WILLIAM CROGHAN, JR. (1794-1850)
A Prominent Pittsburgh Lawyer from Kentucky
SAMUEL W. THOMAS

William Croghan, Jr., of Louisville, Kentucky, pursued the profession of law while his older brothers were establishing careers in medicine and the military. Because of his marriage to Mary Carson O'Hara (1804-1827), daughter of General James O'Hara (1752-1819) of Pittsburgh, young Croghan removed to Western Pennsylvania where he resided for twenty-two years. His daughter, Mary Croghan (1827-1903) married Edward W. H. Schenley (1799-1878) and moved to England, but subsequently she made numerous gifts to her native Pittsburgh. Copies of the extant William Croghan, Jr., letters have been assembled for the restoration of Locust Grove, where he was born, raised, and later frequently visited. The author wishes to thank Mrs. Margaret Pearson Bothwell, Miss Prudence B. Trimble, and Miss Ruth Salisbury, of Pittsburgh for their research assistance, and the Locust Grove Division of Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, for its generous support of this research.

Maturation for William Croghan, Jr., was an idyllic process. His

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Dr. Thomas, a native of Philadelphia, who is a member of the faculty of the University of Louisville, is Research Director for the restoration of Locust Grove, the last home of General George Rogers Clark, 1809-1818. He is presently editing the Clark papers, 1784-1818.—Editor
father, Major William Croghan (1752-1822), was becoming more successfully prominent with speculative enterprises which his son eventually would inherit. The base of operation was the Croghan country seat, a massive Georgian structure a few miles above the Falls of the Ohio River. The homestead was to be held in trust for William by his mother, Lucy Clark Croghan (1765-1838), the sister of the renowned General George Rogers Clark (1752-1818). Major Croghan speculated in land, commercial trade, farm produce, and real estate. The increasing involvement of law in these facets made such a study necessary for the eventual running of the multifarious affairs. Consequently, in the fall of 1814, Croghan, at the age of twenty, matriculated in the Litchfield Law School, Litchfield, Connecticut. There he read law and studied under the school’s eminent director, Judge Tapping Reeve (1744-1823), for at least one year. The educational background leading to Litchfield was a varied one. It is indicative of the academic training provided the Croghan children by their self-made father. William’s first venture outside the confines of the study hall in the ballroom at Locust Grove, was to

1 William Croghan, Sr., son of Nicholas Croghan (d. ca. 1790), emigrated from Dublin to Philadelphia under the auspices of his uncle, Colonel George Croghan (d.1782), the deputy Indian agent. He worked for the firm of Thomas and John Shipboy, merchants of New York and Albany, prior to removing to western Pennsylvania (1774) and joining the military (1776). Major Croghan was present at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth and Yorktown, although he did not take part in the last siege, resulting from his being captured with General Lincoln’s troops at Charleston, S. C., in 1780. While on parole with Jonathan Clark (1750-1811), Croghan met Lucy Clark (1765-1838), the sister also of Generals George Rogers Clark and William Clark (1770-1838). Their marriage took place in Louisville in 1789. George Rogers Clark and William Croghan became surveying partners in 1783 for the Virginia State line and this partnership allowed Croghan to speculate in land readily. Later he carried on commercial trade within the Commonwealth and with New Orleans and also rented buildings in Louisville. He was a charter member of the Society of the Cincinnati, a trustee of the City of Louisville, a Mason, and an original trustee of the Jefferson Seminary (University of Louisville). For additional information see, Samuel W. Thomas, “William Croghan (1752-1822): A Pioneer Kentucky Gentleman,” The Filson Club History Quarterly, pending publication.

2 Jefferson County Will Book 2, 229.


4 Henry Clay to Richard Rush, acting Secretary of State, March 30, 1817. National Archives. Clay stated that Croghan, “has read law for some time at Litchfield.” It is not clear how much lecturing Reeve did after his appointment to the Superior Court bench in 1798. A graduate of Princeton (1761) Reeve instituted the practice of moot court and his comprehensive course produced many illustrious figures on the national scene.
Transylvania Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. His attendance, which began in 1808, was interrupted in the spring of 1809 evidently because of poor attitude and lackluster performance. While waiting to return in the fall, Croghan was preparing himself by reading Horace. Upon his return certain disciplinary precautions were exercised, as he went to live with a trustee of the seminary, the Reverend James Moore (1765-1814). The regular academic course was pursued until at least the spring of 1811.

Possibly as early as the fall of 1811, William travelled to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to attend Dickinson College. The choice of this respected institution was highly influenced by William's brother, John Croghan (1790-1849). He was to receive a medical degree in 1813 from the University of Pennsylvania, having studied under the venerable Dr. Benjamin Rush (1746-1813). For political reasons, Dr. Rush maintained an active interest in the educational development of rural Pennsylvania and therefore continued to support the institution he had founded. William, like his brother John and George (1791-

5 Diary of William Leavy, Transylvania College Library. The dates of 1808-1810 are also given in fn. 3, p. 39. Henry Clay stated, "He has had a regular collegiate course of education." See fn. 4.
6 William Croghan, Jr. to John O'Fallon (1791-1865), March 30, 1809. O'Fallon Papers, Missouri Historical Society.
7 George Croghan to William Croghan, Jr., February 22, 1810. O'Fallon Papers, Missouri Historical Society. Reverend James Moore's career as director of the Seminary beginning in 1791 was frequently interrupted before he became a trustee in 1805. He converted from the Presbyterian ministry, becoming an Episcopal and the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1809.
8 Eliza Croghan (1801-1833) to William Croghan, Jr., December 25, 1810. Croghan Papers within the Thomas S. Jesup Papers, Library of Congress. Unless otherwise indicated these papers will be referenced hereafter by L.C. See fn. 39 for information on T. S. Jesup (1788-1860).
9 The exact date of matriculation at Dickinson College has not been established. The Dickinson College records, graciously supplied by Dr. Charles Coleman Sellers, librarian, indicate that Croghan was a non-graduating student of the 1815 class and from fn. 15 he considered himself to be in the senior class. This could not have been later than the school year 1814. See fn. 3. Henry Clay stated, "... [he] studied for several years under Judge Cooper of Pennsylvania, who has spoken of him to me in the most flattering terms..." See fn. 4. But the extant 1811 and 1812 catalogues of students do not list Croghan, indicating that Croghan might have been a private student of Cooper. A departure date for "Carlisle College" is reported in April 1813, but this is not necessarily the initial one. Samuel T. Fitzhugh to John O'Fallon, April 3, 1813. O'Fallon Papers, Missouri Historical Society.
11 Benjamin Rush, M.D. graduated from Princeton (1760) and Edinburgh (1766) before accepting various academic responsibilities at the University of Pennsylvania (1769). He worked tirelessly for his political and social ideals and was later treasurer of the U.S. Mint.
1849), received a vigorous scientific training. His instruction at Dickinson College was directed by Judge Thomas Cooper (1759-1841), Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and protégé of the most prominent chemist of the period, Joseph Priestley (1733-1804). Croghan was elected to the Union Philosophical Society and studied moral philosophy. He returned to Carlisle the following year, but by that time there were many internal problems within the College's administration and the moral climate was receding. Dr. Rush had recently died and when Judge Cooper resigned in 1815 many of his students were obliged to leave.

Following this diverse education at three institutions, William was anxious to obtain a position in a foreign embassy as Secretary to the Legation. Although the request was supported by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Henry Clay (1777-1852), it did not materialize and at the age of twenty-four, well educated and technically trained, William Croghan, Jr., assumed the professions of his father. He became a farmer and surveyor in Jefferson County, Kentucky. As Major Croghan was rapidly approaching retirement, young Croghan could well afford to gain experience and to plan for his eventual management of his father’s successful enterprises.


13 See fn. 4. A lawyer, Thomas Cooper, was graduated from University College, Oxford, England, before being appointed at Dickinson College by the efforts of Benjamin Rush. In 1816, he was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. This native of London, England, later was president of the College of South Carolina (1820-1834). Cooper, like his mentors, Joseph Priestley and Benjamin Rush, was a competent thinker and writer in a variety of fields — law, medicine, chemistry, political economy.

14 Catalogue of the Union Philosophical Society, Dickinson College, Carlisle, 1896, p. 26. The Dickinson College records indicate Croghan was a student from Pittsburgh. The 1896 preparation date of the records probably explain the Pittsburgh residence.


17 See fn. 4. The recommendation of Croghan for this position by Henry Clay is most valuable because he made a résumé of Croghan’s education which is not recorded elsewhere.
In July 1818, Croghan was initiated into the Masonic order as a member of the Clark Lodge, No. 51, of Louisville. Named for George Rogers Clark, the lodge was new and within two weeks, the initiate had been passed and raised to a master Mason. A year later, he was named senior deacon.\(^{18}\)

Early in 1819, William diversified his farming operation with the inclusion of a cotton plantation near New Orleans.\(^{19}\) It is not clear if he owned the property, or if he managed it for his brother George. Evidently, once the operation was in full process, he returned to maintain his partnership with William Tompkins (d.ca.1850) in their law firm\(^{20}\) and to act as agent for Major Croghan.\(^{21}\) He returned again to Louisiana in the winter of 1820, probably with his brother George, who was travelling with the painter John Wesley Jarvis (1780-1840). William was seen in New Orleans by his old friend, the ornithologist John James Audubon (1785-1851).\(^{22}\) Between trips, Croghan was taking an active interest in the internal affairs of the Louisville branch of the United States Bank.\(^{23}\)

William's restlessness, constant change of occupation and continuous travel motivated a trip to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia in the spring of 1822.\(^{24}\)

... On my arrival in March at Pittsburgh I became acquainted with Miss O'Hara, a daughter of the late Genl. O'Hara of that place. My acquaintance resulted in a warm attachment to her & I immediately conceived the idea of addressing her ... all that is wanting is her mothers consent, ... On learning the result, I will loose no time in returning home ... \(^{25}\)

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18 *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, ...* Worsley & Smith, Lexington, 1818, pp. 85-86; *Proceedings ..., 1819*, p. 83; *Proceedings ..., 1820*, p. 82.
20 The partnership is mentioned in a notice in the *Louisville Public Advertiser*, Vol. 2, No. 188, July 26, 1820, p. (1), col. (1), and in a suit representing Elias Ayers vs. John James Audubon. Suit No. 13921, Old Circuit Court, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Audubon was summoned on August 6, 1819, and to maintain a friendly relationship with Audubon, the small note owed was taken over by John H. Clark (1785-1820), Croghan's first cousin. Little is known of this partnership or of William Tompkins, although he remained a friend of the family for many years. He was the nephew of Sarah Marshall (1779-1854), the second wife of Richard Clough Anderson, William's uncle by marriage. Judge Tompkins was also a Mason with Croghan in Clark Lodge No. 51.
21 John Croghan to T. S. Jesup, July 6, 1820, L.C. and William Croghan, Sr. to Cary Seldon, December 12, 1820, L.C.
24 John Croghan to T. S. Jesup, March 11, 1822. L.C.
He continued to transact business for his father and was very active in the establishment of Christ Episcopal Church (Louisville). With the untimely death of Major Croghan in September, William was restricted in pursuing his courtship, but ultimately the marriage was performed by the Reverend Francis Herron (1774-1860) in the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh on January 28, 1823.

The Croghans remained in Pittsburgh until at least the spring of 1824 when their first child, William III (1824-1828), was born. Subsequently, two children were born and baptized in Pittsburgh even though Mary O'Hara Croghan was presumably living at Locust Grove just prior to their births. The baptismal records of the Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, state that William Croghan was baptized on April 1, 1824, Mary O'Hara Croghan on October 16, 1825, and Mary Elizabeth Croghan on May 1, 1827. Mary O'Hara Croghan died in infancy on July 18, 1826, at Locust Grove. "My poor little son has the Billious fever, he is better than he was although far from being well. . . . The spirits of my wife are greatly depressed owing to the death of my little daughter & the subsequent illness of my son." Young Croghan later succumbed to a siege of whooping cough on April 25, 1828, in Pittsburgh. Although his death notice listed only whooping cough, Dr. James Speer was consulted by the attending physician, Dr. W. H. Denny, indicating other complications.

The Croghans returned to Locust Grove in the fall of 1824, in time for William to gain experience in the harvesting operation of the farm. The toil of the farm would never appeal to William as it had his father. The labor supply fluctuated, the harvester acted as his own agent and buyers were not always available. Therefore, Locust Grove was partially converted to a stock farm. The principal livestock were Merino sheep, cattle, and hogs. William could not convert the farm immediately, because the family still considered it as the home- stead, and each member actually complicated the overall operations by

30 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, August 1, 1826. L.C.
32 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, June 18, 1826. L.C.
trying to help when at Locust Grove on extended visits. Thus within two years, William announced he was

sick & tired of farming, incessant toil and anxiety & no profit, if this place were mine I would convert it into a grazing farm for sheep, the best Merino, have all the cleared land converted into meadows and grazing land except about 60 acres, which I would cultivate in oats & corn. Three servants, men or boys would be enough to attend 500 to 1000 sheep, the balance I would hire out. I am now firmly resolved so soon as my difficulties will allow to make arrangements for moving to Pittsburgh, unless the ponds between this and the river are drained this place can not be healthy, the water in them now is from 6 to 10 feet deep.\[Refer back to note 30 and follow that procedure when similar referrals are made.\]

On October 15, 1827, William’s beloved wife died.\[33\]

Consequently, by late November of 1827, William had finally decided to move his small family from Louisville to Pittsburgh.\[34\] Members of the Croghan family were aware that William no longer had interest in the Locust Grove farm;\[35\] in fact, when his brother-in-law, George Hancock (1788-1875), desired to move from Virginia, William sold him his eventual title as early as the spring of 1827.\[36\] They knew that William felt his surviving son and daughter would receive better care and guidance and would be located in a more healthful environment in Pittsburgh. After William had accompanied his children and sister-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth O’Hara Denny, to Pittsburgh, he returned immediately to Louisville to settle various financial matters.\[34\] He would not settle with his children until late March 1828.\[37\] He had fulfilled the last request of his beloved Mary by taking their children to Pittsburgh.\[38\] Croghan wrote to his brother-in-law, Quartermaster-General Thomas Sidney Jesup (1788-1860),\[39\] in 1828,

\[33\] *Pittsburgh Mercury*, Vol. XVI, No. 802, p. [3], col. [4], November 13, 1827. The notice states that Mrs. William Croghan died on October 15, 1827, in her 24th year. This statement is supported by a column supported slab which was removed from the Locust Grove graveyard to Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, in 1916. “Beneath this slab are deposited the remains of Mrs. Mary Carson Croghan (late of Pittsburgh) who departed this life October 15th A.D. 1827 in the 24th year of her age and her infant daughter Mary O’Hara who expired July 18th A.D. 1826 in the 9th month of her age.”

\[34\] William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, November 22, 1827. L.C.

\[35\] Charles Croghan (1802-1832) to T. S. Jesup, November 20, 1826. L.C.

\[36\] Zachary Taylor (1784-1850) to T. S. Jesup, January 1827. L.C. Owen Gwathmey to John O’Fallon, March 20, 1827. The Filson Club. A deed was never recorded and Hancock did not move onto the property until late in 1828, the date normally given for the transaction.


\[38\] See fn. 31, Bothwell, 266.

\[39\] Thomas Sidney Jesup was brought to Kentucky from his native Virginia in his youth. In 1823, he married Ann Heron Croghan (1797-1846), sister of William Croghan. General Jesup served in the War of 1812 and in 1818 took over the Quartermaster Department, which he administered through
"... But to think this day five years I was married & that now I am a poor dejected widower with two sweet little ones who look to me alone for comfort & support. The thought is very piercing; ..." 40

Croghan's concern for the support of his children was not unfounded. Although well-educated, he had no occupation, and he obtained little working capital from his inheritance. Writing his brother-in-law, Harmar Denny (1794-1852), he dejectedly stated,

... I have nothing in anticipation upon which I can rivet my attention & excite to action; here I have dispossessed myself (I rejoice at it) ... For months past all my efforts were directed towards my settlement in Pittsburgh, from that resource I am now cut off. If I could only determine some course for the future it would I am sure greatly relieve me. Presuming my attention would not be required much in Pitts, until summer towards rebuilding the Brewery, I had determined myself on spending a part of the summer in Louisville, in attending to the erection of a couple of buildings I have under contract ... 38

Having sold his interest in Locust Grove to George Hancock his hopes were concentrated in Pittsburgh, where the O'Hara and Denny families could take an active interest in the plight of his children and he could take an active interest in General O'Hara's vast estate. His ideas were daunted somewhat by legal opinion, but the fringe benefits were copious.

The opinion of the [... ] informed here is, that the property of my child by the time she is 21, will be worth half a million [...]. As the prospect brightens here I become more & more regardless of my property in Kenty. [... ] Baldwin [ ... ] seriously advises me against having anything to do with the Estate, for as Trustee I would have to settle often with the Court, if she lived to be married (a thing probable, but yet a long while to look ahead) I might have some difficulty with the husband [... so I have resolved to take Baldwins advice [... I sicken at the thought of farming in Kentucky. The truth is the want of occupation has rendered me good for nothing & my distress & disappointment destroy all my energies [...]. 41

Croghan's apprehensions increased as he awaited the outcome of the various decisions regarding his late wife's estate. "I had hopes of making such arrangements as would make it my interest & that of my child to remain here. I am yet nearly as ignorant of the design of the Trustees as on the day of my arrival & as I can carry on the siege no longer, I must beat a retreat." 42 The trustees of General O'Hara's

its period of reorganization and formulation of policy until his death in 1860. He was a close friend of Henry Clay, seconding him in a bloodless duel in 1826. His greatest notoriety came from the capture of Osceola in the Seminole War (1836-38). The author is indebted to Mr. C. L. Kieffer of Washington, D. C., who is preparing a biography of Jesup and who has provided much material information from the Croghan Papers within the Jesup Papers in the Library of Congress.

40 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, January 28, 1828. L.C.
41 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, June 30, 1828. L.C.
42 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, March 3, 1829. L.C.
estate would rule with regard to Croghan's interest in his wife's inheritance, and although it is almost certain that Croghan thought the ruling would be in his best interest, he was afforded no working capital. He had borrowed a large sum of money in Louisville to rebuild the Crown Point Brewery in Pittsburgh as an investment for the future security of his daughter. To further his credit difficulties, his brother, the Inspector General of the United States Army, Colonel George Croghan, was financially embarrassed and requested aid.

William lacked an established profession and continued to travel to Louisville on business or to the "Lakes" for Harmar Denny, or to Boston, New York, or Washington for pleasure and visitation with the rest of the Croghan family. In the spring of 1831, considering his fortunes and health to be at the lowest ebb, he proposed to sell his valuable paintings, discontinue housekeeping and move to Naples, Italy. He had already reiterated his proposal for sale of eight paintings to Frederick Rapp, Jr. His letter indicates a knowledgeable taste in the collection of paintings.

When I had the pleasure of seeing you at my house some time since, I found myself engaged in an office altogether new in exhibiting my paintings to you, with a view to their sale. Many as I have purchased, I never before offered to make a sale of any. Those paintings are of value beyond any thing I ask. I expect soon to leave here, & know not whether I shall again go to keeping house, I am therefore anxious to dispose of those I offered you & others. Those I offered you were

1. O'dipus Antigone & Polynues (from a story in the Greek mythology) by Bilcocq a French Artist. This painting was purchased in Paris, in 1814, by W. Lee, (a connoisseur) formerly our Consul at Bordeaux & late 4th. Auditor of Accounts, & for which he then paid as he assured me 1,500 francs.

2. Is a head (doubtless an original) by Rembrant, purchased at the same time & by the same person for 300 francs.

3. "The Head of a Miser" said by Van dyke (doubtful) certainly of fine execution.

4. St. Peter, by Tiepolo an Italian artist

5&6. Concert, & Feast, Muller

6&7. Freebooters, & Money Changers. These are two splendid paintings & universally admired, by Vas

8. "Blessing before meal." It has the appearance of being once a fine painting, it is much injured by age.

For those paintings I am willing to take Three Hundred Dollars ($300). I think, they would be an acquisition to any gallery . . .

Allegheny County [Pa.] Will Book 2, 190 and 623.


Charles Croghan to Ann Jesup, March 25, 1831. L.C.

Evidently, William departed from Pittsburgh as planned, for New York, and from there to Washington with his mother. His trans-Atlantic tour ended in Washington, probably because his health improved. This trip seemed to be a turning point in his life. He returned to Pittsburgh in the fall completely refurbished. Physical well-being was a prerequisite at least for the feeling of prosperity, which William began to obtain. He was able to overcome quickly the depression from a failure in a proposed marriage, which he curtly described to General Jesup.

... Lieut Phillips [ ], who gave you the first information of my intended marriage to Miss O———y & expressed so much anxiety to be here in time to witness the nuptial ceremony, had the good fortune to lead her to Hymens Alter last week. Peace with them. I know not which of the precious couple to hold in greater contempt . . . .

By the spring of 1832, he had rented his buildings in Pittsburgh, had become a limited stockholder in a new insurance company, and had purchased 109 acres in Pitt Township of Allegheny County for summer excursions. William was still travelling, leaving his daughter Mary with her grandmother, Mrs. O'Hara, for long periods. One extended for ten months until the spring of 1833. Yet, in the summer of 1833, he was travelling again, to Quebec, but in New York he learned of the death of his sister, Eliza Croghan Hancock (1801-1833), and sped to Washington to comfort his aged mother.

Even with Mary's education progressing rapidly and her need and desire for more parental care, Croghan was hardly restricted in his movements in 1833 and most of 1834. Mary and Mrs. O'Hara had been living for several years with the Dennys; in fact, Mary considered Aunt and Uncle Denny as "Mother and Father." In the autumn of 1834, William purchased 100 acres adjoining the Pic Nic property and began "erecting a dwelling on it for myself & flatter myself the plan of the building would even please my Cousin Lewis Clark [1809-1881] who I was anxious should furnish me a design."

49 George Croghan to T. S. Jesup, February 17, 1831. L.C.
50 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, October 4, 1831. L.C.
52 Allegheny County [Pa.] Deed Book 44, p. 114. The listed cost was $5,080.63.
53 William Croghan, Jr. to Ann Jesup, March 31, 1833. L.C.
55 Mary E. Croghan to Lucy Ann Jesup, August 30, 1833. Locust Grove restoration.
He had already directed the construction of a tenant dwelling house, a barn, stable and other minor improvements, and he was beginning "to talk very big of . . . farming operations." The diversification of his enterprises mostly in real estate de-emphasized the importance of the farm operation as a source of income. "All my leisure time I devote to my little farm, the buildings & arrangements of grounds I think you would approve of . . . ." Indicative of his interest in academic farming, William wrote his Louisville agent, Charles W. Thruston (1796-1865), offering him an honorary membership in the Pittsburgh Horticultural Society. " . . . We have Sundry public & private Green Houses, boasting a vast variety of exotic, from far & near. We anticipate some public good & much pleasure from our association 'The Pittsburgh Horticultural Society.'"

The one-story, stone house, Pic Nic, was completed enough for William to move "bag & baggage" from his city residence in July 1835. "From the Portico of my Country house I can see what is going on in the City . . . . There is a great rage here for country seats, & already we have some beautiful ones & many more projected & under way." The removal to his country residence was attributed as the cause for an improved and robust health. This had its psychological impact on all facets of William's life. Through proper investment, speculation, interest and rents, his pecuniary matters were becoming exceedingly tolerable. Probably, to reduce the legal complications with his numerous dealings, he joined the Allegheny County Bar Association on May 20, 1835.

An important interest of Croghan was the education of his daughter. In the first year at Pic Nic, Mary learned French, studied music and dance, and practiced the piano. This preparation permitted her to matriculate in the Brighton School on Staten Island in February of 1837. He thought that the pure air and bathing at Mrs. Macleod's school would be conducive to her health, especially in the spring of

60 William Croghan to Ann Jesup, July 5, 1835. L.C.
62 Allegheny Co. list of Attorneys and Law Students.
1840. With numerous relatives also attending, Mary Croghan continued at the school intermittently until she departed suddenly in January of 1842.

The single reason for her departure from Mrs. Macleod’s school was considered scandalous, and only through the passage of time was Mary condoned for her elopement with Captain E. W. H. Schenley (1799-1878) of England. Formal accusations were not made by Croghan or other informed members of the family. But much of an irresponsible nature was written and printed concerning the marriage. In retrospect, the family correspondence, and much of that resulting from an extensive investigation, only inflamed the situation. Charges and countercharges were hurled about recklessly and although the marriage was certainly successful and fruitful, the blame for the initiation of the elopement was never established. The important events can be summarized briefly.

On a visit late in 1840 or early in 1841 to see his sister-in-law, Mrs. Macleod, the proprietor of the Brighton School, Edward Schenley met Mary Croghan. He later claimed that Mary’s “resolution to marry at all events has dated from a year back,” or the spring of 1841. He also believed that Mary had discussed the pending marriage with her father on more than one occasion and their greatest obstacle was not considered to be Croghan but Schenley’s family.

64 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, May 3, 1840. L.C. Cousins from the O’Fallon, Butler, Jesup and Denny families attended the fashionable school while Mary Croghan was a student.

65 Edward Schenley first came to America to fight at New Orleans in 1815, then returned to England again to serve successfully under Wellington at Waterloo. He later travelled in Italy with Byron and Shelley. He had sold his army commission and was a commissioner for the suppression of the slave trade in South America before and briefly after his third marriage. Pittsburgh Telegraph, No. 1485, February 2, 1878, p. [11], col. [4].

66 John Croghan to T. S. Jesup, May 9, 1842. L.C. George Croghan’s letter, dated February 16, 1842, in The Filson Club, to John O’Fallon requesting him to remove his daughter from the school was written from the confines of Mammoth Cave and is frequently quoted to establish the family’s ill-feeling and to establish greater contrast in the eloped couple’s ages.


68 Edward Schenley married Mrs. Macleod’s sister, Miss Inglis, who died without issue. He later married Miss Pole, daughter of Sir William Pole, Devonshire. She too died, leaving one child.

69 Edward Schenley to William Lynch (February 1842); Edward Schenley to William Croghan, Jr. (January 1842). Both letters in the Darlington Memorial Library, University of Pittsburgh. Miss Ruth Salisbury, Coordinator, Department of Special Collections, has published a most important group of letters referring to this marriage in The Western
In January 1842, the romance began really to develop and William probably was not aware of its proportions. His daughter was only 14 years old and Schenley far outdistanced her at a mundane 44. He had visited Staten Island in January and evidently had met Schenley who immediately after William’s leaving became more ardent in his court ing. On the 22nd, Edward Schenley and Mary Croghan were married by the police magistrate, Merritt. They were accompanied by Schenley’s brother-in-law, William Inglis, and a lawyer, John B. Lafarge, who provided the necessary identification and legal age data. On January 31, the couple left for New York, staying at the Holts Hotel until they boarded the Mediator (February 1) bound for England, under the assumed name of Wynham.

Schenley was sent to Paramaribo, Surinam, where Mary accompanied him. She wrote imploring her father to visit them, concluding “Mr. Schenley is still what he has always been — a devoted, kind, affectionate, & every thing that’s good Husband.” Obviously, Edward Schenley was not only a husband, but for some years, would be a father for Mary. William’s self-realization of his own deficiency as a father was born out in the mitigating role he played during the aftermath of the elopement. While he made mild accusations, he would not directly place the blame. He had seen his daughter only on rare occasions. She had been raised principally by her grandmother and aunt, consequently the relationship between the mature, dashing military man and the young heiress was quite understandable.

As illness prevented Mary Schenley from visiting Pic Nic, Croghan had applied for and received a passport, evidently planning a transatlantic voyage in 1844. He was described somewhat erroneously as forty-six years old, 6’1”, medium build, light brown hair, blue eyes,
fair complexion with an aquiline nose. The trip was postponed, however, and he prepared for her arrival.

Shortly thereafter, the tremendous Pittsburgh fire of 1845 destroyed almost one-fourth of Croghan’s income. He exclaimed to Jesup,

... The reflecting & discreet ones hereabouts make quite light of my losses, & suffering as I am by the fire. I have had to give to other sufferers several hundred dollars, such are the evils of being thought rich, when in truth you are not so; but of that fact the mob wont be persuaded. I cant enter into a statement of the case with them, that for the sake of peace & in order to keep the property left my wife in my own hands, I, have entered into a compact, to pay her, my child, so much a year. I took for my guide, the net income of the property at the time, but since then the rents have fallen & the taxes greatly increased, making the actual receipts less than what I obligated myself to allow her, & now this fire occuring takes away near a fourth of the income. Assistance has been promised me if I rebuild & the prospects are of an increased rush. All I am ambitious of, is holding on to the property left my wife, if I were to yield it up to her as she my daughter thinks (in confidence) I ought, the Lord knows what would become of it, for I am greatly apprehensive he is in debt. The community of Pittsburg are very industrious & enterprising & perhaps the City may recover from the calamity, sooner than we anticipate, but a sader sight than it now presents never met my view, had it been recovered, & what was burned been spared & what now remains been destroyed, it would not have been so bad ... I feel assured we will struggle through & in five or ten years, there will remain but few traces of the late great fire. Judge Wilkins loss could not have been less than $30,000.78

His desire to see his daughter and her family was too overwhelming to allow financial difficulties to interfere. When Mary was prevented from visiting in the summer of 1845, he departed for England, Ireland, and Scotland on the Hibernia.79 William’s apprehensions of the marriage were put to rest, finally, having witnessed the responsible, devoted family environment of the Schenley household.80 Mary had just given birth to her third child, William Croghan Schenley.81 With the once scandalous marriage condoned, William returned to New York in May of 1846,82 only to embark from Boston on another voyage

78 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, May 6, 1845. L.C.
79 William Croghan, Jr. to T. S. Jesup, August 27, 1845. L.C.
82 William Croghan, Jr. to Ann Jesup, May 7, 1846. L.C. He was a passenger on the Cambria.
to England, aboard the steamer Cambria, on January 1, 1847.\textsuperscript{83} He returned to America in the fall and re-established himself at Pic Nic after an intermittent absence of two years.\textsuperscript{84} The mansion which he magnificently "improved" in 1845 was his permanent residence for the remaining few years. Prosperous and enjoying relatively good health, he turned to philanthropy. His demise came with unexpected suddenness on September 22, 1850.\textsuperscript{85} Dr. W. H. Denny described to T. S. Jesup the final details.

Little did I think when at your house last Friday night we were congratulating ourselves that Mr. Croghan's health was unusually good, that he was then on his death bed.

He took ill on the night of Saturday proxims, his Physician Dr Snyder saw him next morning Sunday, and continued to attend him in consultation with Dr. Gassam until Last Sunday when he died at ¾ past seven in the evening.

Mary Spring, Elizabeth McKnight, James O'Hara, Charles Scully, \&c were in attendance upon him. My housekeeper says he sent 3 times to my house to enquire if I had returned.

It is believed that he made no will. Dr. Snyder told me that he apprised him of his danger on Sunday morning and asked him if he had any writing to do \&c, he said no. The only thing he did was to execute a power of attorney to sell stock in the Bank of Pittsburgh to pay his note there.

P.S. It was very unfortunate that neither Mrs. Denny, my brother or myself were at home during his illness. Mr. Croghan had from time to time occasionally complained to me of some irritability of the bladder. He had apprehensions of stone or gravel. No post mortem examination was made. His disease was an inflammation of the Bladder, ending in rupture and a very copious discharge of pus under which he sank rapidly. His doctors suppose it to have been an abscess. The first day it was treated by large doses of opium, then he was leeched on the 2d day, on Thursday he got so much better that they had hopes but on Saturday the abscess broke and discharged, \& \ldots \textsuperscript{86}

Burial was in the Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, in Section K, Lot 6. Several years later, the remains were removed from the Denny lot and reinterred in Section 2, Lot 99, purchased by Mary Schenley.\textsuperscript{87}

The Croghan influence was extended in Pittsburgh through the generosity of Mary Croghan Schenley. Her gifts to the city were numerous and important and eventually the name of William Croghan virtually disappeared, obscured by the Schenley epitaph. The significance of this man and his family is only now being re-examined and consequently re-established both in Pittsburgh and Louisville.

\textsuperscript{83} William Croghan, Jr. to Lutie and Jane Jesup, January 1, 1847. L.C.
\textsuperscript{84} William Croghan, Jr. to John Croghan, November 25, 1847. L.C.
\textsuperscript{85} C. B. Scully to T. S. Jesup (telegraph), September 22, 1850. L.C. Pittsburgh, Pa., \textit{The Daily Morning Post}, September 24, 1850.
\textsuperscript{86} Dr. W. H. Denny to T. S. Jesup, September 27, 1850. L.C.
\textsuperscript{87} See fn. 77, p. 136. The Allegheny Cemetery records list Croghan's age as 55 years, 8 months, 22 days. This is not in agreement with the family Bible record, at the Filson Club, which gives his date of birth as January 2, 1794.