

Circular No. 173

February 2010

## Remarks for the Month of February, 1865

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 6 Sergt. John McCausland died of Small Pox in Hosp't. Chattanooga, Tenn. Jan. 25, 1865.
- 9 Ole Erickson recruit arrived from Ft. Snelling, Minn. in charge Capt. N. C. Daniels 9th Minn. Vol. Infty. Sergt. E. A. Whitefield and private James A. Hagadorn absent with leave since Feb. 6, 1865.
- 10 James Blair absent with leave since Jan 27, 1865
- 11 Martin Hosli returned from Hospital.
- 20 John H. Arnell, artificer discharged from U. S. service for disability by reason of Surg. Certificate, By Order of Maj. Gen Thomas, on date 16 Feb
- 21 Corp. J. B. White promoted to Serg't to date from Feb. 20, 1865.
- 25 Sergt. E. A. Whitefield absent without leave since Feb. 20/64. J. A. Hagadorn absent sick since Feb. 26/64 per Surg. Certificate dated Feb. 14, 1865
- 27 Artificer Lewis M. Beers died of Congestion of the Brain in Hospt. Chatt. Tenn. Feb. 16, 1865.

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### **Dues are due!**

Did you pay your dues last month? To remain on the newsletter list or to be eligible to vote/hold office or rank, your dues must be current. The form is once again included with this newsletter (page 5). Please FILL OUT THE FORM and return it when you pay your dues. This will allow us to verify your address, phone, email and other info to be sure we have your most recent

### **Next Meeting**

Saturday, January 27, 11:00 am  
Jim & Ardee Rosasco  
1218 South Park Street, Red Wing, MN  
651-388-6326



From the GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK  
Philadelphia, February 1850

## WOMAN'S BEST ORNAMENT

BY REV. B. P. ROGERS

LET me urge upon my female readers, especially those who are in youth, the importance of taking loftier and better views of life than those taught by the vain world. It is a sad thing to see so many of the young and fair, whose life is most a blank—I will not say a blot—whose keen susceptibilities, whose noble powers, whose deep affections, whose precious time is lavished only upon dress and gayety, and fashionable visiting; who wear the bright apparel of the butterfly, and are as light and graceful, and as useless too; whose conversation finds no higher or more improving subject than the idle gossip of the day, the last party, or the never-failing topic—dress; whose reading is the miserable trash which is inundating every community, and enervating and dissipating the minds of our youth; whose whole life seems to be an aimless, frivolous life; and who, as they flit by us on their airy wings, provoke the inquiry: "For what were these pretty creatures made?"—I pray you, take loftier views of life than these.

While I would not draw you from the rational pleasures of society, nor bring one gloomy cloud upon your youthful sky, I still would plead for some serious hours, some industrious moments; some time apportioned to the culture of the mind, the enriching of the memory with stores of useful knowledge. I would plead that the capacities and aspirations of the immortal part receive some ministration, and that the moral faculties be cultivated and stimulated, and the generous impulses of the soul be expanded in labors for the best good of those around you.

Be assured there is no beauty like that of goodness—there is no power like that of virtue; personal beauty may attract the admiration of the passing hour, but it is the richer beauty of moral worth, the loveliness of the soul, that commands the deepest reverence, and secures the most enduring affection. Even men who have no religion themselves, but who are men of judgment, and whose opinion is worth the most, respect and admire a lady most, who displays in her character the " beauty of holiness."

*Continued on page 2*

# ***The VA adventure is complete***

submitted by Private Tomashek

Hello all! As it has been some time since I have written an article for the Battery newsletter, I thought I would type up a few words to update you regarding 2nd MN Battery research.

I am happy to announce that another chapter in the story/saga/odyssey of Battery research has come to a close. This chapter deals with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Let me give you a little history.

A research trip to the National Archives in Washington DC, in 2002 by some Battery members yielded a few anomalies regarding pension files of original men from the Battery. There were several requests returned to our researchers by the National Archive's staff stating that the pension files we were requesting were not with the National Archives and Records Administration, but were in the possession of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This seemed rather odd as most of the men from the Battery had died by the 1930's with only a couple lasting a little longer. What would the VA need the files for? We were instructed by the National Archives staff to contact our nearest VA Regional Office for assistance with these requests. After reviewing our requests and resubmitting them during another trip to Washington DC, with the same results, it was time to talk to the VA.

Flash forward to now. It has been over 7 years since my initial letters to the VA Regional Office in St. Louis, MO, were submitted requesting access to the pension files of five men from the Battery. My requests have traveled, at one time or another, between the VA Regional Office St. Louis, Missouri, the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington DC,

the VA's Veterans Benefits Administration office in Washington DC, the VA Regional Office in DC, the VA Regional Office in St. Paul, Minnesota, and then FINALLY coming to a rest at the VA Regional Office in Baltimore, MD. In amongst all these travels a couple of my requests were lost, hence I needed to make a repeat request.

The Baltimore Regional Office of the VA is now in charge of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests pertaining to Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans.

I had one request remaining several weeks ago, this one for Battery transfer man Peter Zimmer. I received a letter from the Baltimore Regional Office dated January 08, 2010. The letter, one piece of paper mind you, came in a large manila envelope. The postage stamp on it showed the VA had spent 88¢ in postage to send it to me. Most of us would have tri-folded the letter, stuck it in a #10 business envelope, slapped a 44¢ stamp on it and mailed it out. Anyway, that's beside the point.

The letter explains that they were unable to locate a known record for Peter. They had worked with two National Archive Storage Facilities and a thorough search was done at both with no luck.

Okay, bummer. The results weren't what I was hoping for, but it does eliminate one of the remaining research leads that we have for him.

But wait! Then I get another letter in the mail. Again it is a single sheet of paper in a big envelope that cost 88¢ to get it to me. I just shake my head. This letter is dated January 14, 2010. It tells me that they have my request for Peter Zimmer and that they will give me access to his file, if it is found.

Talk about putting the cart before the horse !

I am glad this chapter of the research project is complete. As you can see, there is more than one shade of red when it comes to dealing with governmental "red tape".

Look for more research updates in upcoming issues of *Action Front*.

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*Continued from page 1*

If there is one sight more than any other, in this world of sin and sorrow, which combines all the elements of beauty, of nobleness, and of worth, it is that of a young and lovely female, whose youth and beauty, whose depth and richness of affection, and whose powerful influence on human hearts, are all consecrated to the cause of truth and holiness, laid as an humble offering at the Saviour's feet! Such a being is, indeed, worthy of the reverence and admiration of every true and noble heart; and she will command it, even when the light of her beauty is quenched, and the flower of her loveliness is faded.

But if there is a sad, heart-breaking sight on earth, it is that of one gifted with all the charms which nature lavished upon her daughters, prostituting them upon the altar of vanity or fashion, and starving the soul on the unmeaning flattery of a vain and hollow-hearted

world; running a giddy round of' gayety, frivolity, and dissipation; laying up in the future a cheerless and forsaken old age, and a miserable, remorseful eternity.

"Oh, what is woman? What her smile,  
Her lips of love, her eyes of light?  
What is she, if those lips revile  
The lowly Jesus? Love may write  
His name upon her marble brow,  
And linger in her curls of jet:  
The light spring flowers may meekly bow  
Before her trend; and yet – and yet  
Without that meeker grace, she'll be  
A lighter thing than vanity !"

# **Battery Profile**

## **John Charles Beede**

Sometimes he went by Charles, other times by John, and later in life, it appeared he went simply by JC. Even in his own handwriting, his name changed from J. Charles in the first sentence to the signature at the bottom of John C. The flexibility in his name may have been a reflection of his interests as he followed a variety of jobs in his lifetime. Charles is the name used here as that was the name listed on the Second Battery's roles.

Charles was born in Levant, Penobscot County, Maine, in 1835. He was working as a lumber man in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, in 1864, when he decided to enlist, but his enlistment came from much further down river. It is unknown why, but Charles enlisted from Harmony, Minnesota. He was mustered into the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery on September 5, 1864, at Fort Snelling. His enlistment was for one year. He was 28 years old, stood 5' 9 1/2" tall, had gray hair and a light complexion.

Charles never rose from the rank of private during his time in the Army. He spent nearly four months of his time on a detail to cut logs for the garrison, returning to the Battery in April of 1865. When the Battery came back to Minnesota to be mustered out at Fort Snelling, Charles was with them. His Army career ended on August 16, 1865.

After his adventures in the military, Charles returned to his family. His wife, Caroline, and daughter Kate who had been born in 1863, remained in Wisconsin while Charles was away. Another baby greeted Charles, his son Clarence had been born during the year Charles was in the Army. The family moved around some, sources listing their home as Eurika, Polk County, Wisconsin, Monticello in Wright County, Minnesota, and Hinkley, Minnesota. In 1889, the family moved to Glasgow, Montana where Charles built the first livery barn in the city. He also ran a dray and water business there. The town of Glasgow was just beginning and the Beedes among the early arrivals in the community.

One other facet of Charles' occupations in Glasgow was to act as the community's first undertaker, though it was considered unofficial. There were no undertakers in the entire area and Charles filled in with this essential service.

The Beede home on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 5th Street was the first frame house in Glasgow and Caroline began the first millinery shop in town from her home. By now, the family had grown to include seven children, the youngest born in 1888.

Charles wasn't yet finished with different occupations. He built and ran the first frame business in Glasgow when he began the Waldron Hotel.

When Charles died on May 21, 1898, he left his estate to Caroline. He owned three lots with dwelling houses on them in the town of Glasgow and two more empty lots. His personal property included watches and jewelry in the value of \$10, a library worth \$25, one range horse, four work horses, seven cattle of varying ages, and two milk cows. His total estate was valued at \$1,325.

He was laid to rest in the Highland Cemetery in Glasgow with his grave overlooking the city below and a wide stretch of prairie leading to the mountains the distance.



# History on the Road – Vicksburg, Mississippi

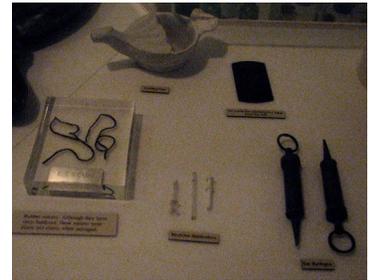


In an effort to escape the winter weather in Minnesota, three members of the Battery headed south to Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Gibraltar of the South. Spending an entire day from the moment the gates opened to 10 minutes after they closed, Vickie, Mandy, and Brian examined every monument, each approach, lunette, redoubt, and redan, ending with 665 pictures of just the military park (Don't ask how many pictures we took of the rest of the town/trip!)



A tin cup with the owner's initials.

One highlight for all three members was the *USS Cairo* (pronounced KAY-row) museum. A small museum next to the ship is full of excellent displays detailing the life of and on the *Cairo*. The lighting is kept very low in the museum to help conserve the artifacts, so good pictures were hard to get, but we took them anyhow. Among the artifacts recovered from the bottom of the Yazoo river are the original gun tubes and carriages, a complete kitchen box with mess dishes, personal dishes the men scratched their initials and marks on to identify theirs, condiment bottles with still-edible pepper sauce, wine bottles, medical supplies and instruments including rubber sutures, shoes and other personal effects, weaponry, and so much more!



Rubber sutures, a feeding cup and other medical tools.



A wooden "kitchen box" to hold all the common dishes for the mess!



A bugle mouth piece

Other displays highlighted the sinking of the *Cairo*, how she was located and salvaged, and a walkway that now allows visitors to actually board the *Cairo* without harming the ship.

The *Cairo* was sunk in 1862 by a Confederate mine and she went down in 12 minutes to a depth of 36 feet without any loss of life. Over the next 94 years, she was shrouded in a thick layer of river silt that perfectly preserved the ship and its contents. In 1956, Edwin Bearss, Don Jacks, and Warren Grabau, set out to find the *Cairo*. It wasn't until 1959 that the location where the men claimed the *Cairo* to be was confirmed when the armored port covers were raised from the Yazoo mud. In 1960, the pilothouse, an 8-inch smoothbore cannon, its white oak carriage and other artifacts, were recovered. Attempts were made to raise the entire ship in 1964, which badly damaged the hull and the decision was made to cut the *Cairo*



A tie still tied by the last sailor who wore it.

**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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**<http://www.2mnbattery.org>**

into three pieces and raise it one piece at a time. By the summer of 1965, the *Cairo*, now resting on barges, was towed to a shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where the armor plating and engines were restored. The shipyard also braced the hull internally to keep the wood from warping. In 1972, ownership was given to Vicksburg National Military Park and in 1977, the ship arrived at its new home on a bluff not far from where she was sunk. Special "reconstruction" was added over the original wood, steel bracing supports the original tubs set back on her decks and visitors are allowed to walk right onto the *Cairo*! All while preserving the historic ship!



Marine Corps hat device.

For more information and pictures, check out the National Park Service website at: <http://www.nps.gov/vick/u-s-s-cairo-gunboat.htm> Links at the bottom leads to pictures of the artifacts in the museum, a list of the sailors on the *Cairo*, and pictures of the ship.

# **Your Country Needs You!**

## **And so does the Battery!**

**2010 dues are DUE!!** To remain on the mailing list, your dues are:

Civilian Member	\$12.00
Military Member	\$12.00
Associate Member	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (14-17)	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (under 14)	Free

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check to:

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