



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Alonzo P. Mixter

Alonzo Mixter was an 18 year old farmer living with his parents and siblings when he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery on February 15, 1864. He had been born in Little Falls, New York, where his father was a blacksmith. They family came to St. Charles, Winona County, Minnesota, between 1850 and 1957.

When Alonzo decided to enlist, he received \$300 in bounty money, paid in three installments. The descriptive roles show him 5' 6" tall, had blue eyes, brown hair and a dark complexion.

Alonzo was a private in the Battery and joined it just as the men who had veteranized were going home on their veteran's furlough. Alonzo served with the Second Illinois Battery I until October when he went back to the Minnesota Battery with the rest of the detailed men. His first battles were on the campaign from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Atlanta, Georgia. When the men from the Second Minnesota returned to the South, Alonzo left the Illinois Battery to go back to his own unit where he would serve for the remainder of the war.

Alonzo was mustered out at Fort Snelling at the end of the war. What happened in his life at this point is unknown, but nine years later on November 6, 1874, Alonzo was admitted to the State Hospital in St. Peter, Minnesota. He remained in the facility until his death there on March 27, 1908.



Why Alonzo spent 34 years in the state hospital is unknown as all records have long since been destroyed, but his obituary in the St. Peter Herald stated, "...he was an old veteran with reason dethroned".

The funeral was taken care of by the A. K. Skaro Grand Army of the Republic Post. Alonzo was laid to rest in the GAR section in the Woodlawn Cemetery near St. Peter. The plate on the cover of his coffin read, "At Rest".

The grave in which Alonzo rested was unmarked until June of 2003 when a veteran's marker was placed and dedicated for him. The first stone was found to have his unit incorrectly engraved, so a second stone was ordered and placed in 2004.

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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