

A SOLDIER'S LIFE REPORTS

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DEMONSTRATION SPECIMEN — This is a demonstration specimen. The soldier is fictional and his “file” is a typeset reconstruction of the document types found in real pension files. The process, tables, flags, and sourcing shown here are exactly what a real report contains.

A CIVIL WAR SERVICE & PENSION FILE REPORT

Elias Thornedale

Private · Co. C · 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry

Widow's Pension

Family Keepsake Edition · Automated Edition

Prepared July 29, 2026

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

Prepared from the original records of the United States National Archives (Record Group 15).

Elias Thornedale

Private, Co. C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry

Short Biography

Elias Thornedale was a 24-year-old farmer from Kent County, Delaware, who enlisted in August 1862 and served as a private in Company C of the 12th Delaware Infantry. After a bout of typhoid fever in 1863 he returned to duty, but he died of chronic diarrhoea at the depot hospital at City Point, Virginia, in mid-June 1864 (the army records give June 14, while his widow's sworn declaration says 'on or about' June 12). His widow Margaret, whom he had married in 1858, was left with two young children and pursued a widow's pension that was granted under the Act of July 14, 1862 and later raised from \$8 to \$12 a month when the law changed in 1886.

How to Read This Report

This report combines two record groups: the **CMSR** (the army's own service record, Part A) and the **pension file** (the family's claim, Part B). Each fact is tagged by how strong its source is:

- **Tier 1** — sworn testimony or the soldier's own signature (strongest).
- **Tier 2** — official records (muster rolls, AGO letters, certificates): reliable for the specific fact but a summary.
- **Tier 3** — claim-process paperwork.
- **Tier 4** — clerk's index cards and file numbers (bookkeeping).

Other conventions:

- **[SOURCE CONFLICT]** — two documents disagree; both readings are shown and neither is silently chosen.
- **(learned by notification)** — the person testifying was not present and learned the fact through official notice.
- **[illegible]** — the original could not be read with confidence; no guess is substituted.

Part A - CMSR Document Inventory

- **C-1** Jacket Cover and Card Index (p.1): indexes THORNEDALE, Elias, Pvt., Co. C, 12th Del. Inf.; notes roll variants "Thornedale" and "Thorndale" (card 4); 7 cards, 1 personal paper. [Tier 4]
- **C-2** Volunteer Enlistment Paper (9 Aug 1862): born Kent County, Del., aged 24, farmer, physical description, signed "Elias Thornedale", witnessed by Capt. J. P. Lofland. [Tier 2; signature Tier 1]
- **C-3** Company Muster-in Roll Card: enrolled 9 Aug 1862 at Smyrna, mustered in 4 Sept 1862 at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, age 24, 3-year term. [Tier 2]
- **C-4** Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts), Sept 1862–June 1864: present/absent record; absent sick from 21 Jun 1863, returned 30 Sept 1863, absent sick at City Point from 4 Jun 1864; notes one card spells the name "Thorndale". [Tier 2]
- **C-5** Hospital Muster Roll Card: admitted 21 Jun 1863, U.S.A. Gen. Hospital, Chester, Pa., typhoid fever, returned to duty 30 Sept 1863. [Tier 2]

- **C-6** Casualty Sheet: died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) 14 Jun 1864 at depot field hospital, City Point, Va.; compiled A.G.O. 3 Mar 1865. [Tier 2]
- **C-7** Final Statement: died at City Point 14 Jun 1864; last paid to 30 Apr 1864; clothing/bounty settlement; signed Wm. H. Carter, 1st Lt. [Tier 2]
- **C-8** Inventory of Effects: effects forwarded to widow Margaret Thornedale, Smyrna, Kent County, Del.; signed Wm. H. Carter, 1st Lt. [Tier 2]
- **C-9** Fold3-style Source Page: digitization provider page, not part of the original record. [Tier 4]

Part B - Pension Document Inventory

- **P-1** Jacket Cover, Widow's Pension (p.10): Widow's Certificate No. 218,443, Application No. 187,902; widow Margaret Thornedale; Act of July 14, 1862; 9 cards/papers. [Tier 4]
- **P-2** Company Muster-in Roll (p.11): Pvt., age 24, farmer, enrolled 9 Aug 1862 Smyrna, mustered in 4 Sept 1862 Camp Brandywine; bounty figure blotted. [Tier 2]
- **P-3** Company Muster Roll abstract card (p.12): present/absent 1863–1864, mirroring the CMSR muster entries. [Tier 2]
- **P-4** Hospital Muster Roll Card (p.13): admitted 21 Jun 1863, Chester, Pa., typhoid fever, returned to duty 30 Sept 1863. [Tier 2]
- **P-5** Casualty Sheet (p.14): died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) 14 Jun 1864 at City Point; source hospital record; certified AGO 3 Mar 1865. [Tier 2]
- **P-6** Widow's Declaration for Pension (19 Jan 1865, p.15): Margaret Thornedale, aged 26, of Smyrna; widow of Elias, who died 'on or about the twelfth day of June, 1864'; married 15 Apr 1858 at Odessa by Rev. Jonas Colburn; maiden name Margaret Haslet; children Sarah Ann (b. 2 Feb 1859) and William H. (b. 30 Nov 1861); signed by mark; attested D. P. Register, J.P. [Tier 1]
- **P-7** Officiant's Certificate of Marriage (p.16): Rev. Jonas Colburn certifies he married Elias Thornedale and Margaret Haslet 15 Apr 1858 at Odessa, New Castle County. [Tier 1]
- **P-8** Adjutant General's Office Report (21 Feb 1865, p.17): confirms enrollment 9 Aug 1862, muster-in 4 Sept 1862, death of disease 14 Jun 1864 at City Point; by order E. D. Whitcomb. [Tier 2]
- **P-9** Act of March 19, 1886 Rate Increase Card (p.18): rate raised \$8 to \$12/mo from 19 Mar 1886, no new evidence required. [Tier 2]
- **P-10** Fold3-style Source Page (p.19): digitization provider page, not part of the original file. [Tier 4]

Genealogical Summary

Soldier: Elias Thornedale, born in Kent County, Delaware, about 1838 (age 24 at muster-in, Sept 1862), a farmer of Smyrna. Died of disease at City Point, Virginia, mid-June 1864 (see source conflict on the exact date).

Marriage: Elias married **Margaret Haslet** on 15 April 1858 at Odessa, (New Castle County) Delaware, by the Rev. Jonas Colburn.

Children (under 16 at the widow's claim): - Sarah Ann Thornedale — born 2 February 1859 - William H. Thornedale — born 30 November 1861

Widow: Margaret Thornedale (née Haslet), aged 26 in January 1865, a resident of Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware; remained his widow at the time of her declaration; received the soldier's effects and was granted Widow's Certificate No. 218,443.

Combined Service & Claim Timeline

- **15 Apr 1858** - Elias Thornedale marries Margaret Haslet at Odessa, Delaware [P-6, P-7]
- **2 Feb 1859** - daughter Sarah Ann Thornedale born [P-6]
- **30 Nov 1861** - son William H. Thornedale born [P-6]
- **9 Aug 1862** - enrolled at Smyrna, Del. [C-2, C-3, P-2, P-8]
- **4 Sept 1862** - mustered into U.S. service at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington [C-3, P-2, P-8]
- **21 Jun 1863** - admitted to U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa., typhoid fever [C-5, P-4]
- **30 Sept 1863** - returned to duty [C-5, P-4]
- **4 Jun 1864** - absent sick at depot hospital, City Point, Va. [C-4, P-3]
- **12 or 14 Jun 1864** - died of chronic diarrhoea at City Point (date disputed — see conflicts) [C-6, C-7, P-5, P-8 vs P-6]
- **19 Jan 1865** - Margaret Thornedale swears her widow's declaration [P-6]
- **21 Feb 1865** - AGO confirms service and death to the Commissioner of Pensions [P-8]
- **3 Mar 1865** - casualty sheet compiled at the A.G.O. [C-6, P-5]
- **19 Mar 1886** - widow's rate increased \$8 to \$12/mo under the Act of March 19, 1886 [P-9]

Named Social Network

- **Capt. J. P. Lofland** — commander of Co. C ("Capt. Lofland's Company") and witness to Elias's enlistment [C-2, C-3, P-2]
- **Wm. H. Carter, 1st Lt.** — commanding the company at Elias's death; signed the Final Statement and Inventory of Effects [C-7, C-8]
- **Rev. Jonas Colburn** — minister of the gospel who performed the 1858 marriage and later certified it [P-6, P-7]
- **D. P. Register, J.P.** — Justice of the Peace who attested the widow's declaration [P-6]
- **E. D. Whitcomb, Ass't Adj't General** — signed the AGO report confirming service and death [P-8]

Source Conflicts & Discrepancies

- **Date of death — June 14 vs June 12, 1864.** The CMSR casualty sheet (C-6), Final Statement (C-7), the pension casualty sheet (P-5), and the AGO report (P-8) all state **14 June 1864**. The widow's own sworn declaration (P-6) states her husband died '**on or about the twelfth day of June, 1864.**' The army's contemporaneous records agree on the 14th, drawn from the City Point hospital record; the widow testified to something she learned by notification, not by presence, and hedged with 'on or about.' Both readings shown; not resolved by guessing.
- **Surname spelling — Thornedale vs Thorndale.** The soldier signed his own enlistment paper '**Elias Thornedale**' (C-2, Tier 1). Most cards use **Thornedale**, but the index card (C-1) and one company muster roll card (C-4) record '**Thorndale.**' The soldier's own signature supports Thornedale.
- **Widow's stated death month vs. marriage-certificate detail** — no conflict, but note the marriage certificate (P-7) places Odessa in **New Castle County**, while the widow's declaration (P-6) simply says 'Odessa, Delaware.' Consistent.

Research Gaps

- **Exact date and cause reconciliation.** The one-day discrepancy in the death date could be resolved by the original City Point depot hospital register or the Carded Medical Records (RG 94, NARA).
- **Bounty amount.** The pension muster-in roll's bounty figure (P-2) is blotted; the CMSR Final Statement (C-7) states bounty paid \$25, due \$75 — the fuller muster-out/settlement papers would confirm.
- **Widow's later life.** The file ends with the 1886 rate increase; no 'dropped from the rolls' notice is present, so Margaret's date of death and whether she remarried are not established. A pension-agency drop notice or later correspondence would resolve this.
- **Children's later records.** Birth dates for Sarah Ann and William H. rest solely on the widow's declaration; a Delaware church or civil birth/baptism record would corroborate.
- **Birthplace precision.** Only 'Kent County, Delaware' is stated; no town of birth or parents are named anywhere in either file.

Regimental History

Both files place Elias Thornedale in Company C of the 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry, organized at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, in the autumn of 1862. Beyond what these documents themselves state, the regiment's formation, brigade/corps assignments, and battle record should be **verified separately against published regimental and Official Records sources** — no regimental narrative is asserted here from memory, in keeping with the no-unsourced-facts rule.

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	C-1 Jacket Cover and Card Index	Indexes Elias Thornedale, Pvt., Co. C, 12th Del. Inf.; notes roll variants Thornedale and Thorndale (card 4); 7 cards, 1 personal paper.
2	C-2 Volunteer Enlistment Paper	9 Aug 1862 Smyrna; born Kent County, Del., aged 24, farmer, described; signed Elias Thornedale, witness Capt. J. P. Lofland.
3	C-3 Company Muster-in Roll Card	Enrolled 9 Aug 1862 Smyrna, mustered in 4 Sept 1862 Camp Brandywine, age 24, 3-year term.
4	C-4 Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts)	Present/absent Sept 1862–June 1864; absent sick from 21 Jun 1863, returned 30 Sept 1863, absent sick City Point from 4 Jun 1864; one card spells name Thorndale.
5	C-5 Hospital Muster Roll Card	Admitted 21 Jun 1863, U.S.A. Gen. Hospital, Chester, Pa., typhoid fever, returned to duty 30 Sept 1863.
6	C-6 Casualty Sheet	Died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) 14 Jun 1864 at depot

		field hospital City Point, Va.; compiled A.G.O. 3 Mar 1865.
7	C-7 Final Statement	Died City Point 14 Jun 1864; last paid to 30 Apr 1864; bounty paid \$25, due \$75; signed Wm. H. Carter, 1st Lt.
8	C-8 Inventory of Effects	Effects forwarded to widow Margaret Thornedale, Smyrna, Kent County, Del.; signed Wm. H. Carter, 1st Lt.
9	C-9 Fold3-style Source Page	Digitization provider page, not part of the original record; soldier is fictional specimen.
10	P-1 Jacket Cover, Widow's Pension	Widow's Certificate No. 218,443, Application No. 187,902; widow Margaret Thornedale; Act of July 14, 1862; 9 cards/papers.
11	P-2 Company Muster-in Roll	Pvt., age 24, farmer; enrolled 9 Aug 1862 Smyrna, mustered in 4 Sept 1862 Camp Brandywine; bounty figure blotted.
12	P-3 Company Muster Roll abstract card	Present/absent 1863–1864 mirroring CMSR muster entries; absent sick City Point from 4 Jun 1864.
13	P-4 Hospital Muster Roll Card	Admitted 21 Jun 1863, Chester, Pa., typhoid fever, returned to duty 30 Sept 1863.
14	P-5 Casualty Sheet	Died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) 14 Jun 1864 at City Point; source hospital record; certified AGO 3 Mar 1865.
15	P-6 Widow's Declaration for Pension	Margaret Thornedale, 26, of Smyrna; widow of Elias, died 'on or about the twelfth day of June, 1864'; married 15 Apr 1858 Odessa by Rev. Jonas Colburn; maiden name Haslet; children Sarah Ann (b. 1859) and William H. (b. 1861); signed by mark; attested D. P. Register, J.P.
16	P-7 Officiant's Certificate of Marriage	Rev. Jonas Colburn certifies he married Elias Thornedale and Margaret Haslet 15 Apr 1858 at Odessa, New Castle County, Del.
17	P-8 Adjutant General's Office Report	21 Feb 1865: confirms enrollment 9 Aug 1862, muster-in 4 Sept 1862, death of disease 14 Jun 1864 City Point; by order E. D. Whitcomb.
18	P-9 Act of March 19, 1886 Rate	Widow's rate raised \$8 to

	Increase Card	\$12/mo from 19 Mar 1886; no new evidence required or filed.
19	P-10 Fold3-style Source Page	Digitization provider page, not part of the original file; specimen citation only.

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 was born in Kent County, Delaware, and was a farmer aged 24 at enlistment.	C-2 Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)	2	corroborated by second source
The soldier signed his own name as 'Elias Thornedale'.	C-2 Volunteer Enlistment Paper (signature) (p. 2)	1	—
Some rolls spell the surname 'Thorndale' rather than 'Thornedale'.	C-4 Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts) (p. 4)	2	source conflict
Elias Thornedale enrolled 9 August 1862 at Smyrna, Delaware.	C-3 Company Muster-in Roll Card (p. 3)	2	corroborated by second source
He was mustered into U.S. service 4 September 1862 at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware.	C-3 Company Muster-in Roll Card (p. 3)	2	corroborated by second source
Service enrollment and muster confirmed by the Adjutant General's Office.	P-8 Adjutant General's Office Report (p. 17)	2	corroborated by second source
He was admitted 21 June 1863 to the U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa., with typhoid fever, and returned to duty 30 September 1863.	C-5 Hospital Muster Roll Card (p. 5)	2	corroborated by second source
He was absent sick at the depot hospital, City Point, Va., from 4 June	C-4 Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts) (p. 4)	2	corroborated by second source

1864.			
Elias Thornedale died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) on 14 June 1864 at the depot field hospital, City Point, Virginia.	C-6 Casualty Sheet (p. 6)	2	corroborated by second source
The Final Statement records death at City Point on 14 June 1864 and last payment to 30 April 1864.	C-7 Final Statement (p. 7)	2	corroborated by second source
The AGO reported death of disease 14 June 1864 at City Point.	P-8 Adjutant General's Office Report (p. 17)	2	corroborated by second source
The widow swore her husband died 'on or about the twelfth day of June, 1864.'	P-6 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 15)	1	learned by notification
The casualty sheet was compiled at the A.G.O. on 3 March 1865 (compilation date, not death date).	C-6 Casualty Sheet (p. 6)	2	corroborated by second source
Elias Thornedale married Margaret Haslet on 15 April 1858 at Odessa, Delaware.	P-7 Officiant's Certificate of Marriage (p. 16)	1	corroborated by second source
The marriage was performed by the Rev. Jonas Colburn; the widow's maiden name was Margaret Haslet.	P-6 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 15)	1	corroborated by second source
Daughter Sarah Ann Thornedale was born 2 February 1859.	P-6 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 15)	1	—
Son William H. Thornedale was born 30 November 1861.	P-6 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 15)	1	—
Margaret Thornedale, aged 26 in January 1865, resided at Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware, and	P-6 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 15)	1	—

remained the soldier's widow.			
The soldier's effects were forwarded to his widow Margaret Thornedale at Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware.	C-8 Inventory of Effects (p. 8)	2	—
The widow's claim carried Certificate No. 218,443 and Application No. 187,902 under the Act of July 14, 1862.	P-1 Jacket Cover, Widow's Pension (p. 10)	4	—
The widow's pension rate was increased from \$8 to \$12 per month from 19 March 1886 under the Act of March 19, 1886, with no new evidence required.	P-9 Act of March 19, 1886 Rate Increase Card (p. 18)	2	—
The bounty figure on the pension muster-in roll is blotted and unreadable.	P-2 Company Muster-in Roll (p. 11)	2	reading uncertain
The CMSR Final Statement records bounty paid \$25 and due \$75.	C-7 Final Statement (p. 7)	2	—

Hard-to-Read Entries

These are original handwritten records, in places faded or damaged with age. Where a word could not be read with confidence, it is flagged here rather than guessed at - nothing in this report is invented. A researcher-reviewed edition is available if you'd like a second set of eyes on them.

- **Page 11** - flagged as hard to read (Pension file page 2 (P-2 Company Muster-in Roll): the bounty amount is obscured by a blot and cannot be read). We did not guess at it; it's worth checking against the original image.

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.

- **Page 15** - the documents disagree here (Pension file page 6 (P-6 Widow's Declaration) states death 'on or about the twelfth' of June 1864, learned by notification; the CMSR casualty sheet (page 6), Final Statement (page 7), pension casualty sheet (page 14), and AGO report (page 17) all state 14 June 1864). Both readings appear in the report; the record itself does not decide between them.

- **Page 4** - the documents disagree here (CMSR page 4 (C-4 Company Muster Roll, July–Aug 1863) and the index card page 1 (C-1) record 'Thorndale', while the soldier's own signature on the enlistment paper (page 2) and most other documents read 'Thornedale'). Both readings appear in the report; the record itself does not decide between them.