

## 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 service records. The process, tables, flags, and sourcing shown here are exactly what a real report contains.*

### A CIVIL WAR SERVICE RECORD REPORT

# Elias Thornedale

Private · Company C · 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry

*Compiled Military Service Record (Union, NARA RG 94) — no claim; service record standing alone*

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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, Company C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry

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## Short Biography

Elias Thornedale was a twenty-four-year-old Kent County, Delaware farmer when he volunteered at Smyrna in August 1862 and joined Company C of the 12th Delaware Infantry. He served nearly two years, laid up twice by illness — typhoid fever in a Chester, Pennsylvania hospital in the summer of 1863, and a final sickness in the spring of 1864. He died of chronic diarrhoea at the depot hospital at City Point, Virginia, on June 14, 1864. His small effects and the pay owed him were sent home to his widow, Margaret Thornedale, in Smyrna.

## The Story of Elias and Margaret Thornedale

This is a Union service record — a Compiled Military Service Record (NARA RG 94) for a Delaware volunteer. The jacket names **Elias Thornedale, Private, Co. C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry**, and notes that his name appears on the rolls two ways: *Thornedale* and, on one card, *Thorndale* (page 1).

Elias was a farmer, born in Kent County, Delaware, and aged twenty-four when he put his name to a volunteer enlistment paper at Smyrna on **August 9, 1862** — three years' service in the Army of the United States. The form describes him plainly: "*five feet eight inches high, dark complexion, gray eyes, brown hair,*" and it carries his own signature, **Elias Thornedale**, witnessed by **Capt. J. P. Lofland** (page 2). That signature is the file's best evidence for how he spelled his own name, and it settles the spelling drift in his favor — *Thornedale* over the single card's *Thorndale* (see the notes).

He was mustered in on **September 4, 1862** at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware, into Capt. Lofland's Company (C) (page 3). From there the company muster rolls follow him two months at a time (page 4). He was present through the fall of 1862 and into early 1863. In June 1863 he fell sick and went to the U.S.A. General Hospital at Chester, Pennsylvania — the hospital card names the complaint as **typhoid fever**, admitted June 21, 1863, and returned to duty September 30, 1863 (page 5). He was back with the company that fall and again in the spring of 1864.

His last roll, May–June 1864, records him **absent, sick at the depot hospital, City Point, Virginia, since June 4, 1864** (page 4). He did not recover. The casualty sheet and his final statement agree that he **died of disease — chronic diarrhoea — on June 14, 1864, at the depot field hospital, City Point, Virginia** (pages 6, 7). His commanding officer, **1st Lt. Wm. H. Carter**, settled his accounts: last paid to April 30, 1864, bounty of \$25 paid with \$75 still due (page 7).

The last document is the most personal in the file. An inventory of his effects — "*one blouse, one pair trousers, one blanket, one testament, letters, and \$2.35 in currency*" — was **forwarded to his widow, Margaret Thornedale, Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware** (page 8). It is the file's only naming of his wife, and the thread that leads out of the army's ledger and back to the family he left.

## His Personal Service Timeline

Built from the bimonthly company muster roll abstracts (page 4) and the muster-in and hospital cards. The regiment's whereabouts never prove his; only rolls covering a date place him.

- **Aug 9, 1862** — Enrolled at Smyrna, Del. (pages 2, 3)
- **Sept 4, 1862** — Mustered in, Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, Del., age 24 (page 3)
- **Sept–Oct 1862** — Present (page 4)
- *(No roll for Nov–Dec 1862 survives in this jacket — a gap.)*
- **Jan–Feb 1863** — Present (page 4)
- *(No roll for Mar–Apr 1863 in this jacket — a gap.)*
- **May–June 1863** — Absent, sick in general hospital since June 21, 1863 (page 4)
- **June 21, 1863** — Admitted, U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa.; complaint typhoid fever (page 5)
- **July–Aug 1863** — Absent, sick, U.S.A. Gen. Hosp., Chester, Pa. (card spells the name *Thorndale*) (page 4)
- **Sept 30, 1863** — Returned to duty (pages 4, 5)
- **Sept–Oct 1863** — Present (page 4)
- *(No rolls for Nov–Dec 1863 or Jan–Feb 1864 in this jacket — a gap.)*
- **Mar–Apr 1864** — Present (page 4)
- **June 4, 1864** — Sick at depot hospital, City Point, Va. (page 4)
- **May–June 1864** — Absent, sick at depot hospital, City Point, Va. (page 4)
- **June 14, 1864** — Died of disease (chronic diarrhoea), depot field hospital, City Point, Va. (pages 6, 7)

## Death and Settlement

Two official documents record the death, and they agree. The **Casualty Sheet** (page 6) states he "*Died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) June 14, 1864, at depot field hospital, City Point, Virginia,*" citing the hospital record and the report of the Surgeon in charge, and compiled by the A.G.O. on March 3, 1865 — note that the compilation date is when the clerk wrote the card, not the death date.

The **Final Statement** (page 7), signed by 1st Lt. Wm. H. Carter commanding the company, gives the same death — "*who died at City Point, Virginia, on the 14th day of June, 1864, of chronic diarrhoea.*" It settles his pay: last paid to April 30, 1864; clothing account last settled October 31, 1863, with \$9.41 drawn since; bounty of \$25 paid and **\$75 still due**. "Chronic diarrhoea" is period medical vocabulary recorded exactly as the cards state it; the report does not interpret it further.

The **Inventory of Effects** (page 8) lists his belongings at death and states they were forwarded to his widow, **Margaret Thornedale**, of Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware — the genealogical link hiding in a quartermaster's form.

## Family and Named Network

**Family named in the file: - Margaret Thornedale** — widow, of Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware; named as recipient of his effects (page 8). This is the file's only mention of his wife.

**Officers and witnesses named: - Capt. J. P. Lofland** — commander of Company C ("Capt. Lofland's Co.") and witness to the enlistment paper (pages 2, 3). - **1st Lt. Wm. H. Carter** — commanding the company at the settlement; signed the Final Statement and Inventory of Effects (pages 7, 8).

**Identity anchors** the file provides for tying this man to a family line: unit and company (Co. C, 12th Delaware Infantry); enlistment August 9, 1862 at Smyrna, Del.; birthplace Kent County, Delaware; age 24 in 1862 (implied birth year about 1838); occupation farmer; physical description (5'8", dark complexion, gray eyes, brown hair); and his widow Margaret.

## Research Gaps and Next Steps

**Jacket reconciliation.** The jacket states **7 cards and 1 personal paper** (page 1). The single personal paper is the volunteer enlistment paper (page 2), which reconciles. The card count is harder to match cleanly against the pages supplied: the bimonthly muster-roll abstracts are presented together on one page (page 4) though they represent several separate roll entries, while the muster-in, hospital, casualty, final-statement, and inventory cards are individual pages (3, 5, 6, 7, 8). The stated total of 7 cards cannot be mapped one-to-one to the pages as supplied — noted here as a records gap, not a defect in the man's service.

**Roll gaps.** No surviving roll in this jacket covers Nov–Dec 1862, Mar–Apr 1863, Nov–Dec 1863, or Jan–Feb 1864. These are gaps in the record, not statements about his whereabouts.

**Where this record points next (Union soldier): - The General Index to Pension Files (NARA T288).** This service record is not a pension file and none is implied here — but a soldier who died in service leaving a widow (Margaret Thornedale) very commonly generated a widow's pension claim, which would carry the marriage and family record this file does not. The General Index is the first place to look for it. - **Carded Medical Records (RG 94)** for fuller hospital entries behind the Chester and City Point episodes. - **Delaware Adjutant General's records and the 12th Delaware regimental books** for the muster context.

**The identification boundary.** This file establishes what *the* Elias Thornedale of Co. C, 12th Delaware Infantry did — his enlistment, his illnesses, his death, and his widow's name. It cannot, by itself, prove that this soldier is a particular family's ancestor. Tying him to a specific line requires correlation with records outside this file (census, county, church, probate, land), and same-named men of the same era are common. The report reads the file; confirming the family connection is a correlation task the file alone cannot perform.

## Document Inventory

| Page     | Document Type                                                 | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Jacket Cover and Card Index                                   | Names Elias Thornedale, Private, Co. C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry; notes roll spellings Thornedale and Thorndale (card 4); states cards herein 7, personal papers 1.              |
| <b>2</b> | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (personal paper, Tier 1 signature) | Enlistment at Smyrna, Del., Aug 9, 1862; born Kent County, Delaware; aged 24; farmer; three-year term; physical description; signed Elias Thornedale, witnessed by Capt. J. P. Lofland. |
| <b>3</b> | Company Muster-in Roll Card                                   | Enrolled Aug 9, 1862 at Smyrna; mustered in Sept 4,                                                                                                                                     |

|   |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |                                                         | 1862 at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, Del.; age 24; Capt. Lofland's Co. (C); 3 years.                                                                                                                           |
| 4 | Company Muster Roll Cards (bimonthly abstracts)         | Present/absent record: present Sept-Oct 1862, Jan-Feb 1863, Sept-Oct 1863, Mar-Apr 1864; absent sick May-June 1863, July-Aug 1863 (card spells Thorndale), May-June 1864; returned to duty Sept 30, 1863.      |
| 5 | Hospital Muster Roll Card                               | Admitted June 21, 1863 to U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa.; complaint typhoid fever; returned to duty Sept 30, 1863.                                                                                      |
| 6 | Casualty Sheet                                          | Died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) June 14, 1864 at depot field hospital, City Point, Va.; source hospital record and Surgeon's report; compiled A.G.O. March 3, 1865.                                        |
| 7 | Final Statement                                         | Death at City Point June 14, 1864 of chronic diarrhoea; last paid to April 30, 1864; clothing account last settled Oct 31, 1863, \$9.41 drawn since; bounty \$25 paid, \$75 due; signed 1st Lt. Wm. H. Carter. |
| 8 | Inventory of Effects                                    | Lists his effects at death (blouse, trousers, blanket, testament, letters, \$2.35 currency); forwarded to widow Margaret Thornedale, Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware; signed 1st Lt. Wm. H. Carter.              |
| 9 | Fold3-style Source Page (digitization provider, Tier 4) | Provider-added source page; 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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| <b>Elias Thornedale served as a Private in Company C, 12th Regiment Delaware Infantry (Union).</b> | Jacket Cover and Card Index (p. 1) | 4    | —     |

|                                                                                                                                                                          |                                              |   |                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>His name appears on the rolls as both Thornedale and Thorndale (the latter on card 4).</b>                                                                            | Jacket Cover and Card Index (p. 1)           | 4 | source conflict               |
| <b>He signed his name 'Elias Thornedale' on his own enlistment paper.</b>                                                                                                | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 1 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>He was born in Kent County, Delaware.</b>                                                                                                                             | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 2 | —                             |
| <b>He was aged 24 at enlistment in 1862, implying a birth year of about 1838.</b>                                                                                        | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 2 | calculated/derived            |
| <b>By occupation he was a farmer.</b>                                                                                                                                    | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 2 | —                             |
| <b>Physical description: five feet eight inches high, dark complexion, gray eyes, brown hair.</b>                                                                        | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 2 | —                             |
| <b>He volunteered/enrolled at Smyrna, Delaware, on August 9, 1862, for a three-year term.</b>                                                                            | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 2 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>The enlistment was witnessed by Capt. J. P. Lofland.</b>                                                                                                              | Volunteer Enlistment Paper (p. 2)            | 2 | —                             |
| <b>He was mustered in September 4, 1862 at Camp Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware, into Capt. Lofland's Company (C), age 24.</b>                                          | Company Muster-in Roll Card (p. 3)           | 2 | calculated/derived            |
| <b>Present Sept-Oct 1862 and Jan-Feb 1863.</b>                                                                                                                           | Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts) (p. 4) | 2 | calculated/derived            |
| <b>Absent sick in general hospital since June 21, 1863 (May-June 1863 roll); absent sick at U.S.A. Gen. Hosp., Chester, Pa. (July-Aug 1863 roll, spelled Thorndale).</b> | Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts) (p. 4) | 2 | calculated/derived            |
| <b>Admitted June 21, 1863 to U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa.,</b>                                                                                                  | Hospital Muster Roll Card (p. 5)             | 2 | corroborated by second source |

|                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |   |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>complaint typhoid fever; returned to duty September 30, 1863.</b>                                                                                            |                                              |   |                               |
| <b>Present Sept-Oct 1863 (returned to duty Sept 30, 1863) and Mar-Apr 1864.</b>                                                                                 | Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts) (p. 4) | 2 | —                             |
| <b>Absent sick at depot hospital, City Point, Va., since June 4, 1864 (May-June 1864 roll).</b>                                                                 | Company Muster Roll Cards (abstracts) (p. 4) | 2 | —                             |
| <b>Died of disease (chronic diarrhoea) June 14, 1864 at the depot field hospital, City Point, Virginia.</b>                                                     | Casualty Sheet (p. 6)                        | 2 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>The casualty information came from the hospital record at City Point and the report of the Surgeon in charge; card compiled by the A.G.O. March 3, 1865.</b> | Casualty Sheet (p. 6)                        | 2 | calculated/derived            |
| <b>Final statement confirms death at City Point, Virginia, June 14, 1864, of chronic diarrhoea.</b>                                                             | Final Statement (p. 7)                       | 2 | corroborated by second source |
| <b>Last paid to April 30, 1864; clothing account last settled Oct 31, 1863 with \$9.41 drawn since; bounty \$25 paid and \$75 due.</b>                          | Final Statement (p. 7)                       | 2 | —                             |
| <b>The Final Statement was signed by Wm. H. Carter, 1st Lt., commanding company.</b>                                                                            | Final Statement (p. 7)                       | 2 | —                             |
| <b>His effects at death included one blouse, one pair trousers, one blanket, one testament, letters, and \$2.35 in currency.</b>                                | Inventory of Effects (p. 8)                  | 2 | —                             |
| <b>His effects were forwarded to his widow, Margaret</b>                                                                                                        | Inventory of Effects (p. 8)                  | 2 | —                             |

|                                                                                                                                      |                                    |   |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Thornedale, of Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware.</b>                                                                                 |                                    |   |   |
| <b>The jacket states 7 cards and 1 personal paper herein.</b>                                                                        | Jacket Cover and Card Index (p. 1) | 4 | — |
| <b>The final page is a digitization provider's source page, not part of the original record; it states the soldier is fictional.</b> | Fold3-style Source Page (p. 9)     | 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 4** - the documents disagree here (The name is spelled 'Thorndale' on the July-Aug 1863 muster-roll abstract (page 4) and noted as a roll variant on the jacket (page 1), against 'Thornedale' used on the jacket index, the muster-in card, and the soldier's own signature on the enlistment paper (page 2)). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Use 'Thornedale' — his own signature on the enlistment paper (Tier 1, own hand) and the jacket index outrank a single copyist's abstract. Minor spelling drift, not a distinct person.

## 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 4** - the file does not answer this (No surviving rolls in this jacket cover Nov-Dec 1862, Mar-Apr 1863, Nov-Dec 1863, or Jan-Feb 1864; these are gaps in the record and do not indicate his whereabouts). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.
- **Page 1** - the file does not answer this (The jacket states 7 cards herein, but the muster-roll abstracts are supplied consolidated on one page (page 4) while other cards are individual pages, so the stated card count cannot be mapped one-to-one against the pages supplied. The 1 personal paper (enlistment paper, page 2) reconciles). 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.*