



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 184

February 2011

### On This Date-150 Years Ago

February was a busy month in the seceded states. Enough states had broken away that it was time for them to organize and form their own government. In Montgomery, Alabama, delegates from each of the seceded states wrote a constitution. It was very similar to the U.S. Constitution, but the federal government of the South was prohibited from enforcing any protective tariffs and it could not subsidize a favored business. Individual state sovereignty was paramount and the right to own slaves was protected.

The Southern Constitution was passed unanimously. A former U.S. senator from Mississippi was tapped to become the president of the new Southern Confederacy. It was a provisional presidency—they planned to have elections to make it official.

Texas seceded in February of 1861, bringing the total of seceded states to seven.

The big argument of the day, both North and South, was the legality of secession. People on both sides of the Mason Dixon were discussing the Constitution, trying to decide if that founding document allowed secession at all. Some insisted it did. They pointed to the Declaration of Independence and the language that said when a government no longer represented the people it governed, those people were obligated to throw it off and serve it no longer.

Others insisted secession was not allowed by the Constitution and the action was illegal, but not worth going to war over. Most people didn't believe the secession issue would really lead to a war. Delegates on both sides were continuing to work for a peaceful solution to the conflict that was brewing between North and South.

### Upcoming Events

#### **FEBRUARY 26 Planning Meeting!**

Due to early requests for the Second Battery, we will be VOTING on the 2011 Battery Event Calendar at the February meeting! The tentative schedule was passed out at the dinner in Red Wing and included in this newsletter. Please review them, check your calendars and be prepared to commit to events you will attend for 2011 on February 26.

If you have info on possible events, SEND IT TO John Cain or Daryl Duden ASAP to have it considered at the February meeting. (Contact info on the back page.)

#### **March 12, Anoka County Library, Rum River**

Arrive at 9:30 to be set up and ready for the public at 10:30! The event runs to 1:30, so pack a period “snack” if you want.

We will be portraying “winter camp” at this indoor event. The ladies will be sewing, writing letters, preparing things to send to the soldiers. Soldiers will be playing checkers, explaining equipment, whittling, and whatever else they can think of that is appropriate for “winter camp.” Bring lots of blankets, great coats and mittens to make it look like winter inside. **This is a paid event.** Mrs. Wendel has given the names of those who replied they could come to the library, so they are counting on you!! Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier! If you have questions, contact Vickie at 763754-2476.

#### **WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL EVENT**

August 12-14 Registration for this event is due on March 15, so if you plan to go, be prepared to **commit your attendance for Wilson's Creek at the February meeting.** There is time to work out the details, but you need to be registered if you plan to attend.

#### **Next Meeting**

Saturday, February 26, 11:00 a.m.  
Red Public Library, Red Wing  
Contact John Cain with any questions, (651) 388-9250



## Tentative Schedule

This is the schedule handed out at the dinner in January and the basis from which we will set our 2011 schedule when we vote on February 26. Bring your calendars so you know what you can attend. Remember, the Battery's participation depends on those who commit to actually attend!

### **MARCH**

TBD Hope Academy, Minneapolis (inside)  
12 Anoka County Library, Rum River branch Winter Camp (inside)

### **APRIL**

9 Flag presentation/honor guard, MN State Capitol  
23- 24 Reenactment, Keokuk, IA

### **MAY**

TBD 4 schools in the Twin Cities / Lake City  
21 Rum River Library  
Memorial Day

### **JUNE**

11 Encampment & Parade, St. Francis  
18- 19 Reenactment, Adams, MN  
24- 26 Reenactment, Wasioja, MN

### **JULY**

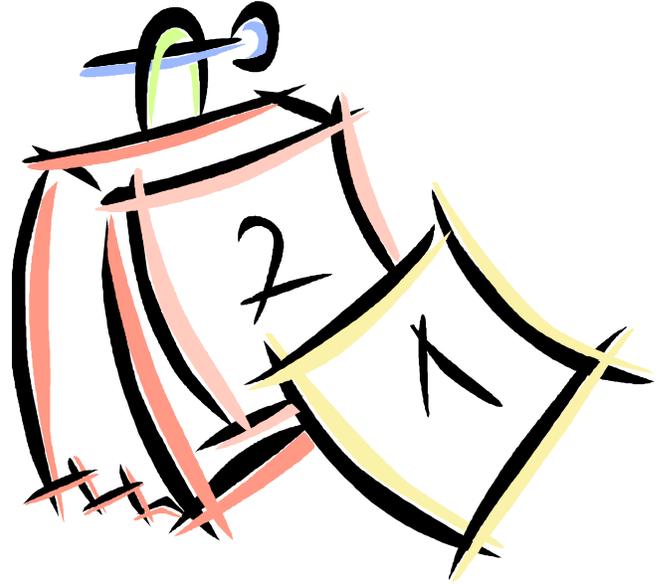
9- 10 Reenactment, Seminole Valley, Cedar Rapids

### **AUGUST**

6- 7 Reenactment, Boscobel, WI  
12-14 Reenactment, Wilsons Creek, MO.  
20-21 Demo/Encampment, Heritage Village, East Grand Forks  
27- 28 Demo, Ahlmans, Morristown, MN

### **SEPTEMBER**

16- 18 Demo/Parade, Minneapolis  
24 Demo, Kandiyohi County Museum



## Burnside School Display

For three weeks in November, Battery members contributed items for display in the school's showcase. It was very well received and educational for all who saw it! Nice work, Battery members!



## Battery Profile

### Otis Hunter

Otis was living in Utica, Winona County, Minnesota, on January 28, 1862, when he decided to enlist in the Second Minnesota Battery. He was living in Utica, Nebraska, when he died on September 10, 1899. Otis left no record to tell why he might have favored a town named Utica, but the coincidence is striking.

Otis was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. By 1860, he was living in Utica, Minnesota, listed in the house hold of Doctor Andrew Vanderlyno. He was single, stood 5' 7-1/2" tall, had gray eyes, with light hair and a light complexion. He was working as a carpenter.

Winona County provided a significant number of men to the Second Battery due to the recruiting efforts of Richard Dawley, who would serve as a lieutenant in the Battery. Otis was one of the Winona County men who were mustered in on January 28, 1862.

The Battery trained, went South to be equipped with guns and horses, and began an active campaign. Otis was with them, but two days before the first big battle the Battery would be involved in, Otis was sent to the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky. He remained there until the 31st of December when he was given a disability discharge for "General Anascara" according to the surgeon who signed the discharge.

Otis went back to Minnesota, but he was not ready to give up the Army. On December 14, 1863, Otis joined the Second Minnesota Cavalry, Company H, agreeing to serve for three years or the duration of the war. He received a bounty of \$25 and a "premium" of \$2 at his enlistment. In the Second Cavalry, Otis served as wagoner until his discharge on April 28, 1866. Only once was he away from his unit and that was for a special detail, not illness. At his discharge in 1866, he was owed \$18.12 in back pay and \$75 in bounty money that had been held. He also owed \$8 for equipment he had either lost or kept. Otis never held any rank higher than private.

In 1867, Otis was living in Faribault County. On November 1st, he married Aryan Gray of Winona.

No records tell when or why Otis and Aryan left Minnesota. In 1890, Otis filed for an invalid pension, stating his home as Utica, Steward County, Nebraska. At the time, he listed only his cavalry service. Nine years later, Aryan applied for a widow's pension as Otis had passed away on September 10, 1899. She buried him in the Utica Village Cemetery, Utica, Nebraska, with a veteran's marker noting his Cavalry service.

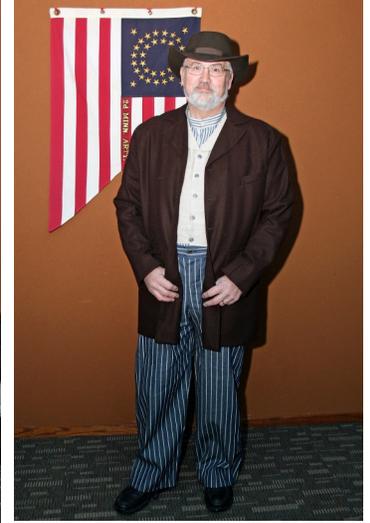
Aryan was, according to a pension deposition, "wholly dependent on Charity for her support and the necessaries of life." The only property the couple had owned was a small house on a lot in the village, valued at not more than \$300. An estimate of her household goods placed them at a value of less than \$25.00.



# Recap

**January 22, 6:00** Christmas Dinner Take Two!

What a grand time was had by all at Norton's in Red Wing! Huzzah all around to Private and Mrs. Graves who did such a wonderful job of organizing the event. Special thanks to Lt. Cain's daughter, Tiffany, who captured everyone at the event so wonderfully well! A few of the photos are here, but go to: [http://www.tiffanycainphotography.com/Other/2ndMNBattery/15560727\\_yUCAs#1165677824\\_66wme](http://www.tiffanycainphotography.com/Other/2ndMNBattery/15560727_yUCAs#1165677824_66wme) to see more if you have not yet done so!



**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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**Your Country Needs You!**

**And so does the Battery!**

***2011 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please send this form and your check to:

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