



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Ferris McKenney

From looking at his signature, it is easy to believe Ferris probably did not have much education. In the two places where his signature is found, neither are legible enough to read how he might have spelled his name. The handwriting is cramped and labored looking, and only the "K" in McKenney is capitalized. It is little wonder that the Army records have his name spelled many different ways, including spelled his name as Pheris and even once in the Battery records, it appears as "Thomas".

Ferris joined the Second Battery on August 12, 1862. He was working as a carriage maker in Minneapolis when he accepted a \$25 bounty for agreeing to enlist with Lt. Albert Woodbury of the Battery. Ferris was 34 years old, was born in Hollis, Maine, had blue eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion. He stood 5' 7-3/4" tall.

The carriage making skills Ferris brought to the Army were soon put to use. His job was as a Battery artificer; artificers were mechanics who made repairs or



replacements for Battery equipment. Still, Army life was hard on Ferris. He was only with the Battery two months when he was sent to the hospital in Chattanooga the first time. How long he remained for that stay was not recorded, but by October 28 of 1864, he was back in the hospital. This time, he was in Indiana at the Jeffersonville Hospital where he died from disease on November 28.

His remains were buried in the National Cemetery at New Albany, Indiana, where Ferris rests among hundreds of other Civil War veterans. His marker is very worn and difficult to read.

*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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