



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Miles Obert

Miles joined the Second Battery quite early in its formation, mustering in on January 16, 1862. Since he was one of the first enlistees, he was promoted to corporal when more men came to fill the ranks of the Battery. The descriptive roll listed his occupation as a carpenter, but other information suggests he had some specialized skills and notes him to be a millwright and a draughtsman. He was born on April 13, 1840 in Friendship, New York. He came to Minnesota in the fall of 1856 and was living in Stearns County when he enlisted in the Second Battery. He was single, had hazel eyes, dark hair and a sandy complexion. He was 5' 5-1/4" tall.

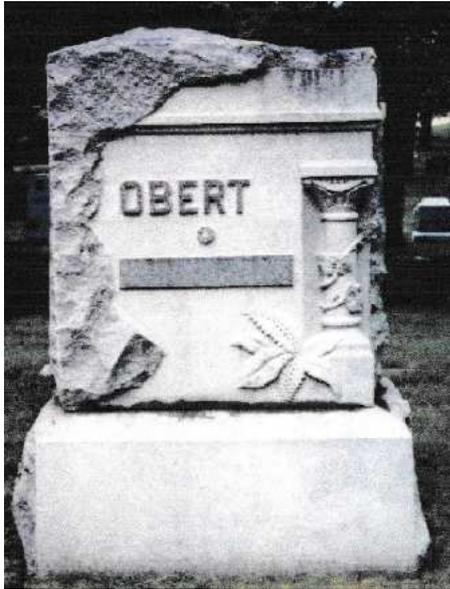
Being a corporal put Miles into the position of gunner on the cannon he served. It was his job to aim the piece, call for the rounds, and watch everything that was going on to be sure his men were safe and proficient as possible when they served the gun.

In the fall of 1863, Miles was sent on detached service, not returning to the Battery until December 10. When the Battery men were asked to reenlist the following spring, Miles decided not to stay in the Army. He had enlisted for three years and he chose to leave the army at the end of his obligation. While the men who did sign on for another three years went home on their veteran's furloughs, Miles and the remainder of the Minnesota Battery were assigned to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery. They were with the Illinois Battery during the campaign for Atlanta and saw some hard fighting.

Miles was mustered out of the Army on March 28, 1864 at Chattanooga, Tennessee. He went back to Minnesota, but his military service was not quit over. Miles accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the Third Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery in the Minnesota Militia on January 30, 1866. This unit did not see much real action as the Civil War was long over and most of the Indian fighting was further west than Minnesota.

For a while, Miles went into the milling business with a partner, R.P. Russell. They opened the Diamond Roller flour mill near Elk River, Minnesota. After the milling venture, Miles changed directions and got into a drug selling business in Minneapolis.

On October 24, 1867, Miles married Sarah A. Peat. After leaving Elk River, the couple made their home on Stevens Avenue in Minneapolis. During the last three years of his life, Miles began suffering with a form of dementia. A doctor's statement said, "his mental powers have signally, by reason of Arteriosclerosis and advancing years, deteriorated, to such a degree as to render him largely irresponsible for his actions and render his surveillance by a second person imperative, to prevent his wandering away and becoming lost and exposed to danger".



Miles died on May 6, 1921. The cause of death was a fall from a ladder. He was laid to rest in the Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. He has a large family stone in addition to his own footstone.

At the time of his death, Miles was receiving a pension for his military service. This pension was transferred to the "Widow's Department" after his death and Sarah was given \$72 per month.



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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