

= Rip Van Winkle (1910 film) =

Rip Van Winkle is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film is an adaptation of Washington Irving 's story of Rip Van Winkle with some differences in the plot . The film focuses on the title character whose idle life is made difficult by his cantankerous wife . Winkle heads into the mountains and encounters spirits of Henry Hudson 's men . Upon partaking of their alcohol , Winkle falls into a slumber for twenty years . He returns home and has difficulty proving his identity and must save his property from an unlawful accusation by his rival . After he proves his identity , he is reunited with his family . The title character was played by Frank H. Crane , but the production credits are largely unknown . The film was released on December 6 , 1910 , and met with positive reviews . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from December 10 , 1910 . It states : " Rip Van Winkle , although a loving father to his little girl Meenie and a hail @-@ fellow @-@ well @-@ met with all of his fellow townsmen , is being constantly scolded by his wife for leading an idle and profitless existence . Rip is also fond of the bottle and spends a greater part of his time and money at the village tavern . Catching him entering the house late one night after a day 's carousing , his wife Gretchen becomes thoroughly angry with him and drives him from the house . In the face of a terrible storm with only his dog Schneider and his faithful rifle to protect him , Rip wanders toward the mountains . Here he comes across a band of gnomes who are supposed to be the spirits of Heinrich Hudson [sic] and his merry men who disappeared near the Catskill Mountains hundreds of years before , and had never been heard of since . The gnomes give Rip some magic schnapps to drink , and under its influence he goes to sleep for 20 years . When he awakes , he is an old man and in ragged clothes . His dog is dead , and his rifle has rusted away . He makes his way as best he can back to the village , and his own home . But there no one knows him . He finds his wife married to another man , his daughter grown to womanhood , and most of his old friends dead and gone . Rip , however , finally manages to prove his identity , and also to lay claim to his property , which has greatly increased in value during his sleep , in which he is just in time to save from being unlawfully confiscated by his old @-@ time enemy . Happily reunited to his family , Rip looks forward to his declining years with a spirit born of peace and solace . "

= = Cast = =

Frank H. Crane as Rip Van Winkle
Marie Eline

= = Production = =

The production and an adaptation of Washington Irving 's story of Rip Van Winkle . The stage adaptation was well @-@ known and the adaptation would be compared to Joseph Jefferson 's portrayal on the stage . The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The adaptation differs from the original in some ways , including that Winkle 's cantankerous wife has remarried instead of died .

The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil or Lucius J. Henderson . Sometimes the directional credit is given to Theodore Marston . The apparent origin of this error is from the American Film @-@ Index 1908 ? 1915 . Film historian Q. David Bowers consulted one of the co @-@ authors of the book , Gunnar Lundquist , and confirmed that the credit of Marston was in error . Theodore Marston worked with Pathé , Kinemacolor , Vitagraph and other companies , but there is no record of Marston working with Thanhouser . This error has persisted in several works including The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film . The same work also credits Alphonse

Ethier with a role , but this is not cited by Bowers .

The only known cast credits are for Frank H. Crane and Marie Eline . The other cast credits are unknown , but many 1910 Thanhouser productions are fragmentary . In late 1910 , the Thanhouser company released a list of the important personalities in their films . The list included G.W. Abbe , Justus D. Barnes , Frank H. Crane , Irene Crane , Marie Eline , Violet Heming , Martin J. Faust , Thomas Fortune , George Middleton , Grace Moore , John W. Noble , Anna Rosemond , Mrs. George Walters .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on December 6 , 1910 . The film had a wide national release , advertising theaters for the Thanhouser film include those in Pennsylvania , South Dakota , Kansas , and Indiana .

The film received positive reviews in trade publications . The Moving Picture World review said . " Probably the story of Rip Van Winkle as told by Washington Irving will always be a delight . Surely the Rip Van Winkle , as depicted by the late Joseph Jefferson , will linger long in the memory of those fortunate enough to have seen it . Unquestionably , however , the third in the list of delights is this film from Thanhouser which tells the story over again in much the same way that Jefferson told it . The Rip of Jefferson and the Rip of Irving are two different versions , though both do substantially the same things It is a good piece of work from every standpoint . The actors have entered into the spirit of the story and have depicted it with close adherence to the facts as they are related in the original . The stage manager understood what was required to make the background appear natural , while the photographer handled the camera with full knowledge of the requirements . " The New York Dramatic Mirror reviewer also agreed and commended the film by stating , " The Thanhouser Company has done very well with this old legend , paying particular attention to details The acting is exceptionally good for a story representing that era of time , and the adaption is very clear to the spectator . "