



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 277

May 2020

On This Date-155 Years Ago

This article appeared in a St. Cloud newspaper on May 4, 1865. It was reprinted from the *Anoka Sentinel*.

AT HOME.—We received a call on Monday, from Capt. Wm. Augustus Hotchkiss, commanding the Second Minnesota Battery. He with his company, are at present on outpost duty at Philadelphia, Tenn. about 15 miles from Chattanooga.—*Anoka Sentinel*.
We should judge from the above that Capt. H. was rather an ubiquitous sort of an individual.

From the Battery's morning reports, we know Captain Hotchkiss was home on furlough, not returning to the Battery until May 13. What exactly the comment added by the St. Cloud paper means is unknown, but it seems to hint at a somewhat less than favorable opinion of the Captain.

The remaining entries in the morning reports are nothing out of the ordinary. The numbers indicate the date of the entry.

1 Alfred P. Derby returned from Hospt. Christian Denlinger and Emil Solner dropped from the Rolls and reported as Deserters

6 R. D. Bloomfield & W. S. Wardwell absent with leave. Sidney G. Norris sent to Hospt., Knoxville, Tenn.

10 Lt. Lyman W. Ayer detailed as A. O. O. Post Chatt. Tenn. S. F. M. Gen Thomas dated Apr 28/65. Bard Oleson sent to Hospt. Knoxville

15 Rich'd D. Bloomfield, and W. S. Wardwell detailed in Q.M. Dept. Res. Arty. D. C. per S. F. O. 123, Maj. Gen. Thomas May 15/65

16 Capt. Wm. Aug. Hotchkiss Reported at H'd Qrs, Dept. D. C. May 13/65. on return from leave.

26 Frederick Beebe detailed at Brig. Hd. Qr's, per; S. O. No 52. Col. H. G. Gibson. May 24th 1865.

From Our Corporate Leaders

As our nation struggles to combat Covid-19, we must do our best to help stop the spread. Following CDC guidelines should be considered best practice. The safety of our membership is our utmost concern.

In this ongoing “war” against the virus, we have already seen numerous events that draw large groups of people cancelled. We remain hopeful, but realistic that it is possible many of the events on our 2020 calendar will be cancelled. We will try to keep membership informed as this happens. In the meantime, we are watching carefully as restrictions are lifted.

Hunker down and stay safe. Use your email and phones to stay in contact. Your smiling faces are missed. Hopefully we will be able to soon meet again. Until we can hold our 2020 elections, we are asking all current members holding leadership positions to continue in that role.

Warmest regards, until we meet again.
Leadership Team.

Events NOT Upcoming

As of this writing, the **Memorial Day** event in Red Wing and the event at the **A.A. Arnold House** in Galesville, WI, have both been canceled. The status of other events on our calendar is pending.

Organizers from various events have been in touch and tell us they are gathering information and will make decisions based on recommendations of health officials.

Next Meeting

Maybe June? July? 11:00am

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



Battery Profile

Ever M. Johnson

Ever was a Norwegian immigrant to Minnesota and was farming near Spring Grove in Houston County when the conflict between the Dakota Indians and the settlers of Minnesota broke out. Recruiting began immediately for a regiment of mounted rangers to fight the Dakota and Ever decided to enlist. He joined Company A of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers on September 27, 1862. This regiment served under General Henry Sibley and fought their battles against Indians instead of Southerners.

Ever had served just over one year with the Rangers when he, and the rest of the unit, was mustered out on October 20, 1863. The Indian conflict in Minnesota was over and Ever went back to Spring Grove.

Late the next summer, Ever was in Rochester and decided to enlist once more, this time to fight in the South. He was paid \$33.33 of a promised \$100 bounty for agreeing to serve one year with the Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery. Ever was 21 years old, had dark hair, gray eyes, and a dark complexion. He stood 5' 6" tall.

The time spent in the Battery was uneventful for Ever as the Battery was assigned to garrison duty for most of that last year of the war. Ever was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865. He went back to farming in Spring Grove.

On September 23, 1866, Ever married Maria Clements of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. By 1878, they decided to move further west and they had four children when they arrived in Polk County, Minnesota. Ever continued to farm until after 1900 when he retired. He, Maria, and daughter Anna moved into a home on Walnut Street in Grand Forks.

Ever was active in the Willis A. Gorman Post of the G.A.R. and the Baptist Church, both in Grand Forks.

In 1911, Ever became ill and nothing seemed to help. He died after several months of illness on September 26, 1911. He was laid to rest in the Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks, the first burial in the Johnson family plot that would eventually hold Ever, Maria, and three of their children. His grave is marked with a stone noting his service in the cavalry, but his service with the Second Battery is not noted. Also of interest in the spelling of Ever's name. Throughout his records, his name is spelled with an "E" to make his name "Ever." The only known record of a different spelling is on his grave stone where the "E" is an "I" and makes his name Iver instead of Ever. How this happened or what name he used in life is unknown.



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*This is the second in a "series" of men named Johnson to appear in the Action Front. Just for fun, the next issues will also feature men with the surname of Johnson as proof of the immigration patterns that still echo through Minnesota today. Need more proof?! Look up Johnson in your local phone book!*



# Second Battery Minnesota Volunteers

Submitted by John Cain

I trust this finds you all in good health and bug free. I am responding to our meeting last November in which we discussed the condition of our Battery Guidon in that it has faded from sunlight over the years.

With the approval of the membership, I began a search for a new guidon from the Annin Flag Company which was producing these during the Civil War sesquicentennial of regulation size. I found that Annin was now a flag supplier and no longer making these guidons for the public. This would require special pricing as a custom flag. Therefore, I pursued another course and contacted Bill Dalin who does have these regulation guidons as well as regulation regimental Civil War flags. He offered to donate two guidons to the Battery and has since sent us one.

These guidons are made for a special pole with a pole hem sewn in and this has presented us with challenges in removing the hem and resewing the header into a tie —on guidon. With the help of Becky Loader, we managed to accomplish this by pony express and in short order. The next challenge was to paint stars and the name of the Battery onto the face of the guidon. This is somewhat a more meticulous effort along with the proverbial OOOPPss and breaks for headache relief. However, success is in the photo of our new Guidon. I hope everyone concurs.



We also discussed Flank Markers as per regulation in 1861. These flags were more known with the infantry in a line of battle. A sergeant on each end of the line placed these flags in the barrel of his musket to mark the extreme ends of the regiment so that a colonel could see both limits through the smoke. The artillery also used these at the beginning of the war for the same purpose, but given the chaos of a battle line and the necessity of moving artillery to points where needed, these flags were usually left in the rear and not used in Battery. Keep in mind that batteries were under the control of a regimental commander up until General Hunt reorganized the Artillery as an arm of the Army. Batteries would be distributed to regiments as needed. As the war progressed, artillery was

sometimes used as siege or massed batteries and not on line with the infantry. A massed battery could contain up to 24 guns as was the case at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. With guns fourteen yards apart, it was necessary to mark each end of the artillery regiment with a flag of some design.

At the start of the war, regulations did not specify a design and therefore it became the prevue of the commander to design his own. This changed in late 1862 when regulations stated that flank markers would reflect the national colors. These were made of very cheap material and often wore out before their time. Commanders were allowed to maintain their markers often at their own expense. There is no record of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battery having these markers, but they were required by regulation and we must assume they were made at Jefferson Barracks or in St. Louis, Missouri when being outfitted.

These designs represent what they may have looked like. They do identify the Battery and we will be using these as camp colors when we have a camp setting at upcoming events.

Respectfully  
submitted,  
John Cain, Lt.



**Editorial comment:**  
*These look AMAZING!  
Excellent work, Lt!  
Can't wait to see them  
in person!*



## **Battlefield Preservation**

Submitted by Brian Tomashek

Hello all. I am submitting this for the Battery newsletter that is more of a press release than an informational article.

An opportunity has come up for the American Battlefield Trust to save (purchase) land at two battlefields that the 2nd Battery was engaged in—Perryville, Kentucky, and Stones River, Tennessee.

My emphasis for this news item is more towards the Perryville battlefield, given that it is a state park whereas Stones River is a National Battlefield administered by the National Park Service. But land is land, so when the opportunity to add acres to a park comes up, it is all important.

For me, the Perryville battlefield is special. To have participated in several reenactments at the Perryville site, where the event is held on the actual ground where it was fought in 1862, it makes for a more unique experience.

The American Battlefield Trust has been able to save over 1100 acres to add to the state historic site. Some of those acres include the Russell House, where our group is in the process of installing a monument to commemorate 2nd Minnesota Battery's involvement in the battle. This opportunity may not have been possible if not for the Trust having the funding to purchase the land when it went up for sale. That funding comes from various sources, one of which is donations from the public.

I ask that you consider making a donation to the Trust in its efforts to save more land at Perryville and Stones River. Your donation can go directly to the effort to save this particular hallowed ground.

Please visit the American Battlefield Trust's website and its webpages for Perryville and Stones River.

<https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/perryville-battlefield>

<https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/stones-river-battlefield>

Best regards,

Brian Tomashek



***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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## **Civil War Podcasts**

Submitted by Jim Morgan

Civilwarpodcast.org is a great series with short episodes weekly, I highly recommend them. They also do book reviews on the show. I thought our members might like to check it out during this corona down time

[http://civilwarpodcast.org/?fbclid=IwAR0g-MmjOEHYTWrwMxtezrmmNZaPIGXivHpVlrVHBb-9DZg\\_sFw5\\_fqEgHQ](http://civilwarpodcast.org/?fbclid=IwAR0g-MmjOEHYTWrwMxtezrmmNZaPIGXivHpVlrVHBb-9DZg_sFw5_fqEgHQ)



**The Civil War**  
**(1861-1865):**  
**A History Podcast**