



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Alonzo Spaulding

The Second Battery was very nearly organized when Alonzo joined it on March 10, 1862. He came from St. Cloud in Stearns County where he had been farming. His family was well established in Minnesota, having come from Alonzo's birthplace of Aroostook County, Maine, when Minnesota was a young territory. Alonzo was born on December 30, 1834, son of Daniel and Margaret Spaulding, but he had left their home to make his own by 1860. Alonzo married Hannah Langdon on March 21, 1860. They were not destined to have long life together as Hannah died in 1861.

The descriptive roll for the Battery showed Alonzo to be 5' 8" tall, with sandy complexion, black eyes, and dark hair.

Army life did not appear to suit Alonzo as by September of his first year in the service, he was noted as "sick in Hospital at Jefferson Barracks". He was there until November 28, having spent some three months in the hospital. Alonzo returned to the Battery in time to participate in the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee, where he came through the fight without injury. The Battery remained in the area, skirmishing and waiting for the spring campaign. On March 15, 1863, Alonzo was detailed as a teamster. He was harnessing a horse when it kicked him in the right knee and the blow dislocated it. Alonzo remained with the Battery, however, continuing his duties until May 22, 1863 when he was again sent to the hospital at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

This time, there was no returning to the Battery. Alonzo was assigned to the Invalid Corps on October 5, 1863, but a few days later he was simply discharged. The reason given for his discharge was "chronic Diarrhea with emaciation. Disability 1/2. Unfit for Invalid Corps".

Alonzo went home to a farm in Maine Prairie, Stearns County, Minnesota. On July 4, 1864 he married Christina Langdon. The couple had four children and, though local history said Alonzo had training as a carpenter and blacksmith, they continued to farm. Alonzo was active in the community and was a Master Mason as well as holding a membership in the local GAR post.

Christina died in June of 1870 and Alonzo never remarried.

The injury to his knee troubled Alonzo and in 1876 he applied for a pension due to the disability from this knee. He was awarded \$4 a month by the Pension Department.

In 1885, Alonzo buried his oldest son, Edwin. Perhaps Alonzo needed a change of scenery from the sorrow in Minnesota as he moved to Fruitland in Washington State in 1888. He had not been there long when he was helping the "Steen Brothers" brand some cattle and a cow kicked him in the right leg. The bone of his thigh was badly broken and when healed, his right leg was two inches shorter than his left, causing a pronounced limp.

In 1900, he was still living in Fruitland, Stevens County, Washington when his pension was increased to \$10 a month.

For the next years, records of where Alonzo was living are confused by his own descriptions. Alonzo said he was living in Minnesota in 1907 on one pension form, but on another, said he had been living in Washington since 1887. In another place, he said he was living in Stearns County, but placed it in Washington.



Regardless of where he was in between, by 1912 he was in Mount Angel, Oregon. That was not to last either, as on February 13, 1918, Alonzo was admitted to the Washington State Veterans Home in Retsil, Washington.

He lived there for two years before his death on April 7, 1920. He was laid to rest in the Veterans Home Cemetery. Six months later, another Second Battery veteran, Charles Ford, was laid to rest in the same cemetery a few rows away from Alonzo.

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*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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