



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Edward Bloomfield



Edward Bloomfield was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, on October 8, 1839, and moved to Minnesota in 1861. He was 5' 7-1/2" tall, and hazel eyes, black hair and a dark complexion. His occupation was a tanner.

Edward enlisted from St. Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota, in August of 1862. It is believed he enlisted with his brother, Richard. Both men were born in the same place, enlisted together, had similar descriptions, and a line in Richard's obituary notes that Richard, his brother and father all served in the army during the war. Edward and Richard both served with the Second Battery.

Edward was wounded through the left lung at the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862. While he recovered from the wound, other illness began to take their toll on Edward. In the hospital at Nashville, he was treated for "a sort of malarial" illness. This caused his teeth to fall out and began to affect his eyesight. He transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps in July of 1864 and served until the end of the war when he was discharged in 1865.

After the war, Edward moved to Melrose, Minnesota, and ran an elevator for many years. He married Sarah J. Caughren and they had three children. Sarah died in 1904; son Harry died young; and daughter Bessie died in 1920. The other Bloomfield daughter, Gracie, married August J. Hesse of St. Paul and was the only one to survive her father.

Edward was active in the community, being a member of the Odd Fellows, the Masonic Order, Patriarchs Militant, Rebekah Lodge and was a past grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of the Odd Fellows.



In 1910, Edward went to the Soldier's Home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He died there at the age of 87 years on May 22, 1927. He was the last surviving member of the G.A.R. post at Willmar, Minnesota.

He was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Sauk Center, Stearns County, Minnesota, beside his wife and daughter. His grave went unmarked until October of 2002 when a Veteran's Administration marker was placed for him by the local veteran's organizations and the Second Minnesota Battery of Reenactors.



Sauk Center Herald

May 26, 1927

Edward Bloomfield, Age 90, Died at Soldier's Home

Buried Beside Wife and Daughter at Greenwood Cemetery Wednesday Afternoon.

Edward G. Bloomfield, Civil War Veteran and a member of the Odd Fellow lodge of Sauk Center for 60 years, passed away at the Soldier's Home, Minneapolis, Monday, aged 90 years. He was born in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1837 and came to Minnesota in 1861. In 1862 he enlisted in the Second Minnesota battery and was wounded in the battle of Stone Ridge (River), five months later. After the war he lived in Melrose until 1910, when he went to the Soldier's Home.

Mr. Bloomfield is the last surviving member of the G.A.R. Post at Willmar.

Mr. Bloomfield married a sister of the late James A. Caughren. She passed on about 10 years ago. A daughter, Miss Bessie, died about six years ago. The only surviving member of the family is a daughter, Mrs. A.J. Hesse of St. Paul.

The deceased for many years operated an elevator in Melrose, but had many old friends in this city.

The funeral was held in St. Paul Wednesday morning and the remains were brought to this city where they were laid to rest beside those of his wife and daughter in Greenwood Cemetery. The simple and beautiful service of the Odd Fellows was used at the grave.

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.

Updated: 28 April 2019