



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 200

July 2012

On This Date-150 Years Ago

July, 1862

The Battery was on the move for the first three days of July, continuing the march they had begun in June. They did a lot of marching. But didn't really get too far as several times, they were ordered back to where they had started. The morning reports read:

- 1 Retreated from Shelby Creek via Ripley to camp on branch of Little Hatchie River, 17 miles
- 2 Moved to Rienzi Depot -- 16 miles
- 3 Marching from Rienzi Depot to camp 2 miles east of Jacinto, Miss. 7 1/2 miles

The rest of the month of July was left blank.

Once they reached Jacinto, the Battery made camp and there they remained for most of the rest of the month. Private Edwin Rodgers worked from July 5-8 shoeing horses—the marches must have been hard on horseshoes! Rodgers was one of the Battery's blacksmiths. Rodgers doesn't tell us what happened in his diary other than he was very sick during the rest of the month. Later in life, he blamed his poor health on all the work he did in the heat of a Mississippi summer. Perhaps the illness he wrote about in his diary for July of 1862 was some level of heat stress, easy to imagine for a Minnesota boy transplanted to the deep South in the dead of summer.

Meanwhile, Lt. Albert Woodbury was sent back to Minnesota to do some recruiting. Illness had taken enough men from the Battery that Hotchkiss wanted Woodbury to bring in new recruits. Woodbury was recruiting in Anoka and its surrounding area.

Upcoming Events

August 4-5 Reenactment at Boscobel, WI

This annual event has become one of our favorites, especially the pie social! Please notify John Cain or Daryl Duden if you plan to attend or even if you do not. We need good head counts for meals! For more information on the events schedule, see their website at: <http://www.musketsandmemories.net/>

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 9 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 is at all possible! For more info, contact John Cain.

Next Meeting

July 28, 11:00

Maries Family Restaurant in Red Wing.



Battery Profile

Alexander Baldwin

Alexander joined the Second Battery on August 25, 1864, at Taylors Falls, Minnesota. He wasn't too far from home when he enlisted, his parents were living in Alma, Wisconsin, in 1860. At that time, Alexander lived with them, as did his two sisters. By 1864 when he enlisted, Alex was married and living in Taylors Falls.

For a pledge to serve one year, Alexander was paid a bounty of \$33.33 with a balance due him of \$66.67. Alexander said he was 23 years, born in Colchester, Canada. He had blue eyes, sandy hair, a light complexion and stood 5' 6" tall. He was a farmer.

Private Baldwin left little mark on the Battery's rolls. He was never detailed to special duty, never promoted or charged with mischief, never requested leave. He simply served out his time and was discharged on August 16, 1865 at Fort Snelling when the Battery was mustered out.

Not much more is recorded about the remainder of his life. His wife was Aurelia Parrish Lovejoy and they were married on November 16, 1862. They had five children and lived on a farm in Amador, Chisago County, Minnesota, until at least 1880. At some point, Alexander went to the state of Washington where he worked in logging. An accident there took his right eye when it was hit by a knob on a branch as he was trimming a fir log.

Alexander went to Wisconsin and was living there in 1894 when he filed for a veteran's pension. His disabilities included the lost eye and described the other as nearly sightless because of cataracts.

By 1895, Alexander was living in Shell Lake, Wisconsin, and there is no longer any mention of his wife. There is no trace of Alex for the next ten years until he appears on the listing of Soldiers and Sailors living in Wisconsin in 1905. Alex was then living in Oshkosh. He disappears again until the 1910 census. He was living in the Dunn County Asylum in Dunn, Wisconsin. How long Alexander was living there is unknown, but he did not remain there long after the census was taken. Alex died on June 16, 1910. He was laid to rest in

the Asylum Cemetery in Red Cedar Township. None of the Asylum graves were ever marked.

It is not known who or how Alex's veteran's status was recorded, but in 1934, Alex was disinterred from the Asylum cemetery and moved into Menomonie's Evergreen Cemetery to be reburied in the Grand Army plot. This plot is the first section of the cemetery in front of the only gate into it as the cemetery is on a tiny island. Guarding the graves of the veterans is a large zinc statute of a Civil War infantry man, placed in 1901 by the Women's Relief Corps of



The Dunn County Asylum Cemetery



HEAT STRESS

Heat Stress Disorder—Symptoms and First Treatment

With records temps everywhere this spring/early summer, these signs and warning may come in handy. Let's all watch each other to be sure everyone is drinking enough and we all stay safe!

Heat Cramps	Failure to replace salt lost through sweating Electrolyte and muscle problems	Painful muscle cramps	Drink lightly salted water, lemonade, tomato juice, or "athletic" drinks
Hyperventilation	Overbreathing Low blood CO ₂ level problem	Dizziness; tingling around lips; carpopedal spasm; Blackout	Slow, deep rebreathing from paper bag
Heat Exhaustion	Excessive heat strain with inadequate water intake Cardiovascular problem (inadequate venous return, filling time) Orthostatic hypotension Problem	Weakness, unstable gait, extreme fatigue; wet, clammy skin; headache, nausea, collapse	Rest in shade, drink lightly salted fluids.
Dehydration/Physical Exhaustion	Failure to replace water loss Excessive work in heat	Excessive fatigue; weight loss	Replace fluids; rest until weight and water losses are restored
Heatstroke	High T _c , typically > 105°F Damage to or dysfunction of multiple organ systems is Frequent	Mental status changes, including irrational behavior or delirium; loss of consciousness, convulsions, and/or shivering may occur	Rapid, immediate cooling by cold-water immersion, or wrap in wet sheets and fan vigorously. Continue until T _c is < 102°F. Treat for shock if necessary once temperature is lowered. <i>Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Brain damage/death can result even if treatment is timely.</i>

Update on Unmarked Graves

At the May meeting, a motion was made and passed to fund the cost of setting stones for two of our original Battery boys who were buried in Washington State in unmarked graves. We had been told when we first found them that laws prevented us from marking the graves since we were not family. A friend of the Battery was visiting his sister in Seattle and went to the graves (he knew about them from our website.) He talked to the cemetery officials and was told if we provided the documentation and the funding, it was possible to order VA markers for them!

We immediately voted at the meeting to go ahead with the plan.

As of July 1, the marker for John Green has been ordered and the base/setting fees have been paid. We have been promised a photo as soon as the marker arrives and is set.

All documents have been sent to the officials for getting a marker for George Hancock. They are working with the VA and we will be notified when that is complete. We have been told by the cemetery officials that they see no reason a marker can't be set for him, it will just take a while.



It's always fun to find a new tidbit about one of our Battery boys! This is an ad for Peter Campbell's shoe business in Anoka. It ran in the *Anoka Republican* on September 14, 1861. Four months later, Peter left his cobbler's bench and enlisted as a private with the Second Battery.

Recap

June 9 Rum River Library, Anoka, MN

It DIDN'T rain on us!! It was a bit on the warm and windy side, but we were dry and the crowds were bigger than ever! The Library said they had to estimate how many people visited the camp and didn't go inside to hit their door counter, but their estimate said there were 750 people at this four hour event! We had people around us for the entire time, so much that no one left to see what other events were going on at the library that day! The soldiers had three stations set up: small arms, the officer's area with flags, and the gun. The gun was, of course, a big hit!



The ladies of the Battery continued to improve upon their Soldiers Aid Society impression and had found research about children of the 1860s raising money by having a "fish pond." Research failed to verify what exactly a fish pond of the 1860s was or how it raised money, so the ladies had to make their best guess that it was similar to what we have for fish ponds today. Visitors who talked to a soldier could get a "fractional" and use it to go fishing. This provided for interaction between the soldiers and the children, taught both children and adults about fractionals, and got the kids involved in "helping" the Soldiers Aid Society just as was done in the 1860s. The "fish" the kids caught was a piece of candy and the entire SAS tent was a wonderful success.

The Library staff was very happy with the event (and us!). This is the message that went out following the event: *The Civil War re-enactors were superb! We had people bring lawn chairs & lunches to observe them over time. I was so impressed with their professionalism despite the heat. We are so lucky to have their willingness to add a special feature to the day.* Marlene Moulton Janssen, Anoka County Library Director



Bugler Bill was challenged by a member of one of the other musical groups at the library that day and the two played a duet to the delight of everyone around! A short clip of their duet can be heard on the Battery's Facebook page. Copy and paste this link to hear it: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/photo.php?v=2859659509390>

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:

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

Following the event, members gathered at the Anoka County History Center for a meal and Battery Baby Shower for Mrs. Overby and their first baby, due in August. Her heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the day so special!



Miss Katie provided some modern day essentials all hidden inside a period correct haversack—a REB haversack! Might this portend of Baby's leanings???