



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Charles Lane

Charles did not leave many records behind to tell of his life, either before or after the war. He was born in Sommerville, Massachusetts about 1842. By 1857, was in Minnesota, living in what appears to be a boarding house in Anoka with his parents and three siblings. His father's occupation was listed as "farmer," the same notation appears with Charles' name even though the census said he was only 12 years old. As an interesting side note, another boarder in that same household was Charles Earl. He too, would serve in the Second Minnesota Battery.

In the 1860 census, the Lane family was living in their own household, likely on a farm as the occupation of Charles' father was again noted as farming. Charles said he was a farm laborer two years later when he enlisted.

He was 5 foot, 4 3/4 inches tall, had hazel eyes, dark hair and dark complexion. He was single and served as a private with the Battery. Charles was one of the early recruits to the Battery, enlisting in February of 1862, a month before the unit was formally accepted into service.

Charles served the army well, but never in any way that brought him notice. When the unit was reenlisting at Rossville, Georgia, in 1864, Charles decided he would stay in the Army. He received a \$35 bounty for reenlisting. On March 4, 1865, the only mention of Charles in the morning reports noted that he was detailed to the Quartermaster Department where he served until the 28th of that month. It was the only time Charles was mentioned. He served through the entire war and was discharged with the Battery in August of 1865.

After the war, Charles returned to Anoka. Little more is known until the 1880 census where Charles appeared as the head of his household with a wife named Amanda and three children ranging in age from six to nine years old. His occupation was that of farmer, but he had moved across the river from Anoka to the town of Champlin in Hennepin County.

Life was cut short for Charles when he fell from a wagon in 1881. He landed behind the horses and a horse kicked him in the head. Charles died within minutes. The notice in the paper was very brief.

Anoka County Union
September 2, 1881

KILLED

Mr. Charles Lane, a well-known citizen of Champlin, was almost instantly killed yesterday. In some manner he fell off his wagon, behind his horses, and before he could get out, one of the horses kicked him, injuring him so severely that death ensued in a few minutes. We are obliged to go to press with only meagre particulars.

Charles was buried in the Champlin Cemetery, Champlin, Minnesota. His grave is marked with a traditional white veteran's stone. It does not appear that Amanda applied for a widow's pension as no record of filing has been found for Charles.



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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