



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Ever M. Johnson

Ever was a Norwegian immigrant to Minnesota and was farming near Spring Grove in Houston County when the conflict between the Dakota Indians and the settlers of Minnesota broke out. Recruiting began immediately for a regiment of mounted rangers to fight the Dakota and Ever decided to enlist. He joined Company A of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers on September 27, 1862. This regiment served under General Henry Sibley and fought their battles against the Dakota instead of Southerners.

Ever had served just over one year with the Rangers when he, and the rest of the unit, was mustered out on October 20, 1863. The conflict in Minnesota was over and Ever went back to Spring Grove.

Late the next summer, Ever was in Rochester and decided to enlist once more, this time to fight in the South. He was paid \$33.33 of a promised \$100 bounty for agreeing to serve one year with the Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery. Ever was 21 years old, had dark hair, gray eyes, and a dark complexion. He stood 5' 6" tall.

The time spent in the Battery was uneventful for Ever as the Battery was assigned to garrison duty for most of that last year of the war. Ever was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865. He went back to farming in Spring Grove.

On September 23, 1866, Ever married Maria Clements of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. By 1878, they decided to move further west and they had four children when they arrived in Polk County, Minnesota. Ever continued to farm until after 1900 when he retired. He, Maria, and daughter Anna moved into a home on Walnut Street in Grand Forks.

Ever was active in the Willis A. Gorman Post of the G.A.R. and the Baptist Church, both in Grand Forks.

In 1911, Ever became ill and nothing seemed to help. He died after several months of illness on September 26, 1911. He was laid to rest in the Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks, the first burial in the Johnson family plot that would eventually hold Ever, Maria, and three of their children. His grave is marked with a stone noting his service in the cavalry, but his service with the Second Battery is not noted. Also of interest in the spelling of Ever's name. Throughout his records, his name is spelled with an "E" to make his name "Ever." The only known record of a different spelling is on his grave stone where the "E" is an "I" and makes his name Iver instead of Ever. How this happened or what name he used in life is unknown.



*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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