



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Lamont Bartholomew

Lamont was the father half of the only father-son pair to serve in the Second Minnesota Battery.

Lamont decided to enlist in the Second Minnesota Battery only a couple weeks after his son, George, enlisted. The army life did not last long for Lamont. He was mustered in on February 20, 1862. He said on his enlistment papers that he was 45 years old, but the 1860 census had his age at 50 years. Perhaps Lamont “fudged” his age a little as he enlisted, but it did catch up to him.

He was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, but his own stories make it hard to know just when. He brought his family to Minnesota prior to the Civil War and settled in the southeastern part of the state. Lamont stood 5' 10 3/4" tall, had hazel eyes, light hair and a light complexion. He was married and had grown children when he enlisted.

Lamont's age probably didn't help his career in the army as he was discharged for disability after serving just ten months. Two dates are given on his discharge papers--December 25, 1862, and July 14, 1863. Most information indicates the December date is the correct one. His discharge papers stated that there was “no hope of any improvement in his physical ability while in the service, his disability is supposed to have been induced by necessary exposure while on duty. He has always been a good soldier.”

While Captain Hotchkiss said Lamont was always a good soldier, he did make a special note on the discharge papers to say, “I believe him to be much older than above represented”. A more detailed description of Lamont's disability said that he was suffering with pneumonia and diarrhea during the previous two months. Lamont returned to Minnesota, his farm and his family.

Lamont and Betsey Leonard had been married in Ohio on December 11, 1834. They had at least four children. Those four moved to Minnesota with them and three lived near Lamont and Betsey after they moved to Blue Earth City, Faribault County, in 1863. George and his family also lived nearby for a time.

On December 26, 1865, an article appeared in the Blue Earth City newspaper, *The Advocate*.

*“A man named Bartholomew, who resides near the city, about 60 years of age, met with an awful death one day last week. In moving a small frame building he fell before it and was crushed.”*



The full story was told in the pension claim filed by Betsey. Lamont was helping to move a frame building that had been used as a barn from southeast of town into the city. The building had been moved about six rods from the original foundation and then stopped. There were two teams of two horses pulling the building, Lamont managing one team. The building started forward again and went only about another rod when shouts rose to stop. The ground over which the building was being moved had been plowed and was very rough, frozen, and covered with snow. Lamont slipped and the moving building crushed him. He was killed instantly.

Lamont's records indicated he died December 20, 1865. He is buried with a military marker in Riverside Cemetery, lot 23, East Grove #2, Blue Earth City, Faribault County, Minnesota. Betsey is buried beside him.

*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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