

# The Watcher Files

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1932

## Administrative Matters

The Assiniboine Wonder group, based in the Gingerbread Hall, has named The Watcher as their leader.

The group continues to pursue multiple files. Updates on each provided as follows.

## The case of the half-eaten man

Updated November 21<sup>st</sup>

The victim was a veteran and self-identified antiquarian, Sir Clarence Hubert Cartwright.

### Information Revisions

New information developed disputes some of the previously reported material. The providence of some of new information is problematic (anonymously delivered). However, it has proven true in several particulars so will be provisionally treated as factual. Information previously provided is updated, as follows, to correct the previous record. Because the record is amended, this record is longer than usual. This is to record both the incremental new information and to confirm previous information that remains unchanged.

### Cartwright's Background

The new information suggests that Cartwright was born in Cramahe Township in Ontario in 1887 rather than in Port Colburne, Ontario in 1883 has previously believed. Cartwright lived there long enough to develop a relationship with the neighbors Edith and Grace McTavish. Cartwright's father eventually moved the family to London Ontario to pursue a career working with the Labatt's brewing company. The father became a chemist of note in that position.

New information suggests Cartwright attended Upper Canada College for his grade school, graduating from that institution in 1904. He then attended the All Souls College at Oxford acquiring a degree in chemistry in 1908, not 1905 as was previously believed. He stayed on at the institution to study tropical fungi. His publications from that period were characterized as exhibiting brilliance.

In April of 1910 Cartwright came into possession the 'Codrington plaques' - engrave plates of an unknown material and dubious providence. Cartwright became enamoured of the possibility of translating the writing on these plates to the extent of abandoning other studies and expected activities. Cartwright later came to believe the April 20<sup>th</sup> perihelion of Halley's Comet was significant in the discovery. During this period, Cartwright's father died leaving him a man of independent means.

Cartwright had just left Oxford (expelled) with the plates when the Great War broke out. Cartwright's patriotism led him to immediately enlist. Due to his background in chemistry, he served most of the war with the Army Ordnance Department (AOD) in France. Toward the end of the war Cartwright was transferred to Belgium to serve as lieutenant in the Second Battalion of the Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own, the Yorkshire regiment.

Five months into that tour, Cartwright's unit was attacked by German Wonders of the monstrous variety. One particular foe was an armoured worm seemingly impervious to gunfire. Cartwright engaged this adversary with a pistol and a satchel charge (rather than dynamite as previous information suggested). Cartwright destroyed the worm-person. He came away from the encounter with the belief that worm's name was Otto Kunst, and that Herr Kunst was seeking release from the form, or the role, he had been forced to play.

After Cartwright regained consciousness at the Bethlem Royal Hospital, he was knighted and received the Victoria Cross.

After his recovery, Sir Cartwright experienced a 'fugue state' – what he came to regard as fourteen lost years. What is known is that after recovering from his wounds (and with the war at an end), Sir Cartwright retrieved the Codrington plagues from where he had hidden them and travelled to America. He joined the faculty of Miskatonic University in Arham, Massachusetts.

Sir Cartwright continued his obsession with translating the plagues. He rebuffed a visit from his one-time paramour, Ms. Grace McTavish.

Sir Cartwright eventually connected in his obsession with two other faculty - a Dr. Little and a Dr. Osborne. Their combined work on the plaques brought them to believe in a pre-human civilization with a refuge in the south Pacific. They persuaded the University to sponsor an expedition out of Papeete in the French Protectorate of Tahiti in search of further proof. In that expedition Drs. Little and Osborne perished. The ship they used, the Fleming, was destroyed with all hands. Only Sir Cartwright survived, once again seriously injured. Sir Cartwright now had in his possession a new set of plagues which Dr. Little had believed to be a formulary.

The injury and horror of the expedition broke the fugue on Sir Cartwright. He now considered the new plagues to be horrific and blasphemous and regretted the years and lives lost. He had also exhausted most of his wealth. Sir Cartwright retraced his tracks and returned to Papeete. His notes indicate he visited an island of "G" in company with "Captain M". What he found there spooked him. Abandoning those pursuits, Sir Cartwright travelled to Assiniboine to visit Edith, the sister of Grace McTavish.

Contrary to previous information, it is now established that Sir Cartwright had only been in Assiniboine for a couple of weeks. He took up residence in the Royal Alexandra hotel. Sir Cartwright also established accounts and rented a security deposit box at the local Bank of Montreal. The box rented was one of the larger ones, bigger than those needed for ordinary document storage. It appears to have been adequate for the storage of the second set of plates Sir Cartwright acquired in Tahiti.

Sir Cartwright had asked to give a presentation to the Historical Society for the express purpose of demonstrating proof of the existence of the pre-human civilization that he had been postulating. This presentation was arranged at the exclusive Manitoba Club for an upcoming Sunday evening. Witnesses recall that Sir Cartwright was largely ridiculed for his views. His one published article (found so far) attracted rebuttal and scorn from the experts in the field. The general view was that Sir Cartwright's contentions were based on books and other publications that were considered debunked or unworthy.

Sir Cartwright also visited the home of Mrs. Edith Rogers (ne McTavish) on the evening of Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Rogers is a notable local politician and philanthropist, widow to the businessman

Robert Rogers. Sir Cartwright attempted to persuade Mrs. Rogers to put him in contact with Mrs. Rogers sister Grace McTavish. However, Mrs. Rogers was disinclined to arrange that connection.

Sir Cartwright was well regarded by the staff at the hotel. His last regular sighting was returning to his room in the evening on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. After that his room displayed a do-not-disturb sign. Curiously, one maid claims to have seen Mr. Cartwright on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> (it was later established that Mr. Cartwright was dead at that time). The maid 'saw' Mr. Cartwright in a non-public space of the hotel, in the company of a man with a mustache and a bowler hat. The maid reported that Mr. Cartwright was acting uncharacteristically distant.

### The Crime(s)

Information previously reported about the crime remains unchanged. It is repeated here for ease of reference.

Three days before that planned presentation, Sir Cartwright perished. Indications are that he died in his bed of a common heart attack. However, after his death – probably over the following day – something 'ate' the lower half of his torso. The body showed bite marks that do not match to any known animal. Marks indicate an unusual number of teeth and a 'tidy eater'. This 'animal' left no other indications of its presence such as tracks or feces. A unique 'predator' scent likely associated to the animal was detected. Sir Cartwright's body was found still covered by the bed sheets, the room was locked, all windows secured, and no other method of entry or egress was located. No other resident has reported suspicious activity.

Sir Cartwright's residence contained a number of books on antiquities and extinct cultures, including works on Lemuria and Atlantis. These works were liberally bookmarked and annotated.

Sometime on Saturday evening or Sunday morning (two-three days after Sir Cartwright's demise) an intruder raided the security deposit box vault at the Bank of Montreal. This intruder appears to have forced a guard to cooperate and then killed that guard. Indications are that the guard died in great pain of a poison that largely liquified his internal organs. From the damage, the coroner suspects a form of snake venom. However, the means by which this poison was administered has not been established. The guard's throat did not display similar damage and no injection or bite marks were discovered.

The intruder proceeded to systematically remove and search the private boxes in that vault. Boxes #1 through box #784 were pried open and dumped on the floor. #784 was determined to be the box belonging to Sir Cartwright. It has not yet been established what, if anything, was taken but much of value was left behind.

At this point, the authorities invited the assistance of the local Wonder team that had opposed an earlier attempt to rob that institution. Specifically, the team was asked to work Detective Hargrave of the Assiniboine Police Department.

That team assessed the intruder's target to be Mr. Cartwright's box. They called on Mr. Cartwright and discovered the body. The team continues to make inquiries which as resulted in the information gathered above.

## Continuing investigation

As previously reported the team has questioned the bank manager, the Alexandra hotel staff, Dr. David Alexander Stewart (renowned physician and president of Manitoba Historical Society), and a professor at St. John's College history department. The team also checked the city's points of entry (train stations, air station and canal port) for the 'predator' scent but did not detect anything.

Since the previous report the team was unable to interview Dr. Malcom Malory of St. John's College. However, at the University an anonymous individual passed information to two team members which provided further background and additional leads.

The team has since interviewed the maid who believed she witnessed Sir Clarence moving about on the Sunday morning. The team also identified and located Edith Rogers connection to the case. The team established Mrs. Rogers safety and interviewed her for information.

## The Case of the Assassinated Body Double

As previously reported, the team had investigated the apparent assassination of Sir Hamish, patron of the Assiniboine Wonder Group. At that time the team had established the person killed was Sir Hamish's body double. The real Sir Hamish was in an ultra secure national facility. It was decided to not reveal that the real Sir Hamish still lives.

The funeral for the man believed to be Sir Hamish is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This ceremony has attracted significant visitation by dignitaries from outside Assiniboine. The "Maple Squad" – Canada's national Wonder team has arrived in Assiniboine to provide security for the event.

The team has now been informed that the real Sir Hamish will be attending his faux-funeral. Sir Hamish will view the funeral from a curtained and otherwise empty choir loft. To ensure his protection, the team will be supplementing the security of Sir Hamish from his arrival into town, during the funeral, and until his departure. Arrangements have been made to connect with Sir Hamish on Wednesday morning to begin the security.

## The Case of the Escaped Bank Robber

As previously reported, the team intervened after a robbery at an Assiniboine branch of the Bank of Montreal. Two criminal Wonders were apprehended fleeing the scene. Both the 'Ringmaster' and 'Gisele' were being held in Headingly high security detention.

On Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>, the team was informed that both suspects had escaped detention. Information was they had 'just walked out'. The team was able to track the whereabouts of the Wonder known as Ringmaster.

The team approached his location cautiously expecting resistance. Indications on the scene led the team to believe it was possibly a trap. The Ringmaster was a prisoner secured to a chair and hooded. However, the team believed that even if a trap, it was incumbent upon them to secure the prisoner and prevent any risk to civilians. Access was established by Mighty Mite. Jeeves entered to secure the prisoner. Attempt the prisoner's removal did indeed trigger a trap. Tentacles emerge from below the building ...

Further reports to follow.