



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 271

September 2019

On This Date-155 Years Ago

Remarks for the Month of September, 1864

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 Corp. J. S. White, absent with leave to report to Ex. Board, Nashville, Tenn. Lauritz Olsen sent to hospital at Chattanooga, T. J. F. Peak, Inftry detail dropped.
- 2 Harris Harrison, Bugler reported for duty, from hospital at Chattanooga, T. P Whalen, Inftry detail, ordered to his command S. F. O. 224, Gen. Thomas, dropped.
- 3 No alterations
- 4 Corp. J. S. White reported from absent with leave. Adolph Apitz died of "congenative pneumonia" Aug. 9. 1864 in Field hosp. of Div. near Atlanta, Geo. Ole Oleson died of wounds received in action Atlanta, Aug. 12, 1864.
- 5-6 No alterations
- 7 Lauritz Olsen, artificer, reported for duty from sick.
- 8 John Coleman placed in arrest and sent to guard house Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 9-11 No alterations
- 12 John Gutteridge sent to hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. F. M. Mills, detail from Inftry returned to his Regt.
- 13 Sergt A. J. Jett, Inftry detail, sent to Chattanooga, Tenn. to be mustered out.
- 14-17 No alterations
- 18 J. Gutteridge returned from hospital.
- 19 J. G. Cover 2d Lieut 8th Minn Vol. Inftr. arrived with fifty six recruits for the command from Draft Rendezvous Fort Snelling Minn.
- 20 No alterations.
- 21 S. Loudon sent to hospital at Chattanooga, Tenn. Wm(Watson). M. Adams Inftry detail ordered to co. by Gen. Steedman Privts Anderson & Evenson from duty to sick
- 22 22 E. men detail from Regt heretofore borne in the "Aggregate", are now only reported in "Present for Daily Duty". L. W. Ayer, 1st Sergt mustered and mustered vice Lieut Kinkead promoted on commission dated May 10, 1864. Date of Sept 18th, 1864. 2d Lieut. A. Kinkead mustered as 1st Lieut; vice Dawley resigned Sept 18.
- 23-24 No alterations
- 25 Corp. H. W. Towle reported from hospital for duty. H. Raist Inftry detail ordered to his Regt.
- 26 Corp H. W. Towle returned from Corporal to the ranks from Sept 1st 1864.
- 27 R. Torgerson, C. Anderson & F. D. James sent to hospital Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 28 Prvt. T. J. Triplett, Inftry detail ordered to his Regt.
- 29-31 No Alterations

Upcoming Events

September 21

Frontenac 160 Celebration

This event is jam packed with TONS of history events all day long. Check their webpage for details and schedules:

<http://www.frontenac160.com/index.html>

Our gun will providing the artillery salute at the cemetery to open the event at 9:00 am sharp. Members who are participating on the gun crew in the cemetery should plan to arrive by 8:30am. The event is scheduled from 9:00am – 5:00pm. Overnight camping Friday is permitted for those who are interested. We will set up two learning stations in addition to our cannon firing demonstrations. Cannon Firings are scheduled for 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm and 4:00pm. The ladies of the Battery will be staffing the SAS station with a fish pond for the children. Our other station is Small Arms where we will interact with visitors about the weapons of the war.

There will be NO COOKING in camp during this event, but numerous food vendors will be available on site. **MEMBERS ARE ON THEIR OWN FOR ALL MEALS**, please plan accordingly.

Some Cancellations

Please note that the Battery will **NOT** be going to the school in Wells, MN, this year. Also, since the marker we want to place on the battlefield at Perryville, Kentucky, is still not completely approved, built or installed, it was decided that the unit will not be attending the reenactment held there this fall. Please delete these events from your calendar.

Next Meeting

September 28, 2019 11:00am

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



Some Cotton History

From a blog by Barbara Brackman



French painter Edgar Degas worked in his family's cotton business in Louisiana in the mid-19th-century. He painted a man grading cotton.

We're all big cotton consumers but most people don't know much about it. Cotton is so bound up in American identity that we seem to hear more myth than facts. To understand the current industry, you have to know the history, the subtleties of different cotton plants, grades of fiber and geography.

I found a good summary of American cotton production in a history of Charleston. Walter J. Fraser, Jr. wrote *Charleston! Charleston!: The History of a Southern City* about 30 years ago.

Some quotes from the book: *"Sea-island cotton was a very fine, strong cotton that came to be grown near the coast from Florida to Georgetown, South Carolina. Although susceptible to damage by spring frost and autumn fog, it was grown successfully and shipped abroad through Charleston, Beaufort and Savanna until the boll weevil ruined the crop in the early twentieth century. The Sea Islands are a barrier reef/tidal island chain from the Santee River down to Florida in the Atlantic Ocean."*

"Short staple or 'upland cotton', is more difficult to weave in mechanical looms, was neither as strong nor felt as luxurious as sea-island cotton, and therefore never commanded as high a price. Methods of extracting seed for long-staple or sea-island cotton had been perfected earlier, but short-staple cotton remained of no commercial value until the new ginning technology introduced in

the early 1790s by Eli Whitney.

"Thereafter, since short-staple cotton could be grown in a far wider region than the sea-island cotton, it spread, and slavery with it..."

"For years the upland cotton was exported almost exclusively through Charleston.... Cotton crops were planted in the spring, picked from September to October, ginned and compressed during October and November, and then carried to local ports for shipment to English and European manufacturing centers."

"After the collapse of the indigo market in the late 1790s because of the competition from British India, the [Charleston] export trade was based primarily on rice and cotton. In 1791, South Carolina grew 1,500,000 pounds of cotton, a decade later, 20 million and production doubled again within the next ten years." Production drove the price down.

Today's cottons range from Egyptian cotton's longest staple (fiber length) down to American Upland. We do not grow Sea Island Cotton anymore, but a very high quality long staple cotton called Pima is grown in the US, though in much smaller quantities. 90% of all cotton products manufactured today use Upland cotton. Only the highest quality, high thread count cottons are made with Egyptian or Pima cotton.

Cotton prices were about 90 cents a pound last summer (2018), but have dropped some 30% since then. Current prices fluctuate, but are about 60 cents a pound.



Sea-island Cotton producing areas are in green, upland cotton areas are the light yellow.



Freed slaves working at a cotton gin during the Civil War. Library of Congress



American Upland



Pima



Egyptian Cotton

That drop in price should indicate a lower or at least not rising price of cotton fabric on the bolt. However, with recent trade war tariffs, cotton prices may rise since the majority of cotton fabric used in the US is manufactured overseas.

Battery Profile

Ira Ellsworth

Ira's military service began as an answer to the call for a regiment of cavalry to aid in the defense of Minnesota's frontier against the Dakota Indians. It was believed that cavalry armed with more than the standard carbines would be necessary to put down the uprising and make the state safe for further settlement. Ira was among those answering that call when he went to Fort Snelling and joined Company E of the First Mounted Rangers on October 20, 1862. A history of the Rangers said many of those enlisting had lost family and friends in the initial Indian attacks and they "held no tender feeling for the Indians." Ira enlisted from Dodge County located in the south central portion of the state, east of the most fierce battles, but certainly close enough to worry residents. Whether Ira had lost family is unknown, but his enlistment came at a time in Minnesota when emotions were running high.

Ira said he was 18 years old when he enlisted, a farmer with blue eyes, dark hair, and what was described on his enlistment form as a "fresh" complexion. He stood 5' 9-1/2" tall. His birthplace was St. Lawrence County, New York.

Ira only enlisted for one year, but he did not serve that long. Only one company of the regiment left Fort Snelling before spring. Ira's company remained at the Fort. When spring arrived and General Sibley organized his campaign against the Indians, Ira had already been discharged for disability. The January/February muster roll noted him "absent sick since January 28--with leave." Ira had probably gone home to get well. Since his discharge came at the Fort in March, it is unlikely Ira ever went out with the Rangers further than the parade grounds at Fort Snelling.

The formal discharge said Ira was strong and healthy when he enlisted, but he had caught a "severe cold from want of blankets and proper bedding, then taken with mumps, recovered somewhat. Took another violent cold which settled on his lungs and is now turn blue with severe cough." A further explanation said Ira had "Phthises Pulmonalis, which disease is hereditary, but was excited by severe exposure in the line of his duty."

It is supposed Ira went home after his discharge, but no records have been found about him until September of 1864 when he enlisted once again at Mantorville, Dodge County, Minnesota. It was the draft rendezvous that fall when Ira joined the Second Minnesota Battery. He was given \$33.33 of his promised \$100 bounty for his enlistment of one year. He arrived in Tennessee with other new recruits for the Battery on November 11, 1864. It was the only notation about Ira in the Battery's morning reports. He served in the garrison duty the Battery did until the end of the war when they returned to Fort Snelling to be mustered out on August 16, 1865.

What happened to Ira after the war is a mystery. No records show him anywhere except for the death record of his son, Ira L., in 1931. The son died in Colorado, but nothing has been found to provide any further clues about Ira's life.



Crow's Nest Signal

This is a sketch done by William Waud for *Harpers Weekly*. It appeared in the magazine on September 24, 1864. The caption reads:

In the sketch given below the reader will get a very good idea of the manner in which signal stations are constructed. In an opening in the forest, on an elevation, some strong, lofty tree is selected. At the top of a ladder a scaffolding is placed; upon this scaffolding another ladder rests, and so on till the summit is reached. Here in the top of the tree a platform is built, affording a commodious look-out.

Recap

August 4 Red Wing River City Days Parade, Red Wing, MN

In support of the Goodhue County History Center, the 2nd Minnesota Battery pulled their 10 Pdr. Parrott Rifle on its trailer in the Red Wing River City Days Parade. A "Hats Off to History" banner, provided by the GCHS, decorated our towing vehicle. Members rode on the "float" and walked the parade route handing out American flag stickers and Tootsie Roll candy to the spectators of all ages who lined the parade route. We were unit #45 in the parade that went down Bush Street, turned up Third Street to Pine Street, turned up one block to Fourth Street and then back down Fourth Street to Central Park. The GCHS provided a generator and Ken Cunningham provided a sound system that allowed us to play patriotic music for the entire length of the parade. Many citizens rose to their feet as we passed by. We were a couple of blocks from Central Park when our entire inventory of 2,000 American flag stickers and over 800 pieces of candy were completely exhausted. Although there was a nice breeze and we had bottles of iced water on the trailer, the temperature was in the low-80's which proved challenging for members who chose to walk the entire parade route. Hats off for their efforts, especially Tanya Graves who may have been blocks behind us by the end of the parade. The Executive Director of the Goodhue County History Center, Robin Wipperling, rode on the trailer with us. Battery members who participated in this event were Neil Bruce, John Cain, Ken Cunningham, Daryl Duden, Ron Graves, Tanya Graves, James Livingstone, Mikaela Livingstone, Laura Ringeisen, John Warne and Riley Warne. Submitted by Daryl Duden



August 10 Elba, MN

Brian Tomashek, James Livingstone, Mikaela Livingstone, Bruce Arnoldy and Ron Graves attended the Veterans Memorial dedication in Elba and fired 3 salutes as part of the dedication. The town's young people stepped up when the rock and sand company did not come to do the ground prep work for the memorial and they got the job done. Kudos to them. The VFW was very appreciative that the Battery participated in their event. Celeste Hemmelman took the photos. Submitted by James Livingstone



August 24-25 Ahlman's Shooters Round-up, Morristown, MN

The temperatures were in the mid-70's for Ahlman's Shooters Roundup in Morristown as members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery provided four firing demonstrations both days of the event. In camp, between demonstrations, the many topics discussed included Cameron Larson sharing highlights from his recent mission to Africa. Members were excited to see our favorite shaved ice vendor, Waseca Sno-Biz, only steps away from our demonstration area. The owner, Trevor Kanewischer, is a Deputy Sheriff in Waseca County when he is not serving us shaved ice. On Sunday morning, he provided a free shaved ice for all our members and we posed for photographs for his website. Saturday evening, members were treated to a pork tenderloin dinner

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>



Daryl Duden, Bart Hoekstra, Cameron Larson, James Livingstone, Becky Loader, Jim Morgan, Michael Ritchie, Linnea Schmit, Thomas Schmit, Conner Watkins, John Watkins and Joseph Watkins.

compliments of Larry Ahlman. Larry stopped by our camp on Sunday morning with an honorarium and commented on how we continue to fill the bleachers every year. Before he left camp, he invited us back for the 2020 Shooter's Roundup. Battery members who participated during the weekend event were

Bruce Arnoldy, Teresa Bergdale, John Cain, Ken Cunningham,

