



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

William Costello

William was 28 years old, working as a teamster in Faribault, Minnesota, when he decided to enlist in the Second Battery on February 14, 1862. The Battery was just forming and William was one of the early recruits. His descriptive roll entry showed him to be 5' 8" tall, with hazel eyes, dark hair and dark complexion. William was Irish, having been born in Derry, Ireland, and was married.

The military life didn't seem to bother William as no records tell of his spending time in the hospital during the war and his later pension claim was due simply to "old age" rather than illness or injury from military service. His job with the Battery was that of blacksmith, though he was detailed to "daily duty" on December 1, 1862. In March of 1864, William agreed to reenlist for another three years. He earned a veteran's furlough and went home. He was late reporting in, the morning report showed him absent without leave on June 23. William returned to the Battery and reported for duty on July 2nd.



William was promoted to corporal on October 12, 1864, the rank he held until his discharge in August of 1865. When he went home at the end of the war, William had money in his pockets. He was due \$400 in bounty money and had only been paid \$110 of it. He received not only his back pay--the Battery had not been paid for quite some time before they mustered out--but \$290 in bounty money. William also decided to keep his knapsack, haversack and canteen.

William and his wife had three sons and a daughter. In the 1870's, William moved to Bismarck, North Dakota, where he stayed nearly 20 years before moving west again to Great Falls, Montana.

In Great Falls, William worked for the Boston and Montana silver and copper mining/smelting operations. At his death in 1898, it was said he was one of the oldest employees of the company. William died on April 8, 1898, and was laid to rest in the veteran's section of the Old Highland Cemetery in Great Falls.

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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