



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Melchoir Blesi

"The undersigned Peter Blesi Guardian of Melchoir Blesi do hereby give permission that he may enlist in the volunteer Service of the United States."

Peter's signature and the signatures of two witnesses conclude the note that paved the way for 20 year old Melchoir Blesi to join the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery on January 6, 1862. He was one of the early recruits in the Battery.

Melchoir was born in Switzerland. He probably came to Minnesota with other immigrants from Switzerland to settle in the area of Hennepin County then known as New Schwanden. It lay just west of Champlin and the tiny community was heavily settled by Swiss immigrants in the 1850s.

He was single, working as a farmer, probably for his father. Melchoir was 5' 1-1/4" tall with blue eyes, light hair and light complexion.



The Battery Melchoir joined was accepted in the service of the United States in March and they moved south in May. Melchoir served in the Battery as a private until he was taken to the hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 26, 1862. He died in that hospital a few days later. One source says he died of typhoid fever, another source states inflammation of the brain as the cause of death.

His body was not returned to his family in Minnesota. Instead, he was buried in the Nashville National Cemetery, grave 6913.

A memorial in St. Fridolin's Cemetery in New Schwanden was erected in honor of all who have fallen in war -- including Melchoir Blesi.

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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