

CAPTAIN CRAWFORD DIES IN NEW YORK

Poet and Close Friend of Buffalo
Bill Passes Away; Father of
Mrs. D. W. Reckhart.



CAPTAIN JACK CRAWFORD.

By Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 27.—Captain Jack Crawford, the poet and close friend of "Buffalo Bill," died at his home here tonight.

Captain Jack was the father of Mrs. D. W. Reckhart, of El Paso. He was taken ill with pneumonia, following Bright's disease. He was a native of Ireland and 70 years old, a veteran of the Union army, and led a life of adventure following that conflict, in the west, like his friend Buffalo Bill. He was a poet of note, known as the "Poet Scout," and for a number of years has been delivering lectures and readings all over the country. He was a striking and picturesque man in physical appearance.

Besides Mrs. Reckhart, he is survived by his widow and two other children, Miss May and Harry Crawford, formerly mayor of Clovis, N. M.

INDIAN FIGHTER CRAWFORD DIES

Capt. Jack, "Poet Scout," Succumbs to Pneumonia at Woodhaven, N. Y.

News dispatches from New York Wednesday announced the death at his home at Woodhaven, Long Island, of John Wallace, better known as "Captain Jack" Crawford, a noted Indian fighter of early frontier days, who was the father of Mrs. Dan W. Reckhart, of El Paso. He was stricken with pneumonia more than a month ago.

Capt. John Wallace Crawford, as he was known in the southwest, made his home at San Marcial, N. M., and was a frequent visitor to El Paso.

Native of Ireland.

Capt. Crawford was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1842. His father was a Scotchman and his grandmother on his father's side was a Wallace, descendant of William Wallace, of Scotland. In 1860 Capt. Crawford's parents moved to this country and settled in Pennsylvania. When the war between the states broke out in 1861 Crawford's father enlisted with the union forces and was killed in battle. Young Crawford ran away from home at the age of 14 years to become a drummer boy in the union army.

Wounded, Drummer Boy Is Taught.

At the battle of Spottsylvania the drummer boy was seriously wounded and was sent to Saterlee hospital, Philadelphia. There his youth and brightness so attracted the nurses that on learning he had not attended school they undertook his education and while in the hospital he learned to read and write.

After leaving the hospital the boy read everything he could get hold of and interested friends loaned him the right kind of books. After the war he enlisted as scout and worked for years under "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and a strong and lasting friendship grew between the two brave and reckless riders of the plains.

Chief of Scouts to '70.

Upon the retirement of "Buffalo Bill" from the service in 1876, "Capt. Jack" was appointed his successor as chief of scouts and as such he had many thrilling experiences with Indians on the western plains. He was in the fight with Custer at Slim Butte. There was a close intimacy between the "Poet Scout" and the dashing Custer. Crawford and three other scouts, "Texas Jack," "California Joe" and "Wild Bill" were prominent in the "Sitting Bull" campaign.

Began Writing at Camp Fires.

Crawford was an intimate friend of Elbert Hubbard, the philosopher, who was drowned when the Lusitania sank. Crawford's latest book which was issued about five years ago, was entitled "Whar' the Land O' God is Seen."

It was while he was watching the movements of the red man that Crawford began writing poetry. Around the camp fires at night he would recite his lines to the officers. He loved nature and the great broad plains of the west. It was his boast that no drop of intoxicants had ever passed his lips.

Married; Moves to Ft. Bayard.

Capt. Crawford was married in Pennsylvania and moved his family to old Fort Bayard, N. M., where he was post trader in 1881. He is survived by his widow, one son and two daughters. Harry Crawford, exmayor of Clovis, N. M., Mrs. D. W. Reckhart, of El Paso, and Miss May Crawford, who lives with her mother. San Marcial has been the home of the family for years.

After the Indian campaigns Capt. Crawford retired and devoted his remaining years to literary work and to the lecture platform. He was a popular entertainer on the Chautauqua circuits.

Burial Probably in Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Crawford and her daughter May were with Capt. Crawford when he died. Mrs. Reckhart was, on account of illness, unable to go to Woodhaven. Interment will probably take place at Minersville, Pa., where the mother of Capt. Crawford is buried. He expressed a wish that he may lie by her side.

CAPT. JACK CRAWFORD DEAD

**"Poet Scout" Was a Friend of
the Late "Buffalo Bill."**

Captain Jack Crawford, the "poet scout," and close friend of the late "Buffalo Bill," died at his home in Brooklyn early this morning.

John Wallace Crawford, scout and poet, and known throughout the country as Captain Jack Crawford, was born in Ireland in 1847 and inherited his adventurous spirit from his ancestors, who fought with Wallace and Bruce for the freedom of Scotland. His mother was a daughter of William Wallace, who was descended from Sir William Wallace, the famous chief. Several members of the family came to America in the Colonial days and fought in the Revolutionary War. His father, John A. Crawford, was banished from Scotland for revolutionary speeches and fled to Ireland and later to America, where he was joined by his wife and children.

Captain Crawford had little or no schooling. When the civil war began, he was only a lad and twice ran away to go to the front, but had difficulty in enlisting on account of his youth. He eventually succeeded in joining the Forty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers and was severely wounded in action. His father also fell near him in one of the battles and died from his wounds shortly after the close of the war.

It was while lying in a military hospital in West Philadelphia that Captain Jack was taught to read and write by a Sister of Charity. After the war he went West and for years thereafter he was an Army Scout for the Government, in the then unsettled territories.

Captain Crawford wrote many stories and poems which were widely published in the magazines. Later he collected and published them under the titles of "The Poet Scout: A book of Song and Story," and "Camp Fire Sparks."

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