Charles H. Olmstead, Private, Co. H 2 MI Cavalry, U.S.

1842 December 28: Olmstead was born to Norman and Caroline Olmstead in Genesee County, NY.

1845 The Olmstead family moved from NY to MI.

1850 July 24: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Eaton County, MI showed seven-year-old Charles H. living with his parents and siblings. His father, Norman, was a farmer.

1860 July 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Eaton County, MI showed 18-year-old Charles living with his father and siblings. His father was a farmer.

1861 December 2: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. E 54 OH Infantry.

1862 April 6: Wounded at the Battle of Shiloh.

September 3: Discharged from the U.S. Army in Rochester, NY because of his wounds.

1863 October 2: Olmstead was drafted into service with the U.S. Army. He mustered into Co. H, 2 MI Cavalry.

1864 November 30: Captured at the Battle of Franklin and imprisoned at Libby Prison.

1865 April 27: Olmstead was on the Sultana when it exploded. He was in the water for hours before being rescued.

June 23: Mustered out of the U.S. Army at Camp Chase, OH.

1867 December 24: Married Marion Searles in Van Buren County, MI.

1870 August 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Barry County, MI showed Charles H., a tobaccoist, and Marion living with their daughter Lena.¹

1880 June 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Barry County, MI showed Charles H., a tobaccoist, and Marion living with two daughters.

1883 April 1: Wife Marion died.

1885 March 19: Married Lois Lane.

1886 February 15: Wife Lois died.

1890 Married Nellie Hinds.

1900 June 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Larimore County, ND showed Charles H., a general merchant, and Nellie living with their sons.

¹ A tobaccoist is a dealer of tobacco, most likely owning a tobacco store.
1908  May 12: Wife Nellie died.

1909  June 18: Newspaper clipping. Charles slipped from a load of lumber and broke his leg.

1910  May 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grand Forks County, NK showed a widowed Charlie H., a farmer, living with his sons.

1917  March 7: Charles H. Olmstead died in Larimore, ND. He was buried at Riverside Cemetery in Barry County, MI.

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2 Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, ND, June 18, 1909, Pg 12.
WAR VETERAN AND PIONEER ANSWERS CALL

C. H. Olmstead of Larimore Succumbs to Attack of Pneumonia.

C. H. Olmstead, aged 75, pioneer resident of Larimore, and a veteran of the Civil war, died at his home in Larimore last evening at 9:15 o’clock. An attack of pneumonia, contracted Wednesday for the second time this winter, caused death. Deceased has been ailing for the past year, part of the time being forced to remain in bed.

Decedent was born in Genesee, New York, in 1842, and when three years of age removed with his parents to Michigan.

Enlisted for War.

At the outbreak of the Civil war, Olmstead, then a young man, enlisted in the Fifty-fourth Ohio Zouaves. He was wounded the following spring at the Battle of Shiloh, and on September 3, 1863, was mustered out of the service because of his wound.

However, physical discomfort was not to prevent Olmstead from serving his country, and on October 28, 1863, he re-enlisted in the Second Michigan Cavalry. At the battle of Franklin, Tenn., on November 30, 1864, he was captured by the southerners, and was taken to the famous Libby prison where he was confined until taken to the Vicksburg prison.

On “Ill Fated” Sultana.

Here he remained until he was exchanged on April 20, 1865, when he was taken with other exchanged prisoners to the ill-fated ship, “Sultana,” enroute to Cairo, Ill., but only reached as far as Memphis, Tenn., when the ship blew up, and many of the men on board perished.

Olmstead was tossed about by the waves for eight hours and was picked up on the morning of April 27. He was mustered out for the second time at Chane, Ohio, on June 23, 1865.

After being mustered out, he entered the tobacco and cigar manufacturing business in Hastings, Mich., where he resided until he moved with his family to Larimore, Grand Forks county, in 1882.

Married Three Times.

Decedent was married three times, and is survived by one daughter of his first wife, Mrs. O. H. Phillips, and three sons of his third wife, Leo, Hiram and Vivian, all residing in Larimore.

Olmstead was prominent in North Dakota G. A. R. circles during the term of his residence in Larimore.

Funeral services over the remains will be held tomorrow afternoon from the Methodist church in Larimore at 3 o’clock, after which the remains will be shipped to his former home in Hastings, Mich., for burial.

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3 Photo from findagrave
4 Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, ND, March 8, 1917, Pg. 10