

## General William Nelson

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**N**ELSON, GEN. WILLIAM, Soldier, was born in 1825, in Mason County, Kentucky. At the age of fifteen, he received an appointment of a cadetship, to the Military Academy, at Annapolis; graduated, and entered the navy, as midshipman; served on the sloop-of-war "Yorktown;" in 1846, was past midshipman on the frigate "Raritan;" acted as master of the war steamer "Mississippi," in conveying Louis Kossuth to this country, in 1851; in 1854, was promoted master of the frigate "Independence," and was, subsequently, master of the "Niagara;" was placed in command of the gunboat fleet, on the Ohio river, at the commencement of the rebellion; was sent to Kentucky, and, in 1861, established Camp Dick Robinson, a place of rendezvous for Union soldiers, in Garrard County, Kentucky; the same year, became Brigadier-General; on November 8, of that year, fought the battle of Ivy Mountain; led the advance of Gen. Buell's army, in 1862, for the re-enforcement of Gen. Grant, at Shiloh; was promoted Major-General, in July of that year; was senior officer, in command of the troops, at the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, August 30, 1862, when the Federal troops were defeated by Gen. E. Kirby Smith; and, after that engagement, which was brought on contrary to his orders, he retreated to Louisville, where he was killed, at the Galt House, September 29, 1862, by General Jefferson C. Davis, of Indiana. Gen. Nelson was, undoubtedly, a brave, skillful soldier; and, although long, rigid military life had made him rough, exacting, and somewhat pompous, yet he was kind and greatly devoted to his soldiers, and was a man of real culture, great strength of character, and many endurable traits.

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