



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### John Mason Arnold

Born in Penobscot County, Maine, on August 1, 1827, John was a well-educated man according to records. He married Orrendo Woodworth on March 24, 1849, in Maine. By the time they moved to Minnesota, there were two children.

The family came to Minnesota in 1855, and took a claim they stayed for seven years. Two more children were added to the family before John enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery on February 21, 1862. The occupation noted on his records was “doctor.” He was 5 feet, 7½ inches tall, had blue eyes, light hair and a light complexion.

John served for just a few days over a year when he was discharged for disability due to chronic diarrhea and typhoid fever. It was claimed that he contracted this illness on the march from Holly Springs to Nashville. His discharge papers indicate he was owed pay due as a hospital nurse and had served in that capacity since May of 1862.

After his discharge, John returned to Minnesota and shortly after moved to Martin County, where they stayed for five years. John then moved the family—which had grown to include eight children—to Elmore where John took a job teaching in Faribault County schools, his occupation for the next 57 years. He was a member of the Methodist Church and taught Sunday School for many years.

On March 24, 1899, John and Orrendo celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, something John was very proud of. On his application for pension, he made special note that they had already celebrated that milestone and thought that a “golden wedding is good proof” of his marriage.

Orrendo preceded John in death by 19 years. According to a line in his obituary, she died from gasoline burns, but no details are known.



John applied for a pension and his claim was denied. The Pension Examiner concluded that the deafness and disease John suffered had been “incurred prior to his enlisting in” the army. John wrote an eloquent, but heated, letter to the Department of Pensions stating he could prove without any doubt that he was a sound man when he enlisted. The case may never have been reopened as no further paperwork is found on John’s application for a pension.

John was just over a month short of his 91st birthday when he died on June 29, 1918. He was buried beside his wife in Riverside Cemetery, Blue Earth City, Faribault County, Minnesota.

*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.*

Updated: 16 March 2017