

Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame

Pre-Civil War



NATHAN BOONE , Lieutenant Colonel, USA

Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Boone distinguished himself as a soldier, pioneer, legislator, and administrator. His leadership and resourcefulness in many pioneering exploits aided in the opening of the West for settlement.

One of the first settlers in Missouri, Nathan Boone raised and commanded a company of mounted rangers which was mustered into the militia in 1812. The heroic and determined actions of Boone's Rangers contributed greatly to the defense of the area between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Colonel Boone was cited for his conspicuous heroism and resourcefulness during these actions. When Missouri was admitted to the Union, he materially assisted in framing its first constitution.

Colonel Boone spent over twenty years of military service performing duties associated with Indians, traders, and Army posts in the West. During the Mexican War he assisted in the capture of Santa Fe and then served as military governor of New Mexico and western Texas.

Service at Fort Leavenworth 1837-1853.



WILLIAM CLARK, Captain, USA

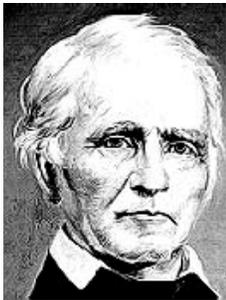
Captain William Clark was born in Virginia, on August 1, 1770, to a leading family of the colony. His five older brothers all served as officers in the Virginia militia during the American Revolution; two died and two became generals. Clark's family moved to Kentucky, where he enlisted as a private in the militia at age 19. He later transferred to the regular army and was promoted to lieutenant. His seven years service taught him the practical leadership skills necessary for success on the frontier.

During this time Clark traveled widely, including diplomatic missions as far west as the Mississippi River. He served as quartermaster for the Army in the west and commanded the Chosen Rifle Company of marksmen, with Meriwether Lewis as one of his junior officers. Clark resigned his commission on July 1, 1796, to manage the family farm and businesses and assist his brother General George Rogers Clark. In these endeavors he again traveled across the frontier, covering many thousands of wilderness miles by river boat, horseback and on foot.

In 1803 Lewis recruited him as co-commander of the expedition to the Pacific. He was an excellent choice, physically large and strong with all the practical skills of a soldier and frontiersman. He was of steady mind, a good judge of men and a practiced and charismatic leader. Clark's education, good by the standards of the day, was informal and focused on useful skills. He was an intelligent and curious man, with a keen eye and eager to continue his learning. During the voyage of discovery Clark's seasoned judgment, leadership and skill on the river were critical to the success of the mission. He is renowned for his abilities as a cartographer, producing invaluable maps of the Missouri and Columbia River systems.

After the success of the expedition Clark served as Brigadier General of the Louisiana Militia; Indian Agent for the Louisiana Territory; Governor of the Missouri Territory; Surveyor General for Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. In all these positions he was accounted an honest, hardworking and respected executive.

He died September 1, 1838, at the home of his son Meriwether Lewis Clark and is buried in St. Louis, Missouri. He was preceded in death by two wives and three of his seven children.



HENRY DODGE, Colonel, USA

Colonel Henry Dodge, soldier and statesman, devoted his life to the service of his country. His military career began in 1812 as a captain in the Missouri Volunteers. He subsequently rose to the rank of major general in the Missouri Militia.

In 1832 Colonel Dodge was appointed major of the original battalion of mounted rangers authorized by Congress. Later President Jackson selected him to organize and command the United States Regiment of Dragoons, the first mounted unit in the Regular Army. He saw extensive service against the Indians in the Mississippi Valley and on the western plains.

Colonel Dodge resigned from the Army in 1836 to accept appointment as Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Governor of the Territory of Wisconsin. When Wisconsin became a state, he was elected to the US Senate. Henry Dodge served with distinction as a military leader in war and as a civic leader in peace.

(Photo credit to State Historical Society of Wisconsin)

Service at Fort Leavenworth 1834-1836

ALEXANDER W. DONIPHAN , Brigadier General, USA

General Doniphan's greatest military achievements were with the 1st Regiment, Missouri Mounted Volunteers, during the Mexican War. General Doniphan enlisted in the regiment as a private and proceeded to Fort Leavenworth for training. Shortly after arrival he was elected colonel, regimental commander, by members of the regiment.

After 1 week of training the regiment began a march that lasted approximately 12 months, covered over four thousand miles, and ended in Mexico. En route his force successfully suppressed a serious Indian uprising in New Mexico and participated in two major engagements, including one that routed 4,000 strongly entrenched enemy from a pass. Both engagements were highly successful and gave Doniphan's force undisputed control over the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. General Doniphan led his men to victory even though they were without military uniforms, tents, or pay.

General Doniphan also distinguished himself as a lawyer and a politician and as a brigade commander in the Missouri State Militia.

Service at Fort Leavenworth 1846

WILLIAM S. HARNEY, Brigadier General, USA

"Excellence on duty and hell-raising off duty" described the 2d Dragoons and one of its long-time officers, William S. Harney. In time, his reputation and character became entwined with that of this famous cavalry unit. A protégé of General Andrew Jackson and a brilliant cavalryman, he had a fierce desire to serve the nation. Moreover, throughout his career, Harney worked to improve the nation's treatment of the Indians.

After eighteen years with infantry units and a staff assignment, Harney became second-in-command of the 2d Dragoons in August 1836. He fought in the Second Seminole War, earning the respect of his superiors, subordinates, and adversaries. His service in this war also furthered his understanding of the

Indians' problems. His military expertise and that of his dragoons was again brilliantly demonstrated in the Mexican War.

In the 1850s, he went to Fort Leavenworth to settle Indian problems and to maintain peace in "Bleeding Kansas." Promoted to brigadier general in June 1858, Harney commanded the Department of Oregon where his work with the Indians contributed to the peaceful settlement of the Northwest.

In 1860, Harney traveled to St. Louis to assume command of the Department of the West. Politically naive, Harney was engulfed in the rush of political events. Suspected of Southern sympathies, he was relieved in May 1861. After the war, Harney served on various Indian commissions.

Service at Fort Leavenworth, 1854, 1857-58.



PHILIP KEARNY , Major General, USA

General Philip Kearny, a fearless and dedicated soldier from a distinguished military family, joined the 1st Dragoons at Fort Leavenworth as a lieutenant of cavalry in 1837. Although independently wealthy, he chose to make the Army his profession and demonstrated gallantry in action during five wars.

As a member of the 1st Dragoons, General Kearny quickly gained the reputation of a soldiers' soldier while safeguarding the Western Frontier against hostile Indians. In 1839 he attended the French Royal School of Cavalry and subsequently fought with the French in Algeria.

General Kearny returned to fight once again with the 1st Dragoons during the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Mexico. In 1859 he rejoined the French Army and earned the Legion of Honor for gallantry at Solferino. General Kearny was killed in action at Chantilly in 1862 while commanding the 3d Division during the War Between the States.

(Photo credit to U.S. Signal Corps photo No B-4429 Brady collection in the National Archives)

Service at Fort Leavenworth, 1837-39, 1844-45.



STEPHEN WATTS KEARNY , Major General, USA

General Stephen Watts Kearny assumed command of the 1st Dragoons at Fort Leavenworth in 1836. He led the dragoons on numerous escort patrols and expeditions throughout Indian country. His regiment of 600 men was responsible for protecting 1,000 miles of frontier. Under his supervision, the Indian tribes east of the Mississippi River were moved and resettled in the West.

During the war with Mexico, General Kearny organized and led an expedition of 1,700 men over the Santa Fe Trail to seize Santa Fe and capture New Mexico. Under his direction the Kearny Code, which later became the basis for the laws of New Mexico, was published.

General Kearny then led his forces to California, where a revolution was in progress. He defeated the Mexican forces at the battles of San Gabriel and Mesa and secured California for the United States.

(Photo credit to the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis)

Service at Fort Leavenworth 1836-41, 1843-44.



HENRY LEAVENWORTH , Brigadier General, USA

Henry Leavenworth entered the Army in 1812 as a company commander but served with such gallantry and distinction that he was brevetted colonel in 1814 and placed in command of a regiment.

A man of broad and varied interests, he is credited with exercising a profound influence upon the development of the standards of duty and discipline of the Army. While commanding the Third Infantry Regiment at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, he founded the School of Practice for Infantry. With four companies of his regiment he ascended the Missouri River to establish this post in 1827.

He had a keen understanding of the role the Army was to play in the development of the west. He greatly influenced the generally peaceful settlement of the areas surrounding the upper courses of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, the present states of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

Service at Fort Leavenworth 1827-29.



MERIWETHER LEWIS, Captain, USA

Born August 18th, 1774, Meriwether Lewis was the first son of a patriotic family. Lewis's early education was brief, but he developed a love of learning that continued throughout his life. By 18 he was master of an extensive plantation, accustomed to responsibility and schooled in the practical skills of a landowner.

Lewis served as a volunteer in the Virginia militia during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. Taken with military life, he accepted a commission in the regular Army the next year. One assignment was to the Chosen Rifle Company commanded by Lieutenant William Clark. Lewis was promoted to lieutenant and served as a recruiter and paymaster. These assignments required significant independent travel and Lewis covered much of the United States from frontier Ohio to the eastern seaboard. He was promoted to Captain in December 1800 and two months later President-elect Jefferson asked Lewis to come to Washington to serve as his personal secretary.

As secretary Lewis lived in the White House and worked with some of the best minds in the nation, absorbing the latest scientific knowledge and gaining skills useful for the trip. Lewis was instrumental in developing the Voyage of Discovery. Together with President Jefferson, Captain Lewis conceived the mission, shaped the objectives, drafted the budget, supervised the preparations and even designed some of the specialized equipment.

Lewis was an ideal commander for the expedition. Healthy and physically fit, he was experienced as a military leader, at home in the wilderness, a natural observer, trained as a scientist and navigator, intensely loyal and determined to succeed. Together with his co-commander, Lewis led a small band across the uncharted wilderness of the continent, established relations with the native nations and brought back to an expanding nation an inestimable treasure of scientific knowledge. The military expedition also solidified the United States' possession of the new Louisiana Purchase.

Upon his return in 1806 Lewis was rewarded with an appointment as governor of the Louisiana Territory, but only three years later, depressed and financially ruined, he apparently committed

suicide. However, his leadership, dedication and intellect helped give the nation a frontier on the Pacific Ocean.



PERCIVAL G. LOWE , First Sergeant, USA

First Sergeant Percival G. Lowe distinguished himself as a soldier, public servant and Kansas historian. His lifelong devotion to public service epitomized those positive qualities of character which personified our pioneer heritage.

During his enlistment from 1849 to 1854, he was assigned to B Troop, First Dragoons stationed at Fort Leavenworth. He rose to the rank of First Sergeant and participated in Indian Campaigns from the North Platte to Mexico and from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains. For the next five years he served the government as a civilian wagon master transporting needed supplies to isolated outposts and campaigning units throughout the west.

In 1860 he returned to civilian life and became active in public affairs. He served in successive positions as President of the Leavenworth City Council, Leavenworth County Sheriff, a member of the Kansas Senate and President of the Kansas State Historical Society. His major literary effort entitled, "FIVE YEARS A DRAGOON", is recognized as a classic work in frontier history.

Service at Fort Leavenworth, 1849-1859.



BENNET RILEY , Major General, USA

General Bennet Riley distinguished himself as a dedicated leader during the War of 1812, the Indian wars, and the Mexican War. He also distinguished himself as a statesman and leader in the development of the Western Frontier.

General Riley commanded the first military contingent to escort a wagon train from Leavenworth along the Santa Fe Trail. This mission opened the trail for trade with Mexico and for the flow of settlers to the Southwest.

He won national fame as a brigade commander during the Mexican War in the Battle of Contreras. His citation reads, *"The charge of his noble brigade down the slope, in full view of friend and foe, unchecked even for a moment until he had planted all his colors upon the farthest works, was a spectacle that animated the Army "to the boldest deeds."*

General Riley served with honor as the military governor of the California Territory and was instrumental in the formation of its first state government.

Service at Fort Leavenworth, 1829-30, 1832-34.