



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 168

August 2009

On This Date

August 1864

Morning Report

Remarks for the Month of August, 1864
(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 S. F. Woods absent without leave. W. H. H. Jackins, Discharged March 17, 1864. Surg. Cert. Disability at Chattanooga
- 2 E. W. Vaughn Transferred to V. R. C. Gen. Orders War Dept. No. 86. 1864 Lucius H. Pratt Transferred to V. R. C. order, No. 20 1864.
- 3 S. F. Woods rept'd for duty from Hospital.
- 4 Paymaster Maj. W. N. Stewart paid command up to June 30, 1864
- 9 Paymaster Maj. W. H. Howard paid Veteran bounty : 2d Installment.
- 11 17 E.men attached from Ep. camp, Chattanooga, T. for duty: not borne on this Report.
- 29 Harris Harrison, bugler, sent to hospital Chattanooga, T.
- 30 27 E.men attached from Ex. camp. Chattanooga T. taken up on this report.

It is not known why this month's morning report is so scanty in detail with so many days completely missing. It is known that reports were not always the highest priority with Civil War units. The Second Illinois Artillery was once chastised for not having filed a morning report in more than a year! They were instructed to go back and "recreate" what had happened in the months they were missing. Imagine the lack of accuracy those reports must contain! After getting scolded, the Second Illinois did file a few reports, then they stopped again and no further records can be found of them ever keeping or filing their morning reports. This was learned during a search at the National Archives looking for information on Second Minnesota Battery men who served with the Second Illinois on detached service.

Upcoming Events

August 1-2 Boscobel, WI

This annual event is always a lot of fun with the whole town turning out to celebrate. The pie social, street dance and battles each day make this one of the largest Civil War events in the upper Midwest with as many as 800 reenactors in attendance. If you have not already indicated your attendance to John Cain or Daryl Duden, do so immediately!!

August 22-23 Fort Ahlman's, Morristown, MN

We are once again invited to take over the fort at Ahlman's gun shop back lot and do cannon demonstrations for the public. Last year, visitors voted the Second Battery one of the best sites there that weekend! It's a rather wild weekend with everything from our parrot rifle to anti-aircraft and tank weapons all being fired in various parts of the back lot. We need a head count of those attending, so please contact John Cain or Daryl Duden and let them know if you will be attending or not.

Did you know...

On July 1, 1862, the Congress passed new excise taxes on items such as playing cards, gunpowder, feathers, telegrams, iron, leather, pianos, yachts, billiard tables, drugs, patent medicines, and whiskey. Many legal documents were also taxed and license fees were collected for almost all professions and trades.

The 1862 law also made important reforms to the Federal income tax that presaged important features of the current tax. For example, a two-tiered rate structure was enacted, with taxable incomes up to \$10,000 taxed at a 3 percent rate and higher incomes taxed at 5 percent. A standard deduction of \$600 was enacted and a variety of deductions were permitted for such things as rental housing, repairs, losses, and other taxes paid. In addition, to assure timely collection, taxes were "withheld at the source" by employers.

Next Meeting

Sunday, August 2, at Boscobel. We will hold a brief meeting between breakfast and church.



The Staple Wardrobe Petticoat

It's nearly universal: virtually any impression for infant, child, teen, or woman can be improved with the addition of a nice white cotton petticoat or two. Construction is simple, and gives you a chance to practice useful period techniques on inexpensive fabric. You can use a good quality cotton muslin (white or bleached) to make a set of basic petticoats that will last for several years of use. For other styles of petticoats and skirts, including tucked petticoats, please refer to *Skirting The Issue: A Workbook for Skirts & Petticoats*.

Determine Length & Yardage

Petticoats are usually cut an inch or two shorter than your dress. Have an assistant measure from your historic waist (natural waist at the bottom of the ribcage) to your desired hem at center front, center back, and both hips. To the longest of these, add 1/2" for a waist allowance, and 3" for a turned hem allowance. The total length is your **cut panel length**. You'll multiply the cut panel length by the number of panels you want in your petticoat, add 6" or so to allow for a waistband and evening the fabric, then divide by 36" to find the yardage you need for each petticoat.

Age	Fullness	# Panels
0-2	45-72"	36": 1-2; 45": 1-1.5
2-12	72-90"	36": 2-3; 45": 2
12-15	90-120"	36": 3-4; 45": 2-3
15+	120-180"	36": 4-5; 45": 3-4

Wash and dry your fabric before cutting; press to remove large wrinkles and creases. Washing helps the cotton fabric shrink and tighten a bit.

Prepare Panels & Waistband

Straighten one edge of your fabric, either by drawing out a thread and cutting along it, or by snipping into the selvedge and ripping across the width. Measure your cut panel length down the selvedge; snip into the selvedge and cut or rip the panel. Repeat for the other panels.

Petticoats sit at the natural waist. To find yours, tie a piece of elastic around your middle, and bend forward, back, and side to side. The elastic will settle at your natural waist. Measure comfortably around your waist (over your corset or stays), and add 3" for your **cut band length**. Cut or rip one band, 3" wide by this length. Press one long edge to the wrong side 1/2".

Seam the Panels

Use a running stitch by hand, or a straight stitch by machine, and stitch the panels right sides together with a 1/4" to 1/2" seam allowance. Decide which will be your hem and waist edges (it doesn't matter which, just pick one!) Leave one seam open toward the waist edge, to create a placket (a few inches for babies, a hand-span or length for girls, and up to 10" or so for teens and adults.)

Add Hems

Use a running stitch by hand, or straight stitch by machine. If you have used full widths of fabric, simply sew the selvedge flat. If you have raw edges, tuck them under and secure a hem along the fold. Stitch a few times across the base of the placket to prevent it ripping down with repeated use.



At the hem edge, press 1/2" to the wrong side (inside). Use a hem gauge or ruler to make an even fold. Fold again, about 2.5" deep, and press. Secure the hem with a running stitch or straight stitch along the fold.

Balance & Gather

Fold your petticoat in quarters to find the center front, center back, and "side seam" lines. Measure from the finished hem edge to the waistline; make a mark equal to you initial measurement at each point. Connect your marks with an even slope. This will be your waist seamline. Give yourself 1/2" beyond the seam line

for a seam allowance; cut on the allowance line.

You can machine gather the waist edge of your petticoats, but you end up with a lot of bulk around your waist. Hand gathering gives you a nice full petticoat without a lot of bulk in the band—and, its they way our ancestors did it.



Thread a needle with a doubled thread, equal to your waist measurement plus about 8". Knot the end. Beginning on the inside of the petticoat at one placket edge, rock the needle in and out of the fabric evenly, taking stitches about 1/8" long. They don't have to be precise; close counts.

Work your way around the entire waistline edge, ending with your needle on the inside. Knot the threads securely. Repeat with another thread, about 1/4" away from the first line of stitching. You'll get the best result if you try to line up the stitches as much as possible; close counts. Knot the second thread when you're done.

Add the Band

Find the center point and "side points" of the waistband and match it with the center back point of the skirts, right sides together. Draw up the threads to fit your waistband piece, leaving 1/2" of band extending past the skirt on each end. Stitch the seam.

Fold the band over so the long pressed edge covers all the raw edges. Tuck the short ends inside the band about 1/2". Finish the band with topstitching or a small running stitch by hand. Add a button and buttonhole to close.



Battery Profile

Tennis Hanson



Tennis, called “Dennis” in some Army records, was born on April 19, 1829, in Norway. In the late 1850’s, he took his wife and three children on a journey that would end in Iowa where they lived for two years. The 1860 census shows Tennis living with Anna J., his wife, in Rushford, Winona County, Minnesota. His personal estate was valued at \$30 and he had no real estate. By 1862, they had moved a little further, settling in Fillmore County where Tennis enlisted with the Second Minnesota Battery.

Tennis was mustered into the Battery on February 20, 1862, and he served as a private. He had blue eyes, light hair, and a light complexion. He stood 5’ 7” tall. At the Battle of Perryville (October 7-8, 1862), Tennis was wounded when he was hit by a “minnie ball” from a musket in the right hip. He was taken to the hospital at New Albany, Indiana, where he remained until the end of December. Tennis returned to the Battery just in time to participate in the battle at Stones River, Tennessee, on December 31, 1862. His health suffered again in the spring of 1863 from a bout with severe diarrhea and he was sent to the hospital near Tullahoma, Tennessee, for a few days. Tennis went back to the Battery after being discharged from the

hospital and served until the end of his term of service. He chose not to reenlist and was mustered out on March 28, 1865.

After his return to Minnesota, Tennis moved his family to Yellow Medicine County and settled in Sandness Township. He farmed there until 1893 when he moved to town, Hanley Falls, also in Yellow Medicine County.

When Tennis applied for his pension, he complained of deafness, stating, “That during the number of battles in which he took part he suffered considerable in his Ears from the report of the Cannons which caused some deafness and which deafness has increased all the time since and this last 10 or 12 years to such an extent as to be quite annoying and cannot hear common conversation.” He also said the wound in his hip made it hard for him to do more than a partial days’ work.

Anna and Tennis had ten children and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1902. Anna died on August 5, 1904.

Tennis died on January 20, 1920, at the age of almost 91 years from “asthma and angina pectoris”. He was laid to rest beside Anna in the Norwegian Cemetery in Hanley Falls.

The photo of Tennis shown above came from his great grandson, Charles Ubanks, living in New York. Mrs. Wendel is in the process of trading info with Mr. Ubanks to see if there may be more to Tennis’ story. The connection was made when Mr. Ubanks found our Second Battery website and sent off an email with the attached photo.

Note the uniform Tennis is wearing—since the painted backdrop indicates this photo was done in a studio, was Tennis wearing a “prop” uniform?



Recap

July 11-12 — Cedar Rapids, Iowa

This was a new event for the Battery and, though a smaller event, it was nice. Rain dampened the spirits on Friday night, but dry weather came in and everyone went home with dry canvas. Our soldiers galvanized, going gray for both battles as we were the only gray artillery unit there. This was the first event where Scottish John and Bruce served on the gun during a battle, so they have truly “seen the elephant” now! Briar served quite admirably as the powder monkey.



More of our gun crew and the Reb infantry line.



Some of our “ragtag” Reb crew above. Below is the camp, the Battery tents were on the left.



Art Imitates Life?

On a recent trip to Washington DC, I saw a number of pieces of artwork dedicated to the Civil War.

There is a life size sculpture of a cannon on the move. It is interesting that some of the cannon crew are riding the limber. Another interesting thing is that the water bucket was hung under the axle of the cannon.

On the old Pension building, there is a relief carving showing infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Again, it shows members of the cannon crew riding the limber and caisson.



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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