



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Abner B. Cole

Abner was born in Livermore, Maine, on April 15, 1832. He was living near Boston, Massachusetts, in 1859 when he married Julia P. Macomber. At that time, he was working as a conductor. It wasn't long before Abner and Julia moved west to live in St. Francis, Anoka County, Minnesota. The 1860 census showed them to have a real estate value of \$300 and a personal estate worth \$200. This was their farm and farm equipment.

Abner probably knew Albert Woodbury as Woodbury had business interests in St. Francis, so when Woodbury came recruiting, Abner agreed to enlist. Woodbury was home from the Battery on a recruiting mission. Abner received a \$25 bounty for enlisting. The descriptive roles put Abner as 5' 9" tall, with blue eyes, light hair, and a fair complexion.

The Battery was already in the south when Abner joined on August 11, 1862. He arrived just in time to march with the Battery into Kentucky and fight in the battle at Perryville. Abner was promoted to corporal on April 11, 1863, and continued to serve. When the Battery began veteranizing--reenlisting--in the spring of 1864, Abner decided not to reenlist. Three years was enough for him, so while the Minnesota Battery went home on their veteran's furlough, Abner served with the Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery. Abner's time was up at the end of that summer and he left the army.

Abner and Julia didn't remain in Minnesota very long. By 1866, they were living in Toledo, Ohio. By 1880, they had three children and Abner was working as a grocery and wood dealer. They also had boarders; one married couple and three other people. Julia described some of the property they owned as a "double house" located on Broadway in Toledo. The Cole family lived in a single house on the same street.

Coughs and lung problems plagued Abner and the pension application Julia filed after his death blamed this on his time in the army. A doctor who had treated Abner for numerous ailments through the years backed up her claim.

Abner died on December 12, 1898, and was laid to rest in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo.

Julia stated Abner left a \$7,000 life insurance policy of which she received \$6,000. She spent this in paying off his last debts from illness, and making improvements to the property that was rented--her only income save what her son gave her for watching the office at his business. She also made it clear to the Pension Department that the property was hers, not Abner's, and it had not been his before his death, either. She owned the single house they lived in, the double house, and a storage house.



Julia died in 1908 and joined Abner in Woodlawn. They lie together with a tall, obelisk marker trimmed in ivy.



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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