

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 183

January 2011

On This Date-150 Years Ago

After South Carolina seceded in December, things began to happen in rapid secession. On January 3, Delaware's leaders voted not to secede. On the 9th, Mississippi voted to secede with Florida following in secession on the 10th. Alabama was next on the 11th, then Georgia on the 19th. Louisiana seceded on the 26th. The Union locked in another “northern” state when Kansas was admitted as the 34th state.

Even though Mississippi voted to seceded on the 10th, it was not until the 21st that her leading senator resigned from the U.S. Senate. He was Jefferson Davis and his role in the upcoming months would continue to grow.

Another character was entering the stage, too. He was Major Robert Anderson and he was the man in charge at Fort Sumter, the Federal fort in Charleston's harbor. With the declaration of independence by South Carolina, his command was quite literally in enemy territory—if Washington recognized the new sovereign nation, which they did not. Anderson sent a message to his commanders in Washington in January, informing them of his situation and the outlook he was facing. Being in a fort in the middle of a hostile harbor was not an good place to expect any help or supplies. Supplies were his biggest concern. He had to feed his men, the food was limited and expecting food from anywhere in Charleston was a fool's hope.

In Minnesota, January of 1861 was quiet. The secession fervor was not as intense in Minnesota as in the east and south. The state was looking forward to the next session of the legislature and watching what would happen next on the national scene.

Lincoln was working on his cabinet, but bear in mind, inauguration was still three months away.

Upcoming Events

January 22, 6:00 Christmas Dinner Take Two!
Norton's in Red Wing

The blizzard forced us to reschedule this event!! If you did not hear about it the new date, contact Private Ron Graves. (rgroland@hbc.com or 651-565-4484)

We can have up to 30 people to order 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.”



Start Planning for Warmer Weather!

Yes, eventually, the snow will melt and our tents stakes will be able to penetrate the frozen ground! In preparation, we all need to be thinking and gathering information on potential events for the unit to attend in 2011. Bring info on possible events to the next meeting for discussion. If you are not able to attend, send the info to John Cain or Daryl Duden. (Contact info on the back page.)

Next Meeting

January 22 6:00 p.m.
Norton's
307 Main Street, Red Wing
Call Ron Graves for more info. 651-565-4484



History—Fact or Fiction?

The following article was published in the *Falls Evening News*, published in St. Anthony, Minnesota, on December 20, 1860.

Startling news by Pony Express!
DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION
Tremendous Excitement at Manomin!!
SECESSION MOVEMENT ON FOOT.
Government Officers All Resigned!
GOV. FRIDLEY HAS CALLED A CONVENTION!
REPUBLICANS ORDERED TO LEAVE
THE COUNTY.
FORT SNELLING THREATENED!
WAR EXPECTED!

As we were just going to press, we received by the Pony Express, intelligence of the most startling character, from Manomin. Secession sentiments are spreading into the North. Manomin county has already determined to secede before the first of January. It will be remembered that this county at the late election cast its full vote for Breckenridge. Gov. Fridley has called a mass Convention to meet on Christmas day, to take final action; whether to form a new government, or to be annexed to South Carolina. A monarchical form of government is strongly favored by the masses, the Federal officers have all resigned except the Postmaster. Preparations are now making to take Fort Snelling, as soon as the new government is formed. Republicans have all been ordered to leave the county forthwith. Gov. Fridley has ordered the army to be increased to one hundred thousand able bodied men, in case of war.

LATER

The Mississippi had been blockaded opposite the city of Manomin. Steamers belonging to other States are not allowed to pass that port.

The Ferry Boats have stopped running. Great excitement among the people. Two abolitionists hung by a mob. Four barrels of Bassett's whiskey captured at the mouth of Coon Creek. A military post established at Pleasure Creek. The exportation of native rice stopped for the present. The rails on the Pacific Railroad have been torn up in the excitement, and intercourse with other States entirely cut.

Old Abe Lincoln burnt in effigy at Rice Lake. There appears to be large delegations from different parts of the State are expected to meet at the City of Manomin on Christmas day, when a State Constitution will be adopted.

STILL LATER

As these are exciting times we have kept our paper back to lay before our readers the latest news. Great preparations are still making for the secessionists to dissolve the Union. Property floating on the Mississippi is by no means safe at this time. Gov. Fridley has issued a proclamation, forbidding any one from navigating the river opposite the city of Manomin, before the first of April,

without permission from His Excellency. The steamer *H.M. Rice* is undergoing a heavy expense for fit her for the Lumber Yard; Commodore Harmon will command her, in case of war.-- Saltpeter has advanced two hundred percent in the last twenty four hours. The *Banks* have all suspended for the present. A large crowd assembled last evening the Public Square; speeches were made and the city illuminated with gas. Pork is declining rapidly.

At first glance, this seems like a factual report that should have come from South Carolina, the first state to secede on December 20, 1860, rather than from the heart of Minnesota. A fact check is required to see the real picture.

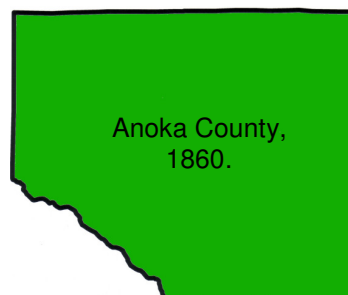
Manomin County was organized on the same day as Anoka County, May 23, 1857, and was a very small county, just 18 sections. It was the area that, over the next century, became Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, and Spring Lake Park. Abram Fridley was the most notable county officer and his political stand showed him a supporter of the Southern Democrat presidential candidate, John Breckenridge. Breckenridge was a pro-slavery candidate. Fridley was also said to support States' rights, the idea that a state had the final and highest authority on the laws its citizens were held accountable to, not the federal government.



Manomin
County,
1860.

Most of the people in Manomin County are listed as farmers or laborers in the 1860 census. There were 135 people in that census, 85 males and 50 females. They belonged in 27 different dwelling places, though four dwellings were listed as "unoccupied." The majority of the inhabitants of Manomin County were organized into family units. The "masses" indicated in the article seem suspect—even if every person in Manomin County were gathered—but keep in mind, those with a political voice were only the white males over 21 years of age. No one else was allowed to vote in 1860.

As for received the message by Pony Express? Those routes never came to Minnesota. Messages and mail were occasionally delivered by a messenger on horseback, but these were never associated with the Pony Express Company in any way. An army of 100,000 men? There were hardly that many "able bodied" men in the entire state of Minnesota in 1860!



Anoka County,
1860.

The idea of tearing up railroad tracks isn't true as there were no railroads in Manomin or Anoka counties in 1860. The first tracks in either county were not laid until 1863 in Manomin and 1864 in Anoka.

(Continued on page 5)

Battery Profile

John B. Tirronix

John could not read his enlistment papers, nor could he sign his name on them. He instead made his mark with witnesses to verify that it was his. He joined the Battery on August 31, 1864, as a part of that summer's draft rendezvous. He had been born in Canada, but when he enlisted, he was living on a farm in the French community of Centerville in Anoka County. He was married with four children, had hazel eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, and was 5' 7" tall.

The year John spent with the Battery was uneventful as far as major battles were concerned. The Battery did garrison duty near Chattanooga until the spring of 1865 when they were ordered to Loudon, Tennessee. The men of the Battery were provided train transportation, something that was almost their undoing. Several of the cars they were riding in and on, jumped the tracks and many of the men had to jump from the moving train to avoid even worse injuries. John was one of the slightly injured, hurting his right foot, leg and side when he landed. Nothing was broken, and John did not go to a hospital for his injuries.

When the war was over, John went back to his family. They added nine more children to the brood for a total of 13. John and Adell, also called Adeline in some records, stayed in the business of farming until John was too old to be of much use in farm work and he retired.

Exactly when is unknown, but John and Adell moved a short distance south of Centerville and lived in the "New Canada" area of Ramsey County. The community eventually became known as Little Canada.

John applied for an invalid pension in 1897, claiming exposure and sleeping on the cold ground had caused rheumatism and neuralgia.

The pension was granted and John continued to make his mark on papers, never having learned to write. He had someone write a letter for him to make his mark on when he signed an affidavit for Battery comrade Louis Lemay's pension in 1901.

John died in January 11, 1907, and was laid to rest in St. John's Cemetery in Little Canada with a military marker. He left Adell their one and a half story house on two acres of land, no money in the bank and no life insurance. It was noted that she might be able to make a little money by renting her land, but it was not expected to bring her more than \$2.50 a month. The Pension Department did agree she was eligible for a pension.



History—Fact or Fiction? (Continued from page 2)

Context is indeed everything. Newspapers in the 1860s were highly political and prided themselves on the support they could garner for their candidate. Many newspapers put their party affiliation in their name—The *Anoka Republican* and the *Anoka Democrat* were two of the early local papers. Stories about a politician on the other side of the political fence were highly popular and truth was not necessarily required. Rumor, innuendo, and outright fiction were part of every day reporting and such is the case with this story.

The 1860 election results had only recently been announced. In Minnesota, there were 34,804 votes cast. 22,069 of them were for Lincoln—63.4% of the total Minnesota vote. Douglas got 11,920 votes (34.2%), Breckinridge got 748 votes, and Bell got only 50 votes in Minnesota. Manomin County was one of

the counties Lincoln did not carry in Minnesota.

Was Manomin County really planning to secede, blockade the Mississippi, declare a monarchy, and hang abolitionists?

Not at all, but taking those political jabs at Abram Fridley made for great press and points out a fact easily overlooked: the politics of 2010 with the heavily partisan mud-slinging that can and does happen isn't new. Today, many average citizens see our current government officials as uncompromising and party-oriented, and that begs the question, have we learned anything from history? Are modern jabs at politicians in social media (and sometimes main stream media) so different from the fictional article that appeared in the 1860 *Falls Evening News*? If we answer not so different, then perhaps we might want to haul out our history books to seek a few lessons from both successful and unsuccessful ventures in the past.

The Big Guns of the Battery

The Second Minnesota Battery didn't keep the same guns throughout the war. In fact, from references currently in our possession, they seem to have changed guns fairly often. Mentions in reports, letters and orders give only glimpses of the kind of guns the Battery was using at any given moment. At present, this is what we know:

17 May 1862	Four 6 pound cannon and two 12 pound howitzers
Late 1862	Four 10 pound parrots and two 12 pound Napoleons
Oct. 1862	"A section of howitzers" (Flint letters)
8 Oct 1862	"two guns-howitzers..." (Civil & Indian, p. 657)
25 Jan 1863	"exchanged six-pounders for ten-pounder parrots" (Civil & Indian, p. 661)
7 March 1863	"Section of parrots" (Col. Heg report)
16 Aug. 1863	Two 10 pound parrots and four 12 pound Napoleons (Artillery report)
19 Sept 1863	2 10-pounder Parrots & 4 Napoleons (Marker, Chickamauga NMP)
1 May 1864	Went to Chattanooga to "exchange guns" (Shaw diary)
15 Oct. 1864	"Our detachment with howitzers" (Spaulding diary)

The Civil War in Hawaii???

By Miss Mandy Wendel

When most of us think of the Civil War, the tiny islands known then as the Kingdom of Hawaii, don't come to mind. The American Civil War did have a far reaching impact though, all the way out to Hawaii. In 1860, when Lincoln was elected, Americans living in Honolulu held a mock election where Lincoln received 45% of the vote as compared to the 39% he received in the actual election.

In 1861, when the war broke out in the United States, King Kamehameha IV declared Hawaii neutral. While the Monarchy declared the kingdom neutral, the feelings of most Hawaiians were anti-Confederacy. In Honolulu, a bookstore carried *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and red, white, and blue "The Union must be preserved" envelopes. A Southern born woman tried to show her support for the Confederacy while living in Honolulu by flying a "Confederate flag" (It's not noted which one). It was torn from her home and ripped to shreds in the street. An interesting offer was made to President Lincoln from Hilo where a merchant formed a pro-Union militia and offered to sail to the United States to help in the war. The Hawaiian monarchy informed him he was in violation of the declared neutrality and they would not let him follow up on the offer. Even with the declared neutrality, many people did find their way into Union units. One Union general, Samuel Chapman Armstrong, reported, "I found several [Hawaiian soldiers] among the Negro regiments." Armstrong had been born in Hawaii, the son of a missionary.

Letters also show that Lincoln had a close friendship with the Hawaiian Monarchy. In a letter dated, March 16, 1863, Lincoln informed King Kamehameha IV of the appointment of James McBride as US Minister to Hawaii, addressing the king as a "Great and Good Friend." Lincoln then ended the letter, "Your Good Friend, Abraham Lincoln." When the king died a few months later, Lincoln wrote to express his condolences and again he signed the letter, "Your Good Friend."

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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With the outbreak of war, the demand and price of sugar went up in the US. Much of that sugar was grown in Hawaii and the cane industry was booming. Records show in 1862, Hawaii exported 3,005,603 pounds of sugar and 130,445 gallons of molasses, much of it going to the United States. By 1863, Hawaii is starting to grow cotton crops as well. In 1864, Hawaii's exports had reached 10,414,441 pounds of sugar and 340,436 gallons of molasses.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States in 1865. Hawaii had passed their law abolishing slavery in 1852, a part of the reason the monarchy decided to keep Hawaii neutral.

Lincoln was not only popular with the Americans living in Hawaii, but also with the Hawaiians. Following his assassination, an article appeared in the May 11, 1865, edition of *Ka Nupepa Kuokoa*, the Honolulu Hawaiian language newspaper. The article praised Lincoln as the "People's friend." "No words of ours can do justice to our grief," the article explained. It then went on to claim that as Hawaiians, "We mingle our tears with those of that great nation beyond the sea, who are mourning as for a Father." Finally, it argued that because of "the great work which Abraham Lincoln commenced," he was loved. Regarding his assassination, "No parallel for this great crime can be found in the world's history since the Crucifixion."