



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### August A. Apple

August was born on August 9, 1845, son of Johannes and Anna Appel of Lardenbach, Germany. His mother died when August was only a week old. August was the eighth child born to the family. His father soon remarried and two years later, when August was 2, the family left for America on the ship, *Marianne*. Less than a month after arriving in the United States, the family was settling down on land near Arenzville, in Cass County, Illinois.

The family spelled their name Appel, the German way, when they came to the US, but every record of August's military service spelled the name Apple. It may have been the Army's way of making it sound more American or perhaps just bad spelling.

The battle at Bull Run was still in the headlines when August signed his enlistment papers with the 34th Illinois Infantry on August 10, 1861. It was one day after his 16th birthday. He was assigned to Company G where he served as a private throughout his service. The descriptive roll showed him to be 5' 8" tall, with blue eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion. His occupation was farming.

August was with his company during the battle at Shiloh and the march on Corinth. The May/June muster roll for the 38th showed August in the hospital at Tusculumbia, Alabama on June 20.

He recovered and was with his regiment at the battle at Murfreesboro, Tennessee on December 31, 1862. Then August turned up missing. He had been captured during the battle and was held by the Confederates in prison at Richmond. Through prisoner exchanges and paroles, August returned to his regiment on February 6, 1863. He had spent a little over a month as a guest of the Confederacy.

August remained with the 34th Illinois and continued to serve until November 21, 1863, when he was detailed to the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. He served as part of the artillery until January 6, 1864, when he went back to his regiment in time to reenlist. The 34th was veteranizing and any man who agreed to reenlist was given a 30 day furlough and a \$100 bounty. August decided to reenlist and went home to Illinois with the other men who had signed up for another three years. With travel time, the men were gone from the front until March 7th. Upon their return, they were assigned to General Sherman's army that was as determined to take the city of Atlanta, Georgia, as the Confederates were not to let them have it. Many battles were fought in the relatively short distance between Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. It was during the siege of Atlanta that the Confederates once again invited Private Apple to join them.



August was captured on August 13, 1864, near Atlanta and sent to Salisbury, North Carolina. This time, his stay with Confederate captors was six months long. He was paroled at Akens Lodge, Virginia, on February 24, 1865, but the long spell of captivity took its toll on August's health. He was sent to the U.S. General Hospital at Madison, Indiana, where he died on April 13, 1865. The cause of death was noted as typhoid fever. He was laid to rest in the New Albany National Cemetery in Floyd County, Indiana, grave #1054.

*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. Visit our website at <http://www.2mnbattery.org> for more information about our soldiers and our organization.*

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