



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 292

September-October 2021

On This Date-160 Years Ago

October 1861

On October 18th, 1861, William Hotchkiss, a farmer, former editor, and possible land dealer from Monticello, Minnesota, went to Fort Snelling and was formally mustered into the Army. It was the first official step in the process he'd started several months earlier.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, William decided to use his experience gained in the Mexican War to lead an artillery unit from Minnesota. Years after the war, William wrote about his efforts at raising the first Minnesota light artillery unit.



Maj. W. A. HOTCHKISS.

In the summer of 1861, soon after President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion, I went to St. Paul and, through Gov. Ramsey, telegraphed to the Secy of War a tender of a Bty of Light artillery from Minnesota. It was promptly accepted by telegraph and I commenced recruiting, mustering in as a private with my first detachment. After enlisting 47 men entitling me to a first lieutenants commission I allowed myself to be overreached and cheated of that battery.

Command of the First Minnesota Battery went to Emil Munch, the unit mustering into U.S. service on November 21, 1861.

William was not made a member of that unit. He succeeded *“in getting recognized as the 2 Bty by the Secy of War and was commissioned Captain Jan'y 14, 1862.”* He finally had his commission and his command. He'd had to do a lot more recruiting to get 81 men enlisted for his Battery before it rated a captain. With help from two men, Richard Dawley from Winona County and Albert Woodbury from Anoka County, Hotchkiss was able to fill his Battery and see it mustered into service by March of 1862.

Upcoming Events

November 5-7, Pier 55, Red Wing., MN

We will provide a Civil War Learning Experience for the Pier 55 Red Wing Area Seniors. The address is 240 Harrison Street. The intent is to display the 12 Pdr Mountain Howitzer, dioramas, firearms, uniforms & equipment, quilts, SAS and any other Civil War items. Setup will be in their large exercise room and will take place after 10:00am on Thursday, November 4. There will be no scheduled presentations of information. Our members are asked to volunteer in their period clothing and be available to answer any visitor's questions. The event timing is Friday & Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm and Sunday 10:00am – 2:00pm. We will solicit volunteers during our October meeting.

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. Those attending should arrive at the park by 10:00 to unload the gun and be ready for the program that starts at 11:11 am.

This event goes on rain or shine and is a honor to participate in. If you have not attended this event before, it is both an honor and an incredible experience to hear the gun volleys echo off the river valley's bluffs.

Next Meeting

October 23, 2021 11:00am

The meeting will be held at Marie's Underground Grill in Red Wing.

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



Battery Profile

Henry R. Rouse

Henry was born in Kinderhook County, New York, on March 30, 1825. He grew up and was educated in New York, and married Sarah Miller Bertrand there in October of 1850. Their only child was born on August 1, 1851, a daughter named Mary Candace.

One story about Henry says he came to Minnesota in 1853 or 1854. Apparently, Sarah and the baby were not with him at the time as he and another man took a job to help Edward Cutts move his goods and animals to his claim. It was February of 1854 and the men started out from Hastings with a yoke of oxen, a cow, a pony, supplies on a sled. *"They spent much of the first day shoveling their way through snow banks and struggling to keep on the trail. As it was starting to get dark, they heard a pack of wolves and were afraid the wolves would attack them. The men prepared to defend themselves and the animals with an ax and a pistol, but the wolves crossed the trail further ahead and did not bother them. The next day, the snow gave out and they struggled to pull the sled over bare ground. Their camp that night was on the prairie and they had to scrounge every bit of wood, including what they could spare of the sled stakes and the hay they were carrying, to make a fire to keep warm. The travels dismayed the cow and oxen and those animals took off in the night heading back toward Hastings. Mr. Cutts took the pony back after the cattle. Before they reached Faribault, they gave up on using the sled and got a wagon instead and it was in that manner that they finally got Mr. Cutts to his property where he began to build."*

Henry did not stay with Cutts, instead settling in Pilot Mound Township in Fillmore County. There, Henry was not just another settler. He became the justice of the peace under the territorial government of Minnesota and oversaw disputes in that area. One case that was tried before him was noted in local lore as testimony to his wisdom. When the case was spelled out, it became so obviously both parties were at fault that Henry fined the plaintiff and the defendant, dividing the cost between them. It was a popular verdict with the people and even the men fined left satisfied with the verdict.

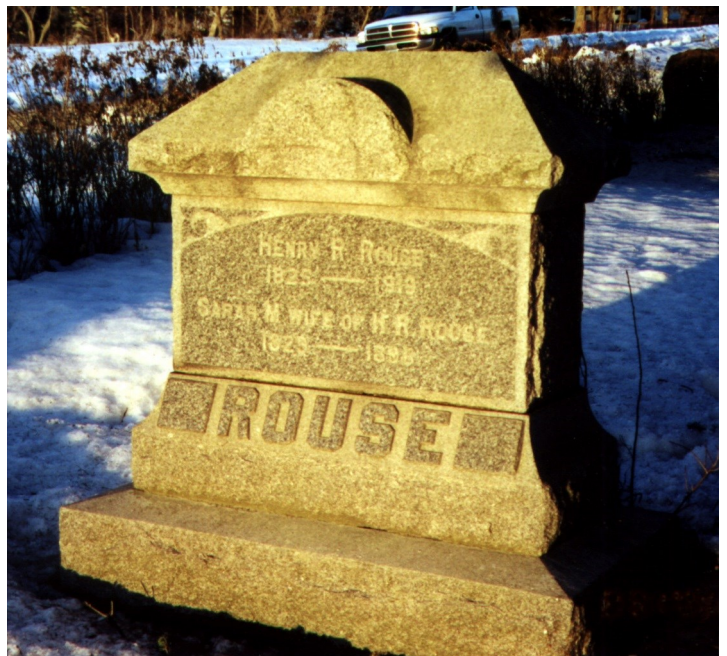
The first school was organized in March of 1857 at a meeting in Henry's home and he supported education in the district they called #56.

It also fell to Henry to call to order the first meeting of the town when it was organized in May of 1858 and he presided over the vote naming the place Pilot Mound. There were 58 ballots cast. It is not clear when Sarah and their daughter came to Minnesota, but both were living with Henry in Fillmore County in 1860. At some point, Henry and Sarah adopted a son, but neither child outlived Henry.

With a history like that, it was probably no surprise that Henry was one of the early men to enlist in what would become the Second Minnesota Battery. He was mustered into the service on February 20, 1862. At the time, he was 36 years old, 5' 5-1/2" tall, had gray eyes, light hair and sandy complexion. Despite all the other offices he had held, Henry said he was a farmer.

The time Henry spent in the army was unremarkable. His name appears in the Battery's morning reports once when he arrived at Fort Snelling, when was assigned to the Battery, and once when he returned from detached service. That detached service was because Henry had decided not to reenlist at the end of his three year obligation and was sent to serve with Battery I of the Second Illinois Artillery when the Second Minnesota Battery went home on veteran's furlough. With that separation came an accounting of pay and Henry's was docked \$2.30 for a tent shelter half. In the Illinois Battery, Henry was part of the fighting to take the city of Atlanta, but he was not injured during the war.

After his discharge, Henry went back to Fillmore County and continued to farm. Sarah died in December of 1898 and Henry moved around a bit, living in Chatfield, Sciota Township, and Waterford, all in Minnesota. He also spent some time living with his granddaughter in North Dakota, returning to Minnesota not long before his death on February 24, 1919. Henry's body was brought to Northfield where he buried beside Sarah in the Waterford Cemetery. Since the time of Henry's death, the cemetery has been renamed the Red Rose Cemetery.



The Silent Actions of Dolly Culp

By Jane Malone

Much has been written about the events in Gettysburg in the weeks and months after the battle in July 1863. It took a second army of doctors, nurses, and civilian workers to care for the wounded and the sick. Many of those workers came to Gettysburg from other places, but workers from the town volunteered as well.

In the years following the battle, some residents shared their memories in accounts written for the local newspapers. Some wrote longer accounts, which were printed for family and friends only. Many never put their experiences onto paper. Their activities during the battle and the aftermath were shared only by word of mouth and exist today primarily as family stories recorded by children or grandchildren.

One of those silent actors is Dorothy Culp. We know her story from her great-grandson, Theodore. It was shared on a Culp family history site in an article, *Brother Against Brother*, written by David Culp.

According to census records, Dorothy—or Dolly—Culp was born in Germany around 1831. She was brought to Gettysburg by her parents, Phillip and Maria Snyder, when she was 3. The family settled on a farm along Marsh Creek, and through the 1850s and 60s, they farmed this land in what was then Cumberland Township.

Dolly and John Henry Culp were married on September 17, 1850 at St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg. By 1863, they were the parents of five children ranging in age from 1 to 11. They lived on South Washington Street in Gettysburg, close to other Culp relatives and many friends.

On the afternoon of July 1, 1863, when the calls of “get to your cellars” rang out




Members of the Ambulance Corps load wounded soldiers into a horse-drawn ambulance.

across town, the Culps had a serious problem: their house had no cellar. Neighbors offered to share their cellars with the family, so Dolly and her children—Henry, John D., Anna Maria, Sophia, and James—found refuge with neighbors across the street. John went to his blacksmithing and wheelwright shop.

Dolly decided that her children needed more comfort in the damp cellar they were sharing, and she returned to her home for blankets and quilts. As she ran back to her home, a sniper's bullet whizzed past her head. Safely back in the neighbor's basement, Dolly realized that the bullet actually grazed her head above her ear, removing a lock of hair. The lock never grew back. When the Culps returned home on July 4, they found that their house had been ransacked by Confederate troops. There also was little of value left in the shop.

On the battlefield, a crisis was unfolding. Thousands of wounded men needed transportation from where they

fell to field hospitals where they could be evaluated and treated. Dolly, who could drive a team of horses, volunteered to drive an Army ambulance to help in this task. Family lore suggests that she made many trips bringing wounded men to the “White Church” field hospital complex west of town.

As with so many town residents, much of what Dolly did during these July days has gone unrecognized. Without the many hands who hauled, nursed, fed, shoveled, and searched, the death toll after this great battle likely would have been higher. We are grateful for the family records that help us understand how those who did not publicly share their stories were part of the community's commitment to the soldiers who fought here. 

Jane Malone is a member of the Adams County Historical Society Board of Trustees.

Recap

July 31, Veterans Salute, Elba, Minnesota

It was 70 degrees and mostly sunny when members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery arrived in Elba. The Whitewater River Fest was already in full swing in Elba with a softball tournament on the North end of Main Street (HI 74) and a volleyball tournament in the Veterans Memorial Park. The haze in the sky we saw all along the Mississippi River on our trip down HI 61 had mostly faded in the lush valleys of Whitewater State Park. As we drove down HI 74, Minnesota's only remaining gravel state highway, we saw numerous trout fishermen trying their luck in the Whitewater River.



Main Street was already filled with vehicles more than quadrupling the city population of 152 citizens. After we unloaded and placed the two cannons, gun crew assignments were determined. Serving the 12 Pdr Mountain Howitzer: Cpl James Livingstone, Bvt Pvt Daryl Duden, Pvt Ken Cunningham and Pvt Mikaela Livingstone. Serving on the 10 Pdr Parrott Rifle: Pvt Brian Tomashek, Pvt Neil Bruce, Pvt Michael Ritchie and Bvt Pvt John Cain. A decision was made to have the soldiers pulling the lanyard wear the artillery haversack and distribute the rounds on each gun. We put on our artillery shell jackets and at 10:30 am fell in on our guns. A color guard from the

Millville Valley American Legion Post #579 raised our American flag as a trumpeter played the 'National Anthem'. The trumpeter continued with 'To the Colors' as the MIA/POW flag was raised. Then flags of the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard and US Merchant Marine were raised. With all the flags raised, the formal program began with a brief prayer. Two speakers said a few words and then it was time for our three volleys. On the second volley we had a brief delay with a misfire on the 10 Pdr Parrott. The third volley was fired and the trumpeter immediately began playing 'TAPS'. The program continued with a presentation of plaques to two local volunteers by the Elba Community Outreach. The priest provided a Benediction and then invited the entire audience to join him in singing "God Bless America." Everyone was thanked for their participation and they "passed a hat" for an honorarium for the 2nd Minnesota Battery. Numerous people visited with Battery members following the ceremony. Members of the American Legion from both Millville MN and Mazeppa MN inquired if our organization would be available for 2022 veteran tributes in their communities. As we loaded our two cannons and limber back on their trailers, a woman representing the Elba Community Outreach asked to see Daryl Duden and handed him a "roll of bills." The result of "passing the hat" in this patriotic community was a donation to the Battery in the amount of \$707.00.

Respectfully submitted,
SGT Duden



Aug 28-29, Morristown, MN, Ahlman's Shooters Roundup

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery began arriving at Fort Ahlman in Morristown for the 2021 Shooters Roundup at 4:30pm on Friday August 27. Because there was the threat of rain, we decided to set up a second fly. All the cooking would be done using charcoal briquettes. Daryl Duden, John Cain, James Livingstone and Bruce Arnoldy set up and moved into their A tents.

As we were setting up tents, Larry Ahlman stopped by and thanked us for our early arrival. Larry indicated that most of the entertainment and presenters only receive an invitation to attend every other year or in some cases every three years. Our incredible ability to consistently fill the grandstands and the fact that every year his patron's indicate we are their favorite attraction has earned us an annual invitation. Before he left us, Larry Ahlman extended an invitation for 2022, which will be our eighteenth year at



Recap, Continued

Shooters Roundup. Jim Morgan arrived in camp Friday evening and indicated he would be sleeping in his vehicle onsite all weekend. His arrival was not the only arrival causing some excitement in camp. Just before dark, Trevor Kanewischer and his Waseca Sno-Biz Shaved Ice truck arrived.

The skies were threatening, but Friday evening remained dry. Early Saturday morning, just in time for breakfast, Thomas and Linnea Schmit arrived in camp. Shortly after breakfast Bart Hoekstra and Michael Ritchie arrived. Bart set up a cot in the log house and Michael indicated he would be driving back and forth from his home for the weekend. All our volunteers for the weekend were now in camp.

With some new entertainment on the schedule, including Captain Jack Sparrow and his pirate cohorts, our firing schedule was modestly changed. We would be conducting our firing demonstrations at 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:45pm and 4:00 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Shoot the cannon; grab a shaved ice was the drill. Saturday afternoon we had a nice surprise. Battery members Neil Bruce, Rose King-Bruce, John Crozier and Brenda Crozier visited our camp. Neil Bruce indicated they saw we had enough men for a gun crew and they decided to attend as spectators. About 5:00pm, as we were walking up to the Lucky Lady Saloon for the annual pork tenderloin dinner, the heavy rain that was forecasted began. It rained hard for over an hour. After dinner, as we walked back to camp, the rain began again. By 9:30pm, we each had a river running through the middle of our A tents. Any gear left on the ground was soaked, but we all managed to carry our cots inside the log house to sleep. There was a great lightning show all night, but Sunday, the bright sun dried everything off and we were able to pack dry canvas for our trip home.

Respectfully submitted,
SGT Duden



Flynn Family Gathering – September 18, 2021

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery gathered at 3:00pm on the Flynn Family farm in Welch, MN, to fire a three round salute to honor Carl (Ole) Flynn and Pat Pepin following a brief ceremony to renew their commitment vows. The event had a Civil War theme because "Ole" had family members who served in the 5th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Ole is very interested in his family's CW connection. He showed us his GAR book and the picture of his great, great grandfather who served in the 5th MN Infantry.

The setting was near the family farm house on their 314 acre farm. The gravel driveway was through the middle of a large corn field. They had two awnings set up in the yard filled with tables full of food. The Master of Ceremonies and musicians were set up in the doorway of one of the barns on the right. Our gun and limber were positioned on the left side of the awnings. Daryl Duden, Michael Ritchie, Ben Norman, Thomas Schmit, John Cain and James Livingstone participated as members of the gun crew. B.J. Norman and Linnea Schmit were also in attendance. When the ceremony was over Battery members were invited to join the Flynn family and guests in a buffet lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
SGT Duden



The young woman in the mauve dress with B.J. is Pat's daughter, Kristina. She modified her dress from a wedding dress and dyed it herself.

Receipts, &c.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR SOUPS AND STOCK.

ALTHOUGH celery may generally be obtained for soup throughout the year, it may be useful to know that dried celery-seed is an excellent substitute. It is so strongly flavored that a drachm of whole seed will enrich half a gallon of soup as much as will two heads of celery.

Mushrooms are much used, and when they cannot be obtained fresh, mushroom catsup will answer the purpose; but it should be used very sparingly, as nothing is more difficult to remove than the over-flavoring of catsup.

A piece of butter, in proportion to the liquid, mixed with flour, and added to the soup when boiling, will enrich and thicken it. Arrowroot, or the farina or flour of potato, is far better for the thickening of soups than wheaten flour.

The finer flavoring articles, as catsup, spices, wines, juice, etc., should not be added till the soup is nearly done.

A good proportion of wine is, a gill to three pints of soup; this is as much as can be used without the vinous flavor predominating, which is never the case in well-made soups. Wine should be added late in the making, as it evaporates very quickly in boiling.

Be cautious of *over-seasoning* soups with pepper, salt, spices, or herbs, for it is a fault that can seldom be remedied; any provision over-salted is spoiled. A tea-spoonful of sugar is a good addition in flavoring soups.

Vermicelli is added to soups in the proportion of a quarter of a pound for a tureen of soup for eight persons; it should be broken, then blanched in cold water, and is better if stewed in broth before it is put into the soup.

If soups are too weak, do not cover them in boiling, that the watery particles may evaporate; but if strong, cover the soup-kettle close. If they want flavor, most of the prepared sauces will give it to meat soups, and anchovy with walnut catsup and soy will add to those of fish, but must be used sparingly.

If coloring be wanted, a piece of bread toasted as brown as possible, but not blackened, and put into soup to simmer for a short time before its going to be served, will generally be found sufficient. Burnt onions will materially assist in giving a fine brown color to soup, and also improve the flavor, or burnt sugar, the usual browning, may be used.

To clarify soup, put into it, when first set on, the whites of one or two eggs beaten to a stiff froth; skim the pot constantly and the liquor will be clear when strained. Soak the napkin in cold water before you strain hot soup through it, as the cold will harden the fat, and only allow the clear soup to pass through. Clarifying destroys somewhat of the savor of the soup, which ought, therefore, to be more highly seasoned.

It is very usual to put forcemeat balls, of various sorts, into many different soups, for the purpose of improving their flavor and appearance.

There is sometimes great prejudice against the use of particular sorts of seasoning and spices. Garlic is amongst these, and many a dish is deprived of its finest flavor for want of a moderate use of it.

Tomatoes would also be found a great improvement in many kinds of soup. If onions are too strong, boil a turnip with them, and it will render them mild.

In stirring soup, do it always with a wooden spoon.

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By a *tureen of soup* is generally meant three quarts.

Soup-Herb Powder, or *Vegetable Relish*, is an excellent article to keep on hand; it may always be used when fresh herbs cannot be had. Make it in the following manner: Take *dried parsley*, *winter savory*, *sweet marjoram*, *lemon-thyme*, of each *two ounces*; *lemon-peel*, cut very thin and dried, and *sweet basil*, *one ounce* each. Dry these ingredients in a warm (not hot) oven, or by the fire, till you can pound them fine in a mortar, and pass the powder through a hair-sieve. Put this powder in a clean, dry bottle, and keep it closely corked. The fragrance will be retained many months. It is an economical and delicious flavoring.

Stock.—The basis of all well-made soups is composed of what English cooks call "Stock," or broth made from all sorts of meat, bones, and the remains of poultry or game; all of which may be put together and stewed down in the "Stock-pot," the contents of which are by the French termed *Consommé*.

This is chiefly used for the preparation of *brown* or *gravy* soups; that intended for *white* soups being rather differently compounded, though made in nearly the same manner.

Brown Stock.—Put ten pounds of shin of beef, six pounds of knuckle of veal, and some sheep's trotters, or a cow-heel, in a closely covered stewpan, to draw out the gravy very gently, and allow it nearly to dry in until it becomes brown. Then pour in sufficient boiling water to entirely cover the meat, and let it boil up, skimming it frequently; seasoning it with whole pepper and salt, roots, herbs, and vegetables of any kind. That being done, let it boil gently five or six hours, pour the broth from off the meat, and let it stand during the night to cool. The following morning take off the scum and fat, and put it away in a stone jar for further use.

Or: Put into a stewpan a piece of beef, a piece of veal, an old fowl, some slices of ham or bacon, and all the trimmings of meat that can be obtained; add to these materials, where such things are abundant, partridge, grouse, or other game which may not be sufficiently tender for the spit. Put a little water to it, just enough to cover half the meat, and stew very gently over a slow fire or steam apparatus. When the top piece is done through, cover the meat with boiling water or broth; season with spices and vegetables; stew all together for eight or ten hours in an uncovered stewpan; skim off the fat, and strain the liquor through a fine sieve, or woollen *tamie*, known by cooks as a "tammy."

Brown stock may be made from an ox-cheek or an ox-tail, brisket flank, or shin of beef; which will, either together or separately, make a strong jelly, if stewed down with a piece of ham or lean bacon, in the proportion of one-half pound to every seven pounds of meat; but the shin of beef alone will afford a stronger and better flavor.

This stock may also be reduced to a *glaze* by boiling the skimmed liquor as fast as possible in a newly-tinned stewpan until it becomes of the desired consistence and of a good brown color; taking care at the same time to prevent it from burning.

White Stock.—Take *scrag* or knuckle of veal, ox-heel, or calf's-head, together with an old fowl and the trimmings of any white poultry or game which can be had, and lean ham in the proportion of one pound to every fourteen pounds of meat. Cut it all into pieces (add three or four large unroasted onions and heads of celery, with a few blades of mace; but neither carrots, pepper,

With cooler weather coming on, perhaps a new soup receipt is in order! These are from the October 1861, *Godey's Lady's Book*.

A Few Highlights from October of 1861

From the historylearningsite.co.uk

October 1861 saw little decisive military action in the American Civil War though many skirmishes occurred. However, October 1861 did witness something that was to have a major impact on the American Civil War in later years – the promotion of General Tecumseh Sherman as commander of the Army of the Cumberland. Sherman was to make his real mark on the war in 1864. Despite their differences, Lincoln also made McClellan overall commander of the Union army.

1st: President Lincoln met with his Cabinet and senior army figures such as McClellan to discuss a major operation against the Confederates along the east coast. Ironically, Jefferson Davis was doing the same in Richmond regarding an attack against Unionist positions in Virginia as the public in the South were also expecting a major military campaign against the enemy.

3rd: Governor Thomas More of Alabama banned the export of cotton to Europe. He hoped that this would pressure the governments of France and Great Britain to recognize the Confederate government.

4th: The Confederacy signed a number of treaties with Native American tribes that brought these tribes into the war on the side of the Confederacy.

5th: The Cabinet in Washington DC signed a contract for a new type of warship – the Ironclad. The first was called the 'USS Monitor' and had a pair of heavy guns in a revolving turret.

12th: Two commissioners from the Confederacy left the South for Europe. Their task was to increase trade between the South and the UK and France

14th: President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus. Though he did so reluctantly, Lincoln felt that such a move was necessary to the war effort.

21st: A Union force suffered heavy losses at Ball's Bluff. The Union force, commanded by Colonel Edward Baker, believed that it was attacking a small Confederate force. In fact, they advanced into four Confederate regiments. In the confusion that reigned in the Union ranks, many men tried to swim across the river at Ball's Bluff but were drowned. 223 Unionists were killed at Ball's Bluff, 226 wounded and 445 taken prisoner. The Confederates lost 36 men killed. There was an outcry in the North but the Confederate leader at Ball's Bluff, Nathan Evans, was hailed as a hero by the Confederacy.

31st: General Winfield Scott, head of the Union Army, retired at the age of 75. He was replaced by General George McClellan.

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.

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New Tactics for New Weapons

From the Chattanooga Military Park Facebook page

General William Rosecrans, a keen innovator in his own right, noticed the impact of the long range sharpshooters and sought to protect his officers, issuing the following orders in late July:

"In order to prevent the disorganization of the army by its officers being picked off by the enemy's sharpshooters, the following badges of rank are recommended and permitted to be worn as undress uniform in all portions of this army when serving in the immediate vicinity of the enemy; Officers of all grades are authorized to wear single breasted blouses, with the distinctive badges of rank on each shoulder, placed as directed in the Army Regulations, for the badges of rank worn on the epaulette. The rectangle of the shoulder strap being too conspicuous on the field of battle, need not be worn. Second lieutenants will wear a single bar on the right shoulder only...."