William H. Zimmerman, Lieutenant, Co. F 81 IN Infantry U.S.

1838  December 22: Zimmerman was born to John and Abeline Zimmerman in Harrison County, IN.

1850  November 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Harrison County, IN showed 11-year-old Wm. H., living with his parents and siblings. His father, John, was a farmer.

1860  July 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Boone, Harrison County, IN showed Wm. H., a farm laborer, living with his parents and siblings. His father was a prosperous farmer owning $2,500 in real estate.

   “Zimmerman was educated in the public schools and the Corydon Seminary, and when eighteen years old began teaching school and was engaged in teaching when the Civil war broke out…”

1861  Zimmerman’s mother Abeline died.

   September 19: Married Sarah Jane Shreck in Harrison County, IN.

1862  August 19: Enlisted in the U.S. Army, mustered into Co. F 81 IN Infantry as a Sergeant.

1863  May 2: Promoted to a Lieutenant.

   “He was in the following engagements: Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, New Hope Church, Peach Tree and the series of engagements involved in the capture of Atlanta. He was in the campaign following Hood and was at the battles of Franklin and Nashville, then he went to Huntsville into winter quarters and from there to Knoxville, Tenn, and was at the latter place when the war ended and he was mustered out of service.”

   September: Fought at the Battle of Chickamauga.

   “Zimmerman was a good soldier and always did his duty well. He possessed courage and the rare combination of coolness, coupled with quick judgment and his ability was readily recognized by his superior officers. He was made second lieutenant the following May after his enlistment and shortly afterward was made first lieutenant, and before the war closed was promoted to captain. During his term of service he was in many hard-fought battles and several tight places, but always managed to get by. He had many narrow escapes and on only one occasion did he fail to escape and that was at the battle of Chickamauga when he was struck by a piece of shell and severely wounded.”

1864  November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.

1865  June 13: Mustered out of the U.S. Army at Camp Harker, TN.

1870  June 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Oxford, Johnson County, KS showed Wm., a farmer, and Sarah living with their children.

1889  November 6: Zimmerman applied for and was granted a military pension for his service during the war.

1900  June 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Olathe, Johnson County, KS showed William, a landlord, and Sarah living with their children.

1910  April 28: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Olathe, Johnson County, KS showed W.H. and Sarah retired and living on their own income. 

“Captain Zimmerman is independent in politics and puts good citizenship above any petty political creed. He has served as township trustee, is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Franklin Post no. 68 and the Masonic lodge.”1

1922  January 7: Zimmerman died. He was buried at the Olathe Memorial Cemetery in Johnson County, KS.

January 16: Sarah applied for and was granted a widows’ pension for her husbands’ military service.

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1 Blair, Ed, History of Johnson County, Kansas, Standard Publishing Company, New York City, 1915, pg.251-252 (All italicized quotes from this source.)
2 Photo from findagrave.com
3 The Olathe Register, Olathe, KS, Thursday 12 Jan 1922, pg. 1