

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 208

May 2013

On This Date-150 Years Ago

Remarks for the Month of May, 1863

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 2 Private John L. Kimball discharged on cert. of disability - 1st Lieut. A. Woodbury rec'd leave of absence for 20 days
- 8 Private James W. Boardman was supposed to have been killed in battle of Stones River and dropped from the Company Rolls. He reports himself as captured and paroled and sent to Benton Barracks, Missouri
- 15 Corpl. J. C. Varney returned to Baty from Field Hosp.
- 17 Privates Carter Fuller & Jacob U. Freed sent to Convalescent Camp
- 22 Private A. Spaulding send to Field Hosp. Privt. D. Jarvis on detached service
- 24 John Coleman Pvt. (a recruit) reported for duty

Event Added

Please note: We have been invited to add an event to our calendar. On September 7, the New Ulm Battery has invited us to be a part of the their 1812 Overture performance. More info to follow, but please put it on your calendar.

Civil War Exhibit Opening, May 30 7pm

Everyone is invited to the opening of All For the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War, an exhibit that looks at men who served from Anoka County and those they left behind. The Second Battery (and it's 3/4 scale gun) is the centerpiece of the exhibit. Members are invited to come in period clothing.

2135 3rd Avenue N. Anoka, see www.ac-hs.org for more info.

Upcoming Events

This is our bread and butter month. All members—help earn our operating funds for the year. Please contact Daryl with a list of those events you can attend ASAP!! We need to know what stations to plan at which places and who will be staffing them. **Please arrive on time** as we need everyone to set up and be ready.

May 1 Bluffview Elementary School, Lake City, MN

This is our half day school, members involved have been notified.

May 4 Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN 345 Kellogg Blvd. Civil War Family Day event!!

This event involves **only** our ladies of the Soldiers Aid Society. Arrive at 10:30 to set up, the event runs from noon to 4:00. Bring a little snack as we don't know if there will be time to go get anything.

May 10 Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale MN

7850 15th Street North, Oakdale Arrive by 8:15 to be ready for the students at 9:15. We will set up 5 stations and rotate students through.

May 13 Calvin Christian School, Edina MN

4015 Inglewood Ave. S, Edina. Arrive at 9:00 to set up, students arrive at 9:50. We will set up 5 stations and rotate students through.

May 23 Oakdale Elementary, Oakdale MN

821 Glenbrook Arrive at 8:30 to set up for students at 9:20. We will set up 5 stations and rotate students through.

May 27 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN

Arrive at Bay Point Park by 7:30 to set up. There will be a reading by one of our Battery ladies for the Memorial Day service and honor volleys from our gun.

Bring your bag lunch for the school events (period correctness NOT required) as there will be NO time to go get anything.

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 24, noonish

We will hold our May meeting during our lunch break at the Oakdale School event.



Battery Profile

John Henry Dedrick

John was born January 2, 1832, in Prussia, the son of a “hunter to the King.” Hunting for the King had been a way of life for the Dedericks for generations until the German Revolution of 1849 broke the traditional restrictions nobility had on the forests. With that loss, hunters could no longer make a living and the Dederick family migrated in search of new opportunities. The family came to the United States in 1852 when John was 20 years old. John’s father took a job in a furniture store, but he did not stay at that job. He moved the family west, passing by wagon train through St. Louis, Missouri. From there, two of John’s brothers went south to settle in Tennessee and Georgia. The rest of the family went north to Wright County, Minnesota, where they settled on the Buffalo River.

When John enlisted in the Second Battery on January 23, 1862, he noted his occupation as farming. He had just turned 29 years old, had blue eyes, dark hair, and a light complexion. He was 5’ 6 1/2” tall. He was not married.

It was during John’s time in the army that the spelling of his name changed. Prior to the service, it was spelled Dederick--with two e’s. In the army, the second e was dropped, making the name Dedrick. John probably did not accept that spelling as his own. When he filed for a pension in the late 1880’s, he signed his name Dederick.

John’s service with the Battery was as a private and he was with the unit when it went into battle at Perryville, Kentucky. It was there while John was serving on his gun that he suffered an injury that would haunt him for the rest of his life. The battle was raging and John, from descriptions in later reports, was probably serving on the front of one of the Battery’s guns. The fighting was heavy and John was standing between two guns about ten feet apart when both fired at the same time. The blast deafened John in both ears completely for several weeks and only partial hearing ever returned. Battery comrades Orestes Dudley and John Craven were serving on those two guns and described John’s loss of hearing and how it only slowly--but not completely--came back.

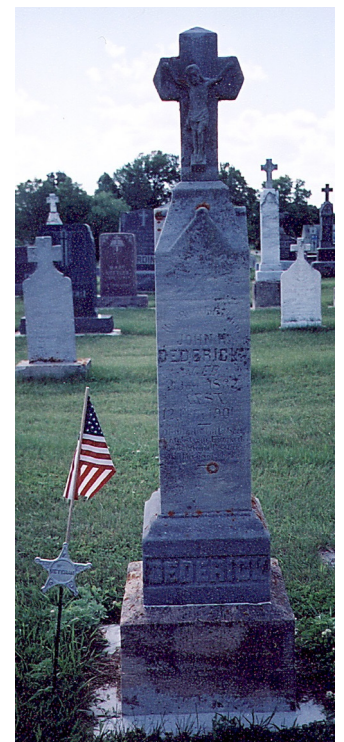
Stories in the Dederick family say at some time during the Civil War, John met up with his two brothers who had gone south when the family split in St. Louis, Missouri. Both were serving in the Confederate Army and it was during a lull in the fighting that the three brothers were able to meet under a flag of truce. The family stayed in contact with these brothers after the war and remained on friendly terms until death.

The initial enlistment papers John signed were for three years and when that time was up, John decided he had had enough of army life. Instead of going home on the veteran’s furlough given to those who reenlisted, John was detailed to serve with the Second Illinois, Battery I. This put John into heavy fighting as Union General William Sherman marched and fought his army to Atlanta in the summer of 1864. During this time, John said he developed rheumatism. It was another reminder of his time in the army that would never leave him.

After John was discharged, he returned to Minnesota and took a homestead near Melrose. On February 13, 1866, he married Gertrude Hellman. They settled on their farm to raise crops and children. They eventually had seven children. Gertrude died on November 7, 1885, probably resulting from childbirth. The baby died a short time later and both were buried in the St. Mary’s Cemetery in Melrose.

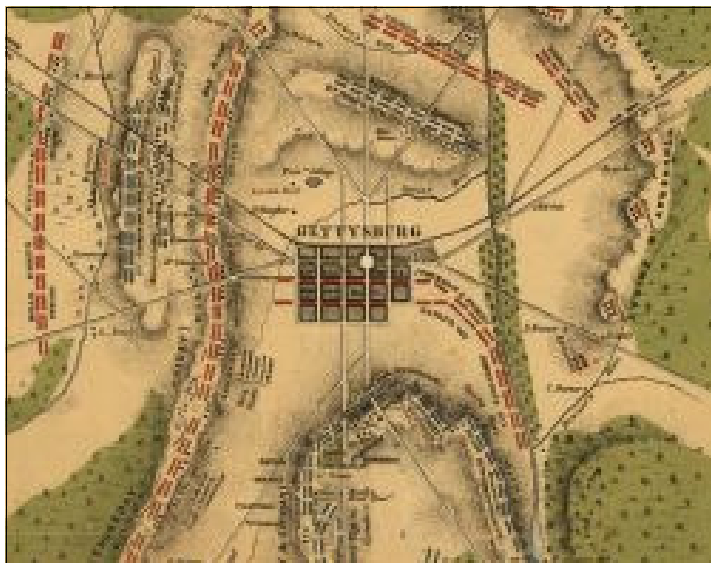
John stayed on the farm a few more years, then moved into the town of Melrose where he was listed as a “landlord” and part-time gardener. He was active in the G.A.R. chapter and was well known in the community.

On February 12, 1901, John died from pneumonia. He was laid to rest beside Gertrude in St. Mary’s Cemetery. The spelling of his name on the grave marker is “Dederick,” John’s way of spelling it, not the army way.



Fun Facts About Gettysburg

Gettysburg is the site of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War and one of the most visited places in the United States, but Gettysburg is still plagued by misinformation. These facts were provided by the Civil War Preservation Trust to set the record straight.



Fact 1: The battle was fought at Gettysburg because of the area road system—it had nothing to do with shoes. The Town of Gettysburg, population 2,000, was a town on the rise. It boasted three newspapers, two institutes of higher learning, several churches and banks, but no shoe factory or warehouse. The ten roads that led into town are what brought the armies to Gettysburg. The shoe myth can be traced to a late-1870s statement by Confederate general Henry Heth.

Fact 2: The First Day's battle was a much larger engagement than is generally portrayed. The first day's fighting (at McPherson's Ridge, Oak Hill, Oak Ridge, Seminary Ridge, Barlow's Knoll and in and around the town) involved some 50,000 soldiers of which roughly 15,500 were killed, wounded, captured or missing. The first day in itself ranks as the 12th bloodiest battle of the Civil War—with more casualties than the battles of Bull Run and Franklin combined.

Fact 3: The Second Day's Battle was the largest and costliest of the three days. The second day's fighting (at Devil's Den, Little Round Top, the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Ridge, Trostle's Farm, Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill) involved at least 100,000 soldiers of which roughly 20,000 were killed, wounded, captured or missing. The second day in itself ranks as the 10th bloodiest battle of the Civil War—with far more casualties than the much larger Battle of Fredericksburg.

Fact 4: Of 120 generals present at Gettysburg, nine were killed or mortally wounded during the battle. On the Confederate side, generals Semmes, Barksdale,

Armistead, Garnett, and Pender (plus Pettigrew during the retreat). On the Union side, generals Reynolds, Zook, Weed, and Farnsworth (and Vincent, promoted posthumously). No other battle claimed as many general officers.

Fact 5: Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill were far more important than Little Round Top. While Little Round Top is far more popular today, its importance to the Union army is at least debatable. The same cannot be said for Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill. The two latter hills formed the center and right of the Union's main position and also protected the Union army's only real lifeline on July 2 and 3—the Baltimore Pike. Had Confederates captured and controlled either of these two hills, the Union army would have had to leave the Gettysburg area. It is as simple as that. Even with its sweeping views and commanding height, the same cannot be said for Little Round Top.

Fact 6: Pickett's Charge was large and grand but by no means the largest charge of the Civil War. Not even close. Pickett's Charge involved some 12,000 Confederate soldiers, but the Confederate charge at Franklin had roughly 20,000. Even that pales in comparison to the grand Confederate charge at Gaines' Mill which involved more than 50,000 Confederate troops. Even the well-known 260-gun bombardment that preceded Pickett's Charge was not the largest of the war. There was at least one bombardment at Petersburg with more than 400 cannons involved.

Fact 7: The Battle of Gettysburg is by far the costliest battle of the Civil War, but not necessarily the largest. While each of the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg rank in the top 15 bloodiest battles of the Civil War—the 160,000 troops present at Gettysburg are eclipsed by the more than 185,000 at Fredericksburg.

Fact 8: 63 Medals of Honor awarded to Union soldiers for their actions at Gettysburg. The deeds spanned the battlefield and were awarded from wartime into the 20th century. Eight were awarded for actions on July 1, and 28 each for actions on July 2 and July 3.

Fact 9: The Gettysburg Address essentially said the same thing as the famous orator Edward Everett's speech, but in 1/60th the time. When Lincoln uttered these two sentences, "We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this," he was essentially repeating an idea that had already been stated—only more succinctly. Everett used more than 5,500 words. Most every part of the corresponding speeches can be examined this way and leaves no doubt as to why Everett wrote to Lincoln: "I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Hair styles for Civil War Women

(From the Civil War Lady website)

An everyday hair style for women during the Civil War era was wearing the hair parted down the middle, and then slicked back into a bun at the nap of the neck or pinned back and covered with a snood. Women who unfortunately had curly hair would have to straighten it with hot combs and sweet oils. A hot comb was a metal comb that was placed near the stove or fireplace to get it hot. When it was hot enough, sweet oil was rubbed into the hair and combed with the hot comb, erasing the curls temporarily. Wearing hair in a bun was common because it kept the hair out of the lady's way as she worked, cooked, cleaned, etc.

Women also wore snoods, a heavy duty hair net. The hair net we know today wasn't created until the 1920s. Younger women wore lighter/brighter colors in their snoods. Older women wore the color that went best with their hair color. Snoods were made of a light cotton or yarn. Women slipped them on over their hair after it had already been dressed. It helped keep the hair up off the neck, so it was cooler. It was considered VERY inappropriate for a man to see a woman with her hair totally down, unless you were in the privacy of your own home with your husband.

When attending a ball or a special event, the hair was worn in curls. To curl your hair required a curling cylinder, which resembles the barrel of a curling iron of today. It was placed in a lamp chimney, or the stove or fireplace to get it warmed up. Once hot, the hair was gently and quickly wrapped around the barrel. When it was cool, the cylinder was removed from the hair.

Sgt. Duden's Gift

At the April meeting, the ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society presented Sgt. Duden with a quilt to keep him warm in light of his hospital stay last fall. His recovery is proceeding and he will be ready to take the field this summer with the Battery. The ladies hoped that the quilt will keep the Sergeant comfortable in the chill of the camp and prevent any further illnesses.

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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