



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Andrew Jett

Andrew was not a member of the Second Minnesota Battery, but he served with them on special details at two different times. Book keeping was somewhat haphazard in the Second Minnesota and while Andrew's name and home unit were recorded, the dates he was with the Battery were not. Twice the reports show him leaving after having served on a detail to the artillery, but no dates show his arrival to the Battery. Andrew reported back to the 38th Illinois Infantry, Company I on October 24, 1863, and again on June 6, 1864. Exactly how long he spent with the Minnesota artillery is unknown, but his name and face would have been known by the men of the Second Minnesota Battery.

Andrew was born on June 21, 1831, in Washington County, Ohio. By the time he enlisted, he was working as a carpenter in Albion, Illinois. He was 5' 8" tall, had blue eyes, dark hair and a light complexion. Andrew was married. He and Susan McKibben were married on October 7, 1852, and by 1861, when Andrew enlisted, they had five children. There would be five more born to Susan and Andrew after the war.

He was mustered into the 38th Illinois Infantry on August 22, 1861, and agreed to serve for three years. He received a bounty of \$100. Immediately, he was promoted to corporal and a year later, on May 2, 1862, he was promoted to sergeant. At some point during the summer of 1863, Andrew was detailed to serve with the Second Minnesota where his name was noted on the company rolls. He went back to the 38th Illinois, but by March 28th, he was detailed to the 101st Ohio Infantry. Again, records do not show how long he stayed with the Ohio regiment, but he was back with his own regiment before he was once again detailed to the Second Minnesota in the spring of 1864. When he was sent back to his infantry regiment, it was noted on his muster sheet that he was sick in the hospital at Chattanooga two days after the Battery rolls showed him leaving. The Battery's rolls do not give any hint about Andrew's health, but it must not have been the best when he left the Battery. Andrew did not reenlist, whether by desire or health is unknown.

Andrew was mustered out of the army on September 15, 1864, and he went home to Albion, Illinois. Andrew and Susan stayed in Albion until March of 1882 when they moved to Peoria, Illinois. They stayed in Peoria until September of 1890, when they moved back to Albion, this time for good.

Andrew must have been a fairly good carpenter as one of the sideboards he built is in the collection of the Edwards County Historical Society. It has a drop leaf side on it and is documented to have been built by Andrew.

Susan died on April 17, 1902. Andrew married again on February 13, 1903, at Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Asenath Cecelia McKibben Drennon was a widow, so it was a second marriage for both of them.



Little is known about their life except that when Andrew was filing for his pension in 1916, Asenath was already dead. Death must have been a familiar face to Andrew--both wives and nine of his ten children preceded him in death.

That same pension application showed Andrew had never learned to write his name. He made his mark on the application. Witnesses verified that it was indeed his mark.

Andrew was 91 years old when he passed away from "old age" according to the doctor who attended him at the end of his life. Andrew died on December 2, 1922, at the home of Thomas Leslie in Ellery. The funeral was from the Albion Christian Church and Andrew was buried in the Albion Church Cemetery.

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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