



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Adam Eppinberger

Adam was a veteran when he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. His first term of service had been with the First Minnesota Infantry, Company B, a unit he joined on April 29, 1861. He served with them through the battles at Manassas, the Valley and Peninsula Campaigns, and was discharged for disability a month before the battle at Antietam. Adam was having trouble with his right knee, the records noting it as bursitis.

On February 22, 1864, Adam enlisted again, this time in the Second Battery. He served as a private until the Battery was mustered out at the end of the war. His descriptive roll noted brown eyes, brown hair, a ruddy complexion, and 5' 5" tall. He was a farmer, was 44 years old and had been born in Switzerland. His wife was Anna Hug. They were married on May 25, 1852, in Switzerland and came to the United States together. They never had children.

No mention is made of Adam's knee problems while serving in the Battery. Instead, a different injury caused him trouble. In the fall of 1864, the Battery was camped north of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Adam was assigned as an orderly for the lieutenant of the Battery, Alexander Kinhead. Adam was taking the Lieutenant's horse down to be watered, when "the horse being spirited, and he being clumsy was thrown off," wrote Jacob Staples, a comrade in the Battery. Adam's wife said her husband told her he was taking the Lieutenant's horse to be shod when it ran away and he jumped off. Whatever the circumstances, Adam suffered a "double hernia" he blamed on the horse.

There is no hospital record for treatment of the injury, but Jacob Staples said, "I do know that it was not long after that his duties were changed--he was put in the mess room to assist the cooks and was never detailed on heavy work thereafter. He was obedient to his officers."

The Battery was mustered out on August 16, 1865, and Adam went back to civilian life. Adam applied for a pension in 1876 because of his injury, but the claim was rejected on the grounds that he had not proved the injury had occurred in the line of duty.

On November 9, 1887, Adam was admitted to the Soldier's Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was suffering with a double hernia, but of more immediate concern was a deep cut on his left arm. The records at the hospital state that the cut was self-inflicted and was an attempt at suicide. If it was Adam's wish to die, it was granted as the cut was badly infected and he died from blood poisoning on November 23.



Adam was laid to rest in the Wood National Cemetery near the Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee. The marker on his grave notes his service with the First Minnesota Infantry and makes no mention of his time in the Second Battery.

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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