



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

William H. H. Jackins

It was Captain Hotchkiss who recruited William into the Battery in January of 1862. It was not yet the Second Minnesota Battery as Captain Hotchkiss had just started recruiting for men to fill the ranks of a new artillery unit from Minnesota. William agreed to serve three years and set off for Fort Snelling.

The descriptive role noted William as single with blue eyes, light hair, light complexion and 5' 6-3/4" tall. He was 21 years old and had been born in Penobscot County, Maine.

William's life before the war appears to have included a number moves. In 1850, William and his family were living in Maine where he and his siblings were all born. By 1857, his father was listed as a merchant living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with the family. Three years later, (1860) the family was living on a farm in Hassan Township, Hennepin County, Minnesota, with another family. By 1862, the Jackins family had moved again, this time to Wright County, Minnesota, and it was this home that William left to join the army.

William served as a private in the Battery. He was detailed to serve with the Provost Guard on July 17, 1863 and returned to his own unit the next day. In November, William was sick and was sent to the hospital where he would remain until his discharge for disability on March 20, 1864. Records indicate his disability came from chronic diarrhea, bloody discharges, "weak and exceedingly emaciated."

The illness was severe as William was awarded a partial disability pension that was dated the same day as his discharge, March 20, 1864. He received \$4 a month.

Where William went after his discharge is unknown. A pension affidavit was filed in October of 1869 stating William lived in Oregon City, Oregon. It also noted that William's pension increased to \$8 a month.

The 1870 census recorded William living in a home with two other couples in the city of Portland, Oregon. His occupation was that of a painter.

Death caught up to William on October 12, 1871. Where he was laid to rest is unknown despite many searches. A year later, William's mother, Harriet, was in Oregon and she applied for a Mother's pension. She stated that her husband had deserted her, so she divorced him and that William had been her sole support for four years. No further evidence has been found to indicate whether Harriet was granted the pension or not.

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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