John Campbell, Private, Co. F 80 IL Infantry, U.S.

1844 May 15: Campbell was born to Clark and Nancy Townsend Campbell in County Antrim, Ireland.

1857 Campbell’s widowed mother, Nancy, immigrated to the U.S. with her children.

1862 August 15: Campbell and his cousin Joseph Townsend enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. F 80 IL Infantry on the 25th.

1864 November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.

1865 July 10: Mustered out of the U.S. Army.

1869 September 2: Married Mary E. McMillan.

1870 July 19: The U.S. Federal Census Enumerated in Reno Township, Pope County, MN showed John, a farmer, living with Mary and their infant daughter. Living in surrounding households were John’s mother, brothers and a cousin. Family was on all sides of his family farm.

1880 June 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Reno Township, Pope County, MN showed John, a farmer, and Mary living with their children. Living only two households away was his cousin Joseph Townsend and his family and in another household was John’s mother and brother. He was surrounded by family.

1882 October 22: Campbell’s mother, Nancy, who had moved her family to the U.S. died in Pope County, MN. She was buried at the Lake Reno Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery.

1885 December 13: Campbell’s wife Mary died. She was buried at the Lake Reno Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery.

1890 June: The Veterans Schedule of the U.S. Federal Census listed John Campbell as living in Pope County, MN. He had a disability listed “Piles and a Gunshot wound.” His cousin Joseph is also listed on the same page. His disability “Hurt in the back & Scurvy and Rheumatism.”

1891 February 27: Married Anna J. Moorehead

1900 June 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Charlton, Otsego County, MI showed John, a farmer, and Anna living with his and Mary’s children as well as their children together.

1902 September 26: Campbell’s second wife Anna died. She was buried at the Meridian Line Cemetery in Otsego County, MI.

1895 June: Minnesota Territorial and State Census showed John, a farmer, and Anna living with their children. He was marked as being a veteran soldier.
1905  December 14: Married Emma Cathcart in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. His occupation was listed as storekeeper.

1917  April 2: John Campbell died of “senility.” He was buried in the Meridian Line Cemetery in Otsego County, MI.

Biographical Sketch of John Campbell.

*Illustrated Album of Biography of Pope and Stevens Counties, Minnesota.* 1888, Pg. 355-356

“John Campbell, one of the most prominent early settlers in the northern part of the county, is engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 13, Reno township. He was born on the 15th of May, 1844, and is a son of Clark and Nancy Townsend. The mother was from Ireland, although her parents were English, while the father was of Scotch extraction. The father died in Ireland, while our subject was very young. There were ten children in the family of the parents. In 1857, the family came to the United States, and settled in Randolph county, Illinois, where John Campbell, our subject, grew to manhood and received his education. There they were living when the Civil War broke out, on the 1st of August, 1862, John enlisted in the Eightieth Illinois Infantry, and went into service, being mustered in at Camp Centralia. He was in the front during all the balance of the war, and saw very hard and active service. He participated, besides many skirmishes, in about twenty-two pitched battles, the following being a list of the most important—Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Atlanta, Nashville, Franklin, Resace, Dallas, Pine Mountain, Rocky Face, Peach Tree Creek and others. Mr. Campbell served in the Army of the Cumberland. He was finally mustered out, July 10, 1865, near Nashville, Tennessee, but did not receive his discharge until July of that year. He then returned to Illinois, and a short time later came to Pope county, Minnesota, and settled in what is now Reno township. He was one of the earliest settlers here, there being only two or three in the township at that time. When he got here the first house in Sauk Center was just being erected. Game, including elk, deer, and even buffalo, was plenty. Times were hard during the first few years, as it was a long distance to the markets, and the settlers had to contend with many hardships and disadvantages. In 1866 Mr. Campbell hauled the lumber shingles for the first house erected in what is now Glenwood, which was built by Kinny & Lathrop. Indians were numerous in the early days, and would frequently call at the cabins of the pioneers for provisions. Upon his arrival Mr. Campbell first located a claim on sections 12 and 13, where he lived for six years. He then removed to a farm on sections 2 and 3. Four years later he went to Willmar, where he remained for two years running a meat market. At the expiration of that time he came back to Reno township, Pope County, and located on section 13, where he still lives. He now owns one of the best farms in the township, comprising 290 acres, a good share of which is under a high state of cultivation. In connection with farming he devotes a good deal of attention to stock-raising, and has a number of fine graded animals.

Mr. Campbell was married September 2, 1869, to Miss Mary E. McMillan, and they became the parents of eight children—Mary A., Anna J., Robert C., Agnes E., Martha E., James J., Francis L. and David H.