



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

"ACTION FRONT"

Circular No. 207

April 2013

On This Date-150 Years Ago

Remarks for the Month of April, 1863
(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 Emil Solner on Extra duty as Teamster
- 2 Corp. E. A. Rogers & Privates Wm. H. Staples,
& John Kennedy finally discharged
- 5 W. A. Spaulding promoted from private to
Corporal
- 7 Newbry Briggs returned to duty
- 9 Miles A. Brown reported a deserter Louis F.
Benge, J. H. Snyder, Philip E. Sargent, & Andrew W.
Jackson transferred from 21 Regt Ill. V. I. & joined bat
for duty
- 11 Rec'd official Notice of the Discharge of William
Blake at Evansville, Ind. Oct 10 1862
- 15 3rd Sec. Lt. D. went out on picket duty
- 19 D. W. Coulthard returned from Hosp. to duty.
- 20 3rd Sec. ret'd

The Battery was still camped outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They were called for picket duty by section on April 15 and the third section remained on that duty until the 20th. It is not clear if they were acting as infantry with muskets while they were on picket or if they actually fell into some kind of picket line with their cannon.

The number of the men in the Battery was falling through illness, discharges for disability, and desertion. To bring the Battery back up to fighting strength, men were sent to serve with the Second Minnesota from other infantry units, this time from the 21st Illinois Regiment. Some of these men served only a few days with the Battery; others served for many months.

Military Officers for 2013

Elections were held at the annual meeting in March. The following military officers were elected:

Lieutenant	John Cain
Quartermaster	Sergeant Keith Stinson
Sergeant	Daryl Duden
Corporal	Ron Graves
Corporal	Michael Ritchie

Congratulations to all! Serve well!

Gettysburg Update

As it stands now, the Second Battery is registered to attend the 150th Anniversary event at Gettysburg, PA, July 4-7. Our gun, however, will not take the field unless another federal gun does not show up. This was the only way we could get our registrations accepted for this event. It is possible we could pull our gun all the way to Gettysburg only to never have it leave the trailer.

We need to know who is planning to attend this national event very soon. If you plan to go, please contact John Cain or Daryl Duden ASAP.

John Cain: (651) 388-9250 Daryl Duden: 651) 388-6520

Dues for 2013

2013 Dues are PAST due! If you want to remain on the newsletter mailing list or keep your voting rights as a full member, you must pay your dues ASAP.

This will be the last newsletter you receive unless your dues are paid.

Next Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 11:00 am

Marie's Underground Dining, Red Wing, MN



Battery Profile

Alfred Colburn

Alfred Colburn was already a veteran when he enlisted in the Second Battery of Light Artillery. His first enlistment was with the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, the first unit tendered to President Lincoln after Fort Sumter was surrendered. Alfred joined the First Minnesota in November of 1861. He was living in Isanti County, Minnesota, at the time and held the position of county surveyor.

Serving in the Army of the Potomac, Alfred participated in the Valley Campaign and the Peninsula Campaign. Just after the battle of Fair Oaks in May of 1862, he was detailed to cut some trees in the front of the First Minnesota's lines. The skirmishing was still going on, but the trees needed to be gotten out of the way. While working, a tree cut by other members of the detachment fell, striking Alfred on the head. He was knocked unconscious and carried from the field to the hospital where he remained for four or five days. Because of the closeness of the fighting, he was moved to a hospital near Harrison Landing where he stayed for a couple weeks. Finally, Alfred was put on a hospital ship, the *Daniel Webster*, and sent to New York where he was discharged on August 8, 1862. The discharge said his disability was from "compression of the brain" and he was entitled to ¼ pension.

Alfred went back to Spencer Brook in Isanti County, but he did not apply for the ¼ pension his discharge said was due him. Instead, he decided to enlist again. On August 30, 1864, the Army accepted him into the Second Battery of Light Artillery. He was 30 years old, stood 5' 8 1/2" tall, had gray eyes, sandy hair, and a fair complexion.

The rank of private was as high as Alfred got during either term of service. In March of 1865, he was once again detailed to cut logs for a Major Church, but this time he managed not to get hit on the head. Alfred was discharged with the Battery on August 16, 1865.

Alfred's personal life also had a few bumps. He was born in Lyme, New Hampshire, on March 25, 1834. By 1852, he wanted to move west and was making preparations to leave when his parents decided they would go with him. They arrived in Wisconsin where Alfred began working on the river. He managed to buy a piece of property that he deeded to his parents. While in Wisconsin, Alfred married Adamantine Butterfield. In 1858, Alfred and Adamantine moved further west to Spencer Brook, Isanti County, Minnesota, where he was elected the county surveyor and served in that position until he enlisted.

Alfred came back to Spencer Brook after his disability discharge from the First Minnesota Infantry. In July of 1864, he was in court with a divorce petition against Adamantine. The divorce was declared final on August 5, 1864, by the district court in Anoka and Alfred almost immediately enlisted to serve the last year of the war with the Battery. When the war was over, he went back to Spencer Brook and was elected county surveyor again, a post he held for 16 years.

In May of 1866, Alfred was married a second time to Mary M. Henry. They had two daughters before Mary died on February 8, 1871. In November of 1873, Alfred was married a third time to a widow with four children of her own. Cassandra Whitaker Morton lived in Spencer Brook and had lost her husband to death a year before.

The lure of the west again called Alfred, so their blended family moved to Slayton, Oregon, where Alfred operated a sawmill and later built a flour mill.

In 1878, Alfred was on the move again, this time with a herd of 500 sheep. He and several others, with their families, were heading for land in Idaho. Their timing was not the best as conflict between the Nez Perce Indians was at its height. Everyone but Alfred decided it was too risky to continue and took refuge at Dalles. Alfred and his family, with their sheep, kept going and made it to Latah County, Idaho, without incident. There, he took a homestead and made improvements to his land until he had a prosperous farm. He raised sheep and cattle, grew various kinds of crops and had an orchard. Alfred and Cassandra also raised children; they had three more daughters, but only one lived to adulthood.

Alfred was elected the county surveyor once again in Idaho, a position he "filled well." He was active in the local GAR Post and they attended the Baptist Church. It was said that "In political matters, Mr. Colburn always took the part of the intelligent citizen, and is ever found registered on the side of progress and good government."

Alfred died June 12, 1903, at the age of 69 years. He was buried in the church cemetery in Freeze, Latah County, Idaho. The church and cemetery stand at the top of a tall hill, surrounded by wheat fields in all directions.

The will Alfred left was very specific. His two living daughters each received \$1.00. Everything thing else he owned went to Cassandra. While she had the land and buildings, the value had decreased with age and her deposition to the Pension Department spelled out what she paid in taxes on the land, what it cost to have crops put in and harvested, expenses associated with the crops, and all of the income she had from the land and crops. At the end of the year, she showed a profit of only \$11.54, reason enough she believed, to apply for a widow's pension. Cassandra died in 1937 and was laid beside Alfred in the church cemetery.



Mr. J. Mendenhall O.				107
Jan 16	1862	to visit	3.00	br. by
" 19	"	"	3.00	oats
Mr Mendenhall				48
May 16		to visit	5.00	May 7 "
June 29		"	5.00	" 10 "
Nov 3		"	5.00	15 Butter & Potatoes
" 7		"	5.00	17 " 12oz
" 10		"	5.00	22 " 1-6
" 15		"	5.00	29 12
" 17		"	5.00	
" 22		"	5.00	
" 29		"	5.00	
Apr 14		"	5.00	
"		Meal	50	
"		Appraise	30	
" 29		to visit & pay	5.20	
May 10		to pay	1.00	
Mr W. A. Hotchkiss Dr				
Jan 25	1862	to visit	1.00	
27		"	1.00	

An Amazing Find!

The above is a page from the ledger of Dr. A.W. Giddings, a medical doctor with a practice in Anoka starting in 1854. He was well known and well respected, being one of few doctors living west of St. Paul in 1861. While the ledger does not tell us what the purpose of the "office visit" was, we do know who, when, and how much they paid Dr. Giddings for medical help. On January 25, 1862, William A. Hotchkiss was at Dr. Giddings' office and Hotchkiss paid \$1. Other notations in the ledger lead us to believe Dr. Giddings was performing physicals for men enlisting in the army.

Hotchkiss had been recruiting men for an artillery battery long before he himself enlisted. Since this is very near the date Hotchkiss stated was actually his enlistment date, it is very likely that the \$1 he paid was for a physical to prove himself fit military service.

There are a number of other men who served in the Second Minnesota Battery who also saw Dr. Giddings, most very near the date they have on their enlistment papers. More Battery men were seen by Dr. Giddings long after the war was over as Dr. Giddings was appointed an examining physician by the Pension Department.

2013 Battery Calendar

FEBRUARY

22 Red Wing, MN Twin Bluff Middle School
23 Fridley, MN Winter Camp – Mississippi Library

MAY

1 Lake City, MN Bluff View Elementary
10 Oakdale, MN Eagle Point Elementary
13 Edina, MN Calvin Christian School
23 Oakdale, MN Oakdale Elementary
27 Red Wing, MN Memorial Day

JUNE

8-9 Waukon, IA Reenactment (Tentative)
15-16 Wasioja, MN Reenactment

JULY

4 Saint Paul, MN Minnesota 150th Task Force Event (noon-4:00pm)
4-7 Gettysburg, PA 150th GAC Gettysburg Reenactment
13 Anoka, MN Anoka County History Center

AUGUST

3-4 Boscobel, WI 21st Annual Reenactment
24-25 Morristown, MN Fort Ahlman Encampment & Firing Demonstration

SEPTEMBER

28-29 Greenbush, WI 23rd Annual Reenactment (Tentative)

NOVEMBER

11 Winona, MN Veteran's Day Tribute (Expected)

DECEMBER

TBD Anoka, MN Christmas at the Library (Possible)

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

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

This calendar was approved by membership vote at the Annual Meeting held in March. Notice that several events have a qualifying term following them. These events were discussed and interest was expressed in attending, but the viability of a gun crew was in some doubt. We have chosen to leave these events on the calendar and will base our attendance on the availability of a gun crew for that specific event as it draws nearer.

The event on Veteran's Day in Winona is expected, but Private Tomashek, who coordinates our attendance at the event, was not present and further details were not available. If invited as expected, we will be attending as a unit.

The meeting to set library events for fall 2013 has not yet happened. We expect there may be a Christmas event, so please keep that in mind as well.

Your Country Needs You!

And so does the Battery!

2013 dues are DUE!! To remain on the active/voting member list, your dues are:

Civilian Member	\$12.00
Military Member	\$12.00
Associate Member	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (14-17)	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (under 14)	Free

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Please give or mail this form and your check to:

Daryl Duden
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