

Combat Training

Pvt. Robert C. Righy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley S. Righy, 361 S. Glengarry, is scheduled to com-

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Crawford Clan in Lebanon 100 Years
Birmingham Woman Married into Family

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mary McCracken Crawford was the daughter of Pastor Joseph McCracken and Mrs. Macken of the Covenant church in Birmingham. The family settled in Birmingham in 1892, and Mary lived there until 1911 when she married Prof. J. Stewart Crawford of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and went to that city to live. The following account of the Crawford family is written by another Birmingham resident who has lived in Beirut since 1953 where she is associated with the American University's press relations department and also writes features for the Daily Star, only English-language paper in Beirut.

By MRS. GENEVIEVE MAXWELL

On Nov. 26, 1957, it was just 100 years ago that the newly married Scotch-American minister from Argyle, New York, John Crawford, arrived in Damascus with his bride to serve as a missionary for the United Presbyterian church.

Crossing by steamship to England and thence to Alexandria and Beirut had taken little more than two months. However, the last leg of their journey from Beirut to Damascus was the most arduous,

having to organize a caravan to journey over the snowy summits of the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon ranges. But their safe arrival in Damascus was a rich reward on Nov. 26, 1857, and a date to be remembered.

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PERHAPS THE most important news to the following three generations on their arrival was the operation of the reform edicts of the Turkish Hatt-i Humayun—guaranteeing Christian subjects security of life, honor, and property with full liberty of conscience guarantee, and the fact that civil offices had been thrown open to all subjects of the Sultan.

This news was a good augur for the future of the young minister and his wife—who had brought all their worldly possessions with them and were ready to devote their very lives to the Arab people.

That is what they did and some of the following three generations of men and women have done the same, having become an integral part of the community.

IT WAS TYPICAL that on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the family's residence in this area, only a few old timers and close friends of the family clan were present for a cup of tea together at the campus residence of Vice President Archie Stuart Crawford of the American University. After their arrival in Syria in 1857, John and Mary Crawford had three living children born in Damascus. The oldest was J. Stewart Crawford, born in 1864, father of the present AUB vice president. After serving for 15 years as a missionary associate of his father, J. Stewart came to the Syrian Protestant college, Beirut, in 1903, as Professor of Bible and Ethics. This was before the board of regents changed the name to the American University of Beirut (1920). He married Mary McCracken of Birmingham in 1911 and their four children all were born here. The second child was a daughter, Mary Alice, who later married Prof. Robert H. West, and the third was John Forsyth, who be-

came professor of psychology and philosophy at Beloit college, Wis., Cornell.
A daughter of Robert H. West, Margaret, sister of the present Dr. William A. West, served at AUB for a number of years as secretary to the president, and a younger son (and brother) Francis, taught physics at International college for three years.

OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, however, are the two branches of the Crawford clan who have spent most of their lives in Beirut and still are associated with the American University. Two sons on the Crawford side served AUB.
Archie Stuart Crawford had his first position here as a teacher in International college, 1921. He was assistant treasurer for many years and then transferred to AUB in 1930 to 1943. The US office of strategic services required his services in Cairo from 1943 to 1945, after which he assisted in the organization of Damascus college. During the rising crisis of the Palestine issue, he was appointed acting president of the university, 1947 to 1948, during an exceedingly critical year for AUB. Following this year, Crawford was appointed vice president and treasurer of the university.

The Archie Crawfords now have three grown children. They are John, a graduate geologist associated in research with an oil company in Illinois, Mary, a pathologist, and a biologist and they are each on research fellowships at London University. Alice is a senior at Swarthmore college, Pa.

A YOUNGER BROTHER, J. Forrest Crawford, taught biology at the American university for three years, was a member of the staff of the Near East foundation, and for a number of years before his death in 1954, was an agricultural attache in the United States foreign service.

On the other hand, Prof. William A. West came on the faculty of the Syrian Protestant college in 1919, as instructor of mathematics in the school of arts and sciences, moving later into his major field of chemistry at the university, 1923.

For many years Dr. West served on the buildings and grounds committee of AUB, and has been the guiding light in the recent development of the campus plantings. It was in the period 1938 to 1948, when he was chairman, that many of the beautiful flowering shrubs and plants which individualize the AUB campus today, were set out.

THE WILLIAM A WESTS have three children. Elizabeth, who presently serves as research assistant at the Freer gallery of art, Washington, D. C., Allen, a graduate student in chemistry at Cornell university, and David, a graduate

student in ornithology, also at Cornell.
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THE CRAWFORD-WEST families now have entered their fourth generation in 100 years. Newcomers are surprised at their Arabic spoken in their respective homes so casually when needed, or to sit at their tables and other Arabic foods so well prepared and relished.

And from the many Arab students who come to their respective floors it is plain also that there is a great loyalty to the people who have received them and their families into this area for the last 100 years.

AUB has never been a missionary school, having been secularized from its beginning in 1860, but the spirit of giving is paramount—giving for its own sake—a spirit exemplified by these families.

Gets Appointment

James R. Woodburn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Woodburn, 32055 Telegra., received a provisional appointment at Culver Military academy.

Stationed in Texas

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