



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Alexander Baldwin

Alexander joined the Second Battery on August 25, 1864, at Taylors Falls, Minnesota. He wasn't too far from home when he enlisted, his parents were living in Alma, Wisconsin, in 1860. At that time, Alexander lived with them, as did his two sisters. By 1864 when he enlisted, Alex was married and living in Taylors Falls.

For a pledge to serve one year, Alexander was paid a bounty of \$33.33 with a balance due him of \$66.67. Alexander said he was 23 years old, born in Colchester, Canada. He had blue eyes, sandy hair, a light complexion and stood 5' 6" tall. He was a farmer.

Private Baldwin left little mark on the Battery's rolls. He was never detailed to special duty, never promoted or charged with mischief, never requested leave. He simply served out his time and was discharged on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling when the Battery was mustered out.

Not much more is recorded about the remainder of his life. His wife was Aurelia Parrish Lovejoy and they were married on November 16, 1862. They had five children and lived on a farm in Amador, Chisago County, Minnesota, until at least 1880. At some point, Alexander went to the state of Washington where he worked at logging. An accident there took his right eye when it was hit by a knob on a branch as he was trimming a fir log.

Alexander went to Wisconsin and was living there in 1894 when he filed for a veteran's pension. His disabilities included the lost eye and described the other as nearly sightless because of cataracts.

By 1895, Alexander was living in Shell Lake, Wisconsin, and there is no longer any mention of his wife. There is no trace of Alex for the next ten years until he appeared on the listing of Soldiers and Sailors living in Wisconsin in 1905. Alex was then living in Oshkosh. He disappears again until the 1910 census. He was living in the Dunn County Asylum in Dunn, Wisconsin. How long Alexander was living there is unknown, but he did not remain there long after the census was taken. Alex died on June 16, 1910. He was laid to rest in the Asylum Cemetery in Red Cedar Township. None of the Asylum graves were ever marked.



It is not known who or how Alex's veteran's status was recorded, but in 1934, Alex was disinterred from the Asylum cemetery and moved into Menomonie's Evergreen cemetery to be reburied in the Grand Army plot. This plot is the first section of the cemetery in front of the only gate into it as the cemetery is on a tiny island. Guarding the graves of the veterans is a large zinc statute of a Civil War infantry man, placed in 1901 by the Women's Relief Corps of Wisconsin.

Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2nd 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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