



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 317

April 2024

On This Date-160 Years Ago

The Battery was in the news in April of 1864, at least in the St. Cloud area. The following two articles appeared on the 14th and the last one appeared on the 21st.

WILLIAM KINKAD, of the Second Minnesota Battery, just released from a Richmond prison, has been detailed as a Clerk in the War Department at Washington —Pioneer.

We are glad of this promotion of our friend, for he has seen considerable active service and has undergone the miseries of being a prisoner in the hands of the rebels. For almost a year past he has been a clerk in the Annapolis Hospital, and is well qualified to discharge the duties of his new position. He is in the Special Order Bureau of the War Department.

SECOND BATTERY.—The Adjutant has been notified of the re-enlistment of the Second Minnesota Battery, and that the veterans will be furloughed and will arrive in St. Paul about the middle of April.—Ibid.

RECRUITING SERVICE.—A. C. Gowdy and R. D. Bloomfield have been ordered to this State on recruiting service by Maj. Gen. Thomas, and will accompany the Second Battery (veteran) on its return home. We hope to see both of them soon.

Annual Meeting & Elections

Our annual meeting was held on March 23, 2024. The results of the election for the military officers for 2024 were as following:

Lieutenant	John Cain
Quartermaster Sgt.	Ron Graves
Sergeant	Daryl Duden
Corporal	James Livingstone
Corporal	Ron Wendel

Congratulations to these military members for agreeing to serve the Battery.

The second major item on the agenda was to vote on the calendar of events for the 2014 reenacting season. The calendar as approved is on page 3 of this newsletter, though there are two possible additions/changes.

The first possible change involves two events, the events in Canton, South Dakota, and Pilot Knob, Missouri. The consensus at present is that the Battery will officially choose ONE of these events to attend, though which is not yet decided.

The second events (or events) involves history presentations when the riverboat cruises stop in Red Wing. This schedule is not yet set. It is expected that Battery members will be involved and informed when dates and more information is known.

Next Meeting

April 27, 2024 Elks Club, 306 W 4th Street, Red Wing,
Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items.
651-388-2945.



Battery Profiles

William H. Rhineberger

William was only days past his 17th birthday when he joined the 21st Illinois Infantry, Company D, on June 21, 1861. The first major battle of the war (Bull Run) was still a month away and William may well have been caught up in the excitement and adventure enlisting promised. He was 5' 8" tall, had black eyes, dark hair and a dark complexion. He was still living with his parents and siblings in 1860, the third and last child to be born before his mother died. William's father remarried and there were five more children. The family was living in Cass County, Illinois, near Beardstown when William enlisted. It was the only home he would have had any memory of as the family moved there in 1846. They came from Wheeling, Virginia--an area that would become the state of West Virginia. William was named for his father and used his middle initial of H to separate him from his father, though both William's father and grandfather were also named William Rhineberger. William's father was a carpenter, but William told the recruiting officer farming was his occupation. He had been born on June 10, 1844, in Columbus, Ohio.

The duty William drew probably was not his first thoughts upon enlisting, for by September of 1861, he was assigned duty as a nurse in an army hospital. His nursing duties did not last long as he was back with his company to participate in the battle at Frederickstown, Missouri, on October 21, 1861. The battle lasted some three hours as the Union troops pushed the Confederates south of the town. Since the Confederates were already retreating when the battle began, it was only a small fight and there were few casualties, but it was William's first taste of battle. A year later, William and his company saw fighting at Perryville, Kentucky, then at Stones River, Tennessee.

In June of 1863, William was assigned to the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. He served with the Battery during the battle at Chickamauga, though it is not known if he served on the gun or in a support position. An odd note appeared on his muster roll at this time stating, "Deduct price one canteen to be retained by sentence Court Martial." No further explanation or evidence of trouble has been found.

At the end of October, William went back to his infantry company, but was noted as "sick in quarters" on the muster roll for November and December 1863. When William was well, he was once again sent on detached duty, this time with the 101st Ohio Infantry. He did not go alone as those men who had decided not to veteranize with the rest of the 21st Illinois were assigned to active units when the reenlisting regiment went home on furlough. William wrote that the squad he was assigned to did "most of the skirmishing for the said 101st Ohio Vols." It was also where William was wounded in the neck on May 19, 1864. One official report noted him killed and another said he was wounded and missing. Neither report was accurate as William had been wounded, but he had been sent to the field hospital at Kingston, Georgia. William stayed there "10 days or two weeks" and then was ordered to report back to his old regiment to await his discharge. His term of service was up. William received his discharge on the 5th of July, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

William was a civilian again. In May of 1867, he married Marie Richards of Cass County, Illinois. The couple was soon making their home in Lynn County, Kansas, where they had three children. Only one, their daughter, survived infancy. In 1875, they moved back to Illinois and made their home near Beardstown. Marie followed her babies in death on May 13, 1879.

William married a second time on June 7, 1882, at Springfield, Illinois. His new bride was Delia Clark, and together, they had four more children. Again, one baby did not survive infancy. The family remained in Beardstown where William was working as a contractor in 1900. By profession, he was a carpenter and builder.

By 1912, William applied for a pension and in 1926, he was living in the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Quincy, Illinois. At some point, William returned to Beardstown as he died in Cass County on July 7, 1929. He was laid to rest in row 8 of the Oak Grove Cemetery on the edge of Beardstown. He has both a military marker with his service to the 21st Illinois Infantry and a family stone he shares with his wife, Delia. Other family members, including his father and several of his children, lie near him.



2nd Minnesota Battery Light Artillery 2024 Schedule

As approved by membership vote at the annual meeting on March 23, 2024.

- May 9 Durand, WI Pepin County Historical Society Bob Zika
315 W Madison St Durand WI 54736
- May 16 Edina, MN, Avail Academy Zack Peterson
4015 Inglewood Ave S Edina MN 55416
- May 27 Red Wing, MN, 2024 Memorial Day Observance John Cain
Bay Point Park Red Wing MN 55066
- Jun 15 Galesville, WI, Founders Day – A.A. Arnold House Chris Otzelberger **NOT CONFIRMED**
19408 Silver Lake Rd Galesville WI 54630
- Jul 4 Stillwater, MN, 2024 Independence Day Celebration, Battery I 1st US **ON YOUR OWN**
201 Water Street North Stillwater, MN 55082
- Jul 6 Red Wing, MN, Goodhue County History Center John Cain
Family Fun Day 12:00pm – 3:00pm (Saturday)
1166 Oak Street Red Wing MN 55066
- Jul 27 Elba, MN Whitewater River Fest Krystal Marking 507-450-0206
1200 S Main Street Elba MN 55910
(Saturday)
- Aug 17-18 Canton, SD Canton Civil War Days Dave Renli 605-351-4452
North Bridge Street Canton SD 57013
- Aug 24-25 Morristown, MN 2024 Ahlman's Shooters Roundup Mike Ahlman – Stacy Chmelik
9525 230th St W Morristown MN 55052
- Sep 28-29 Pilot Knob, MO 160th Battle of Pilot Knob Terry Cadenbach 573-368-0949
118 E Maple Street Pilot Knob MO 63663
- Nov 11 Winona, MN 2024 Veterans Day – Veterans Memorial Park Brian Tomashek
Lake Park Drive Winona MN 55987



April Fools Day

Our Civil War ancestors loved a good laugh as much as we do! Here are a few examples of 1860s Aprils Fools pranks. (My favorite is the donkey one below!)



Grand Exhibition of Donkeys (1864)

On March 31st, 1864, the *Evening Star* of Islington announced that a "grand exhibition of donkeys" would be held the next day at the Agricultural Hall. Early the next morning a large crowd gathered outside of the hall. Slowly it dawned on them that they themselves were the donkeys.

20 A shameful April fool hoax was perpetrated by a lady in Philadelphia, who sent to the pulpit in a Methodist church, a notice of a meeting to be held in aid of another church. Names of prominent clergymen were mentioned as to take part in the exercises. The preacher read the manuscript to his large congregation without hesitation, until he came to a passage announcing that a certain layman would sing a comic song, when he became confused, suddenly remembered the day and abruptly sat down.

Phony Church Meeting (1866) "A

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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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The Purse on a String Prank (1861)

[Harper's Weekly — Apr 1, 1861]