

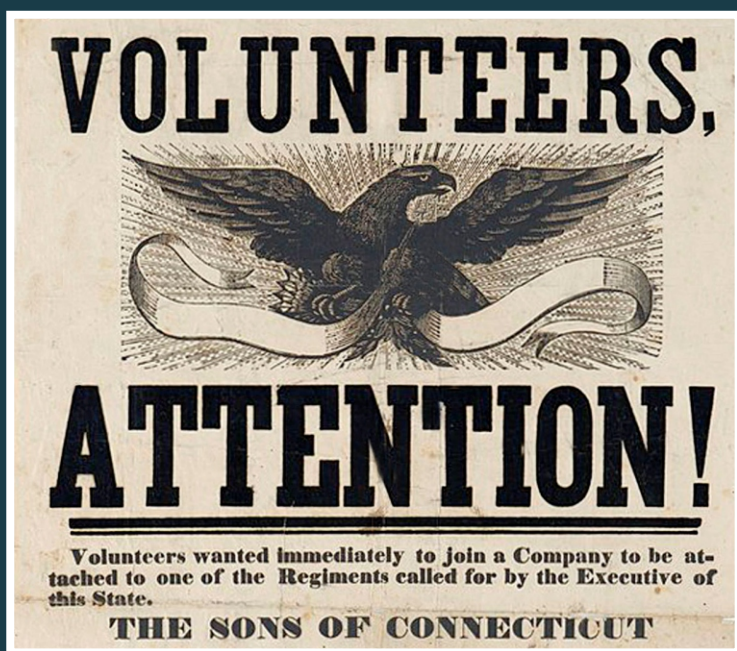


July 2025

Stratford Veterans Museum
VETERAN OF THE MONTH



THOMAS W. COOK



GRAND MARSHALL - May 30, 1915
Bridgeport, CT

Thomas W. Cook at the age of 19, Joined the Union Army on September 10, 1861 being assigned to Company G, of the Tenth Connecticut Volunteers as a Wagoneer/Teamster, drivers of horse drawn wagons. Their work was often dangerous, facing enemy attacks and harsh conditions.

Thomas' first campaign was the battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina on February 7, 1862. This amphibious operation which lasted for two days opened eastern N.C. to union control.

He next saw action at the battle of Kinston Bridge over the Neuse River in North Carolina on December 14, 1862. The successful plan was to destroy the railways which disrupted the supply lines of the confederates.

The following summer in 1863 for 93 days, Thomas Cook and the Tenth Connecticut Volunteers took part in the siege of Charleston, South Carolina which lasted for 587 days until February of 1865. Before leaving the siege after their 93 days stay, the regiment witnessed the Union artillery pound Fort Sumter to near rubble, the site of the beginning of the Civil War on April 12, 1861 when confederate troops took the fort from Union troops.

For several months before his enlistment was up Thomas Cook served as a Mounted Scout in Florida with the Connecticut Volunteers. The Regiment was furloughed for reassignment in October after a 2-week break in Hartford Ct. Thomas Cook' enlistment ended on October 7, 1864.

The Connecticut Tenth Volunteers had a reputation for being aggressive and for their bravery. In all, the regiment lost 13 Officers and 109 enlisted men killed in action and lost 5 Officers and 155 enlisted to disease. A totaled of 282 men were lost during the Civil War.

Thomas returned home to a hero' welcome. Settling in North Stratford, tending to his farm and other endeavors. He joined the Fraternal Organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, G.A.R, in 1866. He also was honored as the Grand Marshall of a parade held in Bridgeport, Connecticut on May 30, 1915. Riding horseback for much of the parade at 73 years old. More information can be found on the Cook family at stfdveteransmuseum.org (veterans stories)