



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Noah Gates

Noah began his military service as a young man serving aboard the ship *Columbus* on August 25th, 1838. He served this ship just over a month before he switched to the man of war, *Ohio*, and served there until August 3, 1841, when he was discharged from the Navy. His brother, Phineas, served on the *Ohio* with him.

Both brothers were born in Massachusetts, Noah on February 23, 1821, in the town of Windell, Franklin County. They had at least one other sibling, a sister, and she eventually moved to Winona, Minnesota.

After leaving the Navy, Noah went back to Massachusetts and married Sarah Jane Worthen on May 28, 1848. They had a daughter before Noah decided to move the family west. The Gates family arrived in Minnesota in March of 1856. Noah took a claim in Section 2 of Fremont Township in Winona County. The 1860 census showed their farm with a real estate value of \$700. The personal estate value was put at \$90. Emma was nine years old and attending school.

Noah was still farming when he decided to enlist in the Second Battery on September 2, 1864. He was 44 years old at the time, had gray eyes, dark hair and a dark complexion. He was 5' 9" tall. He received a bounty of \$100 for enlisting for one year. He served until the Battery was mustered out at the end of the war, a time mostly spent in garrison duty and a few scouting missions rather than any heavy fighting.

A year after returning from the War, Noah and his family left Winona County and headed north to Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. They began farming on land in Germany Township. Noah would have known at least three men in the neighborhood as there were three other men who served in the Battery living in Princeton at the time. Perhaps this may have had something to do with his move north.

In 1880, Noah's health was failing and working the farm was too much for him. They sold their farm and built a "cozy house" in the village of Princeton where he and Sarah lived until his death.

Noah died on August 22, 1883. His obituary in the Princeton newspaper was reprinted in the Winona newspapers as well, and summed up his life.

"Noah Gates was a quiet, unostentatious man. He was never known to lay a straw in anybody's way. He loved his wife and family, his friends and his country, and did not fear death. His word was his bond, and his integrity was unimpeachable. He was a man in every sense of the word. What more need be said?"

Sarah applied for a widow's pension, stating that she believed Noah had died from the chronic diarrhea he first had while serving with the Battery when stationed near Chattanooga, Tennessee. She said he was healthy before he went into the army, and "on account of poor water and exposure while performing his duty as a member of

the Battery," his health was broken. Noah was never sent to the hospital for his illness, but Sarah said it had really not ever left him and had gotten worse.

She buried Noah in the Oak Knoll Cemetery in Princeton near the final resting places of three other men who served with Noah in the Second Battery.



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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