



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Louis Lemay

Louis was the younger of the two Lemay brothers who served in the Second Minnesota Battery. Louis came with his parents from Canada and was living with his parents on the family farm in Eagan in 1857. What made the brothers decide to enlist is unknown, but the bounty offered may have influenced them. Each received \$33.33 when they enlisted on August 30, 1864, with the promise of \$66.67 to come. They enlisted agreeing to serve one year and to have their names credited to St. George in Benton County, Minnesota, for the draft quota. Probably, neither man ever set foot there. Louis signed his name on the enlistment papers where Ferdinand only made his mark.

Louis left his wife, Ellen, living with his parents when he went off to the war. The families of Louis, Ferdinand and several other siblings were all living near each other in Eagan. Census information is confusing as the same names were used in all three generations, often several times in each, and the family seemed to move between each others' homes with ease. Louis and Ellen had a total of nine children, but only two outlived Louis.

The descriptive roll showed Louis to have been born on June 5, 1841 in Quebec, Canada. He was 5' 9-1/2" tall, had hazel eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion.

Louis, Ferdinand and the other recruits for the Battery reached camp near Chattanooga, Tennessee, on September 19. By October 20, Louis was sick and was sent to the hospital in Chattanooga for five days. Ferdinand said Louis was never the same after that and there were times when Louis could not do a full days' work. Fred (as Ferdinand was also called) pointed out that if anyone was in a position to know about his brother's health, it was Fred since the two were bunk mates while serving with the Battery.

When the war was over, Louis was mustered out with the Battery at Fort Snelling. He had only to cross the river and go south a short distance to be home.

Louis did not stay in Eagan. At various times, he lived in Mendota, Faribault, Minneapolis, and back to Mendota, all by 1883. It was in 1883 that Louis moved to Bottineau County, North Dakota, where he finally settled down.



In 1891, Louis filed for a pension. Fred signed an affidavit for him, as did another Battery comrade, John Tirronx. Both described how sick Louis had been in Chattanooga and that he had never really recovered from that illness. Fred included a disease of the eyes that began in 1867 and progressively got worse for Louis. Louis was also partially deaf. Getting Fred's deposition was easy as by this time, both brothers were living in Bottineau County, North Dakota.

Death came to Louis on July 19, 1912. He was laid to rest in the St. Paul of Tarsus Cemetery in Cordsburg Township, not far from his home.

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.

Updated: 18 June 2013