

Private Thomas R. Dickinson

Thomas R. Dickinson, son of Benoni and Mercy (Hill) Dickinson, was born about 1839 at Fort Ann, Washington Co., NY. He moved to Michigan with his parents in 1858. They settled in Bushnell Twp., Montcalm Co., MI. Thomas married Sarah Jane Jenks, daughter of Lora C. and Almira (Evans) Jenks, on 13 Dec 1859. They settled on forty acres next to his father's forty acres. Their daughter, Melcena Nettie, was born on 26 Sep 1861. (Nettie married Charles W. Heisler.)

Thomas enlisted in Michigan's Sixth Cavalry on 7 Oct 1862 for a period of three years. He was assigned to Company E and was mustered in on 11 Oct 1862. "While in the service,



Thomas, a sharpshooter, silenced a sniper who was taking accurate shots at the Union soldiers from his vantage point in a window at a distance. He was 'absent at roll' sundry times and spent some time in hospitals. He entered the hospital for the last time at Frederick, Maryland on Dec. 31, 1864. He died there on March 8, 1865 of typhoid fever according to the official report. He missed the news of the South's surrender by a few short weeks, but did his part in defense of his country. His unit mustered out on Nov. 24, 1865 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas."



Thomas was first buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick City, Maryland. Later his body was moved to Antietam National Cemetery.

Source: Benoni Dickinson and his Descendants, Elda Dickinson, self published, Greenville, MI, 1984.