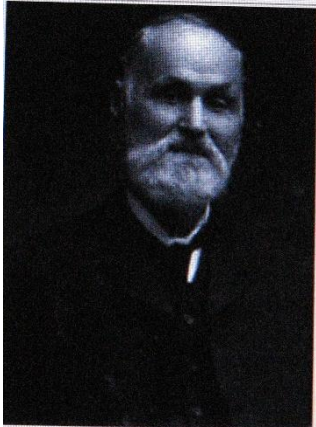




2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Horatio Nelson Joy



It was said that Horatio was the first white child born in Racine County, Wisconsin, when he arrived on January 8, 1836. His family were among the first pioneers in Racine County.

How Horatio came to enlist in the Second Minnesota Battery is not completely clear since he said he did not live in Minnesota until 1871 when he moved from Wisconsin. Records do indicate at least visits to Minnesota as he was married on November 14, 1858, in Utica, Winona County. His bride was Martha M. Hagadorn.

Martha's family may have been why Horatio was in Minnesota when troops were being raised for a second battery of light artillery in January of 1862. Richard Dawley was recruiting heavily in Winona County and Martha's brother, James, enlisted on January 20. Just over a week after his brother-in-law joined the Battery, Horatio signed up. The pair served together throughout their three years of service.

When Horatio went south with the Battery in the spring of 1862, he left Martha expecting their first child. Ira was born on October 21st, two weeks after his father had been in the first real battle the Second Battery was involved in.

Army life was good to Horatio and he was promoted to corporal. In March of 1863, he was promoted again to sergeant. Rank did not matter to illness and Horatio was sent to the hospital on June 4, 1863. He remained in the hospital until he was sent detached service to the gunboat *Newsboy* where he served for a short time. He was back with the Battery by September 22nd.

In March of 1864, the men of the Second Battery were in a position to reenlist to serve another three years or until the end of the war, whichever came first. Horatio and James may have discussed their plans as both chose not to reenlist. When the men who had reenlisted went home on the furlough granted for signing up again, the rest of the men were assigned to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery.

This reassignment may have had something to do with Horatio's demotion. He went from sergeant to private in June of 1864, and served as such until he returned to the Minnesota Battery in October when he was again made a corporal.

Serving with the Illinois Battery put Horatio and James in some hard fighting during the battles leading to the Union occupation of the city of Atlanta, Georgia. Two other men from the Minnesota Battery were killed in the fighting. Horatio's physical examination in later years blamed a total loss of hearing in his right ear on the "heavy cannonading in front of Atlanta" that summer in 1864.

When Horatio and the other detached men were sent back to the Minnesota Battery in October, Horatio found his little brother, Benjamin, serving there. Benjamin had joined the Battery at a draft rendezvous in September and served as a private until the war was over.

Horatio and James were both mustered out on March 28, 1865, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Horatio said he went back to Martha and the baby in Wisconsin where they lived until 1871 when they moved to Minnesota. By this time, Sanford, Sherman, and Mattie had joined the family. The choice of naming his son Sherman gives rise to the speculation that perhaps Horatio met, or at least greatly admired, General William T. Sherman during the battles for Atlanta when Horatio served in Sherman's army.

The family farmed in Minnesota until 1888 when they moved to Washington State. Two more children were added and Horatio supported his growing family by working as a carpenter in Washington.

On October 8, 1891, Horatio was standing on some scaffolding while working at his trade when the scaffolding gave way. He fell some 16 feet and severely injured his ankle. It was to be a career ending injury as an affidavit stated Horatio was no longer fit to do any work for which he was qualified.



Horatio and Sarah

Martha died around 1900 and Horatio married a second time on February 3, 1906. His second wife, Sarah, was twice a widow and twice divorced, Horatio being her fifth marriage.

Horatio died in the town of Oak Harbor on May 10, 1915, from cerebral thrombosis. He was laid to rest in the Kent Cemetery in Washington. A few years later, his brother-in-law, James Hagadorn, came to rest beside Horatio in the adjoining plot. On the other side of that same cemetery, their commanding officer rested, Captain Hotchkiss also being buried in the Kent Cemetery in 1914.



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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