



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Hugh J. Latta

Hugh was one of fourteen children born to Barton and Jane Latta. The family came from Ohio to Minnesota in 1857 and settled in Isanti County where Barton was “engaged in agricultural pursuits.” Hugh worked on the farm for his father until he decided to enlist in the Second Battery on August 30, 1864. Hugh went to Fort Snelling to enlist during the draft rendezvous and was paid a bounty of \$33.33 with another \$66.67 owed him. Hugh agreed to serve for one year and to have his enlistment credited in the draft quota to Baldwin in Sherburne County even though his home was Spencer Brook in Isanti County. The descriptive roll showed Hugh as 24 years old, with hazel eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion. He stood 5’ 8” tall.

The Battery did not see heavy fighting during the last year of the war when Hugh was with it. He was detailed to work as a teamster on the 7th of January, 1865, and returned to the Battery on March 28. Hugh came home with the Battery and was mustered out at Fort Snelling in August.

On November 10, 1867, Hugh was married to Emma Staddin in Spencer Brook. The couple had one child, Eddie, a year later.

Hugh’s parents moved from Isanti County to Elk River in 1867 and Hugh may have moved with them. He was in Elk River on May 10, 1870, he died from consumption at the age of 29. Emma buried Hugh in the Oronoco Cemetery in Elk River. Two years later, she applied for a widow’s pension, but she probably never received any money from it. Emma married again in 1878, so the Pension Department denied her claim even though she had been Hugh’s widow almost eight years.



How Hugh’s grave might have been originally marked is unknown, but in the late 1990’s, a new brass veteran’s marker provided proof of Hugh’s final resting place.

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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