



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 169

October 2009

On This Date

October 1864

Atlanta was firmly in Union hands and its loss was a severe blow to the Confederacy. Sherman occupied the city and his supply lines back to Chattanooga were seen as his weakest point. Confederate Generals Hood and Forrest tried to break Sherman's supply line or force him back without success.

The Second Minnesota Battery was stationed at Fort Irwin outside of Chattanooga, garrisoning the fort. Their days were filled with picket duty and “scouting missions.” On the 23rd, the Battery received 21 new recruits sent from Minnesota to take their place in the Battery. The men had all joined up at the fall draft rendezvous at Fort Snelling. Though they didn't know it at the time, these new men would not see a big battle like Perryville or Chattanooga—those days of the war were behind for the Second Minnesota Battery.



NORTHSTAR TRAIN RIDE TICKETS!!!

If you plan to attend this event and ride the train, you MUST tell Vickie BEFORE October 8 so she can reserve you a ticket. ALL train riders MUST have a ticket. If you do not have a ticket, you will NOT RIDE. If you do not tell Vickie before October 8, you will NOT have a ticket.

A limited number of tickets will be given to the public in a lottery drawn a couple weeks before the event. There were over 2500 lottery entrants in the first week the website was on line, so these will be a hot item. There are no “day of” tickets planned for this event.

Dress warm as Battery members will be strolling the platform and visiting with train riders for at least an hour OUTSIDE and there are NO places to sit until the train comes. **Ladies, NO HOOPS!** You won't fit in the train!!

Upcoming Events

November 11, Fort Snelling Cemetery for Veterans Day, 7:00 pm

This event is still in the planning stages, but would specifically recognize Civil War veterans. Re-enactors will be scattered around the main speaking site and, on cue, light a lantern to all come walking into the center. After the program, re-enactors will leave the same way and when *Taps* is over, put out their lanterns. More info to come, but consider attending this event.

November 14, Northstar Commuter Rail Inaugural Ride, Anoka Station

The event starts at 11:30. There will be limited food vendors there and some entertainment. Battery members are expected to mingle and talk to visitors about the Civil War and the Second Battery, especially the Anoka County connection. Appropriate local history will be coming in the next newsletter. When riders line up to board the train (starting 45 minutes before it arrives) we are asked to wander around the lines on the platform and keep talking to visitors. Battery members will be divided out to place some in each of the five cars. We will all ride the train to Minneapolis, visit the station there and then ride the train back to Anoka, arriving there at 4:15, the end of the event. <http://www.metrotransit.org/Northstar/stations/Anoka.asp>

Remember: No sign up = no ticket = no ride!!!

December 5, Civil War Christmas in Coon Rapids

We will set up our “indoor” camp with the 3/4 scale gun inside Coon Rapids City Hall. We will do gun drill, talk to people, sing carols, and Santa will visit, much like we have done before.

It was suggested that we have a “gift exchange” as we have sometimes done with Santa delivering the gifts. Those wishing to participate in this, please plan to have a gift or letter to exchange. It's a great photo op for the public!

This is a paid event, so let's have a good turn out!

Next Meeting

Friday, October 30, 7:00 pm
Ben & BJ Norman
15400 Norelius Road, Vasa, MN
651-258-4507



A Cartoon from Punch

From the website: <http://arthist.cla.umn.edu/aict/Tennielweb/intro.html>

John Tenniel (1820-1914) was one of nineteenth-century England's most prolific and highly-regarded illustrators. Among his peers he was noted for his acute visual memory, which enabled him to recall (and re-use) compositional arrangements and details from a wide variety of sources, ranging from historic works of art to contemporary photographs, all the while blending these in a seemingly effortless way with his keen observation of the world around him. His skill in conveying meaning through nuanced figure poses, gestures, and facial expressions was well-known, as was his facility for shifting easily between realism and caricature in his representations of public personalities.

Tenniel achieved worldwide recognition through his original illustrations for Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking Glass* (1872). Translated into many languages, these books helped to introduce his distinctive style to non-English readers. Anyone familiar with the *Alice* books will probably find it hard to read Carroll's words without recalling Tenniel's quirky personalities and anthropomorphized animals: in fact, nearly every subsequent artist who has attempted to visualize these texts has inevitably succumbed to the influence of Tenniel's original illustrations, and ends up quoting them to a certain degree.

Punch, a weekly which had begun publication in 1841, originally promoted mildly liberal, anti-establishment views. By the 1860s, however, its educated, upper class readership tended to back the Tories (Conservatives), and the publication's focus on political and social satire typically reflected the prejudices of its subscribers. They apparently looked down their noses at anyone who was not part of their own well-to-do, university-educated, Church of England elite. Those on the outside included members of the British working class, any Europeans who opposed British policies, and Americans in general (the latter condescendingly regarded as little more than mongrelized Brits at best). Particularly disturbing by today's standards, *Punch* directed some of its most openly vicious satirical attacks against adherents of non-Protestant religions (such as Catholics or Hindus), non-Anglo-Saxon ethnic groups (Irish, Italians), and racial minorities (Asian, Hispanic, and African-origin peoples).

Even a brief perusal of the 56 *Punch* cartoons dealing with the American Civil War suggests that, comfortably situated across the Atlantic, the British frequently misunderstood not only the causes of the conflict, but also the depth of feeling felt by partisans on both sides. While troubled by Southern insistence on the continuation of slavery, which the British had abolished in the 1830s and now regarded as economically obsolete, the English upper crust had a natural affinity for the cotton states' ruling class: a white, chivalrous, Anglo-Saxon aristocracy not unlike their image of themselves. The North troubled them more: a polyglot, multi-ethnic, rapidly developing industrial powerhouse whose freewheeling capitalism echoed its belief in meritocracy, the notion that an individual's wealth and social standing could be shaped by his own efforts, independent of tradition and family heritage. The British establishment of the 1860s regarded participatory democracy as chaotic and messy: to their way of thinking, government was best left to those born and reared to be rulers. Like many across the Atlantic, the British completely miscalculated the willingness of millions of Americans, North and South, to fight for principle over temporary economic advantage; to spend their treasure and the blood of vast citizen armies in defense of relative abstractions like "Union," "Emancipation," and "States Rights," to engage in a protracted, agonizing prototype of "total war."

Family Quarrel *Punch*, Volume 41, September 28, 1861, p. 127

The rupture between North and South is presented here as a domestic drama more farcical than tragic. Amid the overturned, ruined furniture of their once happy home, Lincoln as would-be master of the house and his shrewish Southern consort argue furiously, their fists clenched in anger. Lincoln wears a star-spangled shirt and striped trousers, while his "Secesh" wife sports a stars-and-bars apron. In the hallway beyond, a black houseboy tiptoes warily past the open doorway in the exaggerated stage mannerisms used by comic eavesdropping servants in the theater of the mid-nineteenth century. Each holds half of a map of the once-United States, now torn asunder. For years, *Punch*'s illustrators used this "torn map" motif as a metaphor for American sectional divisions. The torn map had appeared as early as 1856 in a cartoon commenting on the election of James Buchanan, Lincoln's predecessor. The economical Tenniel was not above quoting himself: a similar torn map appears in the background in a cartoon dating from early in the following year [February 8, 1862], and another is featured as the subject of a cartoon from late in the course of the Civil War, as the pending difficulties of Reconstruction loomed [October 1, 1864].



Battery Profile

Henry S. Hill

Henry came to Minnesota with his parents in 1856. They took up land in Bellevue, Morrison County and began farming. Henry helped on the farm and worked in the lumber business until the war began.

The day before the Second Minnesota Battery was accepted into U.S. service, Henry was mustered in. It was March 21, 1862. Henry was single, had gray eyes, light hair and a light complexion. He stood 5' 7-1/2" tall. He was 23 years old, having been born on November 30, 1838 in Barring, New Brunswick, Canada.

Once he had decided to enlist, Henry's choice of unit may have been easy. His sister had married Lyman Ayer from nearby Belle Plain and Lyman had enlisted in February and the brothers-in-law planned to serve together.

The Battery was sent south in early May of 1862 and stopped at Benton Barracks, Missouri, to await equipment. While there, Henry caught the measles. The disease hit him hard, his back seemed most affected, and he was sent to the hospital at St. Louis. While at the hospital, Henry contracted chronic diarrhea. This would haunt him for most of the rest of his life.

The Battery's muster roll shows Henry "in Minnesota on sick leave" for July and August of 1862. By September, Henry was finally back with his unit. That would not last long.

On September 27, 1862, near Louisville, Kentucky, Henry was wounded in the right elbow by the accidental discharge of a musket. They were in camp and the musket was in the hands of a comrade. Henry was once again sent to the hospital, this time at New Albany, Indiana. Henry remained in the hospital until January of 1863, when he caught up to the Battery while they were camped outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

By the end of February, Henry was sick again, the diarrhea back with a vengeance. His brother-in-law, Lyman, later said no one expected Henry to live through it.

Henry did not die, but was given a disability discharge on March 9th and sent home to Minnesota.

Henry went back to farming. The tax assessor's return in 1867 in Bellevue included Henry's property. He owned three cows valued at a total of \$44, a carriage worth \$75, and had bank deposits of \$300.

On October 25, 1870, Henry married Telitha M. Cochran in Little Falls. They did not have any children.

Farming may have been too hard for Henry or perhaps he decided there might be a better way to make a living. In 1873, he and Tillie, as he called her, moved to Little Falls where Henry and his brother Elvin went together to buy a saw mill. The pair ran the mill for a while, then Elvin sold his share to Henry who became the sole proprietor until 1881 when he sold the mill and moved back to the home his parents had built when they first came to Minnesota. Henry remained in Bellevue for the rest of his life.

Henry went out into the woods to work at his lumbering interests with the Pine Tree Company in January of 1902 and "became ill from exposure". Finding it hard to work any longer, he applied for a pension for his Army services. A pension of \$8.00 per month was approved the day after his death on September 12, 1902.

Henry was laid to rest in the Oakland Cemetery in Little Falls. He rests in the Hill family plot near the Ayer family plot and the brother-in-law he enlisted to serve with.

There is an "H.H." on the back of the recently acquired original photograph of what is reported to be a Battery member. Henry Hill? Or one of the other two Battery men with the initials H.H.?



Recap



picnickers on the hill at First Manassas.



August 1-2 Boscobel, WI

Wow, what a weekend! The Second Battery had the most people ever in camp—some 35 people (including guests) were in camp! It was incredible! The soldiers were divided into two sections, each section served the gun one day. Those not on the gun used small arms to take on the Rebels or were loaned out to other gun crews. Camp had an international flavor with Scottish John, his daughters from England, and the usual rabble in the rest of the Battery. The ladies of the Battery took part in the first days' battle by filling the role of the picnickers on the hill at First Manassas. They did a fine job at running and screaming when the battle came near them. Sunday morning, the Second Minnesota ladies presented Del Tedrick, from Battery G, with a birthday pie and kisses on the cheek to the delight of the watching formation. A grand time was had by all!



August 22-23 Fort Ahlman's, Morristown, MN



Fourteen members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery occupied Fort Ahlman for this Shooter's Roundup event. In addition to visiting with the large number of spectators in attendance, firing demonstrations with the Model 1861 10 pdr Parrott Rifle were conducted from 10am until 4pm each day. Thank you to the following members who served the gun during the weekend and made this event possible: Lt Cain, Sgt Duden, Cpl Overby, Privates Arnoldy, Crozier, Crowder, Golden, Ritchie, Tim Watkins and Wendel. Portraying civilians visiting their soldiers at the fort

were Ms Crozier, Ms Johnson and Ms Overby. A highlight of the weekend was having Pvt Philip Watkins, wearing his modern camouflage military uniform, report back for duty following completion his US Army basic training.



September , 12-13 LeDuc House, Hastings

The grounds surrounding historic LeDuc Mansion became a military encampment for the weekend. Members of the 2nd Minnesota Light Artillery with their 10 pdr Parrott Rifle joined the 1st Minnesota Volunteers, 3rd Minnesota Volunteers, Battery I 1st US and various other living historians for the weekend. Although the event drew a limited number of spectators this year; Lt Cain, Sgt Duden, Cpl Overby, Pvt Crozier, Pvt Crowder, Ms Crozier and Ms Thorpe, demonstrating her period sewing machine in a civilian section of the encampment, helped make this a great learning experience for all who expressed interest in the Civil War.

September 18-19, Belle Plaine, Iowa

"This is really good ground!"—General John Buford, U.S. Cavalry at Gettysburg. And so it was. Belle Plaine Iowa had some of the best ground for a re-enactments that we had seen all summer. High ground for the cannons, a creek running through the park and a concrete bridge shaped a lot like the stone arch bridges that were a part of so many civil war battles. But wait, the best part may have been the steaks over an open fire with boiled potatoes, green beans and fresh peach or apple pie for dessert. As some other famous "soldier" once said just before dying at Chickamauga. "It just don't get no better than this". Pvt R. Graves (worst private in this man's Army).

Thanks to Recap writers Sergeant Duden and Private Graves!

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.

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