



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Ingebreth Johnson

Ingebreth Johnson was born in Stavanger, Norway. He first came to the United States alone in 1853 and farmed for two years near Long Prairie, Illinois. He made enough money by 1855 to return to Norway to get his bride, Ane Augland, and his parents. They came to Minnesota and Ane and Ingebreth were married on September 10, 1860, in Fillmore County. There the newlyweds made their living by farming.

In February of 1862, Ingebreth enlisted in the Second Battery as a private. He was 26 years old, stood 5' 6" tall, had blue eyes, light hair and complexion. On January 1, 1863, he was detailed as a wagon master. He would remain on this duty until the end of September that year when he returned to regular duty. Ingebreth chose not to reenlist and was once again detailed, this time to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery when the rest of the reenlisting members of the Minnesota Battery went home on their veteran's furlough. This detached service put Ingebreth in the hotly contested battles for Atlanta, Georgia. When the Minnesota Battery returned south, Ingebreth went back to finish his term of service with them, serving both as a cannoneer and as a driver. He was discharged on March 28, 1865, at the end of his three-year term.

Ingebreth returned to Minnesota and Ane. In 1866, reports abounded about the rich land further west in Redwood and Yellow Medicine Counties. Ingebreth and Ane moved, taking a homestead in the southeast quarter of Section 4, Sandness Township, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota. Their first child, Mary, was born that same year. Eventually, they would have five children.

Ingebreth may have been quite a character based on a surviving story about him recorded in a county history book. He was out cutting logs with a neighbor when a stray buffalo came near. The buffalo and Ingebreth got into a tangle and Ingebreth killed the buffalo with his axe. It was said the entire settlement had an unexpected treat of buffalo meat!

Stomach cancer finally overcame Ingebreth and he died at his home on June 15, 1899. He was 64. He was buried at the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery in Hanley Falls, Yellow Medicine County.



Ane applied for a widow's pension and had to provide proof of her need to the Pension Department. She had inherited from Ingebreth some land which was rented out, making her an income of \$111. She had some buildings on the property and their insurance value was \$6.00 per year. She paid \$38.40 per year in taxes. Her total worth including land, buildings, and household goods was estimated to be \$2,120.

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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