



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Henry Farnham

Henry Farnham was born in Sanford, New York, July 12, 1843. He came to Minnesota, settled in Spring Grove, Houston County, and was working as an agent when he joined the Second Battery. He enlisted on September 2, 1864, for one year. He was paid \$100 bounty, a third of which he was paid immediately. He made a point of writing that he was 21 years and two months old. He was 5' 11" tall, had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion.

Henry served as a private in the Battery until it was mustered out on August 16, 1865.

On May 27, 1877, Henry married Laura Matilda Allen. They made their home in Spring Valley, Fillmore County, Minnesota. They did some moving around before coming back to Fillmore County to stay. In 1878, their first child, Clarissa, was born in Nebraska. In the 1880 census, the family was living in Grant County, Dakota Territory. Here a mystery emerges. A second child appears on the census, Walter, age 12, born in Wisconsin. Henry signed a sworn deposition that Laura was his only wife and that they had eight children, but Walter is not named among them. Laura would also have only been eight years old when Walter was born, so it is likely that Walter was a relative, but not a son, of Henry and Laura.

In 1890, Henry was claiming a disability from a broken left ankle. A pension deposition by a neighbor said the injury had occurred in the army, but no record of Henry's injury appears in the records of the Battery. He may have been injured in the "train wreck" in June of 1865 when the Battery was moving near Loudon, Tennessee. Many men jumped from the tipping train cars and suffered a variety of injuries; Henry was with the unit at the time and this may be the cause of his injury. Many of the men did not report their injury or receive treatment because the Battery was on its way home to Minnesota and they did not want to be left behind at a hospital.



Laura died in April of 1901 when their youngest child was just over a year old. Henry never remarried, remaining on the farm with the children.

On November 25, 1927, Henry died of "uremia/prostrate hypertrophy". He was buried in the Spring Valley Cemetery, block 4, lot 17.

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.

Updated: 01 May 2013