

George Washington Thurmond, Private, Co. K, 24 SC Infantry, CSA

- 1819 November 12: George Washington Thurmond was born to parents John and Eleanor Thurmond in South Carolina.
- 1820 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Edgefield, SC showed George's father, John, as the head of the household. The same census stated that John owned five slaves.
- 1830 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Edgefield, SC showed that John Thurmond, George's father, had a household of nine free people. George was eleven at the time.
- 1842 May 2: George Thurmond is listed as selling a "negro girl" named Betty to a man named Wright Adams for \$302.¹ (around \$9,500 in 2020) He is also listed as selling Linda, Charles, Winney and Mary, a "negro, wife & chn.", to the same man, Wright Adams, for \$551.² (around \$17,000 in 2020)
- 1850 Sep 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wharton, Texas found George Thurmond employed as a merchant. He stayed with a tavern keeper and his family.
- 1852 George Washington Thurmond married Mary Jane Felter.
- 1856 Mar 20: George Thurmond sold a slave named Betty to a P.D. Thurmond for \$380.³
- 1859 April 10: Birth of first child, a daughter named Lucy Felter Thurmond.
- 1860 Aug 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Edgefield, SC showed G.W. Thurmond lived with a sixty year old woman named Willmeson. His occupation is listed as Farmer.

¹ [Ancestry.com](#). *Edgefield, South Carolina, Slave Records, 1774-1866* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

² [Ancestry.com](#). *Edgefield, South Carolina, Slave Records, 1774-1866* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

³ Ibid.

The 1860 Slave Schedule enumerated in the Edgefield District of SC showed that George W. Thurmond owned four people.

Sep 21: However, it appears that George Thurmond may have had property in Mississippi because the 1860 U.S. Federal census enumerated in Brookhaven, MS showed a G.W. Thurmond that lived with his wife, Mary, and their kids. This census is more accurate and makes more sense except that it was taken in Mississippi. The author speculates that G.W. Thurmond had property in MS where his family resided and some property in SC that was being tended to by someone else.

1862 May 1: Birth of son, John William Thurmond.

July 1: Company Muster Rolls showed George Washington Thurmond enlisted in the 24th South Carolina Infantry.

1864 January & February: Absent

Remarks: "In hospital since Feb '64".

July 22: Company Muster Roll dated March through August stated, "wounded near Atlanta 22 July '64 & sent to hospital."

November 30: Thurmond fought with his regiment at the Battle of Franklin. He was wounded in the left arm by a minie ball. The 24th South Carolina struggled through a grove of locust trees and abatis near the present day Carter House visitor center. They suffered galling casualties including their commander, Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist.

Dec 22: Captured by U.S. troops in Columbia, TN and sent to Nashville as a prisoner.

Sometime after the Battle of Franklin, Thurmond's arm injury was treated by amputation. The author speculates it was amputated by a Confederate surgeon after the battle because when Thurmond is captured, and sent to Nashville, the date and details of his amputation being recorded by U.S. personnel were unknown. It would make sense that the procedure would have been performed relatively soon after the battle instead of waiting until he was captured.

George W. Thurmond
 Pvt., Co. K, 24 Reg't S.C. (166.)
 Age 31 years.
 Admitted Jan. 21, 1865.
 To No. 1 U. S. A. General Hospital,
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Injury Character of wound
 unknown.

W'd at Franklin, Tenn., Nov. 30, 1864.
 Date of operation unknown, 1864.
 Operation Circular amputation
 in lower third left arm.
 Result Returned to Prov Mar
 Jan. 31st 1865.

1865 Jan 31: Forwarded to Louisville, KY.

Feb 1: Arrived in Louisville, KY.

Sent to Camp Chase outside Columbus, OH.

Feb 3: Received at Camp Chase, OH.

Mar 26: Transferred to Point Lookout, MD.

Mar 31: Received at Point Lookout, MD.

Apr 8: Sent to U.S.A. Small Pox Hospital at Point Lookout, MD.

Jun 4: Released from Point Lookout, MD on taking the oath of allegiance.

1870 Aug 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Edgefield, SC stated that George W. Thurmond was employed as a farmer.

1880 Jun 15: The 1880 U.S. Federal Census enumerated in the Talbert township of Edgefield County, SC reflected that George W. Thurmond was living with a woman named Wilmoth. Both of their occupations were listed as "unoccupied." George was listed as sick and the reason listed was, "right arm off" and Wilmoth as, "general debility."

- 1897 Aug 25: G W Thurmond listed as receiving as Class C Pension from Edgefield County, SC.⁴
- 1900 Jun 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in the Meriwether township of Edgefield County, SC showed an eighty year old George Thurmond living with his wife Mary.
- 1902 Dec 5: Birth of George W Thurmond's grandchild, James Strom Thurmond, who went on to become Governor of South Carolina, Presidential Candidate from the Dixiecrat party, and U.S. Senator for forty eight years.
- 1904 April 11: George Washington Thurmond died. He was buried in the Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

⁴ *Edgefield Advertiser*, Edgefield, South Carolina, Wednesday, 25 Aug 1897, pg. 3.

GEORGE W. THURMOND.

Died at his residence on Monday the 11th inst., George W. Thurmond, aged about 85. He was a veteran of the Florida, as well as Civil War, and as an indication of what kind of a soldier he was it is sufficient to say that he served a number of years with the Texas Rangers, under Hays, and McCollough. His had been an eventful life, yet owing to his quiet, unassuming modesty, it would scarcely be suspected by a casual acquaintance. He was ever ready to respond to the demands of his country, and in the dark days of reconstruction, was as ready for duty as any younger man. He was noted for his sound judgment, truthful, manly character, and many noble qualities of mind and heart.

He leaves behind a devoted wife and four children, viz: Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Whatley, and our present Solicitor, Hon. J. William Thurmond.

He was buried at Big Stevens Creek church, of which he had long been a consistent member. the pastor, P. B. Lanham officiating.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

G. W. M.

Poverty Hill, S. C.