

Aug. 3rd 1908

The Life of Z. I. WILLIAMS

Was born in North Carolina, Surry County, on the 8th day of Nov. 1839. Moved with his parents William and Jennie Williams to Georgia in 1849. Settled in North Ga. Pickens Co. and there grew to manhood, and when the Civil War broke out volunteered in 1861 then being 21 years of age.

After drilling at Camp McDonald or Big Shanty we went directly to Richmond, Va. then to Yorktown, Va., wintered there in 1861. The spring of 1862 we took up the march to Richmond, Va. We fought a skirmish at Williamsburg, Va., then came the Battle of the Seven Pines, then the seven days fight in front of Richmond where my regiment suffered heavy loss. I was in the campaign in the valley of Va. We fought the second battle of Manasses then went to Gettysburge. Our loss was very heavy on this battle also on our return march across the Patomac. We fought the battle of Fredricksburge in December 1862. We then went into winter until the spring of 1863.

We then fought the battle of Chancellorsville, where "Stonewall" Jackson was killed by one of his own men. My regiment (Twenty-third Georgia) was captured during this fight and taken to Ft. Delaware prison after exchanging we landed at West Point near Petersburg, Va. We did coast duty for rest and to rescruit our regiment. After this our regiment did coast duty on the North Carolina coast down to Charleston, S.C. defending Ft. Sumtre that was beseiged but never taken by the Yankees. We fought on Morriss

island and the boat we were on was sunk three miles from land. This was a trying event. We wintered on the James Island near Charleston in 1863. In the spring of 1864 we went to Fla. and fought the battle of Olusta or Ocean Pond. We there fought negroes in the front rank but succeeded in routing them running them from three o'clock in the evening until nine o'clock at night. We got back to Charleston, S.C. and I was transferred to Johnston's Army as Lieutenant of Thirty-sixth Ga. Regiment. I fought in the Battle of New Hope Church and went on to Atlanta, Ga. fighting every day. We fought the Peach Tree Creek battle and afterwards the battle of Jonesboro and at the Fall of Atlanta I was wounded in my right arm on the 31st day of Aug. 1864. After recovering from my wound I joined my army in Mississippi and followed Sherman to Kingston battle in N.C. and fought the battle of Bentonville, N.C. the last battle that was fought. I fought with my old twenty-third regiment at the surrender. I did not surrender until after I came home. My people begged me to surrender so I surrendered at Kingston, Ga. with rank as Captain. I then went home and went to work and have ever tried to make a good citizen.

I married Miss Mary Fuller on the 1st of Jan. 1867, which proved to be a happy union. She departed from this life on the 16th day of April 1906. We moved to Texas in 1871 lived in Caldwell, Gaudloupe and Hays Cos. and now live in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. I was converted at Yorktown Va. I am now a member of the First Baptist Church of San Angelo.

(Signed) Z. I. WILLIAMS

per M.F.

Company E, Twenty-third Georgia, Regiment
Colquitt Brigade, Jacksons Corps.