



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Goyne Hamilton

Goyne was born in “north Ireland” in 1825. His first job was bleaching linen. He came to New York in 1845 and worked in various places around the country until the Mexican War broke out. He enlisted in the regular army where he served in Mexico and on the Pacific coast. When his term of enlistment was up, he stayed in California and worked the gold fields. He returned east some time prior to the Civil War and enlisted in the Second Battery when he was in Winona County, Minnesota, though his enlistment papers state his home town as New York. He enlisted on January 28, 1862.

Goyne was 34 years old, had hazel eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion. He stood 5' 7" tall and was married.

The first time Goyne left the Battery for the hospital was in Winchester, Tennessee, in mid August of 1863. He returned to the Battery on October 10. The Battery reenlisted in March of 1864, Goyne among them, so he got a veteran's furlough. As the Battery reorganized its returning veterans and brought in new recruits in the spring of 1864, Goyne was promoted to sergeant. Shortly after returning to Tennessee, Goyne was sent to Hospital #2 in Chattanooga where he would remain for over two weeks.

Another promotion came for Goyne on November 6, 1864, when he was made First Sergeant for the Battery. He served in this rank until the Battery was mustered out in August of 1865.

In his pension application, Goyne described the journey home at the end of the war. He said they left Indianapolis and went to Chicago on a train. From there, another train took them to Prairie Du Chein. That was where the train ride ended and the men of the Battery were loaded onto an open barge for the remainder of their trip to St. Paul. For two days, the men were “exposed to prevailing fogs, dew and dampness.” Goyne caught a severe cold, one that the doctor called pneumonia by the time they reached Fort Snelling.

After his discharge from the Army at Fort Snelling, Goyne west to Stearns County where he settled on 160 acres in Eden Lake Township. He worked at improving the land and two years later, in 1867, he was elected to be a supervisor on the first town board for the Town of Eden Lake. In 1870, the census showed Goyne and his wife, Clara, living on their farm in Eden Lake with a daughter, Elisa, age four. His wife died in December of 1877 and her grave marker lists her as Catherine. Which name she went by



is unknown. Goyne eventually sold his first farm and bought a second one. He remained on this farm, working it “profitably and intelligently” for the rest of his life.

Goyne died at the age of 82 years on January 18, 1907. His obituary appeared in the Eden Lake newspaper--a newspaper published in German. There, his name is “Geo.” an abbreviation for George, so he may have Anglicized his name at some point after the war. He is buried in the Eden Lake Cemetery near Eden Valley, Stearns County, Minnesota, with a marker that reads “Goyne.”

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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