



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 221

August/September 2014

### On This Date-150 Years Ago

Submitted by Lt. Cain

The men of the Second Minnesota veteranized in March of 1864 and earned a furlough home. Those who were not eligible to reenlist did not get the furlough, so they went to the Second Illinois Battery I. The following is where they served in June and July of 1864.

#### **August 4th 1864**

General Palmer was ordered to report to General Schofield by General Sherman. Palmer refused to serve under Schofield because he held the same rank as Schofield and offered to resign. Sherman and Thomas agreed that Palmer should do so. Palmer resigned and returned to Illinois where he became a successful politician as governor and U.S. Senator. General Jefferson C. Davis became Commander of the 14th A.C. and General James Morgan became Division Commander.

#### **August 5th to 10th 1864**

There was a continuous movement of the battle line to the right in order flank the Rebels in an effort to cut the Atlanta and West Point Railroad.

On the 7th the 2nd Division (Morgan) advanced skirmishers and captured lines of rifle pits, prisoners and arms. That night the 78th Illinois and Battery I entrenched on a picket line within 300 yards of the enemy. The next day was spent improving bastions enough to withstand artillery rounds. During the next few days, there was constant musket firing by the Rebels which the Battery returned with artillery fire, forcing head logs into the rebel rifle pits until they pleaded for an armistice. The horses and caissons were kept back about a mile in the rear out of danger and all the non-combatants slept there. This was the Battle of Utoy Creek and the place where some of the 600 new recruits for Minnesota Regiments became casualties, among them Ole Olson, killed outright by a piece of exploding shell and Peter Streicher, badly wounded a few days later.

The battery, being part of siege warfare at this time, was engaged every day through the 26th of the month.

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### Upcoming Events

#### **September 6, Northtown Library, Blaine, MN**

711 County Rd 10 NE, Blaine, MN

THIS IS A PAID EVENT! Please consider attending if at all possible. We need to make a good showing as the Library is paying us quite well for a four hour gig.

We will set up the gun and do drills only, no clear field of fire to do anything more than a primer. The ladies will set up the Soldiers Aid Society station.

Arrive by 9:00 am to be set up and ready by 9:45 when they will have a grand ribbon cutting for the remodeled building. There will be hoards of local dignitaries and lots of photo ops starting at 10:00. We will be interacting with the public until 2:00 when the event ends. There will be a number of other special activities going on both inside and outside the building.

#### **Sept 27-28 Pilot Knob, MO**

<http://www.battleofpilotknob.org> 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Pilot Knob. Held at Fort Davidson State Historic Site, about 1 1/2 hours south of St. Louis. This is our National Event for 2014. If you plan to go and have not been in contact with either John Cain or Daryl Duden, you must do so immediately! Details are being finalized as this is written.

### **BATTLE OF PILOT KNOB**

Fort Davidson State Historic Site



Pilot Knob, Missouri

September 26 and 27, 1864

### Next Meeting

To be announced. Please watch your email for date and time.



# Battery Profile

## James H. Longworth

James left very little about himself even though he came from a prominent family in Wright County, Minnesota. His father was Octavius Longworth, one of the earliest settlers in Corinna Township. The family was from New York and due to some financial setbacks, they moved to Iowa where they farmed for three years. In 1859, Octavius moved the family again, this time settling on the north bank of Clearwater Lake.

James was born in New York and moved west with the family. There were eleven children in the family, five boys and six girls. Only eight of them lived to adulthood. James was farming with his father in 1862 when he decided to enlist. He joined the Second Minnesota Battery on March 22, 1862. He was 28 years old, had hazel eyes, dark hair and a dark complexion. He was 5' 7-1/4" tall.

While he was in the Army, James served as a private. When the time came for the men to decide if they wanted to reenlist, James did. He received a bounty for agreeing to stay in the Battery. He was paid \$110 upon signing with another \$290 due him. Another benefit to reenlisting was a 30 day veteran's furlough. James had the chance to go north to Fort Snelling where the men were allowed freedom for the next month.

Once back in the south, James was detailed to the Quartermaster Department where he served from December 3, 1864, to January 17, 1865. The remainder of his time in the army was with the Battery and he remained with it until he was mustered out on August 16, 1865. At the end of the war, the government allowed the men to keep some of the gear they had used. James kept his haversack, knapsack and canteen.

James stayed in Minnesota and eventually married. They moved around Minnesota a bit, living in Corinna, Annandale, and Minneapolis. James was a member of the GAR and was active in that veteran's organization.

Little else is known about James until his death on January 17, 1903. He was laid to rest in the church yard at St. Mark's in Corinna Township.



## 150 years ago

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### August 25th 1864

Hotchkiss and furloughed men return to Nashville, were ordered to mount as Cavalry and do reconnaissance into Rhen County. They returned to Nashville with no losses and one Rebel prisoner on the 27th.

### August 26th 1864

Battery I and the Division moved to the west of Utoy Creek and then South to the Atlanta and West Point Railroad on the 28th to begin tearing up the tracks and making Sherman's bow ties of the rails. They went into camp in the afternoon and the 29th was spent finishing the break up of the railroad.

### August 30th 1864

Part of the Division reaches the Macon and Western Railroad near Rough and Ready while the Army of Tennessee reached it at Jonesboro. As soon defensive works were thrown up, Hardee's Corps attacked and was easily repulsed.

### August 31st 1864

The Army of Tennessee arrived west of Jonesboro and constructed defensive works and was attacked by Hardee's Corps who they were easily repulsed.

### September 1st 1864

The Division and Battery moved early towards Jonesboro, skirmishing as they went. They arrived on the left of the 15th A.C.(Logan) Army of Tennessee on the north side of Jonesboro about noon. The battery had to maneuver around a large marsh to a rise in the ground where they were posted a short time then moved again to the left which gave a view of the whole battlefield in direct support of the First Brigade. The battery was able to observe the First Brigade assault and over-taking the works around the Warren House taking numerous prisoners and artillery pieces. Camped overnight in place.

### September 2nd 1864

Moved into Jonesboro.

### September 6th 1864

The Division and Battery moves back to Rough and Ready.

### September 8th 1864

The Battery and Division moves into Atlanta and occupy the former defenses of the Rebels. The battery, during the entire campaign, fired 6,766 rounds of ammunition, mostly of shell and case shot and only once was canister used and that was at Dallas.

### September 18th 1864

Fifty Six recruits arrive from Fort Snelling bringing the total to 160 men. Sherman orders all gun batteries reduced to four guns each.

### September 28th 1864

Battery I (2 sections) and the 2nd Division (Morgan) along with Newton's Division of the 4th A.C. were ordered to move by train to Chattanooga by train arriving on the 30th.





Once in a great while, a rare photograph comes along. This shot was of a battery fire at the event in Pipestone. Battery I's gun was just a split second ahead of our gun, but so very close. Our gun has fire from the muzzle, but no smoke yet.

## ***September 1, 1864 Atlanta Falls***

(from the History Channel website)

On this day in 1864, Union Army General William Tecumseh Sherman laid siege to Atlanta, Georgia, a critical Confederate hub, shelling civilians and cutting off supply lines. The Confederates retreated, destroying the city's munitions as they went. On November 15 of that year, Sherman's troops burned much of the city before continuing their march through the South. Sherman's Atlanta campaign was one of the most decisive victories of the Civil War.

William Sherman, born May 8, 1820, in Lancaster, Ohio, attended West Point and served in the army before becoming a banker and then president of a military school in Louisiana. When the Civil War broke out in 1861 after 11 Southern slave states seceded from the Union, Sherman joined the Union Army and eventually commanded large numbers of troops, under General Ulysses S. Grant, at the battles of Shiloh (1862), Vicksburg (1863) and Chattanooga (1863). In the spring of 1864, Sherman became supreme commander of the armies in the West and was ordered by Grant to take the city of Atlanta, then a key military supply center and railroad hub for the Confederates.

Sherman's Atlanta campaign began on May 4, 1864, and in the first few months his troops engaged in several fierce battles with Confederate soldiers on the outskirts of the city, including the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, which the Union forces lost. However, on September 1, Sherman's men successfully captured Atlanta and continued to defend it through mid-November against Confederate forces led by John Hood. Before he set off on his famous March to the Sea on November 15, Sherman ordered that Atlanta's military resources, including munitions factories, clothing mills and railway yards, be burned. The fire got out of control and left Atlanta in ruins.

Sherman and 60,000 of his soldiers then headed toward Savannah, Georgia, destroying everything in their path that could help the Confederates. They captured Savannah and completed their March to the Sea on December 23, 1864.

After the war, Sherman succeeded Grant as commander in chief of the U.S. Army, serving from 1869 to 1883. Sherman, who is credited with the phrase "war is hell," died February 14, 1891, in New York City. The city of Atlanta swiftly recovered from the war and became the capital of Georgia in 1868, first on a temporary basis and then permanently by popular vote in 1877.



# Recap



## June 29, Mondovi, WI

We set up our stations in a pretty park and saw LOADS of people! We were busy all day with visitors and had big crowds at each firing of the gun. It was a great day with a breeze and sunshine. We had a great turnout of Battery members, too, with nearly 20 members in attendance. This was an annual fundraiser for a small historical society that has great community support.



## July 1, Wilson Park, Menomonie, WI

Sgt. Duden and a crew of "B" boy Privates from the 2nd Minnesota Battery (Bruce Arnoldy, Briar Golden, Bart Hoekstra and Ben Norman) fell in with our friends from Battery I 1st US Light Artillery to help crew three guns for an 8:00pm concert in Wilson Park in Menomonie WI. Battery I provided the guns, its original Model 1857 12 pdr Napoleon and two 12 pdr Mountain Howitzers. The Ludington Guard Band, Wisconsin's oldest continually performing community concert band founded in 1888, provided the patriotic music accompanied by the Menomonie Singers. With direction from the band conductor, cannon fire and church bells from the four churches that surround the park were used to enhance the 1812 Overture. The concert concluded with additional cannon fire during another patriotic song, *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Huzzah for our Battery musicians!



## July 12-13 Wauconda, IL

This was a new event for us and was quite the hit with those who attended. About a dozen members made the journey to a large, open venue with several hundred reenactors. Reports were that there were lots of spectators who visited the camps and chatted with reenactors. A good time was had by all and recommendations are that we should consider attending this event next year.



## August 2-3 Boscobel, WI.

As always, this is one of our favorite events of the year and we had 37 members there! The boys went gray for the event and as a result, had our gun on the far side of the field from the public. We sent few of our soldiers to help crew another gun on the Union side, so we could argue our Battery boys won the battles on both days of the event. The pie social was as wonderful as ever, the opportunity to visit with friends from other units, and no rain all helped make this a really great event.

## August 9-10 Pipestone, MN

Our group was much smaller at this event with 12 members attending. The Union camp was on top of the hill this year and that always brings in a lot more of the public to our camp. We had a bagpiper serenade us in the early morning on both days and the Dress Parade—complete with President Lincoln in attendance—happened right in front of our camp. The Union guns were on the high ground right by the viewing line with our gun on the closest end, so everyone got a great view of our crew in action. The rain on Saturday night came after we finished supper and the forecasted rain on Sunday never came at all, so we even brought home dry canvas.



## August 23-24 Ahlman's Shooter's Roundup

Hot was the key word for this event! Good thing there was a shave ice truck close by! This event is a demonstration type event with many different kinds of guns. Our gun may not be the fastest, but it is the loudest! Despite the heat, a good time was had by all who attended (and ate shave ice!)



**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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