

(From The Wichita Eagle Files - June 18, 1901 -

# BRYANT, MONTGOMERY

BRAVE WARRIOR GONE

Col. Montgomery Bryant Has  
Fought His Last Battle.

FINE MILITARY CAREER

Suffers Patiently For Six Months.

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Colonel Montgomery Bryant, who was the very first white child born on Kansas soil, died yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at his residence, 1421 Park Place Avenue, at the age of 70 years.

Colonel Bryant was one of those picturesque and chivalric figures who have helped to make history on the western frontier. He was the personal friend of many of the now famous scouts, early day Indian interpreters, as well as military heroes and government leaders whose names are well known in history. In his headquarters tent have met for council General Chaffee, General Miles, General Lawton and General Phil Sheridan. He was a natural military genius and the spirit of the west was blended with the spirit of active military effort. He was born at Fort Leavenworth on the 28th of December, 1831, and his first experiences were among those early frontier trials and hardships which only the pioneer and the voyageur can know. The official Army Register shows the first date of his ranking title as February 21, 1857, when he was breveted as second lieutenant of the Sixth Infantry. From that his promotions were rapid and always in recognizing special heroic action or long and faithful service. On the first of March, seven years ago, he was retired at his own request, having served continuously for over thirty years. At one time he was in full command of the Eighth Infantry at Angel Island on the Pacific coast, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, the Commanding

officer being then absent in Europe. Later he was in command at Bernicia, Cal., over the same regiment. His subsequent promotions were rapid, and from the subaltern rank of second lieutenant he was elevated to major of the Fourteenth Infantry on the 7th of October, 1874; lieutenant colonel of the Eighth infantry, June 22, 1882; colonel of the Thirteenth infantry, December 16, 1888. While colonel he commanded at Fort Supply for four years, and later at Fort Sill for one year. Seven years ago on the 14th of last January he came to Wichita, still retaining his rank and title and command, but on the 7th of the following March he was retired at his own request, with still one year and nine months to serve.

The stirring scenes of the frontier and the dramatic episodes of the early border warfare were all a part of Colonel Bryant's active career. The opposite has been his life in Wichita since retirement. Of domestic tastes, reserved and reticent, he has lived a life of seclusion save for those intimate friends who were ever welcome and always greeted with that hospitable, warm demeanor of the cultured gentleman.

On the 15th of last December he was stricken with paralysis, while deeply interested in a favorite author. On the 18th he received the second stroke, and was assisted to his rooms upstairs which he never left again. The left side was completely paralyzed, and a complication of maladies at once followed, one being an aggravated attack of Bright's disease, which had troubled him for several years previously. He had been conscious up to about six weeks ago, when he became very much worse, most of the time delirious. He would imagine he was in command of first one post, then another, and for two weeks past supposed he was at Bernicia. Yesterday morning he was seemingly more than ever bright and displayed no symptoms of approaching dissolution, but he was taken with spasms about noon and passed away after an hour and a half of agony, closely

Mrs. Hendrickson, and servants. His last words were: "Oh, but I have been so sick for such a long time, and it is so hard to get well; but I will be better in the morning."

Yes, he is better this morning. The foes that he withstood undaunted are passed away, and now the last subtle foe which faces all mankind dauntless and sombre, has challenged him for the last time, and heroic, brave, patient, suffering Montgomery Bryant, too, has passed away.

Twenty-two years ago he was married to his present wife at Salt Lake City, and Mrs. Bryant has the sincere sympathy and earnest condolence of her many friends. For six months she has been a patient nurse and attendant at his every want, and now in her solitary grief those who knew Colonel Bryant to admire and love him extend to her their kindest feelings of tenderest sympathy.

Mrs. Sophia Hendrickson, a sister, survives him (Mrs. Miller now lives at Hillcrest Apts. Wichita, Kansas - 1931/32) in this city, and Mrs. Wells Miller, of Oklahoma City, a daughter. For several days he has pathetically called for Mrs. Miller and her baby daughter, Helen.

Colonel Bryant was a member of the G. A. R. and Montgomery Bryant Post at Fort Supply was named after him, and he had a fine medal presented to him from that post. He was also a member of the Masonic fraternity, which he spoke of with feeling at the last as "my church". He was generous, kind, courtly and, withal, hospitable. He enjoyed having his friends about him. "After life's fitful fever he rests well."

The funeral arrangements will not be completed until the arrival of Mrs. Wells Miller and will be announced later.