



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Peter Campbell

The census of 1860 showed Peter living with another family, a family he probably worked for. The John Mounts family was living in the township of Anoka in Anoka County, Minnesota in 1860, and John was listed as a shoe manufacturer. Peter was a shoe maker, so the relationship is an obvious one. Peter said he was born in New Brunswick, Canada, that he was 29 years old.

What happened between John and Peter is unknown, but the September 14, 1861, Anoka Star newspaper carried an ad that said, "Look Here -- New Shoe Shop." The ad was signed Peter Campbell. The text of the ad said:

"Opposition is the life of business. I have spread my kit once more and am prepared to make and repair all kinds of boots and shoes cheaper and better than any other place in town." It went on to provide the location for Peter's shop.



The shop did not stay open for long as Peter enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery on January 11, 1862. He it is likely he was recruited by Albert Woodbury, a well-known man in Anoka and who would become the lieutenant in the Battery, due in large part to his recruiting efforts.

The descriptive roll said Peter was born in Calais, Maine, that he was 35 years old, and had a light complexion, blue eyes and light hair. Perhaps the physical description was correct as none of the other information matches what Peter told the 1860 census taker two years earlier.

Peter went south with the Battery and served with them until he was thrown from the top of a caisson while it was underway in September of 1862. He broke his left ankle and right shoulder. Peter was discharged on December 16, 1862 and went back to Minnesota. He told the army that he would be going to Fond du Lac in Minnesota, and mail could be addressed to him there.

It is the last record found for Peter.

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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