



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 289

June 2021

On This Date-160 Years Ago

The watchword in both North and South was “Prepare!” But neither side yet understood for what. Parades and speeches, bright flags and gaudy uniforms were all the rage and patriotism was running high everywhere.

Tennessee was a state divided with the eastern part voting against secession two-to-one and the rest voting in large majority to withdraw from the Union.

A small battle was fought at Big Bethel, Virginia on June 10, but the casualties on both side combined totaled less than 100. It was a Federal defeat, if such a small encounter could be called that. The South of course took it as a sign of good things to come.

More skirmishes in Missouri and Virginia dotted the countryside, but none were significant in the larger scope of things to come. On June 17, Thaddeus Lowe demonstrated what could be observed with the aid of a hot air balloon to the War Department and President Lincoln.

On the final evening of the month, a brilliant comet blazed across the skies, visible to both North and South. Scientists were surprised to see it and many people saw it as an omen. Some took it to be an omen of good luck for their cause, while others saw it as a warning of terrible things to come. Whether it was an omen or a simple astronomical phenomenon was debated by scientists and theologians through the country as the comet “took the country by storm” according to one news report.

Upcoming Events

June 19 A.A. Arnold House, Galesville, WI
19408 Silver Creek Road, Galesville, Wisconsin

We will set up several learning stations on the lawn of this historic house and fire on a schedule throughout the day. The site is open to the public from 10:00 to 3:00. Please arrive by 9:00 am to help with set up. There is a meal available for purchase at the site or you may bring your own period picnic.

The highlight of the day will be the First Brigade Band who will be playing a half hour concert on the lawn at 11:00! This band plays authentic Civil War music on period instruments. If you have heard them before, you know what a treat this is and if you haven't heard them, don't miss this chance!

The flyer for the event is included on the last page of this newsletter.

Please respond to Daryl with your intentions for attending this event.



(Not the First Brigade Band, just a band of the era!)

Next Meeting

June 26, 2021 11:00am

The meeting will be held at Colvill Park in Red Wing, MN, and will follow CDC guidance for masks and social distancing.

Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items.
651-388-2945.



Battery Profile

John Handy

John was farming in Utica, Winona County, Minnesota, when he decided to go to Rochester and enlist in September of 1864. His wife, Thankful Johnson, had died earlier that year on February 21. Whether it was a need for the bounty money, patriotism or loneliness that prompted John to enlist is unknown, but he was mustered into the Second Battery on September 2, 1864. He received a bounty of \$33.33 with \$66.67 due. The descriptive role put him at 5' 11" tall, with brown eyes, dark hair and dark complexion. He was born on March 9, 1837 in Ohio.

John did not enlist in the Battery alone. Many men from Winona County served in the Battery, one of them being John Kelley. The Kelleys were friends of the Handys and attended the funeral of Thankful. John Kelley and John Handy enlisted on the same day, though not at the same place.

The rank John held throughout his year of military service was that of private. He was discharged with the Battery at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865. John may not have gone back to Winona County. If he did, he did not stay there long as he was living in Martin County, Minnesota, later that same year. On December 9, 1866, John married Harriet Cusick with the Kelleys in attendance at the wedding.

John and Harriet settled down to farm in Martin County. They had four children and kept in touch with the Kelleys as the years went by. Eventually, the Handys moved west and were living in North Yakima, Washington, when John died from throat cancer on November 7, 1898. His obituary noted that John died not from the cancer, but from not being able to take in enough nourishment to keep him alive.

Harriet applied for a widow's pension and it was granted. The sheriff described her biggest asset, a piece of land John had taken under the Oregon Timber Culture Act. The 160 acres of land was in Morrow County, Oregon, "on which there is about twenty acres in hay, but the crop was so short last year it would not pay for harvesting. This is desert land and until it can be irrigated it is almost useless. The reason there is no taxes."

John was cremated and his ashes were not buried. It is believed the remains were sprinkled in some place John thought special as no grave site has been found.

A Few Grim Statistics

From: 101 Civil War Facts [101 Civil War Facts, Trivia, and History | FactRetriever](#)

The Civil War was the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil. During an average day during the war, approximately 600 people were killed. By the end of the war, over 618,000 people had died. This is more Americans than WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War combined.

During the Civil War, 2% of the U.S. population died. This is equivalent to 6 million men today. While rifles were the deadliest weapons during the war, disease killed more men. Camps became breeding grounds for measles, chicken pox, and mumps. One million Union soldiers contracted malaria.

One of every 65 Federals and 1 of every 45 Confederates were killed in action.

A Civil War soldier's chance of surviving the war was about 1 in 4.

More Americans died at the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania, Virginia, in May 1864 than at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944.

The most common operation performed on soldiers during the Civil War was amputation. The best surgeon could have a limb severed and discarded within five minutes. Civil War doctors were nicknamed "sawbones." There were 60,000 partial or complete amputations during the war.

Knitting Army Socks

From the Facebook page of Historic Huguenot Street

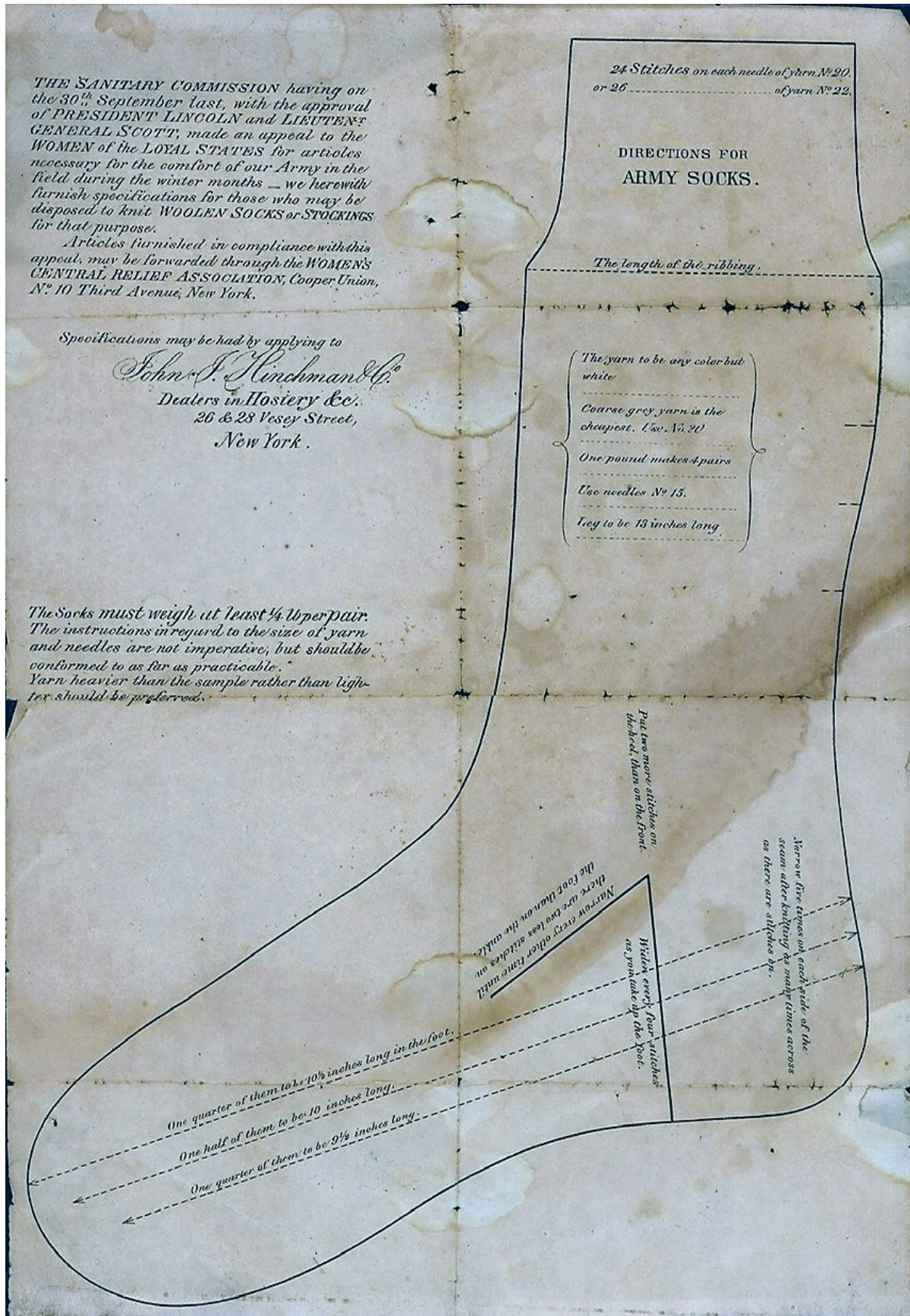
This sock pattern, made available through the John I. Hinchman Store in New York City, was part of a large effort of the United States Sanitary Commission, a civilian organization that provided medical and sanitary relief to sick or wounded

Union soldiers during the Civil War. The pattern came with a small yarn sample attached to illustrate the reference color and weight of the yarn. The measurements indicate a small, medium, and large sizing. It was also published in the "American Agriculturist" December 1861 issue for further distribution.

Finished socks were sent to the Women's Central Relief Association (WCRA) for distribution and from 1861-1863, they handled over 90,000 pairs of socks! This is in addition to the many other items made and donated by women during the war. The WCRA was founded by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States.

The No. 15 is no longer standard, but maybe either the U.S. Steel or Bell Gauge system, which indicated the required needles to be either 1.5mm or 1.75mm, the modern equivalent is 00 or 000 size needles.

Okay, ladies! Get those knitting needles warmed up! The pattern was put here are nearly full size so it will be easy for you all to read and follow!



Recap

May 1 Gamehaven Scout Camp, Rochester, MN

The weather was hot and windy, so we had to do our best to shout over it while tightening up the ropes on our flies. We did ten sessions of 30 minutes each for about 250 scouts. The kids were great listeners (especially since we couldn't let them handle anything) and had good questions.

We had a "disguised soldier" in the form of Rhondalynn Bartlett. She was the artillery soldier during the sessions, but came back for the larger group gathering as a young woman wearing a modern day dress. Linnea Schmit participated in a school type event for the first time, interpreting picking lint and rolling bandages. Both did outstanding jobs interpreting history! It was also really nice to see some members in camp that have not been able to join us for quite some time.



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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June 19, 2021

Founders

DAY CELEBRATION

Galesville Town Square

- 8:00-12:00 Farmers' Market
- 8:00-12:00 Garden of Eatin'
- Sausage & Egg Sandwich Special \$3
- 8:00-3:00 Refreshments Sponsored by
Downtown Galesville Business Assoc.
- 9:00-12:00 Gales Lanes - Sock Bowl \$2
- 9:15-10:15 Music with Dave Kiral
- 10:30-12:30 Gate City Band



1:30-2:30 History Program

Arnold House/East Side Farm

- 19408 Silver Creek Road
- 10:00-3:00 2nd Minnesota Battery
Civil War Encampment
Cannon Firing at 11:30 & 2:30
- 11:00-11:30 1st Brigade Band
- 11:00-2:00 Stew Lunch \$7
- Beverages & Dessert Available
Due to COVID Restrictions House Tours
will not be available for this event

Old Main/Gale College

- 20869 College Avenue
- 2:30-3:30 George & Gertrude Gale
Strawberry Social at Old Main
- Presentation of Twesme Family
Past & Future Horizons Award
- Julia Parker story w/Period Music
- Wreath Laying & Taps at Grave
- Old Main Painting & Art Show
- Strawberry Dessert
- 3:30-4:00 1st Brigade Band

Galesville Fire Department

- 20295 W. Mill Road
- Basket Raffles, Selfie Photo Station
- 1941 Fire Truck on Display
- Galesville Historic Fires Display
- 10:00-11:00 Drive-Thru Chicken
- 11:00 'til Gone Chicken-Q \$10
- 12:00-4:00 Polka Music
Featuring "Karl, Ryan & Denny"
- 4:00-10:00 Brats, Burgers & Hotdogs
- 4:00-6:00 Bingo
- 6:00 Cornhole Tournament
- 8:00-12:00 Music with Double Take

Sponsored by

Galesville Area Chamber of Commerce
608-582-2868 / www.galesvillewi.com
Like us on for event updates

Photo Contest

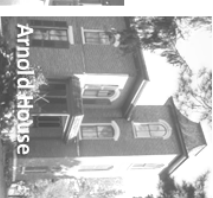
Visit Galesville's Historical Spots
and Enter to Win Cash
-See reverse for details -

Founders Day Photo Contest Details

Take a selfie at each of these four historical locations and stop by the Fire Dept. Selfie Station for a total of 5 photos. Post them to <https://fb.me/O6JIEGMY> and/or to your own page using #foundersdayphotos. You will be entered into a drawing to win \$25.00. Three winners will be chosen.

Deadline is Saturday, June 19 at 12:00 PM. Winners will be announced Sunday. Have Fun and Good Luck.

Please don't do anything that could damage property like climbing on statues or fences or walking thru flower beds. These entries will be disqualified.



In 1864 eighteen men from the Brodhead Brass Band enlisted in the Union Army as the band of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 15th Army Corps. They left their rural Wisconsin homes to participate, under the command of General William T. Sherman, in the campaigns of Northern Georgia and the Carolina's. The "Tradition of Excellence" that these men established, more than 130 years ago lives on today with the members of the 1st Brigade Band.

The band MAKES HISTORY LIVE by presenting period brass band music, performed on antique instruments. Attired in uniforms and gowns, the Band's musicians, color guard, and costumed ladies take you back to the 1860's; to that turbulent era known as the Civil War. A nostalgic portrayal of the atmosphere of days gone by is generated by a unique form of showmanship that blends the sights and sounds of the period with historical anecdotes.

More than eighty volunteers, men and women, make up the 1st Brigade Band.

Widely varied in age and occupation, they come from many communities, bringing with them a common interest in their musical heritage. While the abundant written and pictorial materials remain, the mellow sounds of the brass bands of the 1860's were lost until the 1st Brigade Band, starting in 1964, began to locate and restore the dented and broken instruments and to retrieve and reconstruct the yellowed and torn music. Through their work you can now hear what Presidents Lincoln and Davis, Generals Lee and Grant, and their contemporaries heard.

Learn more at
www.1stbrigadeband.org

