

resided until the fall of 1821, when he moved to Watertown, in the same county, and engaged in building and manufacturing of wooden ware by machinery.

During the war of 1812, at the time of the invasion of the northern frontier, he entered the service as a volunteer, and at the battle of Sackett's Harbor, May 29, 1813, he had command of a company. In evidence of his coolness in battle, it was related by an eye-witness to an elder brother of the writer, in 1853, that, during the engagement, and while the bullets were thickly flying, his men were ordered to protect themselves behind trees, fences, etc., which they proceeded to do; while he, apparently unconscious of danger, remained exposed to the fire of the enemy until reminded of his duty to protect himself.

After the war he was promoted to the colonelcy of his regiment, which position he retained until some years before his death. It was generally understood that had he not resigned he would have been made general of his brigade, he having been a very popular officer and in the direct line of promotion. A contemporary met by the writer in the summer of 1886 related that he never saw a finer looking officer on horseback than Colonel Thomas. That he was imbued with something of the military spirit would appear from the fact that on the night of his death, in his delirium, his mind apparently wandering back to the exciting scenes of battle, he suddenly exclaimed, with considerable force: "Stand by your posts; let every man do his duty,"—forcibly reminding one of the last words of Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar, "England expects every man to do his duty;" or of those of Napoleon, "Tête de l'armée."

Possessing some argumentative ability, in the early days of the country, when lawyers were few, Colonel