



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

James P. Jackson

James was a 25 year old machinist living in Ashford, Connecticut, when he married Anna E. Gates on July 9, 1851. He had been born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, but by 1860, he, Anna, and their two children were living in Minnesota where James was farming.

When the draft rendezvous was held late in the summer of 1864, James decided to enlist. He joined the Second Battery on September 2, and was given one third of his promised \$100 bounty for his agreement to serve one year. His name was credited to the town of Utica, Winona County, for their draft quota. The descriptive roll showed James as 38 years old, 5' 8" tall, with blue eyes, brown hair, and a sandy complexion.

In the spring of 1865, James and other men of the Battery were detailed to Major Church and put to work cutting logs, a duty they probably did not enjoy. James was mustered out at Fort Snelling at the end of the war, went back to Winona County and continued to farm. He and Anna added four more children while living in Minnesota, for a total of six.

The 1890 veterans census showed James and Anna had not left Winona County. They were still farming in the small community of Fremont. Pension records indicated James received a \$12 a month pension. He was a member of the Old Settlers Association.

In the spring of 1892 that James and Anna moved to the state of Washington and settled near Seattle.

James was not destined to spend much time in Washington. On December 4, James died from Bright's disease at the Providence Hospital in Seattle. The Winona newspaper printed a notice of his death on December 9, but the paper blamed the climate of Seattle, stating it had "proven very detrimental to his health."



The funeral was held at the "undertaking rooms" of Bonney and Stewart with Reverend Hyland officiating. James was laid to rest in the GAR section of the Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle.

The GAR section of Lakeview was separate from the rest of the cemetery and eventually was forgotten and abandoned. In the 1990s, a group formed called Friends of the GAR. They began the clean up and restoration of the GAR Cemetery and by 2003, had made progress in restoring the stones, grounds, and dignity of the veterans buried there.

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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