

# A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes  
Adventure XXII -- The  
Adventure of the Crooked Man

# THE CROOKED MAN

## DATE OF THE ADVENTURE\*

(Colonel Barclay's death)

### CLUES:

1. Watson says, "One summer night, a few months after my marriage ... " (411)
2. Watson was married in late 1888 or early 1889.
3. Holmes says, "It (the Royal Munsters) was commanded up to Monday night by James Barclay ..."
4. June 21, 1889 was Friday

### CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply it was summer (after June 21) 1889
- B. 3 implies that Colonel Barclay died on Monday night
- C. 1 also implies that, since it was a few months after Watson's marriage, it was early summer.
- D. C implies it was not in July or August
- E. A, B, D and 4 imply it was Monday, June 24, 1889

**Colonel Barclay died on Monday, June 24, 1889**

---

\*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

## THE CROOKED MAN VOCABULARY WORDS

- wry face (411) – **a face temporarily twisted in an expression of distaste or displeasure**
- linoleum (411) – **durable, washable material made in sheets and used as a covering for floors**
- hansom (412) – **a two-wheeled covered carriage with the driver's seat above and behind; named after Joseph Aloysius Hansom (1803-1882), a British architect**
- meretricious (412) – **attracting attention in a vulgar manner**
- Royal Munsters (412) – **Royal Munster Fusiliers, a regiment of the British Army**
- Crimea (412) – **the Crimean War (1853 – 1856) where England, France and Turkey opposed Russia**
- Mutiny (412, 420) – **the Sepoy Rebellion, a revolt of the Sepoy troops in India against British authority (1857 – 1858); caused by the disregard of Hindu religious doctrines by the East India Company which ruled India; resulted in powers of government being transferred to the British monarchy which at that time was Queen Victoria**
- colour-sergeant (413, 420) – **a sergeant in charge of a battalion or regimental colors**
- acutely (413, 415) – **sharply; keenly**
- singular (413, 414, 415) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable**
- chaff (413) – **to make fun of in a good-natured way**
- mess-table (413) – **dining area for soldiers**
- puerile (413) – **immature; childish**
- barracks (413) – **buildings used to house military personnel**

- villa (413, 414) – **large, luxurious country house of a well-to-do person**
- highroad (413) – **main road**
- coachman (413, 414, 417) – **driver of any carriage**
- morning-room (414) – **room used as a sitting room in the early part of the day**
- French window (414) – **pair of windows extending to the floor and opening in the middle**
- fender (414, 417, 421) – **screen or metal framework placed in front of a fireplace to keep hot coals and debris from falling out**
- conjecture (415, 417) – **judgment based on inconclusive or incomplete evidence**
- carnivorous (416) – **meat eating**
- weasel (416) – **carnivorous mammal having a long slender body, a long tail, short legs, and brownish fur**
- stoat (416, 421) – **an ermine, especially when in its brown color phase**
- ostentatiously (417) – **boastfully showy**
- recriminations (417) – **counter charges**
- passages (417) – **exchange of words**
- ethereal (417) – **delicate**
- absolved (417) – **released**
- registration agent (418) – **someone who assists in making lists of eligible voters**
- conjurer (418, 421) – **someone who performs magic tricks; a magician**
- canteens (418, 421) – **military recreation hall where refreshments are available**
- trepidation (418) – **state of alarm or dread; apprehension**
- florin (418) – **coin worth two shillings or 1/10 of a £**
- rupee (418) – **basic unit of currency in India and several neighboring countries as well**
- warrant (419) – **judicial document authorizing an officer to make a search, a seizure, or an arrest**

burr (419) – **a persistently clinging thing often thrown off by a plant**

swarthy (419) – **having a dark complexion**

bilious (419) – **brownish-yellow or greenish-yellow in color**

affably (419) – **easily and pleasantly spoken to**

Providence (420) – **control exercised by a deity; divine direction**

cantonments (420) – **groups of temporary living quarters for troops**

harum-scarum (420) – **lacking a sense of responsibility; reckless**

marked for the sword-belt (420) – **destined to become a commissioned officer**

Sikhs (420) – **people who practice the monotheistic religion founded in northern India in the 16th century and which combines elements of Hinduism and Islam**

watercourse (420) – **stream or river**

hutch (421) – **pen or coop for small animals**

lithe (421) – **supple; flexible**

mongoose (421) – **mammal with a slender, agile body and a long tail; noted for its ability to seize and kill venomous snakes**

ichneumon (421) – **large mongoose from Africa and southern Europe, having a gray coat and black tail tufts; also called the Egyptian mongoose**

inquest (422) – **judicial inquiry into the cause of a death**

apoplexy (422) – **a stroke**

## THE CROOKED MAN OPEN QUESTIONS

1. On page 422 Holmes says, "... you will find the story (about David) in the first or second of Samuel." It actually appears in the Second Book of Samuel, Chapters 11 and 12. A summary of the story is:

King David became the father of a child with Bathsheba while she was still the husband of Uriah. David arranged for Uriah's death in battle and then married Bathsheba.

David's punishment was the death of the first child he fathered with Bathsheba.

How were the relationships among David, Bathsheba, and Uriah the same as and different from the relationships among Colonel Barclay, Nancy Barclay, and Henry Wood?

**Colonel Barclay betrayed Henry Wood and arranged for his capture while David betrayed Uriah and arranged for his death. In both cases the betrayal was because the man who was betrayed had the love of a woman whose love the other man wanted. In both cases when the betrayed man disappeared (either because of his capture or his death) the betrayer gained the love of the woman. At the time of the betrayals, Colonel Barclay was married to Nancy Barclay while David was not yet married to Bathsheba. There was no adulterous relationship in the Barclay-Wood group while there was one between David and Bathsheba.**

2. In view of your answer to Question 1, what do you think of Nancy Barclay's use of the word "David" in chastising her husband?

**Nancy Barclay's use of the word "David" was not quite appropriate. Her husband was not guilty of adultery, and the betrayal did not take place when Nancy was married to anyone, much less Henry Wood. Moreover, David's punishment was the death of his child while Colonel Barclay's punishment was his own death.**

## THE CROOKED MAN SIMPLE QUIZ\*

1. Colonel Barclay was killed by
  - a. a blow to the head
  - b. a fall
  - c. a pistol shot
  - d. none of the above
  
2. The animal that Henry Wood used in his entertainment was
  - a. a snake
  - b. a mongoose
  - c. a rabbit
  - d. none of the above
  
3. Colonel Barclay betrayed Henry Wood by
  - a. sending him into a trap
  - b. seducing his wife
  - c. falsely accusing him of a crime
  - d. none of the above
  
4. Nancy Barclay compared her husband to
  - a. General Charles Gordon
  - b. Jack the Ripper
  - c. King David
  - d. none of the above

---

\* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

## THE CROOKED MAN INTERMEDIATE QUIZ<sup>#</sup>

1. What was the name of Henry Wood's mongoose?
  - a. Jimmy
  - b. Teddy
  - c. Toby
  - d. none of the above
  
2. What did Holmes observe that told him that Watson had no gentleman visitors?
  - a. Watson's hat stand
  - b. Watson's umbrella stand
  - c. Watson's coat rack
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What was the maiden name of Nancy Barclay?
  - a. Morrison
  - b. Murphy
  - c. Devoy
  - d. none of the above
  
4. According to Henry Wood what was the cause of Colonel Barclay's death?
  - a. a fall
  - b. a blow by Henry Wood himself
  - c. the sight of Henry Wood
  - d. none of the above

---

<sup>#</sup> The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

## THE CROOKED MAN ADVANCED QUIZ<sup>&</sup>

1. Which one of the following animals was NOT mentioned in the story?
  - a. chimpanzee
  - b. dog
  - c. elephant
  - d. monkey
  
2. Which of the following places did Henry Wood NOT visit during his travels after leaving Bhurtee?
  - a. Darjeeling
  - b. Nepal
  - c. Punjab
  - d. Bombay
  
3. Who took over Watson's medical practice when he accompanied Holmes in the case?
  - a. Jackson
  - b. Farquhar
  - c. Verner
  - d. none of the above
  
4. In what guild did Nancy Barclay interest herself?
  - a. St. David
  - b. St. George
  - c. St. Andrew
  - d. none of the above

---

<sup>&</sup> The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

## ANSWERS TO QUIZZES

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
<b>Silver Blaze</b>				
Simple	c	b	d	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	c	c	b	a
<b>The Yellow Face</b>				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	b	b	c
<b>Stock-Broker's Clerk</b>				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b
<b>'Gloria Scott'</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	c	c	a	c
<b>Musgrave Ritual</b>				
Simple	b	d	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	a	c
Advanced	a	b	c	a
<b>Reigate Puzzle</b>				
Simple	c	b	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	c
Advanced	b	a	c	b
<b>Crooked Man</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	c
Intermediate	b	a	c	c
Advanced	c	d	a	b
<b>Resident Patient</b>				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	b	d
Advanced	b	c	c	a

Answers to Quizzes

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
<b>Greek Interpreter</b>				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	b
<b>Naval Treaty</b>				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	a	c	a
Advanced	c	b	c	b
<b>Final Problem</b>				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b