

FINDS KIT CARSON WAS BORN FIGHTER

Kinsman Writing Family History Learns of the Famous Scout's Early Life.

New York.—Col. Calvin Duvall Cowles, U. S. A., retired, of Hartford, Conn., kinsman of Kit Carson, famous Indian fighter and scout, recently told hitherto unpublished stories of the frontiersman obtained by him while preparing a history of the Carson family. Colonel Cowles' interview was brought about by the publication in the New York Times of the reminiscences of Dr. William Carson Boone of this city concerning Daniel Boone. Doctor Boone told of meeting Kit Carson while a boy, and of assuming the name Carson after sitting on the scout's knee and listening to his tales of adventure.

The genealogy compiled by Colonel Cowles, whose grandmother, Nancy Caroline Duvall, was first cousin of Kit Carson, begins with William Carson, Kit's grandfather, who came from the north of Ireland to Pennsylvania, and later joined a group of Pennsylvanians, including the Boone family, in their migration to what is now Iredell county, North Carolina, some time between 1738 and 1748. He settled on a grant of 692 acres of land obtained from Lord Granville. Colonel Cowles said:

"Whether Mr. Carson settled on the land before or after he obtained the grant in 1781 is not known. The country was then infested with Indians and wild beasts, and he was there in good time for the exercise of his adventurous nature, which cropped out in the desire of later generations of Carsons to fight Indians, wild beasts or anything else that occasion might require."

Father a Fighter.

William Carson married Eleanor McDuff in North Carolina and had seven children, the eldest of whom was Lindsay, father of Kit Carson. He died from an overdraught of cold water while harvesting grain one hot day, but the date is not definitely known to his descendants. Lindsay Carson, who was born August 1, 1754, inherited his father's lands under the law of primogeniture then in force. His son Kit was the tenth of 14 children.

"Lindsay Carson bore an honorable part in the Revolutionary war, having served until the end," said Colonel Cowles. "A rifle he had carried, which was given to his children, was of large caliber, with part of the stock missing. It was shot away at the same time Lindsay lost several fingers from his left hand. He removed from North to South Carolina in about 1786, and in 1792 went to Madison county, Kentucky, and finally established his home in Howard county, Missouri, in 1811. His family joined other settlers in occupying Cooper's Fort, between Fayette and Booneboro, from 1812 to 1815.

"The fort was a little settlement of log cabins protected by a high stockade as a defense against the Indians. All of his sons came honestly by their reputation as Indian fighters. He was once attacked by two Indians, and had shot one when the other closed in upon him. In a hand-to-hand combat he killed the Indian with the savage's own knife.

"Lindsay Carson's descendants are scattered mainly through the Rocky mountain region and the Middle-West states. A letter from a grandson says: 'All of his sons, without a single exception, went West in search of the Indians and buffalo. Now that the Indian is guarded on the reservations, and the buffalo is about extinct, I am at a loss to know what their descendants will do for pasture.'"

Taken West at the Age of Two. Christopher, or Kit, Carson was two years old when his parents moved from Kentucky to Missouri. When still a child he took his turn at watching with the men while the settlers fought the Indians during the War of 1812 in the protection of Cooper's Fort. One of the family traditions is that Kit Carson once said: "I was a young boy in the school-house when the cry came, 'Indians!' I jumped to my rifle, threw down my spelling book and there it lies."

Colonel Cowles said that most of the facts concerning Kit Carson's early history came from his sister, Mary Ann, who was born during the exciting days in Cooper's Fort, May 25, 1814, and later became Mrs. Henry M. Rubey. Mrs. Rubey's account of her brothers start as a frontiersman differs from his own. She said:

"Kit was a smart little fellow at his books. Father meant to make a lawyer out of him, but soon after we moved out of the fort and were getting along pretty well father was accidentally killed when the limb of a tree fell on him. Mother then sent Kit, who was fifteen years old, to Franklin to learn the saddle's trade. He didn't like it, for the only use he had for the saddle was on a horse's back.

"Three of our older brothers had begun trading between St. Louis and Santa Fe. Kit begged to go with them. Mother promised that if he would stay another year at Franklin he might go on the next trip. The boys got out and got as far as Independence with their train of pack animals, when one morning to their surprise Kit rode up on a mule. They told him he would have to go back, because he was too young to make the trip. He pretended to start for home.

but after he had gone only a short distance he turned the animal loose, and of course the animal made straight for home. After that the boys had to take him with them, and that was the last we saw of him for 15 years.

Married an Indian Woman. "These years he spent in trading, trapping and hunting and in becoming more familiar with the Indian customs and language. During this time he married an Indian woman, who died after he became famous. He then returned to his old home with Adaline, their little daughter, whom he left with one of his sisters. She was thoroughly educated in a girls' school in Fayette, Mo. He took her finally to California, where she married and settled with her husband on a large stock ranch."

Kit Carson accompanied Fremont in 1842 on his explorations in the West, and was appointed a lieutenant in the rifle corps of the army in 1847, but Colonel Cowles stated that for some reason which he has never been able to learn the nomination was not confirmed by the senate. During the Civil war Carson was colonel of a New Mexico regiment of volunteers, serving in New Mexico and Colorado, and taking part in the battle of Valverde, N. M., and in important operations against the Indians.

Carson's second wife, whom he married in 1853, was Josefa Jaramillo, whose sister was the wife of Governor Beat of New Mexico. He made his home at Taos, N. M., until his death, which occurred on May 23, 1868, at Fort Logan, Colo. He had three sons and three daughters by his second wife. His son William, who was a protégé of Gen. William T. Sherman, was sheriff of Costilla county, Colorado. He killed himself accidentally. His youngest son, Christopher, Jr., wrote Colonel Cowles in 1896 that since his father's death he had been a cowboy and spent much of his time hunting.

Colonel Cowles gave this description of Kit Carson:

"He was only 5 feet 6 inches tall, but, except for the shortness of his legs, was strongly and symmetrically built, his weight being about 160 pounds. His long arms, with their panther-like elasticity of muscles, his broad shoulders and deep chest, indicated a frame well calculated to endure the hardships of trapper life. His features were large but well chiseled, his complexion and hair rather light and his eyes blue. He was a perfect type of pioneer, guide, trapper and frontiersman, with all the attributes of that life—brave, hospitable, generous, honest, temperate and patient."

Portrait That Brought \$100 Is Worth \$20,000

New York.—A painting which sold at public auction in New York city two months ago for less than \$100 and was later picked up at approximately \$100 by Grosvenor B. Clarkson, director of the Council of National Defense under the Wilson administration, has been identified as a Gainsborough.

It is a portrait, and a fine one, of Mrs. Garrick, wife of the most famous of all actors. The size is 25 by 30 inches.

G. Frank Muller, one of the leading experts on Eighteenth century English paintings, pronounced it a Gainsborough without a doubt, and said that \$20,000 was a conservative valuation for it. The picture attracted no attention when it was exhibited at the Fifth avenue galleries two months ago. It was overlooked by scores of collectors and dealers, though prices running into the thousands were paid for many works which hung on the wall near it.

Squatting Said to Have Stunted Japanese Race

Washington.—A new theory to account for the small stature of the Japanese race has been advanced. A member of the government health bureau says that the Japanese custom of sitting on the floor with legs cramped has retarded the development of the lower limbs of the race as a whole.

He quotes statistics which show the average stature of Japanese male students has increased half an inch since 1907 in consequence of spending less time sitting on the floor at home and more time in physical exercise at school.

As a further argument he cites the inhabitants of a fishing community in Okinawa. The men, who have been accustomed to spend most of their time squatting in the bottoms of their fishing boats, are below the average in stature and have unusually short legs.

English Excavators Find Camp Kitchen of Romans

London.—A camp house where probably in olden times Roman legions once feasted, has been found among a group of newly discovered Roman remains at Folkstone, on the English channel, where the first Roman landing is said to have landed. The remains consist of two buildings, in each of which are about seven hearths, which leads to the belief that they were used as the cook houses and dining halls of early Roman camps.

The base of a watch tower also has been found, built in a wall which evidently surrounded the camp. Several burial urns and Roman glass have been dug up, all in perfect condition. The excavations are being made under the supervision of experts from the British museum, to which institution the relics will be given.

southern delegates led by one, E. R. Meitzer from Texas, led a bitter fight against the adoption of the plank, but were defeated by an overwhelming vote. The southerners declared the plank was bunk of the purest sort because the convention knew that its provisions could not be carried out in any section of the South.

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