



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Carlos Dimick

Carlos is a man of many mysteries. The compiled service records of the Second Minnesota contain a single piece of paper for Carlos--the permission slip his father signed allowing Carlos to enlist. There are no enlistment papers, no discharge papers, no muster sheets, yet the morning reports mention Carlos when he reported in to the Battery on February 14, 1862; two details he served and his return to the Battery following the details. His name is borne on the Battery's muster rolls, but almost nothing appears in his file.

The lack of military papers fits with much in the rest of his life. Carlos intermittently went by Carlos or Charles, sometimes even Charley. Where he was born is also in question. The military records said Carlos--the name he used during the war--was born Trumbull, Ashtabula County, Ohio, on September 12, 1843. The date works out correctly in the age Carlos told the army. He was 19 when he enlisted and thus underage, the reason for his father's note. The next record of Carlos, but he was then going by Charles, was the 1870 census. He was living with another family in Rush County, Indiana, and working as a hostler. He was still born in Ohio then, but in the 1880 census, Charles has a different birth story. In 1880, he said he was born in Pennsylvania! That same census provides the information that Carlos was married, had a four year old daughter, was working as a railroad conductor, and they were all living with her mother in Hannibal, Missouri. The 1900 census agreed with his 1880 place of birth as being in Pennsylvania and did confirm his date of birth as September of 1843. Six years later when Carlos (he was not using Charles this time) applied for a military pension, he returned to the original place of birth, putting down Ashtabula, Ohio. Where he was really born is anyone's guess.

Where ever Carlos was born, he was living in Albert Lea, Minnesota, with his father and working as a clerk in a store by 1862. The note of permission his father signed was dated February 10, 1862, and Carlos was mustered in on the 14th. Another member of the Battery, Henry Simonds, was the witness who signed the note written by Carlos' father. Carlos had hazel eyes, light hair, light complexion, and stood 5' 6" tall.

The time Carlos spent in the Battery did not bring him much attention in the morning reports. When it came time for the men of the Battery to reenlist, Carlos decided he was not going to sign up again. He and others not wanting to reenlist or not yet eligible were detailed to the Second Illinois Light Artillery, Battery I, where they served in the battles in front of Atlanta before returning to the Second Minnesota on October 16, 1864. Carlos stayed with the Battery until he was detailed a second time, this time to the quartermaster department on December 16, 1864. He stayed there until March 26, returning to the Battery just in time to be mustered out at the end of his term of service. Carlos was discharged at Knoxville, Tennessee, on March 28, 1865.

It is not clear if Carlos returned to Minnesota. He may not have as by 1870, he was in Indiana. Five years later, on February 25, 1875, he married Belle Hall in Hannibal, Missouri. A baby daughter joined the family in 1876. Elizabeth was the only child they had.

By late in the year of 1880, the couple had moved to Quincy, Illinois, and Charles (the name he was using at this time of his life) was working as a conductor on the railroad. When the new Burlington Station opened in Quincy, Charles was made the depot master.

Age and chronic asthma were bothering Charles, so he applied for a pension in 1906. On the application, he noted he had lost his right thumb, but he did not tell the Pension department how it had happened. The pension was approved and Carlos, the name he applied for the pension under, received \$12 a month.

Failing health forced Charley, as he was called in Quincy, to give up his position as depot master. It took almost year before he felt well enough to return to work and had been back only a couple months when he felt ill on a Thursday afternoon. It was enough to make him go home from work, but he felt better by Friday. On Saturday afternoon, Charley got up from a chair and was walking from one room to another when he fell with an attack of "appoplexy." He was dead almost before anyone knew he had fallen. It was October 26, 1907.

The lengthy obituary in the Quincy newspaper noted Charley had worked on the railroad for over 35 years, that he was a quiet man, but well versed and well spoken on the topics of the day. It said he was a veteran, had enlisted in a Minnesota unit as a young man, had been in many hot battles with valiant conduct, but "was no man to boast of his soldierly achievements." The obituary also stated that Charley had run trains that fell under attack during his time in the army, but no evidence of this is found in any Battery record.

The funeral was held at the house Charley and Belle lived in at 433 North Sixth Street in Quincy, then the remains were sent to Chicago for cremation. What happened to the ashes is unknown as no cemetery records or mortuary records for him have been found.

Belle applied for a widow's pension and was granted it as they had no real estate and their household goods were valued at \$100. She did note that Charles had a life insurance policy with the Burlington Relief Association in the amount of \$1,200, but she had not received it.

The last known of Belle is that she was living with her daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth had married a doctor in 1900, but he died in 1917. Elizabeth and Belle then moved to Oklahoma to live with Belle's aged mother for whom Elizabeth was named.

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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