

BRIG.-GEN. CRUIKSHANK, FORMER MAGISTRATE, IS DEAD AT OTTAWA

Distinguished son of Bertie Township had long and honorable career; Long list of books on historical subjects to his credit.

FUNERAL MON.

OTTAWA, June 24—(CP)—Funeral services will be held here Monday for Brigadier-General Ernest Alexander Cruikshank, soldier, historical writer and chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

The distinguished Canadian, who served as chairman of the Board since its inception 20 years ago, died at his home late last night after a brief illness. A native of Bertie Township, Ont., he would have been 86 years old on June 29.

General Cruikshank's career in the Canadian militia began in 1877 when he received a commission in the 44th Welland Battalion. It culminated in 1911 when he was appointed officer commanding Military District No. 13 at Calgary. He was promoted to Brigadier-General in 1915.

He remained officer command of the Calgary Military District until 1917 when he was recalled to headquarters in Ottawa. He was assigned to special duty and went to France in 1917. Following the Great War he returned here and was appointed director of the Historical Section of the General Staff.

NIAGARA FALLS:::

Monday, June 26, 1939.

THE ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL

Late General Cruikshank Once Attended School Here

Student at Old Grammar School in 1866, Recalls Dr. James H. Coyne; Noted Soldier and Canadian Historian

Going back to 1866, when an association which became a life-long friendship was begun, Dr. James H. Coyne, of this city, in an interview at his home in Metcalfe street, Saturday evening, paid glowing tribute to the late Brigadier-General Ernest Alexander Cruikshank, of Ottawa, whose death occurred on Friday night. Dr. Coyne, who regarded General Cruikshank as his oldest friend, recalled that the latter once attended the Grammar School here, coming when a boy of thirteen to spend some time with his sister, who was the wife of Andrew Miller, Sr., then living near Middlemarch, four or five miles from St. Thomas. Andrew Miller, former reeve of Southwold, is a nephew.

The lad, who was later to become a brigadier-general and one of Canada's most authoritative historians, used to walk in to the city every day from the home of his sister and brother-in-law to the old Grammar School, at which Dr. Coyne was an occasional student at that time, about three years his senior. Dr. Coyne, who had matriculated at fourteen, did not go on to the university until January of 1867, having entered employment in the city. During less busy seasons, business dropped off, however, and he used to drop in at school again and it was at that time that he first met Ernest Alexander Cruikshank.

It is Dr. Coyne's opinion that perhaps the influence of the headmaster of the school during that period may have had some part in General Cruikshank's future choice of a career. It was just after the time of the Fenian Raids, which troubles had taken Dr. Coyne to London in March of 1866, to Sarnia in June and to Thorold in August, and the atmosphere was still warlike. W. Napier Keefer, headmaster of the school, a graduate of the University of Toronto and also of the military school, was also drill master and he used to conduct drill behind the old town hall. Later, Mr. Keefer took a medical course and after becoming a surgeon was appointed to the Imperial army in India. The young Cruikshank, however, did not drill under Mr. Keefer with the Rifle Company,

not being old enough to be included.

From that time of early school associations, Dr. Coyne and General Cruikshank have been close friends, the latter having been a guest at the home of the former in St. Thomas on more than one occasion, and Dr. Coyne visiting at the Cruikshank home in Ottawa frequently.

History Common Bond

History was a common bond of interest in this friendship. Both were closely associated with the Ontario Historical Society, which was re-organized by Dr. Coyne in 1897 and of which he was president and later honorary president for some years. They were also associated in the Royal Society of Canada and on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. General Cruikshank was the first president of this board at its organization in 1919 and remained as presiding chairman and its moving spirit until the time of his death. Dr. Coyne was a member of the original board and together they made several motor trips through this district in connection with this work. General Cruikshank was present at the unveiling by Dr. Coyne of the monument at Port Talbot and made an address at that time.

Unprejudiced Historian

General Cruikshank has had a most outstanding career, his interests being varied and numerous, but he has always played a leading part in whatever he undertook. He was considered the leading military historian in Canada, dealing with the history since the conquest, and he wrote many books. As a historian, he was distinguished by absolute accuracy and absolute lack of bias, states Dr. Coyne, and his account of the war of 1812 is regarded as authoritative by both British and Americans. General Cruikshank spent practically the last twenty years of his life writing history, says Dr. Coyne, and he did his own typing. Typical of his thoroughness in his work was the fact that he acquired a translating knowledge of many modern languages, including French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Dutch, Danish and Swedish.

THE LATE GENERAL CRUIKSHANK.

The late Brigadier-General E. A. Cruikshank was a soldier—and a good one—before he became an historian but the public which has chiefly known him since 1919 as chairman of that useful and important organization, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, had largely forgotten his military career which involved steady promotion in the militia until he was transferred to the Permanent Force as officer commanding the military district with headquarters at Calgary. He went to France in 1917 on special duty and later served as director of the historical section of the General Staff.

Naturally Brigadier-General Cruikshank's interest in Canadian history was chiefly associated with military incidents and events and he saw to it that few of the sites connected with such incidents failed to receive recognition from the Board of which he was the chairman. General history, however, appealed to him with almost equal intensity and he was just as interested in seeing that other sites of national importance, such as that at Lyndhurst, should be marked.

The General had an encyclopaedic knowledge of Canadian history extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A man of prodigious industry and remarkable memory, he made the marking of Canada's historic sites the great goal of his later life and scores of cairns and tablets erected in all parts of the Dominion owe their origin principally to his enthusiastic and painstaking research and to his determination that no site of national significance should be neglected. In spite of his rather advanced years, his mind remained so keen that he could recite names and dates and quote from obscure documents by the hour without referring to a solitary note and all the time and labor that he gave to his research was gladly devoted without hope of other reward than that received from rendering his country a service and from perpetuating its history. Incidentally, Brigadier-General Cruikshank found time hanging so heavily on his hands when he wintered in Jamaica that he devoted himself to the compilation of a monumental biography of Sir Henry Morgan, the so-called buccaneer, which must remain the last word on the life of that celebrated individual.

We hope that a country which has profitted so very materially from the old General's self-sacrificing devotion to its history through the raising of memorial cairns will itself raise one to him at his grave in Beechwood Cemetery where he sleeps amongst so many other noted Canadians.