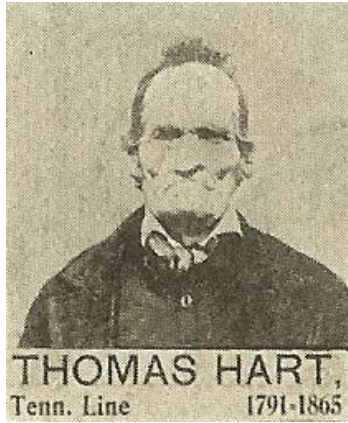


# THOMAS HART

26 Oct. 1791-28 July 1865

*By Donna Kuhlman*



**Thomas Hart** was born in the Blockhouse at Maryville, TN, and raised on a farm near there. In the War of 1812, he served under command of Gen. Wm. H. Harrison, as a Corporal in Capt. Samuel C. Hopkins Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg't U.S. Dragoons. He was in the battle of the River Raisin (Jan. 1813, in Michigan) as well as many others, and was wounded in the heel at the siege of Ft. Meigs (May 1813, northern Ohio). Both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiments of Dragoons served in engagements at the Mississineway River; the Battle of Lundy's Lane; Fort Erie and the siege of Fort Meigs. Hart eventually drew a pension; his old injury resulted in a permanent limp.

After the war, Hart was married to Elizabeth Duncan, and they became parents of eleven children: Nancy, Lavinia, Angeline, Mary Elizabeth, Eleanor Jane, Benjamin, Harriet, Martha L., Frances C., Frances Juliette. Their only son, Benjamin, died in infancy, and several years afterward, they adopted a boy they named James Hart.

Hart's father, Joseph, a soldier of the Revolution, was a teacher and so Thomas Hart gained some education, was fond of reading and possessed of a good memory. He was interesting in conversation, although modest and retiring, preferring to listen rather than be heard. His stern portrait notwithstanding, he was a kind and thoughtful man.

Thomas Hart and his family were faithful and consistent Presbyterians, at New Providence Church in TN, and afterward at Sandhill Presbyterian Church, established near their home after their arrival in Bartholomew Co. in the fall of 1846. Charles C. Hart, a half-brother some 30 years younger and a minister, came to visit Thomas Hart in the spring of 1865, a short time before the elder man's death. He reported that Thomas was feeble, though not sick, and uniformly cheerful, resigned and happy; and that he spoke of his own imminent death calmly, and of his confidence in heaven.