



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John I. Hopkins

John was born on 2 August 1837 in New York. He was a miller in Winona County, Minnesota, when he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Light Artillery Battery. He was mustered in on 20 February 1862 as a private.

He was 5' 9-1/2" tall, had hazel eyes, brown hair and a light complexion. He was single.

During the fighting at Knob Gap, Tennessee, on 26 December 1862, John was wounded by a shell. The records indicate that he received a fatal wound in the mouth while he was serving on a gun near Nolonville. He died on 30 December 1862.

The *Winona Daily Republican* newspaper reported on a letter the editor had received from a member of the Battery following the battle where John lost his life. It referenced a *New York Herald* article as being incorrect and that the Battery had only lost two men in the fight, "with six or eight wounded and two of their guns." This, too, is not correct as the Second Minnesota Battery did not lose any of their guns in the battle. They did, however, serve their guns throughout the thickest of the fighting and were at their posts for six days before being relieved. The article concluded with the information that one of their own community, John Hopkins, was among those killed in the fighting.

It is not known if John's body was brought back to Minnesota, but it appears unlikely. A memorial for him was added to his father's stone in the Saratoga Cemetery, Saratoga, Winona County, Minnesota. The front of the stone is for John C. Hopkins, a large gray stone under a tree. Carving on the back of the stone includes John, a brother and a sister.

In 1879, John's mother, Cynthia, found herself in great need. John's father had not been able to work since the winter of 1862. John's wages earned as a miller and farm hand supported the family before he went into the army. When the Battery was near Nashville, Tennessee, John sent home \$20 to help out. Cynthia owned a small house in Saratoga Township and worked as a carpet weaver, but she still was unable to make ends meet. John's father died of lingering consumption in 1869, leaving her alone. She decided to apply for John's pension. The pension was granted.



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.

Updated: 20 June 2020