



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### John B. Tirroux

John could not read his enlistment papers, nor could he sign his name on them. He instead made his mark with witnesses to verify that it was his. He joined the Battery on August 31, 1864, as a part of that summer's draft rendezvous. When he enlisted, his enlistment was credited to the French community of Centerville in Anoka County, though the 1860 census showed John living in New Canada Township, Ramsey County. He was born in 1833 in Quebec, Canada, was married with four children, had hazel eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, and was 5' 7" tall.

The year John spent with the Battery was uneventful as far as major battles were concerned. The Battery did garrison duty near Chattanooga, Tennessee, until the spring of 1865 when they were ordered to Loudon, Tennessee. The men of the Battery were provided train transportation, something that was almost their undoing. Several of the cars they were riding in and on left the tracks and many of the men had to jump from the moving train to avoid even worse injuries. John was one of those slightly injured, hurting his right foot, leg and side when he landed. Nothing was broken and John did not go to a hospital for his injuries.



When the war was over, John went back to his family. He and his wife, Adell, added a dozen more children to their brood for a total of 16. John and Adell, called Adeline in some records, stayed in the business of farming until John was too old to be of "much use" in farm work and he retired.

John and Adell had been married on May 27, 1854, in New Canada, Minnesota. He was 21 and she had just turned 15. John emigrated from his birth place of Yamaska, Canada, in 1850 and settled on a farm in the "New Canada" area

of Ramsey County. The community eventually became known as Little Canada.

John applied for an invalid pension in 1897, claiming exposure and sleeping on the cold ground had caused rheumatism and neuralgia.

The pension was granted and John continued to make his mark on papers, never having learned to write. He had someone write a letter for him to make his mark on when he signed an affidavit for Battery comrade Louis Lemay's pension in 1901.

John died in January 11, 1907, and was laid to rest in St. John's Cemetery in Little Canada with a military marker. He left Adell their one and a half story house on two acres of land, no money in the bank and no life insurance. It was noted that she might be able to make a little money by renting her land, but it was not expected to bring her more than \$2.50 a month. The Pension Department did agree she was eligible for a widow's pension.



*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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