



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Ashel V. Caswell

Ashel was living and working on a farm in La Crescent, Winona County, Minnesota, with a number of others in his household according to the 1860 census. This census does not provide relationships and the members of Ashel's household leave many questions. Ashel is the head of the house, age 20. Mary, possibly his wife, is 19, also born in Canada. There are four children ages 13, 9, 5 and 2. The first three were born in Illinois, the last, possibly Ashel and Mary's daughter, was born in Minnesota. All share the last name of Caswell.

The census shows Ashel owned his property with a taxable value of \$150. He had another \$75 of taxable value in personal property. He was not moved to be one of those eager to enlist and remained on his farm until the draft rendezvous of the late summer in 1864. La Crescent is right on the border with Houston County, a county that was heavily recruited during that draft.

Ashel enlisted as a private in the Second Minnesota Battery on September 2, 1864. His descriptive roll said he was born in Canada, was 25 years old, stood 5' 7" tall with brown eyes, dark hair and complexion. He agreed to serve one year and was given a bounty of \$100, \$33.33 of which he was paid right away. Though the family lived in La Crescent, Ashel's enlistment was in New Hartford and credited to Houston County.

Little is known of Ashel's life as no records tell of his discharge. The next record is the 1870 census where Ashel and Mary are living in Pleasant Mound, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Two children are listed in the household, one at 3 years old, one at 9/12ths.

The 1880 census lists an Ashel Caswell, but few details match with the life of the man who served in the Battery. If it was the man from the Battery, he was in Otter Tail County, Minnesota, but it seems unlikely.

It is the last reference found for Ashel.

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: 6 June 2019