



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 255

April 2018

On This Date-155 Years Ago

The Enrollment Act was enacted March 3, 1863. Also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act, it was passed by Congress during the American Civil War to provide fresh manpower for the Union Army. A form of conscription, the controversial act required the enrollment of every male citizen and those immigrants who had filed for citizenship between ages twenty and forty-five. Federal agents established a quota of new troops due from each congressional district. In some cities, particularly New York City, enforcement of the act sparked civil unrest as the war dragged on, leading to the New York City draft riots on July 13–16. It replaced the previous Militia Act of 1862.

The policies of substitution and commutation were controversial practices that allowed drafted citizens to opt out of service by either furnishing a suitable substitute to take the place of the draftee or paying \$300. Both provisions were created with the intention of softening the effect of the draft on pacifists, the antidraft movement, and the propertied classes. The result however was general public resentment of both policies. The two practices were major points of contention among the general public and led directly to the slogan "rich man's war, poor man's fight."

The policy of substitutions was continued throughout the war. One problem with substitution was that it provided substitutes with powerful incentives to desert soon after enlisting. Career "jumpers" made a living off of enlisting as a substitute, collecting their compensation, deserting before their units were dispatched to the front, and repeating the process. The problem was well known to the military commanders who regularly saw the same recruits repeatedly. In addition, troops furnished by substitution were considered to be of an inferior quality in comparison to regulars and volunteers.

Commutation (paying \$300 to escape the draft) was created in an effort to keep substitution prices low. If commutation were not instated, the price of a substitute would have quickly soared past \$300. Also, commutation was intended to raise money for the war effort. While commutation raised war funds, it was often a criticism of the draft that it was better at raising money than troops. The rationalization for commutation was that unwilling troops were ineffective so the government might as well extract funds from the unwilling if it got poor service.

Despite the good intentions behind commutation, it was one of the most hated policies of the war.

Election Results

Elections at the March annual meeting established the officers for the coming year. As there were no nominations for the office of secretary, that office was combined with the position of Treasurer as allowed by Battery bylaws.

Organizational leadership:

President: Ken Cunningham
Vice President: James Livingstone
Treasurer/Secretary: Daryl Duden
Historian: Vickie Wendel

Military Leadership

Commanding Officer: John Cain
Quartermaster Sergeant: Ron Graves
Sergeant: Daryl Duden
Corporal: Jim Livingstone
Corporal: Ron Wendel

Happy Easter! (A little belated)



Next Meeting

April 21, 2018

11:00am

Marie's Underground Dining, Red Wing
Call Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items. 651 388-2945.



Battery Profile

William S. Wardwell

William was a traveler and while he left few records about his life behind, enough is known to see that he moved around a lot more than the average person of his time. From his birth on March 20, 1830, in Andover, Massachusetts, William eventually moved to Minnesota. He was in Wright County and working as a carpenter when he decided to enlist on January 16, 1862. William took along another recruit for the Battery when he went, William Spaulding. Spaulding was also from Wright County and was not yet of legal age. He needed a permission note from his parents and it had to be witnessed. William Wardwell was the witness and the two mustered into the Battery together.

The descriptive roll said William was 5' 6" tall, had blue eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. He was married and made note on his enlistment that his hometown was New York, New York.

If Velcro would have been around, it would have been handy for William's corporal stripes. He was promoted by Captain Hotchkiss on September 6, 1862. Though no order has been found giving a reason, William must have lost his stripes at some point as he was reappointed corporal on April 22, 1864. He was again reduced to the ranks on January 14, 1865. The order stated that his change in rank was "for the good of the service." William ended the war as a private.

The Battery men who were among the early enlistees were eligible to reenlist in March of 1864. If they chose to stay in the army for another three years, they were given a veteran's furlough and a bounty. William decided to stay in. He received \$110 of his promised \$400 upon reenlistment. Why his bounty was much higher than what other men received is unknown. William and six other Battery men were allowed to leave for their furloughs one day ahead of the rest of the men, perhaps because they were not planning to go to Minnesota for their furloughs. At least two of the men are confirmed to have not spent their furloughs in Minnesota and it is suspected the other five did not as well, though no documents prove this beyond question. Where William spent his 30 days is unknown, but perhaps he went to New York as he claimed that as his hometown on his enlistment.

William spent most of the last year of the war on special details. He was sent to the headquarters of garrison artillery at Chattanooga and to the Quartermasters Department where he remained until May 15, 1865. He was discharged with the Battery on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling. No further record of his living in Minnesota has been found.

A physical examination for the Pension Department in 1897 detailed a stroke of paralysis William had suffered. His right side had been almost completely paralyzed, but he had recovered enough to be able to do almost everything he had before--except with his fingers. This created a problem as William was still working as a carpenter and he could no longer pick up nails with his right hand. The examiner gave William a "4/18" disability for what he called "rheumatism" and another "8/18" disability for impaired vision.

In 1912, William was asked by the Pension Department to provide a list of the places he had lived since leaving the army. William's list read, "New York City; Rutland, Vermont; Caracas, Venezuela; Woodstock, Vermont; and Malden, Massachusetts." He did not list Minnesota.

William did get around and he moved at least once more as he was a resident at the Soldiers Home in Los Angeles, California, when he died on February 13, 1918. His son, William J. Wardwell, took care of the final matters for his father and made the arrangements for him to be buried in the Los Angeles National Cemetery.



Liverpool's Grand Southern Bazaar

From the Civil War blog written by Barbra Brackman

A rather odd footnote to the role of women in the American Civil War is the Grand Southern Bazaar in Liverpool, England, held in October, 1864, about six months before war's end. Ladies' fairs were similar in England and the U.S., the intent to raise funds and goods to support their soldiers. While the South never had a organization like the U.S. Sanitary Commission, there were many local efforts to fund raise and support their Southern soldiers.



The Liverpool Bazaar was a four-day fundraiser held in the magnificent St. George's Hall, which still stands. The mosaic floor was lined with booths representing each of the Confederate states and was overseen by Southern women and British friends of the South.

England was officially neutral during our Civil War, but economics dictated the loyalties of many Liverpool capitalists. Cotton linked the Confederacy and the English port. English mills were dependent on American cotton; the Confederate treasury upon English cotton purchases.

Among the Southern families who relocated to Liverpool during the war were James and Harriott Cross Bulloch (he from Georgia; she from Maryland) and John and Mathilde Deslonde Slidell from Louisiana. Mathilde Slidell presided at the Mississippi booth with the Countess of Chesterfield. Harriott Bulloch staffed the Georgia table.

The *New York Times* reprinted a review of the event:

"The ladies in charge of the different stalls were attired in elegant costumes, each had on a silken scarf on which was inscribed in gilt letters the name of the Southern State within which...the wearer's jurisdiction lay. Also presiding were members of the Southern Club. The stalls were absolutely crowded, not only with rich and costly articles, but with those of a cheaper and more unpretentious character....The visitor lauded 'the exquisite taste with which the hall was decorated and the fine proportions of the structure itself.'"

The Southern Club was a Liverpool group that lobbied for the Confederate cause. Leaders were Americans James Spence and Charles Kuhn Prioleau who with their wives were the organizers of the Grand Southern Fair. American Mary Anne LeSerre Spence was in charge of the North Carolina table and Liverpool native Mary Wright Prioleau worked in the South Carolina booth with Lady Wharncliffe.

Continuing the *New York Times* review:

"Commencing at the south end of the hall, the first stall on the right hand side is devoted to Florida, and is presided over by Mrs. Cassin and Mrs. Patrick. There is here a very beautiful piece of needlework, consisting of a female figure surrounded by a floral border, the colours being blended with great art. A more elaborate piece of feminine handiwork is the representation of our Saviour paying tribute; and there are several handsome screens and cushions, besides many choice specimens of cutlery from Sheffield and of china from Birmingham."

Most money was raised through auctions rather than direct sales; among the items auctioned at this fair was a Shetland pony and a Manx cat.

Holding a bazaar to benefit the South was unpopular, considered by many to be Confederate meddling in English politics, but the stated purpose was to raise funds for Confederate Prisoners of War. Who could criticize such a humanitarian undertaking? In just those few days, £20,000 in British pounds was raised for the cause (worth over ten times that today.) Still, the whole concept posed many problems. How would such a fortune benefit Southerners held in Northern prisons? Were funds to go to the North for food and medicine? The North refused the donation. Britain refused to transfer it. How was the money to be spent? The £20,000 remained in British hands until after the war when it was transferred to New York and then sent to aid former prisoners.

One more odd note to this idea. Matilde Slidell's daughter, Matilde Erlanger, married to a French Confederate sympathizer, proposed a Parisian bazaar selling perfumed soaps. It is unknown if that fair ever happened.



A BAZAAR IN PARIS.

Correspondence of the London Times.

PARIS, Thursday, Oct. 20.

MADAME ERLANGER, née SLIDELL, has announced her intention of getting up a bazaar for the benefit of the wounded Confederates. The principal objects to be sold at it are, I am told, soaps and scented soaps. The prettiest young Southern ladies now in Paris have been asked to preside at stalls.

2018 PROPOSED SCHEDULE

2nd Minnesota Battery Light Artillery

This is the TENTATIVE calendar as discussed at the March meeting. The vote was tabled due to the number of dates missing for the schools. These are now confirmed. Please review the calendar and be prepared to vote on which you will attend at the April meeting.

March 10, Mankato, MN	Boy in Blue Symposium (Saturday) http://www.boyinblue.org/
May 1, Long Prairie, MN	Long Prairie-Gray Eagle H.S.
May 8, Waconia, MN	St. Joseph' School
May 14, Edina, MN	Calvin Christian School (Monday)
May 21, Red Wing, MN	Twin Bluff Middle School
May 28, Red Wing, MN	Memorial Day (Monday)
Jun 9-10, Elgin, IL	Civil War Experience & Reenactment http://9thvirginiacavalry.com/elginscivilwarexperience.html
Jun 16, Galesville, WI	Arnold House & Eastside Farm (Saturday)
Jun 26, Menomonie, WI	Wilson Park Concert (Tuesday)
Jun 30–Jul 1, Wauconda, IL	Civil War Days Reenactment http://www.lcfpd.org/education/events/civilwar/
July 14-15, Rochester, MN	Olmstead County Living History Fair & Reenactment https://www.olmstedhistory.com/going-on/142
July 17, Goodhue, MN	Goodhue County 4-H (Tuesday)
July 28, Battle Lake, MN	Prospect House (Saturday)
Aug 11-12, Pipestone, MN	Civil War Days Reenactment http://pipestoneminnesota.com/cwd/Home.html
Aug 25-26, Morristown, MN	Ahlman's Shooters Roundup
Oct 20-21, Minooka, IL	Dollinger Family Farm Civil War Reenactment http://edmilam.coffeecup.com/
Nov 11, Winona, MN	Veteran's Day Tribute (Sunday)

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>

NOTE: May is bread and butter time, people!! We need a minimum of ten people to do a school event. Please make your best effort to attend as may schools as you can—this is our gunpowder, grocery, and gas money!

There is an opportunity for an ON YOUR OWN event by attending with Battery I or Battery G this summer. They are planning to go to the reenactment at Gettysburg, PA, July 5-8. They have more guns than men to man them, so members of the Second Battery are welcome to attend. For more information, contact John Cain or Daryl Duden.