

Private Charles W. Thomas
Company B – 56th Virginia Infantry

Enlisted June 22, 1861 in Co. B in Mecklenburg County, Virginia.

Thomas was a farmer. He had married Mary Rebecca Pearson on November 10, 1852 and they had three children.

Captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee in February, 1862 and sent to Camp Morton (Indianapolis) Prison Camp. He would be exchanged in Vicksburg, MS.

In a January 14, 1863 letter from “Guinia” Station, Va., Charles writes, “*Mary I got good news to rite you. I got in a application last monday for furlough. It went through all the big mens hands except our commanding General and they ware a little something rong. It want rote exactly rite but it is fixed now and I hope I will be with you . . . if old Gen Lee will only assined it. . . . I washed my old shirt and draws yestady. My old pant is verry nasty and my ass is out and these is all I have got . . . You must excuse mistakes and bad riting.*”

On June 26th from “Peansylvania” he notes, “*I have a bad coal. My throat is verry sore . . . well I have got me a par of pants and a par of shoes and if you see any way to send me some socks you must . . . for I need them . . . I am just out of Mariland today . . . farewell, God bless you.*”

Absent sick September to December of 1863.

Admitted to Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond, Virginia on September 13, 1863. Granted 35 day sick furlough on September 19.

In late October he is back at Chimborazo and writes, “*My Dear Wife . . . I dont get noting to ate here but some of the poorest beef you ever saw boiled and . . . a few Irish potatoes . . . I dont entend to dy here . . .*”

Captured at Farmville, Virginia on April 6, 1865.

Sent to Point Lookout Prison Camp in Maryland. Died of pneumonia on April 26, 1865. He is buried in grave #1572 of the Confederate cemetery at Point Lookout.

(Baird, R. L. Sr. & Wright, H. S., editors – *Write Soon and Often – Treasured Letters of a Civil War Wife, Mary Pearson Thomas of Mechlenburg County, Virginia, Mechlenburg, 2005.*)