



Circular No. 163

March 2009

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 28 Reenactor Rummage Sale 3:00 p.m. & Battery Meeting (This is a change from previously announced)

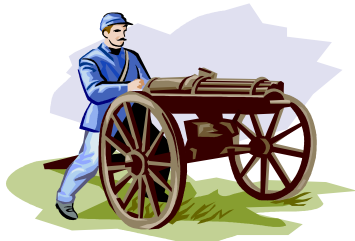
In trying to put things away at the end of last season, Mrs. Wendel realized just HOW MUCH STUFF she has collected. She does not need six of everything, so she is having a sale at the next meeting. Most things are priced at about what she paid for them. Examples are jars and crocks at \$1 or less, a dress she doesn't wear at \$20, various tin pans/buckets from 25¢ to \$1.

The sale will be held at the same place as the meeting, the Anoka County History Center meeting room. The address is: 2135 Third Avenue N in Anoka. The History Center is open that day, so if you want to come early and see the exhibits, plan about an hour. Admission to the exhibit hall is \$3. The History Center phone number is 763-421-0600.

Questions? Call or email Vickie at 763-754-2476 or vwendel@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Plan is pretty well set for the MACHE event at the River Center on April 4, 2009. Extensive discussion at the January meeting assigned members duties and roles for this event. If you plan to be there and were not at the last meeting, contact Daryl of John ASAP.



Have paid 2009 dues yet?

Send your dues and updated contact information to Daryl Duden. (address on back page) You must be current in your dues to be eligible to vote or hold office in the Battery's military command at the March elections.

you
your

On This Date

March 1864

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

David Hammond and Gulbrand Toftner dropped for Co. Rolls by Order of Wm. A. Hotchkiss, Capt. Alonzo Spaulding transferred to invalid Corps by G. O. M 24 1864. War Dept. Geo H. Russell reported a deserter and dropped

- 3 One Horse died in Camp
- 5 Released from arrest by verbal order of Capt. Wm. Aug. Hotchkiss
- 6 One Horse died in Camp
- 9 One Horse died in Camp
- 12 One Horse died in Camp
- 14 One Horse died in Camp
- 20 Drew ninety Arty Horses from Q. M. at Chattanooga
- 22 Turned over 10 Horses to Div. Ambulance train and 35 to Post Q.M. -- by order of Gen Davis. one Horse died
- 31 The following named recruits forwarded by Lieut Col. Fabian Brydolf Com'dg Draft Rendezvous Fort Snelling for the 2nd Minn. Battery reported for duty at Batty. Hd. Qrs. near Rossville Ga.: viz: Allexson, Leander; Blair, James; Church, John; Main, Andrew; Mixer, Alonzo; Olson, Ole; Olson, Olaus; Silsbee, William F.; Whitman, Charles M.

Next Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 3:00 p.m.
Anoka County History Center
2135 Third Avenue N
Anoka, MN



Flags of the Civil War: The Confederate Flag

Part 4

Submitted by Lt. John Cain

We have seen on the previous pages the evolution of the Confederate National Flag and have seen the many different battle flags carried by Confederate regiments. We have discussed the reasons for battle flags in that they identified units under a commanding officer. Here I wish to dispel the myth of “the Battle Flag.” Many flags both North and South displayed the heritage of the units they represented. Some were designed with an Irish Harp emblazoned on the flag and there were even a few green flags carried early on in the war by Irish units. This was especially true in the North where many Irish regiments were raised.



Figure 56: Battle Flag of the Department of East Tennessee.

Still others carried by smaller, Native American units looked like the one at right:

Although not much is known about the final flag shown here, it does represent those Choctaws who operated as a fighting unit large enough to carry one. The Confederate States, on October 7, 1861, presented to Chief John Ross through Indian Commissioner Albert Pike the following flag. It was patterned after the First National with a center and inner ring of red stars representing the five “civilized nations” with whom the Confederate States had a special relationship. It was said that if the South won the war, it would be of great benefit to those fighting for the cause.

The information in this series is factual and it is incumbent upon the reader to accept it or perpetuate the myth. History cannot be revised except by omission. When that occurs, it is the responsibility of those who know to enlighten those who don't.

From: *Flags of the Confederacy* by Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr.

This flag was carried in the Confederate Department of East Tennessee. There may be those who recognize this pattern as one representing Scottish ancestry.

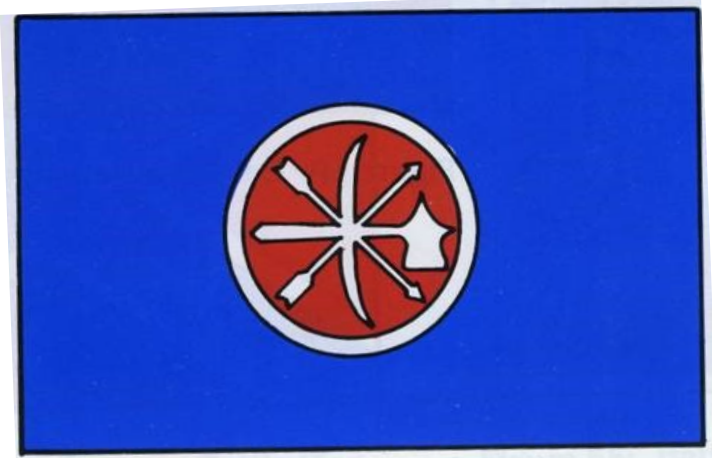


Figure 64: Flag of the Choctaw Brigade.

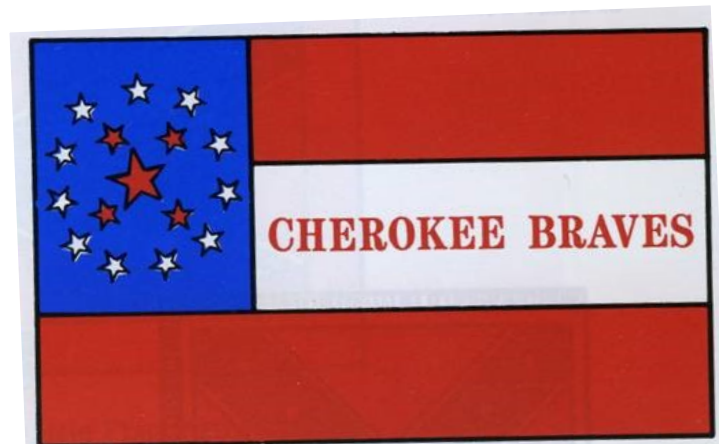


Figure 63: Trans-Mississippi Department, Cherokee Nation.

Battery Profile

David Munsey

David was born in February of 1837 in Barnstead, New Hampshire. By 1860, he was living in Anoka, Minnesota, working as a shoemaker. David rented a room from a family in Anoka and had a roommate. On January 2, 1862, David left his shoe making job to join the Second Battery as it was forming up. He was 25 years old, had hazel eyes, brown hair, a dark complexion, and was 5' 8-1/2" tall.

David eventually became the quartermaster sergeant for the Battery, but Army life was not easy for him. He was first taken sick in July of 1862 when the Battery was in camp near Clear Creek, Mississippi. He was treated for diarrhea by a surgeon from Carlin's Brigade. In September, while on the march to Louisville, Kentucky, David's diarrhea came back and brought a case of jaundice with it. He was again relieved from duty and was carried in the Battery's ambulance until they reached Louisville where he was treated in what David called the Battery Hospital by a "contract surgeon" named Russell attached to the Battery.

After this, David's health grew better and he served at his duties without fail. On December 6, 1863, he was sent by the Battery's commanding officer to get clothing for the men from Nashville. It took ten days for David to return to Chattanooga and his arrival made the men much more comfortable. Several Battery men commented on the arrival of the new clothes in their letters and diaries as some complained at that point, they had only one shirt and it had no sleeves. Several other times during his service, David was sent by order of the commanding officer on special duties.

In March of 1864, David reenlisted and earned both a bounty of \$300 and a veteran's furlough. David made the most of his veteran's furlough, he married Eliza C. Randolph in Anoka on May 17th. Very shortly after, he reported back to Fort Snelling and the Battery returned to the war. David said the diarrhea came back even before the Battery made it as far as Louisville and the weakness it caused him probably added to the sunstroke he suffered while on the march.

He was treated in the Battery's hospital "from time to time as needed" David said, and he continued to serve when well enough to do so until the Battery was mustered out at the end of the war.

David went back to Anoka after the war was over and continued to struggle with his health. Doctors in Anoka gave him various medicines, but in June of 1875, Doctor Whiteman told David a change in climate would do his health good. At the time, David and Eliza were farming in the township of Ham Lake and it was said David "left Ham Lake with a wagon full of everything they owned, his wife perched on top, for Texas."

Texas did not help his health and David continued to be sick, this time without a doctor to take care of him. David said he had to do his own doctoring as he had no money to pay a doctor. The farm land in Texas did not seem to be able to support David and his family, so they left Lampassas and moved to Burnett County, Texas. They stayed there a while, then moved again to Elk County, Kansas. Throughout all the moves, David said he continued to have trouble with diarrhea and pain in his head caused by the sunstroke he suffered while on the march with the Army.

One of David's acquaintances from before the war, Philip Hymes, wrote a pension deposition for David and described how bad David looked when the group of new recruits arrived in camp in September of 1862. Philip said David "did not have the strength to raise up to greet us" which would have been unusual since the new men were mostly from the Anoka area and probably all knew David. Philip said David's eyes were "very yellow" and that even after the war, David struggled with his health. Philip believed strongly that David should receive a pension and said so in no uncertain terms.

What caused the problems that brought David to the Kansas State Insane Asylum is unknown, but he was admitted there on January 6, 1887, in "a state of great mental and physical prostration."

David did not remain long under the hospital's care as he died on April 20th of that same year from "exhaustion" according to the hospital's records. He was just 49 years old. David was laid to rest in the cemetery on the grounds of the Asylum in a marked, but unnamed grave. Eliza survived him and applied for a widow's pension. On it, she stated that she had no children who could benefit from the pension offered for minors. Whether she meant they had no children under 16 years or if they never had any children is unclear.

Eliza was granted a pension of \$12 a month, an amount that increased to \$30 a month a few years later. By 1926, she was 84 years old, had had stroke, could no longer dress or feed herself, and required a nurse to care for her. The Bureau of Pensions finally recommended an increase in her pension to \$50 a month.

The cemetery where David was laid to rest was moved and the stone markers moved with the bodies to the new location, though it is not clear if the correctly numbered stone went with the proper body. As of 2003, David rested in the cemetery just outside the hospital grounds with some 342 others who died through the years without relatives or means to bury them elsewhere. What number stone David rests under will probably never be known.



2009 Tentative Schedule

as discussed at the February meeting. This schedule is NOT finalized until after the March meeting vote.

April	4 24-26	School presentations MACHE Event, St. Paul, MN Reenactment at Keokuk, Iowa
May	2 4 6 15 18 25 28	Encampment, Murphy's Landing, Shakopee, MN (on your own) Kaleidoscope Charter School, Albertville MN (date NOT confirmed) Bluffview, Lake City, MN, ½ day (date confirmed) Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale MN (date confirmed) Calvin Christian School, Edina MN (date confirmed) Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN Oakdale Elementary, Oakdale MN (date confirmed)
June	1 13 26-28	Twin Bluff Middle School, Red Wing, MN (date NOT confirmed) Parade and encampment St Francis, MN Reenactment at Franklin Grove, Ill
July	11-12 25-26	Reenactment at Cedar Rapids, Iowa Reenactment at Marshalltown, 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 Dakota Village, Farmington, MN Reenactment at Belle Plain, Iowa
November	14	Battery Christmas Coon Rapids, MN



Some Fun Facts about the Second Minnesota Battery

There were five men named Ole who served in the Battery: Ole Errickson, Ole Henderson, Ole Oleson #1, Ole Oleson #2, and Ole Torgerson. There were also men named Olaus and Olaf.

There were at least six pairs of brothers, one set of three brothers. There were three pairs of brothers-in-law at enlistment. Two became brothers-in-law during the war. At least three more became brothers-in-law after the war.

One set of confirmed first cousins (Staples) and probably one more (Ole Torgerson).

There were at least 5 men who can be proven to have been under 18 when enlisting. Elias Fenstermacher was the youngest to enlist at age 14. Israel Babcock, a transfer man, was 15, Francis Flint was 16. Another transfer man, William Rhinebarger was 17, as was Tiffany Flavel. Flavel lied, and it is suspected several of the other "over 18" year olds did as well, but it is hard to prove.

William Blake and Joseph Bernard were the oldest to enlist at age 52, Matthew Taisey was 51, and Lamont Bartholomew lied. He said he was 45, but his disability discharge said he was in his early 50's.

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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