



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Philip Hynes

The Battery had already gone South when Philip decided to join on August 8, 1862. Albert Woodbury, a lieutenant in the Battery, was recruiting in Anoka County when Philip agreed to enlist. Philip had to get permission from his parents to join the Army as he was just over 18 years old. He had been born in New York City on May 18, 1844, and was living on a farm in Grow Township with his family. Philip's family had come to Minnesota when he was 10 years old. When Philip enlisted, he was 5' 8" tall, with hazel eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion.

Being a later recruit, Philip was not yet allowed to reenlist when the Battery veteranized in March of 1864, so he did not get a veteran's furlough to go home. Instead, he was detailed to serve with Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery. Philip participated in the battles for Atlanta and saw hard fighting before he returned to the Minnesota Battery in October of 1864.

Philip's time in the Army was uneventful as he was never reported at the hospital, sick or disciplined in any of the Battery's reports. He was mustered out with the unit on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling.



After his discharge, Philip went to Hennepin County where, on December 5, 1874, he married Mary Margaret Pond. The couple made their home in Bloomington for a time, then moved to Crystal Lake Township. While living in Hennepin County, Philip served as clerk of the school board, Justice of the Peace, and two terms as chair of the Board of Supervisors for Hennepin County.

In 1887, the family, now including five children, moved to California where Philip started poultry farming. He devoted his work to the poultry ranch for the next 30 years and built it into a very respectable business, one of the first such ranches in that part of the county.

In Santa Cruz, Philip ran for city council and was elected several times, serving a total of six years as a city councilman. He was also commander of the local G.A.R. post for a term.

About this time, there were two other past members of the Battery living in Santa Cruz, George Crowson and Edwin Whitefield. It seems likely the men were friends even after the war.

It was in 1903 that Philip applied for a pension. On the application, Philip described a permanent mark or scar as requested by the pension department as a “scar over left eye - skull broken so as to cause a depression”. Whether he meant physically a dent in his head or emotional damage is unclear. He was granted a pension and collected it until his death on October 22, 1918. He was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, section B2, in Santa Cruz.



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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