

Crane (G. H.)

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*Washington, D. C., October 24, 1883.*

With profound sorrow, the death of Brigadier General Charles Henry Crane, Surgeon General, U. S. A., which occurred at his residence in Washington, D. C., October 10, 1883, is announced to the officers of the Medical Department of the Army.

General Crane, son of the late Colonel I. B. Crane, 1st U. S. Artillery, was born at Newport, R. I., July 19, 1825, and received his early education at Maple Grove Academy, Middletown, Conn. He entered Yale College in 1840, graduating in 1844, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the same Institution in 1847.

He graduated in medicine at the Medical Department of Harvard University in August, 1847.

Having been approved by an Army Medical Examining Board, December 11, 1847, as a candidate for the position of Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army, he was immediately placed under contract as an Acting Assistant Surgeon, and accompanied a detachment of troops to Mexico, arriving at "Camp Washington," near Vera Cruz, February 20, 1848. He was commissioned Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army, February 14, 1848. From February 20, to July, 1848, he served with the "Army of Invasion" in Mexico.

On returning from Mexico, early in August, 1848, he reported for duty at Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, and was assigned to duty with the 2d U. S. Artillery. October 8, 1848, he accompanied two companies of the 2d U. S. Artillery to Fort Monroe, Va. He was then ordered to Florida with troops, arriving at Fort Pickens, Pensacola,

Fla., November 16, 1848. From this date until August 10, 1851, he served at Key West Barracks, St. Joseph's Island, Forts Pickens, Brooke, Fraser, Casey and Myers, and with expeditionary forces in the field. On being relieved from duty in Florida, and at the termination of a leave of absence, he reported for duty December 18, 1851, and on January 13, 1852, sailed from New York in the steamer "Falcon," with recruits for California. He arrived at Benicia, Cal., February 28, 1852, and was assigned to temporary duty at Benicia Barracks. From June 16, until September 1, 1852, he was engaged in field service against hostile Indians near Merced River, Cal. From September 23, until November 10, 1852, he was again in the field with an expedition in the Sacramento Valley, Cal. November 10, 1852, he arrived at Fort Jones, Cal., where he remained on duty until July 15, 1853.

From October 31, 1853, until March, 1856, he was on duty at Fort Lane, Oregon. During these years he was actively engaged in Post duty and with military expeditions against Indians, prominent among which was that against the Rogue River Indians in 1856, where he rendered distinguished service.

On August 7, 1856, he was ordered to Fort Yamhill, Oregon, where he served until relieved from duty on the Pacific Coast in December, 1856.

Reporting for duty in New York, he served for a short time with the Medical Purveyor, U. S. Army. From May 1, 1857, until September 20, 1859, he was one of the members of an Army Medical Examining Board convened to meet in New York City. Being relieved from this duty, he remained in New York, acting at times as Medical Purveyor.

September 20, 1859, General Crane accompanied Lieutenant-General Scott to San Juan Island, on his diplomatic visit, returning to New York December 12, 1859, and continuing on duty as Attending Surgeon at Head-Quarters of the Army, and on special duty until February 28, 1862.

He was promoted Major and Surgeon May 21, 1861.

On February 28, 1862, he was assigned to duty as Medical Director, Department of Key West, Fla. On June 30, 1862, he was transferred to Hilton Head, S. C., and assigned to duty as Medical Director, Department of the South. July 31 to August, 1863, he is reported as awaiting orders at Washington, D. C., and on duty connected with Prisoners of War.

September, 1863, he was placed on duty in the Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C. July 28, 1866, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. Army, with the rank of Colonel, and upon the retirement of General Barnes, was appointed Surgeon General, July 3, 1882.

March 13, 1865, General Crane received the brevets of Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, and Brigadier General, for faithful and meritorious services during the War of the Rebellion.

In the death of Surgeon General Crane the Medical Department of the Army sustains a serious loss. Still in the vigor of life, and with a reasonable prospect of several years of active service in the position to which he had been but recently promoted, it has pleased an inscrutable wisdom to remove him from our midst.

His record, honorable and spotless, lives after him; a source of pride and satisfaction to his friends, a model worthy of imitation by all.

The larger portion of his official life was engaged in administrative duty, for which he had always manifested a peculiar fitness.

Selected to assist in the arduous and important duties devolving upon this Office during the latter years of the War of the Rebellion, his sound judgment, delicate sense of justice and right, deliberate action, and firm decision, soon won for him an enviable reputation, and materially assisted in raising the Medical Corps of the Army to the high degree of discipline and efficiency which has characterized it in the past and present.

In the literary and scientific work of the office he manifested untiring interest; to his watchful care, encouragement and aid, is largely due the successful progress and completion of undertakings which have gained for the Medical Corps the admiring recognition of the world.

Thoroughly acquainted by early experience with the requirements of his Department, assiduously attentive to the routine of business, even in its details, punctilious in regard to the rights of all, and earnest in his endeavors to promote harmony and a healthy *esprit du corps*, General Crane labored patiently, faithfully and effectively for the best interests of his charge.

In his private life he was conspicuous for his firm, devoted friendships; for his kindly interest in, and sympathy with, the joys and griefs of those about him; for his habitual attention to the courtesies which adorn life. Unselfish and generous to a fault, his many deeds of kindness and charity were done quietly and without ostentation.

He needs no higher tribute to his worth as a man than the widespread sorrow which his loss has occasioned, and the respect for his memory which will long be cherished by all who knew him.

General Crane, at the time of his death, was one of the Commissioners of the Soldiers' Home, a Visitor to the Government Hospital for the Insane and to the Columbia Hospital for Women.

After appropriate funeral services at his late residence in this city on October 11, 1883, his remains were removed to Shelter Island, N. Y., for interment.

D. L. HUNTINGTON,  
*Acting Surgeon General, U. S. Army.*