

## Information Sheet

**R Prather, Alonzo S., 1840-1910.**  
**597 Civil War memoir, n.d.**  
**One folder.**

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).

This is a brief account by Alonzo Prather regarding his enlistment in the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry at the beginning of the Civil War. Accompanying the memoir is a photograph of Prather as a lieutenant.

Alonzo S. Prather was a native of Jennings County, Indiana. He was a student at Asbury College in Greencastle, Indiana, when the Civil War began. Along with his father and four brothers, he enlisted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry. He first saw action in George McClellan's West Virginia campaign, and later served in the battles of Shiloh, Stone's River, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga, and participated in Sherman's March to the Sea. Prather had been wounded twice and received a commission as lieutenant by war's end.

Prather returned to Indiana and became active in Republican Party circles. In 1869, he obtained an appointment as prosecuting attorney in Madison County, Arkansas. While in Arkansas, Prather promoted public education, helped found the University of Arkansas, and operated a real estate business. Prather was appointed Receiver of the General Land Office in Harrison in 1875. About 1879 he moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he founded the *Springfield Daily Republican*. He moved to Taney County, Missouri, by about 1881. Prather carried on a vigorous career as a politician, lawyer, land speculator, stockman, and promoter of Taney County. A significant force in local politics, he was elected state representative five times between 1888 and his death at Branson, Missouri, in 1910.

Prather's account of his enlistment in the Union army was donated by his grandson, Doug Mahnkey of Taney County. It is an undated account bearing the heading "The West Va Company 1861," which is apparently a reference to the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry's service under General McClellan. However, rather than the West Virginia campaign, the narrative describes learning by telegraph of the firing upon Fort Sumter. Prather, his father, and four brothers immediately enlisted, helping to form what he believed may have been the first company accepted for service in Indiana. The account ends with the scene as the company left for Camp Morton near Indianapolis.

The six-page manuscript has been deacidified and encapsulated by Claudia Powell at WHMC-Columbia. A typescript accompanies the original. Included with the memoir is a copy of a photograph showing Prather as a lieutenant during the Civil War. Additional biographical information on Alonzo S. Prather may be found in the Information Folder.

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28 May 1991

Doug Mahnkey

Gift

## Index Cards

Indiana Infantry—6<sup>th</sup> Regiment. SEE United States. Army. Indiana Infantry Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup> (1861-1865).

Jennings County (Ind.).

Prather, Alonzo S., 1840-1910.

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

United States. Army. Indiana Infantry Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup> (1861-1865).