



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

George Crowson

George was an English immigrant, coming to the United States with his wife in 1855. They first settled in Lorain, Ohio, before moving to Winona, Minnesota, where they took up farming.



George was one of the early men in the Battery, enlisting on February 20, 1862, as the Battery was forming. He was 5' 4-3/4" tall, had blue eyes, dark hair, and a dark complexion. He had been born in Leicestershire, England, was 25 years old, and was married with three children. He left his wife, Mary Palmer Crowson with a rather significant good bye gift when he went off to join the Army--their fourth child was born on October 2, 1862.

The Second Battery was still recruiting for members to reach its full strength that winter, so George remained at Fort Snelling, training and learning to be a soldier. George received a furlough at the end of March and decided to go home to St. Charles in Winona County. The Battery had been accepted into service of the United States on the 21st and they knew orders to go South would be coming soon. George traveled alone and on foot, carrying his knapsack through the deep snow. The exertion he expended walking through the deep snow caused a hernia. George made it home and spent his furlough doing many things, including hunting. The premature discharge of the gun he was using to hunt prairie chickens injured the fingers of his left hand. He was treated by a doctor for the injury, but reported back to Fort Snelling when he was due.

The twin injuries he suffered while on leave did not go away and George was discharged for disability on June 1, 1862. Whether he went south with the Battery when they left Minnesota in May is not known, but it is unlikely.

After his discharge, George went back to Winona where he and Mary added a fifth child in 1865. Then Mary died on September 14, 1875.

George married Sarah Wilsey on May 1, 1876. George and Sarah added four more children to the family, the last being born in 1891. An article in the local newspaper in Winona noted that the couple had gone to visit George's home of Leicestershire in 1882. It was the same year that George served as the delegate for the Republican County Convention.





George and Sarah were in Ashland, Oregon, in July of 1897 when George applied for a pension. He received the pension, but little more is known about George. At some point, he and Sarah moved to Santa Cruz, California. George died in February of 1906 and was buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Santa Cruz. No evidence supports it, but the fact that George is buried two graves away from another man who served in the Second

Minnesota Battery would indicate they probably were friends. Edwin Whitefield rests only a few feet from George. A third Battery member, Philip Hymes, also lived in Santa Cruz at the same time as George and Edwin.



Sarah applied for a widow's pension and documents supporting her application provided her address, 148 Water Street. It was a brick house that rented for about \$8.00 a month--until it was completely destroyed in the earthquake that struck San Francisco on April 18th, 1906.

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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