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## Thomas R. Faulkner: Who Are You?

by  
Stephen T. Rogers

*A graduate of Illinois State University, Stephen Rogers worked for the Texas Antiquities Committee and the Tennessee Division of Archaeology before taking a position with the Tennessee Historical Commission, where he oversees historic site survey projects, in 1978.*

Few things are more overwhelming than cleaning out the house of a recently deceased family member. Deciding what to throw away, what to keep, and who gets those treasures requires a great deal of time and emotional energy. After my mother-in-law died in 2009, I helped my wife organize the effects of her mother, Rosalie Stewart Detch (1916–2009), of Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Going through the mountain of boxes, reading every letter, and viewing each photograph from several generations of Stewart family members made me appreciate the way previous generations communicated through the written word. History is documented by this type of family archive, and we are richer when these items are organized and preserved. Imagine my surprise when going through a box of old letters I found a dull brassy metal disc slightly larger than a quarter at the bottom of the box. Confused at first as to what it was, I took a magnifying glass to read the inscription pressed into the brass. The figure and name of “Major General George B. McClellan” appeared on the obverse side of the disc along with the words “War of 1861.” The reverse side contained the name “Thomas Faulkner Co. A 5th Reg. USA VA. Vol, Ironton, Ohio.”



Figure 1. Civil War Identification Disc of Thomas Faulkner. Courtesy Stephen Rogers.

I quickly concluded the object was a rare Civil War identification disc or dog tag. The name Thomas Faulkner was not familiar to me, but I knew he was not a family member. I spent the next few months learning more about Union Army Civil War identification discs, trying to determine why this disc was in my mother-in-law's possessions, and attempting to answer the question, Thomas Faulkner: Who are you?

The study of Civil War identification discs is relatively new; however, several are described in Civil War relic collectors' books. A recent scholarly publication establishes a context for understanding these objects and illustrates the wide variety of images found on them.<sup>1</sup> Strangely, the modern identification disc or dog tag was not issued by the United States Army until 1906 when a circular aluminum disc was created. By 1913, government-issued dog tags were mandatory. These brass Civil War discs were not issued by the government, but purchased individually by the soldiers from sutlers who sold provisions and personal items to the troops. The soldier's name, regiment, and company were usually stamped into the reverse side of the disc. A list of major battles or engagements in which the soldier fought was sometimes included along with his home town. This home town information could be useful in directing the shipment of his body back to the proper location for burial. A small hole was usually drilled into each disc to allow for it to be worn on a necklace or sewn into a coat or garment. While the popularity of these discs during the Civil War was high, they remain a rare and a scarce item on the collectors' market.

Trying to determine how Thomas Faulkner's dog tag became part of my mother-in-law's estate required delving into his life and family history. Thomas Robinson Faulkner was born on January 9, 1844, near the Ohio River in Greenup County, Kentucky (now Boyd County), where the states of Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia (historically Virginia) join.<sup>2</sup>

He was the son of Jacob Faulkner and Elizabeth Dixon. Faulkner's father, Jacob, died shortly before Thomas was born, and by 1850 he

was living with his uncle and aunt, Thomas W. and Tabitha Dixon.<sup>3</sup> At some point in time, Thomas moved with his mother across the Ohio River to Ironton, Ohio. Elizabeth lived only a brief time, dying there on October 14, 1858, and leaving fourteen year old Thomas an orphan.<sup>4</sup> Faulkner's whereabouts remain unknown for the next three years until September 2, 1861, when he enlisted, along with other residents from Ironton, as a private into the Union Army at Camp Peirpoint in Ceredo, Virginia (now West Virginia). He was described as being five feet seven inches tall, having blue eyes, light hair, and fair complexion when he was mustered into Captain McFadden's Company A, 5th Regiment (West) Virginia Infantry.<sup>5</sup>

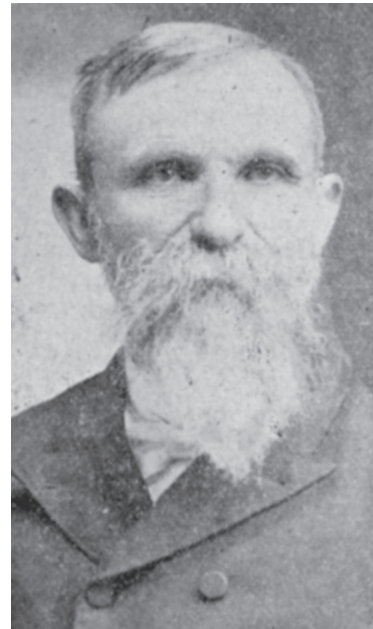


Figure 2. Thomas Faulkner  
*Minutes of the West Virginia Conference of the  
Methodist Episcopal Church, 1923.*

Detailed information on Thomas Faulkner's Civil War service shows that his unit was on duty in Ceredo and the Kanawha Valley until mid December 1861 when the unit was ordered on detached service to New Creek Station, (West) Virginia. Over the next six months, Faulkner's regiment moved throughout northern Virginia in response to Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign, participating in

battles at McDowell, Cross Keys, and Cedar Mountain. By late August 1862, Faulkner found himself fighting at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas) in one of the bloodiest battles of the war; combined casualties totaled more than 22,000 killed and wounded. For the next year, Faulkner's regiment moved throughout West Virginia until he was mustered out of service in Wheeling on December 22, 1863. He reenlisted the next day at Camp Piatt when the 5th and 9th West Virginia infantries were consolidated into the 1st Regiment West Virginia Veteran Volunteers.

Faulkner was seriously wounded in his upper left arm on June 18, 1864, during the Battle of Lynchburg. He entered the post hospital in Charleston ten days later and then was transferred to a hospital in Gallipolis, Ohio, on July 2. He slowly recovered from his wound and returned to his unit on January 7, 1865. Faulkner's Veteran regiment was stationed in the Shenandoah Valley, Staunton, Virginia, and Beverly, West Virginia, until he was mustered out of service on July 21, 1865, in Cumberland, Maryland.<sup>6</sup> Thomas Faulkner returned to the Ceredo area of Wayne County, West Virginia, after the war.

In 1869 at age twenty-five, Faulkner enrolled as a freshman in the Scientific Department at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.<sup>7</sup> Chartered in 1858, Mount Union was an institution where men and women were educated with equal opportunity, where science would parallel the humanities, and where there was no distinction due to race, color, or sex. Although the school was not initially founded by a church, its founder and early faculty members were dedicated Methodist laymen, and for the past century the college has been officially connected with the Methodist Church.<sup>8</sup> Faulkner began his study for the ministry while at Mount Union and was received into the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1871.<sup>9</sup>

Faulkner's life as a typical itinerant Methodist Episcopal minister required him to move about the state every two to three years. Described as a superannuated minister, Faulkner

served sixteen different congregations in West Virginia and one each in Indiana and Maryland during his thirty-six years of preaching from 1871 to 1907.<sup>10</sup> While living in Williamstown in Wood County, Faulkner married twenty-two year old Martha Viola Bishop (1853–1928) from Preston County, West Virginia, on April 29, 1875.<sup>11</sup> Martha was the daughter of William Bishop and Catherine Snyder. In the ensuing years, Martha and Thomas had three children: Frank, Earl, and Kate.<sup>12</sup> The Faulkners eventually settled in Preston County and lived the remainder of their lives there. Thomas Faulkner died in Albright, West Virginia, on August 30, 1923, and is buried in Kingwood Cemetery.<sup>13</sup>

Answering the question, "Thomas Faulkner: Who are You," was a task much easier accomplished than determining how his dog tag became part of my mother-in-law's estate. Initially I guessed the identification disc was somehow part of her parents' possessions. John L. Stewart (1889–1978) and his wife, Ethel Flesher Stewart (1890–1988), lived most of their adult lives in Huntington, West Virginia, very near Ceredo where Faulkner enlisted and lived just after the Civil War. John Stewart was an avid coin collector who might have been attracted by such an object. Another possibility was that the dog tag was acquired through the Flesher family who lived in St. Marys, West Virginia. Faulkner lived and preached in St. Marys during the mid 1870s, and perhaps the disc was acquired there. Given Faulkner's life as a roving Methodist minister, we will likely never know exactly how his Civil War identification disc came into our possession. The bigger story, however, is how this small brass object prompted a research effort that helped shed light on one Civil War soldier's life and his service to God, and in some small measure answer the question, Thomas Faulkner: Who are you?

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1. Stanley S. Phillips, *Excavated Artifacts from Battlefields and Campsites of the Civil War 1861-1865*, (Lanham, MD: 1975); Larry B. Maier and Joseph W. Stahl, *Identification Discs of Union*

- Soldiers in the Civil War: A Complete Classification Guide and Illustrated History*, (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2008).
2. Boyd County, Kentucky, was established in 1860 from parts of Greenup, Carter, and Lawrence counties. Biographical information on Thomas R. Faulkner was found within his Civil War Compiled Service Record, Company A, 5th West Virginia Infantry; Company A, 1st West Virginia Veterans Infantry (hereafter cited as Compiled Service Records); Civil War Federal Military Pension Application, Certificate No. 207476, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC (hereafter cited as Pension Application); and the Minutes of the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, September 26 to October 1, 1923, Wheeling, WV, General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, Madison, NJ (hereafter cited as Methodist Church Minutes 1923).
  3. Federal Census, 1850, Kentucky, Greenup County, District 2, No. 377.
  4. Lawrence County, Ohio Deaths 1850-1900, <[http://www.lawrencecountyohio.com/deaths/1850\\_1900/f.html](http://www.lawrencecountyohio.com/deaths/1850_1900/f.html)> accessed August 2011.
  5. Compiled Service Records; Company A Roster of the Fifth Infantry, *The Ironton Evening Tribune*, Saturday, October 8, 1949, see <<http://www.lawrencecountyohio.com/civilwar/stories/5wvroster.html>> accessed August 2011.
  6. Compiled Service Records; Pension Application; National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, <<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html>>.
  7. E-mail letter from Joanne Houmard, Archives Librarian, Mount Union University, to author concerning student status of Thomas Faulkner, April 21, 2011. Printed copy filed at the Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, TN.
  8. History of Mount Union College, <<http://www.mountunion.edu/history-of-the-college>>.
  9. Methodist Church Minutes 1923.
  10. Methodist Church Minutes 1923; Pension Application. Faulkner served churches in Brandonville, WV (1871-1872); Monongalia County, WV (1872-1873); Rowlesburg, WV (1873-1875); Williamstown, WV (1875-1876); St. Marys, WV (1876-1877); New Martinsville, WV (1877-1878); Hartford City, WV, LeTart, WV, and Leon, WV (1878-1881); Kessler's Cross Lanes (1881-1882); Medaryville, Indiana (1882-1883); Albright, WV, and Aurora, WV (1883-1895); Grantsville, Maryland (1895-1897); Bruceton, WV, and Albright, WV (1897-1904); Freemansburg, WV (1904-1906); Terra Alta, WV (1906-1907).
  11. West Virginia Vital Records, Marriage Records Preston County.
  12. Oren Frederic Morton, *A History of Preston County, West Virginia*, (Kingwood, WV: Journal Publishing Company, 1914). Pension Application; Son, Frank B. Faulkner, born on September 15, 1876, in St. Marys, Pleasants County, WV; Son, Earl W. Faulkner, born December 3, 1883, in Preston County, WV; daughter Kate Faulkner (Moore), born May 8, 1889, in Preston County.
  13. Death certificate, Preston County, WV, 1923, No. 12699.

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## Two James Craiks and the Early History of the Kanawha Valley by William B. Maxwell, Esq.

*Mr. Maxwell has an undergraduate degree from Harvard and a law degree from West Virginia University School of Law. A partner at Spilman, Thomas, Battle and Klostermeyer, he headed the real property department. From 1963 to 1980, he was deputy commissioner of forfeited and delinquent lands for Kanawha County.*

About 1827, James Craik, a young man of approximately twenty-one years in age, came to the Kanawha Valley to take up the lands he had inherited from his father and grandfather. His father, George Washington Craik, had never seen these lands, and it had been more than fifty years since his grandfather, Dr. James Craik, briefly had visited the area. The younger James Craik remained in the valley less than two decades, but those years and the earlier experiences of his grandfather serve to illustrate the early history of the Greater Kanawha Valley.

Dr. James Craik had been granted his lands in 1772 by King George III through the agency of the Earl of Dunmore, then royal governor of Virginia, for his services in the French and Indian War. More specifically, these lands were part of 200,000 acres of bounty lands in western Virginia which acting royal governor Robert Dinwiddie had offered in 1754 to volunteers for

service in the First Virginia Regiment, organized to warn the French out of the Ohio Valley.<sup>1</sup>

The intended commander of the First Virginia Regiment was Colonel Joshua Fry, the county lieutenant of Albemarle County, who had become familiar with the territory by virtue of his recent treating with the Indians at Logstown. George Washington, one of Dinwiddie's adjutants, was designated second in command with the rank of lieutenant colonel, having the year before been the governor's agent in delivering a warning note to the French. Impatient with Fry's preparations, Dinwiddie sent Washington ahead with part of the regiment. Washington discovered that the French, with a superior army of French and Indians, had already occupied and fortified the forks of the Ohio where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet. He set out to construct a fort at Great Meadows in western Pennsylvania, at the time believed a part of Virginia. In early June 1754, he was joined by the remainder of the regiment with the news that Colonel Fry had died after falling from his horse and that the governor had placed Washington in command.

The battle that followed in July, during which the French and Indians attacked Fort Necessity at Great Meadows, was a disaster for the Virginians. However, one positive result was Washington's lifelong friendship with Dr. James Craik, the regimental surgeon. A graduate in medicine from the University of Edinburgh and a recent emigrant from Scotland, the twenty-four year old Craik had distinguished himself with his courage and care of the wounded during and after the battle. He was at Washington's side in other battles during the war, including those under British General Edward Braddock in 1755 and General John Forbes in 1758. In 1760, Craik married Mariamne Ewell, a cousin of Washington's mother.

It appeared that the promise of bounty lands would not be implemented when, in 1763, Pontiac's Rebellion led King George III to forbid settlements west of the Alleghenies. At the same time, he offered warrants to veterans of the war that entitled them to unappropriated lands as reward for their services. These warrants could not be exercised in the west;

however, in 1768 Sir William Johnson, the Indian Commissioner for the Northern District, negotiated a treaty with the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy at Fort Stanwix, New York, by the terms of which settlements might be made east and south of the Ohio River. Washington and other officers seized the occasion to demand implementation of Dinwiddie's 1754 proclamation. Lord Botetourt, the new governor, was sympathetic and authorized Washington to look at lands on the Ohio River south of the mouth of the Little Kanawha River.

In the fall of 1770, Washington journeyed west and down the Ohio River to examine lands south of the Little Kanawha. Although Washington had consulted other officers of the First Virginia Regiment, James Craik was the only one to accompany him on the trip. Friendly Indians told them of a substantial amount of good bottom land on the Great Kanawha and, when they reached its mouth, they traveled upriver about fourteen miles. Believing themselves sufficiently informed about the balance, they tentatively concluded to exercise most of their bounty privileges in the Great Kanawha Valley. Washington and Craik then returned up the Ohio River and arranged for Captain William Crawford, who had accompanied them, to survey the bounty lands. As a field officer at Great Meadows, Washington was entitled to 15,000 acres, but he purchased the interests of other veterans and ended up with approximately 23,000 acres in the valley, consisting of a major part of the river boundary extending to present-day Dunbar on the northeast side of the river and to St. Albans on the southwest side. Dr. Craik, whose rank as a lieutenant at Great Meadows entitled him to only 6,000 acres, received, nonetheless, some of the best, including a tract of 4,232 acres on the southwest side of the river in present Putnam County. After a delay caused by Governor Botetourt's death, in December 1772 they received Crown patents through the new governor, Lord Dunmore.

Neither Washington nor Craik would ever see these lands again. In 1784, they began a trip

west accompanied by Craik's eldest son William and Washington's favorite nephew Bushrod Washington, but the farthest they got was Pennsylvania. Being apprised of danger from Indians, they decided against going down the Ohio River.

In the years before his death in 1799, Washington tried unsuccessfully to lease his western lands and even considered selling them. Being childless, he devised them to his nephews, nieces, and stepchildren. Several nephews and nieces, or their children, moved west in the early part of the new century and took possession of their allotted shares.

George Washington and Dr. James Craik were just two of the beneficiaries in 1772 of the Crown's bounty lands. Andrew Lewis,<sup>2</sup> who had been one of Washington's company commanders at Great Meadows, and other officers in the regiment had been granted an undivided 51,302-acre tract at the mouth of the Kanawha and extending some miles up the Ohio River in present Mason County. Lewis was entitled to 9,000 acres from this tract as were other company commanders, but it had been left to them to make partition among themselves. In October 1773, Lewis visited the site to make his selection.

Andrew Lewis was already an experienced surveyor at the time of Great Meadows in 1754 and had been, with his brothers and father John Lewis, an associate in the Greenbrier Company, which had been granted lands on the waters of the Greenbrier River. In the aftermath of several disastrous encounters with the enemy, Washington was charged by Governor Dinwiddie with the protection of settlers on the three hundred mile Virginia frontier, and Lewis became his most trusted subordinate. Encouraged by their successes, the French and Indians made daring incursions deep into the frontier of Virginia. In 1756, Lewis was given responsibility for leading an expedition across the Ohio River to punish the Shawnee in their own villages, but this expedition was aborted at the mouth of the Big Sandy River.

Lewis was much disturbed in 1763 by Pontiac's Rebellion when the western Indians,

dissatisfied with the peace that their French allies had made at Paris, rose up against the frontier fortifications and settlements. The Shawnee attacked lands of the Greenbrier Company, and Lewis was recalled to active service and participated in the suppression of the rebellion. Lewis was further disturbed, as were Washington and other officers of the First Virginia Regiment, by George III's proclamation that year forbidding settlements west of the Alleghenies. This impacted not only the Greenbrier lands but the bounty lands that he and the other officers had been promised in 1754 by Dinwiddie. Lewis represented Virginia in 1768 at Fort Stanwix when the king's proclamation was effectively reversed, and, with Washington, he worked to have Dinwiddie's promise of bounty lands implemented.

In the Earl of Dunmore, who became governor of Virginia in 1771, Lewis, Washington, and other western claimants found their most sympathetic colonial governor. A Scot, he had previously served as governor of New York where he had taken advantage of his position to acquire tens of thousands of acres of land, and he quickly perceived, or had demonstrated to him, similar opportunities in Virginia. In addition to approving surveys and conveyances of the bounty lands, he authorized Thomas Bullitt, one of the officers at Great Meadows, to explore and survey Virginia's lands in the new county of Fincastle, which embraced what would become first the county and then the state of Kentucky. In 1773, Lewis was granted additional lands there by Dunmore.

The Shawnee, the principal Indian tribe immediately west and north of the Ohio River, had not been party to the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and were accustomed to using the lands east and south of the Ohio as their own hunting preserve. They were angered by the encroachment of the Virginians and reacted by raiding settlers east of the river. Dunmore authorized the formation of two armies from the frontier counties to confront the Shawnee, with Lewis the leader of the southern army and himself as leader of the northern army.

Andrew Lewis gathered his army on the Greenbrier River and proceeded down the New River and thence down the Kanawha, arriving at the mouth of the Elk River late in September 1774. Staying there over a week, they could not have failed to observe the salt lick six miles up the Kanawha from the Elk at the mouth of Campbell's Creek; there was an absence of foliage where deer and buffaloes had cut deep trails over many years. One of the two regiments in Lewis's army was commanded by his younger brother Charles Lewis, and one of Charles Lewis's company commanders was Captain John Dickinson, who later would acquire the salt lick property.

In 1760, Dr. James Craik had moved to Fort Tobacco in Charles County, Maryland, to practice his profession. He enjoyed prominence in the community and his son William became a lawyer, judge, and member of Congress. In 1777, however, George Washington, now commander of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War, asked Craik to join him in the field. According to his grandson, Craik treated the dying General Hugh Mercer at Princeton that year and was with Washington at the decisive Battle of Yorktown in 1781. After the war, Washington asked him to move to Alexandria in Fairfax County where Washington had a town house. Washington took a particular interest in the doctor's second surviving son, George Washington Craik, who would serve as one of his secretaries during his second term as president from 1793 to 1797.<sup>3</sup>

During his residence in Alexandria, Dr. Craik became a friend of Colonel George Summers who, in addition to militia service, served both on the Fairfax County court and as sheriff. He also was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. A politician with a close relationship to Alexandria's heavily Scottish population, he was a member of the town's chapter of the Scottish Order of Freemasons, one of whose most eminent members, after Washington, was Dr. Craik.<sup>4</sup> It was natural that after Washington's death Craik should look for counsel to Colonel Summers and his son Lewis,

a lawyer and executive of the town.

Craik had selected the greater part of the 6,000 acres of bounty lands to which his 1754 service entitled him in the Greater Kanawha Valley. Before the turn of the century, he sold a tract that had been awarded him on the Ohio River near the mouth of the Little Kanawha, and he granted his son George Washington Craik a 1,200-acre tract on the northeast side of the Great Kanawha when his younger son expressed interest in settling there. At the time, Washington counseled against such a step and George Washington Craik never saw the property.<sup>5</sup>

Following Washington's death in 1799 and in 1808 the deaths of his surviving sons George Washington Craik and William, Dr. Craik seems to have sought out Colonel Summers, or to have been sought out by him. The result was a trip in 1808 down the New River and thence to the Kanawha by Colonel Summers's eldest son Lewis. On route downriver Lewis Summers saw evidence of the valley's burgeoning salt industry and met and conferred with Joseph Ruffner, one of its exponents. Ruffner described Dr. Craik's land on the southwest side of the river and opposite the mouth of the Pocatalico River as the "finest he had ever seen." Summers went farther downriver, visited George Washington Craik's land on the northwest side, and crossed the Ohio River before returning to Alexandria and reporting to his father and, doubtless, to Dr. Craik.<sup>6</sup>

Craik had six sons and three daughters, but only two of his sons, William and George Washington Craik, reached marriageable age. William died childless, although, as a result of his marriage to the daughter of William Fitzhugh, he received an estate in Fairfax County called Vaucluse as part of her dowry. When George Washington Craik died in 1808 leaving a widow and two-year old son James, it was to Vaucluse that Dr. Craik, his wife, daughter-in-law, and young grandson repaired.<sup>7</sup>

In 1810 Colonel Summers visited the Craik western lands, possibly in conjunction with an appointment he and his son Lewis received from

the Superior Court of Chancery in Staunton to act as commissioners in a suit brought concerning other bounty lands in present Cabell County. When he returned to Alexandria, he purchased land from Dr. Craik that extended three miles along the southwestern side of the Kanawha, a portion of the 4,232-acre tract that Joseph Ruffner had praised. He built his home Walnut Grove there and in 1814 brought his family to their new residence.

In 1815, Lewis Summers, who had been practicing law in Gallipolis, Ohio, and serving in that state's legislature, returned to Virginia and commenced practice in Charleston, or Kanawha Courthouse as it was then known. He almost immediately became a community leader. Elected to the House of Delegates in 1817, in 1819 Virginia's General Assembly voted him a judge of the General Court of Virginia and a judge of the Superior Court of Law of Virginia's 14th Circuit. Following Colonel Summers's death in 1818, the colonel's family, including his widow and youngest son George William, moved to Charleston to live with Lewis Summers. In 1821 with George William and his brother Albert away at school, Lewis and his mother returned to Walnut Grove.<sup>8</sup> In the meantime Lewis purchased some of the acreage that Dr. Craik had conveyed to two of his daughter Mariamne Craik West's daughters, who had never taken personal possession of their lands.

Dr. James Craik died in 1814 at the age of eighty-four with only one descendant bearing his surname—James Craik. He was the heir of his father George Washington Craik and the testamentary devisee of his grandfather and so the owner of the residue of those lands in the Kanawha Valley that had been awarded Dr. Craik by the Crown. He was, of course, only two years old on his father's death and eight on that of his grandfather. The principal source on his intervening years before coming west over the mountains is the written account that he made late in life for the benefit of his family and which was published by his granddaughter Mary Craik Morris. Following his grandfather's death,

young James's mother married a sixty year old widower, James's cousin Major Charles Ewell, and the family moved to his estate, Milford, in adjoining Prince William County. However, a foreclosure resulted in the family taking a house in nearby Dumfries. Later, James attended school in Alexandria and at times resided and read medicine with several physicians. When James returned to Dumfries, he found his mother and stepfather gone. They had moved to Kentucky, where Major Ewell had acquired land through his Revolutionary War service. James followed them, intending to resume his medical studies, but at Transylvania University in Lexington he was persuaded to abandon medicine and take up the study of law.<sup>9</sup>

At about the age of twenty-one, James Craik decided to move to the Kanawha Valley and settle on the land his grandfather had given his father three decades earlier. In the valley there was also the family connection with Judge Lewis Summers. In addition to the lands Colonel Summers had obtained from Dr. Craik, Judge Summers had purchased additional contiguous acreage previously conveyed by the doctor to his granddaughters. After James's majority and arrival in the Kanawha Valley, Judge Summers obtained still more acreage from young Craik. Judge Summers had assumed the mentorship of his much younger brother George William Summers,<sup>10</sup> a friend and Fairfax County schoolmate of James. It is not illogical to suppose that he performed a similar function with respect to James. Finally, there were James's numerous Washington cousins in the Kanawha Valley and their connections in the valley's prospering salt industry.

In 1790, Colonel John Dickinson, a regimental commander in the Revolutionary War but a company commander under Colonel Charles Lewis in Dunmore's War, obtained a grant from the governor of Virginia for 704 acres running three miles up the Kanawha River above Campbell's Creek and embracing what was to become the town of Malden. Two years later he received a grant of 502 acres that included the mouth of Campbell's Creek and its salt lick. In



1796, Dickinson conveyed the 704-acre tract to his Shrewsbury sons-in-law, Samuel and John, and the 502-acre tract to Joseph Ruffner. Salt wells drilled on these tracts and on tracts immediately up and down the river were the basis of the prospering salt industry that Lewis Summers observed when he visited the area in 1808.<sup>11</sup>

The Shrewsbury brothers came west to enter the salt industry. They and their wives were later followed by another of Dickinson's daughters, Jane Dickinson Lewis Wilson, who had been married to the son of Charles Lewis. She was accompanied by her sons Charles Cameron Lewis and John Dickinson Lewis, who would become prominent in the community and in the salt industry. In the years before young James Craik arrived, his Washington kin who had settled downriver became well acquainted with the salt makers who had settled upriver from the Elk's mouth. In 1827, John Shrewsbury's son Samuel married Laura Angela Parks, James Craik's cousin and the granddaughter of Washington's brother Samuel. Other cousins who married important salt makers were granddaughters of Washington's sister Betty Washington Lewis—Betty Lewis and Ellen Joel Lewis, who married respectively Joseph Lovell and Robert Makemie Steele. Lovell, an English-born lawyer raised in Richmond, in addition to making salt and practicing law, served in the House of Delegates from Kanawha County. In 1829, James Craik married Juliet Shrewsbury, youngest daughter of the older Samuel Shrewsbury. Later, the granddaughter of John Shrewsbury married Lawrence Augustine Washington, the grandson of Samuel Washington.<sup>12</sup>

There also were several lawyer connections with whom James Craik might have associated on his arrival in the valley. In addition to Judge Summers and Lovell, there was Summers's younger brother George William Summers, with whom James had gone to school as a boy. Moreover, there was the brilliant young lawyer Benjamin Harrison Smith with whom he shared an office for some time in Charleston.<sup>13</sup>

In October 1828, James Craik obtained the certification from the county court of Kanawha that was necessary in order to be admitted to the bar in Virginia, "it appearing to the Satisfaction of the Court that James Craik, and Ezra Walker are Gentlemen of honesty probity and good demeanor, are of the age of twenty one years and have resided in this County for twelve months last past." The following year, Craik was permitted to practice law before the court in Mason County and the superior court in Kanawha. James Craik moved to present Putnam County (then Mason County) before his 1829 marriage to Juliet Shrewsbury but returned to Charleston by 1834, when he purchased the land on which his residence Elm Grove, now known as the Craik-Patton house, was built.<sup>14</sup> Little is known about his law practice, but in 1835 he was engaged by the major salt makers to petition Virginia's General Assembly, through the agency of George William Summers, then a Kanawha County representative in the House of Delegates, to issue to the salt makers a charter of incorporation.<sup>15</sup>

According to James Craik's granddaughter, Mary Craik Morris, his decision soon after to become an Episcopal minister was influenced by a visit he and his wife Juliet had with her sister and brother-in-law, a Roman Catholic, in Cincinnati. While there, they met the brother-in-law's priest, and James became so interested in the ensuing theological discussion that he entered into a correspondence with Cincinnati's Roman Catholic bishop.<sup>16</sup> The ultimate result was his study for the Episcopal priesthood.

Religion appears not to have played a great part in his life theretofore. His grandfather Craik was a Presbyterian and his mother and stepfather Methodists. However, the Washingtons, in common with most of the old Tidewater gentry, were members of the established church in colonial Virginia, the Anglican Church. James's Washington kin were responsible for the first Episcopal churches in the western areas where they settled, and the churches at Coalsmouth (now St. Albans) and Ravenswood in present Jackson County were on lands patented to

George Washington. William Meade, then the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, credited James's cousin Mrs. Lovell with being a prime instigator of St. John's Episcopal Church in Charleston. The first church was built at the corners of Virginia and McFarland streets, and the 1835 deed for the property lists James Craik as one of the church trustees. Among the early vestrymen of St. John's were Juliet's cousins, William Dickinson Lewis and Joel Shrewsbury; Henry Fitzhugh, married to a granddaughter of Washington's half-brother Augustine, and Judge Lewis Summers.<sup>17</sup> All of these presumably were sympathetic to James's subsequent appointment by Bishop Meade as rector in 1839.

In 1844, the Reverend James Craik returned to Kentucky where he had been awarded property by virtue of Dr. Craik's service in the Revolutionary War and where he had received a call from Christ Church in Louisville. He spent the last thirty-eight years of his life as rector of Christ Church, where he greatly distinguished himself, increasing the membership of the church tenfold during his tenure. At his Louisville home, which he named Kanawha, "itself, . . . assurance that a contented man, not ambitious of worldly gain, was there passing his life in peace," Craik died in 1882.<sup>18</sup> It would appear that James Craik found, not only distinction, but a previously unexperienced order and tranquility in his last profession.

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1. The consequences of Governor Dinwiddie's offer in 1754 of bounty lands to the First Virginia Regiment is more particularly detailed in the writer's article on Royal Patents in Volume XXIV, Spring 2010 of this publication. Attention is directed to this article as well as to the citations.
  2. For a full length biography on Andrew Lewis, see Patricia Givens Johnson, *General Andrew Lewis of Roanoke and Greenbrier* (Christiansburg, VA: The Author, 1980).
  3. Mary Craik Morris, contributor, "Boyhood Memories of Dr. James Craik, D. D., L. L. D.," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XLVI, no. 2 (April 1938): 135; *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2006), 531-32.

4. An account of the Summers family is contained in W. S. Laidley, *History of Charleston and Kanawha County* (Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, 1911), 96-97.
5. Morris, 136.
6. Lewis Summers's journal of the 1808 trip is summarized in Laidley, 67-68. The entire journal, originally published in *Southern Magazine*, was republished in James Morton Callahan's *History of West Virginia – Old and New* (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1923), 129-137.
7. Morris, 137.
8. Laidley, 97.
9. Unpublished paper of Rev. Karl Ruttan, former Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church.
10. A substantial account of George William Summers is contained in Laidley, 103-109. Summers became a prominent public figure as well as a brilliant trial lawyer and orator. In addition to service in Virginia's General Assembly and Congress, he led western Virginia in the 1850 and 1851 constitutional convention to the Commonwealth's first experience in popular government. Laidley was Summers's brother-in-law.
11. The deeds of these tracts are of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Kanawha County. Microfilms of the patents from the Commonwealth of Virginia to John Dickinson are available at West Virginia Archives and History.
12. The genealogical relationships among Washington's collateral descendants and the Dickinson and Shrewsbury descendants is derived principally from Ruth Woods Dayton, *Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha* (Charleston, WV: Education Foundation, 1947).
13. Laidley, 949. Smith, a great chancery and real property lawyer, also had a substantial public career. He made it his mission to deal with the west's chaotic land titles. His ultimate achievement was the transfer of titles to many properties, originally acquired by eastern and out-of-state speculators under senior patents, by tax deeds to resident developers who were prepared to improve their properties and attract other settlers. This he achieved first with his service in the General Assembly in the 1830s and then in 1861 and 1862 as a member of the Restored Government of Virginia's first constitutional convention in Wheeling. Laidley, 286-288, 949-950.
14. Kanawha County Court Record Book, Vol. 1825-1831, October term 1828; Mason County Court Order Book, Vol. 1829-1833, June term 1829; Kanawha County Superior Court Record Book Vol. 1826-1831, 218. Deed and personal property tax

records of Kanawha and Mason counties for the 1820s and 1830s provide evidence on Craik's county of residence. Originally located on Virginia Street, the Craik-Patton house has been moved twice and currently is located at Daniel Boone Park on U.S. Route 60.

15. John E. Stealey III, *The Antebellum Kanawha Salt Business & Western Markets* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1993), 86.
16. Morris, 145.
17. Joseph Crosby Jefferds Jr., *A History of St. John's Episcopal Church*, (Charleston, WV: The Author, 1976).
18. *To the Memory of James Craik, D.D., LL.D.* (Louisville, KY: John P. Morten and Company, 1882), 8, 23.

## Submissions

The West Virginia Historical Society newsletter welcomes manuscript submissions for publication consideration that deal with state or local history-related topics. Submissions, which should be of a length suitable for publication in the newsletter and include footnote/endnote citations of referenced materials, should be sent to the newsletter editor, West Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

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## Archives and History Lecture Series

West Virginia Archives and History holds monthly lectures the first Tuesday and second Thursday evening of each month in its library in the Culture Center in Charleston. Programs begin at 6:00 p.m. and last approximately 1½ hours.

- March 6** Bethany Canfield and Carolyn Kender  
*West Virginia's Civil War  
Historic Sites*
- March 8** Susan Hayden  
*Newspaper Archives*
- April 3** Bob Withers  
*Presidential Whistle Stops in  
West Virginia*
- April 12** Dr. Charles Ledbetter  
*The Joys and Frustrations of  
Genealogical/Historical Research*
- May 1** Jack Dickinson  
*Every Blood-Stained Mile: The  
Building of the Norfolk and Western  
in West Virginia*
- May 10** Dr. Cicero Fain  
*Black Contribution to the Building  
of the C&O Railroad*
- June 5** Larry Rowe  
*Malden and the Salt Industry*
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West Virginia Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5220  
Charleston, WV 25361-0220