

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 172

January 2010

Help In a Cup of Tea

By Miss Mandy Wendel, A.S. Integrative & Holistic Health (in May)

Have a cough from the rain? Stiff muscles from moving the piece up hill in assault artillery mode? Have a cup of tea, but not just any tea. Besides being a common staple in any home in the Civil War era, tea was used as medicine and still is today. Tea was both a drink and a meal in the time period. Tea was the name for a light meal served after dinner and before retiring for the night. The beverage tea was prepared throughout the day and served with other meals.

In Madison, Wisconsin, in 1861, tea is listed as costing between 60 cents to a dollar per pound depending on the type. Common teas, such as some of those used for healing, tend to be less expensive, though sources currently do not list individual teas. For medicinal uses, teas are brewed hot and taken usually 2-3 times per day, at least once before bed. When choosing teas in today's market, be sure to turn the package over and see if the herb or fruit you're looking for is actually there and not just flavoring, especially no artificial flavorings.

These are some common teas for common ailments; most have been tried and vouched for by members of the Battery. So the next time you're feeling under the weather a bit, look to tea to help. Remember, most are herbal teas and caffeine free, so they can be taken before bed.

Cough/Cold	Lemon Tea (or add real lemon juice to tea)
Queasy stomach	Ginger Tea
Stiff Muscles	Chamomile Tea
Headaches	Mint Tea (Peppermint or Spearmint are best)
Insomnia	Chamomile Tea
Stress/HBP	Green Tea (Has caffeine)
Pregnancy/Menstruation Pain....	Raspberry Tea

Happy 2010!

As we move into this new year, it's not too early to be looking ahead to the reenacting season. Please bring any information you might find about events for this coming season to the next meeting. We will begin discussions of the events and start to gather information from which we will choose our calendar.

Dues are due!

The form for paying your dues is 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 information. Please pay your dues promptly. Only members in good standing are eligible to hold rank or office within the Battery.



Next Meeting

Saturday, January 23, 11:00 am
John & Hieja Cain
1640 Woodland Drive, Red Wing, MN
651-388-9250



Mrs. Sylvia Townsend Tells of Experiences in 1862

Sauk Center Woman Served in Capacity of Nurse During Civil War.

Women Played Important Part on Southern Battlefields, She Says.

Sylvia L. Townsend of Sauk Center, now gray haired, came to Fort Snelling, in March, 1862, when her husband enlisted in the Second Battery Minnesota Light Infantry, and took a position of laundress, which was the only position she could get, in order to be near her husband. She went through most of the war with her husband, suffering privation with the soldiers and serving in the capacity of nurse for a long time. Mrs. Townsend remembers distinctly many of the experiences of the war.

"I accepted the position as laundress in order to be with my husband," said Mrs. Townsend. "That is how I happened to be on the ground when needed in the hospital as nurse. We went south in April, and stopped at Benton Barracks, near St. Louis. In May we sailed for Pittsburg Landing and crossed the ground from there, where a few days before the awful battle had been fought. We went into camp in front of Corinth, Miss., where our battery participated in the siege of Corinth.

"The enemy left, I think, the 13th of May and we went as far as camp Clear Springs. During this time I was doing the little things that were needed so much, and which did not seem to count. At one time when the company was lying by the guns, I cooked for one section of about 40 men and sent the food to them.

Was Nurse and Matron.

"When we traveled I rode part of the time in the ambulance, part of the time in a six-mule baggage wagon, and part of the time on horseback. When the army moved on after the enemy, the sick, and there were many of them, had to be cared for, so a general hospital was established at Farmington. That was three or four miles from Corinth. Mr. Townsend was made ward master and I was nurse and matron.

"That was 50 years ago this summer. My husband was in the hospital for some time and then enlisted again. I did not get a position as nurse, although I spent my time and paid my own expenses for nearly two years longer. When I was in the Farmington hospital there were two other women. It was before the time of floors in tents, and the stabs and sticks we had to walk on were hard on our shoes. Mine gave out, but I got a chance to get a pair of men's canvas shoes that I could wear. There was so much needed and so little to do with, but we tried to make the men as comfortable as we could and they said that a woman's presence cheered them. Some men



Mrs. Sylvia Townsend, Sauk Center, one of the Minnesota women who went out as army nurses during the Civil war.

thought they would never have lived to get home if it had not been for the little we women did for them."

Sylvia Townsend

The Second Battery's Laundress gave an interview to the Minneapolis papers to tell her story! The copy is bad and it's a little hard to read, but this is her story told to us by Sylvia herself. Note especially where she describes wearing "men's canvas shoes" because her own shoes had worn out. She also describes where she rode when the army was on the move.

From the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, 23 September 1912.

He Leadeth Me

It was in March of 1862, during the Civil War, that 28 year old Joseph Gilmore, son of a New Hampshire governor was supply preaching in an historic Philadelphia church, the First Baptist Church at Broad and Arch Streets.

Because of the dark depression of the war between the states, Reverend Gilmore selected as his sermon theme the Twenty-Third Psalm, emphasizing God's leadership during those dark days. Over and over again he repeated the phrase, "He Leadeth Me."

Later, at the home of one of the deacons, Gilmore was so filled with the thought of his theme that he was unable to contain himself.

On a piece of paper, he jotted down these lines: "He leadeth me! O blessed thought; O words with heavenly comfort fraught."

When he finished, there were four stanzas and a chorus. Gilmore promptly forgot all about what he had written; but his wife, recognizing something good, sent a copy to a Boston periodical. It was there that William Bradbury, famous composer and publisher of Church music, discovered it and set it to music.

It has often been said this was General Lee's favorite hymn.

Battery Profile

Philip Hynes

The Battery had already gone South when Philip decided to join on August 8, 1862. Albert Woodbury, a lieutenant in the Battery, was recruiting in Anoka County when Philip agreed to enlist. Philip had to get permission from his parents to join the Army as he was just over 18 years old. He had been born in New York City on May 18, 1844, and was living on a farm in Grow Township with his family. Philip's family had come to Minnesota when he was 10 years old. When Philip enlisted, he was 5' 8" tall, with hazel eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion.

Being a later recruit, Philip was not yet allowed to reenlist when the Battery veteranized in March of 1864, so he did not get a veteran's furlough to go home. Instead, he was detailed to serve with Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery. Philip participated in the battles for Atlanta and saw hard fighting before he returned to the Minnesota Battery in October of 1864.

Philip's time in the Army was uneventful as he was never reported at the hospital, sick or disciplined in any of the Battery's reports. He was mustered out with the unit on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling.

After his discharge, Philip went to Hennepin County where, on December 5, 1874, he married Mary Margaret Pond. The couple made their home in Bloomington for a time, then moved to Crystal Lake Township, and finally in 1888, they moved to California. Along the way they had five children, all born in Minnesota.

Philip moved his family to Santa Cruz, California, in the 1880's where he started poultry farming. He devoted his work to the poultry ranch for the next 30 years and built it into a very respectable business, one of the first such ranches in that part of the county.

In Santa Cruz, Philip ran for city council and was elected several times, serving a total of six years as a city councilman. He was also commander of the local G.A.R. post for a term.

About this time, there were two other past members of the Battery living in Santa Cruz, George Crowson and Edwin Whitefield. It seems likely the men were all friends even after the war.

It was in 1903 that Philip applied for a pension. On the application, Philip described a permanent mark or scar as requested by the pension department as a "scar over left eye - skull broken so as to cause a depression". Whether he meant physically a dent in his head or emotional damage is unclear. He was granted a pension and collected it until his death on October 22, 1918. He was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, section B2, in Santa Cruz.

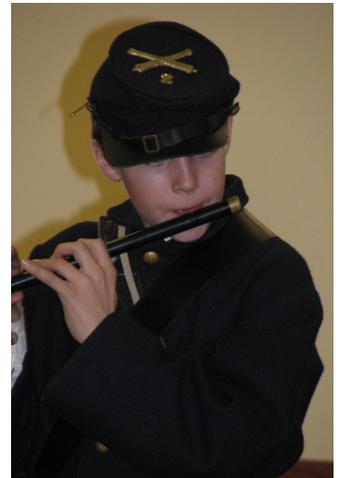


As we researched, one of the questions about Philip has always been exactly what his name was. The documents we have copies of show—in 150 year-old handwriting—his last name looking like HyNes and HyMes almost interchangeably. Well, thanks to our website, we now have the real answer. Philip's 3-great-grandson contacted Mrs. Wendel through the email link on the website. The family is sharing information with us and have promised to send a photo (many years post war) of Philip. What great fun to connect with the family of one of our original Battery members. By the way, the family is still in the same part of California that Philip moved to in the 1880s. He has family to visit his grave!

Recap

December 5, Civil War Christmas in Coon Rapids

We had a great time and somewhere around 220 people attended throughout the day. It was also pointed out that people stayed a long time at the event, spending the better part of the day there. The Anoka County Historical Society and Coon Rapids Historical Commission were both well pleased with the public turn out and even more pleased with the Battery's presentation. Thanks to all Battery members who did such a wonderful job with the event.



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>



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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1210 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066