

## 200 Years & Concord Township's Legacy Citizens: Dr. George Crile

Two hundred years of **Concord Township** history is worth celebrating; and the community has done that quite well. Legacy is defined as having a lasting impact; a gift passed down through the generations, and Concord is honoring those who left such an enduring mark there. From its first settler in 1802 to the township's formation in the spring of 1822, many notable residents shaped the future of **Range 8, Tract 10** of the Western Reserve.

One of those **Legacy Citizens** to be honored this month at the Bicentennial Edition of Concord's Community Days is **Dr. George Washington Crile Sr.** (1864-1943). A famous name in the township since 1913, the extended Crile family is notable for their many

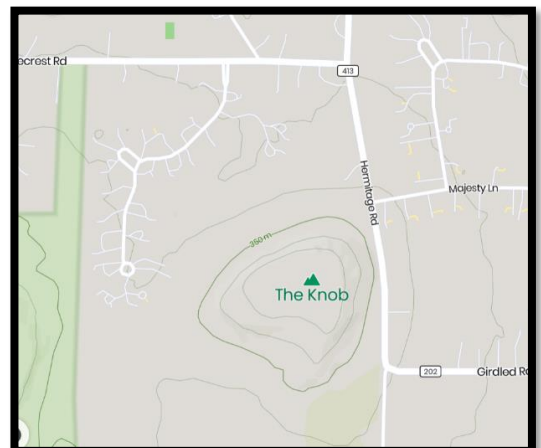


accomplishments, particularly in the field of medicine. Both father and namesake son were medical doctors who pioneered improved early surgical and anesthesia protocols. However, their main claim to fame was being founding members of **The Cleveland Clinic** in 1921.

Beginning around 1900, legendary summer residences built by wealthy Cleveland families appeared in Willoughby, Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, Waite Hill, and in Concord on and around Little

Mountain. As the Gilded Age waned, the elite sought escape from the hot, crowded Cleveland summers by adding summer homes in the cooler, greener spaces of Lake County.

Dr. George Crile Sr. had a magnificent residence in the Euclid Heights neighborhood (*near University Circle*) with his wife Grace McBride Crile and their four children. He had lengthy periods of service in the army and enjoyed an adventurous life. In 1913, Grace's wealthy father John Harris McBride, another of Cleveland's notable citizens, passed away.

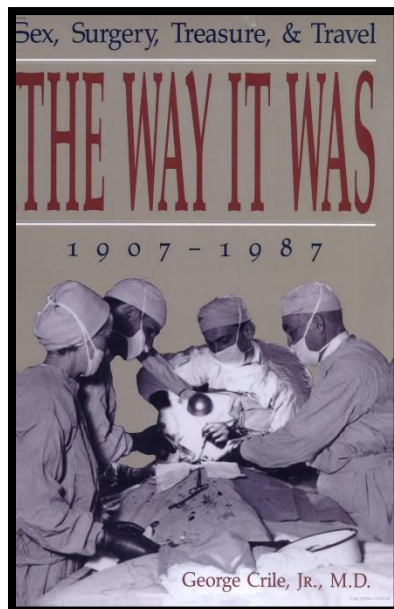




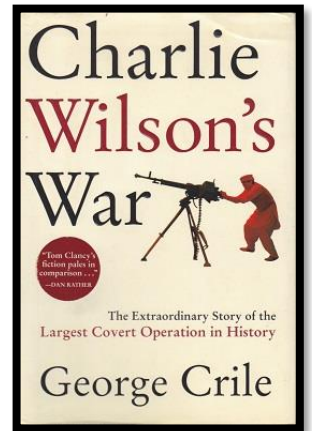
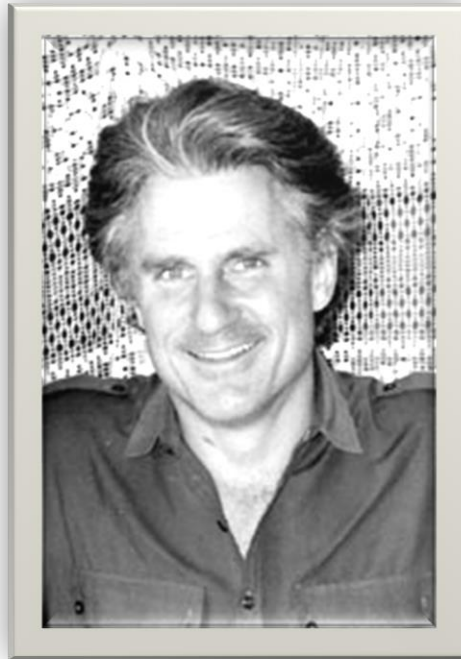
That same year, attracted by the fresh air and natural scenery, Dr. George Crile bought 200 acres of beautiful Concord property known as **The Knob** at **Little Mountain**. The doctor grew up on a farm and enjoyed an exciting life of international travel. He wanted his children to love the outdoors as he did. The Crile property expanded over the years to finally include 2000 acres.

Financial reverses caused by the Great Depression forced the family to downsize their holdings, but part of **The Knob** is still owned by the Crile family descendants. Dr. George "Barney" Crile Jr. (1907-1992) wrote about the glories of family summers growing up there in his memoir, **The Way It Was: 1907-1987**.

Barney Crile's mother adored him, and he became a world-renowned doctor like his father. Along with his first wife, Jane Halle Crile (*Halle Department Stores*), Barney was also an accomplished archaeologist, scuba diver, and author. After his wife Jane's death, he married Helga Sandburg (*youngest daughter of American poet Carl Sandburg*), who joined him in further travel adventures.



Crile descendants went on to achieve success in journalism, fine art, education, as well as medicine. Barney & Jane Crile's son, George Crile III (1945-2006) was an award-winning CBS journalist with *60 Minutes*. He won a Peabody Award, an Emmy, and the Edward R. Murrow Award. He was also the author of *Charlie Wilson's War* in 2003. It was the basis for the 2007 Tom Hanks movie of the same name. Crile Road is a township street bearing their family name.



Jane Halle Crile (1909-1963) and son George Crile III.



**Do you have a nomination for a Legacy Citizen?**

Residents are encouraged to share and nominate township family member history at the Concord Community Center. Preserving Concord family histories and honoring **Legacy Citizens** in the years to follow our bicentennial year remains paramount.

Concord Township welcomes any **Elga Pomeroy images / anecdotes or Township School(s) photos / artifacts for its museum collection.** *Help preserve local history.* Call 440-639-4650 for more details.

Sources: Jason Lea, Gazette Newspapers July 14, 2006, Marian McMahon, Gazette Newspapers June 4, 2004, Rose Moore, Gazette Newspapers, December 14, 2001, June 11, 2004, January 2001 insert, Winter insert 2000.  
Crile, George Jr., *The Way It Was: 1907-1987.* Kent State University Press, 1992.;  
<http://www.chhistory.org/People.php>; <https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/my-recollections-of-old-cleveland/chapter/millionaires-row-migrations/>;  
*Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, Cleveland Memory Project.

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