

## Information Sheet

**R Pratt, Benjamin Franklin, 1843-1898.**  
**329 Letters, 1861-1862.**  
**One folder, photocopies.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are Civil War letters written at Rolla in Phelps County, Missouri, by Benjamin F. Pratt of the 13th Illinois Infantry. Pratt commented on the march to and skirmish at Linn Creek in Camden County, camp life, rations, and sickness.

Benjamin Franklin Pratt was a son of Truman Pratt and Rebecca Warner Whitney Pratt, both of Maine. They moved to Illinois in the 1840s. Truman died in 1844 and Rebecca in 1847. Benjamin was taken in and raised by his older brother, Truman Leonard Pratt, and T. L.'s wife.

The 13th Illinois Infantry was organized April-May 1861 at Dixon, Illinois, by Col. John B. Wyman. It was posted at Rolla, Missouri, from June to October 1861, when it was ordered to join Gen. John C. Frémont's army advancing on Springfield. En route, Wyman's brigade skirmished with the enemy at Wet Glaize and Linn Creek in Camden County on October 13 and 15, respectively. The 13th Illinois returned to Rolla when Frémont's army was dispersed in November 1861. The regiment remained at the railhead until March 1862, when it was ordered to join the Army of the Southwest after the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

Copies of three of Benjamin Pratt's wartime letters have survived. The three are dated November 1861 -- January 1862. All were written at Rolla and are addressed to Benjamin's brother, Truman Leonard Pratt, a captain in another Illinois regiment. The letters are brief but quite newsy. Pratt commented on the skirmishes at Wet Glaize and Linn Creek, the march to Springfield and return to Rolla, sickness in the regiment, cooking arrangements, rations and tents.

*r411                      31 May 1988                      Mrs. E. W. Lowe                      Gift*

## Shelf List

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<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>
27 November 1861	Rolla, Missouri.
26 December 1861	Rolla, Missouri.
29 January 1862	Rolla, Missouri.

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## Index Cards

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United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.