

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

Spring 2026

Commander's Message

"After Action Report" for the Department Encampment

I am proud of Camp 1. We successfully hosted the 2026 Department of Texas Encampment in Waco, Texas. Special thanks to everyone who attended; Brothers Chris Blair, Butch Durham, Don Gates, Beau Moore, Todd Wilber, and Grant Gee. There were about 27 voting members present and several special guest. This was a well-attended encampment. Our members secured the site, meals, drinks, special furnishings, provided a gavel and the Bible and served in a variety of roles. Special thanks to Todd Wilber and Butch Durham for resolving our flag staff's "wardrobe malfunction", and at the same time inspiring our Camp 1 motto for the encampment, "**We Do Things!**" This inspirational and uplifting motto was achieved by deleting the last two words ("half xxxed") from what was uttered when we "fixed" the flag staff. I like the shorter version better. Living up to this new motto we did a lot of stuff...

- Brother Don Gates went out in a blaze of bureaucratic glory Department Encampment, relinquishing his position as department Sec-Treas after many years of service.
- Brother Tim Phillips served as Department Patriotic Instructor and rendered a moving rendition of "Taps" on his trusty bugle.
- Brothers Tim Phillips, Todd Wilber, and Beau Moore, under the spirited command of

Blair G. Rudy, PDC, served as part of the impressive Color Guard.

- Brothers Grant Gee and Beau Moore manned the Registration Table.
- Brother Beau Moore, in his blue wool uniform, served as the Department Guide
- Brother Chris Blair (who brought his lovely family) served as the Department Guard.
- As the "senior Camp Commander" I found myself reporting on behalf of the Bylaws Committee and the Nominating Committee.
- And we were very proud to see Brother Butch Durham be elected to serve as the Senior Vice Commander of the Department of Texas!

Everyone in attendance made significant contributions to the success of the encampment. I want to say thanks to all of you and I am proud of Camp 1, "**We Do Things!**"

--Brian R. Glass, PDC

Commander Camp 1, Gen. James J. Byrne Camp

Camp Meetings

Meetings are bimonthly and held at 401 W 13th Street in Ft Worth. Meetings are hybrid.

Next meeting on June 20th at Ft Phantom Hill.

Camp 1 Field Trip

Join us on June 20th as Camp 1 invades Abilene. We will be meeting up at Ft Phantom Hill at 11am. <https://fortphantom.org/>
We will then proceed to the 12th Armored Division Museum. <https://www.12tharmoreddivisionmuseum.com/>

America 250

July 4th will be the 250th anniversary of America declaring its independence from England. Make sure you get out and celebrate this milestone!



Camp 1 at the Department Encampment



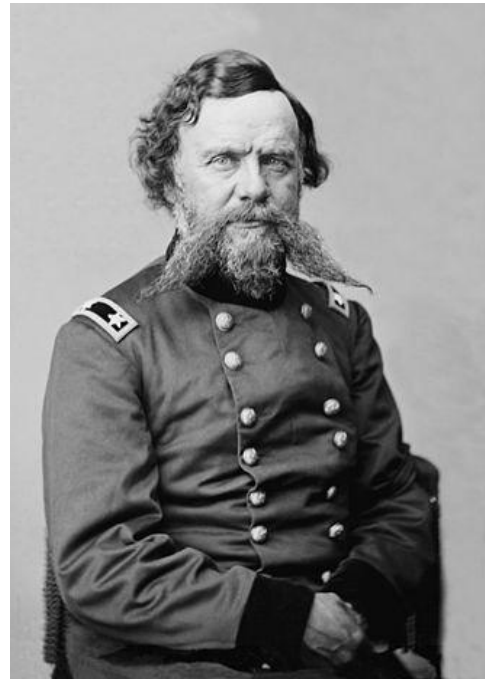
Camp Patriotic Instruction

A Volunteer Soldier at War – General Alpheus S. Williams, 1810-1878

By PCC and PI Craig Reves

I am currently reading the second volume of David A. Powell's *The Atlanta Campaign: From the Etowah River to Kennesaw Mountain May 20 – June 27, 1864* (Savas Beattie, 2025). In this richly told history of this decisive campaign, I keep encountering an interesting Division

Commander in XX Corps – Brigadier General Alpheus S. Williams, so I thought I would spend a few words on this hard fighting citizen soldier.



Williams was a native of Connecticut who moved to Detroit, Michigan in its frontier days in

1836. He was a Yale University educated lawyer whose pre-war career gave him experience as a probate judge, bank president, and postmaster. He served as a volunteer Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Michigan Regiment during the Mexican War, but did not see action.

Due to his continued involvement with the local militia in the 1850s, he was readily

commissioned into the volunteer service in 1861 as a Brigadier General when the Civil War

erupted. He was assigned to command a brigade under Major General Nathaniel P. Banks in the Shenandoah Valley Campaigns from October 1861 until March 1862 when he was assigned divisional command under Banks' II Corps. By June 1862, the II Corps had been assigned to Major General John Pope's Army of Virginia and engaged in combat and defeated by Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of Cedar Mountain.



Following the collapse of Pope's Army at Second Bull Run in late August (Williams' division had not been engaged in this battle while guarding the rail line at Bristoe Station), Williams' division was reassigned to the XII Corps (commanded by Major General Joseph Mansfield), Army of the Potomac under the command of Major General George B. McClellan.

The XII Corps maneuvered into southern Maryland in early September 1862 and was involved in the combat at Antietam on September 17th. At this battle, Mansfield was killed early in the fight, and Corps command devolved upon Williams who lead the corps in the thick of the fighting near the Dunker Church.



While Williams performed his duty well at Antietam, the War Department named at West Point graduate, Major General Henry Slocum, to formally replace the

deceased Mansfield in October 1862 and Williams resumed command of his division.

The XII Corps garnered new distinctions at the battle of Chancellorsville as the last Corps to pull back north of the Rapidan after the Army of the Potomac's defeat. It also served with valor in the defense of Culp's Hill at the battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. During this battle, Henry Slocum assumed a wing command, and Williams again took temporary command of the Corps. Williams lead a counter-attack on Culp's Hill on July 3rd which regained positions taken previously by the Rebels.

In the aftermath of the Gettysburg Campaign, the War Department decided to send Eastern Theater troops to the Western Theater to reinforce the besieged troops at Chattanooga. The XI and XII Corps were sent to Tennessee and combined into a newly minted XX Corps and placed under the command of former Army of the Potomac commander Joseph Hooker. During the Chattanooga campaign, Williams' division was detached guarding the rail lines in eastern Tennessee.

When the Atlanta Campaign opened in May 1864, Williams' Division served with distinction at the Battle of Resaca under Hooker.



Williams' Division was in the forefront of battle at New Hope Church (May 26, 1864) and Kolb's Farm (June 22, 1864) near Kennesaw Mountain as part of Hooker's XX Corps.

General Williams assumed command of the XX Corps during the March to the Sea and Campaign of the Carolinas after General Slocum was given command of the Army of Georgia. In that capacity, Williams lead the Corps at the Battle of Bentonville, NC (March 19, 1865).



Regretfully for Williams again, the prejudice for Regular officers to command Corps formations surfaced again following Bentonville and William T. Sherman moved Major General Joseph Mower into the Corps command with William once again reverting to Division Command.

Alpheus S. Williams holds the distinction of being one of the longest serving division

commanders in the Union Armies. Despite serving with distinction, he was never granted the substantive rank of Major General during the war, so he was always a Brigadier General of Volunteers, despite holding division and corps commands. He did receive a Brevet Major General rank on January 12, 1866.

General Williams served as US Minister to San Salvador 1866-1869. He ran unsuccessfully as governor of Michigan in 1870, but was elected to Congress in 1875 and served until his death in office at age 68 in 1878.

One of the best collections of Civil War letters out there is *From the Cannon's Mouth: The Civil War Letters of General Alpheus S. Williams*. He wrote letters frequently to his children while on campaign and was a great observer and commentor on what he experienced and saw. The fact that he is a great and entertaining letter writer holds your interest in a way that a lot of Civil War letters do not. I highly recommend this tome.

Battle of Champion Hill

The diary account of Champion Hill by John E Wilkins of the 16th Indiana.

<https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/col/lection/vchs/id/5762>

After action report of Brig. Gen. Alvin P. Hovey commanding the 12th Division of the 13th Corps.

<https://battleofchampionhill.org/hovey.htm>

Camp 1 Memorial Day

Camp 1 was ably assisted by Co K, 1st US Infantry, SVR & Venture Crew 1872 on Memorial Day.

We gathered at the GAR Monument in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth and performed our ceremony to honor our gallant ancestors.

Afterwards we paid a quick visit to Gen Byrne's grave at Pioneer Rest Cemetery.



GRO Report

Up to 102 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.

- 96. John Maennche- US Navy- 2nd Class Fireman
- 97. William C Morey- Co F, 5th NY Cav
- 98. Henry A Mulholland- Co C, 50th OVI- Post 4
- 99. Charles F Smith- Co B&C, 8th MI Inf- Post 4
- 100. Andrew J Black- Co I, 4th OVI- Post 4
- 101. William S Criss- Co K, 3rd OVI
- 102. Horace W Crockett- US Navy- Cpt of Forecastle- Post 2

In F, C, & L,

Todd W



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic. <https://suvchw.org/>

