



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 209

June 2013

### On This Date-150 Years Ago

#### Remarks for the Month of May, 1863

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 4 Sert Joy, Corp. Varney and privates Wm H. Shaw, Wm E. Pulk, Samuel F. Woods & Geo. E. Davis sent to Field hospital Ingebreth Olsen returned to duty from Hospital. turned in 4 horses & drew 6
- 7 Geo. W. Tilton returned to duty from Hospital
- 8 H. A. Siamonds (exchanged prisoner) returned to duty
- 9 Fordis Averill, J. M. Lane, F. S. Flint & J. W. Boardman (Exchanged prisoners) returned to duty.
- 11 Wm. F. Gilpatrick sent to Convalescent Camp at Murfreesboro
- 13 Lt. Woodbury returned to duty
- 14 Anthony Chaffee & Wm Hicks (Contrabands) blacksmiths -- ran away
- 15 Capt. Hotchkiss on detached service at Div. Hd. Qrs. -- as chief Arty
- 22 Privt C. F. Harder arrested for drunkenness, absence & stealing and det'd to brig Provost Marshal
- 23 Anthony Chaffee (Contraband) returned to duty
- 24 Sergt. Pratt & Privts Adley, Byam, Faille, J. M. Lane, Ingbreth Olsen, Phelps & Wagoner J. W. Johnson to Field Hosp --- Quit camp at Murfreesboro. marched out on Shelbyville pike 6 miles -- to the left 4 miles toward Manchester pike = 10 miles
- 25 McReynolds, Burns, Wright, Rheinberger - 21st Ill -- Culbertson, Richmond, Lord, Adams, Ewing 38th Ill. --Batt 81 Ind.-- Kintzel, Baldwin, 101" Ohio - detailed for duty temporarily
- 26 In camp (25th & 26th) Priv. Dudley broke his leg. - sent to Murfreesboro
- 27 Quit camp. Marched to Beech Grove on Manchester pike 10 Miles. John Craven run over by Caisson - sent to Murfreesboro.
- 28 From Beech Grove to Manchester 13 Miles
- 29 & 30 In camp near Manchester, Tenn.

### Upcoming Events

#### June 8-9, Thunder in the Valley, Waukon, IA

This is a new event in a large city park with lots of promise for a great weekend. Some of our ladies will be taking the Soldiers' Aid Society to this event, another first for the Battery.

For more info on the event, check out this schedule that appeared in their local paper: [http://allamakeecounty.com/uploads/PDF\\_File\\_93644986.pdf](http://allamakeecounty.com/uploads/PDF_File_93644986.pdf)

**Please contact Vickie to let her know what meals you plan to eat in camp. This is especially important for those not staying in camp!** It makes no sense to make breakfast for 20 if only 10 plan to be there to eat it. (vwendel@comcast.net or 763-754-2476)

#### June 15-16, Wasioja, MN

This event is a return of one of the best organized reenactments we have ever attended. They have a lot planned, see their event poster here: <http://www.civilwarmn.com/resources/Civil%20war%20Days%20Poster-1.pdf>

**If you plan to attend this event, please contact Vickie ASAP for meal planning purposes.** (vwendel@comcast.net) She needs to know you are coming if you plan to eat!

#### July 1, Leave for Gettysburg, PA

Those attending are all in the loop, so safe travels to the Battery's contingent and take lots of pictures!!

### Next Meeting

**Thursday, June 29, 11:00 am**  
Marie's Underground Restaurant, Red Wing



# **Battery Profiles**

## **Miles A. Brown**

*"I, Asa Brown, of Cold Spring, Stearns Co., Minnesota, do certify that I am the Father of Miles A. Brown; that the said Miles A. Brown is Nineteen (19) years of age; and I do hereby freely give my consent to his enlisting as a soldier in the Army of the United States, for the period of three years or during the war--Asa Brown".*

The note of permission, witnessed by William Kinkead who also served in the Second Battery, allowed Miles Brown to join the army. Miles signed his enlistment papers in Anoka on the 19th of August, 1862. His descriptive role noted his height at 5' 8" tall. He had blue eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion.

Miles caught up with the Battery as it was marching through Tennessee on their way into Kentucky and he was with the Battery when they fought in the battle at Perryville, Kentucky. Miles was engaged in that battle on October 8, 1862.

On December 9th, he was sent to Hospital No. 4 at Nashville, Tennessee, and then on to the Convalescent Barracks about the 3rd of January. It was from the Convalescent Barracks on January 20th that Miles obtained a pass to go, as he requested, "to the front". The front at that time was near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where the Second Battery had been fighting.

Miles was never heard from again. The official reports simply say, "Since which he has not been heard from, It is believe he has deserted." Officially, Miles was carried on the Battery's roles until April 9th when he was declared a deserter and his name removed.

What really happened to Miles is unknown as no trace of him has ever been found.

## **Joseph Bernard**

What brought Joseph to enlist is unknown, but certainly something motivated him. He was 52 years old when he joined the Battery on January 4, 1862. The Battery was in the earliest stages of forming and Joseph was one of the first to join it. He was a blacksmith by trade and his skills would have been an asset in the Battery, perhaps leading to his acceptance in the unit even though Joseph was considered over age.

Born in France, Joseph was 5' 6" tall, with a dark complexion, brown eyes, and black hair. He was living in Chatham, Wright County, Minnesota when he enlisted. Two years earlier, he had been living in Reserve Township in Ramsey County and was called "John" on the 1860 census.

Joseph's career in the Army was short lived. He did go south with the Battery when they went in May of 1862, but by October 26, Joseph received his discharge for disability at Cincinnati, Ohio. He had not been with the Battery for duty for over 60 days because of what was described as "general disability" and it was not expected he would ever be able to return to his unit.

Transportation was furnished for Joseph by the state, though where he went was not recorded. He was probably due some pay as it was noted he had not been paid or issued clothing since entering the hospital on August 5th.

Joseph filed for a disability pension in November of 1862 while he was living in Minneapolis. A doctor certified that Joseph had "considerable derangement of the Liver Stomach and Bowels.....It was no doubt induced by exposure in Camp Life. his present Condition disables him from doing any kind of Manual Labor." The doctor went on to write, "...his occupation had been entirely useless to him as a means of gaining a living on account of said disability".

What happened with the pension claim is unclear as Joseph's file contained his original application, a his discharge, and a card with the word "abandoned" stamped on it. No records indicate he ever received any money for a disability.

Where he went or what happened to him is unknown.

## ***From the Civil War Trust — Gettysburg***

After his astounding victory at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May 1863, Robert E. Lee led his Army of Northern Virginia in its second invasion of the North—the Gettysburg Campaign. With his army in high spirits, Lee intended to collect supplies in the abundant Pennsylvania farmland and take the fighting away from war-ravaged Virginia. He wanted to threaten Northern cities, weaken the North's appetite for war and, especially, win a major battle on Northern soil and strengthen the peace movement in the North.

Prodded by President Abraham Lincoln, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker moved his Union Army of the Potomac in pursuit, but was relieved of command just three days before the battle. Hooker's successor, Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade moved northward, keeping his army between Lee and Washington, D.C. When Lee learned that Meade was in Pennsylvania, Lee concentrated his army around Gettysburg.

Elements of the two armies collided west and north of the town on July 1, 1863. Union cavalry under Brig. Gen. John Buford slowed the Confederate advance until Union infantry, the Union 1st and 11th

Corps, arrived. More Confederate reinforcements under generals A.P. Hill and Richard Ewell reached the scene, however, and 30,000 Confederates ultimately defeated 20,000 Yankees, who fell back through Gettysburg to the hills south of town--Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill.

On the second day of battle, the Union defended a fishhook-shaped range of hills and ridges south of Gettysburg with around 90,000 soldiers. Confederates essentially wrapped around the Union position with 70,000 soldiers. On the afternoon of July 2, Lee launched a heavy assault on the Union left flank, and fierce fighting raged at Devil's Den, Little Round Top, the Wheatfield, the Peach

Orchard and Cemetery Ridge. On the Union right, demonstrations escalated into full-scale assaults on Culp's Hill and East Cemetery Hill. Although the Confederates gained ground, the Union defenders still held strong positions by the end of the day.

On July 3, fighting resumed on Culp's Hill, and cavalry battles raged to the east and south, but the main event was a dramatic infantry assault by 12,000 Confederates against the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge--Pickett's Charge. The charge was repulsed by Union rifle and artillery fire, at great losses to the Confederate army. Lee led his army on a torturous retreat back to Virginia. As many as 51,000 soldiers from both armies were killed, wounded, captured or missing in the three-day battle. Four months after the battle, President Lincoln used the dedication ceremony for Gettysburg's Soldiers National Cemetery to honor the fallen Union soldiers and redefine the purpose of the war in his historic Gettysburg Address.

### **Union**

3,155 killed  
14,529 wounded  
5,365 missing/captured  
23,049 total

### **Confederate**

3,903 killed  
18,735 wounded  
5,423 missing/captured  
28,063 total

**Combined total human loss for three days of fighting:  
51,112**



# Recap

May was, as usual, filled with school events. This year provided more challenges than usual getting enough members to staff the five stations. We were able to cover, but at a couple of the schools, it was just covered with no member to spare. The weather allowed us to be outside at all of the scheduled schools, despite the cool temperatures. With such sparse coverage, there were no photos taken until Oakdale Elementary, so there is little to pick from for the newsletter.

**May 1 ,Bluffview Elementary School, Lake City, MN**

**May 10, Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale MN**

**May 13, Calvin Christian School, Edina MN**

**May 23, Oakdale Elementary, Oakdale MN**



**May 4 Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN**

Four of our Battery ladies who have been working on the Soldiers' Aid Society impression were invited to be a part of the MHS Family Day where some 1,200 people visited!



**May 27 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN**

It was a cold, cold day for Memorial Day at Bay Point Park in Red Wing, but Battery members were present and looking their best. Tanya read Logan's Proclamation this year and the volleys from the gun capped the 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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