



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Samuel Loudon

Samuel Loudon left his birthplace in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, in the very early 1850s, landing in New York where he began working. He met another Scottish immigrant, Jane Dempster, and two were married. It was about 1854 that the couple moved to Minnesota where Samuel began working as a ferryman at Winona. By 1861, they were farming in Saratoga Township when Samuel took out an ad in the Winona newspaper. It stated that a "light gray mare, blind in the right eye and about five years old" had wandered onto his farm. "The owner is requested to come and prove property, pay charges and take her away."

When the war broke out and men were being recruited for the Second Battery, Samuel enlisted in the winter of 1862

The muster role showed him as married, with hazel eyes, black hair and a sandy complexion. He stood 5' 9" tall. He was 35 years old when he was mustered into the Second Minnesota Battery on February 20, 1862.

On paper, Samuel served as a private most of his time with the Battery, but he was a corporal at some point. No promotion record has been located, but records indicate he was reduced from corporal to private in June of 1864. Perhaps his promotion was a temporary rank given to Samuel since he was acting as a gunner, a position usually held by a corporal.

Samuel was acting as the gunner during the battle of Stones River when he was injured. A letter to the Pension Department from the Battery's commanding officer, William Hotchkiss, told what happened and how he came to remember it. "When it occurred the gun stood upon the ground descending to the rear which accelerated the recoil. I was near by when the gun was fired and had just given the order to limber to the rear, the infantry having failed to rally to my support." Hotchkiss provided more details in a second deposition, "that by some misunderstanding of No. 4 he pulled the lanyard and fired the gun while Corporal Loudon...was changing its direction with the trail handspike and the recoil caused the end of the handspike to strike claimant in the groin, which said injury resulted."

Several other comrades gave similar depositions to the Pension Department, citing the rupture Samuel suffered as well as other health problems blamed on exposure and hard campaigning.

Samuel must not have been one to give up once he started something as even with the injury that comrades said gave him a great deal of pain, he reenlisted with the Battery when his three years were up. It earned him a furlough in the spring of 1864. On September 21, 1864, Loudon was sent to the hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he remained until January 23, 1864, and he returned to his unit. When the war was over, the men of the Battery were discharged in August once their pay had been settled up. Samuel got \$290, the balance of his bounty for a three year enlistment in addition to the \$46 he had coming in back pay. He also was allowed to keep his knapsack, haversack, and canteen.

Samuel returned to Winona County after the War, but not Saratoga. He settled in Rollingstone on section 19, but in a short time, he moved again to section 34. Still not done moving, Samuel moved to northern Minnesota, but that didn't last long before he was back in Winona County.

Samuel and Jane had at least six children between 1859 and 1869. Jane died in 1881 and in 1892, Samuel married Annie Ried. One more child was added to the family, Alexander Paul, born in 1895. Samuel was a member of the Winona GAR and the Old Settlers Association.

Pension papers dated in the late 1890s tell of the health problems Samuel was having and eventually, after a number of depositions from men who served with him, the Pension Department granted him a pension. He got \$17 month starting September 19,1901.



The health issues continued to get worse and Samuel was convinced to go to the Soldiers Home in Minneapolis where it was expected he would recover. His obituary said the trip was too much for Samuel. He was only at the soldiers home for about nine days before he died on September 30, 1906. His remains were brought by train back to Winona County and he was buried in the Minnesota City Cemetery.

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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