

Gen. Williams and the First Flag over Mexico.

"The knights are dust; Their swords are rust; Their souls are with the saints, we trust."

Not all knights are dead, and while love of country exists—so long as there is a will to dare and do, so long will be perpetuated a species of knight errantry.

This leads me to write something about the first American flag, known to historians and archaeologists as "the old Trenton flag," a flag presented to Gen. George Washington by Betsy Ann Ross.

In all times there are found men who fit and fill certain emergencies, Virgil sings "Arma Virumque cano Tragic." Here is a sketch of the life of the gallant Pennsylvanian who carried America's first flag to Mexico and planted it upon the battlements of conquered Chapultepec.

It was during the idyllic days of September, 1855, that I became a guest at the hospitable home of Gen. Edward C. Williams, at Chapman, Snyder county.

The days, months and years as they pass, mark the graceful finish of a life which has been devoted to the honor of the country.

In the home of Gen. Williams and its environment there is nothing to suggest other than the realization of beneficent peace.

With the close of the war came other duties and responsibilities to the subject of this sketch. Gen. Williams was appointed U. S. Revenue Assessor, retaining the position until the office was abolished.

"We will no longer roam." The first American flag ever made was the handiwork of Betsy Ross, and was presented to Gen. George Washington by the maker, just previous to the battle of Trenton.

Upon capturing Gen. Bravo Capt. Williams compelled him to lead the way to the top of the castle, and then and there this gallant son of Pennsylvania flung to the battle-laden breeze the old Trenton flag, the first American flag made, and fitly enough, the first flag to float proudly over the conquered stronghold.

The capture of Gen. Bravo was subsequently attributed to a lieutenant of a New York company and he was promoted to a commission in the regular army for a deed ac-

complished by Capt. Williams, and which Gen. Bravo acknowledged in express terms, a degree of intimacy afterward existed between the Mexican general and his captor—they banqueted together, and Gen. Bravo publicly proclaimed that Capt. Williams had saved his life.

When the City of Mexico was captured the Second Pennsylvania was detailed to take charge of the citadel. Capt. Williams being officer of the day improved the opportunity to raise the old Trenton flag—the flag which had cheered Washington's army at Trenton, and which had floated over Chapultepec.

When Capt. Williams returned from Mexico he brought with him this historic flag. It was eventually passed to the custodianship of Governor Curtin, was framed, and is now in the possession of Governor Curtin's family.

Upon Capt. Williams' return from Mexico he was, 1850, elected sheriff of Dauphin county. He was an "Independent" nominee, and the triumph was the more appreciated because it was an expression of confidence from men of all parties.

When the late Civil War occurred Governor Curtin directed Gen. Williams (who had been commissioned Brigadier General of Militia) to organize Camp Curtin.

Not the first volunteer from Dauphin county, or from Pennsylvania, but the first in all the loyal States. After completing his services at Camp Curtin, he organized Camp Sifer, at Chambersburg.

There was plenty of service in those especially in Williams' forces were not being wanted. Like their commander they were ever ready to discharge any duty assigned them.

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C. C. SEEBOLD, Treasurer's Office, Middleburgh, Pa. Post \$1.50