



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 261

October 2018

## On This Date-155 Years Ago

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

- 2** (M. O. Fossom Discharged Sept. 18, 1863 - at Louisville, Ky. on Surgeons Cert. of Disability) He did not belong to this baty having been transferred to Invalid Corps July 1, 1863. Corps. Obert, Dinsmore, Furguson, I. Johnson, Coulthard (& detailed men Ewing, Mullerinx, Rheinberger, Roher & Ellis went to Stevenson with 37 Horses by ord. of Capt. Hotchkiss --
- 4** Sent 1 horse to Stevenson by Dr. Burns
- 10** Sergt. Goyne Hamilton returned to duty from Conv. Camp.
- 11** Jacob U. Freed & Wm Gilpatrick transferred to Invalid Corps by G. O. War Dept. No. 271 Aug. 5 '63 to take effect Aug 1, 1863
- 14** 2nd Lieut Alex Kinkead rec'd Leave of Absence for 20 Days Spec. Field ord 273 Rosecrans Oct 13"
- 15** Alden C. Meed discharged at Jacksonville, Miss Nov 15, 1862 -- Lt. Harder sent to Off. Hosp. Chattanooga.
- 16** Geo. H. Russell relieved from duty with Co. F 2d U. S. Arty -& to report here -- by Spec ord. No. 229 Maj. Genl. Hurlburt Sept 22 1863
- 17** 2d Lieut H. M. Wheeler temporarily assigned to duty with this baty -- Spec. Ord. Brig Gen Brannan
- 20** Privts: Benge, Snyder, Jackson, Sergeant, Byrne, Rhinberger, McReynolds & Wright - Returned to their Regts. S. F. O. 279 Rosecrans dated Oct 19'
- 21** Left position in line - and moved to camp across Tenn. River 2 Miles
- 23** Privt. Geo C. Townsend heretofore on daily duty as Bugler - on detached service as Nurse to Lt. Woodbury 1 Horse abandoned
- 24** Corp Richmond & Privts: Amory, Rebadue Baldwin, Jett, Culbertson, Green, Herbaugh, Kintzel, Smith & Fox (Detailed men) ret'd to their Regt.
- 25** Marched to N. Chickamauga 7 miles
- 26** Marched toward Chattanooga to Caldwells Farm 3 Miles
- 29** 1st Lieut Albert Woodbury died in private Hosp. Chattanooga, Tenn.

## Upcoming Events

**Oct 20-21, Minooka, IL** Dollinger Family Farm Civil War Reenactment

Registration has closed for this event, so if you did not submit your name to Daryl, you are not registered. .This promises to be a good event as the website indicates some 400 reenactor attending.

Use this website to find out more about the event: <http://edmilam.coffeecup.com/>

**November 11, Winona, MN Veterans Day**

.....This annual recognition in a beautiful park on the lake shore has includes a salute from our gun at the conclusion of the ceremonies. We will once again provide a gun crew for the day—weather permitting. Snow could preclude our participation if hauling the gun is a hazard. Those attending should arrive at the park by 9:45 to unload the gun and be ready for the program that starts at 11:11 am.



## Next Meeting

**October 27, 2018 11:00am**

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



# Battery Profile

## Edwin D. Rodgers

Edwin was the only child born to John and Mary Rodgers of Newport, New York. His birth was on January 29, 1831. When Edwin was six, the family moved to Kirkersville, Ohio, where his father continued his trade of making shoes. At the age of 16, Edwin became the apprentice of a blacksmith. After two years, he went to Brighton, New York, to complete his education and then returned to Ohio. Edwin traveled around the upper Midwest, taking jobs as a blacksmith, until he decided to settle down in Freeborn County, Minnesota, in 1857. He was one of the early settlers in the town of Freeborn where he built a blacksmith shop. Edwin also began selling agricultural implements in his shop.

On December 27, 1860, Edwin married Helen Scovelle, but it was not to be a long marriage. Helen died less than a year later on September 27, 1861.

According to local history, Edwin "left his anvil" on February 14, 1862, to join the Second Minnesota Battery. The descriptive roll showed him as 30 years old, 5' 9" tall, with blue eyes, light hair and a sandy complexion. Edwin's skills were put to use as his position in the Battery was that of blacksmith.

Keeping the shoes of nearly 100 horses in use in the Battery at any given time would have been a steady job even without repairing metal work on the guns, wagons and other equipment. The Battery was in camp near Iuka, Mississippi in August of 1862. Edwin was shoeing Battery horses when he was overcome by heat stroke. Members of the Battery said Edwin became dizzy and blind, so that he had to be carried into a tent for shade. Edwin struggled with the heat stroke and the captain of the Battery, William Hotchkiss, said Edwin never fully recovered from it. Hotchkiss felt he could no longer count on Edwin to be able to do the duty of a blacksmith, so he promoted Edwin to corporal and assigned him the duties of an artificer--a military mechanic.

Edwin did recover enough to return to duty and was with the Battery as they participated in the battle at Perryville, Kentucky, on October 8, 1862. Another Battery comrade, Austin Peck, said Edwin volunteered to go to with the two howitzers. The guns were in action near the Miller house where the fighting grew hot for the Battery. Edwin was between the guns when they were fired and the concussion damaged his hearing permanently. One source said Edwin stepped in to take the place of an injured gunner during the fighting, but no official records of any action such as this has been found.

After the battle, Edwin was almost deaf, but he continued to serve in the Battery as an artificer until more health problems began. Captain Hotchkiss called it "jaundice and general disability" and said he frequently needed to send Edwin to sick call.

Edwin was discharged for disability at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on April 2, 1863. Included in the reasons for discharging him were "chronic diarrhea contracted at Columbus, Mississippi on July 9th 1862 from bad food, water and exposure."

Back in Minnesota, Edwin returned to his implement selling and blacksmithing. In 1864, Edwin married a second time. His bride was Rosa Bromwich, a young English born immigrant. The couple had seven children, but the twin of one child died after only a few minutes of life. In Freeborn County, Edwin held several public offices and was elected to the State Legislature, serving two terms. One of his accomplishments was to serve on a Roads and Bridges Committee and helped pass a new set of road laws for Minnesota.

In about 1877, Edwin moved the family to Wells where he continued his blacksmith and implement shop until 1882. At that time, Edwin and Rosa sold their shop and house and moved to Minneapolis.

Rosa only lived in Minneapolis for two years before she died just before Christmas in 1884. Edwin and the children stayed in Minneapolis for a few years, but in 1887, they moved to Michigan. This move was because Edwin had married a third time to a widow by the name of Julia Case. She also had four children, though hers, like Edwin's, were mostly grown by the time they married.

Julia had land from her first husband in Assyrian township in Michigan and it was to this land that they moved in 1887. The following summer, Edwin found himself preparing yet another funeral for a family member. This time it was his 18 year old son who drowned while swimming at a nearby lake. Edwin buried two wives and two sons.

Edwin was active in the community. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was elected to the state legislature on the Republican ticket, but then changed parties to the Prohibitionist Party. Both Edwin and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Edwin was a Class Leader in of the society nearest his home. He also served as the superintendent of the Sunday School.

Heart trouble took Edwin from his earthly toils on September 4, 1902. He was laid to rest in the Lacey Cemetery in Calhoun County, Michigan. It is worthy to note that Julia sued Edwin's estate for \$200, saying it was owed her from an agreement made before Edwin's death. What the agreement may have been is unknown, but the courts did give her the \$200. According to records, she had a house with a mortgage, some land, and a savings account of \$500. Her total income for a year did not reach \$85 according to the application she filed as Edwin's widow.





# Excerpts from the Edwin Rodgers Diary

September 30, 1862

Marched. Everything ordered off the guns and the caissons. Another forced march ahead. We marched through highways and byways along the rocky beds of dry stream (Salt River being one) and if this is going up Salt River deliver me from another trip) and though through the woods until the 7<sup>th</sup> of October when we began to come into the vicinity of the Enemy and there was some skirmishing by pickets and Cavalry scouts, but still apprehend no danger of an engagement.

October 7, 1862

Took a position on a hill

October 8, 1862

Our section of the Battery were ordered to report to Gen. Jay Chief of cavalry for the purpose of skirmishing in the front. Took a position on a hill where we were ordered to shell a piece of Woods which we did and shelled out a reg. of Rebel infantry who left in all directions. We then took another position farther to the front where we fired on a Rebel Battery which was about to fire and made them ? ? ? for ? for they never opened fire on us at ? that position and our 2 howitzers got the credit for silencing them. Another battery opened fire on us and it became evident that a general engagement was about to take place. General Rosecrans found the place too warm for him and ? of after keeping us from firing so long as he could. We were ordered to fall back and Rosy? Said our guns were not of long enough range to reach them. Another Battery opposite with Parrott Guns to? our position some of which I think must have been taken as the Rebels swept over the same ground later in the day. We fell back to await orders and were ordered back again. The enemy counterattacked in force on our center at the place where we fired on them and drove our line back. Gen Buell refusing to reinforce them although several times called upon to do so. We were ordered to take a position in a draw with a ? of breaking their advancing ? We took the position and opening on them with shell and sphere and case shot. Did good execution until our ammunition gave out. We upset a Battery which was advancing on us and trying to get into a position to fire on us. Then we had orders to cease fire as we were firing on our friends. This mistake allowed the enemy to gain on us so that we could not stop them but we gave them canister with good effect. About this time our supporting infantry broke and run without firing a gun which left us alone with a large force advancing on us when an officer rode up much excited and said God damn you, what are you doing here. Get out of this, you'll all be killed and lose your gun. So we limbered up in something of a hurry as the enemies' balls began to sing about our ears making music we did not like. We had 4 men wounded and 2 horses killed in getting off the field. The wounded are all getting alone none are dangerous. We afterwards had a man taken prisoner who was left to take care of wounded ? during all this time there were not less than 10,000 men in the fight ? to help us but were not allowed to do by Buell's? order.

In less than 10 minutes after we left our last position it was in the Rebels possession and they advancing at double quick time. We however ? reinforcements who succeeded

in stopping them it was now dark and we had had nothing to eat since breakfast. Our next job was to find the Battery. We found our ration wagon about 10 o'clock. Got coffee, hard bread and some good pickled pork made a good supper and laid down on the ground. Slept soundly until morning.

October 9, 1862

Got in our breakfast and started to find our company which we did about 10 O'clock then were near Perryville and in position and we took our place with them in this line of battle ?? to get back ? Our section fired 165 rounds.

To wit: First howitzer shell

|                   |    |    |   |
|-------------------|----|----|---|
|                   | 88 | 13 | 6 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> " | 58 | 21 | 9 |

Making 88 rounds by our guns

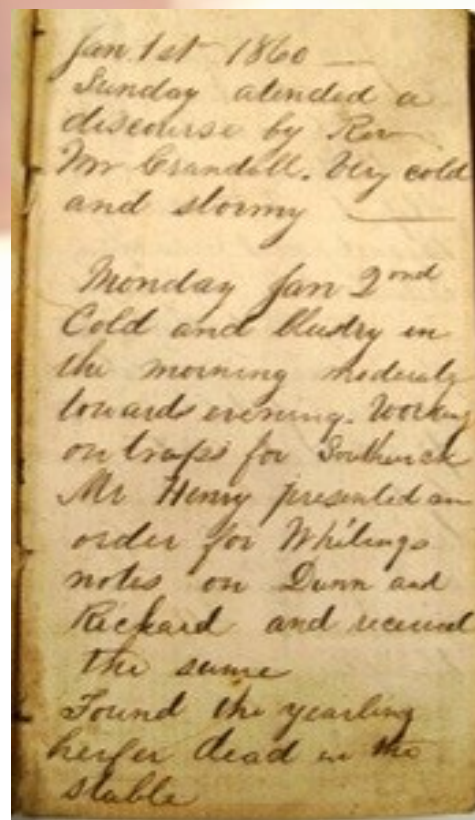
We fired several shot at rebels horsemen and got our dinner on the battlefield of ? In the afternoon we marched in line of battle over the ground where the enemy was fighting yesterday and had an opportunity to see the effect of our shells. We found several cannons disabled and cut down ? dead horses and also large ? of dead and wounded which the enemy in their flight had left behind. Camped near the field of battle.

Oct 10

General Buell sends to Bragg to come and bury their dead. Invitation declined for want of time. Went over the battle ground. rained and sick today.

Oct. 11 Started in pursuit of Bragg expecting him to make another stand. Weather cold and clear

Oct 12 Still marching but knowing very little of the movements of the enemy. We see some prisoners brought and occasionally a dead horse along the road. This is the best part of Kentucky I have yet seen.



A copy of a page  
from Edwin's  
diary.

# Amputations During the War

Paperwork and proofs are nothing new when it comes to a service related injury. The document at right is from the Surgeons General's office and describes the process of applying for a limb lost while in the line of duty.

The second section details the price of artificial limbs from various manufacturers. According to History Channel sources, there were some 60,000 surgeries performed by surgeons during the Civil War with nearly three quarters of them being amputations. Amputations were the standard answer to shattered bones during the war, though poorly trained and inexperienced surgeons may have added to the number of limbs lost.

Being taken to the hospital for treatment and amputation of a limb was hardly a promise of returning to health. Estimates say there was 26.3% mortality rate among amputees.

Despite what the movies often portray, chloroform was used during the war whenever it was available to reduce the pain and trauma of amputation or other procedures.

It was not loss of blood that took the life of soldiers who lost limbs to the surgeons knife. It was more often infection that set in after the surgery was over that killed them. Infection was what claimed the life of the only Second Minnesota Battery officer lost when his arm was amputated after being wounded at Chickamauga. Lt. Albert Woodbury was wounded in the elbow during the fighting. His arm was amputated and nearly a month later, infection took his life.

**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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SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, }  
Washington, D. C., — 18—. }

Sir: Your application of — to be supplied with an artificial — by the government, is at hand.

This application should be made to any of the department medical directors, who, if satisfied of the correctness of the claim, will order a limb or apparatus from any one of the manufacturers indicated in the subjoined list. The selection of the manufacturer is left to the applicant.

Proof must be inclosed that the applicant was an enlisted man at the time of receiving the injury, and that it was received in the line of duty. This proof, if he be still in the service, will consist of certificates from his commanding officer, surgeon in charge, or any commissioned officer personally cognizant of the facts of the case. If discharged from the service, his discharge papers must be submitted for examination with his own affidavit of the time, place and manner of incurring the injury, and, if possible, the certificate of his former commanding officer, or surgeon in charge. He will at the same time make affidavit that he has never been supplied with an artificial limb or apparatus by the United States, or with an order for one. The discharge papers will be returned to him.

Instructions as to the measurements of the limb will be forwarded by the manufacturer to the applicant.

Commissioned officers are not entitled to the benefit of the provision made by congress for supplying "artificial limbs for soldiers."

The following are the manufacturers who upon the recommendation of an examining board of medical officers, have been authorized to supply limbs and apparatus.

## *Artificial limbs.*

LEGS.—*Maker*, Dr. Douglas Bly, *Address*, Rochester, N. Y., *Price*, \$120.00 [his "universal ankle joint motion" only]; Wm. Selpho & Sons, New York City, \$75.00; B. F. Palmer, Philadelphia, Penn., \$75.00; Dr. E. D. Hudson, New York City, \$75.00; Salem Leg Co., Salem, Mass., \$75.00; Jewett Leg Co., Washington, D. C., \$75.00; R. Clement, Philadelphia, Penn., \$75.00; A. A. Marks, New York City, \$65.00.

FEET.—*Maker*, B. F. Palmer, *Address*, Philadelphia, Penn., *Price*, \$50.00 [for Pirogoff's amputation]; Dr. E. D. Hudson, New York City, \$50.00 [for Syme's amputation].

