



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### William F. Lord

William didn't enlist with the Second Battery and didn't live in Minnesota. He was one of the men transferred to the Battery to help fill the Battery's gun crews in 1863.

William's home town was listed as Willow Hill, Jasper County, Illinois, but he had been born in London, England, on December 8, 1842. It is not known when he arrived in the United States. He told the enlisting officers that he was a farmer when he went to Newton, Illinois, to enlist in the 38<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, Company F. The descriptive role notes that William had dark hair, a dark complexion, gray eyes and stood 5' 5" tall. The date of his enlistment was August 12, 1861.

William served as a private with his infantry unit and would have still been a private when he was sent to serve with the Second Battery on February 9, 1863. He stayed with the Battery until February 21<sup>st</sup>. It is believed he went back to his infantry regiment until he was once again detailed to the Battery on June 25 of that same year. Record keeping was not the strong suit of the men in the Second Battery and there is no date recorded for when William went back to the infantry. His muster sheets state he was with the Second Battery starting on June 24. A letter in his pension file states he served with the Battery until August 31 and a muster sheet noting him back with his regiment was dated September.

When William's enlistment was up, his regiment was in Ooltewah, Tennessee, and he decided he would reenlist. For his agreement to serve another three years, he was given a bounty of \$340, though he only got \$60 at the time of his reenlistment. In December of 1864, William was promoted to corporal, the rank he held until the end of the war.

It is believed William went back to his own regiment just before the battle at Chickamauga where they fought, then fell back to Chattanooga. His regiment fought in the battles at Buzzards Roost, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Faced Ridge, Kennesaw, and the battles before Atlanta before going back to Tennessee where they were engaged at Franklin and Nashville. They moved west to New Orleans, then into Texas where they remained until mustered out in December of 1865.

William was in Victoria, Texas, when the unit was to be sent back to Illinois for discharge. William asked to be allowed to remain in Texas rather than being sent back to Illinois to be discharged. He wanted to stay in Texas and his wishes were allowed under a special order. He had to sign a statement that he was really intending to stay in the South and was not requesting his travel pay just to get extra money out of the army. William was discharged on March 20, 1866.

Pension records provide the answers to where William went after the war as he did not stay long term in Texas. By 1868, he had married Ellen Myers and she had died in August of that year while they were in Covington, Kentucky.

In 1875, William married a second time. His wife was Delila Welch and they were married in Willow Hill, Illinois. The couple had four children living when William filed for his pension in 1897, the last one born in 1883. The 1900 census showed William and Delila still living in Willow Hill where he was working as a mail carrier.



In 1921, William asked for an increase in his pension as he was no longer able to work at all. He said he had been a farmer, worked as a day laborer, and was a “mail messenger” in the past, but he could no longer work. He claimed blindness and was “unable to lay in bed night or day to sleep.” Records do not indicate whether he received the increase.

William was 93 years, eight months and eight days old when he died on August 16, 1936. One of his children was the informant on the certificate as William is noted as a widower, a retired farmer. The cause of death was listed as “Chronic Nephritis” and that he had been suffering with that disease for the past two years. He was laid to rest in the Shiloh Cemetery in Willow Hill, Illinois.

*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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