



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Andrew Bergman

Andrew, or Anders as he was also known, was born in Stavonex, Sweden, on September 20, 1821. He and his wife, Annie, came to Minnesota in 1852, and settled in Red Wing, Goodhue County. The wedding certificate of Andrew and Annie noted him to be a journeyman shoemaker in Sweden at the time of their marriage on December 26, 1843. It was a profession he would continue in their new homeland of Minnesota.

Andrew decided to serve his adopted country by enlisting in the Second Battery as it was being formed in February of 1862. He was already 41 years old when he enlisted, but he was accepted. He was a blond, blue eyed, Swede who stood 5' 4 ½" tall. He left Annie at home in Red Wing when he went to enlist at Fort Snelling.

The military life did not last long for Andrew. He was discharged for disability at the hospital in Keokuk, Iowa, on October 3rd, 1862, having served only about 7 months. The reasons for his discharge were "valvular disease of heart, causing great dyspnea, also thickening of ligaments of left hip joint, also has chronic diarrhoea, with general disability. Disease originated since enlistment."

Andrew went back to Red Wing and Annie. By 1870, he was running a boarding house and had a sizable taxable property value, listed at over \$6000. A domestic servant lived with the Bergman family that included one daughter, age 16.

Neighbors later said Andrew suffered from pains and stiffness that they believed stemmed from the heart disease he contracted in the Army as he had been healthy before joining. Andrew died on August 22, 1872, at the age of 51. The cause of death listed as "Rheumatism".

Red Wing continued to be Andrew's home as he was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, section A. His obituary noted that "one of the civil societies" attended his funeral "as a body".

Annie applied for his pension as his widow and did not list any children on the application, but Mary was likely not included on the pension application because she was 18 years old at the time of her father's death. It is possible Annie could not read—or at least not read in English--as she made her mark rather than signing her name on the application.



*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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