



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Martin Hosli

Martin Hosli was born in Glarns, Switzerland. He came to America and settled in Champlin, Minnesota. The tiny part of the community he chose was called "New Schwanden" and many residents came from the same area of Switzerland. He left his wife Dorothea, and son Fred in Switzerland when he came to the United States, planning to establish a home before he sent for them. Martin was one of the earliest settlers in Champlin, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Dorothea and Fred came when Martin was settled. Martin was a locksmith.

Martin probably knew the man who came calling to suggest enlisting in the Second Battery as Albert Woodbury recruited heavily in his home area. Champlin lay just across the Mississippi River from Albert's home and many Champlin men answered the call to enlist in the Battery. Martin was mustered into the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery on January 27, 1862, at the age of 27. The descriptive roll showed him as 5' 5-1/2" tall, blue eyes, light hair, and light complexion.

Army life was fine for Martin until the fall of 1864. He had reenlisted the March before and gotten a veteran's furlough. After the Battery returned south was when Martin began to have some difficulties. On October 14, he was admitted to the General Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with tonsillitis. Four days later, he was transferred to General Hospital #1 in Nashville because he had the mumps. On the 25th of October, Martin was transferred again to the hospital at Jeffersonville, Indiana, and diagnosed with "Neuralgia." Martin was treated by a series of doctors and hospitals and at some point was given quinine for what one person called malaria. The tablespoon administered was probably too much and it was blamed for causing him have a severe headache, to act irrationally, feel generally ill, and finally caused a major loss of hearing. Whether it was illness or the cures applied to Martin that took his health and hearing is open to interpretation. It was not until February 9th, 1865, that Martin returned to his unit.

Martin continued to serve as a private with the Battery until it was mustered out on August 16, 1865.

Not much is known about Martin's life after the war, though he did join the G.A.R Post in Anoka, just across the river from Champlin. An article in the Anoka Union on March 18, 1885, stated that *Martin Hosli, a German with a great appetite for lager, imbibed several hundred glasses of the beverage, Friday night, until he got as full as a tick with a noisy accompaniment. Officer Chadborne laid the strong arm of the law upon him, and kindly furnished him lodgings at the city's expense. Saturday he paid \$5 and costs for his fun.*

Another article in the same paper appeared the following week. It stated, *Martin Hosli sr., wants it distinctly understood that he was not arrested for being drunk. It was*

Martin Hosli, jr., who forked over \$5.00 and costs for being drunk and disorderly. Dad was clearly not in the mood to take the blame for his son's activities!

The newspaper reported at least once more on an incident in the Hosli family in 1886 when a horse belonging to Martin (no indication if it was Junior or Senior) ran away "on the west side." The result was a badly damaged buggy.

When Martin died in March of 1892, his will left everything he owned to his wife. That included 120 acres with a five room house and log barn, but only 30 acres were tillable. He also left her five cows, four horses, two pigs and a few farm tools. The entire estate was valued at not more than \$400. Dorothea and the children, three of whom were under 16 years, worked the farm to make a living.

Martin was buried in the Fridolin Cemetery in Champlin with both a veteran's marker and a family marker.

The *Anoka County Union* newspaper ran two notices of Martin's death, the first on March 2, 1892, that read Martin Hosli, veteran of the Second Minn. Artillery died Thursday morning. The funeral will be held at the new church, two miles from Champlin Thursday at 2 p.m. under the auspices of the G.A.R. The second notice appeared a week later on March 9. *The funeral of Martin Hosli late of the 2nd Minn. Battery, was very largely attended, over 90 teams were in the procession. He was held in very high esteem by his friends and neighbors. The family extend their heartfelt thanks for the kindness and sympathy of their friends and neighbors, in their sad bereavement.*



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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