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The Life of General George Crook: Famous Frontier General of the Old West (1890)

E. G. Cattermole

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The Life of General George Crook: Famous Frontier General of the Old West (1890) E. G. Cattermole Deeds of the truly great should be brought conspicuously before the people. Whether in literature, in science, in art, or in defense of home and country—wherever are found noble characters, for memory's sake, no less than to inspire others with a spirit of emulation, we ought to rehearse their achievements, and tell the story of their struggles and triumphs. There are so many temptations to follow pernicious lives; so few incentives, comparatively, toward pure heroism and genuine nobility of character. Our part of the world, particularly, is in danger of reclining upon the couch of luxury, and cultivating that spirit of effeminacy so suicidal to the possessor. The sacrifices of ancestral heroes find little appreciation by the modern youth, largely from the fact that the perils of early settlement are so little known. To supply some stimulating food of this character, is the object of the present book.

George R. Crook (1830 – 1890) was a career United States Army officer, most noted for his distinguished service during the American Civil War and the Indian Wars. During the 1880s, the Apache nicknamed Crook Nantan Lupan, which means "Grey Wolf."

At the end of the Civil War, George Crook received a brevet as major general in the regular army, but reverted to the permanent rank of major. Only days later, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, serving with the 23rd Infantry on frontier duty in the Pacific Northwest. In 1867, he was appointed head of the Department of the Columbia.

Snake War: Crook successfully campaigned against the Snake Indians in the 1864-68 Snake War, where he won nationwide recognition. President Ulysses S. Grant next placed Crook in command of the Arizona Territory. Crook's use of Apache scouts during the Yavapai War brought him much success in forcing the Yavapai and Tonto Apache onto reservations. In 1873 Crook was appointed brigadier general in the regular army. From 1875 to 1882 and again from 1886 to 1888, Crook was head of the Department of the Platte. Crook served against the Sioux during the Great Sioux War of 1876-77. He fought the Lakota at the Battle of the Rosebud. On 28 May 1876, Brigadier General George Crook assumed direct command of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Expedition at Fort Fetterman.

Crook was made head of the Department of Arizona and successfully forced some members of the Apache to surrender, but Geronimo continually evaded capture. As a mark of respect, the Apache nicknamed Crook Nantan Lupan, which means "Grey Wolf".

Crook was portrayed in the 1993 movie Geronimo: An American Legend (1993) by the actor Gene Hackman. He was a figure in the television series Deadwood and was portrayed by Peter Coyote.

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