US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Colored Troops 56th-138th Infantry, 1864-1866

James M • Williams, James M (32)

Page 58 Info

Title	Page 58
Military Unit	79th US Colored Infantry (New)
Full Name	Williams, James M
Age	32
Company	F&S
Enlistment Rank	Lieutenant Colonel
Discharge Rank	Colonel
Year	1863
Estimated Birth Year	1830 - 1831
Conflict Period	Civil War (Union)
Branch	Union Army
Served For	United States of America
Roll Name	RG94-USCT-079N-Bx62

Add a correction

Publication Info

Publication title	US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Colored Troops 56th-138th Infantry, 1864-1866

INTERESTING FROM MEMPHIS.

Important Order of Gen. Sherman---Summary of News from Southern Papers.

[Special Correspondence Chicago Tribune.]

CAIRO, Nov. 16, 1862.

By the steamer Platte Valley we have Memphis papers of the 13th and 14th, and the Grenada *Appeal* of the 8th. From their columns the following items are condensed:

Judge Swayne having charged the jury in the Criminal Court at Memphis in a manner liable to misconstruction, by order of General Sherman, the Provost Marshal has issued the following order:

"PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE,
MEMPHIS, Nov. 11, 1862.

"The Judge of the Criminal Court having charged the Grand Jury on certain points where a conflict of authority might arise, all persons will take notice that any attempt to execute State laws at variance with the orders of the President and military commanders, will be construed as a contempt of the authority of the United States, and will be summarily punished. The status of the negro is involved in the war now existing, and will in its progress be clearly determined.

"In the meantime, runaway slaves must be treated as free, and people encouraged to give them employment as such. So far as the court covfines itself to punishing murder, arson, burglary, and crimes *ma a in se*, the provost guard is required to co-operate.

"D. C. ANTHONY,
"Provost Marshal of Memphis."

I Certify that, on Saturday Nov. 15th 1862 being under arrest, held to bail in the Mayors Court at Leavenworth City Kans at the same time Capt J M Williams was held to bail, H. B. Denman Mayor called me aside and in a private Conversation said that, he would fix my security so that I should not be bothered, that he wanted me to leave the Colored Regt. and use my influence to lead the others away, that he wanted to break up the regiment before the meeting of Congress; that he knew that if we could be kept together until Congress met, that Lane would have us recognized and paid; that he wanted to put Capt J M Williams down and break up the whole concern before the meeting of Congress for fear of the regiment being recognized by congress when it met; And that he had a plan fixed to take all of the arrested deserters away from the said Capt Williams, when they got started on their road from town And the said H B. Denman. Mayor H. made many other remarks of the same and effect of the above.

W. G. Matthews Capt of Co. D.
1st Kans Colrd Vols

Headquarters Dist of Kansas,

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov 17th 1862.

Majr. L. J. Rees. A.A.A.G.

I am credibly informed and believe that the Mayor and Policemen of the City of Leavenworth Kansas. have entered into a conspiracy to break up and disband the 1st Regiment of Colored Kansas Volunteers now under my command.

I ask that the Justice to this conspiracy be arrested and the charge investigated

J. M. Williams
Capt. Co. F. 1st Kans Vols

Witnesses
Certy. Capt
Rerty Corpl
Comdy 1st K. C. Vols
W. B. Matthews
Co. D 1st Kans Colrd Vols

Hdqrs Dist of Kansas
Fort Leavenworth
Nov 17 1862

Brig Gen Blunt
Comdg Dist the Field.

Sir

I transmit papers in reference to conflict between Capt Williams and Civil authorities. Capt Williams will furnish a written statement - by Lt Loring - It is a matter of some gravity. I therefore submit it to your decision. The main question is - Shall Williams be given up to Civil authorities = for discharging his duties in arresting deserters from his Comd.

Respectfully

S. R. Curtis

Maj Genl

Headquarters Lick)
Nov. 17th 1862

Col. Burris -

Dear Sir -

I am informed that Captain James M. Williams, is now at the Fort, under its instructions & threatens send Mrs. Cummings the Lick - obnoxious to you, for the purpose of demanding the body of the said Captain Williams in order that the order of this court may be carried out, and the said law executed

Very Respectfully
your

Head Quarters
Post Barrancas
November 17th 1862

Respectfully referred
to Major Wilson
Provost Marshal.
I cannot see order
of the Brig Genl Commdg
Jno. T. Burris
Col

Transcription_ref_1

Head Qrs. 1st Kans Colrd Vols
Camp Denning Nov 24th/62

Brig Genl Blunt-
Comdy Dept of Kans
Sir

On the 13th of this month while I was in Leavenworth City. on duty. looking after deserters I was arrested by the police & the mayor decided that I had no right to arrest deserters from my camp. that they were not properly enlisted & that Lane had no right to enlist these men. I argued that this was a question for the Military authorities and not for the civil. that my men were recognized clothed armed and fed by the Government. and that this being the case. the civil authorities had no right in time of war to interpose and prevent the arrest of offenders against the military laws. But Democratic element bound to break us up and decided to hold me to bail. The enclosed statement of Matthews will show you how the prosecution was carried on and for what purpose

This coming to my knowledge and after consulting with Maj Ward. I decided to refuse

to give bail. and let them arrest me if they could. Knowing that they intended to forcibly release what deserters I had already arrested, I applied for and got an additional guard from the ~~fort~~ Fort, and started them to camp. ~~to~~ with orders to force themselves through all opposition. I went out a few miles with the men and returned to the Fort with the additional escort.

The police seeing that I was determined did not interfere any further with me, except to arrest one of my men & put him in the Calaboose. for carrying arms. This they did for the purpose of bothering me in getting out of town I went to the jail and told the jailer to release him. which he did. I did this because I ~~he~~ knew that he was arrested merely to hinder me in the discharge of my duty. and if I did not do this it would delay the whole command for 2 or 3 days at least. when I had positive orders from Maj Reed to proceed immediately to camp with my men and deserters

In all this I thought, and still think I did right and

Trouble between Capt.
Williams & Major Dunn and
Lieutenants. on the
Negro question —

J. M.

Office of Assistant Commissary of Musters,

DISTRICT OF KANSAS.

Fort Scott Ks. May 1st 1863.

Jame M. Williams Lieut Colonel, 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers declares that he has been appointed Colonel of said Regiment to fill an original Vacancy, that he was mustered into Service by Lieut J. R. Rumble at Fort Leavenworth Kans. January 16th 1863, that he has pay due him from the date of his Muster-in to this time, that he is not indebted to the Government of the U. States on any account whatever and has properly accounted for all public property which came into his possession by virtue of his Office.

J. M. Williams

Lieut Col 1st Kans Col. Vols

Sworn and Subscribed to
before me, May 1st 1863

Major and A. D. C
Asst Comm'r of Musters

Copy

Hd Quars. Dist. of the Frontier
Fort Scott Ks. June 18. 1863

Col. J. M. Williams
1st Regt Col. Mls.

Colonel

If by any means you have failed to move your Command and reinforce Col. Philips as directed per Special orders from Hd. Quars. Dist of Ks. before the Command of Lieut Col. Dodd 2nd Colorado reaches you: your forces will not be united for the purpose of escorting the train and you assume Command as the ranking Officer. but Comply with previous orders issued you, reporting "in person" to Col. Philips with your Command

By order of Maj. Genl. Blunt
(Sig) J. Moonlight
Lt Col & Chf of Staff.

"Official Copy"
H. D. Jones
2d Lt. 2d Col. Mls. Adjt.

301.238

J. M. Williams

CASUALTY SHEET.

Name, J. M. Williams

Rank, Colonel, Company —, Regiment, 1st

Arm, Infty., State, Kans. (Colored.)

Place of casualty, Honey Springs, Kansas.

Nature of casualty, Wounded in breast, right cheek and hand, severely.

Date of casualty, July 17. 63.

FROM WHAT SOURCE THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED

Copy of Report of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the 1st (Cold.) Regiment, Kans. Brigade, Division, Corps, dated July 20. 63,

(Sigd.) J. Bowles, Lt. Col. Comdg.

B. R. 377.

J. C. Stewart

12. 2. 78.

Clerk.

Head Quarters Army of the Frontier
in the Field, Fort Blunt Sept 15 1863

Special Order
No 39

VI Col J. M. Williams
1st Reg Kans Colored Vols is hereby
relieved from arrest and will take
command of his Regiment.

By command of Maj. Genl Blunt

Wm Tholen
Apt Adj Genl

Col Wm R. Judson
commanding
1st Brigade
Army of the Frontier

State of Arkansas }
County of Sebastian } ss

James M. Williams Colonel of the 1st Regiment Kansas Colored Volunteers being duly sworn according to law deposes and says. That about the 5th day of August A.D. 1862. he was appointed a recruiting Commissioner to recruit and organize his said Regiment. that as such recruiting commissioner he did proceed to recruit and organize said Regiment, and became responsible for the necessary, Subsistence, Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equippage, and ordnance stores, to subsist, clothe, equipp, and arm said Regiment - that the organization of said Regiment was not completed, until the 2d day of May 1863. that immediately upon the organization thereof, said Regiment was ordered out of the state of Kansas, into active field duty, and has remained in constant field service ever since, and that in consequence thereof, he the said Colonel James M Williams, has neither had time or the necessary convenience to settle his accounts with the United States, and that he has received official information, that Application has been made to the Adjutant General of the Army, for the stoppage of his pay, on account of the non settlement of his accounts as aforesaid, and that in order to

over

complete his accounts. It will be necessary for him to visit the State of Kansas, where said regiment was mustered and equipped for the purpose of obtaining proper evidences of public property destroyed, and signed and not receipted for, and that his final settlements cannot be completed without such evidences, and further deponent saith not

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 14th day of Dec 1864

J. Williams
Col 1st Kans. Col'd Vols

J. Alexander
Major & Paymr
U.S. Vols

Head Quarters, Dist. of the Frontier,

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec 16th 1864.

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 215. } Extract.

1st Lt. Col. J. M. Williams, 1st Kansas Colored Vols, having made Affidavit to the effect that it is necessary for him to proceed in person to the State of Kansas for the purpose of procuring evidence to enable him to settle his accounts with the Government — he is hereby ordered to proceed to Kansas for that purpose.

Having completed this business, he will report back with all possible despatch.

By Command of Brig Gen. J. M. THAYER,

To Maj Gen Steele, Comdg Dept of Ark's

F. J. Lawrence
Assistant Adjutant General.

Headquarters Second Brigade, First Division,
Seventh Army Corps.

Little Rock, Ark. June 26th 1865.

Adjt. Genl. U.S. Army
Washington D.C.
Sir.

I respectfully request a leave of absence for sixty days, with permission to visit Washington City, D.C. for the following reasons, viz:

I entered the U.S. Service July 12th 1861. as Captain of 8th Kansas. Vols. In March 1862. Was transferred with my company to 5th Kansas Cavalry Vols. In June 1862. I was placed on detached service and subsequently, in August 1862. assigned to the recruiting and organizing the 1st Kans. Colo Vols. (now 79th U.S.C. Inf.), where I left the 5th Kans Cavalry, & neglected, to take proper receipts for the Ordnance and A.M. property, for which I was responsible as Company Commander. Subsequently the records of the Company were destroyed and it becomes necessary for me to procure Copies of the Muster & pay rolls, of the Company, as well as the proper certificates of the subsequent Company Commander. (Capt. Henry Moore) who

(over)

is now a resident of the City of Washington, before I can make proper returns for this property.

And further I would represent, that as commissioned to recruit and organize the 1st Kans. Colrd Vols. I became responsible for a large amount of Ordnance 2.R. & Subsistence stores consumed and used in that Regiment. And that immediately after the organization of that Regiment May 2d 1863. I was ordered with the Regiment to the Indian Territory and have been constantly on duty in the field, in the Indian Territory and State of Arkansas, ever since. And by the constant and laborious duties of the Regiment, I have been prevented from making proper returns for said property And it will be necessary for me to procure Certificates or affidavits of persons now resident of the State of Kansas, before I can properly account for this property.

This, together with business of a private nature, and the fact that I have not been excused from duty, on any account for more than three days, except about 20 days in July and August 1863. when confined from wounds received in action, prompts me over

to make this application, hoping it may receive favorable consideration at the War Department.

I would also request, in view of above facts, that the leave, if granted, be so conditioned as not to cause stoppage of any portions of my pay during the continuance thereof

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
J. McWilliams
Brevt. Brig Gen
Vols

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 153.

HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., June 29th, 1865.

(EXTRACT.)

* * * * * *

5. Leave of absence for thirty (30) days, with privilege of application to the Adjutant General of the Army for extension of thirty days, is granted to Brevet Brigadier General J. M. Williams (Colonel 79th United States Colored Infantry,) for long service without absence.

* * * *

By command of Major General J. J. REYNOLDS:

(Sgd) John Levering

Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy

W. Pinchiaux

a.d.c. & Genl.

Dept. of Ark.

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 396.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 25th, 1865.

(*Extract.*)

* * * * *

10. By direction of the President, Brevet Brigadier-General *J. M. Williams*, Colonel, 79th U. S. Colored Troops, is hereby assigned to duty according to his brevet rank.

* * * * *

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

E D Townsend

Assistant Adjutant General.

H'd Qr's, Frontier Div., Seventh Army Corps,

Fort Smith, January 5th 1865

SPECIAL ORDERS,

No. 8

Whereas Colonel J. M. Williams 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, Commanding 2d Brigade is hereby placed under arrest.

BY COMMAND OF BRIG. GEN. JOHN EDWARDS.

Col J. M. Williams
Comdg 2d Brigade

C. Hoy Carpenter
Lt. & Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Head-Quarters, Post of Little Rock,

Little Rock, Ark., February 9th 1865.

General Orders
No. 10

Colonel J. M. Williams
Commanding 2d Brigade 1st Division is hereby charged with the duty of preserving good order on the North side of the Arkansas river, and to this end is authorized to cause to be arrested and delivered to the Post Provost Marshal, all persons whether soldiers or citizens disobeying orders issued from these Head Quarters, or in any other respect guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline

By order of
Brig. Genl. F. Salomon
Geo. Brinkerhoff
A. A. A. Genl.

Col. Jas. M. Williams
Comdg 2d Brig 1st Div.
Rec'd (M. G. 2d Brig. 1st Div. 7th A.C.) July 10th 1865.

Head Quarters 1st Division 7th A.C.
Little Rock Ark Feb. 14th 1865

Colonel:-

The Brig. Gen'l. Commanding directs that, from this date, you assume charge of the entire picket line on the north side of the river, furnishing from the troops of your command such daily details as may be necessary to guard the same. You will relieve the Cavalry pickets now stationed there (on the Fort Smith road and to the left of it), tomorrow morning the 15th inst.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt.
A. L. Kinder
A. A. A. Gen'l.

Col. J. M. Williams
Comdg. 2d Brig. 1st Div.