



2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

Daniel Frye

Daniel Frye was born on December 4, 1823, in Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada. His father had first come to Maine, then moved to Canada where he married. Daniel's father was a tanner and shoemaker, but was lost at sea shortly before Daniel was born. Daniel returned to Maine as a young man and spent time with an aunt who lived there. He met and married his wife, Sarah, in Maine. They were married about 1855 and soon after moved to Minnesota. It was said that they came up the Mississippi River by boat.

Daniel and Sarah took up farming near Elk River, Minnesota. Daniel was 39 years old when he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Light Artillery in August 1862. He was noted as being 5' 10" tall, blue eyes, dark hair and fair complexion.

Things happened quickly when Daniel reached the Second Battery to begin his army service. The Battery was at Louisville, Kentucky, when the group of new recruits arrived on September 27th, Daniel among them. By the first of October, the Battery was on the march into Kentucky and a meeting with the Confederate Army.

The battle at Perryville on October 8, 1862, put the Second Minnesota Battery into their first real fighting. Daniel was shot through the ankle and sent to the hospital. He did not return to duty with the Battery until January 25, 1863, missing the next big battle the Battery participated in at Murfreesboro. Daniel was promoted to corporal on March 30, 1863, and to sergeant on June 16, 1864. From December of 1864 to April of 1865, he was detailed to cut logs for the garrison. He reenlisted with the Battery and served with it until the Battery was mustered out at the end of the war in August of 1865.

Daniel returned to the farm and family he left in Elk River after the war. His wife had managed to keep it, though it was difficult for her because of the Indian crisis in Minnesota. She was said to have done a lot of work together with her neighbor whose husband was also serving with the army. When the danger of Indians was great, they loaded the children in their wagon and drove the ten miles to Anoka for safety.

Throughout his life, Daniel was a great reader. He never had a great deal of formal education, but loved to read. His favorite authors included Victor Hugo and Homer. He memorized long passages of *The Iliad* and could recite them at "the drop of a hat."



Daniel remained in Elk River for the rest of his life, passing away on September 4, 1903, at the age of 80. In his final hours, the doctor noted that Daniel did not recognize any of the family members except for his daughter, Nora, yet he still could recite passages from *The Iliad*. Daniel was laid to rest in the Orono Cemetery in Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota.

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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