

# Brigadier General Thomas Cruse (1857-1943)

By Jerry Long



Brigadier General Thomas Cruse (1857-1943)

Thomas Cruse was a brigadier general in the United States Army, who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor for valor in action on July 17, 1882, at the Battle of Big Dry Wash, Arizona.

Cruse was born at 603 Frederica Street in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky on December 29, 1857. He was the son of James B. Cruse (1826-1906) & Mildred Davis King (1835-1911). His father was a veteran of the Mexican War (1847-1849). His grandparents Thomas Cruse & Rachel Eleanor Barnhill and Thomas K. King & Luella Cooper were early pioneers of Daviess County, KY. Through the Barnhill family he was a first cousin 4 times removed to Daniel Boone.

Thomas attended Centre College, in Danville, KY, 1874-1875. He then was admitted to the US Military Academy in West Point, New York from which he graduated in 1879. Cruse was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 6th United States Cavalry upon graduation. Cruse was an honor graduate of the Infantry and Cavalry School in 1891. On July 12, 1892, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration, for distinguished gallantry in action while battling the Apaches under Geronimo at Big Dry Fork, Arizona on July 17, 1882. His Medal of Honor citation reads: "Gallantly charged hostile Indians, and with his carbine compelled a party of them to keep under cover of their breastworks, thus being enabled to recover a severely wounded soldier." Three others also received the Medal of Honor for this action: Frank West, George H. Morgan, and Charles Taylor.

Cruse later served in the Philippine-American War at the turn of the 20th century. He graduated from the Army War College in April 1916 and was promoted to brigadier general on 19

December 1916. He retired from active duty on 9 January 1918, nine months after the American entry into World War I. He had completed 39 years of continuous military service.

Thomas Cruse retired to Longport, New Jersey and later resided in Washington, DC. He authored the book “Apache Days and After” (published in 1941). He died at the age of 85 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on 8 June 1943. He was buried in Section 3, lot 1763, of the Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Virginia, where his wife and their sons were also interred.

On 14 February 1882 in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, Thomas Cruse married Beatrice Cottrell (1862–1936). They had two sons, Frederick Taylor Cruse (1886-1949), lieutenant colonel in US Army; and James Thomas Cruse (1887-1907), US Naval Academy Midshipman. James died from injuries suffered in an explosion aboard the battleship, USS Georgia. Fred T. Cruse married Marjorie Hamilton Hinds (1891-1986), the daughter of Major General Ernest Hinds.



The above memorial marker was erected on 10 November 2012 by the Kentucky Historical Society & Kentucky Department of Highways. The marker is in Owensboro, KY on Frederica Street south of West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, on the right when traveling north. Marker is located beside the sidewalk near the northwest corner of the Daviess County Courthouse.

Inscription – side 1:

Daviess Co. natives who have received the Medal of Honor:

John J. Given–Corp, Co K, 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. Died while trying to recover a fallen soldier at Wichita River, Texas, July 12, 1870.

Thomas Cruse- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. His charge at Big Dry Fork, Az., July 17, 1872, against enemy Native American troops led to recovery of a wounded soldier.

Inscription – side 2:

David P. Nash–Private First Class, Co B, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Died at Giao Duc, Vietnam, Dec. 29, 1968. After his patrol established a position, Pfc. Nash and another kept watch while two other men slept.

When an enemy grenade landed nearby, he shouted a warning and leapt on the explosive, thereby saving the lives of the three men.

The entry on the marker for Thomas Cruse and in two Owensboro newspaper articles announcing the dedication of the marker (10 & 11 November 2012) contained an error. The event for which Cruse was decorated should have read July 17, 1882; not 1872.



**E-mails of Jerry Long concerning error on Medal of Honor memorial:**

Nov 16, 2012 e-mail : To David Smith ( [dsmith@daviessky.org](mailto:dsmith@daviessky.org) ), Daviess County Court official: David: I sent the following to the Messenger-Inquirer's letters to the editor several days ago: "I would like to draw attention to an error in articles this past Saturday and Sunday about the erection of a historical marker for Daviess County's three Congressional Medal of Honor winners. Brig. Gen. Thomas Cruse is noted as receiving his commendation for his actions of July 17, 1872. On this date he was 14 years old and he did not graduate West Point and begin his active service until 1879. The correct date should be July 17, 1882. This error also appears in the press release by the Kentucky Historical Society and on the historical marker at the Daviess County Courthouse. Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library"

They apparently decided not to use it. I thought for posterity there should be some note somewhere of the error. Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301

Nov 16, 2012. 2012 e-mail : From David Smith ( [dsmith@daviessky.org](mailto:dsmith@daviessky.org) ) Daviess County Court official: Thanks Jerry. I cannot believe that typo made it through all these eyes. I will probably wait a little while before asking the Court to pay for a corrected marker as they cost quite a bit of money - \$2,000+ David Smith

Nov 28, 2012 e-mail : To Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY: On this past Veterans' Day a Historical Marker was erected at the Daviess County Courthouse in Owensboro for the three Congressional Medal of Honor winners from Daviess County. I would like to draw attention to an error. Brig. Gen. Thomas Cruse is noted as receiving his commendation for his actions of July 17, 1872. On this date he was 14 years old and he did not graduate West Point and begin his active service until 1879. The correct date should be July 17, 1882. This error appears in the press release by the Kentucky Historical Society and on the historical marker at the Daviess County Courthouse. I thought for posterity there should be some note somewhere of the error. Possibly in your future listings of Kentucky's Historical Highway markers a correction can be noted. Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY (special to the Messenger)

Nov 29, 2012 e-mail : From Becky Riddle ( [Becky.Riddle@ky.gov](mailto:Becky.Riddle@ky.gov) ), Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY: Hi Jerry, Thank you for the information you provided below. The text that the applicant sent me said 1872, but as I look back through the research they sent in, the correct date is 1882. I will change that in our records and our database. If I can figure out a way to change it on the marker without having to recast it, I will do that. I'm not sure if that is possible, though. Thank you, again, for letting me know. Becky



**Owensboro Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 30 June 1880, p.3:**

By order of Brevet Major General Wilcox, Second Lieutenant Thomas Cruse, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, has been assigned to the command of company A. Indian Scouts. This is a post of the highest honor and the greatest danger, being in a region where the most warlike Indians are found. Lt. Cruse's friends appreciate the high trust reposed in him by his senior officers, and are ready to swear that it will be well and valiantly discharged.



**History of Daviess County, Kentucky,  
Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1883:**

p. 446 – City of Owensboro

JAMES B. CRUSE, born Jan. 29, 1828, in Daviess County, Ky., was a son of Thomas and Rachel E. (Barnhill) Cruse. His father was a native of Virginia, and came to Kentucky at an early date settling in Oldham County. He came to Daviess County in 1826, and was murdered in August, 1828, by Joseph Potts, during the three days' election. His mother was a native of Oldham County and died in 1871 at the age of sixty-three years. They had a family of three children – Zachariah, residing in Upper Town Precinct; Elizabeth, deceased, and James B. Mrs. Cruse married Jasper Bristow, an old pioneer Baptist preacher of this county. James B. was reared on a farm. In 1847 he enlisted in the Mexican war, in Captain McCreery's company, Fourth Kentucky Regiment. He came out of the army in the City of Mexico in 1849; returned home in June, and went to farming. He sold his farm in 1854, and came to Owensboro, and engaged in the mercantile business till 1877. Since 1878 he has been engaged in the tobacco business. In 1880 he formed a partnership with J.R. Chapman, under the firm name of Cruse & Chapman. Mr. Cruse was Trustee of Owensboro before the city was incorporated, and was a member of the City Council in 1875-'76, and again in 1880-'81. He was married in 1852 to Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Samuel G. Harrison. His wife died in 1854 leaving two children – Samuel D. and Elizabeth A., afterward the wife of Dr. F.M. Clements, and now deceased. Samuel D. is in the mercantile business in Louisville. In November, 1855, Mr. Cruse married Mildred D., daughter of Thomas King. They have had two children – Thomas, a graduate of West Point in 1879, and now a Lieutenant in the U.S. army, and Zachariah, who died at the age of nine years. Mr. Cruse has been a member of the First Baptist Church since 1877.

p.807 – Upper Town Precinct

ZACHARIAH CRUSE was born in Olden [sic] County, Ky., Feb. 11, 1820. His father, Thomas Cruse, was born in Virginia, and came to Kentucky at an early day. He was married in 1817, to Rachel Barnhill, a native of Olden County, Ky., born in 1802. They had three children – Zachariah, Elizabeth and J.B. Thomas Cruse was killed in Owensboro, Ky., in August, 1824, by Joseph Potts, through a mistake, thinking he was another man. He was the first man killed in Owensboro. Mrs. Cruse was afterward married to Jasper Bristow. She died in 1869. Zachariah Cruse was married in 1844 to Elizabeth Obenchain, a native of Hancock County, Ky., born in 1824. They had two children, only one now living – J.S., born July 28, 1849. He still lives on the farm with his parents. He was married March 18, 1875, to Minnie Rarick, a native of Breckinridge

County, Ky., born Nov. 5, 1856. Mr. Cruse owns 180 acres of fine well-improved land four miles from Owensboro.

pp.686-687 – Masonville Precinct

THOMAS K. KING (deceased) was born in Gallatin County, Ky., Aug. 1, 1798, and was a son of Thomas and Betsey (Colton) King, natives of Virginia. He remained on the old home in Gallatin County, Ky., until seventeen or eighteen, and then lived on a farm with his brother-in-law until 1822 or '23, when he came with his two sisters – Sarah King, who married Elijah Dodson, and Nancy King, who resides in Owensboro, in her eighty-eighth year. He bought 150 acres of land in Masonville Precinct, half a mile north of Bethabara. He remained here one year, then returned to Gallatin County and worked in a distillery until his marriage to Luella Cooper, near Bloomfield, Nelson County, Ky., Nov. 15, 1830. She was born in Shelby County, Nov. 12, 1805, and was a daughter of John and Molly (Duncan) Cooper, natives of Virginia. After his marriage he came to Daviess County, Ky., and settled on the farm, in what is now Masonville, that he had purchased in 1825. He lived on this farm until his death, Sept. 1, 1846. He was a Baptist, and one of the representative members of the Bethabara church. He and his wife had four children, two still living – Joseph, born Dec. 23, 1833, and Mildred D., born Nov. 10, 1835. Joseph was but thirteen years old when his father died. He was married to Rebecca F. Hickman, June 21, 1860. She was born in Jefferson County, Ky., and was a daughter of Lawrence O. and Mary (Blakey) Hickman, natives of Virginia and Kentucky. After his marriage Joseph King settled on the old homestead farm, accumulating land from time to time, until he now has a fine farm of 600 acres, 350 under cultivation and well improved. He has one of the finest brick residences and farms in Daviess County. He and wife are members of the Baptist church. They have had seven children – Thomas, Jr., born May 5, 1863; John W., born Aug. 3, 1866; James L., born Dec. 26, 1868; Charles W., born June 20, 1871; Josie F., born July 14, 1874; Lawrence E., born May 16, 1877, died Sept. 22, 1878; Mildred F., born April 22, 1880. Mr. King is one of the active men of Daviess County. He is a general mechanic and has built a number of bridges and buildings. He is also a blacksmith, and is always called on by his neighbors to assist in building houses, barns, etc. Politically he is a Democrat. He is a Mason and member of Joseph H. Brannon Lodge, No. 436. Mildred D. King married James B. Cruse, and resides in Owensboro. They have had two children, one living – Thomas, born Dec. 29, 1857, is a graduate of West Point, and is First Lieutenant of U.S. Cavalry, at present stationed at Lowell, Arizona. Mrs. Thomas King, wife of the subject of our sketch, resides with her son, Joseph King. She is a member of the Baptist church at Bethabara, and has been since 1847. She is now in her seventy-eighth year, and enjoys good health. The King family is of English, Scotch and German descent.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 28 November 1905, p.6 :**

**Maj. Cruse as an Indian Fighter**

Not long ago an officer of one of the staff departments of the United States army was made a brigadier general of the line, says the Chicago Post. A younger officer sneered at the promotion and said that the president was recognizing hard duty done in the cracker and cheese department, while the fellows who fought were overlooked.

Some of the officers of the staff departments of the army have seen as much service on stricken fields as have many of their fellows of the line. Major Thomas Cruse is doing duty in the quartermaster's department at the present time, and he takes more account of shovels than he does of swords, but it would be a bold man of the line who would sneer at the career of Major Cruse.

The major saw all kinds of service before he made the transfer to the staff, and one of his exploits among the "people of the plains" is told today in Sibley's and in barracks wherever the United States troops are camped or quartered.

Cruse was for years an officer of the Sixth cavalry. They say today when he picks up a sample shovel in the quartermaster's department he handles it as though it were a carbine. In the early summer of the year 1882 Second Lieut. Cruse was serving in K troop of the Sixth down in one of the hottest parts of hot Arizona. That was a time when the people in Arizona had no hankering after statehood. There were not as many of them as there are today, and as an Irishman might put it, they had their hands full dodging Apache arrows and bullets. There is a place in Arizona named the Big Dry Wash a curious name, but one fitting a creek bed in the rainless region. Second Lieut. Cruse was sent out with a following of six men one day on the trail of a band of Apaches. There were not enough troops in the country at that time, and commands were divided and subdivided in order to cover the greatest amount of territory possible, and to the end of discovering where the reds had rendezvoused, so that the scattering soldiers, when the discovery was made, might be gathered together and a descent be made upon the enemy in a body.

Lieut. Cruse and his little following reached the Big Dry Wash without finding the sign of an Apache. Beyond the basin of the Wash was a natural fortification of rocks., Cruse sent a trooper by the right flank to make a gutobiography<sup>6</sup> before ordering his men to cross the bare bed of the gulch. The trooper made a detour and took a peep behind the boulders. He returned and reported that there wasn't an Indian in sight.

Then the little command, Cruse leading, pushed down into the basin, and hell opened from behind the rocks to their front. Two of the seven saddles were emptied at the first volley and under the sharp order of their leader the soldiers gave way and sought the shelter of the rocks to the rear.

Lieut. Cruse did not obey his own order. He waited and in the face of the showering bullets he lifted a wounded trooper to his saddle and bore him back to shelter.

It was supposed that the second trooper who had fallen at the first fire of the Apaches was dead. Cruse looked out across the waste between him and the ambushed savages, the strength of whose fire told him that they outnumbered his squad ten to one. While looking in the direction of the enemy Cruse saw the first trooper who had fallen turn himself on the sand. Then there happened one of those things which official army history disposes of in a line, but to which a chapter can scarce do justice.

Cruse, carbine in hand, stood up a fair and easy mark for a bullet. In an instant a red face showed above a rock beyond the stream bed and : a rifle barrel appeared, aimed in the direction of the cavalryman. Before the weapon cracked Cruse, one of the best shots in the army, had sent a bullet straight through the Apache's head.

Then this second lieutenant, he was little more than a boy, rounded the rocks in front of him and walked straight across the open toward the wounded soldier. At every third step he fired, and the bullets rattled on the rocks close to the heads of the lurking reds who had seen their comrade's head split clean at a hundred and fifty yards, and with that savage discretion which at times takes the place of savage courage, they did not dare show themselves sufficiently to take careful aim, but they answered the carbine's continued shots with scattering volleys.

Cruse reached the wounded trooper, Then he glanced behind him. Two of his men had followed him, all unbidden. "Carry him, boys," Said Cruse, "and I'll cover the retreat."

Back they went slowly. A savage braver than his fellows stood up, took careful aim at the group and fired. The bullet hit Cruse in the arm, but an ounce of lead from his carbine crashed into the Apache's chest. Cruse walked backward, while behind him his two troopers bore their stricken fellow.

Bullets marked all the pathway, but the magnificent nerve and courage of the soldier, who shot true with death staring him in the face, seemed to palsy the Apache's aim. They reached the breastworks, the officer, and the soldiers with their burden. Before taking to cover Cruse sent one last shot and it claimed a victim.

In an hour reinforcements came and a horde of savages was put to flight. Major Cruse is today in the quartermaster's department, but there are hundreds of older officers of the line who would like to have his record.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 13 January 1918, p.1B:**

**GEN. CRUSE HAS NOTABLE RECORD IN THE U.S. ARMY**

**Retires After Forty-two Years Of Service For Uncle Sam  
BORN IN OWENSBORO**

**Awarded Medal of Honor For Bravery In Battle Against Indians**

Brig. Gen. Thomas Cruse, who retired from the United States army on January 9, after serving forty-two years, will probably be recalled at an early date to command an officers training camp at Jacksonville, Fla. From date of his appointment as brigadier general, Colonel Cruse had the longest service of any men in the corps outside of Brigadier General A. L. Smith, who graduated at West Point one year ahead of Colonel Cruse.

Brigadier General Cruse was born at Owensboro, Kentucky; and was appointed to the U.S. Military academy from that state of the second congressional district by the Honorable John Young Brown in 1875. He graduated from the military academy in June 1879 and was assigned as second lieutenant to the Sixth U.S. cavalry, at that time serving in Arizona. Lieut. Cruse joined this regiment at Fort Apache, at that time one of the most remote of army posts.

Awarded Medal of Honor.

As there were a great many bands of hostile Indians in Arizona, he at once got into active service, and in 1880 was in several engagements with the hostile Apaches under, the famous Chief Victorio, who at that time was ravaging the New Mexico and Arizona border. Among other notable engagements was one at Membrillo Canon, San Andreas Mountains April 9, 1880. And about a week later the engagement with hostile Apaches at the Mescalero Indian agency in the Sacramento mountains in New Mexico. August 30, 1891, he was in a very severe engagement with hostile Apaches at Cibian Creek, Ariz., and on September 1<sup>st</sup> in the Indian attack on Fort Apache, Ariz. In all these engagements he was specially mentioned for conspicuous conduct by the commanding officers. He was married in Kentucky to Miss Beatrice Cottrell, February 14. 1882, and joined station at Fort Apache, after a long overland trip from the end of the railway then being constructed from Albuquerque. After several months of arduous scouting he was in a desperate engagement

with hostile Apaches at Big Dry Fork, Ariz., and for gallantry in action in this engagement he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was in the field against hostile Indians practically all of 1880-82-85 and 86.

#### One Son Killed.

He had two children, boys, Fred T. Cruse, at present major general, staff U.S. army, and James Thomas Cruse, who graduated from the U.S. Naval academy September 19, 1906 and who was killed on board the "Georgia" by the explosion in a gun turret, in August, 1907.

In 1889 he was assigned to duty as student officer at the infantry and cavalry school, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and completed the course as honor graduate of that institution.

In 1896 he was appointed captain and quartermaster by President Cleveland, since which time his services have been with that corps. In 1898 he was chief quartermaster of the second division, first army corps and in 1899 was depot quartermaster at San Juan, Porto Rico. In 1900 was ordered directly from Porto Rico to Manila to be depot quartermaster at that point. He served two years in that position and on completion was very highly complimented for the activity and energy displayed in the performance of duty by Major General C. F. Humphreys, quartermaster general.

#### Long Record In Service.

Since that time he has been stationed at various department headquarters and depots of the quartermaster corps in the United States notably St. Louis, Chicago, Omaha, Boston and Philadelphia.

Graduated from Army War college in 1916 – thence on duty in quartermaster general's office to date.



#### **Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 3 March 1918, pp.1 & 6:**

##### Former Owensboro Citizen Makes Full Statement of His Connection With Contracts (Special to the Messenger)

Washington, March 2 – Brigadier General Thomas Cruse, U. S. A., retired, who is accused of improperly representing H. H. Lippert, of Chicago, in a matter of blanket contracts with the government, when asked today, by the Messenger correspondent, for his side of the story, made the following statement:

“On January 9, last I was retired, on my own application, after forty-two years of continuous service in the army. From the time of the declaration of war to the time of my retirement. I was on duty in the finance division of the quartermaster's department, and did not have the slightest connection with the award of contracts of any kind whatever. My connection with the supply division of the quartermaster's department terminated more than a month before we entered the war. I took no part in the award of any contracts, and, at the same time, while on duty in the war department, I had no relationship, directly or indirectly, of any kind whatsoever, with H. H. Lippert, of Chicago, or any other government contractor.



#### Offered His Services.

“I had no desire to retire while the country was at war, even though I was forced to do so on account of having had more than forty years continuous service, but in connection with the re-organization of the quartermaster’s department, I was requested to ask retirement and did so. However, I tendered myself upon retirement, ready and anxious to do service if the government desired my services. No assignment to duty was given me and after my retirement, after I had returned to civil life and donned civilian clothes, I understood that I was at liberty to engage in business or accept employment.

#### Liberty To Engage In Business.

“Subsequently, H. H. Lippert, of Chicago, manufacturers’ agent, for a number of western mills, who had obtained government contracts, with the. Obtainment of which I had not the slightest connection, directly or indirectly, requested me to accept employment as adviser to himself and the mills he represented.

#### Consulted Judge Advocate General.

“While I knew of no reason why such employment should not be accepted by a retired officer, desiring to be absolutely certain that there existed nothing in the law or regulations against such employment, before accepting it. I applied to the office of the judge advocate general of the army for advice, and at my request Col. Herbert A. White examined into the question and about the middle of January, last advised me that there was no objection, so far as his examination of the law, regulations and decisions disclosed, to my accepting the employment mentioned. Having thus carefully sought to be properly informed and advised on the subject, I undertook the proffered employment.

#### Nothing Secretive About It.

“There was nothing secretive about it; I went to St Louis, and there at the depot quartermaster’s office openly and frankly acted on Mr. Lippert’s behalf in connection with questions relating to a blanket contract, which had been awarded long prior to any connection between Lippert and myself. For the services thus rendered, I was compensated \$1,000. An agreement was then entered into, under which as adviser to Mr. Lippert and the mills represented by him, I was to receive a salary of \$300 per month, I made known at the war department the fact of my connection with Mr. Lippert. I had not the slightest doubt regarding the legality and entire propriety of this employment. That retired army officers were free to enter into business connections after their retirement from active service has always been recognized.

#### Turned Over Correspondence.

“On February 24 I learned from the inspector general of the army and Capt. Melvin B. Erickson, of the army intelligence office at Chicago, that information was desired regarding my employment by Lippert. I informed these officers of the facts substantially as set forth in this statement. I voluntarily turned over to them all of the correspondence, consisting of letters and telegrams, which had passed between Mr. Lippert and myself, an examination of which would disclose that on neither side was there any pretense of secrecy or the need thereof.

#### Frankly Stated Facts.

“On the next day I called on the secretary of war, the inspector general and the acting judge advocate general and frankly stated all of the facts to them. I did not know, and had not the slightest idea, that there was any statute which could be construed as prohibiting the employment, in good faith, by a contractor of an officer after his retirement from active service, and if I had not been assured that there was no law or regulation containing such prohibition I would never have considered the employment.

#### Lifetime Record of Honorable Service.

“My lifetime record of honorable service in the army ought to be sufficient answer to the suggestion in the published reports that I had any connection with graft in the awarding of any contracts. The statement in today’s newspapers that until the first of the year I was connected with the accounting department of the quartermasters division, which is concerned with awarding the contracts is erroneous. As above stated. I was not in the slightest degree concerned with the awarding of contracts at anytime from the beginning of the war until after my retirement.

“Promptly upon learning that my action in receiving pay from Mr. Lippert for my services might be construed as in contravention of any statute. I wrote to the inspector general, offering to make a return of the amount received either to Mr. Lippert or to the United States, as may be deemed proper by the secretary of war, stating that it was never my intention to accept any money for illegal action.”

#### Made Trip To St. Louis.

Further explaining his connection with Lippert Gen. Cruse said:

“Lippert explained to me that he had a lot of blankets in the army depot at St. Louis, which had been held up by the quartermaster in charge because they did not exactly comply with the specifications.

“After I had been fully advised as I thought, that there would be no harm in my accepting a commission from Lippert, I went to St. Louis to see what could be done about the blankets. Lippert paid my expenses.

“The deport quartermaster told me that he had been on the point of releasing the blankets, as he had worried Lippert long enough, and that the weight and quality of the blankets were all right. He said that the length and width did not exactly comply with the specifications, some of them being too long and too wide.

“But he said the great scarcity of blankets in the army camps made it necessary for him to let up a little on the strict interpretation of the specifications, which he did on my O. K.”



#### **Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 6 March 1918, p.4:**

“MUCKRAKIXG” GEN. CRUSE.

The “muckraking” how going on over army contracts has brought Brigadier General Thomas Cruse, retired, into some unpleasant notoriety. Hut the friends who have intimately known him from his youth in his old Owensboro home, will not believe that he has knowingly done

anything wrong or irregular. His very frank statement, to the Messenger's Washington correspondent, printed in our news columns today, should be entirely reassuring.

Tom Cruse left Owensboro when a mere boy forty-two years ago to enter the military academy at West Point. From that hour he has conducted himself with honor and circumspection unsurpassed by any man in the American army. He came home and married the sweetheart of his youth. He has had many important trusts, and he never betrayed one of them. His life has been an open book. He has been diligent and faithful at all times. He never touched an alcoholic drink in his life. He has been a devoted family man. He raised two splendid boys, one going into the army, the other to the navy. The latter was killed in a premature explosion on a battleship a few years ago, saddening the lives of his devoted parents.

A few weeks ago, when he just reached the age of sixty – and what a boy is a man at sixty who has lived a correct life? General Cruse was retired from active service in the army because of an inexorable rule that, having served forty-two years, he must go.

Buoyant and vigorous, but immensely disappointed that his army career was out of the very beginning of American participation in the great war, he turned his attention to other matters, as other retired army officers have done. Should a man only sixty years old, in full health and possession of all his faculties, sit down and twiddle his thumbs and wait for the time to die, because he has been deprived of his life-time employment and profession. Some army men, who have indulged in excessive drinking and eating and other dissipations, are incapacitated at sixty or earlier, but not a man of the correct habits and fine health of Tom Cruse.

But before turning his attention to other business Gen Cruse, prompted by the rigid experience and practices of his army life, went to the acting judge advocate general, and submitted to him the business opportunity that was offered him, asking if there was anything in the laws or regulations of the army forbidding this. The reply was given him there was not and, therefore, he accepted the employment, not secretly but openly, and spread the news among his former army associates. He wrote letters and telegrams freely in the course of his new employment. He visited army officers and heads of departments in behalf of his new employers openly and frankly. Conscious of the rectitude of his undertaking, he had nothing to conceal. Learning, however, that there was on some kind of investigation of his new activities, he called on the secretary of war and made a frank statement of what he was engaged in, offering all of his correspondence, stating his remuneration and proposing to cancel the contract and refund the money to the employer or to the war department, if it was determined that he had improperly undertaken this employment after advising with the judge advocate general. All this was the conduct of an honest man. Conscious of his own rectitude of purpose.

But spurred on by sensational general charges in congress and elsewhere, of "jobs" in war contracts, some agents of the department of justice have undertaken to make much of Gen. Cruse's engagement, after his retirement from the army, with a blanket contractor in Chicago. Sifted down to its real merits the case, we predict, will amount to nothing and the good name of Thomas Cruse will not be besmirched.



**Paducah Sun-Democrat, Paducah, KY, 18 December 1941, p.3:**

Random Book Talk

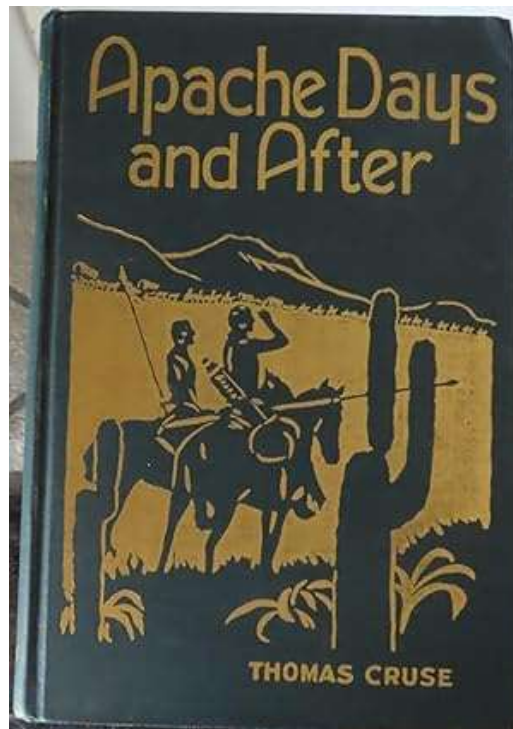
By Fred G. Neuman

Fast reading fills the pages of "Apache Days and After," by General Thomas Cruse, published by the Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, price \$3.50. The career of General Cruse covered the great period of expansion in our military forces from the Indian-fighting era, through the Spanish-American War, to the outbreak of World. War I.

A fascinating page of western military history long buried in the sheaves of Army records is uncovered, in this account of the Indian campaign of Arizona told by an officer who took an active part in the actual fighting itself.

Here frontier troops were faced with the pursuit and capture of the most cunning of Indian renegades – the Apaches of the southwest.

In this book of memoirs everything is told from the practical militarist's point of view. Skirmishes, difficult pursuits, wilderness strategy, and frontier privations are represented from the point of view of a man who followed his line of duty scrupulously and intelligently. The result is a picture of the famous Geronimo's campaign that cannot be equaled for veracity and completeness.



Apache Days and After, by Thomas Cruse,  
The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, ID, 1941, 328 pages



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 4 January 1942, p.11B:**

Readers seek war books at public library:  
Thomas Cruse is author of 1941 volume

## “Apache Days and After”

An interesting new volume placed on the library shelves is “Apache Days and After” published this year by the Caxton Pointers, Ltd., of Caldwell, Idaho, the author being Thomas Cruse, brigadier general of the U. S. Army, retired, now of Washington, D. C, and Madison, Wis., who was born in Owensboro, Ky. General Cruse in recent years visited friends and relatives here. A brief sketch of the author is carried on the “jacket” of the volume, as follows:

Thomas Cruse, Brig. Gen., U. S. Army, retired, was born at Owensboro, Ky., on December 29, 1857. He attended Centre college, and later was graduated from the U.S. Military academy at West Point on September 1, 1875. After his graduation he joined the Sixth Cavalry in Arizona, where he served in the field under Generals Wilcox, Crook and Miles. He was engaged in many daring fights with the Apache Indians until their final capture and exile. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for extreme gallantry in action. As company commander he ‘broke in’ Second Lieut. John J. Pershing. He was promoted to brigadier general after years of service in the Spanish-American War and in duty in the Philippines, Porto Rico, and Cuba. He retired at his own request after forty years of service in January, 1918. He holds a Philippine campaign medal and an Indian campaign medal.”

General Cruse has dedicated his volume to his wife, an Owensboro resident, in the following inscription:

“In memory of my beloved wife, Beatrice Cottrell Cruse, who was with me during the events herein recorded; always helpful; never ready to concede we were beaten at any time in the drama of life.”

General Cruse’s experiences with the Apache Indians in the 1880’s formed the basis for material for a book entitled “Apache Indians,” written by Frank Lockwood in 1938.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 27 January 1992, pp.1B & 4B:**

Local war hero led battles  
against American Indians

By Dan Heckel, Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess Fiscal Court has plans to honor a young Whitesville man named David Nash later this year for winning the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War.

That war is still considered recent history. But Owensboro’s first and only Medal of Honor winner was chosen 110 years ago for his valor in fighting American Indians.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Cruse’s exploits as a cavalry lieutenant fighting warriors led by Geronimo and Victorio largely have been forgotten.

In fact, the primary source of information on Cruse is a book he wrote in 1941 called “Apache Days and After,” detailing the time after he graduated 26<sup>th</sup> in his class of 67 at West Point in 1879 until his retirement from the U.S. Army in 1918. The book is available in the Kentucky room at the Owensboro-Daviess County Public Library.

Some clips from the Owensboro Daily Messenger lauded Cruse’s spotless record at retirement, then reported a scandal he was involved in later dealing with the sale of blankets to the military. He was exonerated of wrongdoing.

## Early days

Cruse was born Dec. 29, 1857, in Owensboro, where his father moved after his service in the Mexican War. The military was in his blood from an early age.

“Here as a small boy I had seen Confederate and Union soldiers drilling, and watched men of Nathan Bedford Forrest fight some of the Third Kentucky under Col. Gabriel Netter,” Cruse said in his memoir.

There’s little known of his teen-age years. After he graduated from West Point as a second lieutenant and prepared to head west in September 1879, he said he had “an understanding with Beatrice Cottrell.” Two and a half years later he married her at the First Baptist Church in Owensboro.

“Even in Kentucky, the state noted for beautiful women, Beatrice Cottrell was beautiful,” Cruse said. She was 18 at the time.

Cruse wanted to be part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Fort Clark, Texas, but he instead landed the lone vacancy in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at Fort Apache, Ariz.

Getting there proved to be difficult, because of the scandalous “Star Route” trials dealing with mail contracts. The stage line was discontinued, rail service was incomplete and there was little communication.

Cruse had to go all the way to Los Angeles to catch a ride to Arizona. He referred to Los Angeles as an “adobe town, small, hot and dusty.” Land was being sold for \$200 an acre and he was told that was a bargain because soon it would grow oranges and lemons.

The best land in Daviess County was selling for \$25 an acre at that time and Cruse thought the Los Angeles landowners were trying to sucker him.

## Reaching Arizona

He arrived in Fort Thomas, Ariz., 15 days after he left Owensboro and remained there for a month until he could find transportation to Fort Apache. Communication lines were down and Cruse was considered absent without leave for a month. It took him seven months to clear his name.

There was nothing to do in Fort Thomas, so enlisted men spent their free time drinking, Cruse said. Although he never drank, Cruse said he could not fault his men for doing so despite the expense. An Anheuser-Busch beer cost \$1 a bottle and the men only made \$13 a month.

He finally reached Fort Apache Oct. 20, 1879. The surgeon for the company was Walter Reed, who would later become famous for his treatment of yellow fever and have a hospital named for him in Washington, D.C.

Reed was “the greatest wag and joker that I ever saw,” Cruse said. “If anyone at our table had pondered the possibility of our future greatness, I doubt if Reed would have been selected as a likely subject.”

It was at Fort Apache that Cruse first served with Lt. Charles Gatewood, the man Cruse credits for getting Geronimo to surrender in 1886. Cruse worked with the Indian scouts and got into his first big fray in August 1881 with Indians who followed Noch-Ay-Del-Klinne, better known as “the Medicine Man.”

The Medicine Man had visited Washington and studied Christianity in Santa Fe, N.M., and his mystical dancing entranced his followers and riled them against the white men, Cruse said. This led to the battle at Cibicu Creek.

Cruse's company was sent to arrest or kill the Medicine Man at his camp, but 600 Indians rose up and attacked. The Medicine Man was killed and the soldiers won, but Cruse said it could have easily gone the other way. "If the Indians had owned one leader of consequence, they would have annihilated us," he said.

With telegraph lines down, the Indians got their message out first, saying they had massacred the white men. A New York newspaper listed obituaries of the soldiers, saying Cruse was the first killed.

### Medal of honor

In July 1882, a group of renegade Indians formed a hostile band under a Tonto Apache named Na-ti-o-tish. They clashed with Cruse and his men at a place called Dry Wash.

The soldiers were winning the battle, but the sun was setting and Cruse feared "unless we smashed them by dark they would vanish like quail." About 75 yards and a six-foot deep gulch separated the Indians in their camp from the soldiers. Cruse looked to Al Sieber, the chief of scouts, and said he was going into the camp.

"No, don't you do it lieutenant. Don't you do it," Sieber said. "There's lots of Indians over there and they'll get you sure."

"Why Al," Cruse responded, "you've killed every one of them."

But when Cruse crossed the gulch he found Sieber was right. The Indians outnumbered his men. "We were going slap-bang when a hostile appeared not two yards away, leveling his gun directly at me," Cruse said. "It seemed impossible for him to miss at point-blank range, so I raised my own gun and stiffened to take the shock of the bullet. But he was nervous and jerked just enough as he pulled the trigger to send the bullet past me."

A young soldier named McLellan was not as lucky, as the bullet struck him and he fell to the ground. Cruse shot the Indian and fell beside McLellan. The soldier told him his arm was broken and Cruse told him to lie quietly until he could get him to safety.

The firing slackened and Cruse rose to carry the unconscious McLellan about 20 feet to the slope where there was protection. But some Indians spotted him and began to fire, only to be met by the firing of Cruse's own men. "They did not realize," Cruse said, "I was in their direct line of fire 200 yards away."

The air was burned with bullets, Cruse said. "I was facing the (firing) line and bits of gravel and shreds of bullets stung my face and set it bleeding. I was certain that I had been hit and it was only a matter of moments until I would collapse."

But he did not, and was able to get to safety, where he wrapped McLellan in an Indian blanket. Unfortunately, the bullet had broken one of McLellan's ribs and passed through both lungs. He died within an hour.

On July 24, Cruse was surprised to learn he'd been nominated for the Medal of Honor by his superiors. "During the fight I had been too busy doing moment by moment whatever seemed best in my sector to consider whether it might be thought heroic or even unusual," Cruse said.

Ten days later he claimed amazement when he heard Sieber, who was known for his reckless bravery throughout the Southwest, telling the story of Cruse's actions. "I wouldn't have done that for a million dollars," Sieber said.

### Moving on

With Geronimo's surrender in 1886, the Indian wars were essentially over. After 10 years in the service, Cruse was allowed to represent his regiment at the U.S. Infantry and Cavalry School

at Fort Leavenworth. From there he was sent to the Philippines in 1901, promoted to major and made quartermaster.

Tragedy struck the Cruse family in 1907 when his youngest son, James, was critically injured in a turret explosion on the U.S.S. Georgia. On Aug. 19 he died holding his mother's hand. The oldest son, Fred, would later make colonel.

Cruse was back in the United States in 1910 having been named lieutenant colonel. On Jan. 12, 1917 he was named brigadier general and assigned to the quartermaster corps, a job he hated for its inactivity. He begged for reassignment but was not obliged.

In late 1917, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker became dissatisfied with the quartermaster corps, and named Gen. George Goethals, engineer of the Panama Canal, as acting quartermaster general. With his fellow veterans being forced into retirement, the future became clear.

On Jan. 8, 1918, Goethals told Cruse he did not fit into the "scheme of things." Cruse submitted his resignation the next day, just past his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Scandal

Later that year, Cruse was asked by a Chicago manufacturer's agent named H.H. Lippert to help him with a problem. Lippert had a contract to sell blankets to the Army, but many of them were being held up in St. Louis as defective. Lippert said there was nothing wrong with the blankets, other than a few were short, but he was not being paid for the 25,000 in the reject pile.

The Army was in desperate need of blankets, and were prepared to buy them at nearly twice Lippert's price. Cruse agreed to serve as Lippert's agent and go to St. Louis to see what he could do. There he found the blankets in fine shape. Eventually the government ended up paying Lippert for the blankets, and Cruse was paid \$1,000.

He agreed to remain as Lippert's agent for \$300 a month, and informed the War Department of this. But Lippert and his son were arrested and charged with attempting to defraud the government and Cruse was threatened with court martial for his involvement.

Three and a half months later, Secretary of War Baker exonerated Cruse, saying he had been "indiscreet," but had done nothing illegal.

### A hero's farewell

Cruse and his family lived the rest of their lives in Atlantic City. Beatrice Cruse died Feb. 15, 1936, the day after the couple's 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, ironically at Walter Reed Hospital. She was buried in Arlington National Cemetery next to her son James.

Cruse, who once said "I am frank to say that in non-military matters, it was always best for me to let Mrs. Cruse lead," died July 9, 1943, and is buried next to his wife.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 10 November 2012, pp.1A & 2A:**

Marker to honor medal recipients

By Steve Vied, Messenger-Inquirer

Almost a century and a half has passed since Corp. John J. Given and Second Lt. Thomas Cruse, both of the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, heroically put their lives at risk for their country and their



fellow soldiers in Texas and Arizona. For Pfc. David P. Nash, his ultimate sacrifice was required some 44 years ago in Vietnam.

Saturday, at the conclusion of the annual Owensboro Veterans Day parade downtown, Given, Cruse and Nash, the only three Daviess County natives to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, will be honored with a historical marker that will be unveiled on the northwest corner of the Daviess County Courthouse lawn.

More than 20 members of Nash's family, many of whom live in Daviess County, including his mother Stella Nash, are expected to be present for Saturday's ceremony hosted by Daviess Fiscal Court. Remarkably, two great-grandchildren of Cruse have committed to being present, according to court official David Smith, who managed to track them down by using genealogy websites.

"While we have numerous veterans, these are ordinary people who did extraordinary things and lived among us," Daviess County Judge-Executive Al Mattingly said.

Mattingly and commissioners George Wathen and Charlie Castlen are scheduled to speak during the ceremony. The family members of Nash and Cruse will unveil the marker. A brief reception will take place in the courthouse lobby to meet the Nash and Cruse families after the dedication ceremony.

The parade, which lasts about an hour, is set to begin at 2 p.m.

In his searching, Smith found a telephone number for one of Cruse's granddaughters. When he called, the granddaughter's son answered and said his mother had recently died. However, the son messaged his mother's brothers and sisters, which led to the great-grandchildren who live in Florida and New Mexico and their attendance at Saturday's ceremony. Neither has ever been to Daviess County before, as far as Smith said he knew.

According to information provided by Smith, Given died while trying to recover a fallen soldier at Wichita River, Texas, on July 12, 1870, while Cruse led a charge at Big Dry Fork, Ariz., on July 17, 1872, against Native Americans to recover a wounded soldier. Nash, of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry, died at Giao Duc, Vietnam, on Dec. 29, 1968. He and another soldier were keeping watch while two other men slept. When an enemy grenade landed nearby, Nash shouted a warning and jumped on the explosive, saving the lives of the three men.

A monument to Nash stands in Whitesville City Park.

This year's parade grand marshals are nine local World War II veterans who participated in this year's Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. They will lead the parade from the form-up point west on Second Street, then north on Daviess Street, then west on Veterans Boulevard past the Col. Charles Shelton Memorial before turning left on Frederica Street and back to Second Street near the courthouse for dispersal.

Four veterans organizations plan open houses after the parade ? VFW Post 69, James L. Yates American Legion Post 9, American Veterans Post 75 and John C. Pearl American Veterans Post 119.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 11 November 2012, pp.1C & 7C:**

**Honoring those who served:**

**Bands, military units, more on display during Veterans Day Parade**

**By Joy Campbell, Messenger-Inquirer**

Georydn Searcy, 5, sat high on his dad's shoulders waving a small flag at the start of Saturday's 2012 Veterans Day Parade through downtown Owensboro.

"Anything that has to do with the military, I want him to see it," said Georydn's father, Rick Searcy, with a smile. "A lot of people died so that we could have the right to complain about our country. "The father and son were part of big crowd that turned out to see about 60 separate units including veterans groups, high school and middle school bands, city and county vehicles and more make their way along the parade route.

"My father served 21 years in the military, and I want him to know his grandfather was a vet and what that means," Searcy said.

The Owensboro-Daviess County Veterans Organizations Committee coordinates the annual parade. Parade watchers waved American flags — small and large — during the parade. Scouts — both boys and girls — gave the smaller flags to the crowd as they moved along the route.

Martel Wightman, who has been a familiar face in Owensboro's civic and professional organizations for many years, was waiting for the parade at Daviess Street where the route turned north to Veterans Boulevard. He was sharing pictures of his World War II service.

"I was 17 when I joined the Navy; they were drafting at age 18," said Wightman. "I was immediately sent on a ship to the Pacific. I never got shot at, but I sure did get scared a lot. And I missed my Momma."

Wightman especially wanted to see the Daviess County High School Navy Jr. ROTC unit. The group featured 81 out of its 85 members Saturday. The membership is the highest ever for the unit, according to Commander Stephen White.

More crowds lined Veterans Boulevard at the Col. Charles Shelton Memorial and further west along Smothers Park.

The route turned on Frederica Street and ended back on Second Street at the Daviess County Courthouse where a Medal of Honor Historical Marker ceremony was held.

Several family members positioned themselves to take pictures of their sons and daughters who marched in the parade.

Julia Nichols wiped back tears as she snapped photos of her 14-year-old son, Cordel Moorman, playing the clarinet with the Owensboro High School band.

"I'm so proud," she said. "This is his first parade with the high school band." This year's parade featured more motorcycles and fewer bands than in years past, said Terry Stinson, chairman of the Owensboro-Daviess County Veterans Organizations Committee.

More than 30 motorcycles roared along. Most of them were members of either Rolling Thunder or Patriot Guard groups.

Joyce Hawkins, her daughter Jennifer Hawkins and her mother, Clara Church, placed their chairs at Clay and Second streets — where the parade started. They arrived early to gain their vantage point to see Jennifer Hawkins's son, Jordan, marching with the Daviess County Jr. ROTC.

Joyce Hawkins said they would attend the parade even if Jordan were not participating.

"It's about our troops," she said. "They are fighting for us so that we can live. And it's about remembering the ones who died for us."

After the parade, a ceremony was held at the edge of the courthouse lawn to dedicate the historical marker honoring Daviess County's three Medal of Honor winners.

"All three men risked their lives, and two paid the ultimate sacrifice," Daviess County Judge-Executive Al Mattingly said.

Mattingly and County Commissioners Charlie Castlen and George Wathen told the battle stories for which the men were awarded the highest military honor. The marker also tells of their bravery.

“John J. Given — Corp., Co. K, 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. Died while trying to recover a fallen soldier at Wichita River, Texas, July 12, 1870.”

“Thomas Cruse — 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. His charge at Big Dry Fork, Az., July 17, 1872, against enemy Native American troops led to recovery of a wounded soldier.”

“David P. Nash — Private First Class, Co B., 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Died at Giao Duc, Vietnam, Dec. 29, 1968. After his patrol established a position, Pfc. Nash and another kept watch while two other men slept. When an enemy grenade landed nearby, he shouted a warning and leapt on the explosive, thereby saving the lives of the three men.”

Robert Lemberger of New Mexico and Cecilia Cruse Burchette of Florida, great-grandchildren of Thomas Cruse, attended the ceremony.

“Our Mom taught us the story,” Burchette said.

“We were blown away when we heard you were doing this,” Lemberger said.

The parade’s Grand Marshals, nine local World War II veterans who were guests for the Honor Flight this year, were also guests at the ceremony.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 8 June 2023, p.1B:**

**Remembering the Battle of Big Dry Wash**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

It sounds a bit like one of those old John Ford westerns from the 1940s and ‘50s.

But it was real.

Chances are you never heard of The Battle of Big Dry Wash in Arizona on July 17, 1882.

But it was the last major battle in the Apache Wars.

And it won a Medal of Honor for an Owensboro man.

It was fought between members of the U.S. Army’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment and the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment and men of the White Mountain Apache tribe.

In July that year, an estimated 60 White Mountain Apaches, led by Na-tio-tish, ambushed and killed four San Carlos policemen, including the police chief.

The Army sent out 14 companies of cavalry to protect settlers in the area.

The Apaches noticed that they were being trailed by the cavalry and decided to lay an ambush seven miles north of General Springs.

A scout, Al Sieber, discovered the Apaches’ trap and warned the troops.

During the night, that lone company was reinforced by four more companies from Fort Apache.

In the battle that followed, between 16 and 17 Apaches were killed, including Na-tio-tish.

About two hours into the battle, Lt. Thomas Cruse of Owensboro spotted an Apache camp that seemed to be deserted.

He and four men dashed across the ravine to capture the camp.

But several hidden warriors fired on them, wounding Private Joseph McLarnon.

Cruse dragged him back to safety.

The first shots were fired around 3 p.m., and the battle lasted until sundown, when a heavy thunderstorm struck, with rain and hail.

The remaining Apaches slipped away on foot and retreated to an Apache reservation, about 20 miles away.

Today, the battle site is an historical park.

Four men, including Cruse, received the Medal of Honor for actions in the battle.

Cruse's medal was for saving Private McLarnon.

He wrote about the battle in "Apache Days and After," a book published in 1941.

It appears to still be available on Amazon.

Cruse was born in Owensboro on Dec. 19, 1857.

He graduated from West Point in 1879 and retired as a brigadier general in January 1918.

Cruse died on June 8, 1943, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia



**References to Thomas Cruse (1857-1943)  
in the Owensboro, KY Newspapers  
abstracted by Jerry Long:**

Owensboro Examiner ,1875: 4 June, p.5 (shows photographs of several Indiana notables),

Owensboro Examiner, 1875: 25 June, p.5 (highest honors at Center College),

Owensboro Examiner, 1875: 10 September, p.5 (takes West Point examination),

Owensboro Examiner, 1877: 29 June, p.1 (after two years absence returns to Owensboro from the West Point Academy),

Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 1879: 25 June, p.3 (“Mr. Thomas Cruse graduated 26<sup>th</sup> in a class of sixty-six at West Point, is at home on a furlough of three months.”),

Owensboro Messenger & Examiner, 1880: 30 June, p.3 (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, assigned to Company A Indian Scouts),

Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner, 1881: 6 September, p.3 (report of his death is untrue),

Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger, 1882: 17 February, p.4 (married Beatrice Cottrell, at First Baptist Church in Owensboro),

Owensboro Messenger & Examiner, 1882: 22 February, p.3 (Lt. Thomas Cruse, son of J. B. Cruse, married L. Beatrice Cottrell on 14 February 1882 in Owensboro, daughter of Dr. C. E. Cottrell),

Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 1886: 26 October, p. 3 (moves to Fort Union, NM),

Owensboro Messenger & Examiner, 1887: 6 October, p.2 (promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant),

Owensboro Messenger, 1889: 25 August, p.4 (stationed at Fort Leavenworth, KS),

Owensboro Messenger,1891: 16 August, p.5 (appointed instructor at the US School of Infantry & Cavalry at Fort Leavenworth, KS)

Owensboro Messenger, 1894: 18 July, p.1 (promoted),

Owensboro Messenger, 1896: 5 December, p.5 (promoted to rank of Captain and Quarter Master of 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1897: 19 September, p.5 (Capt. Thomas S. Cruse & family on extended trip through Europe),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 13 March, p.1 (stationed at Savannah, GA),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 24 April, p.1 (visits in Owensboro),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 25 April, p.2 (sentiment for a promotion),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 13 May, p.4 (promoted from captain to major),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 26 May, p.4 (buying mules for the army),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 1 June, p.2 (purchases 12,000 mules for army),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 15 August, p.1 (promoted to Chief quartermaster under Gen. Sanger, no officer in the army has had more rapid promotions than Maj. Cruse),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 4 September, p.4 (“Hard Working Officer”),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1898: 17 November, p.4 (sent to Savannah, GA to superintend the embarkation of troops for Cuba),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1899: 17 March, p.1 (has been ordered to New York to prepare transport Ingalls for trip to Cuba and Puerto Rico),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1899: 11 June, p.4 (leaves for Puerto Rico),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1899: 30 July, p.4 (letter by son, Fred Cruse, to his grandmother),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1899: 10 September, p.1 (one of 2,400 winners of the Medal of Honor, received it for action at Big Dry Fork, Arizona, in July 1882, while serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, he charged the Indians & with his carbine compelled a party of them to keep under cover of their breastworks, thus being enabled to recover a severely wounded soldier),

Owensboro Messenger, 1899: 17 March, p.2 (ordered to Puerto Rico and Cuba),

Owensboro Messenger, 1899: 7 June, p.5 (quartermaster at San Juan, Puerto Rico),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1900: 1 August, p.1 (transferred from Puerto Rico),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1900: 13 August, p.1 (arrives in New York from Puerto Rico),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1900: 27 September, p.2 (assigned to take charge of the quartermaster’s office in the Philippines),

Owensboro Messenger, 1900: 7 November, p.2 (sketch of Maj. Thomas Cruse),

Owensboro Messenger, 1901: 6 January, p.9 (stationed in Philippines),

Owensboro Messenger, 1901: 14 May, p.3 (story of how he saved troopers life),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1901: 3 November, p.9 (son, Fred Cruse, gives account of his trip to the Philippines),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 6 May, p.2 (letter from, Thomas Cruse, of Manila, PI to mother)

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 24 July, p.5 (son, Fred Cruse, received an appointment as a cadet at West Point),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 13 August, p.1 (Fred Cruse accepts cadetship),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 8 September, p.1 (promoted to the rank of major),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 21 September, p.1 (given silver tea service by members of quartermaster corps),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 10 October, p.4 (arrived back in the US yesterday, in the Philippines the past two years),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1902: 11 December, p.1 (gives a talk on the Philippines at the Third Baptist Church in Owensboro),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1903: 13 February, p.8 (transferred from San Francisco to Omaha),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1903: 24 July, p.1 (put in charge of the general depot of the quartermaster's department at St. Louis, MO),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1903: 2 August, p.12 (sons, Fred & James),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1905: 30 June, p.4 (Fred Cruse at West Point & his brother is at the Annapolis naval academy),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1905: 19 September, p.3 (transferred to Chicago, IL, where he will take charge of the quartermaster's bureau as chief for the department of the lakes),

Owensboro Inquirer, 1905: 28 November, p.6 ("Maj. Cruse as an Indian Fighter"; some of his exploits of his Army career noted, including those at the Battle of Big Dry Wash),

Owensboro Messenger, 1907: 24 July, p.3 (son, James Thomas Cruse dies of injuries suffered in an explosion on the battleship, Georgia)

Owensboro Messenger, 1914: 16 October, p.1 (his late son, James Thomas Cruse, is honored)

Owensboro Inquirer, 1916: 25 June, p.1B (Col Tom Cruse, Owensboro Man, Now in Mexico: Famous Army Officer Still Owns Property – Probably In Service"; on his West Point admission examination he missed one question)

Owensboro Messenger, 1916: 20 December, p.1 (Col. Thomas Cruse, native of Daviess County promoted to Brigadier General on 19 December 1916),

Owensboro Messenger, 1917: 23 September, p.5A (Cruse visits Camp Taylor),

Owensboro Messenger, 1918: 11 January, p.2 (retires from active service),

Owensboro Messenger, 1918: 13 January, p.1B (notable record in the Army),

Owensboro Messenger, 1918: 27 January, p.1 (picture of Gen. Thomas Cruse),

Owensboro Messenger, 1918: 3 March, pp.1 & 4 (makes statement on his connection with disputed Army contracts; picture), see also 1918: 6 March, p.4 (editorial)

Owensboro Messenger, 1918: 22 June, p.1 (cleared of charges),

Owensboro Messenger, 1938: 6 September, p.3 (Gen. Thomas Cruse visits in Owensboro; born at 603 Frederica Street in Owensboro),

Owensboro Messenger, 1938: 11 September, p.6B (“Brig. Gen. Thomas Cruse Visits City Of Birth”),

Owensboro Messenger, 1942: 4 January, p.11B (copy of his book, “Apache Days and After” placed in the Carnegie Public Library),

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1970: 6 April, p.1B; “Owensboroan Won Congressional Medal of Honor Fighting Geronimo”, grandfather, Thomas Cruse, murdered in Owensboro by Joseph Potts during a three day election held in August 1828; father, James Cruse, participated in Mexican War, 4<sup>th</sup> KY Regiment; graduated West Point Military Academy on 13 June 1879, assigned to 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Arizona, fought in Indian Wars, received Congressional Medal of Honor for battle at Dry Wash; as company commander ‘broke in’ Second Lt. John J. Pershing, who would later lead the American troops during World War I; two sons also served in the military, James, became a naval officer and was killed in a gunnery accident on 15 August 1907 aboard the battleship Georgia, & Fred graduated from West Point in 1907 and went on to become a Colonel;

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1992: 27 January, p.1C (“Local war hero led battles against American Indians”, autobiography – ‘Apache Days and After’ is in the collection of the Daviess County Public Library, in July 1882 involved in battle at Dry Wash for which he received the Congressional Medal of Honor)

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1999: 13 July, p.4D (Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, AZ seeking relatives of Thomas Cruse); see also 1999: 31 August, p.3D (search is successful)

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 2004: 21 September, p.42S (“Soldiers earned honors nearly a century apart”),

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 2012: 10 November, p.1A (“Marker to honor medal recipients”, Thomas Cruse was one of three Daviess County natives to receive the Congressional Medal of



Honor, they will be honored with a historical marker that will be unveiled on the northwest corner of the Daviess County Courthouse lawn on 10 November 2012),

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 2012: 11 November, p.1C (“Honoring those who served”, new historical marker has inscription – “Thomas Cruse— 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. His charge at Big Dry Fork, Az., July 17, 1872 [sic, should be 1882], against enemy Native American troops led to recovery of a wounded soldier.”),

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 2018: 21 July, p.1A (“Wall features portraits of heroism”)

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 2023: 8 June, p.1B (“Remembering the Battle of Big Dry Wash”)



**Pampa Daily News, Pampa, Texas, 13 June 1943, p.12:**

## **General Cruse Dies In Texas**

SAN ANTONIO, June 12 (AP)—  
Funeral arrangements for Brig.  
Gen. Thomas Cruse, 85, U. S. army,  
retired, who died Wednesday at the  
Brooke general hospital, Fort Sam  
Houston, await the arrival of a son,  
Brig. Gen. Fred T. Cruse, now on  
a military mission.

A former chief quartermaster for  
the U. S. army, the elder Cruse  
made his home in Washington, D.  
C., until recently. Besides his son,  
he is survived by a grandson, Avia-  
tion Cadet Frederick T. Cruse, now  
at Kelly Field here.

