



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

George E. Davis

George Davis was born in Franklin Falls, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, February 26, 1839. He was the son of Louis and Nancy (Lions) Davis. He attended the common grade schools and the academy at Franklin. He learned the trade of machinist.

When he was 17 years old, he went to Illinois and stayed there for two years. In 1858, he and two brothers went to Sauk Centre Township, Stearns County, Minnesota. He was employed for some time on the milldam, which was built in the town of Sauk Centre.

In 1859, George took a claim on sections 15 and 22 in Sauk Centre Township and began farming.

George enlisted in the Second Battery in the early months of its formation, February 21, 1862. He served as a private with the Battery until he was sent to the field hospital in June of 1863. He was then transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps on October 29th of that same year. After his discharge, he went east for a time, but returned to Minnesota and began working as a carpenter.

George went back to his farm in Sauk Centre in 1868 where he met Miss Mary Bradley, who was teaching school in nearby Melrose, and they were married on July 20, 1868. They lived on the farm for many years after their marriage and had one daughter, Eva May. George was a member of the G.A.R.

A favorite story George liked to relate was about the first Fourth of July he spent in Minnesota. He raised the flag. He remembered that it was so cold that the men had to dress in winter clothing and before the day was over, it had snowed. He also told about the many social gatherings in the area. During the winter months, dances were held in the homes of the people. Every week or two, someone hosted a dance. He said the women served lunch when the dancing was over and then they all returned to their homes. It was said in those days the people did not expect much in the way of entertainment and enjoyed any sort of social gathering, but the Fourth of July was special. It was a time for picnics or other gatherings in Sauk Centre.

Whenever meat was needed for the table, George took his gun and went into the woods to shoot deer or wild fowl. There was always plenty of wild game for food and the pioneers were always cordial and welcomed strangers or friends to their homes at all times according to George's memories.



George died on May 19, 1899, his death blamed on the hardships of his service life. His wife and daughter survived him and they buried in the Greenwood Cemetery just east of Sauk Centre.

(Much of the information about George was gathered from an interview with his daughter in 1938, the transcription of which is in the Stearns County Historical Society.)

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.

Updated: 11 September 2012