



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John Calvin McReynolds

John was the first born son of Robert and Sarah when he arrived on June 21, 1834, at their farm near Maryville in Knox County, Tennessee. He was followed by nine more children and in 1848, the family moved to Illinois. His father died in 1855, and the family moved to Moultrie County, Illinois, shortly after.

When the war began, John decided to enlist, joining the 21st Illinois Infantry, Company E on June 13, 1861. He was 26 years old.

John never rose above the rank of private. In December of 1861, he was on daily duty with the provost guard, duty that was probably easier than what he faced in 1862. The fall of that year was hard on John's health. He later claimed a pension for the ailments he said first began to trouble him in September. It was a dry fall in Kentucky and the marching the men made created huge clouds of dust. John said the dust caused him to contract a disease in his eyes. The heat and hard marching brought on rheumatism, made worse by sleeping on hard ground. John suffered a fall in the first days of October that he said brought an injury that eventually became a hernia on his left side. The heat didn't help and John was sent to a hospital near Bardstown, Kentucky.

On June 24, 1863, John was sent on detached service to the Second Minnesota Battery. He stayed with the Battery for just under four months and fought as an artillery man through the battle at Chickamauga. John went back to his infantry unit on October 20, 1863 and continued to serve until his three years were up. He was discharged on July 5, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

It would seem John had had enough of the war as he did not reenlist. He went home to Illinois and in the spring of 1865, he bought a farm in Macon County, Illinois. He married Mary Wear on Christmas day that year. The couple lived on the farm until 1892 when they moved to Lincoln, Illinois. They never had any children, so when Mary died in 1902, John was left alone. Two years later, John married a widow by the name of Margaret Black and they moved to a different house in Lincoln.

John was active in the community as a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the local G.A.R. Post. It was noted in his obituary that he was "a donor to Lincoln College".



The hardships of army life caused John some problems and he applied for a pension in 1894. He told the examiner that he had a hard time working and sometimes the hernia would “come out” so badly that he had to lie down immediately and get it pushed back in. He walked with a cane and his eyes gave him

trouble. The Pension Department agreed and John received his pension.

Old age and heart problems finally caught up with John and he died on December 16, 1916. His remains were laid to rest in the Union Cemetery in Lincoln, Illinois. The GAR performed the services at his funeral.



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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