



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Thomas McInnery

Thomas did not leave much behind to tell his story. His enlistment papers say he was born in Limerick, County Clare, Ireland, in about 1842. McInnery—and the many misspellings and variations—is a common name among Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine and determining which is which is impossible without known details to match.

It is believed Thomas came to the United States on a ship named the *Montreal*, landing in New York City on October 15, 1849. He would have been 7 years old, so it is assumed he came with his family, though solid evidence of that has not been found.

The when or how Thomas came to be living in Minnesota is unknown, but he said his home was in Faribault, Minnesota, where he worked on a farm when he mustered into the Battery on February 14, 1862. Thomas served as a private. His muster sheet said he was 5' 8-1/2" tall, with blue eyes, light hair, and light complexion. He was not married.

Thomas served without incident, never having been reported in the hospital, never on special detail, never wounded, or anything that was noted in the Battery's records except for being absent without leave on June 23, 1864. Nothing was remarked about that except he was returned to duty on July 2.

When Thomas' initial three years of service was over, he reenlisted. The Battery was at Rossville, Georgia, when the initial enlistments were up and many of the men reenlisted, earning them a veteran's furlough.

After their furloughs, the men, including Thomas, returned South. He served through the end of the war and was mustered out of the army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on August 16, 1865.

Thomas had pay coming when he mustered out, \$85.75. He decided to keep his haversack, knapsack, and canteen as was allowed by the army, but he had to pay 52 cents for his spurs and straps.

It is the last information known of Thomas. He did not apply for a pension and left no records that can be matched to the hundreds of Thomas McInnerys in public records.

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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