



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Frederick Kohlstadt

Frederick was a German immigrant, having been born in Armans, Germany, on April 19, 1833. He came to the United States in 1854 and took a job conducting wagon trains of provisions across the plains to the Pacific coast. Fred left this job and was working on a farm when he decided to enlist in the Second Minnesota Battery on December 21, 1861. He was one of the earliest men to enlist in what would become the Second Minnesota Battery.

Fred was 28 years old, stood 5' 4-1/2" tall, had light hair, blue eyes and a light complexion. His enlistment was for three years.

The job Frederick had in the Battery was not on the guns, but far behind them. He served as a blacksmith with the unit, keeping the horses shod and metal work in good repair.

Being fair skinned might have aided the heat in causing problems for Fred in June of 1862. The Battery was on the march in the state of Mississippi. Fred was driving a mule team, most likely pulling the Battery's rolling forge. The intense southern sun was too much for many men and Fred was one of them. He suffered sun stroke and was sent to the camp hospital near Jacinto, Mississippi. There he remained until November 18, 1862, when he was well enough to return to duty.

When the Battery was ready to reenlist in the spring of 1864, Fred decided he had had enough of war and chose not to reenlist. When the men who did reenlist went home on their veteran's furloughs, Fred and the other men of the Battery not going home were assigned to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery. Fred was on "daily duty" with the Illinois Battery and probably did not see much of the action during the battles for Atlanta.

On October 16, 1864, the men detailed to the Illinois Battery returned to the Minnesota Battery. Even though Fred's three years were up in December, he was not discharged. He remained with the Battery until he was detailed to Major Church on March 8, 1865, to cut logs for the garrison. The Battery was in Chattanooga when Fred received his discharge--three months late--on March 28, 1865.

Frederick did not go back to Minnesota when he received his discharge. He went to Stevenson County, Illinois, where he lived for three years. On June 16, 1865, he married Mary C. Ludy. The couple had five children, two girls and three boys.

Fred moved his family to Iowa in 1869 and they began farming in Floyd County. They worked the land for 33 years before they moved to Emmet County, Iowa, in 1902. Fred was a member of the M. E. Church and was active in organizing the church at Raleigh, Iowa. Religion was probably always important to Frederick as he had also been a member of the Bible Class the men of the Second Battery organized during the war. Fred was active in the local Grand Army Post and enjoyed marching in the Memorial Day parades until his health no longer permitted him to do so.

Music was a favorite of Frederick's. He was known as "quite a singer himself" and it was said he often had a song on his lips up until the last week of his life.



Fred was confined to the house for the last two years of his life, and often even to his bed. Friends wrote about how jolly his disposition was even through the difficult days and how they missed the "pleasant smile and jovial greeting" he always had. His disposition was described as "sunny."

He was 80 years old when he died on the anniversary of the day he and Mary were married, June 16, 1913. He was laid to rest in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Estherville, Iowa.

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*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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