



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John L. Kimball

Anoka County, Minnesota, was heavily recruited for men to serve in the Second Minnesota Battery since two of the officers lived in or near the town of Anoka. Captain Hotchkiss and Lt. Woodbury both sought recruits among their neighbors and friends. Crossing the Mississippi River on the ferry in Anoka meant crossing a county line into Champlin and Hennepin County. Both officers recruited men from northern Hennepin County as Anoka was the closest “urban center” for that area. John Kimball was one of those Champlin men.

John was born in 1840 in Springfield, Maine. By 1862, he had taken up farming in Champlin, Minnesota. Captain Hotchkiss signed him up in the Battery on January 25, 1862, even before there were enough men to truly be called a Battery. John was 5' 7-1/4" tall, had hazel eyes, sandy hair and sandy complexion.

John served as a private. By August of 1862, he was sick, but remained with the Battery. He suffered from chronic diarrhea and what was called a lung disease, but he stayed on duty nearly eight more months before being sent to Hospital #2 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on March 26, 1863.

There was little that could be done for John and it was believed he would never be healthy enough to return to duty with the army. He was discharged for disability on the 27th of April, 1863, while the Battery was in camp near Murfreesboro.

John's discharge papers commended his actions with glowing comments. “This soldier has from the first resolutely fought against disease, always persisting in discharging his duty until he was completely prostrated. Though in the Doctor's care, he participated in the battle at Perryville, Ky, and Stones River, Tennessee. There is no prospect of his being longer serviceable in the command.”

The reason stated for his discharge was, “Diarrhea Chronica of five months duration, is much reduced and is still gradually failing with but little prospect of recovery.”

John went back to his home in Champlin. In 1880, he applied for an invalid's pension, no longer able to earn a living thorough manual labor. A neighbor who had served with John in the Battery wrote a letter to the Pension Department backing up John's need for a pension. The pension was granted and John began receiving \$4 a month.

Little more is known about John until his death on May 16, 1894. It is very doubtful if John had any family as no notice ever reached the Pension Department of his death. A certificate dated August 28, 1897, gave notice that his name had been dropped from the pension roll as the department had not heard from him in over three years. The last payment to him was dated April 4, 1894, just over a month before his death.

John was buried in the Champlin Cemetery, Champlin, Hennepin County, Minnesota. He has a veteran's white marker with only his name and "2nd Minnesota Battery" carved on it.



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.

Updated: 18 December 2020