



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 166

June 2009

On This Date

June 1864

Remarks for the Month of June, 1864

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 Arrived at "Soldiers Home" Louisville Ky 12 M.
- 2 Arrived at Nashville, Tenn. Quartered in Exchange Barracks No. 1
- 3 Geo. Tilton, H. W. Towle, J. W. Longworth, Jas. Furguson, M. W. Adley, reported. Went into camp one mile S. of Nashville.
- 4 Clothing G. C. I. G. E. issued. 30 E. men (Inftry, etc.) received from Ep Barracks No. 1 as "conva{?}" to cattle" L. B. Goodell reported.
- 7 Moved out on Murfreesboro Pike three Miles, Camped.
- 8 John. N. Arnell left sick at Nashville. Returned to Nashville drew Horses & Cav. Equip. and marched 20 miles out on Murfreesboro Pike
- 9 Marched 10 miles. Camped on Shelbyville Pike 1/2 mile beyond Murfreesboro, T. at 12 m.
- 10 " 12 " camped at Forterville Ky.
- 11 " 13 " camped on Duck River near N. I. C. RR crossing
- 12 " 14 " camped at Tullahoma, Tenn, at 12 m.
- 13 " 12 " camped one mile below Orchard Station.
- 14 Wm. H. Kimber left sick at Tullahoma, Tenn. Crossed the Cumberland Mts. Marched 14 miles. Camped in Crow Creek Valley.
- 15 Marched 17 miles to Stevenson. camped below the town on Brandyford Road
- 16 D. Frye apptd Sergt. Corp. Loudon reduced to the ranks. Tilton, Bloomfield apptd Corp's. Crossed Tennessee River at Bridgeport & camped
- 17 Marched 18 miles Encamped in Lookout Valley in Georgia.
- 18 Arrived at Chattanooga. camped on the N. E. Slope of Lookout Mt. near Summertown road March 10 miles
- 20 Entered Chattanooga. Turned Q. M. & Ord Store in. Drew 3 6 pdrs and 2 Howitzers. N. D. Merrill reported.
- 21 Leon Faille reported for duty.
- 22 Wm. A. Spaulding left sick at Chattanooga, Tenn.

- 23 Wm. Costello, Thos. McInerny, Emil Solner, Chas. S. Waldron, C. Denlinger, Wm. Kinkead absent without leave.
- 24 G. Hamilton, Sergt. sent to Hospital No. 2 Chattanooga, T.
- 25 One E. man erroneously reported twice since the 1st of the month in the column "absent sick". Marched 3 miles to Brown's Ferry, N. side of Tenn. River.
- 27 John Coleman returned from Bty "I" 2d Ills. John Gutteridge reported for duty from Hospital
- 29 W. F. Silsbee, W. M. Kimber rept'd for duty.
- 30 Wm. Kinkead Transferred to A. G. O. April 4th{?} 1864

Upcoming Events

June 13 —Woodbury Park, St. Francis, MN

Arrive in time to be set up for the public by 10:00 a.m. We will set up a camp and fire the gun periodically in this park named for our own Lt. Albert Woodbury. Bring your a frame tents to set up a row of tents and a PERIOD CORRECT picnic lunch to enjoy in this pretty park (no fire or cooking). Those with sabers, please bring them as we will be forming up a color guard to march in the parade. The park is located on the west side on the Rum River just off the end of the bridge on Bridge Street.

June 26-28 — Reenactment at Franklin Grove, Ill

We are going gray for this event, so pack those Reb uniforms! For those without a gray uniform, bring your Union uniform and plan to work in shirt sleeves. For more info on this event, check out their website at:

www.chaplincreek.com

If you plan to attend this event, please RSVP to John Cain as soon as possible for food planning purposes. We need to know you are coming if you want to eat!!!

Next Meeting

To be announced.



Hold the Fort

A Civil War era hymn by Phillip Bliss

During the Civil War, a small number of Union soldiers under General John Corse were asked to hold an important supply line position at Allatoona Pass in Georgia. The weary and battered soldiers were determined not to be ousted from their position and give supplies to the enemy.

The Confederates, on the other hand, needed to capture that supply depot. Their leader, General Hood, sent an entire division to take it. When the Confederates called for the Union force to surrender, General Corse refused.

Each attack was beaten back. Corse himself, wounded, wondered how long they could hold on. Then he got the message from General Sherman at Kennesaw Mountain, 13 miles away: "Hold the fort, for we are coming."

Renewed in body and in spirit, the Union soldiers valiantly held on. The Confederates finally fell back. A man named Phillip Bliss read the story and was inspired to write a song for the church, a song which would encourage the saints to remain faithful in their place of duty against Satan's attacks.

Bliss never intended his song to be taken as lack of aggression. He meant for it to be a call to duty, a call to sacrifice, a call to victory.

Words to the hymn:

Ho, my comrades, see the signal, waving in the sky! Reinforcements now appearing, victory is nigh.

Refrain: *"Hold the fort, for I am coming," Jesus signals still;
Wave the answer back to Heaven, "By Thy grace we will."*

See the mighty host advancing, Satan leading on; Mighty ones around us falling, courage almost gone!

Refrain

See the glorious banner waving! Hear the trumpet blow! In our Leader's Name we triumph over every foe.

Refrain

Fierce and long the battle rages, but our help is near; Onward comes our great Commander, cheer, my comrades, cheer!

Refrain

If you want the musical score or to hear the melody of this hymn, go to:
http://library.timelesstruths.org/library/music/H/Hold_the_Fort/Hold_the_Fort.mid



Kinkead Brothers Photograph!

A patron brought a copy of *Military Images* into the Anoka County History Center and Mrs. Wendel. It featured a collection of images owned by Wayne Jorgenson, a fellow Civil War researcher Mrs. Wendel knows. The photographs in the magazine were grouped by regiment and on the page for the Second Minnesota Battery was this image—of Alexander and William Kinkead!! Alex is on the left and sergeant stripes can be seen on the sleeves of his coat. Alex enlisted in February and William enlisted in August, both in 1862. Alex was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in September of 1862. Since it appears William is wearing a civilian coat, this image was most likely taken between February and April of 1862, determined by the timeline of when the Battery went south and when Alex and William enlisted.

Special thanks to Wayne Jorgenson for sharing this image of the Kinkead brothers with us!

Battery Profile

William Kinhead

William was born in Elkton, Maryland, in 1837. It is believed he came to Minnesota in 1856 with his brother, Alexander. Alexander was five years older than William and enlisted in the Second Battery few months earlier William.

Before Minnesota became a state, the brothers were settling in the central part of Minnesota where William was said to be the first man to cultivate land in Douglas County. He was instrumental in organizing that county and was made the commissioner assigned to open the road across the state from St. Cloud to the Red River. William made his home in Alexandria for a while, but by 1862, he was living in St. Cloud, Minnesota. It was where his brother was living at the time.

William was a cabinet maker by trade. He was 5' 8-1/2" tall, with hazel eyes, dark hair and fair skin. It is unknown if William chose to enlist by any influence of his brother, but William joined the Second Battery on August 13, 1862. He was given a \$25 bounty for his agreement to serve three years. When William caught up to the Battery in late September, the unit was on the march through Kentucky that took them to their first battle at Perryville. William served in that battle, though he was not mentioned in any reports. The Battery next saw action at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in the battle at Stones River where William again was present, but not mentioned.

Reports are filled with William's name come February of 1863. He and five other members of the Battery were sent out on a foraging detail near Franklin, Tennessee, on February 6. The men strayed a little too far from Union lines and were captured. They were taken to Libby Prison in Richmond where they spent about a month as guests of the Confederacy before they were sent to City Point, Virginia, Maryland, be exchanged on March 7, 1863. Of the six, only two of them ever returned to duty with the Battery. William was not one of them.

According to his medial files, he suffered his first "hemorrhage" of the lungs was believed to be caused by the "cruelty and exposure of Libby Prison". William was in and out of military hospitals with what was called "Debilitas" for the next year.

On April 4, 1864, William had finally recovered enough of his health that he was chief clerk in the hospital for returning prisoners of war. He remained at this job only a short time before being transferred to the Adjutant General's Office in Washington DC where he worked until he was discharged from the Army on September 27th, 1864. William remained in Washington and was appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to "look after the interests of sick an wounded Minnesota soldiers" passing through Washington.

William took his duties seriously and reported by telegraph on the well-being of various Minnesota soldiers. An article in the March 11, 1865, *Anoka Star* newspaper gave details about the Eighth Minnesota Regiment, many of whom were from the Anoka area. William reported one officer and 44 enlisted men sick, but none dangerously so. He also reported one death of a man from Anoka County.

The *St. Cloud Journal* newspaper was a little more lavish in their praise of William's work.

He was active and zealous in attending to his duties, and made arrangements with the lines of telegraphic communication between Washington and Annapolis to be immediately informed of every arrival of exchanged prisoner; and no matter when the summons came; whether by night or day, in sunshine or storm, he would hasten to the point designated, and like the good Samaritan, bind up the wounds and cheer the hearts of Minnesota's gallant but suffering sons. From rank to rank, he would pass like an angel of mercy, until the last had been found and cared for, when he would again return to Washington to attend to his official duties, and before having time to recruit his exhausted energies, would again be called to another point to minister to the want and needs of the poor victim s of rebel barbarities. Minnesota owes him a debt of gratitude for all his untiring devotion to her soldiers. And all this he did without remuneration or hope of reward, actuated solely by pure love of the work and desire of doing good.

William remained in Washington DC after the war was over. On October 16, 1866, he married Laura. Records indicate William stayed in Washington until his health again failed and they decided to go to Minnesota to give William a chance to "repair his shattered constitution" as it was described. The notice in the *St. Cloud Journal* stated simply that William had come home to die as his health did not improve. The newspaper called the cause of death consumption, his death coming on May 23, 1868. Laura buried William in the North Star Cemetery in St. Cloud with an elegant marker that named him "Beloved Husband, aged 32 years."

Laura went back to Washington after William died and filed for a widow's pension from her address at 916 New York Avenue. She was granted \$8 a month.

The stone Laura had placed from William was of the style common in the 1860's--a slab of soft white marble about two inches thick. Time and erosion wore the stone down and it was found broken in two places when William's grave was visited by members to the Second Minnesota Battery of Reenactors in the late 1990's. Plans were made to replace the stone, but these were put on hold until it could be determined if the unmarked grave next to William was that of his brother, Alexander. If it proved to be Alexander's grave, both stones would be ordered and placed together.

Research on Alexander was challenging and it was only through divine guidance and sheer stubbornness that Alexander's grave was finally confirmed to be in California in 2008. A military marker was ordered for William and Battery members were advised that his marker has now been set. The next time the Wendels travel through St. Cloud, they will be stopping to get a photo of William's stone.

Recap



May 4—Kaleidoscope School, Albertville MN

Despite the very early start, this was a fun school with great students on a beautiful warm day. Lt. Cain, QMSgt Rosasco, Sgt. Duden, Pvts Crowder and Wendel, and Mrs. Thorpe all had a good day of sharing history with some really bright students!



May 6—Bluffview, Lake City, MN

QMSgt Rosasco, Sgt Duden, Pvt Hoekstra and Bvt General & Mrs. Graves represented the 2nd Minnesota Battery in our eighteenth consecutive year visiting this elementary school. The 5th grade always looks forward to our visit and this year was no exception. The students & staff spend time preparing for our visit and never fail to provide us with a multitude of interesting questions during a lively question/answer session each year.



May 15—Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale MN

Lt. Cain, Sgt. Duden, Corp. Overby, Pvts Hoekstra, Wendel, and Tomashek, Bvt General & Ms Graves, and Mrs. Wendel represented the 2nd Minnesota Battery with five stations for this school on a windy and pleasantly cool day.



May 18—Calvin Christian School, Edina MN

Lt. Cain, QMSgt. Rosasco, Sgt. Duden, Corp. Bruce, Pvts Crowder, Hoekstra, Tomashek, Wendel, Watkins, Bvt General & Mrs. Graves, and Mrs. Wendel staffed five stations on a beautiful day at this school. These kids are always well prepped for the day and always have some great questions.



May 25—Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN

Our Model 1861 10 pdr Parrott Rifle was manned this year by 1st Lt Cain, QMSgt Rosasco, Sgt Duden, Cpl Bruce, Pvt Graves, Pvt Arnoldy and Pvt Golden. A shortened halyard on the flagpole required some quick thinking and the assistance of 1st Lt Cain and Sgt Duden in the flag raising ceremony. A close look at photographs taken during the ceremony will show our spare lanyard securing the rope to the pole! Cpl Bruce, reading Logan's Proclamation, participated in the program and Mrs. Rosasco took part in the floral tribute. Privates Arnoldy and Golden, serving for the first time during the firing of the piece, performed well during the three round cannon salute. The one hour ceremony was attended by a crowd of over seven hundred fifty citizens of Red Wing.

May 28—Oakdale Elementary, Oakdale MN

Lt. Cain, Sgt. Duden, Pvts Hoekstra, Wendel, Arnoldy, and Golden, Bvt General & Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Thorpe and Mrs. Wendel shared Civil War history with probably our most enthusiastic school! These kids and teachers are always excited to have the Battery visit and their support shows!



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:

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June

1, Twin Bluff Middle School, Red Wing MN

1st Lt Cain, Sgt Duden, Cpl Bruce, and Pvt. & Ms Graves appeared on stage during this half day program in the school's theater. Approximately 170 eighth grade students were divided into two groups for the program. Scott

Bender, an eighth grade social studies teacher well versed in the Civil War, provided a brief introduction of the 2nd Minnesota Battery and its members. Although there was no formal question/answer session during the program, each member of the 2nd Minnesota Battery participating was asked to provide questions for an information scavenger hunt that would be conducted following our program. Prizes were awarded to the students who earned the most points in answering the questions. (If a pair of brogans cost \$2.12 in 1862 and cost \$100.00 today, what is the percentage of price increase?)

