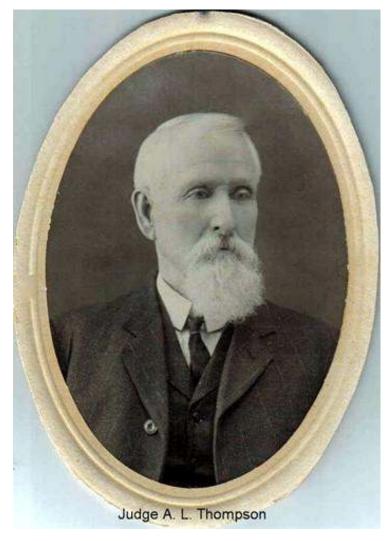
## **Aaron Linton Thompson**



Commander - 1900

Born in Wayne County, Indiana, September 23, 1836, Aaron Linton Thompson remembered nothing of the wearisome journey to Arkansas. Brought up on the home farm, near Durham, he was educated principally in the subscription schools but attended the only free school established anywhere in the South before the Civil war. The United States government gave to Arkansas section 16, on the middle fork of White river, for school purposes, and the proceeds from the rental of that land were sufficient to carry on the free school which he attended for three months each year. Beginning the struggle of life for himself as a farmer, he

was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1868, with the exception of the Civil war period.

During that strenuous time, the issues of the Thompson family were sorely divided. All of those eligible for military duty, with the exception of Aaron L., entered the Confederate service. While reading "Brother Jonathan," the "Missouri Republic," and other journals with Union sentiments, his patriotic spirit was aroused, and in response of troops to defend the Union he enlisted in Company I, Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, at Fayetteville, as a private. He was subsequently commissioned first lieutenant of his

company, and served first under Gen. A. J. Smith, and after he was transferred to the eastern department was under command of Generals Steele and Busse. He took part in the Camden fight, the skirmish at Moscow, and in the battle at Jenkin's Ferry, sometimes called the "Saline River" engagement. He received his commission as an officer at Fort Smith in 1864, and was mustered out at the close of the war...;

Judge Thompson, as Aaron L. is familiarly called, was originally a Whig in his political affiliations. He became identified with the Republican party soon after its formation, and at the age of twenty-one years began his official career as a constable. He was subsequently elected, in Madison County, justice of the peace, a position which he filled creditably for twelve years. He afterwards served as register of deeds for Madison County, and later was elected county judge, an office which he filled acceptably for several terms. In 1898 the Judge was commissioned by President McKinley postmaster at Springdale, Washington County, Arkansas, and in 1902 was reappointed by President Roosevelt to the same position. Since leaving the post office, Judge Thompson has retired from all active affairs. He has been for many years prominently identified with the Grand Army of the Republic, having held every office in the gift of the organization, rounding out his service as commander of the state.

Judge Thompson has been twice married. He married first, in Washington County, Arkansas, October 18, 1860, Sarah J. Poole, a daughter of Maston P. Poole, formerly of South Carolina. A farmer and a strong Union man, he often served as magistrate of his locality; he was noted for his culture and intelligence, and once said "that he could spell correctly every word found in Webster's dictionary." Of that union five children were born, as follows: Henry L., of Madison county, Arkansas; Dr. John S., of Greenland, Arkansas; William G., a twin brother of Dr. John S., resides in Springdale; Mary Beale died unmarried; and Edwin S.,

the special subject of this biographical record. The mother of these children passed to the life beyond in 1868. Judge Thompson married second, in July, 1870, Elizabeth A. Prater, and to them two children have been born and reared, namely: Cora, wife of W. E. Long, of Gravett, Arkansas; and Floyd, a lumber dealer and merchant at De Queen, Arkansas, and a prominent member of the Republican party. Mrs. Thompson's father, John C. Sumner, was born and brought up in Vermont, and was an own cousin of Charles Sumner, the noted Massachusetts senator.

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He represented Madison County, Arkansas. in the state legislature as a Democrat, but he was a man of strong Union sentiment during the Civil War. Uniting with the Missionary Baptist church in 1857, the Judge has led an upright life, and has reared his children in the fear of God.

Judge Thompson died May 14, 1913 in Springdale,

## Washington County, AR. And is buried in Bluff Cemetery, Springdale AR

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# Thompson aaron C. 18t, co. I, 1 Reg's Ark. Inf. 3 Enclosures.

Bed Cards	Final Statements
Burial Records	Furloughs or L. of A
Certs, of Dis. for Discharge	Med. Certificates
C. M. Charges	Med. Des. Lists
Descriptive Lists	Orders
Discharge Certificates	Pris. of War Record
Enlistment Papers	Resignations

### Other papers relating to-

Admission to Hosp'l	Furlough or L. of A
Casualty Sheet	Med. Examination
Confinement	Misc. Information
Contracts	Pay or Clothing
Death or Effects	Personal Reports
Desertion	Rank
Discharge from Hosp'l	Transfer to Hosp'l
Discharge from Service	Transfer to V. R. C.
Duty	Transportation

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[A. 6 0. No. 89]

Commanding the Reg't.