



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 238

July 2016

On This Date-155 Years Ago

From the Civil War Trust

The war began in earnest at the Battle of Bull Run, fought in Virginia just miles from Washington DC, on July 21, 1861. Popular fervor led General Irvin McDowell, commander of the Union army in Northern Virginia, to attack the Confederate forces commanded by Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard, which held a relatively strong position along Bull Run, just northeast of Manassas Junction. The goal was to make quick work of the bulk of the Confederate army, open the way to Richmond, the Confederate capital, and end the war.

The morning of July 21st dawned on two generals planning to outflank their opponent's left. The Confederate plan had several communication failures and general lack of coordination. McDowell's forces dealt with an overly complicated plan requiring synchronization. Delays on the march and effective scouting by the Confederates gave Union movements away.

McDowell's forces began by shelling the Confederates across Bull Run while units crossed at Sudley Ford and made their way to attack the Confederate left flank. At the same time as Beauregard sent small detachments to handle what he thought was only a distraction, he also sent a larger contingent to execute a flanking movement of his own on the Union left.

Fighting raged throughout as Confederate forces were driven back, despite impressive efforts by Colonel Thomas Jackson to hold important high ground at Henry House Hill, earning him the “Stonewall” name. Late in the afternoon, Confederate reinforcements arrived by rail from the Shenandoah Valley and succeeded in breaking the Union right flank. At the battle's climax, Virginia cavalry under Colonel James Ewell Brown “Jeb” Stuart arrived on the field and charged into a confused mass of New Yorkers, sending them running to the rear. The Federal retreat rapidly deteriorated as narrow bridges, overturned wagons, and heavy artillery fire added to the confusion. The retreat was further impeded by the hordes of fleeing onlookers who had come down from Washington to enjoy the spectacle. Although victorious, Confederate forces were too disorganized to pursue. By July 22, the shattered Union army reached the safety of Washington. McDowell was relieved of command of the Union army and replaced by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, who set about reorganizing and training the troops.

Upcoming Events

July 16-17 Olmstead County Historical Society, Rochester, MN.

This is an encampment with battles & learning stations. We are told this event has had high attendance in past years, so we should be prepared for lots of people. We will be cooking as part of the demonstrations, so all meals will be in camp for those who have said they will be eating in camp. Please RSVP to Vickie (vwendel@comcast.net) if you plan to eat in camp and have not already notified her. Here is a link to the event with info including site map, schedule, amenities, etc. <http://www.olmstedhistory.com/education/living-history-and-battle-reenactment-events/>

July 23 Battle Lake, MN – Prospect House & Civil War Museum, 403 Lake Avenue 10:00-5:00

We must be set up and ready for the public at 10:00 am! No cooking at this event, so bring your own food or plan to eat at the vendors or restaurants in town. This is an encampment event with our various stations for talking to visitors as they come through the site. The event is on the grounds of an historic house/hotel built by a Civil War veteran that is now a museum. There are some incredible Civil War artifacts in the house. Here is a link to their website: <http://www.prospecthousemuseum.org/>

July 24 Grave marker dedication, Fergus Fall, MN 1:00 pm

The grave is in the State Hospital Cemetery and that does not have a real “address”. The MN Veterans Home at 1821 Park Street North, Fergus Falls is next to it. The cemetery entrance is accessed from the Vets Home parking in the back. There is a lengthy path from the parking lot to the cemetery. (Information from Otter Tail County Historical Society.)

We will be dedicating a marker for Battery member Henry St. Cyr who died at the hospital in 1893 (see June newsletter Battery bio). We will do our usual dedication ceremony with tributes and volleys.

Next Meeting

July 30, 2016 11:00am
Marie's Underground Dining, Red Wing
Call Ken Cunningham with questions
(651) 388-2945.



Battery Profile

Charles Noggle

It is certain Charles was born, but where is in question. His enlistment papers say he was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1842. A biography of Charles states he was born in Freeport, Illinois, on January 16, 1843, and did not move to Wisconsin until he was about four years old. Where or when he was really born is unknown.

When Charles was 16, he went to Kansas where he spent two years before moving to Faribault, Minnesota. He was living in Faribault when he enlisted. He was mustered into the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery by Captain William Hotchkiss on February 15, 1862, at Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota. His records describe him as being 19 years old, 5 feet, 8 1/2 inches tall, light complexion and hair, and blue eyes. His occupation was that of a teamster.

Charles was serving as a private with the Battery during the battle of Stones River (December 31, 1862) when he was wounded by a ball from a spherical cased shell passing through his back. Charles later said the ball that hit him was of the "20 to a pound" type. The ball "grazed the esophagus and the resulting scars" caused him trouble for the rest of his life. At times, he said the wound tightened up and he could not eat or drink until he was able to force food by the area. Still, Charles claimed to enjoy good health and did not complain of serious inconveniences.

The Battery's muster sheets for the months after the battle show Charles absent by reason of illness in the hospital at Nashville, Tennessee, during March and April of 1863. At Camp Dennison, Ohio, Charles was found unfit for duty and was discharged for disability on June 27, 1863. His disability was recorded at 50% by the examining board.

Charles came back to Minnesota and married Emma J. Wallace of Hastings, in 1864 and they soon had a daughter. Charles and Emma went to St. Paul to live and Charles worked for the Cook and Webb Company. He became foreman of their livery business and often had charge of the omnibus line.

Fate did not have good things planned for Charles. Their daughter died at the age of three years and Emma died shortly after. In 1872, Charles and his father shared interest in a farm they bought in Burns Township in Anoka County. About this time, Charles began having some trouble with his health and the doctors blamed it on the wound he had suffered in at Stones River. They recommended a change in climate, so Charles left the livery company and took a trip through Colorado and Utah. He didn't like the western states and eventually returned to Minnesota where he bought his father's interest in the farm land and Charles began dairy farming and horse breeding.

It was in 1882 that Charles married Miss Anna Sproul of Ramsey. Together, they farmed in Burns Township, raising horses and dairy cattle, but fate was still not on Charles' side. An epidemic killed 14 horses not long after he started raising them. A short time later, he was the victim of a runaway and was so badly hurt that it was thought he would die from the injuries, but Charles recovered.

In August of 1886, the *Anoka Union* ran an article titled, "A Magnificent Outfit." It read: "*Messrs. C.L. Noggle and Atkinson have purchased a brand new threshing machine and traction engine, which is the finest outfit ever brought to this county. Already they have done considerable work.*"

The fall and winter of 1900 saw another disease sweep through some of the herds in Anoka County and Charles lost all but two horses. Charles was elected to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners in 1897 where he served for six years, the last one as the chair of the board.

The wound Charles received in the war continued to trouble him and he was under the constant care of a nurse for the last two years of his life. Even his last illness was not thought serious as he was seeming to recover when he suddenly died. The doctors believed some change in the old wound had been the cause of his death in May of 1901.

Charles was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery in the city of Anoka.

Anna filed a deposition with the Pension Department to obtain survivors benefits, declaring what she owned. She said she owned no property herself, only that which Charles had left her. He left her a 100



This sketch of Charles appeared in the local papers when he was elected Chair of the Board.

acre homestead and another 120 acre piece of land that adjoined the homestead along the north side. Of this, 75 acres were under cultivation. A portion of the land was considered "school land" and it was "largely timber" according to Anna. She told the Pension Department the past few years had not been good as it had been too wet. She estimated the homestead, which was mostly meadow, would yield some 35 tons of wild hay that year. Anna said the school land that was covered in timber was mostly oak, but there was "a good deal of it dead."

Other crops Anna reported from the previous year were 560 bushels of rye and oats, and a poor crop of 250 bushels of corn. She said it was poor quality. She only picked out a few of the best ears for the crib and fed the rest to the pigs. She sold her small potatoes at the starch factory in Anoka and put about 175 bushels into the cellar to eat. Anna reported that when she sold the potatoes to the factory, she was paid 25-26 cents a bushel and she did not get enough to pay the hired man.

Anna also inherited some cows and chickens, but these were too few to do more than keep her "supplied in groceries."

Charles had borrowed money before his death so Anna also inherited about \$3,200 in debt. One of those debts was a "threshing bill" of \$18. What happened to the threshing machine Charles bought as reported in the newspaper is unknown.

Anna did receive the pension. She died in 1918 and was buried with other members of her family in Trott Brook Cemetery rather than in Anoka with Charles.

At the time of his burial, Charles' grave was marked with the traditional white marble Veterans stone, but time and weather aged the marker until it was nearly illegible. In October of 1997, the worn stone marker was replaced with a new veterans marker by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Anoka Chapter #470.



Random Civil War Facts

- More than three million men fought in the Civil War about 900,000 for the Confederacy and 2.1 million for the Union.
- More than 620,000 people, or two percent of the population, died in the Civil War.
- Approximately 6,000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War.
- There were over 2,000 boys who were 14 years-old or younger in the Union ranks. Three hundred were 13 years or less, while there were 200,000 no older than 16 years.
- At the Battle of Shiloh, on the banks of the Tennessee River, more Americans fell than in all previous American wars combined. There were 23,700 casualties.
- At Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1862, the Confederate trenches stretched for a distance of seven miles. The troop density was 11,000 per mile, or six men to the yard.
- 3,530 Native Americans fought for the Union, of which, 1,018 were killed.
- The greatest cavalry battle ever fought in the Western hemisphere was at Brandy Station, Virginia, on June 9, 1863.
- Nearly 20,000 cavalymen were engaged on a relatively confined terrain for more than 12 hours.
- An Iowa regiment had a rule that any man who uttered an oath should read a chapter in the Bible. Several of them got nearly through the Old Testament.
- There were more Northern-born Confederate generals than Southern-born Union generals.
- The famous Confederate blockade-runner, the C.S.S. Alabama, never entered a Confederate port during the length of her service.
- During the Battle of Antietam, Clara Barton tended the wounded so close to the fighting that a bullet went through her sleeve and killed a man she was treating.
- In March 1862, "new" ironclad war ships, the Monitor and the Merrimac battled off Hampton Roads, Virginia. From then on, every other wooden navy ship on earth was obsolete.
- There were 100 men in a Company and 10 Companies in a Regiment.
- Not fond of ceremonies or military music, Ulysses S. Grant said he could only recognize two tunes. "One was *Yankee Doodle*, the other one wasn't."

Recap

June 11-12 Waukon, IA



Every bad weather possibility converged on this event and kept spectators away. Friday night saw the camps on the very edge of severe thunderstorms (nothing actually came through camp, luckily.) Saturday had temperatures in the 90s with humidity to match. The boys did, however, participate in the cow pie throwing contest! Sunday morning was cloudy until we finished breakfast—just in time for the skies to open up and rain. The temperature dropped to 57 with a cold wind, sending the ladies into the tent for shelter. At least the rain stopped about noon and we were able to get in a battle for about 75 spectators who came to the event. Despite the lack of people, a great time was had by all who attended. This event has a lot going on for a small area as well as the ice cream shop across the road. (Which we visited multiple times!) Discussions with the organizers indicated there were competing events all around them as well as bad weather, so they were not as discouraged, saying they will still hold the event next year. Those attending agreed it is an event to keep on our calendar as one to support.



June 23 Goodhue County Historical Society/ Red Wing YMCA Civil War Learning event

This one-day educational event saw about 70 young visitors, ranging from kindergarten to middle-grade age. They rotated through 8 stations set up by our unit, the 3rd MN, and the YMCA. The audience was younger than we were expecting, and it was a long day for them and for us, but the participants seemed to enjoy themselves. The support from the History Center was exceptional - they even surprised us by providing pizza for lunch. The day was pretty chilly, so the quilts at the Laundress/SAS station were put to use bundling up the visitors. As usual, the cannon was a highlight and sounded impressive firing over the valley from the top of the bluff.—though after the fourth cannon firing, a neighbor near to the History Center came up to tell us that they were surrendering!

Submitted by Miss Katie Demarco



June 28 Menomonie, WI – Wilson Park Concert

Several members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery joined members of Battery I, 1st US at Wilson Park in Menomonie

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:

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

WI for the patriotic concert by the Ludington Guard Band and Menomonie Singers. James Livingstone's M1841 12 Pdr. Mountain Howitzer was one of the six cannons that were used to accompany the band. The concert began and ended with a six gun volley that everyone enjoyed. Although the logistics of loading and firing guns (on time) during the "1812 Overture" and "Star and Stripes Forever" with three or four man crews was a challenge, everyone in attendance appreciated the effort. Joining James Livingstone as gun crew members were Bruce Arnoldy, John Cain, Ken Cunningham, Daryl Duden, Briar Golden, Bart Hoekstra and Michael Ritchie. Battery members Katie DeMarco and Keith Stinson also attended the event.

*Respectfully
submitted, Sgt.
Duden*

