



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Charles Ford

Charles Ford was a 19 year old farm boy from St. Francis in Anoka County, Minnesota, when he obtained a note of permission from his father to enlist in the Second Minnesota Battery. It was early August, 1862, and the Battery was already serving in the South.

Charles had been born on November 7, 1843, and moved with his family to Minnesota in 1854. His father, also named Charles, took land in the township of Burns. Ford Creek in Anoka County is named for the Ford family. Charles, Jr., was the middle child of five, having two older and two younger sisters. His youngest sister, Philoma, married Joseph Varney before coming west, and the families came to Anoka County together.

Charles and his brother-in-law, Joseph, enlisted in the Battery, mustering in on the same day.

The descriptive roll for the Battery showed Charles to be 5' 9" tall, with gray eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion. His birthplace was Carroll, Penobscot County, Maine.

The time spent in the Battery was anything but dull for Charles. He arrived at Louisville, Kentucky, in a group of new recruits for the Battery on September 27th. The Battery marched out from Louisville on the 1st of October. On the 8th of October, the battle at Perryville began. Charles was serving one of the Battery's guns during the battle when a "24 pound shell exploded so near the hip...as to burn the clothing on said hip." The injury did not keep Charles away from the war. He continued to serve and was with the Battery three months later at the battle of Stones River on December 31st.

The battle of Stones River saw Union guns moving all around the battlefield. When the order came to mount and to move on the double quick, Charles was struck on the same injured hip by the axle of the gun carriage. He was left behind, unable to walk. Somewhere in the chaos of the battle, Charles received another wound, this time a gun shot through his left wrist.

Charles was sent to the hospital at Nashville after the battle was over and he remained there until January 12, 1863. Two months later, he received his discharge from the Army due to disability. The injury to his hip forced Charles to use crutches as he could bear no weight on one leg.

Charles came back to Minnesota and may have moved around the state some as he married Violet Ann on October 2, 1876, in Wadena, Todd County. One year later, Violet and Charles were the parents of twin girls, but only one of them survived. Six more children were born to them by 1895, one more of whom they buried.



In 1910, Charles and Violet moved to Washington State and were living on a rural route near Vancouver in Clark County. Charles stayed at his home until October of 1920 when he went to the Washington State Veterans Home in Retsil, Washington. It was a short stay as he died 20 days later on October 24, 1920. He was laid to rest in the Veteran's Home 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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