Butler Ames went to The Spanish-American war in 1898, where he was Adjutant and First Lieutenant with the Sixth Massachusetts U. S. Volunteers, and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the field at Puerto Rico. Before and during World War I, Ames served as Major General of the Massachusetts State Guard.
Camp Alger, Virginia
Short History of the Sixth.

May 6 — Left Lowell and arrived at Framingham muster grounds, passing through Boston.
May 20 — Left Framingham for Camp Alger.
May 21 — Triumphal reception at Baltimore.
May 22 — Arrived at Camp Alger.
July 5 — Left Camp Alger.
July 7 — Arrived at Charleston, S.C.
July 8 — Sailed on the “Yale” for Santiago.
July 25 — Landed at Guanico, Porto Rico, after seventeen days aboard the “Yale,” not having landed at Santiago.
July 26 — Fight on the Yauco road, in which Captain Giben was wounded. Major Darling distinguished himself for brave daring. Led by Lieutenant Butler Ames.
Aug. 1 — First companies arrived at Ponce. Colonel Henry’s order for examination of efficiency of some of the Sixth’s officers.
Aug. 3 — Resignation of officers.
Aug. 5 — Officers officially discharged by War Department.
Aug. 6 — Arrived at Ponce.
Aug. 8 — Colonel Edmund Rice and Lieutenant Butler Ames officially named as new officers of the regiment.
Aug. 9 — Left Ponce for Utuado. Colonel Rice in command.
Aug. 13 — Advance companies reach Utuado.
Aug. 17 — Colonel Woodward and other officers reach Boston.
Oct. 21 — Left Arecibo, Porto Rico, on the “Mississippi” for home.
Oct. 27 — Arrived in Lowell and furloughed.
Most of the 2,910 American soldiers who died during the Spanish-American War were victims of diseases, especially yellow fever and typhoid, while only 345 of these deaths were from combat. After the war, the U.S. Army sent a commission led by Walter Reed to Cuba to investigate the yellow fever problem. Experiments proved for the first time that mosquitoes are the vector for the virus that causes the disease.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AMES, MAJOR DARLING, and
SERGEANT ANDREWS, taken on board the "Yale."
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BUTLER AMES.
Photograph made in Porto Rico.
LOWELL GIRL’S PLAN FOR WOMAN REGIMENT FAVORIED BY GEN AMES

Miss Emma Leclair, 20-year-old patriot of Lowell, laid her plan for a woman’s militia regiment before Maj. Gen. Butler Ames of the Massachusetts State Guard at noon today, in the State House. She carried letters of introduction from Mayor James E. O’Donnell of Lowell and Representative Henry Achin.

Gen. Ames was highly pleased with the idea and will write to the Mayor and City Government of Lowell today, advising them to make formal application for aid for the proposed unit to the Military Council of the State.

The young woman, who is employed by the Lawrence Hosiery Company, in Lowell, told the General that it was her idea to organize, at first, a company of 10 young women of patriotic impulses in her home city. The duties they might perform were many, she told him. Their first object would be to stimulate recruiting, then to act as messengers, as hospital aids and the like.

She thought, further, that the plan should be adopted throughout the State, and Gen. Ames agreed with her. The company already has been started and has nearly 40 members, she said. Already the company has been tentatively designated, she said, as Co. A, 1st Woman’s Regiment of Massachusetts.

We don’t intend to form a ‘Battalion of Death,’ such as the women of Russia formed,” Miss Leclair said, in response to questions. “We want to drill, to get ready if we are needed. At any rate we could act as messengers, could stimulate recruiting, and be of help in the war in many ways.”

This afternoon Maj. Gen. Ames wrote to Mayor O’Donnell of Lowell a letter in which he stated: “If the Board of Aldermen and the Public Safety Committee of Lowell make a request that we give any assistance within our power to a ‘militia girls’ organization,’ such as you suggest, we will be glad to do so.”
WOMAN'S STATE GUARD.

A young woman in Lowell has suggested and Maj. Gen. Butler Ames has approved the organization of militia companies made up of women in the several cities and towns of the State. The spirit behind this movement unquestionably is fine, but we doubt very much the success or need of such an organization. The nation is hard put to it to provide military equipment for the men of the new army, the reserves in the navy department and for the volunteers in all branches of the service. It will be weeks and probably months before the men at Camp Devens can be fitted out with the full war equipment of the modern soldier. This is one reason why it seems unwise to attempt to develop an army of women at this time. There are not enough skilled officers now to command the forces going overseas and those remaining at home and to train the 600,000 and more recruits pouring into the several cantonments and other camps. To detach officers from this vital service to teach women military tactics would be a mistake, we believe. Gen. Ames says that this "is not a joke movement" and we agree with him, but it is a question whether it is necessary under the circumstances and whether it will not detract from, rather than promote, the military efficiency of the State and nation. There is no end of work for patriotic women to do. They can take the places of men in many civil occupations where women never have been employed before and they can sew and knit and cook and reduce waste in their homes. They can go into the highways and byways and urge the men to enlist and they can train themselves to be nurses and in other ways for practical service with the army and navy. It is not time, however, for them to shoulder guns. There are more than enough men for that now and each month sees thousands more of the youth of the land becoming of military age. The "Battalion of Death," the most famous woman's military organization in the world, was created when it appeared that the men of Russia would not fight. The country faced a grave crisis and something of the sort was necessary to bring the men to their senses; to shame them into action. There is no such condition in the United States. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to understand why a military man of Gen. Ames' standing should give his unqualified endorsement to a movement such as that launched in Lowell. We do not believe that the war department or the regular army officers would agree with him in the "plan to have a 'bloomer brigade' which stands ready to go anywhere in or out of the country for "the cause"."