



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Iver M. Johnson

Iver 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 Iver 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 Indians instead of Southerners.

Iver 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 Indian conflict in Minnesota was over and Iver went back to Spring Grove.

Late the next summer, Iver 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. Iver 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 Iver and he was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865. He went back to farming in Spring Grove.

On September 23, 1866, Iver 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. Iver continued to farm until after 1900 when he retired. He, Maria, and daughter Anna moved into a home on Walnut Street in Grand Forks.



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

In 1911, Iver 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 Iver, Maria, and three of their children.

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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