

Clark County

Harsch, Thomas

(27 Jun 1844 - 25 Nov 1942)

Private, Co. C, 30th Illinois Inf mustered in 21 Oct 1864 at Quincy, IL. Mustered out 7 Aug 1865 in Springfield, IL. He is listed as a substitute for Luke Jackson Paroled Prisoner. Muster roll lists name as “Harsh”.

His occupation at the time of muster was as a farmer. After the war, he lived in rural Des Moines Township, Clark Co "most of life". Buried Wolf Cemetery.

From The Last Reunion, The Story of Clark County's Civil War Veterans, Book I - Gazette Herald June, 1940

Thos. Harsch, Civil War Vet – Celebrates 94th Birthday
St. Francisville – Thomas Harsch, St. Francisville’s oldest citizen and one of the oldest citizens and last remaining Civil War Veteran in Clark county, celebrated his 94th birthday at his home here, June 27th. He was born in Carrol county, Ohio, in 1846, and came to Warsaw, Illinois with his parents, Henry and Emma Harsch, when he was six years old. During the war he

served with the 30th ILL Infantry Co. C. If there are any other veterans living who belong to the same company Mr. Harsch would like to hear from them.

As the Yankees marched through the South they took delight in teasing the darkies who were left working in the fields. The darkies were afraid of them anyway, and they would further increase their fear by calling to them, “Come over and see the Yankee’s horns,” trying to make them believe the Yanks were devilish as reported.

One night they camped near a southern bayou. Fence rails made the fire for their coffee and water came from the near-by bayou. Coffee and hard tack was the menu, and a welcome one after a long day’s march. But next morning in daylight they discovered the bayou was the burial place of a number of dead horses so they thanked their stars that at least the water had been boiled in making the coffee.

Near Kingston, North Carolina, they engaged in a battle in the woods. They killed the enemy look out and crept silently through the forest in an effort to surprise the men in gray. Finally the officers, standing behind trees heard noises that led them to believe the Southerners were making a counter attack and called to their men, “Boys, I don’t know where they are, but they are coming. Lie down close to the ground.” The men obeyed, but come the Southerners did, under Gen. Forest, with such vengeance they took the northerners captive and led them off to Libby prison on the east coast.

Libby prison was an old tobacco house, sadly lacking in creature comforts, though swarming with small unwanted creatures, and much more fit for the storing of tobacco than storing prisoners. They slept on the floor and meals consisted of corn bread and beans twice a day, which was princely fare, as some of the southern soldiers in the ranks didn't even get that much at times.

At the end of a week, which Mr. Harsch thought was just a week too long, they were sent to Maryland. There they were ordered to bathe in in long wooden trough, like a horse trough, burn their old uniforms in order to cremate the unwanted small creatures. They were also given something to kill the nits to prevent any further unwelcome company and were issued new uniforms.

After spending some time in Maryland 4 prisoners were exchanged at one time, and they were sent to St. Louis. Here they were given a big feed. Coffee was served in enormous quart cups and bread was brought into camp in wagons with the sideboards on.

From St. Louis, Mr. Harch was allowed to come up river to Warsaw and finally was mustered out with an honorable discharge from Springfield, Illinois, in 1865.

When he left for the war two girls had given him something to remember them by, and it happened to be the same thing, a ring. They were gold rings with flowers engraved to form a set. While at Libby prison one of the Johnny rebs took a fancy to the rings and demanded "Yank, gimme that ring."

Now, Mr. Harsch had his preference between the two girls so he was careful to give the Johnny the ring given him by the girl he liked the less. And when he returned to Warsaw he wooed and won the other girl who had given him a ring. Mary Case, and married her in September, 1865.

In those days not even a license was required so all they needed to do was just find a justice of the peace. After their marriage they went to housekeeping on a farm in Clark Co., and Mr. Harsch has lived in the county ever since, 75 years, which is longer than some who spend their entire lifetime in the county.

Mrs. Harsch died several years ago, but Mr. Harsch continues to live in their old home here. His memory is clear and he retains his other faculties to a remarkable degree for his age.

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S. No. 2
8-4-13-40
I. 5-17-39
I. 233199

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Missouri State Board of Health
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Filed Dec 11 1942
Registration District No. 5275
State File No. 52
Registrar's No. 52

23
00

WRITE PLAINLY—USE UNFADING BLACK INK—MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD

1. PLACE OF DEATH: Clark
(a) County
(b) City or town Rural Des Moines
(c) Name of hospital or institution
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution
In this community: Most of Life
3. (a) PRINT FULL NAME: Thomas Harsch
(b) If veteran, name war: Civil
(c) Social Security No.
4. Sex: Male Color of hair: White Color of eyes: Blue
(b) Name of husband or wife: Mrs. Thomas Harsch
6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced, widowed
(b) Name of husband or wife if all deceased
7. Birth date of deceased: June 27, 1842
8. AGE: 98 Years 3 Months 28 Days
9. Birthplace: Ohio
10. Usual occupation: Retired Farmer
11. Industry or business
12. Name: Henry Harsch
13. Birthplace: Ohio
14. Maiden name: Nancy Richardson
15. Birthplace: Ohio
16. (a) Informant: Mrs. Sam Anderson
(b) Address: Waverly, Mo.
17. (a) Place of burial or cremation: Wolf Cemetery
(b) Date thereof: Nov 27 1942
(c) Place of burial or cremation: Wolf Cemetery
18. (a) Signature of funeral director: Waverly
(b) Address: 12-2-42
(c) Signature of registrar: Perry J. Barton

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State: Missouri (b) County: Clark
(c) City or town: Rural - Des Moines
(d) Street No.
(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.?
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. DATE OF DEATH: Month: Nov day: 25 year: 1942 hour: 10 minute: 40 A.M.
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Nov 25 to Nov 25 1942
that I last saw alive on Nov 25 1942 and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.
IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH: CHRONIC NEPHRITIS
Due to:
Due to:
Other conditions: Senility
Major findings:
Of operations:
Of autopsy:
22. If death was due to external cause, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify)
(b) Date of occurrence
(c) Where did injury occur?
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place?
While at work:
23. Signature: J. P. McQuinn
Address: Revenue-MO Date signed: 11-30-42

**Dowell,
William H.**
(16 Jun 1846
- 5 Sep 1942)
born
Zanesville,
OH. Buried
at Quincy IL.
Lived in
Madison

Township, Clark Co, MO. No Unit Identified.

McCoy, Charles (6 Aug 1846 - 20 Sep 1935). Co. E, 7th Iowa Inf. Sands Cemetery.