



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Samuel F. Woods

Joining the Second Battery was probably an easy choice for Samuel. He most likely knew the lieutenant doing the recruiting, Albert Woodbury, since Samuel did a little lumbering and Woodbury's family had the saw mills on the Rum River. It was also the unit his friend, William Staples, had joined just two weeks earlier. Samuel and William were neighbors, both having come to Minnesota from Maine with their parents to settle in Grow Township, Anoka County, Minnesota, in the early 1850s. Both men were engaged in farming with their fathers, and both did a little lumbering on the side.

Samuel was born on May 29, 1838 in Waldo, Maine. In 1862, he married Lucy Tilton in Anoka. It was also the year he enlisted, mustering into the Battery on September 8<sup>th</sup>. He was paid a \$25 bounty for his three year commitment. Samuel had black eyes, black hair, dark complexion, and stood 5' 6" tall. His middle initial probably stood for Frank as that was the name he often went by, especially after the war.

Samuel saw the first battles with the Battery before he was sent to the hospital for diarrhea on June 20, 1863. He stayed there, struggling with illness, until January 23, 1864, reporting for duty only once for a single day before he was sent back to the hospital. In January of 1864, his diagnosis was changed to rheumatism and that kept him away from duty until May when they changed his diagnosis again. This time, Samuel had bronchitis and "valv disease of heart". Somehow despite that, Samuel did report back for duty with the Battery in the fall of 1864. He was with the Battery when it was time for those with over two years of service to reenlist if they chose. Samuel did reenlist and continued to serve in the Battery. His health must have improved as he was not sent to the hospital or noted as sick in the Battery's records throughout the rest of the war.

He was injured, however, in an accident when the Battery was being moved by train near Loudon, Tennessee. Samuel was riding on top of a box car when the train cars derailed. He was thrown from the car down a "steep hill, and both his ankles dislocated, and his back injured". The injured men were placed in a makeshift hospital in a building near the Battery's camp. They had no surgeon, so several of the men helped care for the injured and sick while the Battery was in camp near Loudon.

Samuel went home with the Battery and was mustered out on August 16, 1865.

Part of the enlistment benefits to soldiers came in the form of the 1864 Homestead Act amendment. The amount of time they served in the army could be deducted from their time in proving up a homestead. Samuel took advantage of this and claimed land in Sherburne County, Minnesota. He and Lucy moved there in 1867. They had three children before Lucy died in 1869. Samuel took Lucy back to Grow Township to be buried in the Staples family cemetery on the farm of his friend, William Staples.

Samuel sold the farm in Sherburne County after five years and moved a little further north to Princeton, Minnesota. He alternated between living in Princeton and in Everett, Washington. In 1891, Samuel applied for a pension due to his age and the injuries from the train wreck. It was granted and he was required to inform the Pension Department where he was living and when he moved from one place to the other.



In 1904, Samuel was elected to an officer's position in Princeton's Wallace T. Rines G.A.R. Post 142. He was a member of the post until his death on October 13, 1909. The Post conducted his funeral at the Methodist Church and Samuel was laid to rest in the Oak Knoll Cemetery in Princeton, a veteran's marker on his grave.

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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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