

Major William Anthony Elderkin was born May 15, 1839, at Potsdam, N. Y. He entered the U. S. military academy at West Point, July 1, 1856; graduated May 6, 1861, and received a commission as second lieutenant in the 1st regiment, U. S. Artillery. He served during the Rebellion from 1861 to 1866; in the defenses of Washington, D. C. from May to July, 1861, in the Manassas campaign of 1861, being engaged in the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, as junior officer of Ricketts Light Battery—afterwards on duty in the defenses of Washington until Sept., 1861, when he was promoted to 1st lieutenant May 14, 1861. He was on duty with Battery H, 1st artillery in Hooker's division on the Lower Potomac until Jan. 1862, when he was ordered to duty as assistant professor of mathematics and instructor of artillery tactics at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. There he remained on that duty until Aug., 1864; then received appointment, July 4, 1864, Capt. of staff, Commissary of Subsistence. On temporary duty with Depot Commissary at Washington, D. C., to Oct. 15, 1864. He was Depot Commissary at Louisville, Ky., from Oct. 15, 1864, to July 22, 1865. March 13, 1865, he was appointed Major by Brevet, for faithful and meritorious services during the Rebellion. He was ordered to Mobile, Ala., Aug. 1865, where he was Chief Commissary of the Department of Alabama to Dec., 1865; purchasing and depot Commissary at same place up to Jan. 23, 1867; Chief Commissary, district of the Chattahoochee to Feb. 19, 1867, and of the district of Georgia and Alabama to April 11, 1867. He was chief Commissary of the first military district of Richmond, Va., from April 24, 1867, to June, 1869; Sheriff of the city of Richmond, by military appointment, from March to June, 1869. He was supervising Commissary for Indians in the department of the Missouri from July, 1869, to July, 1870; depot commissary at Ft. Lyon, Col., from July to October, 1870; depot and purchasing Commissary at Denver, Col., to May, 1872, at Pueblo, Col., to March,