Nicholas Henry Marschall was born May 6th, 1894, in Vermillion, Dakota County, Minnesota. His father was Heinrich (Henry) R. Marschall, who was born in Germany in July of 1867 and died when Nicholas was about 7 years old in 1901. Nicholas’s mother was Mary A. Klotz Marschall, who was born in Germany in about 1874 and died in 1928. Prior to his war service, Nicholas worked as a bank clerk at the First National Bank and a cashier at the Mendota State Bank.

Nicholas registered for the draft on June 5th, 1917 in Rosemount, Dakota County, Minnesota. He was inducted into service on June 15th, 1918, as a private of the National Army. He trained at the training detachment of the University of Minnesota before being transferred to Camp Sherman in Chillicothe, Ohio. Nicholas was then stationed at Camp Sherman and Camp Mills, New York in August, and September of 1918. He served in Company C of the 327th Machine Gun Battalion, 84th Division. He was deployed overseas via the H.M.S. Orita, departing from Quebec, Canada September 3rd, 1918. The Orita arrived in Liverpool, England September 16th, 1918. From the fall of 1918 to the spring of 1919, Nicholas served with the 29th Machine Gun Company in France. In February 1919, Nicholas was promoted to Private 1st Class. He arrived back to the United States at Hoboken, New Jersey on May 14th, 1919. He was discharged from service at Camp Dodge, Iowa on May 27th, 1919.

After the war, Nicholas returned to Vermillion to live with his mother and grandmother. He went back to work as a bank clerk. On June 17th, 1921, Nicholas married Agatha E. Matsch. They went on to have six children: John W., Elizabeth Joan, Patricia Margaret, Anne Marie, Mary Lou, and James Bernard. In the mid-1930s, Nicholas and his family moved to Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota. Nicholas was elected County Auditor for Dakota County in 1934. He was a beloved and active member of his community and served in multiple local organizations such as St. John’s Society of Vermillion, the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion. He was also active in amateur baseball and helped establish the Dakota County Baseball League. In early 1939, Nicholas began to suffer from chronic illness which progressively worsened. He went on sick leave in December 1939 and his health went into rapid decline. He passed away on February 2nd, 1940, of anemia and kidney complications. His popularity in the community was such that, Hastings closed local businesses and government offices during his funeral. His death made the front-page news in both the Hastings Gazette and the South St. Paul Daily Reporter. Nicholas was laid to rest at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery in Hastings, Minnesota.