



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Edwin W. Vaughn

Edwin was born about 1836 in Brooklyn, Connecticut. In 1861, he married Jennie. When Edwin arrived in Minnesota is not known, neither is the date he first enlisted into the Second Battery. No official enlistment papers or records noting his date of enlistment have been found, though his pension papers state he joined the Battery on March 21, 1862.

Edwin's muster sheet for March and April of 1862 show him present, but the May and June report him as "absent" without an explanatory remark. Edwin is back in the "present" category in July of 1862 after which he is then consistently listed as present with the Battery. The descriptive roll showed him 5' 6" tall, with blue eyes, brown hair and a sandy complexion. He was a farmer.

It was at the battle at Stones River, Tennessee, on January 1, 1863, that Edwin came very close to losing his life. While fighting in that battle, a cannon ball passed so close to Edwin's left side that it "whirled him round such being the force and close proximity of the Ball," said Battery comrade John Gibson. Another man in the Battery, Orestus Dudley agreed, adding that he "always afterward knew him (Edwin) to be hard of hearing."

Edwin continued to serve in the Battery, his hearing not being anything that would render him unsuitable for the service.

The Battery was with General Rosecranz when he left Chattanooga in September to march south toward Atlanta. The Battery was caught up in the fighting that erupted on the banks of Chickamauga Creek on September 20, 1863. The fighting was hard on the field where the Second Battery was placed and the position of the guns was ordered changed. Somehow in the confusion and chaos of battle, Edwin was "thrown beneath a caisson" as they were moving and the wheel injured his right ankle. A rebel bullet also hit him in the wrist, but Edwin was able to stay with the Battery as they pulled back and eventually made it into the relative safety of Chattanooga. Once there, Edwin was sent to the hospital where he stayed until February 29, 1864. From there he was transferred to another hospital near Nashville and stayed there until the end of June. It was not the last transfer as Edwin was next sent to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, where he was assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps. It was the unit Edwin spent the last months of his service with, though his days were less than smooth. Edwin was in Pennsylvania with the Veteran Reserve Corps when his eyes began to bother him. A surgeon examined the inflammation and put him under treatment for "ophthalmic with granular lid and ulceration of the cornea." The surgeon said Edwin was not capable of duty or providing for himself. Being in the Veteran's Reserve Corps, Edwin was not discharged until March 21, 1865, at Baltimore, Maryland, when his three year obligation was up.

Edwin went home to Minnesota and Jennie. The next years of their life leave only a few clues about them. The 1870 census lists Edwin as a farmer in Leaf Valley, Douglas County, Minnesota, with Jennie and a daughter named Abby, born in 1869. Edwin and Jennie were in

Montana in September of 1883 when they were legally divorced. On September 26, 1890, Edwin married Mary J. Clough in Warren County, Iowa. Mary was a widow, so this was a second marriage for both of them. Edwin, however, might not have been totally honest with Mary. After his death when Mary filed for a pension, she said Edwin had been married before, but that his first wife had died in 1883. It is not clear if Mary got any pension help.

In 1918, Jennie, Edwin's first wife, had an attorney write a letter to the Pension Department to see if she could get half of Edwin's pension if he was still alive or all of a widow's pension if he were dead. Clearly, she had no contact with Edwin as he had been dead for 26 years when she asked for pension money. The Pension Department wrote back that they had all of the divorce papers stating Jennie and Edwin were not husband and wife and she was not entitled to anything.

Edwin's pension papers state that he died in Flora, Illinois, on June 23, 1892. No death record for Edwin can be found in Flora, nor in the state vital statistics, but Illinois law did not require death certificates until after Edwin's death. Cemetery readings do not show Edwin as having a tombstone in Flora or the counties that surround that area. He does not appear in the Illinois Roll of Honor showing the burial places of thousands of Illinois veterans. His grave is not listed with those in the Soldiers Home Cemetery near Quincy, Illinois. No obituary has been located for him after extensive searches in Flora and surrounding communities. Where Edwin lies remains a mystery.

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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