

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 219

May 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, leaving for Minnesota on April 11. Those who joined the Battery later were not eligible to reenlist and could not have the furlough, so they were sent to the Second Illinois Battery I. The following is where they served in April and May.

May 2nd 1864

General advance on Atlanta begins with Davis' Division ordered to Ringgold, GA. and Catoosa Springs until May 5th.

May 7th 1864

Division moved to Tunnel Hill engaging artillery and infantry skirmishers. They were found to be dummies filled with straw. Enemy fell back to Buzzard's Roost.

May 9th 1864

Battery moved to a position near Buzzard's Roost Gap and constructed works for the guns. Moved back to Tunnel Hill and camped. Unharnessed horses for the first time in 36 hours.

May 11th 1864

In action in the gap near railroad. Battery fired 40 rounds.

May 12th 1864

Division marched towards Snake Creek Gap.

May 13th 1864

Division moves towards battle line around Resaca.

May 15th 1864

Fired into woods on the left and right of the Battery at Resaca. Rebels located in breastworks on a hill with a stream in front.

May 16th 1864

Army of the Tennessee flanks Resaca, forcing Rebel evacuation.

May 18th 1864

Davis' 2nd Division, 14th A.C. (Palmer) ordered to Rome, GA. engaging Rebels 2 miles outside the city. Battery shelled some woods while the Brigade advanced in flank. Brigade lost 80 men killed and wounded. Rebels retired south of the Coosa River. The Division prepared defenses.

May 24th 1864

14th A.C. (Palmer) marched from Rome towards Dallas crossing the Etowah River at its mouth.

May 26th 1864

Went into line at Dallas and posted on Sherman Hill.

Upcoming Events

Our schools are down this year because of curriculum changes, so these schools are more important than ever for us to earn our operating money. 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 5 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.

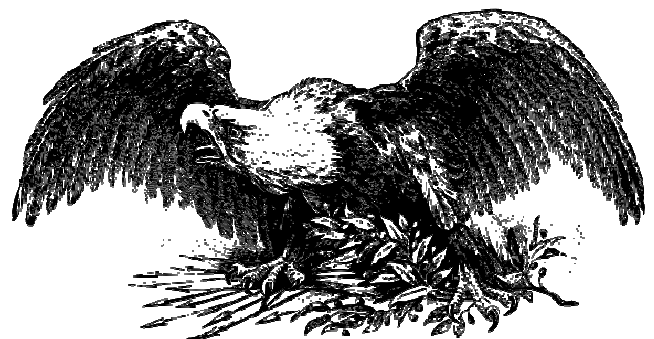
May 26 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN

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.

June 2 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.

Bring your bag lunch for the school events (period correctness NOT required). There is NO time to go get anything.



Next Meeting

June 2,

Lunchtime

We will meet during the lunch break at the Oakdale Elementary School event.



Battery Profile

William Henry Kimber

The first time William probably saw the state of Tennessee was while he was in the army, but it must have had an appeal he found hard to resist. He was said to have agreed with a statement made by a doctor living in Bledso County, Tennessee, when the doctor said, "I have never found a more delightful climate or a more beautiful place than Sequatchie Valley."

William left Minnesota in 1887 and moved to Pikesville, Tennessee, and became part of the little community in the Sequatchie Valley. It is quite possible he might have seen the area while on duty with the Second Battery.

When William enlisted in the Second Battery on February 20, 1862, he was 21 years old, single, 5' 9-1/2" tall, with gray eyes, light hair, and a light complexion. His birth was recorded as March 5, 1841, in Sherwood, Branch County, Michigan.

William was working on a farm in Olmsted County, Minnesota, when the war broke out and he decided he would serve his country instead of the plow.

The time William spent with the Battery was not out of the ordinary. His name appeared on the muster sheets as present except for one time when he was left sick at Tullahoma, Tennessee on January 14, 1864. He was back to the Battery in time to reenlist as a veteran volunteer on March 21, but since the veterans were given a 30 day furlough in Minnesota, William was not reported as present for duty with the Battery until June 29th.

The war ended, the Battery was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865, and William went to live in Brown County, Minnesota, instead of returning to Olmsted County.

What may have taken William to Brown County is unknown, but a marriage license was issued in New Ulm and William married Margaret June Sanderson on November 6, 1870.

The couple made their home in Brown County until 1887. Their first child was stillborn in 1871. Four more children were born between 1872 and 1879, three girls and a boy.

In 1887, the family moved south and settled near Pikesville, Tennessee. The area was said to be one of the most beautiful anywhere and William was known to have agreed with that statement publicly. It was good that William loved the area as it would be where he remained even in death.

William died at home with his wife and neighbors at his side. The Crawfords were neighbors and wrote about William and his wife in support of Margaret's pension application. Vina Crawford wrote they "were as much devoted to each as any couple I seen. They were fine old people indeed."

William was laid to rest in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery, a small country church yard on a rise overlooking a beautiful valley that seems to go on forever.



Some Random Fun Facts

General Stonewall Jackson walked around with his right hand in the air to balance the blood in his body. Because he was right-handed, he thought that his right hand was getting more blood than his left, and so by raising his hand, he'd allow the excess blood to run into his left hand. He also never ate food that tasted good because he assumed that anything that tasted good was completely unhealthy.

During the Civil War, glasses with colored lenses were used to treat disorders and illnesses. Yellow-glasses were used to treat syphilis, blue for insanity, and pink for depression. Thus we get the term, To see the world through rose-colored glasses.

During the centuries before and decades after the Civil War, including the war itself, doorways were wide, not because of the width of women's skirts, but so coffins could be passed through with a pallbearer on either side.

The average American in the 1860's could not afford to paint his house, and a painted house was a sign of affluence. In order to keep up appearances, they used cedar clapboards.

When a woman mourned for her husband in the 1860's, she spent a minimum of two-and-a-half years in mourning. That meant little or no social activities: no parties, no outings, no visitors, and a wardrobe that consisted of nothing but black. (Shame on Scarlet O'Hara) The husband, when mourning for his wife, however, spent three months in a black suit.

Surgeons never washed their hands after an operation because all of the blood was assumed to be the same.

During the Victorian era, the dead were either laid out in their parlors, or, as the Southerners preferred, in their bedrooms. There was no such thing as a funeral home; death was a part of life, and the dead remained in the house up until they were buried. The tradition of flowers around the coffin comes from the Victorians trying to hide the scent of the deceased.

When a child died, parents sometimes would have a photograph taken of the child. They wanted to preserve the memory for as long as possible. A lot of photographs taken of sleeping children are actually of deceased sons or daughters.

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the discarded rifles were collected and sent to Washington to be inspected and reissued. Of the 37,574 rifles recovered, approximately 24,000 were still loaded; 6,000 had one round in the barrel; 12,000 had two rounds in the barrel; 6,000 had three to ten rounds in the barrel. One rifle, the most remarkable of all, had been stuffed to the top with twenty-three rounds in the barrel.

President Lincoln had a mild form smallpox (varioid) while he gave the Gettysburg Address. On the train back to Washington he quipped, "Now I have something that I can give everybody."

President Lincoln's favorite tune was "Dixie"?

The Civil War was also known as The Brothers' War, the War for the Union and the War of the Rebellion.

General Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, had twenty-nine horses shot from beneath him during the war years.

One of the most popular questions park rangers get when giving tours around Civil War battlefields is: "Did the soldiers have to fight around all of these monuments?" They usually smile and say "Yes, the soldiers knew exactly where to die."

Recap

April 12, Rum River Library, Anoka

The Battery made a good showing at this event with 15 members present and the Library staff was well pleased. The military side set up several display tables and a tent while the ladies brought their handwork and solicited help for the Soldiers' Aid Society. We

were set up a little early, so the event ran just over three hours and some 65 visitors came through the displays.

Young Master Tristan made friends with Miss Riley and the two of them made several trips to the Children's Room—leading visitors back to the Battery. That was not their intent, but it worked!

Bugler Bill brought in people with his bugling as usual. The Library was unusually quiet that day, something even the library staff commented on, so even though our attendance was down slightly from past events, the library was very happy with 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.

For information on the Battery, please contact:

President

John Cain

1640 Woodland Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone: (651) 388-9250

Treasurer

Daryl Duden

1210 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone: (651) 388-6520

Twin Cities Metro Area Contact

Ron & Vickie Wendel

12419 Redwood Street NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Phone: (763) 754-2476

E-mail: momwendel@hotmail.com

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

