

# LOVILO N. HOLMES

## **Born**

October 10, 1830, Farmersville, New York (Cattaraugus County)

## **Entered Service**

June 22, 1861 (age 31) – Mankato, Mn – Blue Earth County Company H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, First Sergeant/U.S. Army

Transferred to Triune, Tn – 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Regiment, U.S. Army

## **Civil War**

Mustered in February 1863. Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant followed by Captain, post February 15, 1863

## **Civil War**

## **Died**

May 7, 1914, Mankato, MN (Blue Earth County) Buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Mankato



## **Early Years**

Lovilo N. Holmes, son of Rachel Stowell (33) and Peter Holmes (36) was born on October 10, 1830, in Farmersville, N.Y. He had 2 sisters and 4 brothers. Lovilo learned the sawyers trade in New York. Lovilo married Amanda Gail of Erie, N.Y. and they moved to Mankato, Minnesota in 1858 where he became employed as head sawyer in a combined grist and sawmill. Lovilo and Amanda had two children, Leora Holmes (1878-1879) and Myrtle E. Holmes (Campbell) in 1880.

## **The War Years**

Lovilo Holmes entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company H on June 22, 1861. On January 30, 1863 Sergeant Holmes was transferred through Fort Snelling, Mn to Turine, Tn and mustered into service in February 1863.

On February 15, 1863 Sergeant Holmes joined a small detachment of men who heroically defended their wagon train against the attack of a Confederate Calvary of 125 men, repulsed the attack and saved the train. During the attack Sergeant Holmes told his comrades "We can die, but we'll never surrender." On that day Lovilo was party in a small squad of 14 men of which 8 received the Medal of Honor after the war. The day of the attack Sergeant Holmes was told to take 4 wagons and head in the direction where the Confederates were last seen. They came upon a small farmhouse with out buildings and were soon hailed by a local that the enemy were spotted and coming. Sergeant Holmes took charge and ordered the group to prepare for defense. The enemy were quick, numbering 125 and fanned out around the small Holmes squad. Holmes gave his men orders to take refuge in the barn, hay mow, cribs, hog pens and additional buildings. They sighted their rifles and waited for the advance. The shots began from the Holmes squad wounding several Confederates and spawning confusion in those ranks. That gave Holmes and his men time to reload and keep up continuous fire on the rebels until the Calvary withdrew and were driven away.

Sergeant Holmes and 2 others were wounded and 1 mule killed however they took 3 prisoners, 7 horses and several weapons. The Confederates lost 2 men, 10 horses and many were wounded.

## The Post War Years

Sergeant Lovilo Holmes was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant following the February 15, 1863 event for his leadership and astute action. He was later promoted to Captain. Following the war Lovilo returned to Mankato, Mn and settled back into local life with his wife and daughter Myrtle. He spent his years as a carpenter and contractor and lived at 107 Broad Street, Mankato, Mn. Lovilo and Amanda were married 42 years.

Lovilo passed away on May 7, 1914 at the age of 83 and Amanda died in 1922. Their only living daughter Myrtle married John D. Campbell (52) on October 1, 1913 in Blue Earth County. They then moved to Spokane, Washington where her husband worked as an Attorney. At the age of 39 Myrtle had a daughter, Jean G. Campbell 1915-1991.

Jean G. Campbell married an Engineer, Robert E. Nordmark (23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue/Spokane, WA). They had a son Daniel Nordmark in 1939 and a daughter Linnea Nordmark (Feigenbutz). Daniel Nordmark relayed information that the family knows of Lovilo's history, has a portfolio of his life, years in the war as well as artifacts and mementos in their family's keeping.

In 1999 Gulf War Veteran, Marlin Peterson of Mankato, MN took an interest in Civil War Veterans and found Lovilo N. Holmes grave in Glenwood Cemetery in Mankato. He noticed Lovilo's grave did not have a commemorative marker for his Medal of Honor and worked hard to secure that plaque as well as one for Milton Hanna. As of 1999 both men have their Medal of Honor markers placed with their grave stones in Glenwood Cemetery. In 1999, Mr. Peterson could find no family members of Lovilo Holmes. This information will now be passed on to link Mr. Peterson's work to commemorate Lovilo Holmes and Mr. Holmes living ancestors.

Compiled by Elizabeth A. Beck,  
DAR Anthony Wayne Chapter – Mankato, MN

