



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Gustav Darcauchy

Gustav was born in France and came to Minnesota with his parents in 1856. They settled near Corcoran in Hennepin County, Minnesota, where Gustav took a job as a surveyor. He was about 29 years old and was helping to support his parents. When Gustav's mother died in October of 1858, his father, Mark, became even more dependent on Gustav. Neighbors who helped out after Gustav left for the Battery said he sent home \$50 several times to help care for his father.

Private Darcauchy was mustered into the service at Fort Snelling on January 20, 1862. The Battery was just getting started and recruiting was going strong. Gustav was one of the earliest recruits and he agreed to serve for three years. His descriptive roll information put him at 5' 7" tall, with hazel eyes, dark hair, and a dark complexion. He was single.

When the Battery was accepted into service and sent South, Gustav went with them. He served until the fall of 1862 when he became sick. His health did not improve and on January 31, 1863, Gustav died from "chronic dysentery".

The Battery was facing the Confederates across the fields at Murfreesboro when Gustav was at his sickest. His records show that he died while in the line of duty in front of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Gustav's final resting place is unknown. Many soldiers who died in the hospitals of Tennessee were laid to rest in the nearest church yard or the hospital cemetery. When the system of National Cemeteries was started, new burials were first on their minds. When the war was over, soldiers scattered around in other places were exhumed and moved, but often the records of who they were did not follow them. Thousands of unknown soldiers rest in the National Cemeteries. Gustav is probably one of them.

After Gustav's death, his father, some 77 years old and an invalid, filed for a survivors pension. Several affidavits from neighbors who were helping care for him filed, including one who stated the Gustav had been taking care of his father since their arrival in Minnesota and that Gustav left his personal possessions at his father's and those things had now been used in Mark's care. The only land either owned was a small acreage with "improvements," the total value of which was about \$200.

The pension was applied for, but probably never received as the elder Darcauchy died in 1868.

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*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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