

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 164

April 2009

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 4, 2009

MACHE educational event at the River Centre! Here are the nitty gritty details—this is NEXT SATURDAY!!

The gun and booth will be set up on Friday, April 3. If you can help set up, arrive at the River Center between 4 and 4:30 Friday afternoon. The gun will be placed and tarped and the booth organized.

On Saturday, the building opens at 7:00 a.m. and the public comes in at 8:00, so all participants MUST arrive and be set up BEFORE 8:00. For a map and parking info, see the River Centre website at: <http://www.rivercentre.org/parking/>

Those members assigned duties at the February meeting in Red Wing are expected to be there and do their parts!! If an emergency comes up and you are **NOT** going to be in attendance notify John Cain or Daryl Duden **IMMEDIATELY**. *We are counting on you!* See the back page for a detailed list of those with specific roles. All soldiers are needed on the gun crew—everyone else is welcome to help at the booth.

April 24-26 Reenactment at Keokuk, Iowa

This is the annual event in the park at Keokuk. They are moving the battlefield back to the original site instead of the area used last year and are promising a bigger and better event. A head count was taken for attendance at the March meeting. **If you were NOT at the March meeting and you plan to attend this event, YOU MUST CONTACT DARYL DUDEN OR JOHN CAIN ASAP.** Meals are based on those who have indicated their attendance. If we don't know you are coming, we are not planning meals for you!! It is imperative that we get good head counts of who is attending events, so get in the habit of responding now!!

Military Elections

Military elections were held at the March meeting and the following were elected:

Officer	John Cain
QM Sergeant	Jim Rosasco
Sergeant	Daryl Duden
Corporal	Neil Bruce
Corporal	Jay Overby

To be honest, these were the only nominations for the positions, so the boys of the Second Minnesota are holding fast to their aversion to rank!!

On This Date

April 1864

Remarks for the Month of April, 1864

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 2 Johnson returned from Hospt.
- 3 46 men mustered into the U. S. service as Veterans by L. A. Cole A. O. M. 2d Div. 14th A. C. Dept. Cumberland, Station Rossville, Geo.
- 6 Lieut. Chas. N. Earl's resignation accepted to take effect from the 4th day of April 1864 By S. F. O. No. 95 Maj. Gen. Thomas - Cause "For the good of the service"
- 10 Guns, Caissons, etc., turned over to Capt. Barnett 2d Ill Arty Baty I. 40 E.men assigned to Bty I 2d Ill. Arty.
- 11 Left Rossville, Geo. Turned in Horses, Harness, Wagons, etc at Chattanooga Tenn. G. Wiltse G. O. 27. S. W. Lent G. O. 48 trans. V.R.C.
- 12 Lieut. R. L. Dawley resignation accepted to take effect from the 10th day of April 1864. By S. F. O. No. 101 Maj. Gen. Thomas Cause: For the good of the service.
- 13 Arrived at Nashville, Tennessee enroute for St. Paul Minn.
- 14 Arrived at Louisville 7 p.m.
- 15 Veterans Paid off by Capt. Hotchkiss
- 16 Clothing issued to men at Louisville. Jos. C. Varney reported in for duty.
- 18 7 E/men left on Furlough: Wm S. Wardwell, J. W. Johnson, N. D. Merrill, C. S. Waldron, L.B. Goodell, J. H. Longworth. R. D. Bloomfield
- 23 The remainder of the Command furloughed for thirty (30) days in the State of Minn.

Next Meeting

No meeting in April.
Please see the **Coming Events** and respond to those events you will be attending.



History on the Road

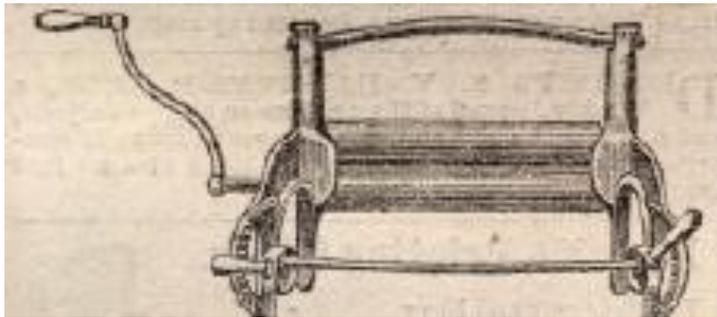
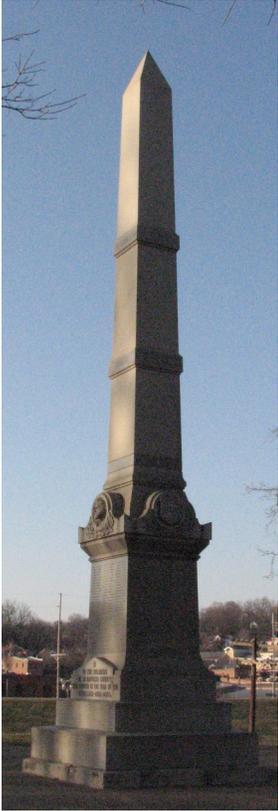
On a recent road trip to Galena, Illinois, Miss Mandy and Mrs. Wendel discovered this Napoleon in "Grant Park." The park has artillery pieces from various time periods, but it was this Napoleon that caught their interest most. This history of the gun was provided on a marker placed near it.

The tube was cast in 1862 at the Eagle Foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio. It served in the Civil War, but which unit might have used it has been lost. In April of 1865, the War Department presented this gun to the City of Galena in recognition of the soldiers that came from the town—including General U.S. Grant. (There were eight other generals who all called Galena home, but Grant's fame eclipsed the rest into obscurity.) When Jefferson Davis was captured in May of 1865, the citizens of Galena fired this gun in celebration.

The gun was then put on display at the county fairgrounds where it remained until 1882 when it was moved to become part of a soldier's monument lot on the west side of the river in Galena. A tall obelisk monument engraved with the names of Galena's soldiers was placed with the gun. When Grant Park was established in 1891, the gun and the statue were moved across the river to the new park. The park is located down the hill from Grant's home, less than a mile away.

In 2000, the gun tube was restored and mounted on a metal carriage, paid for by the City of Galena, the Galena Foundation and the friends of the Galena Library.

Ever since the Civil War, any time this gun was mentioned, the "profound impression" on the right side of the back quarter of the tube was specifically noted. While no one knows for certain, it is believed the saucer-sized dent was made by an enemy solid shot at some point during the Civil War.



This advertisement, complete with drawing, was published in the April 16, 1864, *Harper's Weekly Magazine*.

Putnam Clothes-Wringer.

TESTIMONY OF MESSRS. JNO. W. WHEELER, of Cleveland, Ohio, and John C. Lefferts, of New York. PUTNAM MFG. Co.:

GENTLEMEN: I know from practical experience that iron well galvanized with zinc will not oxidize and rust one particle. I can safely say, after several years experience in time manufacture of chain, for chain-pump and water-drawers, in which I have tested the affinity of iron and zinc, that, if the process is conducted properly, it is a perfect weld of the two.

Nearly one year ago my family commenced using one of your Wringers. It now performs all of its functions as well as it did the first time it was used, and has become an indispensable article with us. I have closely observed several other kinds of clothes-wringers, the modus operandi being different, trying to produce the same results as the Putnam Wringer, but in my judgment they have failed. The Putnam Wringer is as near perfect as possible, and I can cheerfully recommend it to be the best in use.

Respectfully yours, JOHN W. WHEELER. Many years' experience in the galvanizing business enables me to indorse the above statement in all particulars. JOHN C. LEFFERTS, No. 100 Beekman Street. New York, January, 1864. Patented in the United States, England, Canada, and Australia. Agents wanted in every town. No. 2, \$5 50; No. 1, \$6 00; No. A, \$8. Manufactured and sold, wholesale and retail, by The Putnam Manufacturing Co., No. 13 Platt Street, N. Y., and Cleveland, Ohio. S. C. NORTHROP, Agent.

Battery Profile

Peter Thompson

There were many men who served in the Civil War who had harrowing experiences during the fighting, but Peter Thompson was not one of them. By the time he joined the Second Minnesota Battery on August 26, 1864, the most harrowing experiences of his life were already behind him. Nothing in the garrison and scouting duty the Battery did during the last year of the war could compare to Peter's arrival in America.

Peter was born in Norway on the 10th of June, 1836. At the age of 16, he decided to come to America. He traveled with a group of other Norwegian immigrants on a ship bound for a port on Lake Erie. They had been 12 weeks at sea in the crossing and were almost in port when the ship collided with another outgoing vessel. Peter was below deck when the collision occurred and hurried out to see what had happened. The ship was sinking fast. Peter climbed a mast and clung to it, watching the ship sink under him and waiting for help. When help arrived, it was too late for some 500 other people on the ship. Peter was the only survivor.

Left with nothing he had brought from Norway and no one he knew alive from the ship, Peter made it to Dane County, Wisconsin, where he remained for three years. In 1857, he arrived in Dakota County, Minnesota, where his brother was living with his family. The small community of Eureka Township was filled with immigrants from the Christiana region of Norway, so he immediately knew people. Peter took a homestead there and in 1858, he married Barbara Noben and they started their life together in the little log cabin Peter's brother had built a few years earlier. Both families lived there for a time before Peter managed to get his own place on a neighboring piece of land. Their first baby was born in 1860, and a second one in 1863. They eventually had nine children, with seven of them living to adulthood.

The draft rendezvous of 1864 brought many Norwegians into the Battery and Peter was one of them. It formalized service he had already given Minnesota. Peter was one of the men who took up arms to defend homesteaders during the war initiated by the Dakota Indians living in Minnesota. The official designation for the company of men Peter served with was the "Eureka Squad" of Colonel Sibley's first expedition in 1862. Captain J.F. Bean was in charge of the men from Eureka Township. Since it was an emergency situation, none of the official proceedings of enlistments were done; the men just took up their weapons and joined the company. Peter did not serve for very long and his enlistment in the Second Battery gave him formal proof of his service to his country. He was allowed to record his Indian service on his Battery record.

The descriptive roll showed Peter to be 5' 5" tall, with blue eyes, light hair, and a fair complexion. He was a farmer and when mustered out in August of 1865, he went back to his family and farm in Dakota County. Peter never lived anywhere else for the rest of his life.

Peter was active in his community. He was the town treasurer for Eureka for 36 years, was appointed the postmaster at Christiana in 1881 and served nearly 25 years. Peter helped organize School District #48, the school his children attended, and served as the school board clerk for 34 years. He helped organize the Eureka Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company and served as treasurer for them for 18 years. He attended the Norwegian Church that was built on property next to his farm and was active in its running, serving as the treasurer for at least 10 years. Peter was also a member of the Farmington G.A.R. Post.

Barbara died in 1897 and was buried just east of their farm in the East Christiana Church Cemetery.

When Peter applied for a veteran's pension, he cited a spell of heat stroke he had suffered while he was on guard duty near St. Louis, Missouri, in 1865. The Battery was on their way home at the time. Peter had to be relieved from his duty by a comrade as he nearly collapsed in the heat. This problem had not gone away, instead returned every time Peter exerted himself in the hot sun for any period of time. Stomach problems and rheumatism also plagued Peter and they were getting worse with age. He told the Pension Department in 1891 that he was only able to eat "porridge oatmeal and milk" without it causing him great stomach pain.

The little log cabin that Peter first lived in on his brother's farm

eventually came into Peter's ownership when he bought the land from his brother. The family loved the little cabin and used it as a summer place for many years after Peter's

death. In 1965, the cabin was donated to the Dakota County Fair Association. It was rebuilt on the Dakota County Fairgrounds in 1982 and remained there until rot and insect damage forced its removal in 2005.



2009 Schedule

As approved at the March meeting. See current newsletter for any updates/changes.

April	4 24-26	School presentations Reenactment at Keokuk, Iowa	MACHE Event, St. Paul, MN
May	2 4 6 15 18 25 28	Encampment, Murphy's Landing, Shakopee, MN (on your own) Kaleidoscope Charter School, Albertville MN Bluffview, Lake City, MN, 1/2 day Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale MN Calvin Christian School, Edina MN Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN Oakdale Elementary, Oakdale MN	
June	1 13 26-28	Twin Bluff Middle School, Red Wing, MN 1/2 day Parade and encampment, St Francis, MN Reenactment at Franklin Grove, Ill	
July	11-12	Reenactment at Cedar Rapids, Iowa	
August	1-2 22-23	Reenactment at Boscobel, WI Encampment at Fort Ahlman's, Morristown, MN	
September	12-13 19-20	Encampment at LeDuc Mansion, Hastings, MN Reenactment at Belle Plain, Iowa	
October	10-11	There <u>may</u> be an event in the works for this weekend, but details are still quite sketchy. More info to come later in the year.	
November	14	Battery Christmas event, Coon Rapids, MN	

MACHE Educational event at the River Centre Detailed schedule of presenters

Morning Session starts at 10:30, each topic gets 15 minutes

Dan McHugh	Uniforms of the Civil War
Ron Wendel	Small Arms
Daryl Duden	Foods and Camp Life
Tim Watkins & Bill Crowder	Bugle Calls
Vickie Wendel, Stacy Overby & Tanya Graves	Women's Roles in the War

Afternoon Session starts at 3:00, each topic gets 15 minutes

Ron Graves	Timeline of the Civil War
Vickie Wendel	Minnesota in the Civil War
Neil Bruce & Gun Crew	Gun Drill
Ron Graves	Generals of the Civil War
Diane Thorpe	Morals and Etiquette

Assigned roles in the booth:

John Cain
Mandy Wendel

All other members are encouraged to be in the booth and/or on the gun crew.

Remember: These presentations are meant to give the audience a taste of Civil War history and make them want to learn more on their own. We are not trying to do it all for them.

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

John Cain
1640 Woodland Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: (651) 388-9250

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: momwendel@hotmail.com

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