



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

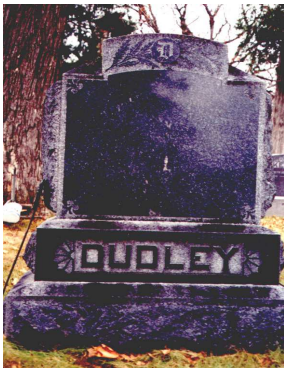
Orestus L. Dudley

Orestus L. Dudley was born October 3, 1828, at Mt. Holley, Rutland County, Vermont. When he was 20 years old, he took a job on the railroad. In the fall of 1856, he and his brother came to Minnesota. They walked from St. Paul to Monticello in Wright County, and selected a 160 acre claim near the fledgling town of Buffalo. The rest of the family joined them in 1859.

Orestus married a widow named Dorleski Blake who lived nearby in November of 1860. When he enlisted with the Battery in January of 1862, Orestus sent his wife back east out of concern for her safety.

Service with the Second Battery was always as a private for Orestus. He was 6' 1-3/4" tall, had gray eyes, dark hair and a light complexion. On June 25, 1863, while the Battery was at Liberty Gap, Tennessee, Orestus was thrown from a saddle mule while on a foraging expedition. The fall broke the upper bone in his right thigh. He was sent to the hospital at Murfreesboro and discharged for disability on February 1, 1864.

After his discharge, Orestus returned to Buffalo and his wife came back from the east. They farmed at first, then built one of the first frame houses in the town of Buffalo. Orestus went back to working for the railroad until 1885 when he settled down in Buffalo again. He built a large building that housed the Dudley Opera House on the second floor and a general store, which he ran, on the first floor. After 1890, Orestus rented the store space out. At one point, he owned a large block in downtown Buffalo and used it for a park with a fountain and benches. He had hoped the city would buy the property, but when that did not happen, he sold the lot and the area was developed. Orestus was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Buffalo and served as Master.



Orestus died on August 5, 1917. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Buffalo, Wright County, Minnesota. His stone is large and prominently placed in the front corner of the cemetery, but it has only his family name and a GAR marker.

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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