



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 303

November 2022

On This Date-160 Years Ago

Remarks for the Month of November, 1862

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 Private Albert Gowdy detailed as Hosp. Steward. Mary -- a contraband -- hired as Hosp. Cook
- 3 recd official information of the discharge of Andrew Bergman, Christopher Blake & Geo. L. Bartholomew --
- 4 Left Artificer A. T. Peck in Hosp. at Bowling Green.
- 5 (In turning over the Command to Lt. Woodbury, by order of Col. Carlin, I report one hundred (100) horses in the Battery for which I have receipted and four (4) horses that have been picked up and had subject to the order of those to whom they belong Capt. Wm. Augustus Hotchkiss, Commanding.)
- 12 Rec'd official information of the discharge of Nicholas Arn for disability by order of Maj. W. H. Spencer . 3rd Ky. Vols
- 13 D. W. Coulthard taken to Hosp. at Nashville, Tenn.
- 18 Recd official Notice of Discharge of Jos. Bernard
- 19 Lt. Woodbury appointed brig Inspector on Col. Carlin's Staff -- -- G. W. Townsend on detached service
- 25 Recd official notice of discharge of private Carl M. Olson on the 20th Oct 1862 and also of the discharge of James Green on the 6th Nov 1862 -- both on Surg. Certif. of disability.
- 26 Lauritz Olsen returned to duty from Hosp. -- Corp. Nichols, privates M. Blesi and Jas. S. McKinney taken to Hospital at Nashville
- 28 Alonzo Spaulding returned to duty from Hosp. (at Jefferson Barracks)
- 29 Received official information of the discharge of Jacob Decondres (June 7, 1862) and Jas. W. Clark (Sept. 11, 1862 by reason of Surgeons certificate of Disability.

Upcoming Events

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

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Elks Club, 306 W 4th Street, Red Wing,
Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items.
651-388-2945.



Battery Profile

Flavel B. Tiffany

Behold now fertile fields, where the red man pitched his wigwam years ago, where the squaw with her tomahawk felled the tree of the primeval forests and hewed shapely and swift-gliding canoes; fashioned the bows and arrows, gathered the wild rice, tilled the patches of Indian corn and took care of the papooses, while the Indian astride his pony scoured the prairies for the deer and the elk, or climbed the rugged hills for antelope and the grizzly, the remains of Indian villages where once lived the aborigines, Indian mounds, in which were found flinted arrow tips and other implements of the chase and of war. These are the remembrances of my early boyhood days, when first we visited the rolling prairies and sky-tinted waters of Minnesota.

Flavel waxed poetic in his lavish descriptions of growing up in Dodge County, Minnesota. He was writing of his childhood for the *Kansas City World* newspaper in the spring of 1898. It was a time of romantic remembrances of the "wild" days of years gone by. Memory, clouded with time, often embellished facts with rosy tints and extravagant language. It was treated as fact, especially coming from a prominent doctor.

Flavel was born in Oneida County, New York, on April 28, 1846. A year later, the Tiffany family moved to Wisconsin where they stayed for seven or eight years, then went west again to settle near Rice Lake in Dodge County, Minnesota. It was the very edge of the frontier in 1855 and Native Americans were certainly neighbors, so the basis of Flavel's story is grounded in fact, however romanticized. He described the Tiffany home as having a dirt floor, packed and worn smooth by countless footsteps until his mother could sweep it like marble.

When the Civil War began, Flavel was too young to enlist, but by 1864, "prompted by a spirit of patriotism" and being 18 years old, he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery. The last year of the war saw the second Battery in no major battles, just garrison duty and scouting missions. Flavel was mustered out in August of 1865.

He went back to school in Faribault, Minnesota, and then to Bishop Whipple's College before taking a teaching job. After three years of teaching, he enrolled at State University in Minneapolis where he became attracted to the medical profession. After completing his studies there and with a preceptor, he attended the University of Michigan and graduated with the class of 1874. His first medical practice was in Michigan, but he soon moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to practice. His next practice was in Medford, Minnesota, but even that did not last long. He wanted to study medicine further, so he went to London to specialize in eye, nose, ear and throat medicine. More studies followed in Paris, Berlin, and Vienna before he returned to the United States in 1878 to settle in Kansas City.

In 1879, Flavel married Olive E. Fairbanks. It was said she presided "with graceful dignity over their pleasant and hospitable home at No. 2457 Troost Avenue" in Kansas City.

Flavel continued to study, especially diseases and problems of the eye. He wrote several books on eyes, helped organize the University Medical College and became the professor of ophthalmology there and at the Woman's Medical College of Kansas City. He was also dean of the Woman's College. He was the "oculist" for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company, was connected to the German and All Saints Hospital, and was the associate editor of the "Eye, Ear and Nose Clinic."

Flavel had traveled all over Europe and had been quite taken with the castles he saw there, so, in 1908, he decided to have his own castle built. It was designed by architect Clifton B. Sloane and cost \$75,000 to build. It had walls of solid stone, floors and roof of poured and reinforced concrete. The only wood in the building were the floors and inside finishes and that was of English oak. The interior finishing alone was estimated to cost \$10,000. The house had 14 rooms including a reception hall, library with



Flavel B. Tiffany.



stone mantle and bookcases, living room, dining room, conservatory with fountain, and a tower. The tower had a spiral staircase and led from the reception hall to the roof. The flat roof was planned so it could be used as a roof garden that could seat 500 people. The front and two sides of the castle had a veranda with an average width of 14 feet and was 112 feet long. There were six bedrooms and a gymnasium planned for the basement.

Not only was Flavel's castle spectacular to look at, it had a spectacular view as well. It was perched on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, some 500 feet above it and the city.

Olive and Flavel moved into what quickly became known as Tiffany Castle in 1909. Olive did not get to enjoy the castle very long as she died at her girlhood home in Massachusetts on August 13, 1910.

Flavel continued to practice medicine in his specialty of eye care. One day, a woman came in for treatment and Dr. Tiffany was the one to see her. She was a high school teacher from Lawrence, Kansas. She was Zoe Clark and they were married in Tiffany Castle on September 12, 1912. They spent their honeymoon on a trip around the world.

Three years later, Zoe gave birth to "Flavel Tiffany III, pronounced one of the most perfect babies in Kansas City" according to the newspaper. It was the first child for Flavel as he and Olive had not had children. Almost three more years passed before Zoe and Flavel had a daughter they named Mary Louise.

Mary Louise was only a few months old when Flavel suffered a "physical breakdown" and decided to retire after 38 years of practice in Kansas City. Just after Christmas of 1917, Flavel became very sick and he went to the hospital. In less than a week, he was dead, the cause listed as hardening of the arteries. He was buried in one of the most prestigious cemeteries in all of Kansas, the Mount Washington Cemetery in Kansas City.

Zoe applied for Flavel's pension benefits for herself and the children, but questions arose quickly. She provided documentation, but no answer was forthcoming from the Pension Department. An attorney wrote a letter on Zoe's behalf, asking what the status of the claim was as "the widow and children of Dr. Flavel B. Tiffany are very much in need of their pension."

The Pension Department took a hard stand. They noted the date of marriage to Flavel as after June 27, 1905. This meant she was not entitled to a pension according to the existing law and because the death of Flavel was not related to any disability incurred while he was in the service.

It was the last notation in the pension file. It is unknown how "much in need" Zoe and the children might have been, but in light of the Castle, honeymoon trip, and other references to finances, it seems difficult to picture them as destitute, though no evidence supports either position.



Monument Dedication

The monument to the Second Minnesota Battery at Perryville, Kentucky, was dedicated 160 years almost to the hour of when one gun section of the Battery fought on that very ground. The marker stands just down the slope from the Russell House on the battlefield, the place where it is believed the guns stood during the battle.

Fourteen members of the Battery, assisted by friends in Battery I, the New Ulm Battery, Minnesota GAR and Womens Relief Corps, and Third Minnesota Infantry, shared the history of the Second Minnesota Battery, what led the Battery to be in that place at that time, and words written about the battle by some of them men themselves. Three volleys were fired—left to right, right to left, and the most perfectly timed final volley from both guns.

It was a very special and moving tribute.

For those who could not be there, the dedication was live streamed on Facebook. This recording will remain on the Battery's Facebook page and can be found under the "Video" tab.



Recap

Perryville, Kentucky October 8-9

Fourteen members of the Battery (including Papa John Fritsche, Brian and Celeste) traveled to Kentucky to participate in the Battle at Perryville and dedicate the marker to the Second Battery. We had clear skies and sunshine for the entire trip, but it was not the warmest outing!

Temperatures fell below freezing at night and there was not much chatting around the campfire in the evening!

Everyone was more interested in crawling into their tents and seeing how many blankets/quilts/great coats/capes, etc. they could pile on to stay warm enough to sleep! The dish rag and water in the dishpan froze solid!!

The dedication went off perfectly and there was even enough cell signal to live stream it! The battles were amazing on the actual ground where the battle was fought with many reenactors taking part.

Overall, it was an awesome event!!



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: 2mnbattery@gmail.com

Battery Website:
<http://www.2mnbattery.org>