



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John Coleman

John left very few records behind to trace his life. He was born in Ireland about 1838. He enlisted to serve in the Second Minnesota Battery at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on May 25, 1863. The muster sheet put John at 5' 9" tall, blue eyes, brown hair and fair complexion. He told the officer in charge that his occupation was that of "soldier."

It is unclear how John was able to enlist to serve in the Battery at that time and place as the veterans were back in Minnesota on veteran's furloughs and those not reenlisting were assigned to Battery I, Second Illinois Light Artillery. John did not serve with the Minnesota Battery until June 27, 1863, according to the Battery's records.

What happened is unknown, but the consequences of it were recorded in John's compiled service records. He was arrested and sent to the guard house in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on September 8, 1864. A general court martial was convened and John was sentenced to serve time in the military prison at Nashville. Records of the proceedings to explain what he was charged with or how long he was in prison are not available.

John's muster sheets note that he was still "undergoing sentence" in Nashville at the end of 1864 and through at least the first four months of 1865. The final sheet, dated March and April 1865 stated John was still in prison and noted that he was due \$33.33 for an installment payment on his \$100 bounty.

When the Second Battery formally mustered out of the army on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling, John was not with them. Instead, his muster out sheet said he was still in the military prison in Nashville. It is believed he received a dishonorable discharge.

It is the last known record of John Coleman. His name is too common to make further searching possible.

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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