



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Benjamin P. Joy

When Benjamin was mustered into the Second Minnesota Battery on September 2, 1864, he knew he would not be joining a unit where he would be alone. His brother, Horatio, had already been serving in the Battery for over two years.

Benjamin was the little brother, being not only three years younger than Horatio, but standing 5' 9" tall, put him more than two inches shorter. His birth was on April 5, 1838, in Racine, Wisconsin, his family being one of the pioneers in that area. Benjamin had blue eyes, brown hair, a sandy complexion and was working as a farmer when he enlisted.

The draft quota often assigned men to places that were short and this is what happened to Benjamin. He was living in Spring Grove in Houston County when he went to Rochester to enlist, but agreed to have his enlistment count toward the draft quota for Utica in Winona County. He received the first third of his bounty payment, a bounty which would eventually total \$100.

The time Benjamin spent in the Battery was uneventful, the only special notation was that he joined the Battery's Bible Class and attended until June of 1865. Benjamin was with a detachment of men that were riding in freight cars between Knoxville and Philadelphia, Tennessee. The train cars derailed and the men riding in and on top of the cars were thrown or jumped. In the confusion, Benjamin injured his left ankle enough to require him to use crutches to walk. Captain Hotchkiss supplied the crutches and stated that Benjamin was unable to return to duty after that and was still using the crutches when the Battery was mustered out in August at Fort Snelling.

Benjamin went back to Spring Grove, but did not stay there. He moved to Fremont in Winona County where he remained until 1875. From there, he moved into the city of Winona and was a member of the Sons of Temperance organization. In 1889, he was elected as the group's chaplain.

Benjamin spent at least some time working in a logging camp in Wisconsin. In January of 1877, Benjamin was scaling a pine log when a skid flew around and struck him in the head just behind his right ear. It caused the loss of all hearing in his right ear, left a constant "roaring" and "spells of dizziness".

Benjamin cited his ankle and the injury from the logging accident when he applied for a pension in 1892.

By this time, Benjamin was living in St. Paul. He left St. Paul in 1899 and moved west to Lyon County, Minnesota, where he remained until 1912 when he moved back to the Soldiers Home in Minneapolis. It was his last move. Benjamin died on December 1, 1912, and was laid to rest in St. Paul's Oakland Cemetery. His grave was not marked until 2002 when it was brought to the attention of the Cemetery Association and the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table. A veteran's stone was ordered and placed for Benjamin.



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.