

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

"ACTION FRONT"

Circular No. 162

February 2009

Upcoming Events

February 1, Abe Lincoln Coming to Anoka

Lincoln impersonator and historian Bryce Stenzel will speak on Lincoln's impact on Minnesota at the Anoka City Hall on Sunday, February 1, at 1:00. Admission is \$5.00 proceeds to the Anoka County Historical Society. City Hall is 2015 First Avenue North in Anoka.

Sunday, March 29 Reenactor Rummage Sale & Battery Meeting

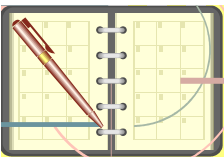
In trying to put things away at the end of last season, Mrs. Wendel realized just HOW MUCH STUFF she has collected. She does not need six of everything, so she is having a sale at the next meeting. It will be held at the Anoka County History Center, 2135 Third Avenue N in Anoka. More details next month.

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Planning is well underway for the Mache event at the River Center on April 4, 2009. Extensive discussion at the January meeting assigned members duties and roles for this event. If you plan to be there and were not at the January meeting, contact Daryl of John ASAP.

ALL MEMBERS are requested to create a booklist of your favorite publications to hand out as resources. Please include the author and date of publication as well as why this is a good book to learn from. Fictional books are okay—just include why you think it is a worthy read.

2009 Calendar Planning



ALL MEMBERS are requested to gather information on the possible events we may want to consider attending in the upcoming 2009 season. Send this information to John Cain (contact info on page 4) BEFORE the February meeting so a master consideration list can be

compiled for discussion.

Have you paid your 2009 dues yet?

Send your dues and updated contact information to Daryl Duden. (address on back page) You must be current in your dues to be eligible to vote or hold office in the Battery's military command at the March elections.

On This Date

February 1864

Remarks for the Month of February, 1864

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 Wm. H. Shaw returned from Hospt.
- 6 One Horse died in Camp
- 8 Lieut N. H. Harder returned to Ca. from Recruiting Service
- 9 One Horse died in Camp
- 10 One Horse died in Camp
- 12 Sergt McCausland detailed for duty with Pioneer Brig. by S. F. O. No. 41 Maj. Genl. Thomas.
- 15 2d Lieut R. L. Dawley placed in arrest by order of Capt. W. Aug. Hotchkiss and command turned over to Henry W. Harder, 1st Lieut. One Horse died in camp.
- 18 2d Lieut Chas. N. Earl put in arrest by order of Capt. Wm. Augustus Hotchkiss
- 19 One Horse died in Camp
- 23 One Section of the Batty under the com'nd of Lieut. Harder went to the "Front" with the Division
- 27 Section returned

Next Meeting

Saturday, February 28, 1:00 p.m.
John & Hieja Cain
1640 Woodland Drive, Red Wing, MN



The Confederate Flag

By Lt. John Cain

On April 19, 1862, the Joint Committee on Flag and Seal submitted its report to both Houses of Congress on a new National Flag for the Confederacy. Congress adopted a joint resolution on the design shown at right and designated it as Senate Resolution No. 11, but took no vote while the house debated the issue. The House debate ranged from approval among some because the design was so different from that of the Union, (these urged immediate adoption) to those who thought it was unattractive as it had no canton and could not be used as a distress signal at sea (these wanted a new idea altogether). Some even thought the flag should resemble the battle flag of the ANV (Army of Northern Virginia). Due to the lack of consensus, the House voted 39 to 21 to postpone consideration of the resolution. The issue was not brought up for another year.

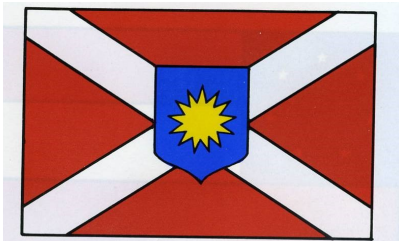


Figure 9: Flag Proposal of the Joint Committee on Flag and Seal—April 19, 1862.

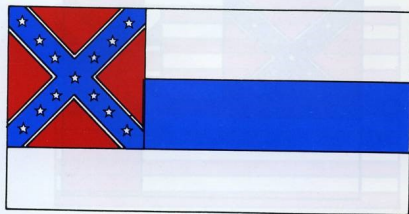


Figure 10: Original Version of the Flag in Senate Bill No. 132, 1863.

1861. By this point in the war, the ANV Battle Flag had been stained by the blood of many Southern soldiers in the struggle for independence. Swan wanted to adopt it for use into the National Flag as a tribute to the Confederate fighting man.

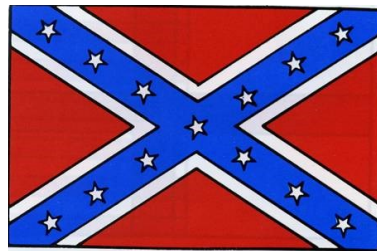


Figure 12: Congressman Swan's Amendment to Senate Bill No. 132.

cy.

This flag would become known as the "Stainless Banner" because of its white field as emblematic of the purity of the Cause which it represented. On May 2nd, General Thomas Jackson was wounded at Chancellorsville and died of pneumonia on the 10th. On the 12th, his body lay in state in the Confederate House of Representatives, his coffin draped with the first manufactured National Flag. This flag is now on display in the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

It didn't take long for the perception of this flag resembling a flag of truce to appear, despite the opinion of Congressman Miles. Therefore, on December 13, 1864, Senator Semmes of Louisiana introduced Senate Bill No. 137. It stated that naval officers objected to the flag because, in calm, it

looked like a truce flag. The bill changed the flag by replacing the outer half of the white field with a red bar. The Senate sent the bill to a military committee where it was considered for seven weeks without amendment.

On February 6, 1865, the bill passed a vote in the Senate, then moved on to the House Committee on Flag and Seal where it lingered for twenty days before being approved by vote in the House on February 27. On March 4, 1865, Jefferson Davis signed the bill into law—exactly four years after the adoption of the First National Flag.

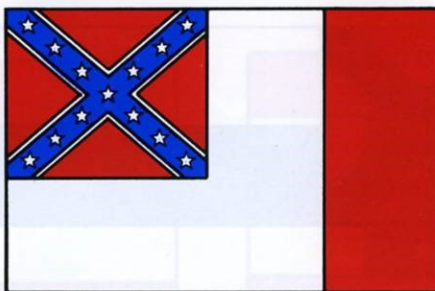


Figure 16: Flag of the Confederate States of America Since March 4, 1865.

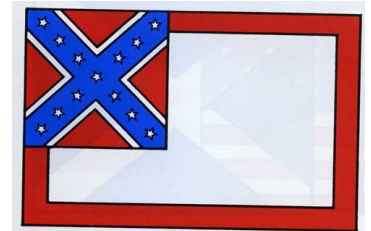


Figure 11: A Proposed Amendment of Senate Bill No. 132, 1863.

William Miles agreed with the sentiments of Swan on the point that the battle flag should be emblazoned on a field of pure white. The white flag could be easily distinguished and would not be taken as a flag of truce. The red border and the blue bar should be abandoned as it was unusual and a "monstrosity."

Robert Trippe of Georgia urged postponing consideration of the new flag as this was the last day of the session and the issue could not be decided in fifty-five minutes – the actual time remaining in the session. Finally, Representative Peter Gray of Texas formalized the language to Senate Bill No. 132 describing the flag below.

Both the House and Senate approved the amendment and later that day, Jefferson Davis' signature brought about the second National Flag of the Confederacy.

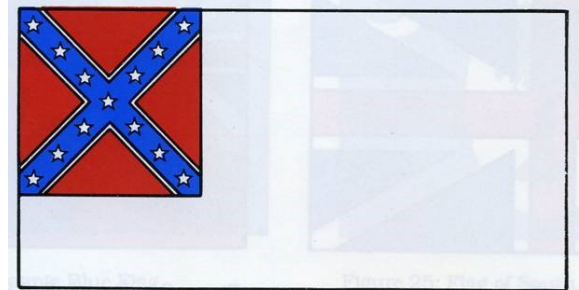


Figure 13: Flag of the Confederate States of America, May 1, 1863 to March 4, 1865.

To be continued.

Information drawn from: *From: Flags of the Confederacy* by Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr

Theory of Fire

by Sgt. Daryl Duden

Although it was the Officers and NCO's in the battery who were forced to spend late nights studying the mathematical formulas involved in the THEORY OF FIRE, some of the basic concepts and information included in these studies are offered here, for your consideration.

We have often stated, that during the Civil War, artillerists could only shoot what they could see. It is true that indirect pieces, such as mortars and large bore howitzers, were used in great numbers against cities under siege, but these guns were not in the arsenal for field artillery. In the field artillery, our guns were direct fire pieces. That is why you often heard field officers inquire about the battlefield on which they were about to engage, "Is it good ground?". Good ground, meaning their lines were located on high ground that would allow them to take advantage of the full range of their guns. Although battlefield lines would dictate where field artillery was placed, it is not "by chance" that when we visit Civil War battlefields, we find rows of guns lining the highest elevations. Our tour of the Chattanooga battlefield, along Missionary Ridge and on top of Lookout Mountain, is clear evidence of their lust for high ground.

Other than topographical features, what else must be considered? We know the 10-Pdr Parrott Rifle had 50 rounds in the chest, but how many of each type of projectile did they carry? The answer to this question is UNKNOWN. In *Gibbon's Artillerist Manual, Second Edition 1863*, there is mention of Parrott's Rifle, the United States Rifle (3 inch Ordnance) and a discussion of the shells in development, but very little additional information regarding these guns. The most recent dated resource in my Civil War library, *The 1864 Field Artillery Tactics: Organization, Equipment, Field Service* by the U. S. War Department only has this footnote in the section that describes the contents of limber chests for various guns: "For rifled guns, the number of rounds of each type of projectile has yet to be determined."

Based on my research into the types of projectiles available and the frequency with which they were used, I propose reasoning to suggest the following inventory *may have been* the breakdown of projectiles in a 10-pdr Parrott Rifle ammunition chest.

In divisions 1-5 of the left half of the chest, 25 shells. Shell was the most effective projectile carried, capable of firing at maximum range and disruptive against cavalry, infantry, and in counter battery fire. Because shell was such a versatile projectile, I suspect it filled the left half of the ammunition chest. In division 1 of the right half of the chest, 5 bolts. Bolt, although capable of firing at maximum range, had little effect against infantry or cavalry—which I suspect would limit the number of rounds carried. In divisions 2, 3 and 4 of the right half of the chest, 15 case shot. Case shot, typically fired at ranges from 600 yards to 1,500 yards, was very effective as long-range canister opposing both infantry and cavalry. Because the effective range was somewhat limited, I suspect these projectiles would occupy the middle rows in the right side of the ammunition chest. In division 5 of the right half of the chest, 5 canister. Canister, because it damaged the rifling and produced an erratic spiral pattern with an effective range of less than 500 yards, was a last resort for rifled guns. For these reasons, I suspect it would also occupy a small portion of the chest. When I shared my thoughts in a discussion of ammunition chest contents with Bruce and Bernie Paulson, they both indicated, "It is still unknown, but what you propose is a very good guess".

In his *Second Edition 1863, Artillerist Manual*, Gibbon states "Tables Of Fire should be considered simply as a means of limiting the number of trials to be made before finding out the range of a gun, and not as giving accurate results which will be the same under all circumstances. These tables give simply the first term of a series of trials, by the aid of which a skillful gunner arrives at accuracy in pointing. The first term is, however, often of the greatest importance, since, by knowing it, a great deal of time is gained".

Knowing the effective range of various projectiles is critical in selecting the proper projectile, but the most important factor to consider is the target. Is it static or moving? If the order given is "counter battery fire, most likely we are firing at a static target and our gunners will soon have the target ranged. If we are ordered "counter infantry (or cavalry) fire", it is most likely the target is either moving or will soon be. Gibbon's *Artillery Manual* provides some useful information for us regarding rate of fire and how fast these two elements move. Gibbon states, "For field guns, the mean rate of fire is about one shot per minute, but when close pressed, and firing at objects not difficult to hit, two or three shots per minute can be fired. A foot soldier travels 70 yard in one minute in common time, in quick time, 86 yards and in double quick time, 109 yards. A mounted soldier travels the distance of 400 yards in 4½ minutes at a walk; 2 minutes at a trot, and 1 minute at a gallop. Gibbon confirms the desire for a slow rate of fire and introduces something else to consider. In picking targets, simple mathematics seem to indicate, to artillerists, the threat from a mounted soldier might be four times greater than that of a foot soldier.

The THEORY OF FIRE covers a multitude of topics, mostly mathematical, that were not discussed here. As always, I look forward to hearing your comments and continuing this discussion as we warm ourselves around the campfire during the upcoming campaign season.

Battery Profile

George Lamont Bartholomew

George was given his father's name as a middle name when he was born on April 11, 1835, in Ashtabula, Ohio. The family came to Minnesota and settled in the southern part of the state. George was living in Winona County when he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery. He was mustered in on January 28, 1862. He stood 5 foot, 8 3/4 inches tall, had brown eyes and brown hair with a dark complexion. He was married and listed his occupation as that of teamster.

Less than a month later, George's father, Lamont, also enlisted in the Battery. It was on February 20, 1862. The two served together in the same unit for a few months.

George's military career was short lived. In April of 1862, he was injured when his horse stumbled and fell on him. He was sent to the hospital and there remained until he was discharged in October. It was stated that his disability was "full" as the injury to his spine had caused him "incontinence of urine, with involuntary discharge from the bowels". The discharge papers were signed in Keokuk, Iowa.

George returned to Minnesota and his wife, Lovincha. They had been married on October 8, 1859 when George was living in Winona County. They had four children and by 1881, the family had moved to Elmore, in Faribault County.

The injuries made working hard for George and he filed his original claim for a pension in 1880. His first payment from the Pension Department was \$6.00, a rate that soon changed to \$8.00 a month for disability. George appears on the 1890 census as having a disability involving his kidneys and living on a farm in Elmore. It seems unlikely that George did much farming as a neighbor's affidavit stated that George was confined to the house the greater portion of the time and had been for the eight years they knew the family. Lovincha's statement agreed and added that he was frequently confined to his bed, needed help dressing, special foods, and constant care. Lovincha included her in observation that George suffered from a great deal of pain.

They moved again to Badoura Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota, where they lived on another farm. There were relatives nearby and this may be why they moved north.

As ill as George seemed to be, it was Lovincha who died first. George followed her a few months later, both in 1914. George's obituary said he was living at the family residence when

he passed away on July 20, 1914. George and Lovincha were buried side by side in the Lemon Cemetery, Badoura Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota.

The Second Minnesota Light Artillery Battery is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Civil War history by living it.

Membership is \$12 per year. Non-member newsletter subscription rate is \$6.00 per year.

For information on the Battery, please contact:

President

John Cain

1640 Woodland Drive

Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone: (651) 388-9250

Treasurer

Daryl Duden

1210 West 4th Street

Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone: (651) 388-6520

Twin Cities Metro Area Contact

Ron & Vickie Wendel

12419 Redwood Street NW

Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Phone: (763) 754-2476

E-mail: momwendel@hotmail.com

Battery Website:

<http://www.2mnbattery.org>

