



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Daniel A. Fairbank

Daniel was a 42 year old farmer from New York living near Clarmont in Douglas County, Minnesota when he decided to enlist. What motivated him to serve in the Army is unknown, but he left a wife and six children, the youngest only 11 months old, when Daniel was mustered in on September 2, 1864. His enlistment made him a part of the draft rendezvous held at Fort Snelling that summer.

Daniel had blue eyes, sandy hair, and a light complexion. He was 5' 9" tall.

The Second Battery did not see much fighting during the last year of the war, being assigned to garrison duty with a few scouting missions and details. Daniel came back to Minnesota with the unit and was mustered out on August 16, 1865, having served just less than one year.

There may have been a bit of a wanderer in Daniel as his birth place was Cattaraugus County, New York and where he married Harriet Holden on December 22, 1845. Their first son was born there, but the next two children were born in Wisconsin. The last three were born in Minnesota before Daniel went off to war. Upon his return, he stayed in Minnesota for a time, but by 1890, they were living in South Dakota. At least one more move was in store as Daniel and Harriet were living in Clarkston, Washington, in 1910 when Daniel died on November 24th.

Harriet filed for help from the Pension Department. Her signed statement said, "I further certify that said soldier died in practically destitute financial circumstances, That at his death he did not have sufficient money to defray the expenses of his illness, and that he owned only a house and lot, where we make our home." Daniel had only been sick for ten days before his death caused by "Cystiles" complicated by "apoplexy". His medical and funeral expenses totaled \$147.50.



Daniel was buried in the Vineland Cemetery in Clarkston, Washington, block 4, lot 20, grave number 4. Harriet joined him there in 1922. Of note is the spelling of Fairbank. Each time Daniel or Harriet wrote their name, there was no final "s" on Fairbank. Official army records and even Daniel's death certificate has the name spelled Fairbanks. Daniel and Harriet did get the last word, however. There is no "s" on their name on the marker they share in Vineland Cemetery.

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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