



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Miles A. Brown

"I, Asa Brown, of Cold Spring, Stearns Co., Minnesota, do certify that I am the Father of Miles A. Brown; that the said Miles A. Brown is Nineteen (19) years of age; and I do hereby freely give my consent to his enlisting as a soldier in the Army of the United States, for the period of three years or during the war--Asa Brown".

The note of permission, witnessed by William Kinkead who also served in the Second Battery, allowed Miles Brown to join the army. Miles signed his enlistment papers in Anoka on the 19th of August, 1862. His descriptive roll noted his height at 5' 8" tall. He had blue eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion.

Miles caught up with the Battery as it was marching through Tennessee on their way into Kentucky and he was with the Battery when they fought in the battle at Perryville, Kentucky. Miles was engaged in that battle on October 8, 1862.

On December 9th, he was sent to Hospital No. 4 at Nashville, Tennessee, and then on to the Convalescent Barracks about the 3rd of January. It was from the Convalescent Barracks on January 20th that Miles obtained a pass to go, as he requested, "to the front". The front at that time was near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where the Second Battery had been fighting.

Miles was never heard from again. The official reports simply say, "Since which he has not been heard from, It is believe he has deserted." Officially, Miles was carried on the Battery's rolls until April 9th when he was declared a deserter and his name removed.

Why Miles left or where he went is unclear, as is how he managed to enlist in a Minnesota artillery unit. Census records provide evidence that Miles was still living in Indiana in 1860 and no records of him in Minnesota have been found other than enlistment records. Records do show that Miles had a brother named Charles Bond Brown living in LeRoy, Minnesota. Did Miles enlist impulsively while he was visiting his brother in Minnesota and later regret his decision, leading to desertion? It is unlikely that question will ever be answered.

By 1870, Miles was living in New Lots, Kings County, New York. He married Emma Louise Smith on October 30, 1876, and the couple soon began a family. Their first child, Miles Elton, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1879. They added two daughters before their family was complete. In 1910, the census showed Miles and his wife had moved. They were living Hartford, Connecticut. Ten years later, their home was in West Hoboken, New Jersey. Emma died in 1921 while they were living in Weehawken, Hudson, New Jersey.

It is likely Miles then went to live near his son, who went by the name Elton, as both were living in Jamaica, Queens County, New York, on the probate papers filed to clear up Miles' estate after he died on January 22, 1926. Elton was the executor of the estate, but only one daughter was listed in Miles' will.

The estate Miles left was valued at just over \$6,000, but he owed money for a mortgage and his final expenses, leaving only about \$1,000 left when all was settled.

Where Miles was laid to rest is unknown as no records yet found have provided the location of his 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.

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