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### William G. Thompson Civil War letters, 1861-1864

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# **William G. Thompson Civil War letters**

## **MG.00193**

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Repository</b>            | Arkansas State Archives               |
| <b>Title</b>                 | William G. Thompson Civil War letters |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b>      | 1861-1864                             |
| <b>Extent</b>                | 0.02 Cubic feet 1 reel microfilm      |
| <b>Language</b>              | English                               |
| <b>Language of Materials</b> | Materials entirely in English.        |
| <b>Microform [Reel]</b>      | MG.00193                              |

### Preferred Citation

William G. Thompson letters, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## **Biographical/Historical Note**

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William George Thompson (1830-1911) was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, son of William H. and Jane McCandless Thompson. In 1853, after being admitted to the bar, he moved to Marion, Linn County, Iowa. Before the Civil War he was active in local Republican politics and held several public offices. In 1862 he helped raise the Twentieth Iowa Infantry for the Union Army, and went to the front as its major. During the war he served in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama, and was severely wounded during the Battle of Prairie Grove in 1862. After the war he returned to Iowa and was elected district attorney. Thompson was appointed chief justice of Idaho Territory by President Rutherford P. Hayes. Upon his return to Iowa in 1879 he was elected to the United States Congress, where he served for two terms. He later served in the Iowa General Assembly, and as a judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District. In 1856 Thompson married Harriet J. (Jane) Parsons (1836-1897). They had one son, John M. Thompson.

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## **Scope and Contents**

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This collection contains correspondence between William G. Thompson and his wife related to Civil War action in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama. A number of letters were written from Springfield, Missouri, and Fayetteville, Arkansas, and contain information on the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, December 1862.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Arkansas State Archives 11/25/2008

### **Conditions Governing Access**

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**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Iowa Department of Archives and History, Des Moines, Iowa.

**1. 1861, 3 letters**

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## **Collection Inventory**

**1. 1861, 3 letters**

**2. 1862, 39 letters**

**3. 1863, 58 letters**

**4. 1864, 16 letters**