

Frederick Funston

This studio portrait shows Frederick Funston, 1865-1917 as a toddler. He grew up in Iola, Kansas and became a prominent military leader in the United State Army. He enrolled and attended the University of Kansas from 1885 to 1888 but did not graduate. Funston worked for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and in 1890 worked as a news reporter in Kansas City, Kansas. In the early 1890s he participated in scientific expeditions for the United States Department of Agriculture in the Dakota Badlands, Death Valley, and Alaska along the Klondike and Yukon Rivers. Funston signed up as a Cuban revolutionary in 1896 to help forces fighting for independence from Spain. He served eighteen months and was promoted captain of an artillery unit and achieved the rank of a lieutenant colonel. Funston eventually returned to Kansas 1898 and continued to rise through the military ranks when Kansas Governor Leedy appoints Funston colonel of the 20th Kansas Infantry which is sent to the Philippine Islands on November 30, 1898 during the Spanish-American War. For his effective leadership skills of the 20th Regiment, Funston is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and promoted to the rank of Brigadier General of volunteers. In June of 1901 he is given the rank as a Brigadier General in the regular army. During the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, California, he kept law and order while providing relief to those who were suffering. After the earthquake, Funston served from 1908 to 1910 as Commandant of the Army Service Schools at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1914 he served in command of American troops along the Texas border during the conflicts with Pancho Villa. After the withdrawal of troops on November 17, 1914, Funston was promoted to the rank of Major General. He passed away suddenly on February 19, 1917 from heart attack while at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

Date: Between 1865 to 1869

Callnumber: B Funston, Frederick *3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 778

Item Identifier: 778

www.kansasmemory.org/item/778

