

Col. Trueman Cross

(3 Apr 1796 – 10 Apr 1846)

Cross. Born in Prince George's County. Entered the army at 17 years as Ensign of the 12th Regiment of Infantry. Served in Maryland during the War of 1812. Subsequently joined the staff and after a long service of ability and distinction was killed by the Mexicans on the Rio Grande while pursuing his duties as Quarter Master General with the Army of occupation under General Taylor.



COLONEL CROSS.

Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, p. 341

Cross Trueman, Md. Md. Ens 42 infantry 27 Apr 1814; 2 lieutenant 1 Oct 1814; transferred to 1 infantry 17 May 1815; 1 lieutenant 2 Jan 1818; regimental quartermaster 1 Apr 1816 to 20 June 1818; captain 27 Sept. 1819; captain assistant deputy quarter-master-general 16 June 1818; major assistant inspector-general 19 Oct 1820; retained as captain 1 infantry 1 June 1821; transferred to 7 infantry 24 Sep 1821 and relinquished rank in line 4 May 1835; major quartermaster 22 May 1826; colonel assistant quartermaster-general 7 July 1838; killed 21 Apr 1846 by Mexican bandits near Ft. Brown Tex.

The National Intelligencer, April 30, 1846

The last advice's from the camp of General Taylor, on the Rio Grande, mention the mysterious disappearance, a few days before, of Colonel Cross, Assistant Quartermaster General of the Army. He had ridden out from camp, and nothing authentic afterwards

had been heard of him, although several parties of dragoons had been sent out in search, and it was believed that he had been captured and carried into the interior of the Mexican country. A negro, indeed, who had been seized in the vicinity by a party of dragoons under Captain May, admitted that he knew the fact; but the Mexican officers, who had brought a message from General Ampudia to General Taylor, stated that Colonel Cross was not in Matamoras, nor was an thing known there of his capture.

The National Intelligencer, May 7, 1846

Nothing further is known of Colonel Cross. Lieutenant Deas, who crossed the Rio Grande in search of him, had fallen into the hands of the Mexicans. There are various rumors in town in regard to skirmishes between the Mexican and American forces, but we have not been able to trace them to any authentic source.

The National Intelligencer, May 9, 1846

Further News from the Army

The New Orleans papers bring us later intelligence from the Army on the Rio Grande, including the melancholy news of the death of Col. Truman Cross, late of this city, whose fate will be deeply lamented by many of our citizens. It will be observed that, though some allowance should be made for exaggerated reports, the general complexion of the news is so warlike that it would seem almost impossible for the two armies much longer to avoid a direct conflict.

The National Intelligencer, May 22, 1846

To The Memory Of My Lamented Friend, Col. Truman Cross

By John S. Moore

When Victory smiles upon the hero dying,
And glory stands beside his sable bier,
They who have known him can restrain a tear
Which glitters in the eye, and gaze unsighing
On the last relics of the loved and lost,
So nobly shrouded for the Soldier's grave;
Thus Spartan Mothers looked upon the brave,
Nor curst the victory gained at such a cost;
Thus might Columbia, if her cherished son
Had fallen in battle, with his steadfast eye
In death illumined by the mingled cry
Of foeman's rout and victory nobly won;
But now she only weepeth o'er her loss,
And stands chief mourner at the grave of Cross.

Georgetown, May 20, 1846

The National Intelligencer, November 5, 1846

The remains of the lamented Col. Cross are expected to reach this city in the train of cars which leaves Baltimore at 5 o'clock on Friday next. They will be escorted to the cars by the citizen soldiery of Baltimore, and as the volunteer corps of the city will no doubt wish to pay the last honors to the distinguished deceased we are requested to announce the expected arrival of the remains on the evening indicated. Due notice will no doubt be given, at a future day, of the time and place of interment.

The National Intelligencer, November 9, 1846

The Late Col. Truman Cross

The announcement in the newspapers of the arrival of the mortal remains of the lamented Col. Cross in this city as a place of final repose, reminds an old, sincere, and ardent friend so sensibly of his amiable character and shining virtues, that he cannot reconcile it to himself to permit the melancholy occasion to pass by without offering his humble tribute in testimony of the excellence and sterling worth which distinguished the murdered Cross in all the relations of life. To say that he was chivalrous, brave, prompt, honorable, and scrupulously upright and honest in the discharge of all his public duties, is only to reiterate what the records of the public service and the knowledge of his fellow-laborers in that service for the last thirty-five years unite in proclaiming with one universal accord. In this interesting chapter of his history the writer deems it superfluous further to venture. The records of the War

Department and the testimony of all those under the supervision and direction of that office will fully vindicate the claims of his memory to the gratitude of his country.

It is the relations of private life and business intercourse to which the writer may refer in the exercise of the sacred office of disinterested friendship in all its latitude, for it was in these that he knew him long and knew him well, and feels that it is no disparagement, even to the most exemplary, to ascribe to his much-lamented friend the most exalted measure of the social virtues and sterling worth, indeed, it may with truth be said that the strongest impulses of his nature were those of a noble generosity and a justly discriminating charity -- many pleasing instances of his exercise of these sublime virtues having come to the knowledge of his old friend, sometimes against his will. Of the qualities of his mind little need be said; all who knew him would at once discover that he possessed a mind of no ordinary cast. Sagacious, penetrating, rapid, and accurate in perception, he seldom failed in his undeviating pursuit of just conclusions. For the untimely loss, by the dastard hand of the assassin too, of such a man, family, relatives, friends, and country may well mourn.

The re-interment of the remains of the late Colonel Cross, will take place this morning at 11 o'clock, from the residence of his family, in Franklin Row. The following is the order of procession:

1. Escort of Volunteer Corps
2. The Reverend Clergy
3. Pall-bearers
4. Remains of Col. Cross
5. Family and relatives of the deceased
6. Officers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Volunteers
7. President of the United States (Polk)
8. Members of the Senate of the United States (now in the city)
9. Members of the Cabinet
10. Members of the House of Representatives (now in the city)
11. Civil Officers of the General Government
12. Mayor of the City (Seaton) and Municipal Officers
13. Citizens

The persons above named, and citizens generally, are respectfully invited to attend without further notice.

Military and Naval Officers are requested to attend in full uniform, or, if the weather be unfavorable, in undress.

We are requested to state that if the weather should continue to be inclement today, the Funeral ceremonies will be postponed.

The National Intelligencer, November 11, 1846
Communicated for the National Intelligencer,
Washington, November 10, 1846

Capt. Cathcart, of the Union Guards

Captain: In behalf of the Army Officers present in this city we cannot allow the prompt and generous manner in which the Washington volunteers tendered their services in honor of the remains of our much-lamented brother soldier, the late Colonel Cross, to pass unnoticed.

Will you add a personal to the professional obligation by conveying to the officers and men of
The Washington Light Infantry

The National Blues
The Union Guards, and
The Potomac Dragoons

our sincere thanks for the spontaneous offer and very handsome performance of their services in the solemnities of yesterday.

With great respect, we remain your obedient servants,
Henry Staunton, Col. And Assist. Quarterm'r Gen. U.S.A.
John C. Casey, Captain U.S.A.
E.D. Townsend, Assist. Adj. Gen. U.S.A.