



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Alfred P. Derby

Alfred left little about himself to be found in later years. What is known is that at the time of his enlistment in the Union Army, he was 25 years old, had blue eyes, auburn hair, and a fair complexion. He was 5' 11 1/2" tall, had been born in Worcester County, Massachusetts, and was married. He and his wife, Josephine, were farming in southeastern Minnesota when he joined the Second Minnesota Battery on August 16, 1864. Alfred went to Lake City to join and received a bounty for his enlistment.

From a marriage certificate, it is known that Alfred and Josephine were married on November 16, 1861, in Huron County, Ohio. Her maiden name was Josephine A. Shelleck and they were married by a Justice of the Peace.

Alfred went South after enlisting and caught up to the Second Battery where he served as a private. On April 7, 1865, he was sent to the hospital in Knoxville and he remained there until May 1st when he was allowed to return to the Battery.

By 1880, Alfred and Josephine were living in Portland, Ionia County, Michigan. They had five sons ranging in age from 17 years to 4 years. A daughter named Nellie at just one year old rounded out the family. Alfred was working in a sawmill, as was their oldest son, Otto.



The 1905 City Directory for Portland, Michigan, recorded Alfred as an "engineer." The next record Alfred left is his application for a veteran's pension in 1912. He received \$20 a month.

Alfred died on October 22, 1916, in Portland, Michigan. He was laid to rest in the Portland Cemetery with a family stone to mark his grave. Since no newspaper was published in the community that year, no obituary appeared to tell of his life.

Alfred's stories may be forgotten, but Alfred is not.

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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