

FROM LOUISVILLE TO THE NORTH POLE:
DID PEARY LEAVE VERHOEFF TO DIE?

Arthur H. Keeney, M.D.
Virginia T. Keeney, M.D.

In 1891 John McKee Verhoeff of Louisville embarked with Robert E. Peary on an expedition to the North Pole. Of the entire party Verhoeff alone did not return. Peary's explanations were unsatisfactory to Verhoeff's sister, Mattie Verhoeff Fortune, and when Peary's diary was made public, there were mysterious blank pages around the dates of Verhoeff's disappearance. Did he meet death in northern Greenland by foul play or accident? Was he abandoned? Did he take up Eskimo life? Mattie thought that there had been foul play for the rest of her life. Many newspaper clippings kept in her scrapbook stimulated interest in what may be the darkest side of a long Arctic night.¹ In 1985 the Robert E. Peary files were opened to the public.² In 1987 the National Geographic

ARTHUR H. KEENEY, M.D., is dean emeritus of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He and his wife, VIRGINIA T. KEENEY, M.D., have written a number of articles on Kentucky medical history and other subjects.

1 Mattie Verhoeff Fortune collected newspaper clippings, correspondence, and other material concerning John's disappearance over a period of many years. See Scrapbook of John McKee Verhoeff (hereafter Verhoeff Scrapbook), compiled by Mattie Verhoeff, library, The Filson Club Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky (hereafter FCHS). John's diary indicates that he wrote long letters to Mattie, but these have not been found. See John M. Verhoeff Diary (hereafter Verhoeff Diary) in the Center for Polar Archives, National Archives, Washington, D. C. (hereafter CPA, NA). Peary's letter to Mattie on 27 September 1892 seeks to rebut evidence of personality clashes between himself and John. See Verhoeff Scrapbook, FCHS.

2 Peary Hearings, 4 March 1910 to 21 January 1911, report no. 8, Congressional subcommittee of the committee on naval affairs. All documents of the Peary expeditions were closed until 1985. Fortunately, they were boxed and preserved in sixty-two large cartons for many years at Peary's home on Eagle Island off the Maine coast. Sometime in the 1940s, they were transferred to the Center for Polar Archives of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. (hereafter Peary Papers, CPA, NA). The long silence was broken by agreement obtained from the Peary family by the National

Society arranged for the separate reunions of the Eskimo branch of Peary's descendants (thirty people extending over four generations) and Peary's American family of twenty persons.³

By any standard the Verhoeff families of Louisville were industrious, successful, and wealthy. They lived in adjacent, elegant residences on Second Street south of Broadway which were comparable to the famous brownstones of New York City. The houses were built after the Civil War by Herman Heinrich Verhoeff, Jr., and his brother Otto M. Verhoeff.⁴

John Verhoeff was born in Louisville in 1866. His thirty-two-year-old father Otto M. Verhoeff had already made a fortune in the steamboat business. Both Otto and his wife died young, leaving a substantial inheritance to John and his sister Mattie.⁵

John Verhoeff was small — standing only five feet four inches and weighing only one hundred and thirty pounds — the same size as Frederick Herman Verhoeff, M.D., his famous first cousin who was a professor of ophthalmology at Harvard University.⁶ He did

Geographic Society. One previous biography had been authorized in 1964 - J. E. Weems, *Peary: The Explorer and the Man* (Los Angeles: J. P. Tarcher, 1967) - but there was no access to the papers by the public. In the 1980s Wally Herbert, the senior explorer for the National Geographic Society, was commissioned to study, evaluate, and publish his interpretation of Peary's logs from 1891 to 1909. His report was published as *The Noose of Laurels* (London & Sydney: Hudder and Stoughton, 1989). In ten citations to Verhoeff, Herbert provides indirect evidence of increasing conflicts between Verhoeff and Peary.

3 Edward Peary Stafford, "The Peary Family," *National Geographic*, September 1988, pp. 417-21. The Eskimo descendants of Peary's closest exploring ally, Matthew Alexander Henson (1866-1955), were reunited in Greenland and in New York. See S. A. Counter, "The Henson Family," *ibid.*, 422-29. In 1988 the body of Matthew Henson, Peary's black companion, was moved from New York City's Woodlawn Cemetery to the Arlington National Cemetery beside Admiral Peary.

4 See the Verhoeff Scrapbook, FCHS. Approximately two hundred and fifty negative glass slides of Verhoeff family photographs, apparently taken by Frederick Herman Verhoeff, M. D., are in the photographs and prints department at The Filson Club Historical Society. The negatives are unlabeled, but fortunately many of the people shown can be identified.

5 Records of Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, and the authors' interviews with John's cousins, Mary, Carolyn, and Frederick H. Verhoeff, M. D.

not have the rugged physique expected of a potential Arctic explorer, but his discipline, education, and determination compensated for his small stature.

John had always been fascinated with Arctic exploration. He frequently tramped barefoot in the snow to toughen himself, and he proved his mettle by jumping out of second-story windows. He took a bicycle ride to Niagara Falls and back, and during the winter of 1890 in Oregon he swam across the Willamette River at Portland and back in sixteen and a half minutes with the water temperature at 44.5°F.⁷

The family's academic prowess usually led the Verhoeff men to Yale and the women to Vassar.⁸ John went to the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale where his ophthalmologist cousin would later graduate in the class of 1895.⁹ Mattie graduated from Vassar College as did her two cousins, sisters of Dr. Verhoeff, Carolyn and Mary. Carolyn was an animal-rescue activist and Mary was a vice president of The Filson Club from 1933 to 1962 and the author of two significant works in Kentucky history.¹⁰ With this strong family background, thoroughly independent, confident of his own ability, and something of a nonconformist, John was well prepared to be an explorer.¹¹ His understanding of mineralogy and meteorology

6 Arthur H. Keeney, M.D., and Virginia T. Keeney, M. D., "Frederick Herman Verhoeff (1874-1968)," *Filson Club History Quarterly* 55 (1981): 202-209.

7 Weems, *Peary: The Explorer & The Man*, 103. Robert Peary to John Verhoeff, 3 May 1891 and Verhoeff Diary, 20 February 1892, CPA, NA.

8 Alumni Archives, Yale University Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. The alumni records contain a good deal of information about Frederick Herman Verhoeff but none about John M. Verhoeff.

9 *Ibid.*

10 "The Leadership of The Filson Club, 1884-1984," *Filson Club History Quarterly*, 58 (1984): 459; *ibid.*, 37 (1963): 187, 290-91. For Carolyn Verhoeff, see Thelma Dolan, "Filsonians," *Filson Club History Quarterly* 47 (1973): 366. Mary Verhoeff wrote *The Kentucky Mountains* (1st publication series, no. 26; Louisville: The Filson Club, 1910) and *The Kentucky River Navigation* (1st publication series, no. 28; Louisville: The Filson Club, 1917).

11 Weems, *Peary*, 103-104, 114-116; also the Verhoeff Diary and Robert E. Peary, *Northward Over the "Great Ice"* (2 vols.; 1898), 1, p. 46.

filled a basic need of the expedition, though he often fell behind in his log of observations.¹²

Lieutenant Robert E. Peary of the United States Navy was six feet four inches tall and in his mid thirties; he was headstrong, determined, and demanding with a ravenous hunger for honor and recognition.¹³ Peary lived as if the North Pole belonged to him. He desperately sought praise and new worlds to conquer. Astride the North Pole in April 1909, missing eight toes from previous expeditions but with an incessantly growing ego, he believed that the world was his.¹⁴

Though Peary had made an expedition to northern Greenland in July and August 1886, this was a preparatory trip. Both he and John Verhoeff, though not yet acquainted, had long been interested in Arctic exploration, and each believed that the North Pole was destined to belong to America.

Peary's first expedition (1891-92) was his shortest and, from the viewpoint of the Verhoeff family, it was overshadowed by the mystery of John's disappearance. Early in 1891 Verhoeff offered his services to Peary and contributed \$2,000 toward the cost of the expedition. He was officially the mineralogist and the meteorologist for the expedition. Other members of the expedition also contributed to the cost which was estimated at \$10,000.¹⁵

The seven-member expedition party sailed on 6 June 1891 from Brooklyn, New York, on the steam sealer *Kite* with its crew of fifteen. Peary's wife Josephine was aboard for this first full-scale expedition; she was the first white woman to go to the Arctic Circle. To Verhoeff

12 Diary of Robert E. Peary, Peary Papers, CPA, NA, Box 1: "Mar. 8 '92 I got Verhoeff's monthly meteorological report to date today, also his report of his work on his boat trip last August. I have spoken to him repeatedly about them and the latter is about 7 months overdue."

13 Wally Herbert, *Noose of Laurels*, 94-100; Peary to his mother, 1891, Peary Papers, CPA, NA.

14 Robert E. Peary, *The North Pole: Its Discovery in 1909 Under Auspices of the Peary Arctic Club* (New York, 1910), 287-301.

15 The money seems to have come from Verhoeff's uncle John Verhoeff. See John Verhoeff to Mattie Verhoeff, 30 July 1891, Verhoeff Scrapbook, FCHS.

she was unwelcome from the beginning. An associated group of nine scholars from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences under Angelo Heilprin also booked passage on the *Kite*.¹⁶

On 27 July 1891 the *Kite* reached McCormick's Bay in northwest Greenland. The accidental, shipboard fracture of Peary's right leg was healing, but he had to be carried ashore "strapped to a plank." Two of the most dedicated participants in the expedition were twenty-three-year-old Matthew Henson, described at times as a black body servant, and the expedition's surgeon, Frederick A. Cook, M.D. Both participated in later polar expeditions.¹⁷

The party quickly erected a twenty-one by twelve-foot, prefabricated, insulated "Red Cliff cottage by the sea" on the south shore of McCormick's Bay. Several tons of supplies were unloaded and stacked against the cottage walls as additional insulation. The work was finished on 11 August 1891, ten days after the *Kite* had departed.

Possibly aggravated by the light deprivation of winter, relationships between Peary and several other members of the expedition, particularly Cook, became strained. Peary seemed insensitive to the needs and desires of his colleagues.¹⁸ The confinement of the party to two small rooms obviously intensified difficult relationships. Through it all, Josephine sought to be an agent of reconciliation, but she did not get along well with Verhoeff. He became increasingly argumentative, uncooperative, and openly critical of the food, other members of the party, and, particularly, the unsanitary habits of the Eskimos.¹⁹

16 Verhoeff Diary, 6 June 1891 to 9 August 1892. A steam sealer was a steam-powered vessel used to pursue seals and whales. The *Kite*, a 280-ton steam sealer, had sails and a steam engine. For information on the accompanying scholars, see Robert N. Keely, Jr., and Gwilym George Davis, M.D., *In Arctic Seas: The Voyage of the "Kite" with the Peary Expedition, Together with a Transcription of the Log of the "Kite"* (Philadelphia, 1892), 19-20, 271-73.

17 Matthew A. Henson, *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* (New York, 1912). For information on Dr. Cook, see Frederick J. Pohl, *Return from the Pole (1907-1909)* (New York: Pellegrini and Cudahy, 1951).

18 Herbert, *Noose of Laurels*, 76.

19 There are a number of allusions to growing tension between Verhoeff and

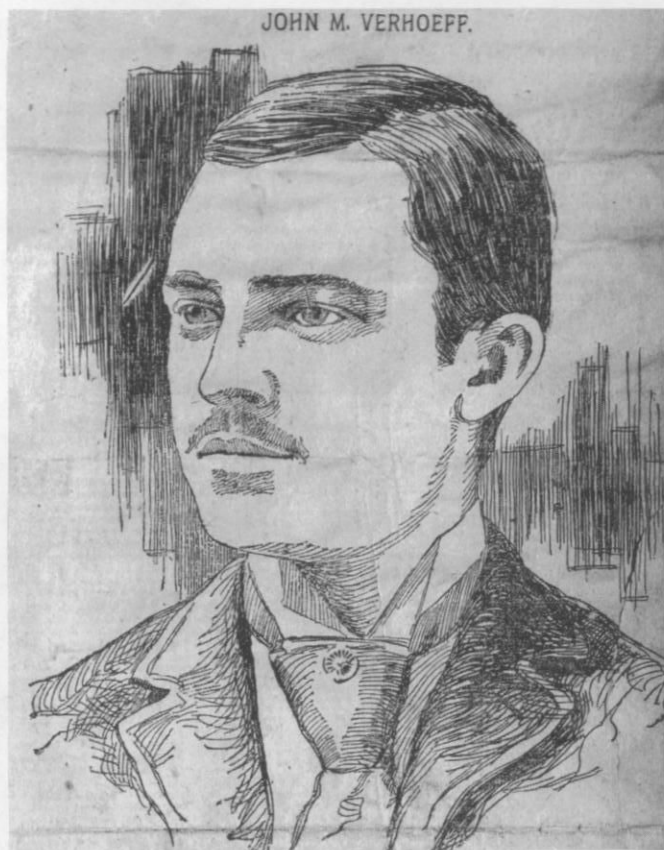


John M. Verhoeff

The Filson Club Historical Society

Following a toughening winter of construction and preparation, Peary sent out short-range exploring parties. In organizing the major thrust of 1 May to 6 August 1892 across the "Imperial Highway" of northern Greenland toward the pole, Peary detailed Verhoeff to remain at the base to provide security for Mrs. Peary, a

Josephine Peary in the Verhoeff Diary, 6 June 1891 to 9 August 1892; see also the unpublished "Dove Project" (1987), a re-evaluation and transcription of the Verhoeff Diary by Geoffrey A. W. Dove, M.D., of London, England in Peary Papers, CPA, NA.



John M. Verhoeff

The Filson Club Historical Society

Following a toughening winter of construction and preparation, Peary sent out short-range exploring parties. In organizing the major thrust of 1 May to 6 August 1892 across the "Imperial Highway" of northern Greenland toward the pole, Peary detailed Verhoeff to remain at the base to provide security for Mrs. Peary, a

Josephine Peary in the Verhoeff Diary, 6 June 1891 to 9 August 1892; see also the unpublished "Dove Project" (1987), a re-evaluation and transcription of the Verhoeff Diary by Geoffrey A. W. Dove, M.D., of London, England in Peary Papers, CPA, NA.

decision which Verhoeff deeply resented. Peary's difficult ninety-eight-day trek produced only minor discoveries and, because of near-fatal fatigue, proved divisive to the party.

Verhoeff's diary indicates that tensions, ill feelings, and hostile outbursts increased throughout the winter.²⁰ None of this, however, is found in Josephine Peary's journal, even though she refers to Verhoeff on twenty-eight of her journal's two hundred and forty pages.²¹ Similarly, the youthful, saccharine account by Peary's daughter Marie, written fourteen years after her father's death, gives no description of tensions among party members.²² The suffering and the conflict were also recorded by Eivind Astrup, the sole Norwegian member of the party, who disappeared mysteriously later at the age of twenty-four.²³ Peary's heavy-handed discipline caused Dr. Thomas S. Dedrick to leave the expedition of 1903.²⁴

Matters came to a head with the final incident in August 1892, shortly before the scheduled return of the *Kite* which was to bring the expedition back to Philadelphia. Peary and Astrup returned belatedly on 6 August 1892 from a long and difficult exploration.²⁵

Verhoeff's last diary entry, 9 August, merely records the temperature as "Temp 7°."

The following is from Peary's diary:

Lv. Red. House 12:30 p.m. Aug. 9, 92, Jo, self, Verhoeff, Matt...
Stop 12:45 to 1:10 to send Verhoeff back with message to Dr.
Cook. Cloudy, threatening rain.

August 9-14, 1892.

Course ahead to Valley and of Bluffs 2:30 p.m. Crew of boat
pulled 38 strokes per minute. Rainy and fierce showers all day.

20 Ibid.

21 Josephine Peary, *My Arctic Journal* (New York, 1893).

22 Marie A. Peary, *The Snowbaby's Own Story* (New York, 1934). Marie Peary was born in 1893 and accompanied her father on later expeditions. The Eskimos called her a "snow baby" because of her blonde hair and fair complexion.

23 Eivind Astrup, *With Peary Near the Pole* (London, 1898).

24 Herbert, *Noose of Laurels*, 146-47.

25 Ibid., 88

August 11.

Raining and heavy showers all last night. Out all night for deer, getting 2 does. Verhoeff out till 1 a.m. after specimen, then sleeps in boat. Today is [fourth] anniversary of our wedding. This morning Verhoeff went across into Tuktoore [Tooktoo] Valley to [Langdon] Gibson. Raining lightly off and on.

August 12.

Rain and snow all day. August 14.

Furious rain storm throughout night of 14-15, and then until early morning of 16.²⁶

Contrary to usual protocol, Verhoeff went out alone from the head of McCormick Bay apparently late in the day of 11 August 1892. On instructions from Peary, he obtained food from Gibson for his projected two- or three-day trek back to Red Cliff by an overland route which he had taken before. This was the last anybody in the expedition ever saw of him. The rainstorms, snow, and consistent bad weather of 12-16 August created miserable footing and difficult travel.²⁷

Gibson was the last person to see him at Turktore or the head of McCormick's Bay. Nearly a week later, Peary noted in his diary:

Gibson came down in [the whale-boat] Faith, at noon without V.
- and the necessity of a search for him was immediately incident.

When Verhoeff had not returned by the fifth day, Peary sent out extensive search parties:

²⁶ Peary Diary, Peary Papers, CPA, NA. This diary for early August has empty pages and some written upside down. The dating in the diary has some inconsistencies. Langdon Gibson acted as Peary's chief assistant. He was the last person to have contact with Verhoeff.

²⁷ Peary to Mattie Verhoeff, 27 September 1892, Verhoeff Scrapbook. Peary's instructions to Verhoeff were apparently verbal; there is no written confirmation of them. Verhoeff's trip was a violation of standard procedure specifying that such exploration never be undertaken alone. The log kept by Captain Richard Pike aboard the *Kite* provides confirmatory data on the bad weather. See Keely and Davis, *In Arctic Seas*, 248-51.

The prof [Heilprin] came ashore [from the *Kite*] and after a short consultation, a plan of search was formulated with the *Kite* to go round into Robertson Bay and see if V. was at Kookan or Gloadualsimi, and, if not, a party from here to start across toward the head of Glacier Valley while I in the *Faith* went back to the Valley and up through it to meet the *Kite's* party. I called all the men in the settlement together, and told them what I wanted, offering knives, etc. to all, and a rifle to the one who found V. first. Dr. Cook with 4 Eskimos went on board the *Kite* while Gibson, Straup [Astrüp], and 5 others accompanied me, and before 3 p.m. the *Mary Peary* with all sails set was dashing up the Bay before a fresh breeze, while the *Kite* with black smoke pouring from her funnel was steaming across to Cairn Point.²⁸

On 20-21 August the searchers found a small pile of mineral specimens, which Verhoeff apparently had collected, and footprints leading upward along a glacier face. The footprints were in crudely shoveled steps from which it appeared he had slipped. There was a large chasm in the ice nearby into which he could conceivably have fallen.²⁹

An inventory of his property left at the camp showed just a few superfluous items of clothing. Apparently he had gone out with light clothing under his outer polar gear, even though the usual practice was to wear only Eskimo-type arctic clothing.³⁰ This led to the most unlikely speculation that he departed to live with an Eskimo family.³¹

Peary's diary continued:

Midnight Mon. Aug. 22, 92.

Back at Red Cliff again, our long search [seven days] for Verhoeff ended. In the hurry of starting for the search when Gibson came back without V - I took neither camera nor notebook nor pencil with me. I must, therefore, write the occurrences of the past few days from memory.

28 Peary Papers, Peary Diary, CPA, NA. Peary did not make daily entries in his diary during the search for Verhoeff; some entries were reconstructed after he returned to the *Kite*. Pike's log provides the details of the search; see Keely and Davis, *In Arctic Seas*, 248-51.

29 See diary of Langdon Gibson, 21 August 1892 in Weems, *Peary*, 126-27.

30 Keely and Davis, *In Arctic Seas*, 248-51; Weems, *Peary*, 126-27.

31 *New York World*, 4 September 1892.

On 23 August 1892, Peary wrote a letter to Verhoeff from Red Cliff cottage and left it at Cairn Point:³²

Jno. M. Verhoeff
Mineralogist,
In Greenl. Exped. '91-92

Dear Sir;

Every effort has been made to find you during the past week by the entire party without success. On the bare possibility that you may still come out alright, I have cached at Cairn Point just north of the Cairn, the following provisions:

275 lbs. biscuit 75 lbs. coffee
25 " tea 200 " meal
25 " flour 200 " sugar
25 " evap. apples 200 " rice
25 " evap. potatoes 72 " corned beef
10 " Liebig extract
Laundry and toilet soap.³³

Peary also secured additional documentation of the search efforts from Gibson and Pike. A letter from Langdon Gibson to Peary presents his conclusion regarding John Verhoeff's fate.

Robert E. Peary, C.O.
United States Navy

Dear Sir,

After having carefully examined the ground over which Mr. Verhoeff is supposed to have traveled, and having been engaged with many others in our unsuccessful search for him for the past 5 days under your direction, and during which time we exhausted all the means which reason could suggest, I am forced to the painful conclusion that Mr. John M. Verhoeff met his death in one of the crevasses of the glacier at the head of Robertson's Bay.

Yours very respectfully,

³² Peary made a copy of his letter which was addressed to Verhoeff and left at Cairn Point in August 1892; a copy is in the Peary Papers, CPA, NA.

³³ Ibid.

Langdon Gibson
 On Board S.S. *Kitte*
 Robertson's Bay
 August 22, 1892³⁴

All the search efforts by the crew proved fruitless; Verhoeff had vanished without a trace.

Verhoeff's diary indicates that several letters, including one of thirty pages, had been posted to his sister Mattie. These letters, however, have never been found.³⁵ Dr. Cook, with mounting hostility toward Peary, blamed him for his hostility to Verhoeff and for whatever happened to him.³⁶ Apparently influenced by reports of conflict from John, Mattie felt that foul play or neglect had led to his death.

Upon arrival at St. John's, Newfoundland, on 12 September 1892, Peary sent a telegram of regret to Mattie. She met the *Kitte* in Philadelphia and apparently made a scene on deck by accusing the entire party and, particularly Peary, of negligence. Peary, apparently, was gracious to her while explaining that all efforts to find her brother had failed. Certainly other Arctic explorers had lost footing and fallen into crevasses, some of which opened directly into the Arctic Sea.

Later, Peary wrote Mattie a letter of explanation:

North Greenland Expedition of 1891-92
 R. E. Peary, US Navy Phila. Pa. Sept. 27, 1892

My Dear Miss Verhoeff,

Your letter of yesterday is just at hand, and I hasten to reply. Mr. Verhoeff was sent from Inglefield Gulf to the head of McCormick

34 Gibson to Peary, 22 August 1892 and "Certificate of Search for Verhoeff" by Richard Pike and Edward Murphy, 24 August 1892, Peary Papers, CPA, NA.

35 Entries from Verhoeff's Diary are from the "Dove Project" transcription, Peary Papers, CPA, NA. Scattered throughout are notations of letters written beginning on 8 June and extending to notice of a thirty-page letter on 29 July. See footnote 19.

36 Herbert, *Noose of Laurels*, 97-98.

Bay to meet Mr. Gibson to enable him to obtain additional desirable mineralogical specimens from a region which he had traveled 5 days previously. The return of the Kite had been definitely determined upon - Mr. Verhoeff left Red Cliff cottage with me in my whale boat at 12:30 p.m. August 9, and I saw him last about 7 a.m. August 11, when he left my camp to go across to Gibson. He was last seen by Gibson at 4 a.m. of the 13th. There never was anything in the nature of a quarrel between Mr. Verhoeff and myself. Mr. Verhoeff left me with instructions for a 2 day trip after leaving Gibson, and his provisions for the journey he was to obtain from Gibson. Therefore, I knew nothing of his change until the 17th. As to the silence of the Kite crew, I know nothing. I can only assure you that they tell you nothing because they have nothing to tell beyond expression of incidental opinions. I shall be only too glad to meet you at any time and place that you may designate, and with pencil chart before us go over the entire ground, foot by foot, until it is as familiar to you as to me. Remember that your claim upon my time and attention takes precedence over all others.

Very sincerely,

R. E. Peary, USN

Peary's account of the expedition discusses Verhoeff's disappearance in bland language with conventional expressions of regret.³⁷ It makes no reference to the conflicts and arguments recorded in Verhoeff's diary and mentioned by the publications of others in the party.³⁸ However, the purpose of this volume, like that of Josephine Peary's later work, was to increase interest and raise funds for the next expedition.

Peary returned on a second exploring trip in 1893-94 and again searched for Verhoeff, but he reported no new evidence or information from the Eskimos. Peary named the large ice bay or flat in northern Newfoundland Verhoeffland and named the glacier where he might have fallen the Verhoeff Glacier.³⁹

37 Peary, *Northward Over the "Great Ice,"* Vol. I, pp. 409-24.

38 Herbert, *Noose of Laurels*, 97-98; Astrup, *With Peary Near the Pole*.

39 Peary, *Northward Over the "Great Ice,"* Vol. 2, p. 37; also Weems, *Peary*, 135.

Frederick A. Cook later returned in a separate and ill-fated expedition. He also reported his unsuccessful search for Verhoeff.⁴⁰

Interest in the Verhoeff story has continued. A striking headline in the *Louisville Courier-Journal Magazine* in 1939 asks, "Did Lt. Peary Leave Verhoeff to Die in Verhoeffland?"⁴¹ This significant story - forty-seven years after the fact - reopened interest in John Verhoeff and recounted many other newspaper stories about his unexplained disappearance.

The vigorous local activities of his two cousins, Carolyn and Mary Verhoeff, have also personalized the story and helped keep interest alive. Mattie Verhoeff Fortune's generous gift of her extensive scrapbook covering the disappearance of her brother to The Filson Club Historical Society has preserved the principal source for this event.

In the absence of new evidence, the mystery persists; it has been made more baffling because of the haze of recriminations and the inaccuracies in dating and blank pages in Peary's diary. But, then again, too little weight has been given to the foul weather of 11-16 August 1892. A lone traveler, moving over glaciers and crevasses in rainstorms and snow, hacked crude steps in the ice, from which he could easily have slipped to his death. Neither Gibson nor Pike had reason to alter their reports. John Verhoeff had broken the rule against traveling alone in such forbidding terrain and - certainly in frustration, possibly in anger - paid a heavy price for his misguided judgment.

A simple headstone, among many in the large Verhoeff family plot in Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery, reads: "John McKee Verhoeff lost with Admiral Peary at the North Pole, 1892."

40 Herbert, *Noose of Laurels*, 24-25, 27.

41 Oressa Teagarden, *Louisville Courier-Journal Magazine*, 28 May 1939.