

## THE ARMSTRONGS OF INDIAN TERRITORY

By Carolyn Thomas Foreman

## PART III

## GENERAL FRANK CRAWFORD ARMSTRONG

Frank Crawford Armstrong, born at Skullyville, Indian Territory in 1835, was a son of Frank Wells Armstrong who resided among the Five Civilized Tribes from 1830 until his death in 1899. His mother was Anne M. Willard Armstrong. The young man was educated at the Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts.\*

In 1854 the youth went to Texas and made a trip across the state from Corpus Christi to El Paso with his stepfather, General Persifer Frazer Smith of the United States Army.<sup>1</sup> Young Armstrong displayed such bravery during an encounter with the Indians on the journey that he was given an appointment from Texas as lieutenant in the Second Dragoons June 7, 1855. He served in Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska until 1857 when he accompanied General Albert Sidney Johnston to Utah.<sup>2</sup>

Armstrong became a first lieutenant March 9, 1859; was advanced to captain June 6, 1861, and was transferred to the Second Cavalry August 3, 1861. He resigned ten days later and joined the

\*Biographical data on General Frank C. Armstrong from the records of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, have recently been received by the Editorial Office of the Historical Society through the assistance of Mr. Craig Mathews, of Dalton, Georgia. The biographical material had been graciously copied and sent Mr. Mathews by Father Walter J. Neagher, S.J., Professor of History at Holy Cross.

Under the date "Jan. 19th, 1845" in the Registration Book of Students of Holy Cross, office of the Dean of Studies, appears the following entry: "Entered this date, Francis Gough Armstrong, son of Mrs. Anne Armstrong, St. Mary's County, Md. He was born in 1835." In publications at Holy Cross and in historical records and books on Oklahoma, General Armstrong's name appears as "Frank C. Armstrong" or "Frank Crawford Armstrong." Father Neagher suggests in a personal letter to Mr. Mathews, dated October 21, 1952, that the name "Frank C. Armstrong" may have been taken as Armstrong's confirmation name. See Appendix at the end of this article for a biography of General Armstrong published in the *Holy Cross Purple* (June, 1896), giving further notes on his career.—Ed.

<sup>1</sup>Persifer Frazer Smith, a native of Pennsylvania was appointed to the army from Louisiana as colonel of the Louisiana Volunteers February 2, 1836; he became a brigadier of the same organization May 15, 1846; colonel of the Mounted Rifles May 27, 1846. Ten years later he was a brigadier and he was cited for gallant and meritorious conduct in the conflicts at Monterey, Mexico and major general August 20, 1847 for his gallantry at Contreras and Churubusco. He died May 17, 1858.—Heitman, *Historical Register . . . of the United States Army* (Washington, 1903), Vol. 1, p. 902.

<sup>2</sup>*Presbyterian Historical Society Journal, Philadelphia*, Vol. 23, p. 217; *Who's Who in America* (Chicago, 1908-1909), p. 68.



1870s photo 25701

**GENERAL FRANK C. ARMSTRONG**

Confederate States Army.<sup>2</sup> He was the youngest captain in the United States Army at the outbreak of the Civil War when he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, and went with his troops to Washington where he tendered his resignation. He next became adjutant general under General Benjamin McCulloch, C.S.A., in Arkansas. At the death of General McCulloch he was appointed major, and in a short time he was elected colonel of the Third Louisiana Infantry.<sup>4</sup>

Under orders from General Braxton Bragg, Armstrong organized a cavalry command and carried the war into Mississippi and Alabama; he captured a Federal camp at Courtland, Alabama, and later was successful in engagements at Bolivar and in the vicinity of Denmark. Appointed a brigadier general he was assigned to a brigade under General Earl Van Dorn, and later under General Nathan Bedford Forrest<sup>5</sup> whose newly formed division under the command of J. W. Starnes and Frank C. Armstrong extended to the east as far as the road between Franklin and Lewisburg.

The author of the stirring history, "*First With the Most*" Forrest, gives this anecdote:<sup>6</sup>

"The story is related that the Union cavalry struck Forrest's flank and messengers rushed to the General with the alarming news that General Stanley had cut in behind him, captured his rear guard with many prisoners, and had succeeded in getting into General Armstrong's rear.

"Forrest roared, 'That's where I've been trying to get him all day, damn him.' 'I'll be in his rear in about five minutes! Face your line of battle about, Armstrong; push forward your skirmish line; crowd 'em both ways! I'll go to the rear brigade and you'll hear from me there!'"

Forrest declined promotion to major general in 1863, and he was sent back to take over the vacant command of General Earl Dan Dorn at Spring Hill. There were two brilliant young brigadier generals in that outfit who had received their training in the United States regular army—William H. Jackson and Frank C. Armstrong. In the autumn of 1863 Forrest was ordered to relinquish his command to Major General Joseph Wheeler and from his headquarters five miles from Charleston he wrote the General that he was sending him Davidson's and Armstrong's brigades. When the troops reported

<sup>2</sup>Hritman, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 169.

<sup>4</sup>Zella Armstrong, *Notable Southern Families* (Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1926), Vol. 3, pp. 6-7; *Who's Who in America*, 1908-09, p. 48. On September 1, 1862 in the fight at Britton's Lane, Tennessee General Armstrong's command had 159 killed, 100 wounded. On the 19th and 20th at Iuka, Mississippi Armstrong had commanded the cavalry of General Sterling Price's Army of the West (*The Photographic History of the Civil War* [New York, 1911], Vol. 2, pp. 322, 324).

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>Robert Sulph Henry, "*First With the Most*" Forrest (Indianapolis & New York, 1944), p. 137. The author related that the above anecdote was told to Viscount Walsley by an unnamed Confederate general officer (who may well have been Frank Armstrong himself). It is possible that it was General Philip Dulu Roddy of Forrest's staff who lived many years in London after the Civil War.

Wheeler discovered that they were "mere skeletons, scarcely averaging 500 effective men each . . .," and stated further:

"The men were worn out, and without rations.<sup>7</sup> At one o'clock in the morning of the thirteenth and again at six in the morning Armstrong wrote his new commander, Wheeler, that 'my command is totally unfit to start on any expedition; horses are very much in need of shoeing and my men have had no rations for thirty-six hours, and I can see no prospect of getting any. I am too unwell to start on any expedition across the mountain. I request that you will relieve me from duty with the brigade and allow me to report to General Forrest.'<sup>8</sup>

In the retreat from Tennessee in December, 1864, Forrest sent word to two brigades of Jackson's cavalry division—Armstrong's and Ross's—that everything depended upon the promptness and vigor with which they acted. "They proved themselves equal to the emergency by charging on the enemy, thereby checking his farther advance," according to Forrest's report.

In January, 1865, General Frank Armstrong was in command of a brigade of Mississippi troops. On the last of March, 1865 part of Armstrong's brigade joined a battle front by a forced march and were put into the short battle line, but in less than an hour, General James Wilson reported, although the resistance was determined, the position was carried by a gallant charge, and the rebels completely routed.<sup>9</sup>

On the night of April 1, 1865, Forrest arrived in Selma, Alabama and found the town seething with excitement. He had only 1,400 men of Armstrong's brigade to defend three and a half miles of entrenchments about the town. Armstrong had come in by a forced march with his men who had fought at Ebenezer Church the day before. General Wilson with a force of nearly 3,000 men charged against little more than one-third their number; the garrison "fought with considerable coolness and skill," but from the beginning it was a hopeless defense. About dark the Confederate line broke and the end came with a rush. General Armstrong and General Philip Dale Roddy, holding the flanks, were borne back, but Forrest, "with the ever-faithful escort, and Armstrong and Roddy, with small bands of their troopers, managed to cut their way out in the darkness and confusion, and make their escape from the captured city. . . ."<sup>10</sup>

Armstrong took an important part at Chickamauga, commanding a cavalry division. From East Tennessee he moved to Georgia and served until the fall of Atlanta; later in Tennessee and Mississippi; he surrendered to E.R.S. Canby. The last battle in which he participated was at Selma, Alabama, under Forrest.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 196, 197.

<sup>8</sup> The expedition from Vicksburg to Meridian, Mississippi took place March 3 to 5 under General Leonidas Polk's command with Forrest and Armstrong in charge of the cavalry (*Photographic History*, op. cit., p. 348).

<sup>9</sup> Henry, op. cit. pp. 161, 196, 197, 405, 422, 431-32.

<sup>10</sup> *Who's Who in America*, 1908-09, p. 48.

The Reverend Thomas B. Ruble made a tour of the Indian country in 1867 and his report appeared in the *Fort Smith Herald* on June 6. In describing the Creek country he wrote: "The whole country from the North Fork to the Arkansas, is most delightful, interspersed with varied scenery and prospects. Maj. Armstrong now lives near Honey Springs battleground; here you meet with a clever family and the kindest treatment."

Frank Armstrong was married in 1865 to Maria Polk Walker, of Columbia, Tennessee, a daughter of General Knox Walker and a great niece of President Polk. His second wife, who survived him, was Charlotte Combs, of St. Mary's County, Maryland, the widow of Kitty MacSherry, Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy.<sup>11</sup>

After the War Armstrong was engaged in the Overland Mail service in Texas. He was United States Indian Inspector 1885-89; and he became Assistant Commissioner of Indian affairs in 1893, holding the position two years.

Political matters in the Cherokee Nation were embittered during the campaign of Samuel H. Mayes and Buffington for chief and in an effort to settle the controversy Robert L. Owen, the Agent, was successful in having General Armstrong ordered to the Cherokee Nation as a disinterested person.

At that time Muskogee was having the first telephone service of the future Eastern Oklahoma. This enabled the town to communicate with Fort Gibson and Tahlequah so on December 2, 1867, Agent Owen, received a message from the Cherokee capital advising him of the "Turbulent Bushyhead-Mayes election controversy. A few days later Owen, at Tahlequah, sent a message by telephone to Muskogee and by telegraph to Washington, which brought Inspector Frank Armstrong from the Interior Department to investigate the situation."<sup>12</sup> He accompanied Owen to Tahlequah to negotiate the matter:

" . . . Both parties gave pledges to preserve the peace; he had all the evidence, pro and con; he urged them to an amicable adjustment of their own affairs, and told them plainly that Mayes, under the Cherokee law, was entitled to the chieftaincy; that the Senate should count the votes, and if Mayes had the highest number of votes, declare him chief, and inaugurate him at once. Both parties appeared to be obstinate, and, finally, General Armstrong left, with the avowed intention of protecting the peace by the use of military, unless the council did its duty.

"After his departure I exerted every effort and succeeded in effecting the following compromise: . . ."<sup>13</sup>

The *Fort Smith Elevator*, December 23, 1867, states that both belligerent parties in the Cherokee Nation agreed that the govern-

<sup>11</sup> Zella Armstrong, *op. cit.*, Vol. 3, pp. 6-7.

<sup>12</sup> Grant Foreman, *Muskogee, The Biography of an Oklahoma Town* (St. Louis), p. 76.

<sup>13</sup> *Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1868*, p. 137. Robert L. Owen, Tahlequah, December 22, 1867, to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, John H. Oberly.

ment might settle their differences. Armstrong favored the Downing party. The government recognized Mayes as chief, but disapproved the manner in which he assumed the office. No trouble was looked for.

Under the heading "Cherokee Matters," the *Fort Smith Elevator* stated on December 30, 1887, that the Cherokee council had convened and counted the vote cast at the last election for chief. Mayes, candidate of the Downing party won by 133 votes. It was considered that the result was brought about through the efforts of General Frank Armstrong, who had been "sent to Tahlequah by the Federal government to inform the Cherokees that their nonsensical quarrel must come to an end."

From the first the Downing party was said to have listened to the reasoning of Armstrong and acted upon his suggestion. The Nationalists held out for a disposition of the matter which would have given them control of the government, and "it was only the decisive words of General Armstrong that brought them to their senses."

On December 6, 1892 Senator George Graham Vest of Missouri introduced a joint resolution authorizing the appointment of a commission to treat with the Five Civilized Tribes in order to induce them to take homesteads. Senator James H. Berry of Arkansas on January 23, 1893 suggested a provision for the commission as an amendment to the House bill to ratify the agreement for the purchase of the Cherokee outlet. This was accepted by the Senate, and the bill was passed as amended. On March 2 the Senate incorporated the whole measure, including the provision for the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, in the Indian appropriation bill which passed the next day.<sup>24</sup>

A dispatch to the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 21, 1895, was copied in the *Weekly Elevator* of Fort Smith on April 26, 1895. This said that the members of the Cherokee Commission, except Mr. Archibald S. McKennan, of Arkansas were in Washington for a consultation with the officials of the Interior Department. They were furnished with the law under which they were to negotiate with the Five Civilized Tribes and the administration was hopeful that the new commission would accomplish more than the old one had.

Ex-Senator Henry L. Dawes was greatly discouraged over the failure and only consented to resume service at the earnest solicitation of President Cleveland. The Commission was much stronger as it had gained much by the appointment of ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs Frank Armstrong, Ex-Congressman Alexander B. Montgomery, of Kentucky and Thomas B. Cabaniss who were both attorneys, and men of considerable ability. The Commission was

<sup>24</sup> Roy Gittinger, *The Formation of the State of Oklahoma* (Berkeley, California, 1917), pp. 185-86.

supposed to leave Washington in time to meet at South McAlester about the first of May, to begin work with the Indians.

The Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes reported from Fort Smith November 18, 1895, that the body had undergone some changes whereby Frank C. Armstrong had replaced Meredith H. Kidd, who had been transferred to other service. Two new members had been added in the persons of Thomas B. Cabanis, and Alexander B. Montgomery. Immediately after this reorganization the Commission repaired without delay to the Indian Territory to continue negotiations.<sup>15</sup>

Armstrong's name was signed to all the papers passed between the commission and the members of the Five Tribes. At the Atoka Agreement which was signed on April 23, 1897, he appeared as acting chairman in place of Henry L. Dawes.<sup>16</sup> The Atoka Agreement was one of the most important acts ever passed between the Five Civilized Tribes and the United States government and Armstrong had a leading part in settling this matter.

As a meeting before the Committee on Indian affairs of the House of Representatives relative to conditions in the Indian Territory, on March 11, 1896, Hon. A. S. McKennon reported March 19, 1896: "I feel it is due to General Armstrong, as also to the committee, to say that the reason why he has not been in attendance upon the meetings of the committee, as requested, is that he has been confined to his home sick."<sup>17</sup>

Acting Chairman Frank C. Armstrong notified that the Dawes Commission would meet with the Cherokee Commission in Muskogee on December 17, 1896, after which they wished to meet a Seminole commission at some convenient place and Principal Chief John F. Brown was to arrange the meeting. Word was announced in Washington December 22, 1896 that General Frank Armstrong had arrived there and filed with the Secretary of the Interior David Rowland Francis the official report of the Dawes Commission on the treaty entered into with the Choctaws.

Armstrong said that the Commission was sincerely gratified with the success of its labors as it was the beginning of a thorough understanding between it and the Indians. He was convinced that the other members of the Five Civilized Tribes would meet the Commission on similar terms. The Cherokees had already signified a willingness to treat with the Commission, and a meeting was to take place in Tahlequah after the holidays.

<sup>15</sup> Report of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, December 5, 1895 (Washington, 1895), p. 59.

<sup>16</sup> Annual Report of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes (Washington, 1896), p. 36; *The Oklahoma Red Book* (Oklahoma City, 1912), p. 540.

<sup>17</sup> Senate, Fifty-fourth Congress, 1st Session, Document No. 182, p. 26.

Commissioner Armstrong felt sure that the Choctaw treaty would be ratified, although the persons who had been decided as not entitled to citizenship would put up a strong fight. According to the treaty the Indian courts were abolished and the United States courts became supreme. Another provision stipulated that all coal leases and railroad grants must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. All townsite lots were to be appraised and offered for sale, occupants to have a preferred right to buy; all proceeds of such sales were to be put in trust for the Indians.

Some trouble was expected from holders of townsites who thought they should have the lands upon which they had squatted for nothing. "But the commission in all its work on this vexed problem had been determined that the Indians should receive the benefit of all which was rightfully their due."<sup>18</sup>

On April 8, 1897, Acting Chairman Armstrong wrote to S. H. Mayes, principal chief of the Cherokees, that the petition to the Secretary of the Interior for authority "to purge the Citizenship Roll of the Cherokee Nation" and forward it to Congress, had been transmitted and such recommendations made thereon as were deemed expedient in the premises.<sup>19</sup>

An act approved July 1, 1898, fixed the number of commissioners at four. Frank C. Armstrong had resigned June 30, 1898, leaving at that time Commissioners Dawes (chairman), Tans Bixby, Thomas H. Needles and Archibald S. McKennon.<sup>20</sup> On March 1, 1899, Congress reduced the membership of Dawes Commission from five to four, and the vacancy caused by the resignation of Frank C. Armstrong, was not filled.<sup>21</sup>

Mrs. H. Van Smith came to Muskogee as a bride when her husband was appointed secretary to the Dawes Commission; she became well acquainted with General Armstrong and she was greatly impressed with the distinguished bearing of the General and his charming wife. Although many years have passed she still recalls that he had the most beautiful hands she had ever seen.

<sup>18</sup> *The Tahlequah Arrow*, Saturday, January 2, 1897, 1, col. 5. The Choctaw treaty was signed by Green McCurtain, Principal Chief, J. S. Staudley, R. B. Ainsworth, Ben Hampton, Wesley Anderson and Amiss Henry, D. C. Garland and A. S. Williams, Choctaw Commission. For the Chickasaw Nation H. M. Harris, I. O. Lewis, Holmes Colbert, P. S. Mosely, M. V. Givelle, R. L. Murray, William Perry, A. H. Colbert and R. L. Boyd (*Report Commissioner Indian Affairs, 1877*, p. 409). Signers for the Dawes Commission were Henry J. Dawes, Frank C. Armstrong, Archibald S. McKennon, Thomas B. Cabanis and Alex B. Montgomery. H. Van Smith signed as Acting Secretary to Five Tribes Commission.

<sup>19</sup> Copied from Letter-book L. S. now in the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

<sup>20</sup> *Report of the Commissioners to the Five Civilized Tribes for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1914* (Washington, 1914), p. 6.

<sup>21</sup> John D. Benedict, *Muskogee and Northeastern Oklahoma* (Chicago, 1922), p. 159.



General Frank Crawford Armstrong was the only native born citizen to serve on the Dawes Commission and it was during the period when many important matters were settled. During the latter years of his life, the General lived at 1912 Sunderland Place, Washington, D. C. He was interested in mining and other operations in Mexico, before his death at Bar Harbor in 1909.<sup>22</sup> He was survived by a daughter, Isabel, who first married J. Dundas Lippincott, of Philadelphia, and later Archibald Barklie of New York and Wayne, Pennsylvania.<sup>23</sup> The Armstrong family served in the Indian Territory from 1832 to 1898.<sup>24</sup>

## APPENDIX

Reference: *Holy Cross Purple* (monthly magazine), Vol. III, No. 1 (June, 1896), pp. 20-3.

### HOLY CROSS STUDENTS IN THE CIVIL WAR

#### GENERAL ARMSTRONG

Gen. Frank C. Armstrong is the son of Major Frank W. Armstrong of Tennessee, who served under General Andrew Jackson, and was his personal friend. His mother, Anne M. Millard, came of an old Catholic family of Maryland, connected with the Penwicks and Mannings.

Frank C. Armstrong entered Holy Cross in 1845. In 1854 he went to Texas, and in company with his step-father, Gen. Peralfor Smith, U.S.A., he made a trip across the state from Corpus Christi to El Paso.

It was during this year that he was recommended for an appointment in the army for the bravery he displayed in an encounter with the Indians in Texas.

In June, 1855, he was appointed Lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Dragoons, serving in Texas, Kansas and Nebraska until 1867, when he went with his regiment to Utah in the expedition of Gen. Albert Sydney Johnson. In 1861 he resigned his commission and joined the Confederate Army.

It would require far more space than we have at our disposal to give a detailed account of the prominent part taken by Gen. Armstrong in the civil war. Throughout the entire war records we find his name mentioned in terms of highest praise. In the beginning of the war, serving as volunteer aide-de-camp, we read how he went gallantly into the fight and bore himself with great courage and coolness.

"His conduct," say the records, "is ever active and soldierly; a meritorious officer whose value is lost to the service by his not receiving rank more accordant with his worth and experience." This was March, 1862.

<sup>22</sup> *Who Was Who in America*, Chicago, Vol. 1, 1943, pp. 30, 31.

<sup>23</sup> Zella Armstrong, *op. cit.*, Vol. 3, pp. 6-7.

<sup>24</sup> For a full account of the Dawes Commission during Armstrong's connection with it see Angle Debo, *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic* (Norman, 1934), pp. 173, 220, 268-79, 245-47, 259, 264, 276-78, and —, *And Still the Waters Run* (Princeton, 1940). See, also, Muriel H. Wright, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma* (Norman, 1951), and Joseph E. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright, *Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People* (New York, 1929), Vol. II, "The Dawes Commission," pp. 607-24.

The same year and month, Gen. Van Dorn writes requesting that "the President be pleased to confer the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on F. C. Armstrong."

Nor was his promotion long deferred. After reporting to the War Department in Richmond, Va., he joined Gen. McCulloch, commanding the Confederate forces in Arkansas, and was assigned to duty as adjutant-general in his division. After the death of McCulloch, Armstrong was appointed major, and in the reorganization at Corinth, he was elected colonel of the 3d Louisiana Infantry. He was soon detached from this regiment and assigned by Gen. Bragg to organize a cavalry command.

Gen. Armstrong was not engaged in Northern Mississippi and Alabama. He attacked and captured the Federal Camp at Courtland, Ala. Having left Baldwin at the head of 1,700 men he was re-inforced at Holly Spring by about 1,100 cavalry, pushed boldly forward toward Bolivar, met a largely superior force in front of that town, and drove them back with a heavy loss, killing and wounding a large number and capturing 73 prisoners. When this was accomplished he did not delay but pushed northward, crossed the Hatchie river, passed between Jackson and Bolivar, at which places there were heavy bodies of Federal troops, and took and held possession of the railroad for more than 30 hours, during which time he destroyed all the bridges and a mile of trestle work. On his return he encountered the enemy in force near Denmark, attacked and routed them, capturing 233 prisoners and two pieces of artillery.

The highest praise was awarded Gen. Armstrong for the prudence, discretion and good sense with which he conducted this expedition. His gallant conduct was made the subject of a special dispatch to the government. He was soon appointed Brigadier General and assigned to a brigade under Van Dorn. Later he was assigned to Forrest's division, and commanded a brigade during the campaign in Tennessee and on the retreat to Chattanooga. In the retreat at Corinth he proved the salvation of the retreating forces by rebuilding, with great foresight and energy, the bridge that Northern forces had burned.

He served with Forrest until after the battle of Chickamauga. In the official records of the battle special praise is given to Armstrong; for his command was dismounted and fought almost entirely on foot, always up and frequently in advance of the infantry. "The charges made by Armstrong's division while fighting in the battle of Chickamauga would be creditable," according to the official report, "to the best drilled infantry."

After Chickamauga, he moved with Longstreet to East Tennessee, under Gen. Joe Wheeler. An inspection of the latter's papers shows Armstrong singled out for praise for gallant and good conduct. He was engaged in no battle in which his bravery did not make him prominent even among prominent officers.

When Longstreet fell back to Virginia, Armstrong moved to Virginia, serving there until the fall of Atlanta. His coolness and foresight, his energy and determination, did not desert him during these trying days. He went with Hood's army to Tennessee, and assisted in covering Hood's retreat from Franklin to the Tennessee river; he was the last Confederate brigade across the Pontoon bridge on the south side of the Tennessee river. Hood knew well the bravery of his faithful follower, for he had already recommended him to Beauregard as the best man in his army for the post of Major General.

Armstrong now operated in Mississippi with Forrest; but on the surrender of General Lee and Johnston, Forrest's command was surrendered by Gen. Taylor to Gen. Canby.

For several years after the war Gen. Armstrong was engaged in overland mail service in Texas, Kansas and Indian Territory. During Mr. Cleveland's first administration he was made United States Indian Inspector, served four years, and was removed by Pres. Harrison.

Under the present administration he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but resigned on Jan. 1, 1895. The Sec. of the Interior expressed his regret at Gen. Armstrong's resignation, for he was generally conceded to be the best informed man on Indian matters in the public service, and the department could not but feel his loss keenly.

Gen. Armstrong is now a member of the "Commission authorized by Congress" to treat with the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory.

---

*Reference: Holy Cross Purple, Vol. 23 (Oct. 1909), pp. 91-2.*

#### OBITUARY

##### DEATH OF AN OLD STUDENT

"General Frank C. Armstrong, an old Holy Cross student 1845-46, passed away at Greencourt, the summer home of his daughter in Ear Harbor, Me., on Sept. 8, 1909. General Armstrong had been ill for several weeks and death was due to his general enfeebled condition. He was nearly 76 years of age at the time of his death and a resident of Washington, D. C. With his decease he closed a long, eventful military career. He was born at the Choctaw Agency, Indian Territory, in 1835, his father being Major Frank W. Armstrong of Tennessee, who served under General Jackson. . . ."