



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

James William Boardman

James came to Minnesota from his birthplace in Niagara County, New York, and began farming in Utica, Winona County. When the call came for men to serve in a second battery of artillery being formed in Minnesota in January of 1862, James enlisted. He was 29 years old, stood 5' 8" tall, had hazel eyes, light hair, and light complexion.

Joining the army may have provided some conflict for James as his wife, Mary, had been born in Virginia. The two were married on October 28, 1856. If Mary had family, they could have had Confederate sympathies, but no mention is made of it in James' records. The couple had no children when James enlisted, but after the war, their family grew to include six children.

James went south with the Battery and served through the marches and battles until the Battery was involved in the battle at Stones River, Tennessee, on December 31, 1862. What happened is unclear, but James' name was recorded among those killed in the Battery. His name was dropped from the Battery's muster role as a casualty.

This, however, was incorrect. James had not been killed, but captured at Stones River. He was taken to Richmond where he was held until January 16, 1863. Prisoner exchanges were going on and James was exchanged at City Point, Virginia, on February 3rd. When he reported in to Camp Parole, he was sick with the mumps. He was then sent to Benton Barracks, Missouri, where he reported in on March 11. Eventually, James made it back to the Battery, his name returned to the muster sheets and he continued to serve with them. He reenlisted when the Battery veteranized in March of 1864 and went home on a veteran's furlough.

In the summer of 1864, James was working with the Battery's mules when one of the animals fell, injuring James' ankle. This injury would be the basis for his pension claim when James filed in 1891.

James was mustered out with the Battery on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling. He went home to Winona County and continued farming. In 1868, James and another man, William Luark, took out a mortgage for \$563 against nearly 200 acres of land in Winona County. What they planned or what went wrong is unknown, but the land was sold on the courthouse steps by the sheriff's auction in 1876. The men had not made their mortgage payments, so the mortgage was foreclosed. James may well have been investing in land around the county as in 1876, he sold some property he owned in the community of Hart to L. G. Boardman for \$100. It is unknown if there was a connection between the two, but there likely was since they shared the same last name.

What James did in the next years is unknown. The 1890 Veteran's census listed John living in Arbuckle, Mason County, West Virginia. No disability was listed and the notes portion stated that James could not remember the details of his service. John and Mary were still living in Mason County, West Virginia, when John filed for a pension. It was there that James died on January 8, 1897. No further information has been found about his final resting place.

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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