



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John King

John never meant to serve in the artillery. He enlisted in the infantry on August 10, 1862, at Norwalk, Ohio, and was assigned to Company A of the 101st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was single, born in Ireland, was 21 years old, and agreed to serve for three years.

He served in the infantry about six months before he was transferred to the Second Minnesota Battery to serve in the artillery. What his position with the Battery may have been is not recorded, but John was an artillery man from March to October when he was transferred back to his infantry unit. He was not back to his unit long before he was sick. The 101st was at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and John was on the sick roll from October 25, 1863 to April 30 of 1864. He was only back for a month when he was again reported sick, though length of the illness was not recorded. He received a promotion to sergeant on May 1, 1865.

When the 101st was mustered out at Camp Harker, Tennessee, in June of 1865, John was with them. He went home to Ohio. On June 12, 1875, he married Elizabeth Reid Callahan in Cleveland, Ohio. She went by the name of Bessie and was a widow living in Cleveland. The couple had their first daughter on April 5, 1876, and the second on February 11, 1878. John saw his youngest daughter's first birthday before he died three months later on May 2, 1879. The cause of death was listed as hemorrhage of the lungs.

Bessie filed for a pension for the girls, but the pension department wanted proof that John's illness had been caused by his time in the army. Such proof was not to be found, so the claim for assistance for John's daughters was rejected.

Another 20 years went by before Bessie applied to the Pension Department again, this time as a widow. A deposition from a neighbor said he knew John and described one time when John was working at Marblehead, Ohio. John had gotten wet and the cold "stiffened up" John and it was why he left Marblehead. The neighbor said John "couldn't stand working there because of having to get down in the damp, wet trenches", but he neglects to tell the Pension Department what John was doing in those trenches in the first place.

Two other depositions appear in John's file, both from members of the Second Minnesota Battery. Samuel Loudon apologized that he could not remember John King, but suspected he was a transfer man and served in a different detachment than Sam. Samuel suggested they contact Captain Hotchkiss for more information.



Captain Hotchkiss did have more information and supplied the dates John served in the Battery, but he found no mention of sickness or injury in the reports. The Captain did remember John as a transfer man, but little more than that.

Bessie's records seem to indicate she did not get a pension with this application either and it is unknown if she tried again.

John was buried in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Norwalk, Ohio.

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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