



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

William Henry Kimber

The first time William probably saw the state of Tennessee was while he was in the army, but it must have had an appeal he found hard to resist. He was said to have agreed with a statement made by a doctor living in Bledso County, Tennessee, when the doctor said, "I have never found a more delightful climate or a more beautiful place than Sequatchie Valley."

William left Minnesota in 1887 and moved to Pikesville, Tennessee, and became part of the little community in the Sequatchie Valley. It is quite possible he might have seen the area while on duty with the Second Battery.

When William enlisted in the Second Battery on February 20, 1862, he was 21 years old, single, 5' 9-1/2" tall, with gray eyes, light hair, and a light complexion. His birth was recorded as March 5, 1841, in Sherwood, Branch County, Michigan. William was working on a farm in Olmsted County, Minnesota, when the war broke out and he decided he would serve his country instead of the plow.

The time William spent with the Battery was not out of the ordinary. His name appeared on the muster sheets as present except for one time when he was left sick at Tullahoma, Tennessee on January 14, 1864. He was back to the Battery in time to reenlist as a veteran volunteer on March 21, but since the veterans were given a 30 day furlough in Minnesota, William was not reported as present for duty with the Battery until June 29th.

The war ended and the Battery was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865, and William went to live in Brown County, Minnesota, instead of returning to Olmsted County.

What may have taken William to Brown County is unknown, but a marriage license was issued in New Ulm and William married Margaret June Sanderson on November 6, 1870.

The couple made their home in Brown County until 1887. Their first child was stillborn in 1871. Four more children were born between 1872 and 1879, three girls and a boy.

In 1887, the family moved south and settled near Pikesville, Tennessee. The area was said to one of the most beautiful anywhere and William was known to have agreed with that statement publicly. It was good that William loved the area as it would be where he remained even in death.



William died at home with his wife and neighbors at his side. The Crawfords were neighbors and wrote about William and his wife in support of Margaret's pension application. Vina Crawford wrote they "were as much devoted to each as any couple I seen. They were fine old people indeed."

William was laid to rest in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery, a small country church yard on a rise overlooking a beautiful valley that seems to go on forever.

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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