Joseph Marsh, Lieutenant, Co G 107 IL Infantry U.S.

1836 August 15: Joseph Marsh was born in Pickaway County, OH to John and Eliza Marsh.

1850 December 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Dewitt County, IL showed 15-year-old Joseph living with his parents and siblings. His father, John, was a farmer.

1858 October 31: Married Margaret A. Day in Dewitt County, IL.

1860 July 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Dewitt County, IL showed Joseph, a farmer and carpenter, living with his wife Margaret and his young son, George.

1862 August 6: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and was mustered in to Co. G 107 IL Infantry. His rank at enlistment was Sergeant.

1864 October 31: Promoted to Lieutenant.

November 30: Fought in the Battle of Franklin.

1865 June 21: Mustered out of the U.S. Army in Salisbury, NC with his regiment.

1868 Migrated to Ottawa, Kansas.

1869 November 19: Married Sarah K. Woods in Ottawa, Kansas.

1870 July 28: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin County, KS showed Joseph, a carpenter, living with his second wife Sarah and children.

1875 March 1: The Kansas State Census showed Joseph, a farmer, and his family living in Franklin County, KS.

1880 June 3: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Ottawa, Franklin County, KS showed Joseph, a farmer, and Sarah living with their children.

1889 September 3: The Ottawa Daily Republic, Ottawa, KS.

November 15: Bought a building from the Quenemo Hotel Co. and he opened the Marsh House Hotel.

1890 May 2: Applied for and was granted a pension for his military service.

1893 Marsh started a tradition that would last until he died. He held a Thanksgiving dinner honoring his and his comrades’ survival of the Battle of Franklin. The
dinners were actually changed to December 15-16 after a few years because too many people had schedule conflicts for Thanksgiving. Franklin was not the only battle Joseph Marsh experienced, but it did leave a lasting impact in his memory, which is clearly illustrated in the following newspaper articles.

November 25: The Ottawa Daily Republic, Ottawa, KS

Joe Marsh of the Marsh House attended Post last night. The boys wondered what brought him out, but found out when he got up and said that Thanksgiving evening was the 29th anniversary of the battle of Franklin, and in order to give thanks for his escape from destruction in that engagement, in the most fitting manner, he invited all old soldiers in the city to report at 8 o'clock sharp at the Marsh House for a Thanksgiving supper.
1900  June 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Ottawa, Franklin County, KS showed Joseph, a hotel keeper, and Sarah living at the hotel with eight of their children and many employees who lived on site.

1902  December 17: The Evening Herald, Ottawa, KS.

ITS RELATION TO THOMAS.
How The Local Post Is Associated With The General.

The date for the annual G. A. R. dinner, which is held on the anniversary of the battle of Nashville, is a peculiar coincident with the naming of the post. The annual dinner custom began in 1883, when Joseph Marsh invited the post to be his guests on Thanksgiving night. It so happened that that date was the anniversary of the battle of Franklin which occurred two weeks prior to Nashville and in which George H. Thomas was the commanding general. Thanksgiving night was the date for the dinner until three years ago when the veterans began to make plans to change the date of the annual affair owing to the press of social gatherings on Thanksgiving night. The suggestion of December the sixteenth was accepted as this was the date of the great battle in which General Thomas was engaged. The circumstance is all the more peculiar when it is recalled that the post was accidentally named the George H. Thomas order.

1905  November 13: The Evening Herald, Ottawa, KS.

All survivors of the battle of Franklin are requested to see, or send their names to Joseph Marsh at the Marsh house. This is important.

November 15: The Evening Herald, Ottawa, KS.
The Veterans' Annual Banquet December 16

George H. Thomas Post Will Observe Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Will Be Fourteenth Time the Grand Army Men Have Held Post Banquet.

The annual G. A. R. banquet will be held at the Marsh House on December 16. This will be, as usual, the anniversary of the battle of Franklin, an occasion it has been customary to honor in this manner. The battle really occupied the time of two days, December 15 and 16, and either date is utilized for banquet purposes here, as may be convenient. This will be the fourteenth year since the custom of holding a post banquet was inaugurated by Comrade Joseph Marsh who in 1892 gave the post a complimentary banquet. With one exception the succeeding banquets have been prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Marsh. The exception was in 1906 when the Ladies of the G. A. R. had charge of the function. Two years previous to that the banquet was annulled because of a smallpox scare.
1910 April 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Ottawa, Franklin County, KS showed Joseph, a hotel landlord, and Sarah living at the Marsh House Hotel with four of their children and many employees.

1911 May 16: The Evening Herald, Ottawa, KS.
JOSEPH MARSH IS DEAD

Was in Hotel Business Thirteen Years.

Apoplexy Seized Him While Engaged in a Checker Game—Once

G. A. R. Commander.

Joseph Marsh, proprietor of the Marsh House, and one of the very well known business men of Ottawa, died suddenly this afternoon in the hotel office. Mr. Marsh was apparently in good health this morning and ate a hearty dinner. After coming from the dining room, he sat down at a table in the office to play a game of checkers with a travelling salesman. Suddenly he began to gasp and his head fell backward. His daughter, Miss May Marsh, who was in the office at the time, and the travelling salesman rushed to his side but death had come. He was carried to a room and Dr. A. Huggart was called. He pronounced the cause of death as apoplexy. Death came at 1:30.

Uncle Joe Marsh as he was commonly called by all who knew him, was 72 years old and was born August 15, 1836, in Pickaway County, O. He came to Ottawa in 1868 and has conducted a hotel here for over 30 years. The hotel known as the Marsh House has been conducted by him for 22 years in the present location. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served almost four years in the army. He was a first lieutenant of the 347th Illinois Infantry, Company G. He was commander of the local G. A. R. Post for one term.

Mr. Marsh has been twice married and is survived by his last wife and eleven children. The children of the first marriage are Mrs. Robert Dillard, who lives in Nebraska, and George Marsh, who lives in Oklahoma.

The children by the second wife are Mrs. A. C. Maxson, Mmises Minnie and May Marsh, Charles, John and Mac Marsh, all of this city, Joseph Marsh of Kansas City, Mrs. J. B. Hamilton of Kansas City Kansas, and Mrs. J. A. King of Marceline, Mo. All of the children have been notified of the death and will probably be here by tonight or tomorrow. Mrs. King is visiting in Kansas City now with her sister, Mrs. Hamilton, and was at the Hamilton home when the telegram announcing her father's death came.

Mr. Marsh was married here Nov. 15, 1889, to Sarah E. Woods, who survives him. He bought the present Marsh house from the Quasemo Hotel Co., November 15, 1889. Formerly he was in the hotel business at the old North Ottawa Hotel building at Main and Tecumseh streets. Mr. Marsh came to Ottawa at the close of the war, and for a limited time plied his trade as a carpenter. Later he took up farming, locating on a farm on Eight Mile Creek, and then on one near Homewood. In the early eighties he entered the hotel business. He had planned to attend the G. A. R. reunion at Lawrence with his wife, and was to have left Ottawa this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The funeral arrangements have not yet been made.