



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Henry S. Hill

Henry came to Minnesota with his parents in 1856. They took up land in Bellevue, Morrison County, and began farming. Henry helped on the farm and worked in the lumber business until the war began.

Henry was mustered in the day before the Second Minnesota Battery was accepted into U.S. service. It was March 21, 1862. Henry was single, had gray eyes, light hair and a light complexion. He stood 5' 7-1/2" tall. He was 23 years old, having been born on November 30, 1838 in Barrington, New Brunswick, Canada.

Once he decided to enlist, Henry's choice of unit may have been easy. His sister had married Lyman Ayer from nearby Belle Plain and Lyman enlisted in February. The brothers-in-law planned to serve together.

The Battery was sent south in early May of 1862 and stopped at Benton Barracks, Missouri, to await equipment. While there, Henry caught the measles. The disease hit him hard, his back seemed most affected, and he was sent to the hospital at St. Louis. While at the hospital, Henry contracted chronic diarrhea. This would haunt him for most of the rest of his life.

The Battery's muster roll shows Henry "in Minnesota on sick leave" for July and August of 1862. In September, Henry was finally back with his unit. That would not last long.

On September 27, 1862, near Louisville, Kentucky, Henry was wounded in the right elbow by the accidental discharge of a musket. They were in camp and the musket was in the hands of a comrade. Henry was once again sent to the hospital, this time at New Albany, Indiana. Henry remained in the hospital until January of 1863, when he caught up to the Battery while they were camped outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

By the end of February, Henry was sick again, the diarrhea back with a vengeance. His brother-in-law, Lyman, later said no one expected Henry to live through it.

Henry did not die, but was given a disability discharge on March 9th and sent back to Minnesota.

Henry went back to farming. The tax assessor's return in 1867 in Bellevue included Henry's property. He owned three cows valued at a total of \$44, a carriage worth \$75, and had bank deposits of \$300.

On October 25, 1870, Henry married Telitha M. Cochran in Little Falls. They did not have any children.

Farming may have been too hard for Henry or perhaps he decided there might be a better way to make a living. In 1873, he and Tillie, as he called her, moved to Little Falls where Henry and his brother Elvin went together to buy a saw mill. The pair

ran the mill for a while, then Elvin sold his share to Henry who became the sole proprietor until 1881 when he sold the mill and moved back to the home his parents had built when they first came to Minnesota. Henry remained in Bellevue for the rest of his life.

Henry went out into the woods to work at his lumbering interests with the Pine Tree Company in January of 1902 and “became ill from exposure”. Finding it hard to work any longer, he applied for a pension for his Army services. A pension of \$8.00 per month was approved the day after his death on September 12, 1902.



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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