



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Errick Evenson

Errick was a Norwegian immigrant who settled in Spring Grove, Minnesota, and took up farming. He was born on August 7, 1838, in Norway.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Errick decided to enlist. He joined the 15th Wisconsin Infantry and served from December 13, 1861, to October 16, 1862, when he was discharged for disability. Errick went to the hospital on August 15th and remained there, unable to return to his unit for more than 60 days. The discharging officer believed Errick had come into the Army with a heart problem and he would "not likely be of further Service to the U.S." The office added this was not a case for a pension.

Errick probably did not agree with that officer. When Fort Snelling held a draft rendezvous late in the summer of 1864, Errick decided to enlist again. He joined the Second Battery on September 10, agreeing to serve for one year. He was paid a bounty of \$33.33 with \$66.67 due him. He was 26 years old, had gray eyes, light hair, and a light complexion. He was 5' 8" tall. Whether Errick could read or not is open to question as he only made his mark on the enlistment forms, but it is possible he could simply not read or write in English. This lack of understanding probably contributed to the variations of the spelling of Errick. Some records have a single "r" in his first name, others drop the "k".

Errick served with the Battery until the unit was mustered out on August 16, 1865. He moved about some after being discharged and was in Otter Tail County when he met Anne. She was there with her father while he was looking for good land to homestead. Anne had been married before and had a son, but she was divorced from her husband. The divorce decree awarded her custody of their son, Dave, and her ex-husband was ordered to pay the court costs. Anne kept Dave with her and was keeping house for her widowed father when she met Errick. They were married in Otter Tail and lived for a while in Norwegian Grove Township.

Anne believed Errick must have had sand in his shoes as he went off in search of better land and left her with her son and the daughter they had together. After three years of only getting a few letters from Errick, Anne went back to Wisconsin with her father, returning to his original home in Sand Creek Township in Dunn County. Her father died two years later and six more months later, Errick arrived. Anne had not seen him in five years. Anne said she "did not go to housekeeping with Errick, because he wouldn't stay at one place; he wanted to be running all over." Still, they did have two more children while Anne was living in Sand Creek Township. Two of the three children Anne and Errick had died as infants.

The family continued to live in Sand Creek at Anne's father's home until it burned down. She then went to live across the road at her sister's home as her sister was not living there. Anne said she lived with Errick for a while at this time, but he kept leaving and coming back. Finally,

she said, "He got crazy spells". After living there about six months, Anne said Errick "got so ugly that I could not stand it longer and left him there, going to my son (by her first marriage) to make my home. He (Errick) would come down... occasionally, would stay three or four days, then go back again. He was taken from son Dave's house to the Insane Asylum (in Red Cedar Township) and he staid in the asylum until he died there."



Hospital records indicate Errick was admitted on April 16, 1903. He remained there until his death from heart disease on June 13, 1909. A week later, he was buried in the Sand Creek Cemetery. His death record noted his occupation as "retired", 2nd Minnesota Light Artillery" and he was provided with a military tombstone.

Ironically, the unit named on the marker is for his service with the 15th Wisconsin rather than the unit he "retired" from.

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*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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