

**THREE YEARS AND A HALF
IN THE ARMY;
OR, HISTORY OF
THE SECOND COLORADOS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649145027

Three years and a half in the Army; or, History of the Second Colorados by Mrs. Ellen Williams

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MRS. ELLEN WILLIAMS

**THREE YEARS AND A HALF
IN THE ARMY;
OR, HISTORY OF
THE SECOND COLORADOS**



Yours truly
Ellen Williams
Co. A, 2nd Colorado Cav.

Three Years and a Half
in the Army ;

OR,

HISTORY OF THE SECOND COLORADOS.

BY

MRS. ELLEN WILLIAMS,

ALLERTON, IOWA,

"Co. A," Second Colorado Cavalry.

NEW YORK :

Published for the Author by
FOWLER & WELLS COMPANY,
753 BROADWAY.

COPYRIGHT, 1885,
By ELLEN WILLIAMS.

PREFACE.

In placing this work before the public the author has but one aim; that is, to give to the Soldiers of Colorado a record which shall impart pleasure to themselves, their families and friends; the reading of it will take them over the same ground again, through the same hardships, showing their powers of endurance, of bravery and valor; bringing to mind no doubt much of personal knowledge which the author could not reach, hence it is missing, but she trusts they will grant she has done the best possible with the means at command, trying to make it an interesting, truthful account of brave acts and deeds, with all reverence, respect and kindness for the soldiers of Colorado whose hardships with her husband she shared.

ELLEN WILLIAMS.

THREE YEARS AND A HALF IN THE ARMY;
OR,
HISTORY OF THE SECOND COLORADOS.

CHAPTER I.

In the summer of eighteen hundred and sixty, to any one taking a bird's-eye view of the different mining districts of Colorado, it bore much the appearance of a bee-hive.

The mountains were perforated with holes in which were at work a countless number of men. And as they moved in and out they resembled the busy insect.

The work went on day by day; to some Dame Fortune gave favors; to some disappointment. Now and then an excitement of new discoveries disturbed the regular routine of labor.

And the arrival of the mail from the States with news from home sometimes made slight changes.

Soon that event began to be one of intense interest, the papers contained accounts of trouble, and later the cry flew like wildfire, war is declared.

Then followed the sound of fife and drum. Recruiting officers were to be found in every available point, and men flocked to the standard of their country, and enlisted to aid in putting down the enemy. When this great rebellion broke out, the shock was felt, not only in the immediate locality of the outbreak, but extended all over the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

The echo of the first gun fired on Sumpter had scarcely died away, when the loyal men of the loyal States and Territories rose in their might, and asked to be led against the "invaders of peace and enemies of free institutions." Conspicuous among that number was the Territory of Colorado. Although but a child in years, and separated from the States by a vast sandy plain; with a population composed of all classes, representing almost every State and Government on the Globe, yet the great heart of her people throbbed with loyal pulsation, and loyal blood coursed through her every vein. When the war was forced upon her by the rebels, true to her allegiance to the Government of the United States, Colorado called the roll of loyalty and honor, and a thousand brave hearts and willing hands came up and answered to their names, exchanging "Pick and Shovel" for the "Sword and Bayonet," and marched forth to meet the rebel hordes that were over-running and desolating the fair and wealthy soil of Texas and New Mexico, and

threatening even Colorado herself. How well the work was done, may readily be ascertained by pointing to the bloody battle-fields of Valverde, Pigeon's Rancho, Apache Canon, etc., where the soldiers of Colorado, assisted by a portion of the New Mexican forces under General Canby, met and signally defeated the rebels under the notorious Sibley, driving them like chaff before the wind, thus rescuing from their unhallowed grasp the fertile soil of New Mexico, and the rich gold deposits of Colorado, a prize they strongly coveted, and a project in which had they succeeded, would have blasted her prospects perhaps for years to come. For even a small force in the mountains, and well acquainted with the passes and fastnesses, could have kept at bay and bid defiance to an army ten times their superior in point of numbers, and have proved a serious obstacle for the already heavily burdened, although "not exhausted," government in crushing out the most gigantic rebellion on record.

The ranks of the Second Colorado Regiment were composed of the hardy miners, inured to toil and privation, with but little experience in the art of war, and that little confined, at first, principally to the two Independant Companies, A and B. These two companies were organized in the fall of '61, and mustered into service under Captain Ford, afterward Colonel of the regiment of which these two companies became a part, and Captain Dodd, afterward Lieutenant-Colonel.