



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John Wesley Mann

A draft rendezvous at Fort Snelling in the late summer of 1864 brought many men into the ranks of the Union Army, including John Mann. He enlisted on September 2, 1864, to serve one year. He enlisted at Mantorville, Minnesota, but his name was credited to Claremont, Dodge County, Minnesota, to meet its draft quota. He received a bounty of \$100 for enlisting. It was the second time he had enlisted in the Union Army. His first enlistment was on October 10, 1861, when he enlisted in the Third Minnesota Infantry, Company E. He had served in the Infantry less than a year when he was discharged for disability in July of 1862.

By the fall of 1864, the Union Army was drafting men to keep its ranks full and veterans were often sought after to return to the service. Bounties also helped convince men to join up. What enticed John to return to the Army is unknown.

John was a farmer in Claremont, Minnesota, 31 years old, with black eyes, gray hair, a dark complexion and 5' 9" tall. He was born on October 29, 1832, in Claremont, New Hampshire. He married Delia Clary on July 5, 1858, at Wasioja, Minnesota. Their first child, Horace H., was born July 7, 1861, only three months before John enlisted for the first time. His second enlistment in 1864 left Delia and three year old Horace alone again. Delia was also expecting their second child, Lucia, who was born on February 5, 1865.

John's second term of service didn't go much better than did his first. He suffered from illness throughout his year with the Second Battery and spent two months in the post hospital at Fort Snelling. He was discharged with the Battery on August 16, 1865, but records indicate he continued to struggle with his health the rest of his life.

At the time of his discharge, John decided to keep his knapsack, haversack and canteen as was allowed by Government order. A stop payment of \$5.40 was held from his pay to cover the cost of transportation from St. Paul to Owatonna, presumably as he was sent home.

John and Delia moved around some, but stayed within Minnesota and John continued to farm. The 1895 census included John and Delia, listing John as a farmer and Delia as a housewife. There is one other person living with them, E. J. Town and he is listed as being a car dealer. E.J. was the same age as Delia.



Delia and John had been in the Fairbanks precinct of Crow Wing County for 11 years when John succumbed to heart trouble, Bright's disease, and "old age". He died on June 27, 1901.

His obituary noted him as "a beloved citizen of Crow Wing, and a Civil War veteran". He was 69 years old. The funeral was held at the Oak Grove school house and his remains were laid to rest in the Evergreen Cemetery in Brainerd.

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