



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Albert C. Gowdy

Albert was not one of those who rushed to enlist at the first call for troops. The war had been going on for over a year before he decided to enlist. He signed up to serve in the Second Battery on August 13, 1862, at Fort Snelling and received \$25 in bounty money. He was probably one of the recruits who arrived at the Battery on September 27, 1862, as reported in the Battery's morning report. The descriptive roll calls Albert a merchant, 5' 5-1/4" tall, with hazel eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion. He had been born in Salem, Illinois, but was making his home in St. Cloud, Minnesota, at the outbreak of the war. He was 23 years old when he joined the Army.

On November 1, 1862, Albert was given extra duty serving as the Battery's hospital steward. He held this duty for a month before he was detailed again, this time to "daily duty" and for a while was working with the Battery's blacksmiths.

The rank of private was the only rank Albert ever held throughout his three years in the Army. He was mustered out on August 16, 1865, with the Battery at Fort Snelling, three years and three days after enlisting.

Albert remained in Minneapolis and married Lucinda M. Clark on September 14, 1869, in the Gethsemane Church. They had three daughters, Mary in 1871, Pauline in 1873, and Alice in 1877.

Life should have gone well for Albert, but evidence seems to indicate otherwise. Lucinda died on March 9, 1879, leaving Albert and the three little girls. By 1880, the census showed the family living on North Third Street in Minneapolis and that a servant lived with them. Albert had changed professions and was working as a druggist. The census also listed a wife, but Albert never claimed a second wife and his death certificate noted he was a widower. Who the woman listed on the 1880 census is remains a mystery.

On February 8, 1889, Albert died at the age of 51 years. The cause of death was listed as "Chronic Alcoholism".

Alice, just 11 years old, was given into the care of a guardian and received \$8.00 a month from her father's pension until she reached the age of 16. Mary and Pauline were over 16 years, so they were too old to receive any benefits from their father's pension.



Albert was laid to rest in the Lakeview Cemetery in Minneapolis in a grave that remained unmarked until July of 2006 when the Second Battery reenactors and the Lakewood Cemetery Association dedicated a military marker on Albert's grave.

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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