



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Angus McLeod

Angus was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, about 1827. He came to Minnesota in 1852 and by 1860, he was living in Ramsey with his wife, Priscilla. Angus was pretty well off in comparison to his neighbors. His real estate value was \$800 and his personal estate was valued at \$335. He was a farmer.

Angus was 38 years old when Lieutenant Woodbury mustered him into the Second Battery for a three year term of service in August of 1862. Angus was paid a \$25 bounty. He had blue eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion. He stood 5 foot, 8 inches tall and served as a private.

Several records of his service with the Battery note his first name as "August". This is probably an error since the enlistment papers he signed clearly read, "Angus". Angus did his duties quietly, not appearing on the Battery's morning reports for disobedience, illness or absence.

When the time came to reenlist in the spring of 1864, Angus chose not to stay in the army. He was detailed to serve with Company I, 2nd Illinois Battery while the 2nd Minnesota Battery went home on veteran's leave. He completed his service term and returned to Anoka County. His mustering out records have a note in the "Remarks" section: *Due Soldier \$2.30 erroneously charged on Muster and Pay Roll of Aug. 31/64. Retained his Knapsack Haversack & Canteen.*

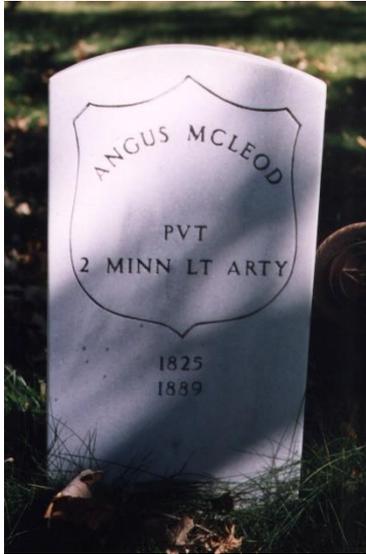
After his discharge, Angus went home to Anoka County. He and Priscilla had four children. Angus was a member of the Baptist church in Anoka in 1876

In 1877, Priscilla passed away.

It is unknown why, but Angus was staying at a boarding house in Anoka in 1877 when a burglar made Angus a target. The thief first stole a ladder from a neighboring house and used it to enter through an open window. The thief or thieves searched Angus' pants pockets to find his pocketbook, which was taken. The thief did not take the watch Angus had left laying in plain sight. The article went on to say another boarder also had his pocketbook stolen and the thief or thieves were so stealthy as to never wake either of their victims. The thief finished off the night by taking the ladder and carrying it off a long distance before abandoning it.

After three years of being alone, Angus married again. The local newspaper made quite an article of the wedding, noting the couples' names, place and date of their marriage. The article then went on to say, "At last the Cupid God caught friend Angus n his silken knot, and his surrender is complete, succeeding in capturing one of Anoka's fairest daughters. *The Union extended to the contracting party, many good wishes for their future happiness and prospenty.*" It is believed that last word is a typo in the newspaper. Angus and Jennie VanValkenburg, also of Anoka, were married on June 2, 1880.

In 1887, Angus applied for a pension. His eyes were giving him trouble and he asked his friend who had served in the Battery with him to write the Pension Department. Joseph Varney lived a few miles north of Angus and he described the problems Angus was having.



Joseph wrote, "The claimant complained of sore eyes and to my knowledge was excused from duty for several days at a time and at different times on account of said disability and that after his leaving the service and in the years 1865 and 1866 lived neighbor to him and he was then complaining of the same disability and during the winter of 1872 and 1873 I worked with him in the woods and he was then suffering from same disability."

Angus received the pension. Two years later, Angus died from consumption. It was June 13, 1889. His remains were buried in Trott Brook Cemetery in Ramsey.

Angus received a new Veteran's marker in 1997, provided by the Anoka County Veteran's Service Office and set on his grave by the Anoka County Vietnam Veterans Chapter 470.

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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