



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### William H. Green

William came to Effingham County, Illinois, with his father and grandfather in 1845. The family took a homestead in the northwest corner of section 12 in Union Township and began farming near Elliotstown. When the war broke out, William decided to enlist, even if he was a little too young to join the army.

At best estimates, William was 16 or 17 at most when he joined the 38th Illinois Infantry, Company B. How old he really was is open to interpretation as when he reenlisted in 1864, he said he was 20, yet on a muster sheet a month later, he was only 18. What is known about his birth was that it took place in Bond County, Illinois. He had dark hair, dark eyes and a dark complexion. By 1864, he stood 5' 10" tall.

William enlisted the first time at Mason, Illinois, and was mustered in on August 12, 1861. No records show anything special about his service until he was detailed to serve in the Second Minnesota Battery on February 9, 1863. William stayed with the Battery for two weeks, then returned to his infantry unit. At some point not noted in the records, William went back to the Battery to serve again.

The September/October 1863 muster sheet for the 38th Infantry said William was "absent, sick at field hospital, Chattanooga, Tenn., since Sept. 21, 1863." This was probably due to some miscommunication as William was serving in the Battery and stayed there until October 24, 1863.

William went back to the Infantry, but was only with his old unit a few weeks when he was detailed again, this time to the Brigade headquarters where he served as a provost guard starting November 12, 1863.

When the men of the 38th came up for reenlistment, William decided he would stay in the army. He reenlisted for a second enlistment of three years. Part of the attraction of reenlisting for another three years may have been the \$400 bounty money promised. William received \$60 upon reenlisting and the balance was due him in later payments. In the settling of his accounts as he reenlisted, William had to make good on the clothing and money he had been advanced beyond his pay. He owed the army \$29.44.

When the war ended, William was not among those discharged to reduce the size of the army. On October 22, 1865, he was detailed as a teamster to the Quartermaster Department. He was still serving as a teamster in February 1866. Exactly when he was discharged from the army is unknown.

At some point in his life, William married a woman named Mary C. and they had at least one child, a son named Robert.



William applied for an invalid's pension and it was granted. At the time of his death, he left his wife and at least one child under the age of 16 years as both the widow and a minor child received payments from William's

pension. The pension papers are not in the collections the National Archives, so little more is known about William, including his death date.

It is known William died a "few years" before 1910 and was laid to rest with a military headstone in the Watson Cemetery in Effingham County, Illinois. The stone provides only his name and "Company B, 38th Illinois Infantry".



*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.*

Updated: 1 August 2020