



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Freeman D. James

Freeman D. James was born in Chautauqua County, New York, in 1822, where he remained until he was 27 years old. Freeman left New York and his job working in the lumbering trade in 1853 and went west, to California, where he met with “considerable success” before he returned to New York. He had married Mary B. Strong in 1843, but records do not indicate whether she went with him to California or waited in New York. In 1855, Freeman moved the family to Minnesota and settled in Hassan Township, Hennepin County, where he took up farming.

When Freeman enlisted in St. Paul for one year on August 26, 1864, he was due a bounty of \$100. His enlistment was credited, not to his home town or county, but to Featherstone, Goodhue County. He had gray eyes, dark hair and a light complexion. He stood 5’ 10” tall. He was 44 years old at the time of enlistment.

Freeman served until the Battery mustered out at the end of the war. He returned to Hassan Township and his wife, Mary, and their three children. Mary died in February of 1876. Four years later, on April 26, 1880, Freeman married Anna C. Cogley. She was just 19 years old, 38 years younger than Freeman. They did not have any children together.



Freeman was involved with his community and served as the Hassan Town supervisor and constable. He worked with education and did “much for the cause of education” in the county according to an 1881 history. Freeman remained a farmer his whole life in Minnesota.

In the spring of 1885, Freeman became ill and could not get better. About the last week of July, he was moved from Hassan to a hospital in Minneapolis where it was believed he could get more constant treatment, but it was to no avail. Freeman died about August 17, 1885, in the hospital. His remains were taken back to Champlin for the funeral and he was buried in the church yard of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Hassan.

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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