

## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION”

Circular No. 179

August/September 2010

### Upcoming Events

#### **August 7-8** Reenactment at Boscobel, WI

This annual event has become one of our favorites, especially the pie social! Please notify John Cain or Daryl Duden if you plan to attend or even if you do not. We need good head counts for meals! For more information on the events schedule, see their website at: <http://www.musketsandmemories.net/>

#### **August 14-15** Reenactment, Pipestone, MN

This event is only held in even years and is a nice event in very unique setting, the Hiawatha Pageant grounds on the north edge of the city of Pipestone. It is always a good time and you never quite know what will happen at Pipestone! If you want to modern camp, there is a campground next to the site. For more on the event, go to: <http://www.pipestoneminnesota.com/cwd/Home.html>

#### **August 28-29** Ahlman's, Morristown, MN

This is without doubt the wildest event we do all year as our gun is one of many styles and types of weapons being fired throughout the event. It is common to hear a “Tommy gun” or a six shooter while running gun drills on our cannon. This is a paid event, so we need a good turnout! RSVP to John or Daryl. For a schedule, see: <http://www.ahlmans.com/events.html>

#### **September 11** Encampment at Anderson Center—Red Wing, MN

This event at the Arts Center in Red Wing will see hundreds (perhaps even 1000s) of people in this single day! It is a great opportunity to get our story out to a large crowd and make a real impact with history. Please attend his one day event is at all possible! For more info, contact John Cain.

### Next Meeting

To Be Announced! Watch your email or call John Cain for more info. 651 388-9250



### *It's a Two-fer!*

Note the date line on this issue of the *Action Front*. Since the editor will be gone at the time of the September publication date, the best plan was to combine both the August and September issues into a single newsletter.

With that in mind, will someone please write up the recaps of the August and September events and submit them to Vickie in time for the October 1st newsletter? Photos would be very much appreciated as well.



### *Good Luck, Miss Mandy!*

Miss Mandy has been accepted for a course of higher education at the University of Hawaii in Hilo (the Big Island). She will be studying “apothecary” and when finished in four years, will return to us as a Doctor of Pharmacy!

Her last event with the Battery until she returns from the islands will be at Boscobel, her chance to say goodbye to her Battery family.



# Battery Profile

## Isaac Martin

Isaac was born in Missouri in 1843 and came to Minnesota some years before the Civil War began. By August 18, 1864, when he decided to enlist, he was 21 years old and was farming. While he was credited for the draft quota to Amidor in Chisago County, it is doubtful if he actually lived there. He stood 5' 11" tall, had gray eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. For his one year enlistment, he was paid a bounty of \$33.33 upon enlisting with another \$66.67 due him.

There were no big battles the Battery was involved in during the last year of the war, so Isaac did mostly garrison duty with some scouting details from time to time. His first duties with the Battery, however, were suspended as he was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on October 14. He did not stay there long as by the 16th, he was already back with the Battery, though he was listed as "present-sick" on the morning report. Isaac did recover and in March of 1865, he was among a group of Battery men to be detailed to Major Church to cut logs for the garrison.

With the end the war, Isaac went back to Minnesota with the Battery and was discharged from Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865.

The timing of when he held his various jobs is somewhat unclear. For a while, he was an officer on the St. Paul Police force. He took up farming on Green Lake near Princeton, Minnesota, but also worked for ten years as the rural mail carrier for Princeton.

Isaac married Mary E. Murphy in 1870 and they raised four children. In 1899, Mary died. Three years later, Isaac married Estella Bacon. She was a widow with two daughters.

Early in the year of 1920, Isaac sold his farm and moved to Minneapolis. His daughter lived there and he died at her home on July 26. Estella survived him and made arrangements for him to be buried in Princeton at the Oak Knoll Cemetery. Three other members of the Battery Isaac served in are also buried in that cemetery.

The obituary that appeared in the Princeton newspaper described Isaac with these words: *He was a man who had followed a life of industry and was honorable in all his dealings with his fellowmen. As a husband and father he was affectionate and kind, and was a true American citizen who will be missed by a host of friends. Isaac Martin was every inch a man.*



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## **Reprinted from the August 1, 1860, New York Times**

*At the opening of the Statistical College, now in session in England, Lord BROUGHAM thought it proper to call the attention of Mr. DALLAS, who was present by invitation, to the fact that a negro was in the room. Lord BROUGHAM undoubtedly meant this as a piece of pleasantry, but by this act he convicted himself not only of a violation of Parliamentary rules, scarcely to be expected from one of his years and experience, but also of a decided breach of common politeness. The majority of the meeting appeared to view the observations in this light, and greeted it with very partial applause; while Mr. DALLAS did not even vouchsafe his thanks for being informed of so interesting a fact. The negro referred to so pointedly stood up and assured Lord BROUGHAM and all present that he was a man -- a lesson in natural history that seemed scarcely called for by the occasion and the assemblage, unless it is the custom in England to class negroes with gorillas and other animals of the bifurcated order. A Democratic Congressman, not long since, drew attention to the British Minister, while in the House, by calling him by name, but the discourtesy was promptly rebuked. Such an example is the last that a cultivated scholar and refined gentleman like Lord BROUGHAM would be expected to adopt; and it is, therefore, gratifying to observe that the venerable peer has sought an early opportunity to make proper apologies to Mr. DALLAS.*

# Two Seldom Discussed Stories of the War

From the website: [http://online.wsj.com/article/NA\\_WSJ\\_PUB:SB124482937162110493.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/NA_WSJ_PUB:SB124482937162110493.html)

1.



President Abraham Lincoln in a formal portrait, holding the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, year unknown.

## **Lincoln's First Solution to Slavery Was a Fiasco**

Early in his presidency, Abe was convinced that white Americans would never accept black Americans. "You and we are different races," the President told a committee of "colored" leaders in August 1862. "...But for your race among us there could not be war...It is better for us both, therefore, to be separated." Lincoln proposed voluntary emigration to Central America, seeing it as a more convenient destination than Liberia. This idea didn't sit well with leaders like Frederick Douglass, who considered colonization to be "a safety valve...for white racism."

Luckily for Douglass (and the country), colonization failed spectacularly. One of the first attempts was on Île à Vache, (a.k.a. Cow Island, a small isle off the coast of Haiti.) The island was owned by land developer Bernard Kock, who claimed he had approved a black American colony with the Haitian government. No one bothered to call him on that claim. Following a smallpox outbreak on the boat ride down, hundreds of black colonizers were abandoned on the island with no housing prepared for them, as Kock had promised.

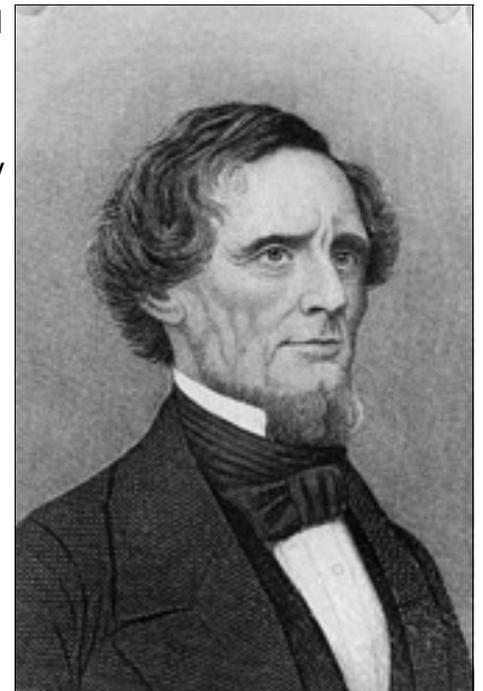
To make matters worse, the soil on Cow Island was too poor for any serious agriculture. In January 1864, the Navy rescued the survivors from the ripoff colony. Once Île à Vache fell through, Lincoln never spoke of colonization again.

## **Hungry Ladies Effectively Mugged Jefferson Davis**

The Confederacy's image hinged on the notion that the rebellious states made up a unified, stable nation. However, the hard times of war exposed just how much disunity there was in Dixieland. Civilians in both the North and South had to cope with scarcity and increased food prices, but the food situation was especially bad in the South because outcomes on the battlefield were directly linked to the CSA's currency - rising food prices were hard enough to deal with without wild fluctuations in what the money in your pocket could buy.

Invading northern troops, of course, poured salt on the wounds of scarcity, burning crops and killing livestock. But in Richmond, Virginia, those who couldn't afford the increasingly pricey food blamed the Confederate government. Hungry protesters, most of whom were women, led a march "to see the governor" in April 1863 that quickly turned violent. They overturned carts, smashed windows, and drew out Governor John Letcher and President Jefferson Davis. Davis threw money at the protesters, trying to get them to clear out, but the violence continued. So, he threatened to order the militia to open fire, which settled things down pretty quickly.

This riot was also known as the "bread riot" in Richmond.



Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, is depicted in this rendering, date unknown.

# Recap

July 10-11

Reenactment at Seminole Valley Farm Museum, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



The Battery went gray for this event, but both sides got wet before it was over! Saturday was pretty nice, but Sunday, just as the battle was ending, the skies opened up. The downpour soaked everyone and everything, making this event yet another in the continuing string of “wet canvas” events.



There were about 100 reenactors at the event, but the Confederate artillery position did not allow them to see much of the crowd to estimate the number of spectators. The battle field was laid out with the Reb “gun line” (our gun was the only one) on the opposite side of the field from the spectator line in a long and somewhat narrow battle area. Despite getting wet, the event was quite nice and enjoyed by all who attended.



These two little ones were awfully confused with a battlefield right on top of them, but Corporal Overby gently herded them toward the woods and safety!

***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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