



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

George Favor

"This certifies that I am the mother and lawful guardian of George Favor a minor and at his request I hereby give my consent to his enlistment as a volunteer for three years or during the war to be mustered into the United States service in witness wherof I have subscribe my name this twenty seventh day of January A D 1862."

The note was signed Marilla Goray and it allowed 18-year old George Edwin Favor to join the Second Battery as it was forming up at Fort Snelling. Marilla was George's mother. His father had died when he was a small boy, so his mother left George and his sister with an aunt in New York while she came to Minnesota. After remarrying, she sent for George and he came to Minnesota to live. His sister remained in New York and only once came to Minnesota to visit. George was already an adult when he next saw his sister and it was then that he changed the spelling of his name. Though it was always pronounced "faver", George spelled it several ways during his life. As a child and through the army, it was spelled Favor. When George's sister visited Minnesota, she explained to him that the family name should be spelled "Favre", so George and his family began spelling the name as his sister directed. Occasionally, the name took the French spelling of Faivre. George himself signed his name in different ways throughout his life.

The descriptive roll shows George to be 5' 7-1/4" tall, with dark eyes, light hair and light complexion. He was a farmer. His birth was in Shortsville, Ontario County, New York, on December 5, 1844.

George served as a private in the Second Battery until he was discharged at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for "general disability" on February 14, 1863. The examining surgeon noted that George was "always ready and willing", he "will not again be of any Service to the Army."

Though George left the army, he did not stay out of government service for very long. In June of 1863, he joined Captain James Fisk as an artillery man and scout to escort immigrants to settle in Montana. While on this journey, George said he drew government rations, clothing and pay, but he did not consider himself a soldier sworn to service. The expedition disbanded in Idaho by October and George went back to Minnesota.

On November 25, 1869, George married Martha J. Paul. It was not to be a long marriage as Martha died the day before their first anniversary. George married a second time on February 23, 1871, while living in Todd County, Minnesota. She was Harriett Adelaide Perry and together she and George had nine children.

George was farming in Todd County, but decided to move the family to California for a while. Their fourth child was born in near Sacramento, California, in 1877. The next three children were all born in Todd County, Minnesota, in 1877, 1882, and 1887. Child number eight was

once again born in Santa Clara, California, in 1889. The last baby, Ruby, was born in 1895 and in Minnesota. Why the family went back and forth between California and Minnesota is unknown.

In 1898, George applied for a pension. His letter in February of that year was terse and questioned why, even after Senator Knute Nelson brought George's claim to the attention of the Pension Department, no action had been taken. He wanted an answer, ending the letter with the statement, "I would like you to write me about it."

The Pension Department did answer George and asked him to send in various forms. George did, but evidently, the Pension Department repeated their requests from George as he added a note to the bottom of one form. "This is the third blank of this kind sent to the department. Hope you will get enough of them."



George did eventually get his pension. He and Harriett were living in Tacoma, Washington, when George suffered a "hemorrhage of the brain, 2nd attack" and died on August 20, 1910. The occupation Harriett wrote on George's death certificate was carpenter and she had him buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Tacoma. Harriett buried one of their son's next to George in 1914 and she joined them in 1920. Of note is the spelling of their names. George's stone has the surname spelled "Favor". Harriet and Frank have it spelled "Favre".

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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