

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 319

June 2024

On This Date-160 Years Ago

The article below seems to be very straightforward, but when all the actual information is at hand, there are some questions. The article appeared in the *St. Cloud Democrat* on June 2, 1864.

COMMISSIONED.

The following commissions were issued on Tuesday of last week:

Dr. Jno. H. Murphy, of St. Paul, has been commissioned Surgeon in the Eighth Regiment, vice Rieger, resigned.

Sergeant L. W. Tiffany, of Co. H, Ninth Regiment, has been promoted to a 2d Lieutenancy, vice Paulson, resigned.

Alexander Kinkead has been promoted to 1st Lieutenant of the Second Minnesota Battery, vice Richard Dawley; resigned.

John Bull, (late Captain in the First Minnesota,) has been commissioned as 2d Lieutenant in the same battery vice Kinkead.

L. W. Ayer, 1st Sergeant of same, has been promoted to a 2d Lieutenancy in same battery.

Lyman Ayer's promotion was pretty much on time for the paper as he was officially promoted to lieutenant in May of 1864. He was promoted to take the place of Richard Dawley who had resigned in April of 1864. Not bad timing for the distance the news had to travel.

In the reporting of Alexander Kinkead being promoted, the paper is correct, but the date of his promotion was back in September of 1863. Not so timely!

The real question is John Bull. There is NO RECORD of any such man ever serving in the Battery at any time during the war! It makes one wonder who was providing the information to the newspaper?

Upcoming Events

June 15 A.A. Arnold House, Galesville, WI

Arrive by 9am to set up, the event runs 10:00am to 2:00pm. Pack a bag lunch or purchase stew at the site. We will bring the M1861 10 Pdr Parrott Rifle and Limber. The event organizers have asked the ladies to bring quilts and our apothecary while our soldiers provide a couple learning stations and the gun. Other stations are welcome.

July 6 Family Fun Day Red Wing, MN

The program at the Goodhue County History Center (1166 Oak Street) is from noon – 3:00pm. Volunteers are needed. We have been asked to provide 3 or 4 learning stations in addition to firing demonstrations on our M1861 10 Pdr Parrott Rifle.



Next Meeting

June 29, 11:00 am

Elks Club, 306 W 4th Street, Red Wing

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



Battery Profiles

James W Clark

Yes, James was featured in the newsletter before, but there is an important update! We had the wrong one when we searched his grave! There is another James W Clark in a nearby cemetery! The one without a marker in Calvary is not our man, the one in Woodlawn is the man who served in the Battery. His updated biography follows:

James was one of the early recruits to the Second Minnesota Battery, enlisting on Valentine's Day in 1862, more than a month before the unit was official accepted into U.S. service. James was living in Waseca County, Minnesota, when he left his occupation as a mechanic to join the army. He had been born in "Canada West" about 1837, stood 5' 11 ½" tall, had hazel eyes, sandy hair and a light complexion.

When the Battery left Fort Snelling to go south in May, Private James Clark was with them. The Battery's first duty station was Benton Barracks, Missouri, where the unit was outfitted with horses and guns. It was as far south as James would get with the Army.

On May 15, James was thrown from his horse and injured. The muster sheets indicate he may have stayed with the Battery, though injured, before he was taken to the hospital at Jefferson Barracks. Exactly when he went to the hospital is unknown, but he remained for more than two months before he was honorably discharged for disability on September 15, 1862.

A letter from the Battery's lieutenant, Richard Dawley, said he was well acquainted with James and knew that when James enlisted, he was in good health. Dawley wrote, "He (James) enjoyed good health and always was prompt and ready to do his duty as a good and faithful Soldier."

This letter was required by the Pension Department as James first applied for a disability pension in 1862, as soon as he was discharged. The form filed by the examining surgeon said James suffered with heart disease, severe hemorrhoids, and more. He was "unable to do any duty." It is not clear if James received any pension from this application.

What happened next to James is unknown as he left few records about his life from the time he was discharged until he sent in another application for a disability pension in 1882. He was then living in Onondaga County, New York.

James is listed in the 1890 Veterans Census and it notes his service with the Second Minnesota Battery. He was living in Onondaga, New York, at the time of the census. It also noted that he received a disability discharge.

More correspondence with the Pension Department began when a neighbor filed a deposition for James, stating that James was often unable to work at all and had to remain in bed for days at a time with a physician in attendance. The surgeon who examined James agreed James was in very poor health, stating that, "he cannot lace up his shoes, dress or undress himself unassisted. The surgeon said James had a heart murmur, disease of the rectum, rheumatism, and was very deaf in his left ear. The right ear was not much better, only able to hear ordinary conversation at closer than six feet. For each, a degree of disability was assigned: Heart disease 17/18; for disease of the rectum 14/18; for rheumatism 12/18; and for "slight deafness in the left ear" 4/30. The conclusion was that James should get a raise from the \$17 a month he had been received to \$30 a month for a disability pension starting on May 6, 1903.

While little is known about what James did in life, he must have been successful. On August 6, 1904, there are three ads of "Farms for Sale" in the *Post-Standard Newspaper* of Syracuse, New York, all owned by James W. Clark. Each farm listed the buildings, location, distance to larger communities, and special amenities such as distance to the railroad, a river, being on a lake "no better for boating" and "excellent boating." The 60 acre farm was listed for \$50 an acre, the other two properties were listed at flat prices of \$5000 and \$10,000.

Unless those farms sold very quickly, James did not live to see them in the hands of new owners. James died on August 18, 1904. He was laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery on Grant Street in Syracuse, New York. There is a marker on his grave that includes his service with the Second Battery of the style that would have been placed in 1904, but in 1976, a flat granite military marker was requested for James by the cemetery official at Woodlawn Cemetery.

*Special thanks to the Moses A. Baldwin SUV Camp #544 for their help in locating this grave and providing extra information about James.



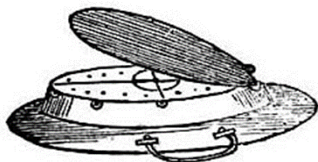
Civil War Era Kitchen Utensils

From as website compilation page: [Civil War Era Kitchen Utensils – A Victorian Passage](#)

While a kitchen should always be well furnished; there is no necessity that it should be profusely so, but there should be a sufficiency of every thing which can aid in producing the dishes preparing, with the success which is so essential to the gratification of the palate.

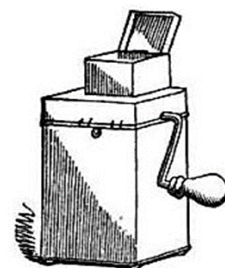
In furnishing a kitchen there should be everything likely to be required, but not one article more than is wanted; unnecessary profusion creates a litter; a deficiency too often sacrifices the perfection of a dish, there should be a sufficiency and no more.

The following articles, of which we have given engravings, are requisite: we are indebted for the designs to the courtesy of Mr. Stephen Wm. Smith, Housekeepers' Furnishing Store, No. 50 Maiden Lane, New York.

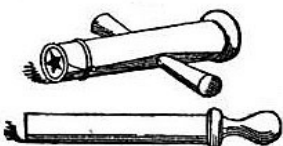


Waffle Furnace. A very ingenious article, making four good-sized waffles with less labor than is required in making one with the ordinary iron.

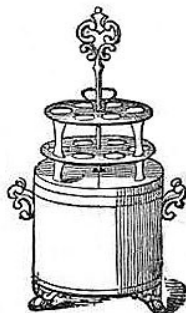
French Julienne Mill. To cut into fine parings of all kinds of vegetables for soup.



French Butter Forcer. There are 12 different forms to each, that giro an infinite variety to this decorative manner of serving butter.



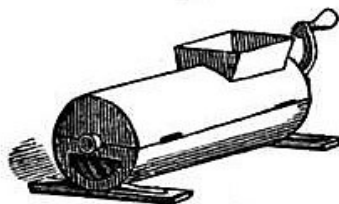
Egg Coddler. To cook eggs on the breakfast table



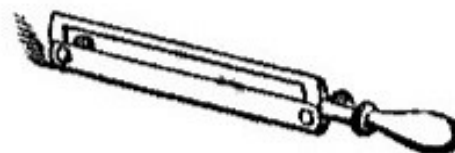
Wine Cooler. For cooling bottles of wine, &c.



Ala Mode Needle & Larding Needle. With split end to draw in strips of fat pork, bacon, &c., into beef for a-la-modng. Larding Needle. Same for poultry, game, &c.



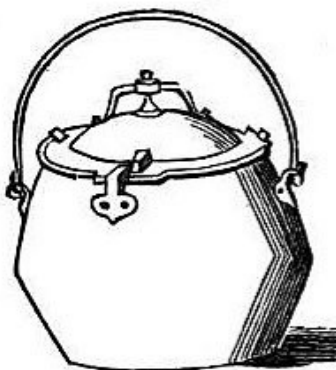
Sausage Meat Cutter. Will cut four pounds of meat per minute for sausage, hash, &c



Bread Slicer. With gauge to slice bread uniformly any desired thickness



French Decorating Knife. To make flowers of carrots, turnips, beets, &c.



Soup Digester. The great importance of this valuable utensil, the Digester not only to poor families, but to the public in general, in producing a larger quantity of wholesome and nourishing food, by a much cheaper method than has ever been hitherto obtained, is a matter of such serious and interesting consideration, as cannot be too earnestly recommended to those who make economy in the support of their families an object of their attention. The chief- and indeed the only thing necessary to be done, is to direct a proper mode of using it to most advantage; and this mode is both simple and easy. Care must be taken in filling the digester, to leave room enough for the steam to pass off through the valve at the top of the cover. This may be done by filling the digester only three parts full of water and bruised bones or meat, which it is to be noticed are all to be put in together. It must then be placed near a slow fire, so as only to simmer (more heat injures the quality,) and this it must do for the space of eight or ten hours. After this has been done, the soup is to be strained through a hair sieve or cullender, in order to separate any bits of bones. The soup is then to be put into the digester again, and after whatever vegetables, spices, &c, are

thought necessary are added, the whole is to be well boiled together for an hour or two, and it will be then fit for immediate use. In putting on the lid of the digester, take care that a mark, thus (X) on the lid, is opposite to a similar one on the digester. The digester may also be obtained to contain from four quarts to ten gallons. There are also saucepan and stewpan digesters to hold from one to eight quarts.

Recap

May 9, Durand, WI

The day was cold, cloudy and a pretty good wind for nearly the whole day, the sun only coming out after the kids were gone. As usual, the kids were not as prepared as they should have been and they were cold in their shorts and tee shirts. It made the Suds Row station their favorite station—beating out even the gun—as that station wrapped the kids up in the SAS quilts and blankets to keep them from shivering!



As in past years, after the kids left at 2:00, the event was opened to the public and we are always surprised to see how many people—and how interested they are—who come on a weekday afternoon to visit with us! We had some great conversations with visitors! This is fast becoming one of our favorite places to go!



May 16, Avail Academy, Edina

It is always fun to visit with the kids at this school! We set up our stations and rotated them though, fielding good questions all day. It was a cool day, so nobody worked up a sweat, but it was warmer than the week before in Durand! We didn't have the wind, so that helped a lot.

It was really nice to have two of our "extended" members join us for the day, Harley and Teresa came up from Albert Lea to help out at our stations.

We are pretty sure that this was the 16th year we have visited this school and it's always a great time!



May 27, Memorial Day, Red Wing

Although there was the threat of rain in the area, the 2024 Red Wing Memorial Day Observance was over before the first drops of rain arrived in Bay Point Park. Our gun trailer arrived on site at 7:00am, which gave us plenty of time to get it unloaded and positioned before the 8:45am program began. During the program this year, battery member Rhondalynn Bartlett read Logan's Proclamation. During the program, the names of forty-eight veterans from Red Wing who passed since last Memorial Day were read. For the three-round cannon salute to our departed comrades, the following members made up our gun crew. #1 Neil Bruce, #2 Daryl Duden, #3 John Cain, #4 Michael Ritchie, G James Livingstone. Mikaela Livingstone was also in attendance at the event. Members suggested it has been a long time since we have had TWO BREVET PRIVATES serving on the gun. The entire crew performed admirably, HUZAH.

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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