



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 201

August 2012

On This Date-150 Years Ago

August, 1862

This is a hard month for Minnesotans as it marks the 150th anniversary of the Dakota Conflict. Much finger pointing and blaming has been done since the bloody six week struggle in our own backyard, but history shows more than enough blame and fault to go around for both sides. Anger and hurt remain, but this anniversary should be about remembering, understanding, and honoring—for both white Minnesotans and Native American Minnesotans. We share this painful chapter in history.

Meanwhile, in the South, the Battery's morning reports for August of 1862 show what was happening. The number indicate the day of the month.

- 8 Earl ap'd Sergt
- 14 Quit camp near Jacinto at 4 1/2 O'clock p.m. and encamped eight miles out on the Tuscumbia Road. Moved in the morning (15th July) at 5 O'clock and arrived at luka 12 O'clock same day. Distance 10 miles
- 18 Received Report of the death of B. Thew of "Ulceration of the Bowels" at Genl Hospital "Keokuk" Iowa July 30th 1862.
- 21 Quit camp luka and marched east on the Tennessee River. Crossed to the Alabama side on Steamer Des Moines & barge, time of crossing 6 hours Distance 10 Miles.
- 23 In Camp opposite East Port on Tennessee River.
- 24 Quit Camp opposite East Port and marched 8 Miles. Passed the Village of Water Loo and Crossed the "2nd Creek".
- 25 Quit Camp 10 Miles out from the Second Creek & marched to Florence Alabama distance 22 Miles.
- 26 In Camp at Florence Ala.
- 27 Quit Camp at Florence & marched 20 Miles. Passed "Lauderdale Factory" Forded "Shallow Creek"
- 28 Marched to Lawrenceburgh Tenn, distance 15 Miles.
- 29 Marched to Mount Pleasant distance 22 Miles
- 30 Marched to Columbia distance 12 miles crossed "Duck River" Marched to {Columbia} distance 17.
- 31 Marched to {Columbia} distance 16 Passed through village of Franklin

Upcoming Events

August 11-12 Reenactment, Pipestone, MN

This event is only held in even years and is a nice event in very unique setting, the Hiawatha Pageant grounds on the north edge of the city of Pipestone. It is always a good time and you never quite know what will happen at Pipestone! If you want to modern camp, there is a campground next to the site. For more on the event, go to: <http://www.pipestoneminnesota.com/cwd/Home.html>

August 25-26 Ahlman's, Morristown, MN

This is without doubt the wildest event we do all year as our gun is one of many styles and types of weapons being fired throughout the event. It is common to hear a "Tommy gun" or a six shooter while running gun drills on our cannon. This is a paid event, so we need a good turnout! RSVP to John or Daryl. For a schedule, see: <http://www.ahlmans.com/events.html>

September 15 Encampment at Anderson Center—Red Wing, MN

This event at the Arts Center in Red Wing will see hundreds (perhaps even 1000s) of people in this single day! It is a great opportunity to get our story out to a large crowd and make a real impact with history. Please attend this one day event if at all possible! For more info, contact John Cain.

September 16 POSSIBLE cemetery dedication, St. Paul

We have been asked by the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Task Force to do another cemetery dedication similar to the Shiloh dedication last April. No details yet, they are willing to move to this date to accommodate our schedule, but we cannot commit to this event unless we have a gun crew. Contact John Cain or Vickie ASAP so we know if we can participate with a gun crew or not.

Next Meeting

August 25, at the event at Ahlman's, after the site closes to the public.



Battery Profile

Ingebreth Johnson

Ingebreth Johnson was born in Stavanger, Norway. He first came to the United States alone in 1853 and farmed for two years near Long Prairie, Illinois. He made enough money by 1855 to return to Norway to get his bride, Ane Augland, and his parents. They all came to Minnesota and Ingebreth and Ane were married on September 10, 1860, in Fillmore County. The newlyweds took up farming in Fillmore County.

In February of 1862, Ingebreth enlisted in the Second Battery as a private. He was 26 years old, stood 5' 6" tall, had blue eyes, light hair and complexion. On January 1, 1863, he was detailed as a wagon master. He would remain on this duty until the end of September that year when he returned to regular duty. He didn't stay with the Battery long, as he did not reenlist and was once again detailed, this time to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery when the Minnesota Battery went home on their veteran's furlough. This detached service put Ingebreth in the battles for Atlanta. When the Minnesota Battery returned, Ingebreth went back to finish his term of service with them, serving both as a cannoneer and as a driver. He was discharged on March 28, 1865, the end of his three term.

Ingebreth returned to Minnesota and Ana. In 1866, reports abounded about the rich land further west in Redwood and Yellow Medicine counties of Minnesota. Ingebreth and Ana moved, taking a homestead in the southeast quarter of Section 4, Sandness Township, Yellow Medicine County. Their first child, Mary, was born that same year. Eventually, they would have five children.

Ingebreth may have been quite a character based on a surviving story about him. He was out cutting logs with a neighbor when a stray buffalo came near. The buffalo and

Ingebreth got into a tangle and Ingebreth killed the buffalo with his axe. It was said the entire settlement had an unexpected treat of buffalo meat!

Unfortunately, that is all the detail that remains, so exactly how Ingebreth managed to kill a buffalo with an axe is unknown.

Stomach cancer finally overcame Ingebreth and he died at his home on June 15, 1899. He was 64. He was buried at the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery in Hanley Falls, Yellow Medicine County.

Ana applied for a widow's pension and had to provide proof of her need to the Pension Department. She had inherited some land from Ingebreth which was rented out, making her an income of \$111. She had some buildings on the property and their insurance value was \$6.00 per year. She paid \$38.40 per year in taxes. Her total worth including land, buildings, and household goods was estimated to be \$2,120.

Ane joined Ingebreth in the Norwegian Cemetery in 1932.



The Civil War is remembered at the Punchbowl, National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii



Imagine the surprise of Second Battery members when they discovered this plaque in the Memorial Walk of the Punchbowl! Hawaii was not even part of the United States in 1861 and its people were thousands of miles away, but they very aware of what was going on in the U.S. At the time, Hawaii was better known as the Sandwich Islands.

When the Civil War began in 1861, King Kamehameha IV declared his kingdom of Hawaii neutral, but he held Union sympathies – as did the majority of people living in Hawaii. The country had deep ties to the expanding United States and war with the South enabled Hawaii to fill part of the void left by the absence of blockaded Southern exports.

Sugar and other products once exported by the newly-formed Confederacy was confined thanks to the establishment of the Union naval blockade on Southern ports. Hawaiian-grown sugar soon replaced much of the Southern sugar through the duration of the conflict. By the end of the war, over thirty extremely prosperous plantations were in operation and expanded to new levels previously unheard of before the war began. A steep United States tariff on foreign imports did not prevent many Hawaiians from becoming incredibly wealthy during this period of increased trade.

Because of this boom in business, the majority of Americans living and working on the islands were staunch Unionists. In fact, many living in Hawaii had an ardent desire to serve in the armed forces. One Hilo merchant, Thomas Spencer, personally financed and mustered a unit of Federals nicknamed “Spencer’s Invincibles.” However, when reminded that Hawaii was neutral, Spencer was purported to have burst into tears of despair for not having the opportunity to serve. Nevertheless, the nation’s neutrality did not prevent many of its citizens from enlisting in either Union or Confederate forces. Another Hawaiian from Hilo, Henry Ho’olulu Pitman, hailed from a prominent native family. Enlisted in the Union Army, he later died of disease in Richmond’s infamous Libby Prison. A dozen Hawaiians also served as Confederate sailors aboard the famous raider *CSS Shenandoah* which circumnavigated the globe and sank or captured nearly forty Union and merchant vessels throughout the Pacific. At the O’ahu Cemetery, thirty Union veterans rest in a Grand Army of the Republic section of the burial ground.



Miss Katie found this cartoon in a recent *St. Paul Pioneer Press* newspaper!

Recap

August, Boscobel



It may have been dry enough in Boscobel that they had restrictions on camp fires, but the arrival of reenactors has an astonishingly consistent record for bringing on rain.

The rain Saturday began just about the time the battle was to begin and had signs of being a very nasty storm, but the heavy winds, hail and torrential rain split and went around Boscobel. All we had in camp were a few light puffs of wind and steady rain for about 2 1/2

hours. Visitors were taken to the school for shelter, so when the battle began at 4:00 instead of 1:00, the bleachers and sidelines of the battlefield were filled! The dampness in the air and on the ground made the smoke hang thick and murky, which made for great pictures. The rain made cooking supper impossible, so instead of eating at 9:00, the Battery went to the Vale Inn and ordered off the menu.

Sunday dawned clear and cool. It was a beautiful summer day and the battle was a grand success! Flags made by David Ewing in honor of his ancestors who fought in Wisconsin regiments were prominently featured in the battle where just enough wind made them unfurl perfectly! Our boys on the big guns supported the infantry and a carefully planned "canister" volley decimated the Confederate line, much to the delight of onlookers.



onlookers.

We had enough men for our gun crew with several to spare, so three of our boys played with the Battery I boys.

As always, the best part is that after the battle is over, resurrection is called and everyone gets up to play again another day!



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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Little Aubrey Watkins attended her first Battery event and proved herself a worthy artillery baby! No tears when she heard the big guns! Well done, Aubrey!

