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DEMONSTRATION SPECIMEN - The soldier is fictional (and where a unit is named, the unit is deliberately one that never existed). The document types, tiers, flags, and citations are exactly what a real report contains.

A CIVIL WAR SERVICE RECORD REPORT

Elias Thornedale

Private · Co. C · 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry

Carded Medical Records packet (NARA RG 94, entry 534) — Union

Family Keepsake Edition · Researcher-Reviewed

Prepared August 30, 2026

Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.

Prepared from the original compiled service records of the United States National Archives (Record Groups 94 and 109).

Elias Thornedale

Private, Co. C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry

Short Biography

Elias Thornedale was a private in Company C of the 12th Delaware Infantry, about 25 years old, whose war survives to us almost entirely through the hospital ledgers. In June 1863 he fell sick in camp near Chancellorsville, Virginia, was sent north to a general hospital in Chester, Pennsylvania with typhoid fever, and recovered enough to return to duty that September. The following June he was admitted to the depot field hospital at City Point, Virginia, worn down by chronic diarrhea, and he died there on June 14, 1864. This packet is a medical-only card file, not a full service record, so it tells the story of his illnesses and his death rather than his whole enlistment.

The Story of Elias Thornedale

This is not a full service record but a **Carded Medical Records packet** — a small file of hospital cards abstracted, decades after the war, from the registers of the hospitals that treated one man. It was compiled by the same War Department card program that built the Compiled Military Service Records, and it was originally made to help verify pension claims. Everything below comes from those five cards and the jacket that held them; there is no pension file in this order, and this packet neither contains nor implies one.

The man is **Elias Thornedale**, a **private in Company C of the 12th Delaware Infantry** — a Union regiment (jacket, p.1; every card, pp.2–5). One hospital card gives his age as **25** (p.2), which would place his birth around **1838** (a calculation, not a stated fact). His medical story opens in the field. On **June 17, 1863** he was **taken sick in camp near Chancellorsville, Virginia**, and treated first at the **regimental hospital** (p.3). Four days later, on **June 21, 1863**, he was sent back to a general hospital — the **U.S.A. General Hospital at Chester, Pennsylvania** — where he was admitted the same day with a complaint the card records in the period's Latin, "**febris typhoides**" (typhoid fever) (p.2). He recovered, and the Chester card notes he **returned to duty on September 30, 1863** (p.2).

His name is spelled two ways across these cards. The jacket and most of the cards call him **Thornedale**; the regimental-hospital card carries a copyist's own note that on that register the "**Name appears on register as Thorndale**" (p.3) — the compiler preserving a variant from the original book. The difference is a single letter, and the jacket spelling governs the report (see the notes).

Nearly a year later the record resumes, and it does not end well. On **June 4, 1864** he was admitted to the **Depot Field Hospital at City Point, Virginia**, the great supply-base hospital of the armies before Petersburg, with "**diarrhoea chronica**" and a note of "**debilitas**" (p.4). He did not recover. The card states plainly that he **died June 14, 1864** (p.4), and a separate **casualty card** confirms it: "**Died of disease June 14, 1864, at depot field hospital, City Point, Virginia,**" its stated source being the **hospital record and the report of the Surgeon in charge** (p.5).

Those period diagnoses are quoted here exactly as the cards give them and are not translated into modern terms — the record's own words are the honest ones. What the packet gives us is a clear medical arc: sickness at Chancellorsville, typhoid survived at Chester, and death from chronic disease at City Point in the summer of 1864.

Personal Timeline (from the cards)

Built from the hospital and casualty cards; this packet carries no muster rolls, so it documents illness episodes rather than a continuous present/absent record.

- **June 17, 1863** — Taken sick in camp near Chancellorsville, Va.; treated at the regimental hospital (p.3).
- **June 21, 1863** — Sent from the regimental hospital to general hospital (p.3); admitted the same day to U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa., complaint "febris typhoides" (p.2).
- **September 30, 1863** — Returned to duty from the Chester hospital (p.2).
- **June 4, 1864** — Admitted to Depot Field Hospital, City Point, Va., with "diarrhoea chronica"; "debilitas" also noted (p.4).
- **June 14, 1864** — Died of disease at the depot field hospital, City Point, Va. (pp.4, 5).

Gap: Between his return to duty on Sept. 30, 1863 and his admission on June 4, 1864, this medical packet is silent — that is a records gap in a medical-only file, not evidence of anything about his service in that stretch.

The Man the File Describes

The identity anchors this packet provides are: **name** Elias Thornedale (variant Thorndale, p.3); **unit** Company C, 12th Delaware Infantry (Union); **rank** Private; **age** 25 (p.2), implying a birth year of about **1838** (calculated); and the places attached to his illnesses — Chancellorsville, Va.; Chester, Pa.; and City Point, Va.

The packet gives **no birthplace, no occupation, no physical description, and no named next of kin** — the fields a family most wants are simply not in a medical card file.

The identification boundary: this file can establish what "the Elias Thornedale of Co. C, 12th Delaware" suffered and when he died; it cannot, by itself, prove that this man is any particular family's ancestor. Tying him to a specific family line requires records outside this packet — census, county, church, and probate records — and soldiers of the same name and era are common. Treat the match as a correlation task this report cannot perform.

Names in the Record

- **Elias Thornedale / E. Thorndale** — the soldier (all cards).
- **Surgeon in charge, depot field hospital, City Point, Va.** — named only by office, not by name, as the certifying source of the death (casualty card, p.5).

No other individuals are named in the packet.

Research Gaps & Next Steps

Jacket reconciliation. The jacket-envelope states "**Cards herein: 5**" (p.1). The pages supplied contain **four** medical/casualty cards (pp.2–5), plus the jacket (p.1) and a digitization-provider source page (p.6). **One card listed on the jacket is not accounted for among the pages supplied** — a mismatch to resolve by re-examining the original packet at NARA.

Where this record points next: - The pension file, first and always. Carded Medical Records were created to verify pension claims, so this packet strongly implies a pension application may exist —

most likely a widow's or other dependent's claim, given that he died in service. The **General Index to Pension Files (NARA T288)** is the next stop; a pension file would carry the family record — marriage, children, next of kin — that this packet does not. - **The Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR)** for the 12th Delaware Infantry, Co. C, for the enlistment, muster, descriptive (birthplace, occupation, physical description), and final-statement/inventory-of-effects records this medical packet does not contain. - **The named hospitals' registers** for fuller entries: the U.S.A. General Hospital at Chester, Pa., and the depot field hospital at City Point, Va. - **Delaware adjutant general's records and state rosters** for the regimental context.

Note on scope: this is a medical-only packet; it does not modernize or interpret the diagnoses it records, and no medical conclusions should be drawn from the period terms it quotes.

Regimental History

The record is unambiguous: Delaware raised nine infantry regiments (numbered 1st through 9th), and no 12th Delaware Infantry existed. The unit name indicates Union (Delaware provided no organized Confederate units). Delaware entered the American Civil War on the Union side, and although it was a slave-holding border state,

Delaware was the only slave state that provided no organized units to the Confederacy. Over the course of the war the small state contributed roughly twelve thousand men to the Union army, 12,280 in all. These volunteers were organized into a compact body of state units, and Delaware's infantry service was carried by regiments numbered in a single sequence beginning with the 1st.

They were organized into 1 regiment and 1 independent company of cavalry, 1 heavy artillery company, 1 light artillery battery, and 9 regiments and 1 independent company of infantry. A Delaware infantryman's experience varied widely by the year and terms of his enlistment. Some men signed on early for three years of hard field service; the 4th Delaware, for example, mustered in for three years at Wilmington under Col. A.H. Grimshaw and served the entire war, and it was the last of the state units that engaged in sustained combat and suffered significant casualties, with some 354 killed.

Others enlisted for far shorter terms and drew garrison and guard assignments rather than front-line battle. Several later regiments were raised for brief periods late in the war and spent their service on defensive duty, such as guarding the prison population at Fort Delaware. Descendants tracing an ancestor's Delaware infantry service should expect this range, from long-term combat regiments that fought in the war's major eastern campaigns to short-service units organized at Wilmington for guard and home-defense work.

_Sources: <https://civilwarintheeast.com/us-regiments-batteries/delaware/>;
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Delaware_Civil_War_Units;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Delaware_Civil_War_units;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_Delaware_Infantry_Regiment;
https://www.coastalpoint.com/opinion/experts_corner/civil_war_profiles/civil-war-profiles-delawares-military-units-in-the-civil-war/article_7c381621-c7e9-54a8-b06a-f51d8ce38dbf.html_

(This regimental history was verified by web search. Everything else in this report is drawn only from the soldier's own file.)

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	Jacket-envelope (Carded Medical Records)	Cover for THORNEDALE, Elias, Private, Co. C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry; states records compiled from hospital registers and rolls; "Cards herein: 5."
2	Hospital Card — U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa.	Elias Thornedale, Pvt., Co. C, 12th Del. Inf., age 25; admitted June 21, 1863, complaint febris typhoides; returned to duty September 30, 1863.
3	Hospital Card — Regimental Hospital	E. Thorndale, Pvt., Co. C, 12th Del. Inf.; taken sick June 17, 1863 in camp near Chancellorsville, Va.; sent to general hospital June 21, 1863; copyist note that name appears on register as Thorndale.
4	Hospital Card — Depot Field Hospital, City Point, Va.	Elias Thornedale, Pvt., Co. C, 12th Del. Inf.; admitted June 4, 1864, complaint diarrhoea chronica, debilitas noted; died June 14, 1864.
5	Casualty Card	Elias Thornedale, Private, Co. C, 12th Delaware Infantry; died of disease June 14, 1864 at depot field hospital, City Point, Va.; source given as hospital record and report of the Surgeon in charge.
6	Fold3-style source page (digitization provider)	Provider-added source page, not part of the original record; states the specimen corresponds to no actual NARA jacket and the soldier is fictional.

Every Fact and Its Source

Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, and uncertain readings.

Fact	Source document (page)	Tier	Notes
Elias Thornedale served as a Private in Company C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry (Union).	Jacket-envelope (Carded Medical Records) (p. 1)	4	corroborated by second source
The surname also appears as "Thorndale" on the	Hospital Card — Regimental Hospital (p. 3)	2	source conflict

regimental-hospital register, per a copyist's annotation.			
His age was recorded as 25 at his June 1863 hospital admission.	Hospital Card — U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa. (p. 2)	2	reading uncertain
An age of 25 in 1863 implies a birth year of about 1838.	Hospital Card — U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa. (p. 2)	2	calculated/derived
He was taken sick June 17, 1863 in camp near Chancellorsville, Va., and treated at the regimental hospital.	Hospital Card — Regimental Hospital (p. 3)	2	—
He was sent from the regimental hospital to a general hospital on June 21, 1863.	Hospital Card — Regimental Hospital (p. 3)	2	corroborated by second source
He was admitted to the U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa., on June 21, 1863, with the complaint "febris typhoides."	Hospital Card — U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa. (p. 2)	2	—
He returned to duty from the Chester hospital on September 30, 1863.	Hospital Card — U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa. (p. 2)	2	—
He was admitted to the Depot Field Hospital, City Point, Va., on June 4, 1864, with "diarrhoea chronica" and "debilitas" noted.	Hospital Card — Depot Field Hospital, City Point, Va. (p. 4)	2	—
He died June 14, 1864, at the depot field hospital, City Point, Va.	Hospital Card — Depot Field Hospital, City Point, Va. (p. 4)	2	corroborated by second source
He died of disease June 14, 1864, at the depot field hospital, City Point, Va., per hospital record and the report of the Surgeon in charge.	Casualty Card (p. 5)	2	corroborated by second source

The jacket states five cards are contained in the packet.	Jacket-envelope (Carded Medical Records) (p. 1)	4	source conflict
Only four medical/casualty cards were supplied (pp.2–5), one fewer than the jacket's stated count.	Pages supplied (packet) (p. 1)	4	calculated/derived
The final page is a digitization-provider source page, not part of the original record, stating the specimen is fictional.	Fold3-style source page (p. 6)	4	—

Where the Documents Disagree

Here two or more perfectly legible documents say different things. That is a finding about the record, not a reading problem - both versions are shown, and neither was silently preferred. Where the evidence clearly favored one reading, the story above follows it, and the note here says why - a visible weighing, never a silent one.

- **Page 3** - the documents disagree here (The jacket and the Chester, City Point, and casualty cards spell the surname "Thornedale" (pp.1, 2, 4, 5); the regimental-hospital card carries a copyist's annotation that the register spells it "Thorndale" (p.3). A one-letter drift preserved by the compiler from the original register). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Use "Thornedale": the jacket and three of four cards use it, and the "Thorndale" form is expressly a copyist's note of how the original register (not the man) rendered it. Reason: majority of official cards plus the jacket outweigh a single register variant.

What the File Does Not Establish

The file is silent on these points. No document states them, so the report says so rather than filling them in.

- **Page 1** - the file does not answer this (The jacket states five cards are present, but only four medical/casualty cards were supplied (pp.2–5). One listed card is unaccounted for among the pages provided). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.
- **Page 1** - the file does not answer this (Carded Medical Records were created to verify pension claims, and this soldier died in service, so a dependent's pension application may well exist; this packet neither contains nor documents one). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.

About this report: it was produced from the file provided, read page by page. It does not search records beyond that file - the Research Gaps section points to the outside records that could carry the story further.