



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Nelson Fulton

Nelson Fulton was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 4, 1840. He lived there until he was 17, then came to Minnesota where he settled in Millersburgh, Rice County. He remained there until the war broke out when he went to Indiana to enlist. He enlisted on July 18, 1861, at Bluffton, Indiana. He may have gone there to enlist as the Minnesota units then called for were already full.

Nelson served in the 22nd Indiana Infantry Regiment for a year and a half before a special order transferred him to the Second Minnesota Battery. Both Nelson and his commanding officer approved of the transfer and Nelson's name appeared on the roles of the Battery in December of 1862.

In April of 1863, Nelson managed to obtain a furlough and he came back to Minnesota. While on furlough, he married Lusetta R. Sanford, also of Millersburgh. He probably courted her before he left Minnesota to join the army.

Nelson stayed with the Battery, reenlisting in March of 1864, and served until the Battery was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865. Nelson and his wife lived in Dundas for a time, then Northfield, and finally to Hawley. He and Lusetta had two children before Lusetta died in 1875.

In the winter of 1875, Nelson was teaching school in the Rollag area of Clay County, Minnesota. He went back to Rice County and married Susan C. Graham of Dundas on October 11, 1877. They went back to Rollag where Nelson taught school again before moving to Dakota County where they took up farming for seven years.

Nelson then took his family back to Clay County and began work as the foreman of farm owned by a Doctor Sill near Hawley. He worked there for three years before moving to Crookston where he operated a creamery for a couple years. His reputation as an excellent butter maker must have preceded him, as in 1890, he went back to Hawley to supervise the building of a creamery there. He ran the creamery for four years.

Nelson had many duties and was very active in the community at Hawley. He ran, in partnership with his son, the newspaper in Hawley, *The Herald*, from the fall of 1894 to June of 1899. Nelson was the postmaster from 1897 until his death. He served on the Republican Party in Hawley and was appointed the county chairman during the campaign of 1898. He held the offices of justice of the peace, president of the city council and other city offices throughout the years. He was a member of the Grand Army Post.



Nelson spent the last four months of his life gravely ill, not able to leave the house and forced to sit in a chair at all times. His death was attributed to liver and heart trouble and he died at his home in Hawley. The first funeral was from his home in Hawley where a large number of people attended and a flag ceremony was presented in his honor. He was then taken by train to Dundas by his wife and son for a second funeral where friends in Dundas paid their last respects. Three of his comrades spoke at the funeral including James Hunter who served with him in the Second Minnesota Battery. The veterans fired a final salute to him at his graveside in the Dundas 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.

Updated: 18 June 2013