

Military & Pension Record of Thomas A. Anderson
Compiled by Louis Huston Gill

Reference: Summarized from his Company muster rolls.

On April 10, 1864, Thomas volunteered to join the Union Army at Carthage, TN about 20 miles northwest of his home in the 4th civil District of Putnam Co., Buffalo Valley, TN. He was 21 years old. On May 17th he was 4th Sarg't in Co. H of the 1st Tennessee Reg't of Mounted Infantry. This was after November 1863 when Chattanooga had fallen & before Sherman burned Atlanta. Confederate Gen'l Hood was in Tennessee, facing Union Generals Thomas and Schofield but was defeated at Franklin on November 30, 1864 and at Nashville on, December 15, 1864.

On his last muster roll of May 23, 1865, he was in Nashville, there he was apparently discharged. He hadn't been paid since August 3, 1864.

On June 10, 1978, I received copies of his muster roll. On his muster-out roll, it's noted that he lost a gun sling, canteen & haversack, and his clothing account was never settled.

Summary of statements on his pension applications:

1-19-1884: Thomas is forty years old, enrolled 3-10-1864, Co. H, 1st Reg't Tennessee Mounted Infantry commanded by Capt. Prettyman Jones. Discharged honorably at Nashville 5-23-1865. 5'8" tall, dark complexion, dark hair and blue eyes. 8-15-1864 while on duty he got the measles and yellow janders at Carthage and had typhoid fever near Grandville, July 1864. Three quarters disabled.

4-18-1885 & 5-25-1885: William J. Fisher, 52, of Laurel Hill, Dekalb Co, TN & John Johnson, 40, of Silver Point appeared before the Justice of the Peace & made an affidavit: They knew him 25-30 years & served with him and lived within 3-5 miles of him since discharge. They both signed with a mark. At house and barn raisings he couldn't do any physical labor.

6-11-1885: Report of the Adjutant Gen'l verified his military record, but stated there were no reg'l hospital records on file.

4-16-1887: William R. Clark, 49, Buffalo Valley stated that, December 1886, he took Thomas to Nashville in a buggy to a Brd. Of Surgeons, and he was in pain all the way and used a walking stick and needed help to get in and out of the buggy. Thomas had worked for him previously and was now thin, weak and in pain.

8-2-1887: Affidavit by Fhelix Bush, 44, from near Chestnut Mound, Smith Co., TN and signed by his mark, stated that he served with Thomas & guarded the Doctor who cared for him at Grandville, while he had typhoid. Measles was prevalent in the outfit at Cartage. He knew that Thomas contacted rheumatism after being kicked by a mule and they got soaking wet at Murphrysboro.

2-24-1888: Thomas made a statement about staying in the hospital in Carthage.

5-12-1888: Catherine McGuffie, 52, of Silver Point, TN and aquatinted for 30 or more years stated that Thomas had good health before 1865 & very poor health thereafter. He was partially blind & deaf, had rheumatism & paralysis, a sore arm, shoulder, leg, and head, on the left side since 1865. Thomas stays in bed 1/10th of the time and uses crutches or a cane ¼ of the time. He could only work sporadically, is often confined to his home and bed and complains constantly.

6-27-1890: Thomas appeared in Putnam Co. court & stated his service dates. His complexion is now light, he is 5'10" instead of 5'8" and he said he was 26 when he enlisted. He was born in Buffalo Valley and was a farmer at time of enlisted. He now has piles, chronic diarrhea, inflammation of the stomach & bowels in addition to the other afore-mentioned troubles.

5-30-1892: Dr. W.S. Farmer, 25, of Buffalo Valley stated that he has practiced for 3 years and treated Thomas for 1 ½ years and considers him permanently disabled due to rheumatism & slight heart trouble.

1-15-1898: Bureau of Pensions, Dept. of Interior asked him and he replied; his wife is Mary Carr, they married in Putnam Co., TN in 1862/3, he had never previously been married and that all his children are now over 16. Reply dated 5-4-1898 & signed.

11-27-1903: Notice to U.S. Pension Agency that Thomas was last paid 72 dollars to 11-4-1903 and is now dead.

Civil War Dates

3-4-1861: Lincoln took office.

4-12-1861: Shelling of Fort Sumter began.

4-14-1861: Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers, 4 border states, AR,VA, NC, & TN refused and joined the Confederacy.

Capt. Francis Marion Anderson is in the 5th Tennessee Reg't U.S. Army, uncle to Riley Anderson.

7-21-1861: Battle of Bull Run is the 1st major battle.

7-31-1861: *Riley Anderson enlisted in the Confederate Army.*

1-19-1862: Battle of Mill Springs, KY –
Won by Federals – Broke western CSA lines.

- 2-6-1862: Battle of Fort Henry –
Won by Federals – Broke western CSA lines.
- 2-16-1862: Battle of Donalson –
Won by Federals – Broke western CSA lines.

June to September – 1863: General Rosecrans advanced to Chattanooga and was badly defeated at the Battle of Chickamauga by General Bragg.

- 7-4-1863: Vicksburg and Gettysburg fell to the Union Army.
- 7-4-1863: *Riley Anderson deserted at Cumberland Mt., TN.*
- 8-19-1863: *Purtyman Jones deserted at Fort Loudon, TN.*
- 11-23-1863: General Sherman defeated CSA, General Bragg at Chattanooga.
- 3-10-1864: *Thomas Anderson enlisted in the Union Army.*
- 9-2-1864: Atlanta fell and Shermans began his 'march to the sea'.
- 3-10-1865: *Capt. J.T. Exum resigned from the Union Army, 5th TN Regt.*
- 4-9-1865: Lee surrendered.
- 4-14-1865: Lincoln assassinated.
- 4-26-1865: CSA Johnston surrendered to General Sherman.
- 5-4-1865: CSA General Richard Taylor surrendered his forces in MS and AL to General Canby.
- 5-26-1865: CSA General Kirby Smith in TX surrendered.
- 5-23-1865: *Thomas A. Anderson was discharged.*