



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# ***“ACTION FRONT”***

Circular No. 182

December 2010

### **On This Date-150 Years Ago**

#### ***South Carolina Leaves the Union***

Excerpted from an article by: Brian Tubbs, Yahoo! Contributor Network

On December 20, 1860, the state of South Carolina voted to remove itself from the United States.

The decision was the culmination of North-South tensions stretching back to the founding of America. These tensions concerned a number of issues, including tariffs and slavery. In 1832, South Carolina threatened secession over the tariff issue. But without support from the rest of the South and in the face of strong declarations from President Andrew Jackson, South Carolina backed down. Not so in 1860, when Abraham Lincoln's election galvanized the Deep South.

The ordinance was passed December 20, 1860. Four days later, South Carolina issued a document entitled "Causes of Secession," which served as a rough equivalent to the Declaration of Independence approved by the Second Continental Congress in July 1776.

After laying out its political and legal argument that the American Revolution established each state as "free and independent" and that the U.S. Constitution represented a mutual but conditional compact, the secession convention proceeded to explain its rationale for withdrawing from said compact. Topping the list was the fugitive slave issue. According to the Deep South, the northern states were refusing to capture and return escaped slaves. This was cited as a violation of Article IV: "No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." For allegedly breaking this part of the Constitution as well as related federal statutes, South Carolina claimed its right to secede. Second, South Carolina cited the fugitive slave clause, the three-fifths clause, and the 20-year slave trade compromise as evidence that the Constitutional Convention recognized the "right of property in slaves." According to South Carolina, the northern states had sabotaged and thwarted that "right" - and thus South Carolina was justified to break away.

It closed with a condemnation of the Republican Party for supporting effective citizenship for those "incapable" of citizenship and for campaigning against slavery in the territories. They also blamed the North for stirring up racial unrest and violence in the South.

### **Upcoming Events**

**December 11, 10:30-1:30**

#### **Christmas at the Library**

We will set up a tent (inside) and some tables of display items/activities for patrons of the library for an hour before and an hour after Mrs. Wendel's Christmas History Lyceum at the Rum River Library in Anoka. Those who live in the metro area are encouraged to attend if possible as this is a paid event. Please contact Mrs. Wendel (763-754-2476) if you can attend and coordinate what we will present for this event.

The library is located at 4201 6th Avenue N. in Anoka.



**December 11, 6:00 p.m.** Christmas Dinner  
Norton's in Red Wing

This outing was organized via email in August, so if you did not hear about it, contact Private Ron Graves. (rgroland@hbc.com or 651-565-4484)

We have 28 people signed up, so we will be ordering off the menu and keeping individual tabs. Should the number change, we may need to revise what Norton's is able to do for us. Again, should your attendance status change, notify Private Graves ASAP.

The uniform of the day is uniforms or 1860s civilian attire for gentlemen, hoops or 1860s dresses for ladies. (Modern clothing is also acceptable, though period attire is encouraged.)

We are hoping to have a photographer there for group and individual "portraits."

### **Next Meeting**

December 11 6:00 p.m.  
Norton's  
307 Main Street, Red Wing  
Call Ron Graves for more info. 651-565-4484



# **Battery Profile**

## **Charles Miller Whitman**

Cause of death: Suicide.

The cold words on Charles' death certificate leave only the question of why. The newspaper speculated that Charles had taken his own life "prompted by temporary insanity." It said he had been ill for some time and the newspaper reporter believed that the illness had affected Charles' mind. What is known about his life could lead to the conclusion that perhaps the reporter was right.

Charles was born on December 20, 1838, in Hector, Tompkins County, New York. By the age of 12 years, he was working on a ferry in New York state. He worked for a time in the lumber business before coming to Winona County, Minnesota, in 1856 to work on a farm.

On February 15, 1864, Charles decided to enlist and was assigned to the Second Battery. He may have chosen the unit as he probably knew some of the men serving in it since so many of them came from Winona County. Charles was 24 years old, 5' 6" tall, had blue eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. He was promised \$300 in bounty money for his agreement to serve for three years or the duration of the war. He and other recruits arrived at the Battery's camp near Chattanooga on the last day of March, just in time to see the men who had reenlisted go home on their veteran's furloughs. The men who remained were assigned to the Second Illinois Artillery, Battery I. There, they served in some hard fighting as the Union Army fought the Confederates for every foot of ground between Chattanooga and Atlanta that summer. The detailed men returned the Minnesota Battery that fall and continued to serve in garrison duty and scouting details until the end of the war when they were mustered out at Fort Snelling in August of 1865.

Charles went back to Winona County and the land he had bought just before he joined the army. He farmed his land and in 1867, married Abbey G. Weeks. Together they had three children before Abbey died. In 1878, Charles married Susan Wood and three more children were born.

In 1881, he sold his farm in Winona County and moved to Lincoln County, Minnesota, where he managed a ranch for a pair of men named Weeks and Sanborn. The November elections of 1886 brought Charles a new job, that of sheriff of Lincoln County. The term was two years and Charles was reelected four more terms.

Susan died in December of 1894. Charles was alone for six years before he married Eliza Zwahlen in 1900.

Charles was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Winona and continued to be active with the Lodge in Lincoln County for a time. He was also a member of the Lake Benton G.A.R. Post.

On December 16, 1915, Charles got up and went for "his usual morning walk outside." Shortly after his return, Eliza heard the discharge of a gun in the next room. She rushed in to find Charles dead, the top of his head badly mutilated by a shotgun wound. Neighbors and the coroner were immediately called and the jury ruled the death a suicide at an inquest that same afternoon.

Charles was laid to rest in the Memorial Hill Cemetery in Lake Benton with a military marker.



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## **Christmas Plum Pudding**

From Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine, December 1862.

*A pound of suet, cut in pieces not too fine, a pound of currants, and a pound of raisins stoned, four eggs, half a grated nutmeg, an ounce of citron and lemon-peel, shred fine, a teaspoon of beaten ginger, half a pound of bread-crumbs, half a pound of flour, and a pint of milk; beat the eggs first, add half the milk, beat them together, and by degrees stir in the flour, then the suet, spice, and fruit, and as much milk as will mix it together very thick; then take a clean cloth, dip in boiling water and squeeze dry. While the water is boiling fast, put in your pudding, which should boil for at least five hours.*

Why is it called plum pudding when the recipe doesn't call for plums? Two answers have been found. The first is from the Alexander Ramsey House in St. Paul. The Minnesota Historical Society says they have found that dried or candied fruit of any kind was called "sugar plums". Any time dried fruit was added to a cake or pudding, the fruit (and sometimes the cake or pudding) was called "plum". A second source, a period dictionary, backs up this definition by saying that dried or sugared raisins or currants were often referred to as "sugar plums". It would appear plum pudding doesn't have to have anything to do with the fruit we in this century call plums!



# Another submission from Miss Mandy

Amazing as it sounds, Miss Mandy is finding Civil War history in Hawaii! This article was in the free local paper, the front page is inset on the bottom left and the story was inside. You may need to enlarge the image if you read online.

Battery members! Miss Mandy has another article for January—she's getting ahead of you! Get those articles for the newsletter to Mrs. Wendel and don't let Miss Mandy have all the fun!

2 Kama'aina Shopper Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Hawaii Tribune-Herald

## 150 years ago: Lincoln election sets march to war



Historical re-enactor Michelle Hammer, with the National Park Service, left, serves herself during an event marking the election of President Abraham Lincoln, Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010, at the Willard Hotel in Washington. The National Park Service marks the election of President Abraham Lincoln at the beginning of four years worth of events across the country to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

**OPEN HOUSE** Island Homes Collection HONSADOR

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**SUN. NOV. 21 - 11AM-2PM**

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BRETT ZONGKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the wounds of a hard-fought political campaign still raw, the country was sharply divided by the time the election was finished.

It was 150 years ago Saturday: President Abraham Lincoln was elected amid the rising tensions that led to the Civil War.

The anniversary of Lincoln's election kicks off nearly five years of events by the National Park Service and others across the nation marking the Sesquicentennial of the war between North and South.

"We're trying to say it's

more than battles," Park Service tourism chief Dean Reeder said of the Civil War commemorations. Lincoln's election helps frame the context of what would come, he said.

Coming on the heels of this year's polarizing elections, the anniversary echoes the nation's fractious mood back then.

"I think a lot of people will notice it was a contentious election in 2010, and it was a way contentious election in 1860," Reeder said.

A century and a half ago, in a nation already torn by disputes over states' rights and the expansion of slavery, the Democratic Party split into Southern and Northern factions. Lincoln, a Republican, won without a taking single Southern state. Within a month, Southern states began declaring secession.

Reenactments of the 1860 election will take place Saturday in Kentucky and at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Ill.

In the months ahead, the Park Service will recreate Lincoln's journey from Illinois to the nation's capital and his inauguration in March 1861. Lincoln's route to Washington led through Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

"By the time he gets to Maryland, he's in enemy territory," Reeder said. "And he's the president of the United States."

Plans are well under way

for many events next year: the recreation of Lincoln's inaugural in March, the war's first bloodshed in Baltimore when a Massachusetts regiment was attacked, the first battle at Fort Sumter in South Carolina and the first major land battle at Manassas, Va., in July 1861.

As many as 15,000 historical reenactors are slated to perform in the Manassas recreation for 25,000 spectators, organizers said. Later events will mark the battles at Antietam, Gettysburg and beyond.

The Park Service is working with dozens of partners to coordinate the many Civil War events planned through 2015 at more than 75 different battlefields and historic sites, as well as at museums and other privately operated sites.

Washington's tourism bureau, Destination DC, announced Thursday it a promotion with the Park Service and others called "Civil War to Civil Rights." It will include exhibits at the city's museums, the opening of a new African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, the opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and other shows and attractions.

City leaders said they hope to showcase the capital's unique history of being surrounded by the Confederacy and give visitors a chance to see sites beyond the National Mall.

"It gets to be personal," said Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, who represents the District of Columbia in Congress, noting her great-grandfather was a

runaway slave. "I hope we will open people's minds to just how historic this city is."

To commemorate Lincoln's election in Washington, tourism groups gathered Thursday with characters dressed in Civil War attire at the Willard Hotel. The hotel hosted a peace convention in February 1861 to try to save the Union.

Next week, the National Archives will open the second part of its "Discovering the Civil War" exhibit with several rarely shown documents on view through April 2011.

It includes a proposed version of the 13th Amendment approved by Congress that would have prevented the abolition of slavery but was ratified by only two states. From Nov. 11 to 14, original pages of the handwritten Emancipation Proclamation in which Lincoln declared the slaves free will be on display. So will the actual 13th Amendment as approved by Congress and signed by Lincoln that abolished slavery once it was ratified by the states in 1865.

Many more events across the country in the years ahead will highlight the key battles, their impact on the home front and the progress toward civil rights, according to the Park Service plan. A new website will launch this month with dates and details for Civil War enthusiasts to plan ahead.

Terence Heder, who is coordinating events for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation in Virginia said personal, firsthand accounts will draw more attention than recounting who won battles and who retreated.

"We want to bring those stories to life because the history deserves it, the people who lived through that time deserve it," he said. "We want people to understand the battles had a context."

NOVEMBER 17, 2010

**KAMA'AINA Shopper**

A Weekly Publication by the Hawaii Tribune-Herald

**150 years ago: Lincoln election sets march to war**

See feature on page 2

one of the **LOWEST** labor rates in town, which means **YOU PAY LESS** at R&G Tire Center!

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**Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner**

Queen's Court Restaurant

November 25, 2010 • Seatings at 3:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm

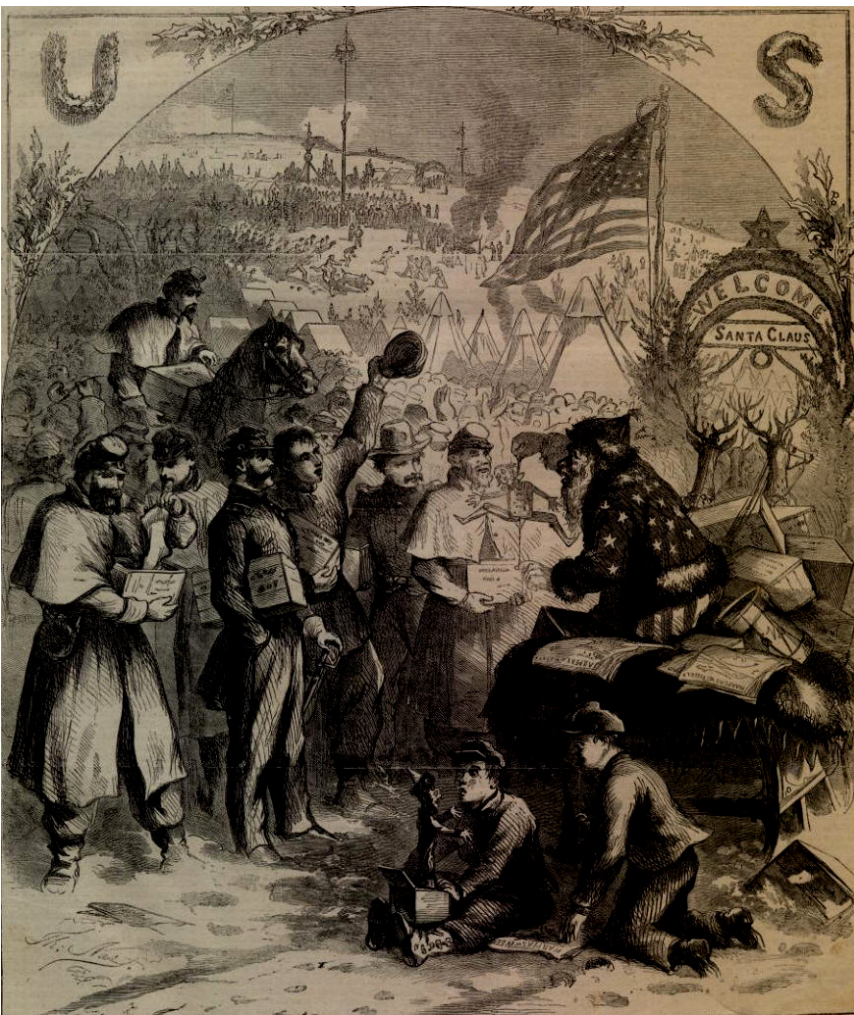
**Entrée Station**

Prime Rib

Seafood Station

Salad Bar





Thomas Nast drew his first Santa Claus for the cover of the 1862 Christmas issue of *Harper's Weekly*. In later years, Nast became famous for his Santa drawings and biting political commentary. He also gave us the enduring images of the elephant and donkey as political party icons.

Despite the heavily Northern slant to Nast's 1862 Santa and the cut to Jefferson Davis in the accompanying text, Nast did help establish the universality of Santa without political constraints.

The basis for Nast's ideas on Santa came from Clement Moore's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, but it was Nast who placed Santa's home at the North Pole. That was done so no country could ever claim Santa as their own.

Nast created the story of Santa's workshop at the North Pole where Santa built toys, the account book in which Santa kept track of the behavior of children, and the telescope through which Santa kept his eye on children. Later Santas Nast drew answered letters from children.

Nast's drawings always included love and giving as the theme of Christmas. The article printed here is from *Harper's Weekly* dated January 3, 1963. It was customary for the Christmas issue to come out after Christmas.

## Santa Claus Among Our Soldiers

*Children, you mustn't think that Santa Claus comes to you alone. You see him in the picture ... throwing out boxes to the soldiers, and in the one on page 1 you see a little drummer-boy, who, on opening his Christmas-box, beholds a jack-in-the-box spring up, much to his astonishment. His companion is so much amused at so*

*interesting a phenomenon that he forgets his own box, and it lies in the snow unopened, beside him. He was just going to take a bite out of that apple in his hand, but the sight of his friend's gift has made him forget all about it. He has his other hand on a Harper's Weekly. Santa Claus has brought lots of those for the soldiers, so that they, too, as well as you little folks, may have a peep at the Christmas number.*

*One soldier, on the left, finds a stocking in his box stuffed with all sorts of good things. Another, right behind him has got a meerschaum pipe, just what he has been wanting for ever so long.*

**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>**

*Santa Claus is entertaining the soldiers by showing them Jeff Davis's future. He is tying a cord pretty tight around his neck, and Jeff seems to be kicking very much at such a fate.*

*He hasn't gotten to the soldiers in the background yet, and they are still amusing themselves at their merry games. One of them is trying to climb a greased pole, and, as he slips down sometimes faster than he goes up, all the others who are looking at him have a great deal of fun at his expense. Others are chasing a greased boar. One fellow thought he just had him; but he is so slippery that he can't hold him, and so he tumbles over on his face, and the next one that comes tumbles over him.*

*In another place they are playing a game of football, and getting a fine appetite for their Christmas dinner, which is cooking on the fire. See how nicely the soldiers have decorated the encampment with greens in honor of the day! And they are firing a salute to Santa Claus from the fort, and they have erected a triumphal arch to show him how welcome he is to them.*

*But Santa Claus must hurry up and not stay here too long; for he has to go as far south as New Orleans, and ever so far our West; so he says, 'G'lang!' and away he goes through the arch like lightning, for he must give all our soldiers a Merry Christmas.*