



Andrew Ferdinand Kreger and his wife, Mary Ann Moormann Kreger on the Fischer porch in Shakopee in 1915.



The *St. Paul Dispatch*, June 22, 1911 included an article called *City Honors 1st Regiment on Anniversary*. Andrew Ferdinand Kreger is on the top row, second from left.

The funeral was held at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Shakopee, with a G.A.R. ritual with Commander Eli Southworth of General Shields Post happened before the funeral at the home. Reverend Fr. Andrew Koller officiated at the funeral of the old veteran. Military honors were given at the grave at the Catholic Cemetery, with trumpeter Walter Hancock sounded the taps.



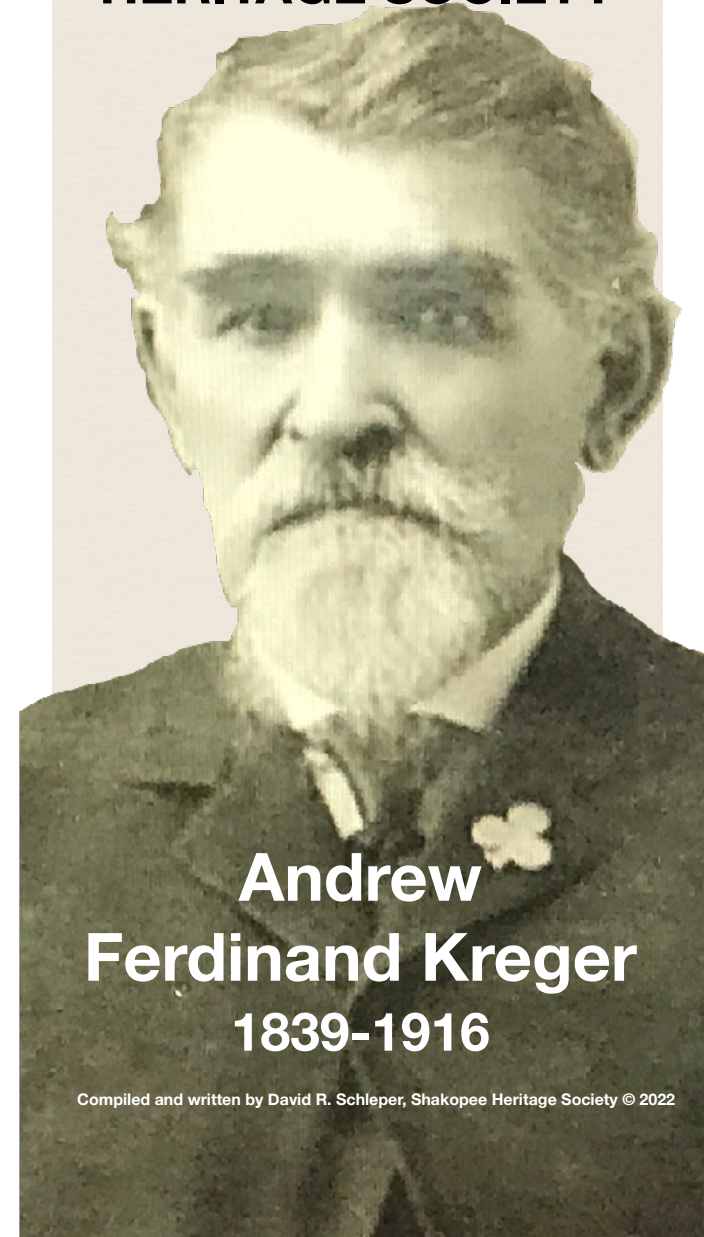
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Andrew
Ferdinand Kreger
1839-1916

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2022

150 years ago this month, men from all over Minnesota answered President Lincoln's call to raise 75,000 volunteer troops to preserve the Union. These brave men reported to Fort Snelling on April 29th, 1861 and were enlisted in what became the Minnesota 1st Infantry Regiment.



Among those men was Andrew F. Kreger, who proudly served in Company C.

Please join us at 12pm May 8, 2011 at his gravesite in St. Mark's Catholic Cemetery in Shakopee for a memorial to honor the life and sacrifice of our grandfather and Civil War hero and to pre-dedicate the new headstone that will be provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. Members of the The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry reenactment organization will be attending in period Civil War uniforms. This will be a great opportunity to honor Andrew F. Kreger, learn about his life and heroic Civil War service, and connect with many new-found Kreger cousins.

Date: Sunday May 8, 2011

Time: 12 noon

Location: St. Mark's Catholic Cemetery (see maps)

Reception afterwards at Dangerfield's - 1583 1st Avenue East, Shakopee
Organized by Chris Fischer, great-grandson of Anna Kreger Fischer.

www.FirstMinnesota.org
www.1stMinnesota.net

Map to Cemetery
Map to Dangerfield's Restaurant





Andrew Ferdinand Kreger was born on January 15, 1839 in Germany, the son of Andrew Christ Kreger and his wife, Wilhelmina. While still young, Andrew and his parents emigrated to America, settling in Buffalo, New York. The last name, Kreger, was sometimes called Krueger and sometimes Krieger, but in later life his last name was Kreger.

Andrew Kreger moved to St. Paul, Minnesota Territory in 1854. When he was 22 years old, he lived in Waconia when he heard about the Civil War. On April 29, 1861 he became part of Company C, First Minnesota Infantry, where he was promoted to corporal and then sergeant.

In the famous battle of Gettysburg on July 3, Andrew was one of many First Minnesota men who helped repelled the Rebels, but at great sacrifice. Eighty-two percent of the First Minnesota men were killed or wounded at Gettysburg, the highest casualty rate of the war.



The trefoil corp badge/ insignia identifies the Minnesota 1st. The trefoil is on the collar of Andrew's jacket on the picture in this brochure. On right is a picture of the Minnesota 1st Reunion in 1904.

At one point, Union general Winfield Scott Hancock ordered the 262 men of the First Minnesota to charge the 1,600 advancing Alabama Rebels. Sergeant Alfred Carpenter, in a letter at the *Minnesota Historical Society*, recalled, "We advanced down the slope... Comrade after comrade dropped from the ranks; but the line went. No one took a second look at his fallen companion. We had no time to weep."

A letter sent to the *Winona Republican* newspaper said, "We are in the midst of a terrible battle. Two thirds of the regiment are killed or wounded. We got the better of the enemy in the fight, and our regiment captured one stand of colors."

The Union and Confederacy suffered 45,000 casualties at Gettysburg. Over 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War. Andrew Kruger was wounded in the left thigh during Gettysburg. He was in the hospital at Harper's Ferry, and was mustered out on May 5, 1864, according to the *St. Paul Dispatch*, June 22, 1911.



On May 16, 1866, Andrew married Mary Ann Moormann at Assumption Catholic Church in St. Paul. They had eight children.

For twenty-two years he was employed as a car and truck builder in the Northern Pacific shops in St. Paul, according to the *Scott County Argus* on March 10, 1916. He also worked as a custodian at the McClellan School in St. Paul.

In 1915, Andrew moved to Shakopee to be with his daughter. On March 2, 1916 he died from heart trouble. He was ill only one day, and his death came as a great shock to many relatives and friends, according to the *Shakopee Tribune* on March 10, 1916.



Actual photo of Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg. This is what Andrew Kreger and the Minnesota 1st were protecting during the battle.