



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

William Gilpatrick

William Gilpatrick was born in Bucksport, Maine. He came to Minnesota and was working as a cook in St. Cloud when he decided to enlist in the Second Battery. He was mustered in on March 10, 1862. He was 25 years old, had blue eyes, dark hair and a light complexion. He stood 5' 6-1/2" tall and was single when he enlisted.

By May 1st, William was cooking for the Battery and his muster sheet indicated he had pay due for those services. A year later, the July/August muster sheet recorded William absent. He was sick in the convalescent camp in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and had been there since June 11th. His pension records indicate William had been injured when the mule he was riding shoved him up against a tree, causing a "rupture." William was transferred to the Invalid Corps on August 1, 1863, by general orders and dropped from the role of the Battery.

In 1880, William applied for a pension and it was granted. He told the Pension Department that since the war, he had lived in St. Cloud, Little Falls, Brainerd, and Fort Ripley, all in Minnesota.

The 1890 census found William living in Little Falls. Records indicate he never married or had children. He eventually moved to Brainerd, Minnesota, where he was "commonly known as Old Gill". He took a homestead near Cross Lake and lived there after he had sold the timber from it, though it was noted that he "gave up title" to the land.

William died on July 19, 1905. His obituary said, "He was an eccentric individual, and his own worst enemy. Little was known of his early history as he kept his own council on family matter, but he was a man of some education and even in his secluded manner of living he succeeded in keeping well posted on the current events of the day....He was born in the state of Maine and was well connected, but his relatives, if any of them are still living are unknown to anyone in this section."

William was laid to rest in the G.A.R. reservation of the Evergreen Cemetery in Brainerd.



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: 1 August 2020