

Mahlon Black: 1820 – 1901



Mahlon Black - 1863

In 1847, Mahlon Black worked as a chainman establishing township boundaries for the original U.S. Public Land Survey under Deputy Surveyor James Marsh. The contract area included the St. Croix Valley and extended west to the Mississippi River at Township 32, Range 26 near Elk River.

Black resided in Stillwater where he was involved in numerous civic functions. He also served in the Minnesota Territory House of Representative in 1849-50, 1852, and 1857.

He was the **Washington County Surveyor from 1857 to 1858**. Early road surveys performed by Black are recorded in Washington County Road Books 1 and 2.

In 1862, he entered the Civil War as a member of the 2nd Company of Minnesota Sharpshooters. The unit served with the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters in the Army of the Potomac. After the war, Captain Black returned to Minnesota and moved to Minneapolis in 1867

In 1881, Black entered into a contract with the Surveyor General's Office in St. Paul. As a U.S. Deputy Surveyor, Black established 44 miles of the Ninth Correction Line in northern Minnesota, along with 24 miles of an Auxiliary Meridian Line between the 8th and 9th Correction Lines, and several township and range lines. The contract encompassed the area between Townships 60 and 64, and Ranges 24 and 27, all in the Fourth Principal Meridian Survey. Today this area lies in parts of Koochiching, Itasca, and St. Louis counties.