

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 263

December 2018

On This Date-155 Years Ago

Morning Reports from the Battery
Remarks for the Month of December, 1863
(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

6 Sergt. D. C. Munsey - gone to Nashville for the clothing of the company By S. F. O. No. 322 Maj. Gen. Thomas.

9 1 Horse died in camp

10 Corp. Obert and privates D. W. Coulthard, E. A. Furguson and Jas. M. Dinsmore returned from Stevenson where they were on detached service -- of 38 horses "Absent" 3 died and 35 turned in to Capt. S. S. Alshire by Order.

16 Sergt. D. C. Munsey returned from Nashville. Privates Fred. A. Leathers and McCrory detailed on daily duty as teamsters. Private Penwick relieved from duty as teamster. Contraband James Duffy left. Harry Akers dropped - the Q. M. having decided that he is not entitled to rations.

18 Private Ingebret Johnson returned to the Co. from detached service

22 One Horse died in Camp

24 One Horse died in Camp

25 Private Fordis Averill returned from hospt.

26 1 Horse died in camp

27 Corp. Oliver P. Brown detailed from Co. D, 34 Ills Vols. returned to his Co. One Horse died in Camp.

31 Nelson H. Fulton takes up on the report from which he was dropped by Error. Geo Townsend & Geo Tilton reported for duty heretofore reported on detached service at Div. Hd. Qrs. John C. Phelps transferred to Invalid Corps by Gen. Order No. 320

Upcoming Events (Kinda)

Okay, so it's not really events that are upcoming, but there are some things our members need to be doing.

First, 2018 is nearly over and that means **dues for the next season are due**. There are no changes in our dues fee schedule, but members are asked to **PLEASE FILL OUT the form** that appears at the end of this newsletter. We need to keep our membership contact list up to date with your current email and phone number. We know these change—even snail mail addresses change—and we need to be able to reach our members.

Dues must be paid to remain a voting member.

The second assignment for members is bringing event information for consideration in 2019. We are gathering a list of possible events to attend and will begin formatting them into a calendar in January. Discussion on which events to attend continue in February and our formal 2019 calendar will be approved by membership

A VERY PRELIMINARY list of events was discussed at the December 1 meeting and these are listed on the Battery website as TENTATIVE. Even some of the dates are NOT confirmed, so please be aware of, comment on, or correct the events listed.

Next Meeting

January 26, 2019 11:00am

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



Battery Profile

William A. Spaulding

We, the undersigned father and mother of William A. Spaulding, minor, hereby give our consent for our son William A. Spaulding to muster into the United States service. The note was signed by both John Spaulding and Emeline B. Spaulding. The note had to be witnessed and the witness was William Wardwell. Wardwell was 39 years old and may have been connected to the family in some way. He and the Spaulding's son were mustered into the Second Battery together on January 16, 1862.

William was only 19 when he enlisted. He had been born on March 7, 1842, in Stedsen, Maine. The family moved to Monticello, Wright County, Minnesota, in 1856. William was working as clerk in a store when he decided to enlist. He had dark eyes, brown hair, a sandy complexion, and was 5' 8" tall.

William was promoted to corporal on April 5, 1863. On June 17th, he suffered an injury to his eye and was sent to the hospital. The Battery moved on, leaving him behind, but only for a short time as William reported back to the Battery on July 10th.

In an effort to keep men in the Union Army, bonuses were offered to men if they would reenlist when they approached the end of their second year in the service. An added incentive was a 30 day veteran's furlough. William decided to take up the army on its offer and he reenlisted. He went home on his furlough in May of 1864 and was one of the Battery's veterans when they returned south that summer.

That fall, several men in the Battery decided to form a Bible class to study and pray together. William joined it and was a member until it was disbanded in the spring of 1865 because church services were available to them at that time. It was noted that the men attended the class whenever they could, but no attendance was taken. It is unknown how much William attended, but he was always kept on as a member in good standing even when he was detailed away from the Battery. It may be that he was close enough that he could still attend.

It would seem William had a knack for clerical duties as he was detailed for that job to the Chief of Artillery at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in December of 1864. It was at this time that William obtained a hardbound copy of the official U.S. Artillery manual, the 1864 printing. He signed his name in the front cover of the book with "Chattanooga, Tenn." William remained a clerk with the Chief of Artillery until the Battery's captain made a formal request to have William returned to the Battery in May of 1865. Even then, William did not go back to his home unit without controversy. A letter was written by the Chief of Artillery at Chattanooga requesting that William stay as his clerk. Lt. Colonel Baxter wrote, "Corporal

Spaulding has been on duty as Clerk as this Office for the past four months and is thoroughly acquainted with the duties of the Office and I cannot find a man to fill his place." He went on to note that the Second Battery, though ordered to Tennessee to guard a railroad, still had 150 men present for duty. The implication was that William would not be missed as the Battery was at full strength.

A letter requesting William's return was signed by the lieutenant of the Battery in April. He repeated the request to have William sent back to the Battery, but it took a letter from the Battery's captain to get William reassigned.

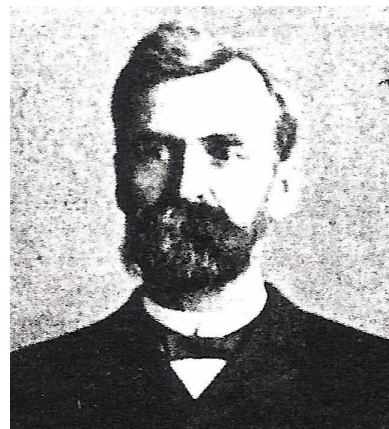
Hotchkiss wrote, "Corporal Spaulding is the only man left in the Command of sufficient clerky ability to be of any service to me in closing up my returns and other official papers in the event of muster-out of my Battery, indeed it will be very difficult almost impossible, for me to close up my papers now due within the present month without him." Hotchkiss underlined those words in his letter. He also explained that he had need of noncommissioned officers and that he would be promoting William to the rank of sergeant should he be sent back to the Battery.

William was sent back to the Battery and Hotchkiss promoted him to sergeant on June 13, 1865. Two months later, the Battery was mustered out at Fort Snelling and William went home.

Education was William's next challenge. He attended school to become a dentist, but he did make time for other things. In 1866, he married Jerusha Johnson in Minneapolis. They had a son in 1867 and a daughter in 1871.

William graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati in 1875 and returned to Minneapolis to practice. Life should have been smooth for him, but it was not. Jerusha died in November of 1882 while they were living in Minneapolis. William continued to practice dentistry. Caroline Knowles came into his life and they were married in Farmington in 1884. They added to the family with two more children, both girls. William continued in his profession and became dean of the dental facility in the Minnesota College Hospital in 1886. This became the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in later years.

The trials of age were beginning to catch up to William. He blamed the hard life in the army for his aches and rheumatism that were continually getting worse. Changing climate was a popular idea for health reasons and William decided to try it. The family moved to Paris, France, in 1891.



William Spaulding, no date.
Found on Ancestry.com.

(William Spaulding, continued)

They spent their summer in Paris and winter in Switzerland for a year before they came back to Minneapolis. By 1893, they moved back to Europe where they lived in Hyenas, France, in the summers and either Hamburg, Germany, or Switzerland in the winters. This pattern continued to 1905 when William applied for a veteran's pension. His address at the time of application was Hyenas, France.

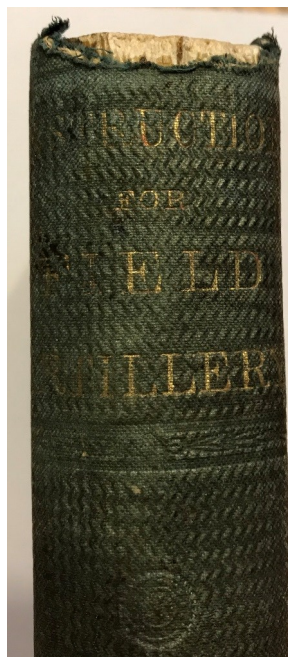
William moved back to Minnesota for the last time in 1912 and found a place to live in Farmington. In the process of all the moving he had done, he lost his pension certificate and discharge papers, so he wrote several letters to the Pension Department to get everything cleared up. He and Caroline, thought she was often called Carrie, settled down for good. Their children were all grown and William, Junior, was a dentist in France just as his father had been.

Exhaustion and "pernicious anemia" came to visit William and he could not win that battle. He died on October 17, 1913. News of his death was carried in the Minneapolis Journal newspaper with his photo and the headline, "Dr. W.A. Spaulding, Famous Dentist and Civil War Veteran, is Dead."

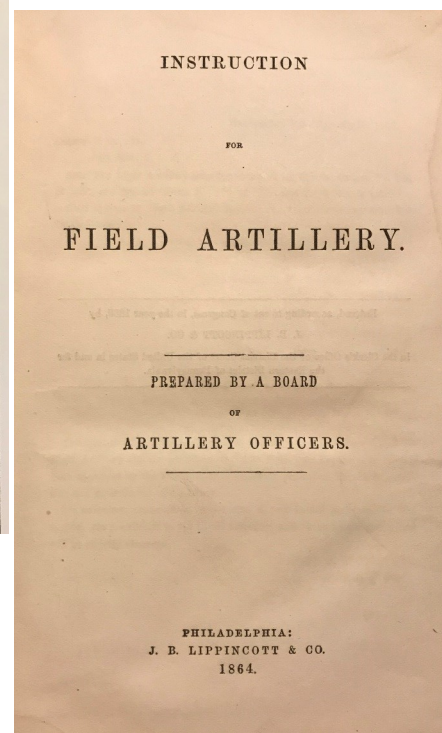
William was laid to rest in the Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis with a large family stone and an individual foot stone. Carrie survived him and applied for a widow's pension which she was awarded each month until her death on November 5, 1948.

For at least some of the time William spent in the army, he kept a diary. The diary was written in small books, mostly in pencil on darkening paper. William may have been a clerk, but he seemed to have an aversion to punctuation, using mostly dashes instead of periods and capital letters appear randomly throughout his writing. While hard to read, William did leave his thoughts and observations on the war on the pages. Two of the books are in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society. The whereabouts of the remaining books is unknown.

William's Artillery manual surfaced on EBay in 2018 and was purchased by the Second Minnesota Battery Reenactors. It is unknown why William needed the manual, how he might have used it, if he bought it or if it was issued to him. There is no evidence to indicate how the book ended up in an Ithaca, New York, bookstore where it was bought by an antique dealer in Ohio. The antique dealer listed the book on EBay where it was purchased by the Second Minnesota Battery Reenactors for \$395. The manual remains with the reenactors.



The spine, front page, and William's signature on the front fly leaf. Below is a page from the text.



*Wm A Spaulding
2d Minn Battery
Chattanooga*

ORGANIZATION OF FIELD BATTERIES.					
CHARGES OF POWDER.					
KIND.	FOR GUNS.		FOR HOWITZERS.		
	12-pdrs.	6-pdrs.	12-pdrs.	24-pdrs.	32-pdrs.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
For shot	2-5	1-25	3-25	2-5	1-25
For spherical case.....	2-5	1-25	3-25	2-5	1-25
For canister.....	2	1	2-5	2	1
For shells.....	(small charge).....		2-5	2	
	(large charge).....		3-25	2-5	
	fixed.....		2-5		1

The same ammunition is used for the 12-pounder and light 12-pounder guns.

The charges are contained in cartridge bags, made of woollen material free from any mixture of cotton, and of sufficiently close texture to prevent the powder from sifting through.

PROJECTILES.

(PLATE 1.) There are four kinds of projectiles used in field service, viz.: the solid or round shot, the canister, the shell, and the spherical case shot or shrapnel.

The projectile is attached to a block of wood called a sabot. For the guns and the 12-pounder howitzer, the cartridge and the projectile are attached to the same sabot, making together a round of fixed ammunition. For 32-pounder and 24-pounder howitzers, the projectile is separate from the charge, and the cartridge is attached to a block of wood called a cartridge block.

The solid shot is spherical, and its weight in pounds is used to designate the calibre of the gun to which it belongs.

The canister consists of a tin cylinder, attached to a sabot and filled with cast-iron shot. These shot vary in diameter, and of course in weight, with the calibre and description of the piece. Canisters for guns contain 27 shots each; those for howitzers contain 48 shots each. They are packed in sawdust in four tiers: the lower tier rests on a rolled iron plate, which is placed on the

Sgt Duden currently has "guardianship" of William's book and is carefully comparing it to the reproduction copy to see if there are any discrepancies.

Will Spaulding Diary

Spaulding kept a diary during at least parts of the war. His comments are brief, but point to his daily activities and mentions names of others in the Battery. At one point, he drew a symbol that appears to be the Masonic emblem in his diary. Several times he mentions going to "Lodge" in his diary and in 1890, he was living at the Masonic Home in Minneapolis.

The original diary is in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. It is two small volumes, both in very fragile condition, faded writing on darkening paper. Best efforts were made to type accurately the contents of the diary, but Spaulding seemed to have an aversion to punctuation. He mostly used dashes instead of periods and capital letters appear randomly. The diary was typed as close as possible to represent what Spaulding wrote.

February 27th 1863

Capt. Starts for Minnesota tomorrow Send my Diary by him -- put my money with Lieut. Woodbury's & sent it home by Cap--

28th

Started for Nashville after horses -- Cap. started for home on furlough --

Sunday March 1st

At Nashville -- Went to church in the evening

Monday March 2d

looked around town & bothered with the ambulance, Went to Theater --

Tuesday March 3d--

Drew 20 horses & 6 mules got al ready to start back in the morning --

Wednesday March 4th

Started for camp about 8 o'clock & got there about 5 in the evening - got 2 letters

Thursday 5th

In camp all day --

Friday 6th

Started out on a 2 days scout - went towards Shelbyville about 7 miles fired a few rounds from the 1st. Sec.-

Saturday 7th March

Returned from the scout got to camp about 6 o'clock Signed the payroll for Nov & Dec 1862 -- Got a letter from Mother & Johnny-- weather very wet while out on the scout

Sunday March 8th

Usual duties &c.

Monday March 9

Ordered out on a 3 days Scout -- got 2 months pay about an hour before we started. -- sent \$20.00 to Murfreesboro by Wardwell to Express to Father -- Marched about 6 miles towards Eagleville then turned to the left & went to Versailles 9 miles from camp and camped rained hard all night--

Tuesday March 10

Started for Eagleville about 10 o'clock rainy all day - got to Eagleville about 3 oclock got dinner & marched to within a mile of Triune, very dark and rainy, could hardly get a fire started --

Wednesday March 11th

Went over to the 2d Minn. Infantry -- about 2 miles -- saw Sgt. Fry - Lieut Alden was sick at Laverne, he is Brigade Inspector.

Tuesday March 12th

Went after some meat if it could be found - found some about 2 miles from camp - fresh beef and smoked side meat

Friday 13th

Started for Eagleville, got there about noon - got some Eggs, butter, milk, onions, dried apples & ducks - Went out with the forage team & got some shoulders & pickle pork -- House burned in town -

Saturday March 14th

Started back toward camp - got to Versailles about 4 oclock & camped

Sunday 15th

Got back to camp -- stayed in camp till the 24 of June -- made Corp the 5 June -- Went out on picket several times - once had a little fun with the rebs --

June 21st 1863 --

21 - on day guard

22 = " (on) Fatigue, Messroon(?) -- Wood

23 = Extra duty --

24 = Started after the rebs - commenced raining *(An added note sideways in the margin reads:) Millersburg Camped*

27 = passed through Hoovers Gap - Craven got hurt Sudley broke his leg - camped at Beach Grove --

28th = Marched towards Manchester rained every day since we left Murfreesboro - came into camp at 4 o'clock at night at Manchester -- rained hard all night.

29 Ordered to send our knapsacks to the rear -- & for the drivers to carry a change of shi--ts(?) for the cannons

30 = Still at Manchester - The first dry day since the 23rd

July

1 Started for Tullahoma got there about 11 at night saw Lieut. Alden -

2d = Started on south - Marched to Elk River, could not cross so we camped --

3d = Started again towards Winchester crossed both forks of Elk River & got to Winchester about 3 o'clock - Got a Win Daily paper ? one of the rebs.

4 = In camp at Win-- Wrote a letter to Mother fired a Salute of 35 guns at 12 o'clock

5 Went to church at 5 P.M. the Corps Chaplin preached -

6 = Usual camp duties -- on guard- Farny(?) got a goose & chickens out in the country -- also some potatoes in town --

7 = Our sec. on picket - rumor that Vicksburg is ours surrendered the 4th of July also that Lee whipped on the Potomac

8 = Came in from picket no relief -- fired a salute all around the lines -- ordered to get what vegetables we want from the gardens in town - the boys waded in -

9 = nothing of importance

10 & 11 " " " (*nothing of importance*)

12 = on guard

13 = Scott came up = policing. ordered to move camp at 1 o'clock -- Moved through town & camped on the Boiling Fork of Elk River

14 = Usual duties

15 - Went after forage in town,

16 - Nothing of importance pickets fired upon --

17 -- Liquor confiscated in the Brigade

18 = Usual duties &c 2 Regt. moved near town --

19 = Went over to the 2d Regt. took dinner with Lieut. Alden

20 = Usual duties &c letter from W.S.E.

21 -- Scotts goods came -- helped him all the afternoon - Gen Rosencrans & Staff came to town - is going to make this H Q

22 on guard--

23 -- Got 4 months pay & settled up for clothing I got 58.60 -- helped Scott till 9 o'clock at night

24 = Usual duties &c.

25 = Wrote to Father sent Davis' & Carlin's photographs also \$30.

26 = sent for some stamps

28 = Recd my stamps Lieut. Harder Sgt. Davis & a detail of men went to Nashville for horses -- A Detail of men came from the Inftry. Fox, &c 11 of them = on guard

29 = Usual duties - brought a bible for Mother - 1.50

30 Usual duties &c --

August

1 & 2. Usual duties &c

3 = Washed the carriages for painting - went after corn.

4 = Went after nails - &c on guard

5 & 6 Usual duties

16 = Went to church - up to this time usual camp duties --

17 - ordered to be ready to move at 2 P.M. moved at the hour - Sgt. Hamilton went to hospital - Burnham Sick - & I am in charge of the detachment - marched about 5 miles & camped on guard

18 = Marched to the top of the Cumberland Mounts. hard hill to climb --

19 - Marched down the Mt. & camped in the valley - for 2 miles down we had to Lock the wheels of the carriages - almost perpendicular

20 - Marched to the Tenn. River near Stevenson & camped -

21 = Policing camp put up harness - got a new paulin(?) put up tent &c. &c. drew rations of Beef

29. Started again after the rebs - about 6 o'clock - marched down the river about 4 miles & stopped for them to put down the Pontoon Bridge went into Position on the bank to protect the crossing - Got the bridge down about 1 o'clock & Cavalry crossed -

30 - all quiet till noon Marched over the river & went into camp for the night - in a swamp

31. Started about 7 oclock Goot(?) to the foot of Sand Mt. about 8. & to the top at 10 -- very steep & hard for the horses- but every = thing moved along first rate - camped on the top of the Mt.

September

1 Still in camp on the Mt. Got a letter from A.

2 = Marched at 6 south down the Mt. not so steep as the other side went about 15 miles & camped in the Valley --

3d. - The boys got some peach Brandy. ordered to change camp -- moved back about 2 miles to the foot of the Mountain

4 = In camp until about 1 oclock when we marched to the foot of Lookout Mt. & camped

5th In camp in an open field in the valley very hot. -- Burnham on guard for the first time since we left Winchester drew 1 day rations sugar coffee meat Bread

6 on guard

7 ordered to move camp in the shade -- moved & got our tents up & ordered to be ready to move & for action about noon -- the forage train attacked Unharnessed about 4 o'clock

8 Cavalry went out after the rebs -- brought in 5 deserters & one prisoner Wrote 2 letters --

9 = The 1 & 3 Sec. of the Battery ordered out they crossed Lookout Mt.-- Cavalry passed with Spike bars to tear up R.R.

10 our Sec ordered out at 1 o'clock to move at 3 up the Mt. moved at the hour - Halted at the Top to let Johnsons Division pass - moved on & joined the rest of the Batty - or camped near it - got ready for bed at 10 -- on guard

11 - The other 2 Secs. came & joined us. Policing camp Charley Smith bit by a Poisonous Spider --

12 - In camp in the Valley, drew rations -- on guard

13 - ordered to March - Marched up the Mt. & camped on the top - Went about 3 miles to water after dark, got back about 11 oclock.

END OF FIRST VOLUME ended in September 1863

VOLUME TWO picks up in May 1864 (In January newsletter

Recap

November 11, Winona, MN Veterans Day

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery once again travelled to Winona, MN, to participate in their 11-11-11 Veterans Day Tribute. It was a cold day, greatcoats and scarves were worn by many members, but the roads were dry which allowed us to have our gun and limber in place in the park for the flag raising ceremony prior to 11:00 am. An honor guard of re-enactors dressed as WWI doughboys was stationed just behind the flagpole. The flag raising was early this year because at 11:00 am, Veteran's Park was filled with the



sound of all the church bells in the city of Winona ringing to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of "The

Great War" (known today as WW1.) Following the Main Address, the Battery fired a three round salute. The sound of the cannon fire bounced off the bluffs creating an incredible sound. Following the ceremony, members stopped at Perkins in Winona where a free breakfast for veterans was available.

Battery members who participated in the tribute were Brian Tomashek, Bart Hoekstra, Bruce Arnoldy, Mike Cunningham, Ben Norman,

Cameron Larson, James Livingstone, Daryl Duden and John Cain. Rebecca Livingstone was our talented photographer for the event (Thanks, Rebecca!)

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. Duden



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

Ken Cunningham
1170 Golf Ridge Circle
Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone: (651) 388-2945

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>



Your Country Needs You!

And so does the Battery!

2019 dues are DUE !! To remain on the active member list, your dues are:

Civilian Member	\$12.00
Military Member	\$12.00
Associate Member	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (14-17)	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (under 14)	Free

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Please send this form and your check to:

Daryl Duden
1210 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Please do fill out the form completely and return it with your dues as email addresses and cell numbers change. We need an accurate contact list in case of last minute event changes or emergencies.

Thank you!