial obligations that he claimed were due him.

The will was actually executed by James Innis seventeen years
after he had "rescued" William from the conditions he described in his
will. William was certainly not one of the mourners when Innis died.

It is a paradoxical thing that William Croghan who, in 1774, had
been "rescued" by James Innis "from Beggary . . . . & want," allegedly
paid to George Croghan two years later a consideration of "seven
hundred and two pounds twelve shillings lawful money of great
britain" for over six thousand acres of land "lying and being on the
eastern side of Raccoon Creek." 19

There are two unusual things about that deed: one is that it re-
mained unrecorded for six years after its execution, i.e., until February
27, 1782, which was just about six months before George Croghan's
death, and that the deed had eight witnesses. 20 The deed raises some
questions, and one is: What were the circumstances under which the
deed was executed? Probably there is no answer to be found anywhere
to that question. Perhaps George, believing that he might lose out in
the land controversy, took this means to try to insure that William

19 The deed from Geo. Croghan to Wm. Croghan was dated Feb. 20, 1776,
and conveyed 6,424 acres of land. It was recorded on Feb. 27, 1782, in Wash-
ington Co., Pa., in D.B. 1-A, 3, et seq. The deed was executed nearly two
months before Wm. Croghan became Captain of the Eighth Virginia
regiment.

20 The names of the witnesses as they appeared on the deed were: Wm Dennis
Woodford, Presley Nevill, Robt. Porterfield, John Nevill, Wm Dennis
Kelly, Michl Sellers, A. Waggener and Chas. Pelham. They were all
probably comrades in arms of Wm. Croghan. At least three of them were
taken prisoners, as was Croghan, on May 12, 1780, at Charleston, S.C.
Those three were: Wm. Woodford, Presley Neville and Robt. Porterfield.
Wm. Croghan was much concerned about some deed or other early in
1779, but whether it was the deed mentioned in fn. 19 is not known. He
wrote under date of March 1, 1779, to Barnard Gratz: "A few days after
my arrival here, Col. Neville set out for Pittsburgh. He promised me he
would call to see Col. Croghan and be a witness to the deed I lodged in
Mr. Levy's hands." Wm. Croghan, in a letter dated "Camp Middle Brook,
March 26, 1779" to Barnard Gratz, expressed concern over the deed he
had mentioned in his aforesaid letter of March 1, 1779. He asked: "Did
Colonel Neville or any other person witness my deed?" Wm. Vincent
Byars, B & M Gratz Papers, 1754-1798 (Mo., 1916), 175-176, and it is
stated by that author that the letters are part of the Etting mss. Historical
Society of Pennsylvania.
would have the 6,424 acres of land that he conveyed to him, for William, who shortly thereafter, was to become a captain in the Eighth Virginia Regiment, would then be in a good position to have his deed recognized by the authorities.

William Croghan carved a niche for himself in history, whatever his virtues or vices. He served in the Revolutionary War, not with great distinction, but he served, and every man who braves the hell of shot and shell in war deserves to be thought of as somewhat of a hero. He was a captain in the Virginia line soon after the outbreak of the war. In 1778, he was promoted to the rank of major. "He took part in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth and was captured at Charleston on May 12, 1780 . . . . Although released on parole, his exchange was not brought about and he took no further part in the war."[23]

William's stay at Charleston as a prisoner-of-war must have been made more pleasant for him because Major Augustine Prevost of the British forces was there, and, assuming that William was George's son, Prevost was William's brother-in-law.

William was still a prisoner on parole when he wrote to Colonel William Davies from "Fort Pitt, July 6th 1782":

. . . . I suppose I need not inform you I was taken at Charlestown, the 12th of May, '80, and unhappy to find I am not yet exchanged. I have been the first Major for exchange for upwards of a year. I wish much to join the army, and request for your assistance in getting me exchanged . . . .[25]

21 Heitman's Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During The War of the Revolution, April, 1775, to December, 1783 (1914) — Croghan, William (Va.) Captain 8th Virginia 9th April 1776.
22 Ibid. Major, 8th Va., 16th May 1778.
23 The quotation is in fn. 1, 589, to Wm. Croghan's letter dated "Fort Pitt, August 18th, 1781" to Col. Davies, in Illinois State Historical Collections, VIII, 588-589, Virginia Series III, George Rogers Clark Papers 1771-1781 (1912), edited with introduction and notes by James Alton James.
24 Major Wm. Croghan stated, in a letter to Michael Gratz, dated "Charleston, S.C., June 12, 1780.", "I before informed you, this day month, we were under the necessity of surrendering the town to the British army . . . . I am on parole at Haddrell's Point, with the other Continental officers who were taken prisoners . . . . I came here a few days ago to see Major Prevost, who has set out for Savannah to see Mrs. Prevost, who is to remain here with him . . . ." Gratz Papers, 200. There is a notation beneath the letter "From the Original," Documentary History of the American Revolution (D. Appleton and Company, 1857).
25 B. J. Lossing, ed., The American Historical Record (1872), I, 176-177. Dr. Lossing, in fn. 2, 176, stated, regarding that letter: "This is copied from the original draught of Major Croghan's letter to Colonel William Davies, 'Commissioner at War,' Richmond, Virginia. Major Croghan was a son of the distinguished frontiersman, Colonel George Croghan." The sentence italicized here was not italicized by Mr. Lossing.
William Croghan then described, in detail, the capture of Colonel William Crawford by the Delaware Indians, the tortures to which the Colonel was subjected prior to being burned at the stake, his agony during the burning, the removal of Crawford's scalp and the placing of it on the face of Dr. Knight who had been compelled to witness Crawford's tortures. He also wrote about the distribution of some of Crawford's bones, about Dr. Knight's escape, and he concluded his letter by referring to the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary dispute.

William Croghan was an intelligent, resourceful man, and he had quite an influence upon his times and the persons with whom he came in contact. After his marriage to Lucy Clark, a sister of the famous hero, George Rogers Clark, he and Clark "were named as principal surveyors of the public lands which had been set aside for the men who served in the Virginia state line." William fathered, through his marriage to Lucy, a large and interesting family. His important role in the history of Kentucky and his impact upon his times will be left to others to add to that which historians have already told.

Another Croghan who commanded considerable attention was Major William Croghan's eldest son, John Croghan, a physician. Even though he was born near Louisville, "he entered the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania in 1810 and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1813. His essay subject was "Diabetes." He

26 James Alton James' George Rogers Clark (1928), 299-300.
27 The children mentioned in his last will and testament, which was dated Aug. 27, 1822, and was probated on May 12, 1823, in Jefferson Co., Ky., were John, George, William, Nicholas, Charles, Ann C., and Eliza C. Another son, whose name was not in the will, and whose given name has appeared in print as "Edmund" and as "Edward," probably preceded his father to eternity. By the terms of this will, Major William Croghan's lovely Locust Grove home "including four hundred acres" together with the "furniture and all the articles belonging to the house and farm" were, on the death of the Major's wife, Lucy, to "devolve and belong to" his son William. He bequeathed a fabulous amount of acreage to the children named in the will.
Margaret Bridwell in her article, "A Houseful of History," which was published in the Louisville Courier Journal of Nov. 9, 1958, listed the children of William Croghan and his wife Lucy as being John, George, William, Charles (lived 10 mos. only), Ann, Elizabeth, Charles and Nicholas.

28 One person who will add to our knowledge regarding Major Wm. Croghan is Jared C. Lobdell, who edited "The Revolutionary War Journal of Sergeant Thomas McCarty," which was published in Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, LXXXII (Jan., 1964), 26-46. The journal was, initially, believed to have been a journal of Major Wm. Croghan. According to a footnote to the McCarty Journal as published, Mr. Lobdell was then "engaged in editing the journal and letters of Major William Croghan."

29 The information regarding Dr. Croghan's education at the University of Pennsylvania was supplied recently by Joan Lynn Weiner, administrative assistant to Leonidas Dodson, Archivist at the University.
was, for some years, the owner of Kentucky's world famous Mammoth Cave.\textsuperscript{10}

Another of the Major's sons was George — America's second George Croghan. He can never be denied a place in history, for he is known universally as the hero of Sandusky because of his victory in August 1813, in the War of 1812, when he was twenty-one years old. Six Pittsburgers, members of the famed "Pittsburgh Blues," were with him on that eventful day.\textsuperscript{31} His heroism would have delighted America's first George Croghan if he had been on earth to learn of it.

A fascinating sidelight to that intriguing military action is this: Sir George Prevost,\textsuperscript{12} who was then the civil and military head of the

\textsuperscript{10} B & M Gratz Papers (Mo., 1916), 23, "The family of Major William Croghan, as successors of the sons of Michael Gratz in the ownership of Mammoth Cave, are still interested in it by virtue of the chain of causes beginning when Major Croghan writes to the Gratz brothers from Charleston." Chapter VIII of the book relates, in part, to "The Mammoth Cave And The West." Lewis Collins, Kentucky, Its History, Antiquities and Biography (Cincinnati, 1848) gives an excellent description of the cave. A Guide to the Bluegrass State — American Guide Series (revised ed., 1954), 309, et seq., acquaints one with data pertaining to Mammoth Cave. It reported, on p. 310, that "The fame of Mammoth Cave early spread to Europe where a young physician of Louisville, Dr. John Croghan, was travelling. In 1839, when he returned to America, he purchased the property and ten years later it passed to his heirs, the sons and daughters of Col. George Croghan and Gen. T. S. Jesup." On p. 312 one reads about "The Consumptive Cabins" and the "tragic delusion of medical science during the 1840's" when "some doctors believed that conditions within the cave were favorable to recovery from 'consumption,' as pulmonary tuberculosis was then called." On p. 446, mention is made of "one of the earliest oil wells drilled in the United States, accidentally discovered by Dr. John Croghan on March 12, 1829, while drilling for salt water near the bank of the Cumberland river."

Miss Prudence B. Trimble, Editor of WPHM, very kindly brought to my attention the first installment of a recent, vivid and delightful article, "George Brewer's Moving Panoramas of the Mammoth Cave and Other Natural Wonders of America," by Joseph Earl Arrington, which was published in The Filson Club History Quarterly, XXXIX, No. 1, Jan., 1965. Mr. Arrington's article sheds light upon Dr. Croghan's Mammoth Cave activities.

\textsuperscript{31} Geo. H. Thurston, Allegheny County's Hundred Years (Pgh., 1888), 41 — "The 'Blues' were also a part of the force of two hundred men, who, under Major George Croghan, made such a brilliant defence of Fort Stephenson . . . Major Croghan had but one cannon in the fort, a six-pounder . . . This only cannon was given in charge of Sergeant Weaver and his six men to handle. When, late in the evening of the 2d of August, 1813, "the British storming column attacked the fort, Sergeant Weaver and his six Pittsburgers opened the masked port hole at which they stood around their six-pounder, and the piece was discharged at the assailants, then only thirty feet distant . . . the scaling column fled in dismay."

\textsuperscript{32} Lossing, ed. (1873), II, 461, fn. 3 — "Sir George Prevost . . . was born in the City of New York, in May, 1767. He was created a Baronet and a Major-General in 1805, Lieutenant-General in 1811, and had served with distinction in military and civil offices before succeeding Sir James Craig as Chief Commander in Canada."
British in Canada, and who made an official report\textsuperscript{33} to the Earl of Bathhurst of young George Croghan's victory, must certainly have been a son of Augustine Prevost and of Susannah Croghan, the daughter of America's first George Croghan. If that is so, and it seems to be, we have George Croghan, the hero of Sandusky, a grandson — if the genealogy mentioned earlier is correct — of America's first heroic George Croghan, fighting against the British, while Sir George Prevost, another of the grandsons of the first George Croghan, was upholding the British cause. Time and researchers will prove whether or not America's second George Croghan was a grandson of America's first George Croghan.

The last page in the chapter of life of the hero of Sandusky was written on January 8, 1849. The death of Col. Croghan was the heading of a \textit{Pittsburgh Gazette} item twelve days after the hero's death.\textsuperscript{34} The \textit{Gazette} reprinted from the \textit{Picayune} of New Orleans, of January 9, 1849, the story of his death as follows:

This distinguished officer died last evening from the effects of a disease resembling cholera . . . . He was attacked on Saturday, but paid no heed to his complaint till towards noon on Monday. He lingered till nightfall . . . .

The \textit{Gazette} then reported the startling news that Colonel George Croghan and his brother, Dr. John Croghan, had died on the same day, and it told the story in this way:

Col. George Croghan was a brother of Col. Croghan of Croghansville, in this vicinity, who we understand also mourns the death of another brother who died on the same day at Louisville . . . . two brothers falling in one day hundreds of miles apart.

The \textit{Gazette} also quoted from the \textit{Philadelphia Sun}'s coverage of the death of Colonel George Croghan, and the \textit{Sun}'s item\textsuperscript{35} ended with these words: "He left a large family and nothing else than a brilliant reputation."

There were other sons of Major William Croghan, but they, with one exception, will not be discussed here.

\textsuperscript{33} \textit{Ibid.}, 460-462. The letter was written from "Headquarters, St. David's, Niagara Frontier" on August 25, 1813, to the Earl of Bathhurst, and was signed "George Prevost." Lossing stated: "Sir George Prevost was then the civil and military head of the British in Canada."

\textsuperscript{34} \textit{Pittsburgh Gazette}, Jan. 20, 1849.

\textsuperscript{35} The \textit{Philadelphia Sun} further reported that George Croghan "was at Monterey, and exhibited the most daring courage . . . . The administration, however, which had so much admiration for Gen. Pillow, had no honors for Croghan, and he was not brevetted. According to Fayette Robinson's \textit{History of the Army}, he was born in 1792. He was considered one of the best soldiers in the army, his place will be filled with difficulty." (Some other sources give the year of Croghan's birth as 1791.)
The one whose life will be touched upon was William, Jr., intelligent, well-educated, tall, handsome and debonair, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, who became a Pittsburgher, a member of the Pittsburgh Bar and who aided Pittsburgh's growth very materially.

Pittsburgh held a great fascination for William, and perhaps it was because of the vital role his illustrious grandfather, George Croghan, had played in making Pittsburgh a safe dwelling place for settlers. Perhaps he chose it because his grandfather had chosen it for a home when it was a vast wilderness and there was not a house there but the one he built. It was probably also dear to his heart because it had been dear to the heart of Mary Carson O'Hara, the beautiful Pittsburgh girl who became his wife. The name "Croghan," despite the efforts of some public figures of earlier years to discredit it, still carried great prestige with it when William settled in Pittsburgh. Some of the older residents had often heard of the daring deeds and achievements of "Old Colonel Croghan," and people of all ages had heard of the heroism of young George Croghan in the War of 1812.

The esteem in which young George was held by Pittsburghers was expressed at a gathering of the Erin Benevolent Society in Pittsburgh on March 17, 1823, when A. S. T. Mountain, an eminent Pittsburgh lawyer, raised his glass in a toast "To Colonel Croghan — the hero of Sandusky — the son of an Irishman." William Croghan was present and must have been pleased with the recognition thus given to his

36 It is a well known fact that George Croghan had trading houses in the mid and late 1740's in areas that subsequently became part of Allegheny County.

37 *Pittsburgh Gazette*, March 21, 1823. Some of the others present at that March Seventeenth celebration were John H. Hopkins, president of the Society, Henry Baldwin, Harmar Denny, Hugh MacShane and Richard Biddle.
famous brother. William offered a toast to which the others drank heartily:

Our country — May her liberal and enlightened institutions ever afford protection to the exile who seeks refuge from tyranny and oppression.

Another toast that must have made the rafters ring was one offered by Dr. George H. Stevenson —

The memory of Generals Thompson, Hand and Irvine, three jolly Irishmen, who led the Pennsylvanians to victory during the War of the Revolution.

William Croghan was not a resident of Pittsburgh at that time, but he became one a few years later. He had married, less than two months before that gala celebration, Mary Carson O’Hara, of Pittsburgh, whose father, James O’Hara, had died before their marriage. Death took Mary from William when they had been married less than five years. Their first daughter had preceded her in death, and their only son, William III, remained on earth only a few months after his mother left it. Their remaining daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was the light of her father’s life. He built, as a home for the two of them, his famous home, Pic Nic,\textsuperscript{38} which was completed in 1831. It was in Crohansville, and was not far from the home of the William B. Fosters, parents of Stephen Collins Foster.\textsuperscript{39} Stephen was then about

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{38} The construction of Pic Nic was begun in 1830. It was first occupied in 1831. An addition to it was begun in 1846 and was completed in 1848. It was destroyed by fire on March 3, 1950. Title had passed from the Schenley heirs some years before that time. A caretaker of Pic Nic was quoted, in an interview years ago, as saying that the original part of the house was built in 1817. This information was obtained from the files of the Penna. Div. of Carnegie Library in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. Pic Nic, when it was built, was located in Crohansville, an area which lost its identity and that name many years ago.
A lady who cherishes her memories of a visit to Pic Nic is Mrs. Charles Siebert Steinmeyer (nee Margaret Ward Ellis), a descendant of Artemas Ward, the first Commander-in-Chief of the American Revolution. She is a member of the Pittsburgh Committee of the Philadelphia Society of The Colonial Dames of America. She says that the Pittsburgh Committee, years ago, wanted to purchase Pic Nic because of its historic significance and because it would have made an ideal meeting place, but for good and sufficient reasons the purchase could not be made. One meeting of the Pittsburgh Committee was held there, she said, and some of the ladies who were hopeful that the house could be purchased “had gone into the mansion and scrubbed and cleaned it.” She says, “The house was perfectly beautiful.”

\textsuperscript{39} Evelyn Foster Monneweck, Chronicles of Stephen Collins Foster’s Family (Pgh., 1944), I, 10 — “The White Cottage where Stephen Collins Foster was born on July 4, 1826, was built on a beautiful knoll on the farm which his father purchased from Alexander Hill on April 5, 1814. This farm of one hundred and twenty-one acres was a tract of land originally known as ‘Good Liquor,’ and was entered at the Patent Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 1, 1769, on special application No. 20, by
five years old, and Mary Elizabeth Croghan was just four years old.

Stephen's nineteen-year-old sister Charlotte was visiting in Louisville in 1828, and in a letter to her mother, dated August 12, 1828, she wrote:40

I must tell you Mrs. Pearce who has been so polite to me is a full cousin of Mr. W. Croghan now in Pittsburgh. She inquires very particularly for all the O'Hara and Denny clan. If it could be in any way accomplished, I should like Mr. Croghan to receive some polite attention from Pa on account of the attention I have received from his relations here. Ann Eliza says in her last he has been confirmed, and I was greatly surprised.

The next day, Charlotte wrote to her brother William:

... I should have written sooner ... but have been in the Country more than a week past at Mrs. Pearce's. She is a rich widow who lives on a large farm. Mrs. Pearce has a daughter just sixteen years of age who would suit your taste, she has jet black eyes, is very pretty and plays on the Piano delightfully and the Harp a little and is rich to boot ... 41

Charlotte Foster's time on earth was getting very short when she wrote that letter. She died in Louisville a little more than a year later.42

Years later, in 1839, William Croghan probably read with pride an article in a Pittsburgh newspaper in which the editor told of having seen, during a ride he had taken in the vicinity of Lawrenceville, "Major Croghan's and a number of other beautiful country seats in that area." 43

About three years later, in February 1842, William's daughter, to his surprise and sorrow, became the third wife of Captain Edward W. H. Schenley, when she was less than fifteen years old, and Schenley was older than her father.44 William then, one might say, lost his identity, for people began to think of him and speak of him only as Mary Schenley's father. Even his lovely mansion, Pic Nic, to which

Colonel George Croghan, who was a famous Indian trader and Indian agent of the Crown at Fort Pitt."

Note: Order No. 20 applied not only to that land, but embraced much, much more acreage — one part of which was named "Good Intent."

40 Ibid., 58-59.
41 Ibid., 59.
42 Charlotte Susanna Foster was the second child of her parents, the William B. Fosters. She was born on Dec. 14, 1809, and died on Oct. 20, 1829, in Louisville at the home of one of her father's relatives, George W. Barclay. Her remains were interred in the Bullitt Graveyard until Sept. 11, 1852, when they were brought from Kentucky to Pittsburgh and interred in Allegheny Cemetery.
43 Harris' Intelligencer, May 25, 1839.
44 WPHM, XLVII, 263-264, "William Croghan, Jr., and Three of His Letters." See also WPHM, XLVII, 366-367.
he had built an addition in 1848, came to be known, after his death, as the Schenley mansion.  

The cards of fate had been stacked, in a sense, against William and his daughter in that practically throughout the years during her childhood and girlhood they were unable to live alone together. Within a short time after the death and burial of William's lovely young wife, in October 1827, in Louisville, he brought his young son and daughter to Pittsburgh — a place in which he wished to reside and in which his deceased wife's mother and sister lived. Within a few months after their arrival in Pittsburgh, death claimed his four-year-old son.

Mary Elizabeth was only six months old when her mother died, and she lived, at certain times in her young life, in the home of Harmar Denny whose wife was her mother's sister. She and the Denny children got along well together. She probably also resided at times in the home of her maternal grandmother, Mrs. James O'Hara, in Pittsburgh, and certainly, at some other times, in the home of her father's mother in Louisville, Kentucky. Even after her father built Pic Nic as a home for her and himself, someone had to be there to care for her and to keep the house in order. She and her father probably had no occasion to become real pals, as father and child should, because every word they spoke to each other was generally uttered, perforce, in the presence of others. As she grew older, and because her cousins were attending a select boarding school close to New York City, William placed her in that school which was operated by "Mrs. Inglis or MacLeod." It was there that she met Captain Schenley, "brother-in-law to Mrs. MacLeod." Mary Elizabeth was probably anxious for a home of her own, and that may have been the real reason that she, when she was nearing fifteen years of age, responded so readily to Captain Schenley's blandishments and offer of marriage. Her father, in placing her in that exclusive school, undoubtedly thought he was plac-

45 R. E. McGowin's map, 1852, of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny and of certain boroughs adjacent to those cities.

46 An entry in an account book of the Trustees of the Estate of James O'Hara which was given by Harmar Denny, Esq., who has recently finished a term as President of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, to the Society, relates to an amount paid to "Mrs. Ingliss or MacLeod on acct. of board, education, &c. of M. Carson O'Hara." The latter was a cousin of Mary Elizabeth Croghan. The first entry in the book was dated Dec. 21, 1819, and the last entry was made in 1846. One of the interesting items bears the date "May 31, 1826, for wind mill for Mr. Croghan a/c M.C.C.

47 George Croghan II, in a letter dated "Mammoth Cave 16th Feb. 1842" to his cousin, Col. John O'Fallon, expressed indignation and anger at the marriage of Mary Elizabeth Croghan to "Mr. Schenley a man of fifty-six and brother-in-law to Mrs. McLeod." He referred to the school as "Brighton School."
MARY O’HARA CROGHAN

Courtesy of Mrs. J. M. Schoonmaker, Jr.
WILLIAM CROGHAN, JR.

Courtesy of Mrs. J. M. Schoonmaker, Jr.
ing her beyond the reach of any and all suitors until she should reach a proper age for marriage. A home of one's own is usually the secret desire of most children who have grown up a goodly part of the time in homes of other people. Those other people may be gentle and kind, but in a home other than a child's own home, a child is likely to feel unwanted and to crave a home that is his or her own home. William Croghan, as fathers generally have to do, had to devote himself to business pursuits, and inasmuch as his wife was dead he had to play the dual role of father and mother to his beloved daughter. He may have had difficulty getting dependable domestic help, and that may have been the reason he decided to have Mary Elizabeth become a resident student in Mrs. MacLeod's school.

Immediately after Mary Elizabeth's marriage to Captain Schenley — and her father had not known that it was to take place — the Captain took her overseas to reside. The breach with her father was later healed, and she and her husband and their children gave him, when he was with them, the priceless gift of happiness, as well as happy memories to cherish when he was away from them.

William Croghan, in a quiet, unobtrusive way, did some beneficial things for Pittsburgh. For one thing he helped it to have a much-needed hospital in the area in which he resided. He and his daughter and her husband donated eleven acres and twelve perches of land\(^\text{48}\) to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital in September 1848, and William's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harmar Denny and Elizabeth F. (O'Hara) Denny, donated, close to that date, slightly in excess of thirteen acres\(^\text{49}\) to that same hospital. It was on that slightly more than

\(^{48}\) The deed was dated Sept. 11, 1848, and was recorded in D.B. 84, 427, Allegheny Co., Pa. It was from "William Croghan of the City of Pittsburgh in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward W. H. Schenley of the City of London and the Kingdom of Great Britain and Mary Elizabeth his wife — formerly Mary Elizabeth Croghan" to Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

\(^{49}\) There were two deeds from "Harmar Denny and Elizabeth F., his wife: (formerly Elizabeth F. O'Hara)." The first deed was dated Sept. 9, 1847, and was recorded in D.B. 78, 314, Allegheny Co., Pa. It was for slightly in excess of eleven acres. That deed was voided by one from the same grantors to the same grantee, dated Jan. 23, 1849, and recorded in D.B. 84, 429. The second deed conveyed slightly in excess of thirteen acres. The recitation in the second deed, as to the reason for its execution, was to the effect that the grantors were "influenced by the belief that it would promote the convenience and advantages of the said hospital to exchange" the piece of ground conveyed by the first deed "for one somewhat nearer to the city and adjoining the grant given as a donation to the hospital by William Croghan and Edward W. H. Schenley and Mary Elizabeth, his wife." The property was part of the "Springfield Farm." The farm that became known as "Springfield Farm" after it had been patented to James
twenty-four acres that the first Western Pennsylvania Hospital was erected. A commemorative tablet of the hospital paid tribute to more than twenty persons with this inscription: THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL COMMENORATES BY THIS TABLET THE BENEVOLENCE OF THOSE PERSONS WHO BY ESPECIALLY LIBERAL DONATIONS HAVE SO GREATLY AIDED IN THE WORK OF ADMINISTERING RELIEF TO THE SICK AND HELPLESS.

The name Harmar Denny was the first one in the first column of names and the name William Croghan was the second name in that column. The third name was Mrs. Anna R. Aspinwall, and among the other names inscribed on the tablet were the names of William Larimer Jones and Andrew W. Mellon.

Shortly before his death on September 22, 1850, William Croghan was plagued with litigation instituted by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company against him and his daughter and her husband involving land in which he, William, had an interest for life and in which the Schenleys had an interest. William Croghan and the Schenleys were unable to agree with the railroad company as to "the compensation

O'Hara on Feb. 21, 1811, had initially borne the name "The Officer" and it had been the property of Thomas Smallman who was related to George Croghan. It had been surveyed for Smallman on June 24, 1762.

50 The first hospital was bounded on one side by Smith Street, according to R. E. McGowin's Map of the City of Pgh., published in 1852. Smith Street became Thirtieth Street. There is a sketch of the hospital on that map. Another street adjacent to the hospital was Morton Street which became Twenty-eighth Street. The exact description of the boundary lines is, of course, in the deeds mentioned herein. A booklet of the hospital "Commemorative Tablets, The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pa.," which was published in 1914, stated, on p. 7, "The first full year of operation, after its establishment and erection, was completed by the hospital in 1853, and during that year 172 patients were treated, of whom 109 were free."

51 Ibid., 14. The Harmar Denny mentioned in that booklet and on the commemorative tablet was the one who died in January 1852, at fifty-eight years of age. He had outlived his brother-in-law, Wm. Croghan, Jr., by less than two years.

52 An entry in the Minute Book of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny Co., Pa., is, in part, as follows: "Thursday, July 10, 1850, Cause No. 62, October Term, 1850, The Pennsylvania Railroad Company vs. Edward W. H. Schenley and Mary E. Schenley, his wife." Another action reported in said Minute Book is: "No. 63, October Term, 1850, The Pennsylvania Railroad Company vs. Wm Croghan, Esq., E. W. H. Schenley and Mary E. Schenley, his wife." Plaintiff's petition was filed on July 18, 1850. It was stated, in Cause No. 63, that the route surveyed "crosses and passes over in the Ninth Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, the following described piece or parcel of land — Beginning at the southwest corner of Liberty and Morton Streets as laid out in the plan of the city of Pittsburgh and as altered by the Court of Quarter Sessions of Allegheny County and recorded in the office of said court, thence westwardly along the southern line of said Liberty street . . . ."
proper for damage likely to be done or sustained” to the property which the railroad intended "entering upon and using." Pennsylvania’s first George Croghan came to Pittsburgh when there were no roads of any kind — and when he and Indians and others had to hack their way through almost impassable forests, but his grandson, William, Jr., went to his death knowing that the railroads were coming to Pittsburgh although he did not live to see a railroad enter or leave Pittsburgh.

When death removed William from life’s scenes a Pittsburgh newspaper described him as “one of our most esteemed and wealthy citizens and his death, unless he has otherwise willed, will greatly increase the already princely estate of his daughter and only child, Mrs. Schenley.” The records of Allegheny County prove that his estate was that of a man who was considered wealthy by the standards of his times. Even though he journeyed on more than a century ago, he lives touchingly today in the penned notes of one of his servants, John C. Cox, who wrote, for example, that to know him “was to love and respect him” as “he was more like a kind and Indulgent Parent to his Servants than a master . . . . it was his delight to have his servants feel that his Hospitable Mansion was their home . . . his manner was such that he drew you to him . . . .” and he told how William Croghan found joy in taking as many as fifteen or twenty poor boys at numerous times on sleigh rides. He wrote of his last illness and that there were "no near relations" at his bedside, and of his "last words to his particular friend, Mr. James Ross," being, "Ah, Ross, this is the last of me." William Croghan, on such occasions as the sleigh rides mentioned by Mr. Cox, probably thought of the joy his own dead boy would have

53 Ibid.
54 Ibid.
55 The Morning Chronicle (Pgh.), of Sept. 24, 1850.
56 Account Book No. 9, 121 (Register of Wills Office, Allegheny Co., Pa.), “Account of Charles B. Scully, Admr. of the Estate of Wm. Croghan, deceased.” This account was exhibited into the Register’s office at Pittsburgh on Sept. 5, 1856, and was “Confirmed Nisi — By the Court.” The final account was filed on Dec. 3, 1857, Acct. Bk., No. 9, 494. It was “Confirmed Nisi — By the Court, March 22, 1858.”
57 The notes of Mr. John C. Cox did not come to my attention until the printer had this manuscript set up in galley proof form, and it was due to the kindness of Mr. John W. Harpster, archivist at The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, that these notes were brought to the attention of Miss Prudence B. Trimble, the editor and librarian of the Society, and she very thoughtfully acquainted me with them. I am grateful to them for bringing these highly valuable notes to my attention. Mr. Cox’s notes reveal a hitherto unknown fact, and that is that William Croghan had “his beautifull House” torn down “to make room for the Large Mansion which he commenced but did not live to see the roof put on.”
found in such pastimes if he could have lived to enjoy them. William Croghan, in his less than fifty-seven years on earth, had done what he could to make life's road easier for many people.

His mortal remains were laid to rest in a lot owned by Harmar Denny in Pittsburgh's picturesque Allegheny Cemetery, but his daughter, Mrs. Mary Schenley, later purchased a lot and had his remains and those of her four-year-old brother removed to it. Rising high in the lot in which his remains now repose, is an imposing monument with the inscription:

IN MEMORY OF

WILLIAM CROGHAN
BROTHER OF COLONEL GEORGE CROGHAN
THE HERO OF THE DEFENSE
OF FORT STEPHENSON
A NEAR RELATIVE
OF GEN. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK
AND OF MAJOR GEORGE CROGHAN
THE WELL KNOWN BRITISH INDIAN AGENT

THE FIRST SETTLER
ON THE LANDS IN SIGHT ON WHICH ALSO
THE SUBJECT OF THESE NOTES RESIDED
GREATLY BELOVED AND DIED REGRETTED
SEPTEMBER 22, A.D. 1850

The inscription is historically important, for it is undeniable proof that George Croghan, the valiant Irishman who risked his life many times for America, was, indeed, related to the Croghans of Kentucky, a re-

58 Lot 99, Sec. 2, Allegheny Cemetery, Pgh., Pa. The transfer of the bodies was made over a hundred years ago in Dec. 1853. Mrs. William Pow, of the Cemetery's staff, very kindly supplied helpful information, and a portion of it is as follows: "No. 1516 — Date of interment: 9-24-1850. Date of death: 9-22-50. Colonel William Croghan, born in Louisville, Kentucky, died in Collins township, aged 55 years, 8 months, 22 days. Originally interred in Sec. K, Lot 6. 12-0-53 was removed to Sec. 2, Lot 99.” Edward A. Clements graciously and gratuitously supplied some prints of the monument.
I relationship which some of them have denied. Mrs. Mary Schenley, William's daughter, certainly authorized that inscription, and it proves that she was proud of her ancestral background. She was, in the wording of that inscription, probably honoring wishes that her father may have expressed, for he proved, by building Pic Nic where he built it, that he had pride in America's first George Croghan, and that Pittsburgh was as dear to his heart as it had once been to the heart of that famous and intrepid pioneer.

The astonishing Croghans will live forever in the annals of America!

59 PMHB, 46, 307. The "References Notes" relating to Volwiler's George Croghan and the Westward Movement, read: "Byars, Wm. V., B & M Gratz .... Col. George Croghan, son of William Croghan, and hero of the War of 1812, is often confused with the elder George Croghan. Some of the Kentucky Croghans recognize a relationship to the elder Croghan while others deny it." The inscription on the monument of William Croghan, Jr., lays to rest forever the myth that America's first George Croghan, one of the most heroic men of all times, was not related to the Kentucky Croghans.
Appendix

The land feud between George Washington and George Croghan regarding land known as Chartiers Creek land, and as Miller's Run land, in what is now Washington County,¹ is still discussed by many residents of that county and adjacent ones. The controversy certainly had a decisive effect on the boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Virginia. No one can say, with certainty, when the feud started.

Washington probably had the desirability of that land in mind when he visited Fort Pitt and Logstown in October 1770, and dined, on the eighteenth of that month, "in the Fort with Colo. Croghan and the officers of the Garrison."²

Washington wrote in his journal, three days later, that after having had breakfast at Logstown, he and his companions "parted with Colo. Croghan."³ He added that "All the land between this creek" (Raccoon Creek) "and the Monongahela and for 15 Miles back, is claimed by Colo. Croghan under a purchase from the Indians (and which Sale he says is confirmed by his Majesty). On this Creek .... there is, according to Colo. Croghan's acct. a body of fine Rich level land; this tract he wants to sell .... the unsettled State of this country renders my purchase dangerous."⁴ This is proof that Washington found it inexpedient to purchase land in that area in 1770.

Along about 1772, Samuel McBride and his brothers, James and Isaac, came from Ireland to America and settled on Miller's Run⁵ despite the risks they ran of being attacked by Indians. They improved their land.⁶ Sometime after they had settled on the land, there were rumors that George Washington owned it, but "Col. George Croghan .... told them that Washington had no right there and advised them to remain."⁷

¹ Day's Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania (1843) — "Washington county was the first established by the Legislature after the declaration of independence. It was taken from Westmoreland by the act of 28th March, 1781."
³ Ibid., 412.
⁴ Ibid., 413.
⁵ Commemorative Biographical Record of Washington County, Pa. (Chicago, 1893), 863.
⁶ Fitzpatrick, ed., II, 294-297, carry the notations made by Washington on Sept. 20, 1784, regarding the settlers, the lands they occupied and the improvements they had made. The men whose names appeared were Samuel McBride, James McBride, Thomas Biggart, William Stewart, Matthew Hillast, Brice McGeechen, David Reed, John Reed, William Hillas, John Glen, James Scott, and Matthew Johnson.
⁷ Commemorative Record, 863.
Late in December 1773, William Crawford, Washington's agent, inspected the area in which the McBrides and some other persons resided, and reported to Washington:

Some people, ten or twelve in number, have gone on your Chartiers land within these few days, and there is no getting them off except by force of arms. They are encouraged by Major Ward, brother to Colonel Croghan, who claims the land and says he has a grant of it from the Crown.8

Crawford also informed Washington in said letter that, as to the men on the land, he could "drive them away, but they will come back immediately as soon as my back is turned," and that a man he had "put on the land, they have driven off, and built a house so close to his that he cannot get in at the door." 9

Now here we have the strange situation of Crawford, in December 1773, referring to the lands as Washington's, yet Washington's claim, when asserted in court eleven years later, apparently hinged on an alleged patent from Lord Dunmore dated July 5, 1775.10 If Washington's title was not obtained until July 5, 1775, Croghan was speaking truthfully when he told the McBrides three years earlier, in 1772, that "Washington had no right there."

The language used by Crawford in a letter to Washington, dated January 10, 1774,11 conveys misgivings as to Washington's right to the land, for he stated in part:

Doctor Connolly says that Lord Dunmore told him that Croghan's grant was good, which is much disputed here. I should be very glad to hear in what light his grant stands amongst the gentlemen of Virginia . . . . Should the colony of Virginia take place on the west of Pennsylvania, I think you might get a patent for your land on Miller's run, and that would put an end to any further dispute.

If Washington owned the land, why would Crawford have suggested that he get a patent for it and why did he obtain one for it on July 5, 1775?

In 1777, John and David Reed settled on the Chartiers land.

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8 C. W. Butterfield, Washington and Crawford Letters from 1767 to 1781 Concerning Western Lands (Cincinnati, 1877) — Letter No. 20, 37, dated "Spring Garden, December 29, 1773."
9 Ibid.
10 Alfred Creigh, History of Washington County (1870), 100-101 — "Gen. Washington's Land. From our county records we learn the history of this land. A patent was issued July 5, 1775, by John, Earl of Dunmore . . . . to George Washington for two thousand eight hundred and thirteen acres of land, in Augusta County, in the State of Virginia, on the waters of Miller's Run . . . . General Washington came to visit these lands (which were, when patented, in Augusta County, Virginia) and brought ejectments for their recovery . . . ."
11 Butterfield, Letter No. 21, 40-41.
Their reasons for so doing were given in a biographical sketch of the family:

Col. Crogan offered John and David very flattering inducements to come from Lancaster county and settle in what is now Mt. Pleasant township, Washington Co., Penn., which were accepted by the two young men who came here in 1777 and settled . . . .

George Croghan had good cause to believe that he was the rightful owner of the land.

George Washington waited until September 1784 to appear in Washington County to lay claim to the disputed lands. Three years before his appearance there, a portion of Westmoreland County had been named Washington County in his honor. By the time he appeared in Washington County to lay claim to the disputed lands, not only had his fame and prestige been greatly increased, but both William Crawford and George Croghan were dead, and "Dead men tell no tales." Crawford had been burned at the stake by Indians in June 1782, and Croghan had died on August thirty-first of that year.

One historian wrote regarding Washington's visit in September 1784 to the land that he claimed as his:

This was the most distinguished company of visitors which has ever called at a country farm house in Washington County, — the great Gen. Washington, Sheriff Swearingen, Col. Nevil, Col. Canon and Capt. Richie, but the plain McBrides, Biggers, Scotts and Reeds were not to be frightened off their eleven years holdings by dignity. There was no ovation in Washington county at his coming and no tears shed at his going.

Washington described that visit in minute detail in his diary. He told of the rejection of his offers by those in possession of the land and of their expressed intention "to stand suit." Washington promptly had ejectment actions instituted. Historian Joseph F. McFarland stated regarding them:

These ejectments came on for trial at the November (1784) term in Washington County, but were removed by plaintiff's attorney to the Supreme Court and

12 Commemorative Record, 883-886, inc.
13 H. L. Mencken — A New Dictionary of Quotations on Historical Principles (N.Y., 1942), 257 — "English proverb, traced by Apperson to 1664."
15 Fitzpatrick, ed., II, 297-298. Washington wrote on Sept. 20, 1784, that he told the settlers he "would receive their answers individually" to the offers he had made "and accordingly by calling them as they stood James Scott, William Stewart Thomas Lapsley James McBride Brice McGeechin Thomas Biggar David Reed William Hillas Duncan McGeechin Mathew Johnson John Reed and John Glen. They severally answered, that they meant to stand suit . . . ."
16 McFarland, 99.
tried before Thomas McKean and Jacob Rush, Justices of the Supreme Court, holding nisi prius court at Washington, Pa., October 25, 26 and 27, 1786.

Some of those who lived in the vicinity probably felt that the settlers hadn’t a ghost of a chance of remaining on the lands to which the great General, “His Excellency, George Washington,” had laid claim and had filed suit. The men who were at the helm of public affairs were certainly desirous of doing everything possible to please “His Excellency” and could be depended upon to do nothing to thwart his wishes.

It is stated in a biographical sketch of the McBride family, regarding Washington’s treatment of them:

These sturdy pioneers felt that they were not justly treated by Gen. Washington, believing that they were entitled to their lands by improvement of them according to the custom of the country.

Washington’s claim to those lands, as stated earlier, is said to have been based on a military patent from Lord Dunmore dated July 5, 1775.

The date of the patent, July 5, 1775, is one to set analytical thoughts in motion. How George Washington could have accepted a patent of that date from Lord Dunmore is incomprehensible for “an exasperated people had driven Lord Dunmore from his palace at Williamsburg [June] and he was a refugee shorn of political power,

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17 The following notes are from Appearance Docket, Washington County, January 1782–June 1792, and the index shows that it was Cause No. 110, Dec., 1784.

| Smith Mr   | His Excellency George Washington 110 | Ejectment served H. B. appears pleads Non Cul and enters into the common rule for trial next term. March 1785 removed and certiorari . . . . . . . . . . . . |

Author’s note: Washington’s attorney was Thomas Smith (1745-1809), who was a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court from 1794 to 1809, when he died. (See Appleton’s Cyc. of American Biography — 1889) “HB” whose initials were on the margin of the docket entry and who represented the defendants was, according to Creigh’s History of Washington County, Pa., 101, Hugh M. Brackenridge.

18 Commemorative Record, 863. The sketch begins on 860 and ends on 865.
on board a British man-of-war in the York river.”

Various reliable sources have stated that Washington relied upon a patent dated July 5, 1775, from Lord Dunmore to establish his right to the disputed land, but it is amazing that he would have been imprudent enough to have accepted a patent from Lord Dunmore on July 5, 1775, not only because Dunmore, as stated, was then “a refugee shorn of political power,” but because he was an enemy of the American cause.

Furthermore, inasmuch as Washington had “arrived in Cambridge on the 2nd of July,” 1775, and had taken “command of the army on the 3rd,” it would seem that he would have been too busy with his military duties to concern himself with his personal affairs. The first shots had been fired, and the first blood had been shed, several months earlier in the Revolutionary War.

If the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in Washington’s favor was predicated on a patent dated July 5, 1775, from Lord Dunmore, the Court may have failed to realize that it was unlikely that Washington had obtained a patent from Lord Dunmore on July 5, 1775, when Dunmore, as mentioned, was at that time “a refugee shorn of political power.”

This writer has searched in vain for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in that ejectment litigation, and has been assisted in the search by the highly efficient staff of the Allegheny County Law Library, but no printed report of the decision has been found.

An earnest effort to locate, in Washington County, the papers in that litigation has been fruitless. The docket entries remain, but the papers have either been misplaced or they have vanished.

History is both vindicator and accuser! It is impossible at times to solve the puzzles it presents.

19 B. J. Lossing, Lossing’s New History Of The United States (N.Y., 1875, 1881 and 1884), 237.
20 Alfred Creigh (fn. 10) is one of the reliable sources; another is Butterfield, Washington Crawford Letters, fn. 2, 73, and one of the others is Abernethy, Western Lands And The American Revolution (N.Y., 1959), 145.
22 Ibid.
23 The staff is headed by Kirke C. Wilson, Librarian, and his assistant, Miss Edna M. Haseman. Mrs. LaVerne Miles of the staff also assisted in the search for that important decision.
24 One of the sources searched hopefully, but in vain, was A. J. Dallas — Reports of Cases Ruled And Adjudged In The Courts of Pennsylvania Before And Since The Revolution (N.Y., 1882, 4th edition), I.
Mortals die, but a part of them survives in inanimate reminders of their presence on earth.

William Croghan lives, in a sense, not only through a painting, not only through a hospital plaque on which his name appears, and not only on a towering monument that stands like a sentinel at his last resting place, but in the Cathedral of Learning of the University of Pittsburgh.

There is, on the first floor of that skyscraper "cathedral," a Croghan-Schenley room, which is, in actuality, the office of Dr. Alan C. Rankin, assistant chancellor of the University. In that unique and stately room are carved Corinthian columns from the ballroom of Pic Nic, as well as a lovely white marble mantel, ivory paneling, two ornate mirrors, and other ornamentations, including a magnificent crystal chandelier with clusters of crystal cups for candles.

A book, which gives considerable space to Pic Nic, is *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania* by Charles Morse Stotz. He comments:

Much remains to be known about Croghan House — the exact dates of erection of its two parts; the designer or architect, and the intention of the owner . . . . It is to be hoped that at least the interiors of the stone building will be preserved for posterity as the outstanding achievement of the Greek Revival in western Pennsylvania, and as one of the most distinguished interiors of the style to be found in the United States.

Was the stone portion perhaps a part of George Croghan's mansion house? It is known that the mansion house of George Croghan was in existence as late as 1794. It may have remained standing for some years afterwards.

Near the entrance door to the Croghan-Schenley room is a small bronze tablet with the inscription:

THE ORIGINAL MATERIALS MAKING POSSIBLE THE RESTORATION OF THESE ROOMS AS THEY APPEARED IN THE CROGHAN-SCHENLEY MANSION, PIC NIC HOUSE, BUILT ABOUT THE YEAR

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* The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania — Text by Charles Morse Stotz, A.I.A., Chairman of the Survey (N.Y., 1936) for The Buhl Foundation.
1835, are the generous gift of William S. Miller, a memorial to his father, Herschel Miller, master builder in Pittsburgh for fifty years before his death in 1930.

JANUARY 9, 1955.

The Croghan-Schenley room speaks eloquently of the past, and it is witnessing the present which, with each passing second, becomes the past.