



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Lewis Monroe Beers

Lewis Beers was 22 years old when he enlisted in the Battery on September 2, 1864. He enlisted in Rochester for one year. Though he enlisted for three years, his actual time of service turned out to be much less. Lewis served less than six months with the Battery before his death. On February 16, 1865, the Battery's morning report noted that Lewis Beers had died at the hospital in Chattanooga from "congestion of the brain". Captain Hotchkiss said Beers was dead less than 48 hours after he first complained of not feeling well.

Lewis left behind his wife, Elizabeth, and three little girls: Carrie, age three years; Hattie, age 18 months; and Lizzie, born a month after her father died. The loss of their father was not the end of sadness for these little girls. Their mother died July 29, 1865. Their care fell to a guardian by the name of William Robert and it was he who petitioned for a pension for them.

The Beers family had come to Minnesota in 1862 from Middlebury, Pennsylvania, where Carrie was born. Hattie and Lizzie were both born at Carmonia, Minnesota. Lewis left no indication as to why he enlisted, though his services would have been highly prized by the Battery. He was a blacksmith and served as an artificer for the Battery. The bounty of \$100 Lewis received may have been additional incentive for enlisting. Lewis, though only serving a few months, had already been promoted to corporal by the time of his death.

The Battery's descriptive role shows Lewis born in New York. He was 5' 1/2" tall, had gray eyes, brown hair and a light complexion.

Lewis was laid to rest at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. This National Cemetery was created by special order of General George Thomas following the battle at Chickamauga. Thomas did not want the cemetery divided by state with men from each state being buried together as many other National Cemeteries did. Thomas believed the men were fighting to keep the Union one nation and he wanted no state divisions. His order was followed and the men lie at rest beside their comrades from all over the nation.

Members of the Second Minnesota Battery reenactors visited the grave of Lewis Beers in September of 1999. They were dismayed to find there had been a mistake on the original stone, the state name being Missouri rather than Minnesota. This error was brought to the attention of the cemetery caretakers and a check of the records indicated that it was indeed just a mistake on the stone. The records held by the cemetery showed Lewis as serving from Minnesota. The staff at the cemetery were gracious and promised to order a new, corrected stone that very day.



In 2003, reenacting Battery members were again at Lewis' grave and were pleased to find a new stone with Lewis' rank and correct home state.

While it may never be known if Lewis is resting easier as a result of a correction that took 135 years to make, but those researching his life will!

*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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