



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Warren S. Gordon

Warren was a farmer working on his land in Wright County, Minnesota, when the war broke out. He left his wife, Ellen, to enlist on December 21, 1861. He had married Ellen Miller in Monticello, Minnesota on October 6, 1858. Warren was one of the earliest recruits to join the Battery. The descriptive role showed him to be 5' 8-1/2" tall, with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion. His birthplace was New Hampshire.

As one of the early recruits, Warren was promoted to corporal, but he was reduced in rank to private again before his three-year term of service was up. It is not known what prompted the reduction in rank.

Warren's time in the service took a toll on his health. Near Corinth, Mississippi, he contracted chronic diarrhea and a disease of the kidneys in June of 1862. He was sent to the field hospital near Farmington, Mississippi, and then up river to Keokuk, Iowa. It was there the kidney disease was diagnosed. Warren improved with the treatments he was given and he returned to the Battery in time to participate in the Battle at Stones River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. At that battle, Warren was riding a horse when it jumped and threw him forward onto the pommel of the saddle. The injury caused a rupture of his right side.

It wasn't the last attack on his health that Warren suffered. He held the position of #1 man on the gun. His job was that of putting the charge in the muzzle of the cannon and ramming it to the back of the barrel. This placed Warren at the front of the gun, the place where it was most likely to be injured and the guns did just that. Warren lost most of his hearing from the concussion of the gun going off. Warren blamed the battle at Mission Ridge for the loss of his hearing.

The Battery's muster roles show Warren "absent" in September and October of 1864 as he was serving on detached duty with the Second Illinois Battery. Men who chose not to reenlist were assigned to another unit while those who had reenlisted went home for a veteran's furlough. Warren returned to the Minnesota Battery on November 9th and it was noted that he owed 67 cents to the government for "one haversack" though it is not clear why. At the next muster role in January, Warren was charged for ½ shelter tent--\$2.30--and the haversack again.

Since Warren had not reenlisted, he was discharged on March 28, 1865, after having served three years and three months.

Returning to his farm in Wright County, Warren settled down with his wife and daughter. Four more children were added to the family for a total of two daughters and three sons.

The health problems from the Army came back to haunt Warren and, in 1888, he applied for an invalid's pension. It was granted and he drew it until his death on

May 6, 1898. He was walking in front of his house when he suddenly dropped dead from heart failure. He was 69 years old. He was laid to rest in the Lakeview Cemetery in Maple Lake, just a short distance from the farm where he had lived and worked for over 20 years in Silver Lake Township. His grave marker simply calls him "Father".



*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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