



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

James A. Hagadorn

When James enlisted in the Second Battery of Minnesota Artillery in January of 1862, he probably knew the man who recruited him. Richard Dawley was actively recruiting in Winona County and brought a good number of men into the unit with him when he came. James was one of them and, just a week later, James' brother-in-law, Horatio Joy, added his name to the muster rolls of the Battery.

James had been born in New York and came to Minnesota with his parents and siblings. They were farming in Utica, Winona County, in 1858 when James' sister, Martha married Horatio Joy. At least some of the land in Utica belonged to James as his real estate value in 1860 was \$400. When James enlisted, he was 24 years old, had gray eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. He stood 5' 10" tall.

The brothers-in-law went south together. Both were soon promoted to corporal, a rank neither kept. In March of 1864, the men of the Second Battery were in a position to reenlist to serve another three years or until the end of the war, whichever came first. James and Horatio may have discussed their plans as both chose not to reenlist. When the men who had reenlisted went home on the furlough granted for signing up again, the rest of the men were assigned to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery.

This reassignment may have had something to do with James' demotion. He went from corporal to private in June of 1864.

Serving with the Illinois Battery put James in some hard fighting during the battles leading to the Union occupation Atlanta, Georgia. Two other men from the Minnesota Battery were killed in the fighting.

James and the other detached men were sent back to the Minnesota Battery in October. James was noted as "absent sick" from February 14 to the 26th, and did not return to duty until March 11, 1865. It was almost time for him to leave the Army. James and Horatio were both mustered out on March 28, 1865, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. James was owed \$100 when he mustered out, but the Army got what they believed due them. \$3.80 was held from James' pay to cover the cost of transportation back to Minnesota.

James returned to Minnesota where he married Sarah Jane Rogers on October 29, 1865. From that point onward, James left little about his life.

James was a member of the Hood River G.A.R. Post in Oregon, and in 1890, he was living in Ruby, Washington. When or why he left Minnesota is unknown, but he did know at least one couple in Washington. His sister, Martha, and her husband, Horatio who had served with James in the Battery were living in Washington in 1890.

When James died on March 25, 1923, he was laid to rest in the Kent Cemetery in Kent, Washington. He lies in the plot next to his sister and brother-in-law.

Papers filed by his wife, Mary, provide more information about the life James had led. In applying for a widow's pension, she stated that James was first married to Sarah J. Rogers. After her death, he married Amy Matteson, who also died. The third wife was evidently no charm for James as he divorced Harriet Celestine on January 4, 1911. At the time, he was living in King County, Washington.

Mary, his wife at the time of his death, had also been married several times. Her first husband died at Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the Civil War. She married a second husband in 1866, also in Mississippi, but by 1888, they were living in Renton, Washington. He died there from pneumonia. It was only then that Mary found out he had not been divorced from his first wife when Mary married him in 1866.

The Pension Department investigated all of this before deciding Mary and her third husband were married by virtue of "common law" since they had stayed together after the divorce from his first wife was made final. What this had to do with her marriage to James is unknown as that marriage was legal for both of them and it was under James' service that she was applying for a pension. No records can be found to indicate Mary ever received the pension she sought even though she lived two years after James' death. They share a headstone in the Kent Cemetery.



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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