

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 178

July 2010

Upcoming Events

July 10-11 Reenactment at Seminole Valley Farm Museum, 1400 Seminole Valley Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

This is being advertized as an “all Iowa” event, so it is expected to be a bigger event this year. BRING YOUR GRAYS as we have been asked to go Confederate for this event, but pack the blue uniform along, just in case. If you do not have a gray uniform, you can go in shirt sleeves, so plan to play.

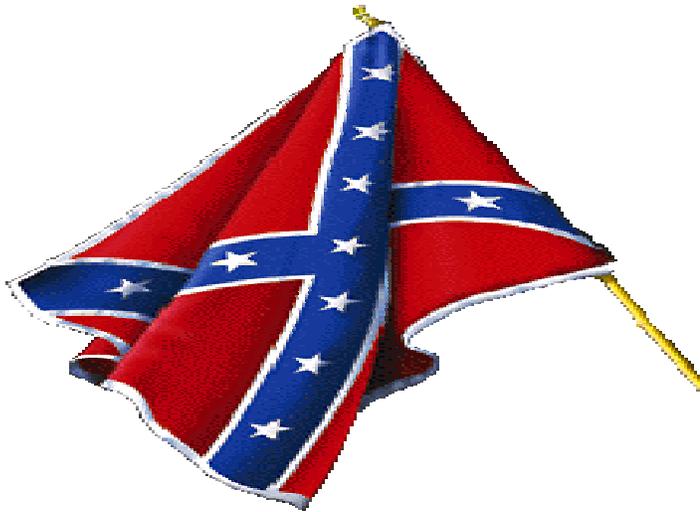
If you plan to attend, contact John Cain or Daryl Duden IMMEDIATLEY for food and gun crew counts.

The event has a website, check it out at: http://seminolevalleyfarmmuseum.net/custom_2.html

Morning Reports

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

- 1 Sergt G. H. Hamilton returned from Hospital at Chattanooga.
- 2 Wm. Costello and Thos. McInerny rept'd for duty. Command left of the front with horses
- 3 E. G. Bloomfield, transferred to V. R. C. G. O. No. 188. W. D. dated Apr 28, 1864.
- 4 C. P. Russell was enlisted & mustered into service at St. Paul Minn. as a recruit in 2d Minn Bty Dec 22 1863. March 1864 he was placed under command Capt. Woodbury. While enroute for the battery at Chattanooga, he was taken sick and left in hospital. Lieut. Dawley, then in command of the battery upon receipt of the muster & Deserter Roll failed to take him up on the morning report. An error was not discovered until July 4, 1864.
John Ball on previous return reported as 2d Lieut awaiting muster, the Battery being below the minimum strength thereby declining him from muster he resigned his commission to the Gov. of Minn.
- 5 Ing. Olsen, Dischg. March 9th 1864. Cert. of Disability Notice rec'd from Col. J. L. Simonsen, Indianapolis, Ind. of date April 1st 1864.
- 10 Whitman, a recruit erroneously dropped and not taken up in Report. Corp. W. A. Spaulding reported for duty from hospital.
- 18 Returned to camp Shinger's Farm from 'the front' - Marietta, Geo.
- 23 Corp. H. W. Towle sent to F. Hosp No. 2 Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 30 Ed T. Tillotson -- joined from arrest for desertion. Rep't'd a deserter May 25, 1864. Apprehended in Chicago Ills. May 28, 1864 and for safekeeping was placed in the guard house, whence from some misapprehension, he was sent without the knowledge of his commdg officer to Camp Douglas. He should have been taken up May 28, 1864 on this Report and reported absent in arrest.
- 31 Ed Tillotson Under arrest and sent to Chattanooga T. under guard.



Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in July, but respond to the events you plan to attend! If we don't know you are coming, we don't include you in the meal count!



Battery Profile

Joseph Sargent

The Sargent family came to Minnesota and met with disappointment. Everything was in place when Zebulon left his claim near Cannon Falls and went back to Wisconsin to get his family. When they arrived at his claim, someone else had taken it. The family moved further on and took a new claim in Forest Township in Rice County. It was the last in a series of moves that started when the family left Maine and arrived in Illinois, then moved to Wisconsin, and finally to Minnesota where they took up farming. Joseph was the fourth child in the family of ten surviving children. Two more died young.

Joseph enlisted in the Second Battery on February 14, 1862. He was 22 years old, born in Corena, Maine, on July 1, 1839. He stood 5' 8" tall, had blue eyes, sandy hair and a sandy complexion. He wouldn't be in the Battery alone long as his little brother, Lewis, joined the Battery on March 20, 1862. Lewis was three years younger than Joseph.

Another man named Philip Sargent was detailed to serve in the Minnesota Battery from the 21st Illinois Infantry. Since the Sargent family had lived in Illinois for a time, it is possible that Philip was a cousin to Joseph and Lewis, but that information has not been confirmed.

Indications are that Joseph was a steady soldier in the Battery as his name only appeared in the morning reports when he arrived at the Battery, when he reenlisted, and when he was promoted to corporal in June of 1865. No special notations were made regarding his service and he was discharged at the end of the war. Joseph decided to keep his knapsack, haversack and canteen as was allowed when he mustered out. He also collected quite a bounty. For his agreement to reenlist, he was given \$110 up front and the balance due of \$290 when he finished his term of service.

When the war was over, Joseph stayed in Minnesota. He married Libby Clinton in 1873 and the couple settled down to farming and raising children. By 1880, they had five children on their farm in Bridgewater, Rice County, Minnesota.

In 1885, Joseph moved the family to Correctionville, Iowa and there they would stay.

Joseph applied for a disability pension in 1890, citing his deafness and digestive problems resulting from the loss of his teeth. The pension was granted. In 1907, Joseph asked for an increase in his pension--at the time he was getting \$12 a month. He did get the increase and in 1912, he received \$15 a month.

Joseph lived the last years of his life at the Old Soldiers' Home in Marshalltown, Iowa. He died on July 16, 1916, 77 years and 15 days old. He was laid to rest in the Goodhope Cemetery in Pierson, Iowa, with a veteran's stone.



Recap

June 5 Anoka County Library, Anoka, MN



Many people came out to visit the Battery—despite the pouring rain. The library was exceedingly pleased with the Battery’s professionalism, cooperation and good spirits. Some of the comments received included:



I can't say enough good things about how great your group was. Peggy was so impressed with the care exhibited in setting up, many of our customers saw the re-enactment as the highlight of the day, and your good cheer despite the weather was contagious. Thank you to all of you who give of your time so we can glimpse an important part of our past. Marlene Moulton Janssen, Director, Anoka County Library

Thanks so much for being a part of Live at the Library at Rum River. There was a lot of interest in your group, even in the rain! The guys must have done a good job of keeping their powder dry - that cannon was impressive. And all you ladies in your period dress - very cool. Thanks again for coming and being such good sports in the crummy weather.

Monica Campbell
Adult Services Manager, Anoka County Library

Let your group know how popular they were with all of the patrons. People will be talking about this event for a long time. My sister brought her 7 year old autistic grandson to the event and he was delighted. My sister was amazed at how kind everybody was at answering his rapid fire questions and the highlight of his day was getting to hold the sword! Thanks to all of you.

Mary Oliver
Youth Services Manager, Anoka County Library



There was one “altercation” between a certain gentleman of the Battery and a local dignitary that gained a great deal of attention. When General Nuisance (Ron Graves) informed the woman she must be a floozy with her short skirts and painted toenails, others in the crowd nearly went into fits of apoplexy! (The lady in questions was Natalie Steffen, former member of Governor Arnie Carlson’s staff, Met Council member, and current candidate for county commissioner.) Stories of their confrontation circulated throughout Anoka County for at least the next week!) In Ron’s defense, Natalie attended the event in St. Francis the next week and looked for her “buddy from the library.” Natalie loved it as much as Ron did!

June 12 Woodbury Park — St. Francis, MN



Four of our Battery men marched in good step in the parade—in the rain. The rain started just before the parade and continued throughout the afternoon. The weather kept many people away, but we did have some visitors to the camp where our short gun crew fired the shot to begin the parade at 1:00 and our ladies were holding a quilting bee.



June 19-20, Adams, MN



While a smaller event, this land is wonderful for camps and the battle. The park is on the edge of town and has many flat shaded areas for camps, flush bathrooms in the picnic shelter, an abundance of good fire wood, and city water was close. The battle were in a field where the grass was over knee high, lending a realism



we don't get in most parks. Since there was really no activity planned other than a ladies tea (at a time that conflicted with feeding our soldiers) and a haberdashery, Mrs. Wendel and Mrs. Graves went all out cooking Saturday’s evening meal. They roasted a turkey, had mashed potatoes, green beans and even cranberry sauce! There were many longing looks cast at our turkey by neighboring camps! When Sunday threatened rain, we were able to get our camps down early, so we avoided wet canvas.





**June 26-27
Franklin
Grove, Ill.**

Weather again was an issue, but we had a grand time with our friends from Battery G in this historic village. Heat and rain are probably most responsible for keeping visitors



away, but at least the storms avoided the camps (well, there was a storm Friday night, but it didn't take down anything in our camp) and we didn't need to evacuate like we did last year!

The Sunday morning formation brought what was probably the most unusual order ever given. Captain Tedrick got a message about the weather and issued

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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the command to "break camp immediately" because of impending storms, but stick around and when it's over, they hoped to get in the battle. The storm missed the village by a short distance (we could see it going by in the south) and the battle went on as planned. It made for a very rapid camp breaking at the end of the event!

Despite the weather, we had a wonderful time!

Scottish John helped keep breakfast (and the cook) dry!

Private Wendel consulting the "weather rock" radar.

