



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Richard Davis Bloomfield

Richard born in Newbergh, Orange County, New York, January 25, 1837. He was 5' 7-1/2" tall, with black eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion. He began working as a clerk in a store when he came to St. Cloud about 1860.

Late in the summer of 1862, Richard left St. Cloud and went to Anoka to enlist. He was mustered into the Battery on August 13, 1862, and was due \$100 in bounty. He enlisted on the same day as Edward Bloomfield, believed to be his brother. They both served with the Second Minnesota Battery. It was noted in Richard's obituary that their father also served in the Union Army.

Richard enlisted in the Battery as a private, but was promoted to corporal on June 16, 1864. He was detailed to the Quartermaster Department on December 3, 1864, but was reduced in rank to private on January 13, 1865, while he was still with the Quartermaster Department. His records note the rank change was at his own request. He continued to be detailed to the QM until the last day of April, 1865. The morning report for the Battery showed Richard absent without leave on May 6th, and again detailed to the Quartermaster Department.

In May of 1864, a news article in the *St. Cloud Democrat* noted that Richard and another man from the Battery, Albert Gowdy, were home on furlough. It went on to state that Richard had been "engaged in the Ordnance Department at Gen. J.C. Davis' headquarters for almost a year past." It also stated that Richard was the "well known correspondent from the Army of the Cumberland, 'Dixie.'" This may be referring to a series of articles published in the newspaper with news and stories from the war written by a person who signed their name simply as Dixie. The conclusion of the article thanked Richard for "the ten pounder shell that was thrown by the Second Battery at the Battle of Chickamauga, and was afterwards picked up by him from the ground on which the Rebels stood." Considering the Battery was pulled back from the field where they fought at Chickamauga before the battle was over and they remained in Chattanooga for several months after the battle, it seems unlikely Richard could have identified a shell the Battery had fired at the enemy, but it did make for a great story.

Richard was mustered out with the Battery in August of 1865. He served a few days over three years and kept his knapsack after he was mustered out.

After the war, Richard returned to Minnesota and St. Cloud. He married Nellie Whittenmore on November 9, 1869. They had two daughters. The family lived in St. Cloud until 1872 when they moved to Willmar in Kandiyohi County. In 1882, they moved to St. Paul and were living in the Hamline area. During these years, Richard worked in several capacities for the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad and later became the purchasing agent for the Consolidated Electric Railways of St. Paul and Minneapolis. In 1900, Richard left St. Paul for Tacoma, Washington, and began working as a claim agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Richard's family followed him to Tacoma in 1902. Richard worked as the district Claim Agent for the rest of his life.



In 1905, Richard filed for a pension. On it, he declared that he had no identifying marks or scars on his body “except a mole mark on my back at the shoulder blade”.

Richard died on December 16, 1906. His obituary focused on his military service noting that he “was in all the battles in which the ‘Fighting Second’ was engaged.” Richard was buried in the Tacoma Cemetery, Pierce County, Washington. Nellie survived Richard and was living in Los Angeles, California, when she was receiving her widow’s pension.

*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.*

Updated: 15 August 2017