

Thomas Worthington, Jr. (1807-1884)

Thomas Worthington, Jr. was born March 18, 1807, a few months before the family moved into Adena Mansion. He was a good student and excelled at West Point with a promising military career. At this time, however, his father was critically ill in New York and Thomas, Jr. was called to his bedside. He was the only family member with Worthington when he died on June 20, 1827.

Thomas Jr. inherited a flourmill in Logan and he managed that for a period of time. He also served briefly in the Mexican War. At the start of the Civil War, he helped organize the 46th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry where he ranked as colonel. The group was called to Tennessee to support General Grant's invasion up the Tennessee River. On April 6, 1862, the Union Army was surprised by a Confederate attack at Pittsburg Landing. It was this Battle of Shiloh that would define the rest of Thomas' life.

Thomas showed an unfortunate habit of criticizing his superior officers. He felt the Battle of Shiloh had been a tragedy made worse by Union officers who ignored the certainty of attack by the Confederates and were negligent in their strategy. Failing to follow military procedure, he accused General Grant of incompetent leadership and highly criticized General Sherman. General Sherman ordered Thomas arrested. In August of 1862, Thomas was court-martialed on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and several counts of drunkenness on duty. The court found Worthington guilty of some of the counts and relieved him of command. He was 55 years old at the time.

For the rest of his life Thomas wrote books and pamphlets and spoke about his views of the Battle of Shiloh. He published the book *Blunder of the Rebellion* to tell what he felt was the "true history" of Shiloh. He was cared for by friends in Washington D.C. where he remained to plead his cause and attempt to retrieve his pension. Thomas Worthington Jr. died there in February of 1884 at the age of 77. He is buried near other family members in Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe.