

# **National Archives Central Plains Region Exhibits**

*The Central Plains Region offers small, temporary exhibits in the lobby area. Exhibits use facsimile copies of original records held by the region in order to protect the original documents from harmful ultraviolet light. All of our exhibits are designed to educate visitors about the records we hold and how they may be of use to them. Exhibits are changed every two to three months and focus on a variety of topics. Call (816) 268-8071 for the exhibit schedule.*



The *Fashion Court* exhibit examined several court cases concerning the fashion and beauty industry. All of the documents and artifacts exhibited are from the National Archives-Central Plains Region.

## **About the National Archives**

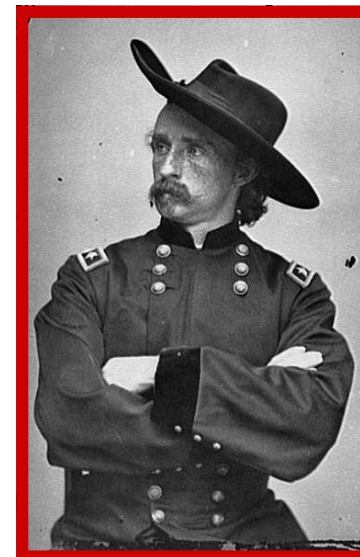
The National Archives and Records Administration is America's national record-keeper, a public trust on which our democracy depends. The records we hold play a vital role in our democracy. These records and millions of others give shape to the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence, the foundations of democracy laid down in the Constitution, and the freedoms guaranteed to American citizens by the Bill of Rights. Not only do they document the actions of Government, making accountability possible, they document individual rights and entitlements. They tell the story of who we are as a people. They reveal the courage, determination, and spirit that have shaped our democracy throughout its history.



For more information about any of the information contained in this brochure please contact:  
National Archives and Records Administration  
Central Plains Region  
2312 E. Bannister Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
Phone: 816-268-8000  
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# **Boots and Saddles**

**George Armstrong Custer and the  
Seventh Cavalry in the Records of  
the Central Plains Region**



Special Lobby Display  
June 19, 2006– August 31, 2006

**National Archives  
Central Plains Region  
2312 E. Bannister Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
816-268-8000**

## Boots and Saddles

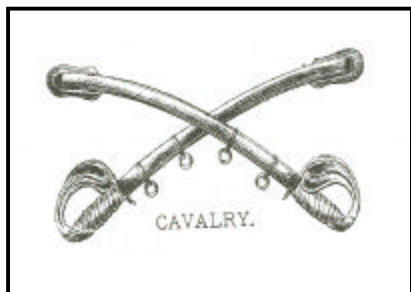
In recognition of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, the Central Plains Region of the National Archives has created a small, temporary lobby display of documents relating to George Armstrong Custer and several members of the Seventh Cavalry who fought in the June 25, 1876 battle. The display features twenty documents from Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General. They are from the mid-1870s to mid-

1880s and detail various transactions that involved the quartermaster depot located at Bismarck, Dakota Territory. (The

Seventh Cavalry was stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory.) The Quartermaster Department is responsible for procurement and distribution of supplies, pay, transportation, and construction.

The documents record the everyday, routine business associated with frontier army posts. They detail such things as troops and horses being moved from one post to another and receipts for various articles being shipped.

While the content of the documents may be routine, the signatures on them belong to several well-known members of the Seventh Cavalry who were present at the Little Bighorn.



Included are Bvt. Maj. Gen. George Armstrong Custer, Lieut. James C. Calhoun (Custer's brother-in-law), Capt. Myles W. Keogh, Lieut. W.W. Cooke, and Lieut. A.E. Smith, all of whom were killed. Survivors of the battle included in the display include Maj. Marcus A. Reno, Col. Frederick W. Benteen, Lieut. Francis M. Gibson, Lieut. Winfield Scott Edgerly, and Lieut. Charles A. Varnum.

The Central Plains Region only recently received the documents from Washington, D.C. They were transferred to Kansas City as part of an ongoing effort to make more original documents available to researchers in the regional archives. The documents included in the display are only a small portion of the 16 cubic feet of material received. All of the records received are described in the National Archives online research catalog—ARC. Visit our website at <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/> In the search window enter the words “**Bismarck AND Quartermaster**” and you will receive seven hits, one for each series of records available for research at the Central Plains Region.

## Additional Records

In addition to the quartermaster records, the Central Plains Region has additional records that may be of interest to those researching the Battle of the Little Bighorn. In RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, we hold the records from the Custer Battlefield National Monument (since renamed the Battle of the Little Bighorn National Monument).



## Additional Resources\*

### Books:

Hutton, Paul Andrew, ed. *The Custer Reader*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004.

Scott, Douglas, P. Willey, and Melissa Connor. *They Died with Custer*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998.

Utey, Robert. *Cavalier in Buckskin: George Armstrong Custer and the Western Military Frontier*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1988.

### Websites:

The National Archives and Records Administration online catalog—ARC—has a number of documents relating to this topic.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc>

Battle of the Little Bighorn National Historic Site (National Park Service)

<http://www.nps.gov/libi/>

Friends of the Little Bighorn Battlefield

<http://www.friendslittlebighorn.com/>

The Library of Congress has a number of images relating to Custer, other participants, and the battle.

<http://www.loc.gov>

\*Additional resources are suggestions only. No endorsement from the National Archives should be inferred or implied.