



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Leander Harry Fahnstock

Leander was a transfer man to the Second Minnesota. His home unit was the 101st Ohio Infantry, Company I. He enlisted to serve three years in that unit on August 14, 1862, from Monroeville, Ohio. For his agreement to serve those years, he was given a bounty of \$100, \$25 up front and the balance due at a later time. He was 19 years old and he served as a private throughout his time in the army. He had brown hair, brown eyes, and a light complexion. He was 5' 6 ½" tall. No records indicate Leander ever lived anywhere outside the state of Ohio except while in the Army. He was born in Ohio and returned to that state after the war. It was noted that he lived in Cleveland for a time before moving to Springfield where he lived more than 50 years before his death in 1914.

It is not known how the men assigned to the Second Minnesota Battery were selected. They may have volunteered or were simply chosen by their commanding officers. The dates Leander served with the Battery are a bit sketchy. The muster roll of the Battery shows him with the Battery in September and October of 1863. Another record says he went to serve in the Battery in March of 1863 and remained there until August 30th. Muster records of the 101st Ohio have a notation that he was "transferred" to the Battery and would no longer be carried on the rolls of the 101st. Another roll for the 101st detailed his whereabouts in the following:

Jan 1863 – Absent with leave since Dec. 31. Detailed to hospital Jan 1
Mar 1863 – Mar. 1 Murfreesboro. Transferred to 2 Minn, battery light artillery
May 1863 – May 7 Murfreesboro. Returned as detached from previous report as transferred to 2 Minn battery.
--absent detached 2 Minn Battery
June 18763 – Absent Artillerist Mar. 1 1863. 2 Minn Battery
July to Sept 1863 – Absent on det. Ser. Detailed to 2 Minn Battery

The Second Battery's records are not as complete and do not closely align with the 101st records. Exactly how long Leander was an artillerist will likely never be known. The 101st must have been better at keeping records as their company descriptive book listed the battles Leander participated in as Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, Jonesboro, Franklin, Nashville, and battles before Atlanta. His discharge came on June 1, 1865, from Camp Harker, Tennessee, and was listed with the 101st Ohio's records of discharge.

After the war, Leander went back to Ohio where, on November 2, 1879, he married Mary Catherine Sidenstick in Clark County, Ohio. The couple had at least one child. Their son, Henry, was noted as their only living child when Leander applied for a pension in about 1890.

When Leander applied for his pension, he did report both his service with the 101st Ohio Infantry and with the Second Minnesota, saying he served with the Battery "about 8 mo." His claim stated that he had "deafness of right ear" as well as kidney disease and lumbago. Later applications for increases in his pension award included heart disease and rheumatism. Leander must have kept good records as he could detail the expenses he had for his health and knew exactly how much this left him to live on. Eventually, the pension department agreed as he was declared "wholly incapacitated" for "earning a support by manual labor."

The more personal story of Leander's life comes from his obituary. It appeared on the front page of the *Springfield Daily News* on December 22, 1914, the headline reading "Prominent Collector of Coins Dies." Three sub headlines provide his name and that he was a Civil War veteran, was one of the founders of the Historical Society, that he had many valuable souvenirs and would be buried on Thursday. His obituary is a column and a half long.

Leander was one of the founders of the Clark County Historical Society and he was known as one of the best known collectors and authorities on rare coins in the United States. He had spent more than 30 years collecting United States coins, but only US coins. He did not collect any foreign coins—this was mentioned twice in the article. He was cataloging his collection for sale when he suffered a severe stroke. Leander also had a collection of gem stones, Indian relics, mineral specimens, and war relics. One of the local banks had a "large number" of his coins, perhaps on display.

Beyond being a collector, Leander's career was that of a bookbinder and he was the foreman at the Springfield Publishing Company before he retired. Bookbinding was the only job Leander had after the war and he worked for several other book companies before his last job at Springfield Publishing.

The description of his military service was glowing and reported his participation the same list of battles, then added that he had been under the command of General W.T Sherman up until just a few days before the March to the Sea when Leander was detailed for other duty and did not participate in the march.

Leander was active in the community as well, a member of the I.O.O.F, the Masons, and the GAR as well as the National Numismatic Society. He loved the local historical society he helped found and gave that organization many of his coins and war relics. It was noted that he was "one of the most loyal members of this society."

The article described Leander's last days, saying he had been in poor health for some three months. He was at home, had been active all day before suffering a stroke of paralysis while sitting in a chair before the fire. He died a few days later on December 22, 1914. He was laid to rest in Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield, Ohio.

His wife, Catherine, also called Katy, survived him and applied for a widow's pension, which she did receive after many letters of reference attesting to her character and marriage to Leander.



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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