Theodore Sedgwick Thomasson, Captain, Battery A, 1 KY Artillery

1839  August 21: Thomasson was born to Andrew and Rebecca Thomasson in Pittsburgh, PA.

1861  August 5: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Battery A 1 KY Artillery as a 1st Lieutenant.

          November 1 to February 28’1862: Battery Muster Roll. Present.

1862  May & June: Battery Muster Roll. Absent. Remarks “Absent on furlough.”

          Theodore was granted leave by General Buell.

1863  January to April: Battery Muster Rolls. Present.

          May 23: Theodore mustered out of the U.S. Army in Murfreesboro, TN.

          May 26: Theodore was promoted to Captain.

          May to December: Battery Muster Rolls. Present.

          November 30: Theodore was marked as the commanding officer of the 1st KY Battery on a military return at Murfreesboro, TN.

1864  January 9: Wrote a letter to head quarters for permission for furlough to return home to Cincinnati, OH and Franklin County, KY. His father was selling their family business and moving to Illinois and Theodore expressed concern that he needed to be present as he had an interest in his father’s business.
January to April: Battery Muster Rolls. Present.


June 15: Married Amanda Leasor in Nashville, TN.

June 17: Promoted.

July 7: Listed as “Chief of Artillery” of the 1st KY Battery on a military return near Kennesaw Mt., GA.

September to December: Battery Muster Rolls. Present.

November 30: Commanded the 1 KY Artillery at the Battle of Franklin.

His official report reads (in part): “...arriving there [at Franklin] at 9a.m. of the 30th, and went into park with the Artillery Brigade about half a mile from the public square. At 12 one section, under command of Lieutenant Irwin, moved into position on the left of the Columbia pike about three-quarters of a mile from the public square. At 2p.m. the other section, commanded by Lieutenant Sinclair, moved into position on the right of Lieutenant Irwin’s section.

At 4p.m. of the 30th the battery opened fire with percussion shell on a column of the enemy forming on a ridge about 1,700 yards in front of the battery. ....The enemy formed and advanced upon the battery...” (Source: War of The Rebellion Series I, Vol. 45)

Reported 2 men killed, 5 men wounded and 3 men missing.

1865 January to August: Battery Muster Rolls. Present.
August 16: Listed as “Chief of Artillery” of the 1st KY Battery on a military return in Victoria, TX.

August 22: By General Order No. 133 Thomasson was appointed Brevet Major and simultaneously Brevet Colonel for “gallant, and distinguished services during the war.”

November 15: Theodore S. Thomasson mustered out of the 1 KY Artillery in Louisville, KY.

1867 June 22: By General Order No. 65 Theodore was appointed Brevet Lieutenant Colonel “in the Volunteer Force, Army of the United States, for long, faithful and distinguished services.”

1879 January 15: With Thomasson by her side, his wife Amanda died of pneumonia.

1880 June 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Villa Ridge, Pulaski, IL showed a widowed Theodore, a book keeper, living with his four young children.

August 21: Wrote a letter to his sister describing the death of his 8-year-old son Willie, and life in Illinois.

Excerpt: “We have met with another sever affliction. Saturday evening July 31, our dear Willie was killed the horse falling upon him. He was riding Charlie to graze and in attempting to cross a gully the horse fell in, throwing Willie under him and breaking his neck, killing him instantly. The horse was unhurt. Poor little Willie, we miss him so much, he was so bright and lively. We buried him by the side of his mother. Home seems dreary and lonely without him. He was a favorite with all his playmates and acquaintances.

This year I rented the Frost place and cultivate that in addition to my own place. There has been a large crop of fruit but it has not been profitable. My health is improved and if possible I shall never keep books again, it is too confining.”

1890 Federal Veterans Schedule listed Thomasson as a Captain of 1 KY Battery. He was living in Springfield, Greene County, MO.

1897 March 18: Married Isabella Holman in Miller, AK.

1910 April 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Prairie, Franklin County, AK showed Theodore, a book store agent, living with his second wife Isabella.

1917 December 5: Admitted to the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Soldiers in California, where he resided as an “inmate” for the rest of his life. His residence at the time of his admittance was listed as San Diego, CA and his occupation “clerk.”

1920 March: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Malibu, Los Angeles at the National Military Home showed Theodore S. Thomasson as an inmate. A supplemental page to the census was filed in the census office on April 17th listing a few of the soldiers who were inmates in the hospital, their occupations and to
the left of their name, in the margin, was listed a battle. In the margin next to Theodore is “Shiloh.” His occupation was listed as “book agent and author.”

Even though he was a convalescent in a soldiers’ hospital, Theodore was still registered to vote in Los Angeles County, CA. He registered as a Republican.

1924 December 5: Theodore Sedgwick Thomasson died in Los Angeles, California at the National Hospital for Disabled Soldiers.

***Theodore was an “Adventish preacher” according to a letter from his sister-in-law in 1917.