

## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 177

June 2010

### Upcoming Events

#### **NEW EVENT—not on original calendar!**

#### **June 5 Anoka County Library, Anoka, MN**

4201 6th Ave., Anoka. This “Live at the Library” event is four hours, 10-2. We’ll set up the gun, do firing demos, and other stations much like schools. They expect hundreds of people at this ‘Live at the Library’ day. Arrive not later than 9:00 to be set up by 10:00. For more info:

<http://www.anoka.lib.mn.us/> Click on the “Live at the Library” icon for a description of the day.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Highway 10 heading northbound into Anoka, exit on 7th Avenue. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right (north) and go about two miles to Bunker Lake Blvd. (aka Co. Rd 116). This is a major intersection with a stop light. Turn left on Bunker Lake Road and get into the right lane as quickly as possible. The first driveway on your right is the turn into the library. It is all alone in the middle of a big field.

#### **June 12 Woodbury Park — St. Francis, MN**

We will provide a color guard to march in the parade and fire the gun at our encampment in the Park. Bring a period correct lunch! Ladies, the plan is to have a quilting bee—all you need to bring is your fingers! Hoops are encouraged if you have them. For a schedule of the event: <http://www.stfrancis.govoffice.com/vertical/Sites/%7BECBFA704-102D-4B78-9CB5-82A178C237A7%7D/uploads/%7B1F0E7529-77DD-4CDA-A8B5-D6C2AF1C467F%7D.PDF>

#### **June 19-20 Reenactment at Adams, MN**

This is a newer reenactment event in Minnesota. Let John Cain know if you plan to attend for meal and gun crew counts. For more information, <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=107797789245763&ref=mf>

#### **June 26-27 Reenactment at Franklin Grove, Ill.**

We are again invited to this very nice event in a historical village with lots going on all weekend long! Reply to John Cain if you plan to attend for food and gun planning. For more information: <http://www.battleofchaplincreek.com/index.html>

### Will Spaulding’s Diary

For at least some of the time William spent serving with the Battery, he kept a diary. The diary was written in two small books, mostly in pencil on darkening paper. William may have been a clerk, but he seemed to have an aversion to punctuation, using mostly dashes instead of periods and capital letters appear randomly throughout his writing. While hard to read, William did leave his thoughts and observations on the war on the pages. The diary is in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

*June 21st 1863 --*

*21 - on day guard*

*22 = " (on) Fatigue, Messroom(?) -- Wood*

*23 = Extra duty --*

*24 = Started after the rebs - commenced raining (An added note sideways in the margin reads:) Millersburg Camped*

*27 = passed through Hoovers Gap - Craven got hurt Sudley broke his leg - camped at Beach Grove --*

*28th = Marched towards Manchester rained every day since we left Murfreesboro - came into camp at 4 o'clock at night at Manchester -- rained hard all night.*

*29 Ordered to send our knapsacks to the rear -- & for the drivers to carry a change of shi---ts(?) for the cannons*

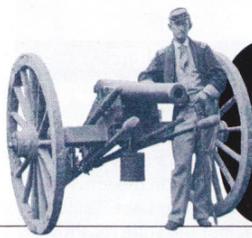
*30 Still at Manchester - The first dry day since the 23rd*

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held at the event in Adams, MN, June 19-20.



Ron and Vickie Wendel visited this exhibit at the National Archives and highly recommend it! There is a great online version, [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov) Check it out!



# Open Fire!

Civil War  
News  
& History

## BRIEFS



### ● Pony Express rides again

The 150th anniversary of the Pony Express will be celebrated with a re-ride of the nearly 2,000-mile route from California to Missouri on June 6 through June 26, according to the National Pony Express Association.

The event commemorates the Pony Express of 1860-61, when the Central Overland and California Pikes Peak Express Company carried the mail for 19 months to prove that year-round delivery to the coast was possible. Riders through each of the eight Pony Express states will carry commemorative letters with special U.S. Postal Service cancellations.

Re-rides of the route have in the past attracted more than 500 participants.

## WORDS OF WAR

“We will fight them, sir, till hell freezes, and then, sir, we’ll fight them on the ice”

—Anonymous Confederate officer to British observer FitzGerald Ross, July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg

## Discover the war firsthand at new interactive National Archives exhibit

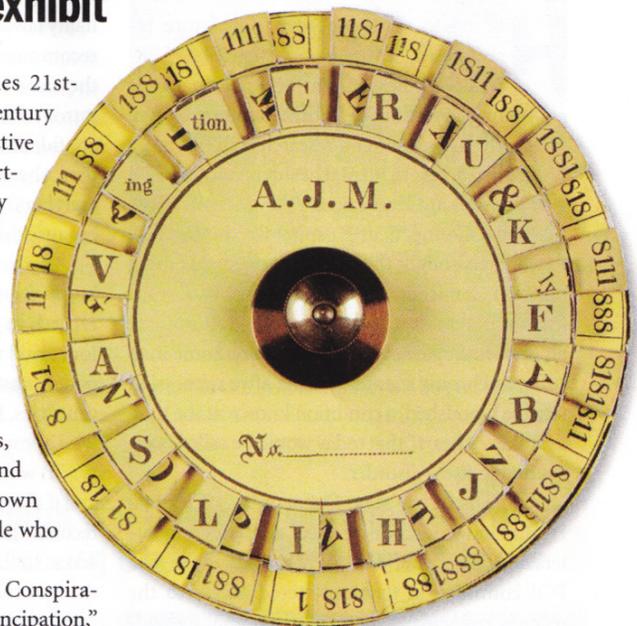
The National Archives combines 21st-century technology with 19th-century ephemera for a new interactive sesquicentennial exhibition the department calls “the most extensive display ever assembled” from its massive Civil War collection.

The Archives might seem an unconventional place to find the human dimension of the war. But *Discovering the Civil War* uses touch-screens and social media tools to give visitors a rare glimpse into letters, diaries, maps, photos, official documents and other artifacts that reveal little-known details of the war years and the people who lived through them.

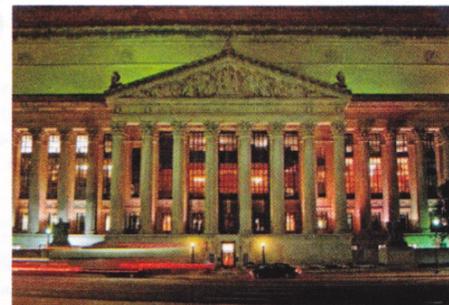
Arranged by themes—“Spies and Conspiracies,” “Prisoners and Casualties,” “Emancipation,” “Global War” and “Raising Armies”—the exhibit will be displayed in two parts. The first is on display at the National Archives Building in Washington through September 6. The second opens in November and runs to April 2011. The rarely seen original Emancipation Proclamation will be displayed for three days during the second part of the exhibit.

In addition to the exhibit itself, Archives officials plan a number of free public programs, including lectures, family days, panel discussions and a Civil War film series. A special exhibition catalogue is scheduled for release this fall.

The exhibition is presented by the Center for the National Archives Experience and the Foundation for the National Archives. The National Archives Building is on the National Mall on Constitution Avenue at 9th Street. Exhibit hall hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Labor Day; winter hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



The cypher disc, above, was designed for decoding secret military communications. See it and other war-era items in a new interactive exhibit at the National Archives, below.



Can't make it to Washington? Watch for a major multicity tour in 2011.

For more information, visit the National Archives Web site at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

*Open Fire!* is reported and written by Tim and Elizabeth Rowland

# Battery Profile

## Ambrose Young

The last job Ambrose had in his life was a very special one. He was the man responsible for raising and lowering the American flag over the Minnesota State Capitol. It was a job of honor and his standing as a veteran probably helped him get it. It is unknown how long he was the official flag raiser, but that job was specifically mentioned in his obituary.

Ambrose was 19 years old when he joined the Second Minnesota Battery on August 26, 1864. He was one of the men who answered the call in the draft rendezvous in the summer of 1864. Ambrose did not go to St. Peter to enlist alone and for good reason. He was only 19 years old and needed his father to sign a consent form. Ambrose enlisted for one year and was given \$33.33 of his promised \$100 bounty. On the enlistment papers, Ambrose made his mark rather than signing his name.

The descriptive roll showed Ambrose to have been born in "Lower Canada" on October 15. He was 5' 4" tall, with gray eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. His occupation was farmer, though the land most likely belonged to his father.

The last year of the war was uneventful in terms of battle for the Second Battery and Ambrose never really participated in a "big" battle. He came home when the war was over and was discharged from Fort Snelling on September 2, 1865.

Ambrose married quite late in life, not finding a bride until January 1, 1894, when he married Carrie Mary Waters in Prescott, Wisconsin. The couple did not have any children.

As old age was catching up with him, Ambrose decided to apply for a pension in 1908. That was when the trouble started. Ambrose was noted as being 19 years old when he enlisted. However, when he went to apply for his pension, he wrote down a different birth year. The Pension Department noted the discrepancy and began asking questions. Ambrose said he tried diligently to find a record of his birth, but he could not find one. His parents were dead, but he was very sure his birthday was October 15. It was the day he said his mother always remembered him as long as she lived. He said his father provided the date to the enlisting officer and that may be where the mistake came in. Ambrose really was only 18 when he enlisted, his birthday not coming until a month later when he did turn 19. The Pension Department accepted the change in dates and noted his birthday as October 15, 1845. Ambrose received his \$15.50 a month.

In 1912, Ambrose was living at 991 Victoria Street in St. Paul. Nothing more is known of him until Saturday, March 6th, 1920. Ambrose went to get his hair cut and died very suddenly in the barber shop in St. Paul. The cause was a heart attack. His body was taken to LeCenter, Minnesota, for the funeral and he was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery in Waterville.

After Ambrose's death, a widow's application was filed along with a minor child application to the Pension Department petitioning for Ambrose's pension. This information conflicts directly with his obituary which said he was buried beside his wife in Calvary Cemetery. It is known Ambrose was married and that his wife's name was Carrie, but she died in 1917 and was waiting for Ambrose in the cemetery. He also stated they never had a child. Who filed the application as Ambrose's widow? Did Ambrose remarry and have a child with a second wife?

He left no easily found answers.



# Recap

Submitted by Sgt. Duden

## **May 5 Bluffview, Lake City, MN**

Five members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery travelled to Lake City to cover various aspects of the Civil War during this 5th grade program. Materials covered; Pvt Norman (Uniform & Equipment), Pvt Hoekstra (Weapons), Bvt Gen Graves (General Officers), Ms Graves (1860's Women) and Sgt Duden (2nd Minnesota Battery & Civil War Rations). Each of the two one hour programs was followed by an interesting question & answer session. Our question for the day... Which Civil War General will Pvt Graves be impersonating next?



## **May 14 Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale, MN**

Using adapt and recover tactics, five learning stations were created to cover various topics related to the Civil War. Stations were assigned as follows: Lt Cain (Flags & Artifacts), Sgt Duden (Equipment & Rations), Pvt Hoekstra (Weapons), Bvt Gen & Ms Graves (1860's Events and People), Cpl Overby & Pvt Wendel (Model 1861 10-pdr Parrott Rifle). A rare occurrence, excellent weather, provided the opportunity for an outdoor question & answer session at the end of the day. Watching Bvt Gen Graves attempt to eat lunch without devouring his facial hair was one of many hi-lights of the day.

## **May 17 Calvin Christian School, Edina, MN**

We adapted again and were able to create five learning stations to cover various topics related to the Civil War. Stations were assigned as follows: Lt Cain (Flags & Artifacts), Pvt Crowder (Uniforms & Bugle Calls), Pvt Ritchie (Weapons), Bvt Gen & Ms Graves (1860's Events & People), Sgt Duden & Pvt Wendel (Model 1861 10-pdr Parrott Rifle). An excellent group of students and Pvt Crowder playing "School Call" to begin the day helped make this a memorable experience.



## **May 27 Oakdale Elementary, Oakdale, MN**

Five learning stations were used to cover various topics related to the Civil War: Lt Cain (Flags & Artifacts), Pvt Crowder & Ms Wendel (Bugle Calls & Laundress), Cpl Bruce & Pvt Hoekstra (Weapons), Pvt & Ms Graves (1860's Events & People), Sgt Duden, Pvt Wendel, Pvt Arnoldy & Pvt Golden (Model 1861 10-pdr Parrott Rifle). Although an appearance by "Senator" Graves was nice, this day belonged to Pvt Golden. During the live firings, he served admirably in positions #1, #2, #3, #4 and then stepped in to instruct our student Gunner during the final firing. Great weather, plenty of cold water and a thoughtful question & answer session made this appearance outstanding.



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

## **May 31 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN**

Once again, it was clear beautiful morning in Bay Point Park for the Red Wing Memorial Day Observance. Ms Graves, reading of Logan's Proclamation during the program, was one of many outstanding speakers during the ceremony. Sitting with Ms Graves, also representing the women of the 2nd Minnesota Battery, were Ms Rosasco and Ms Crozier. The volunteer gun crew for this ceremony, firing a three round salute to honor our departed comrades, was as follows: G Cpl Bruce, #1 Pvt J. Watkins, #2 Pvt Arnoldy, #3 Pvt Crozier, #4 Pvt Graves, #5 Pvt P. Watkins, #6 QMSgt Rosasco, #7 Pvt Golden, #8 Sgt Duden with 1st Lt Cain commanding. Everyone who attended this event remarked it was a wonderful experience to participate in this ceremony to honor all our military veterans.