



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 215

February 2014

On This Date-150 Years Ago

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

- 1 Wm. H. Shaw returned from Hospt.
- 6 One Horse died in Camp
- 8 Lieut N. H. Harder returned to Ca. from Recruiting Service
- 9 One Horse died in Camp
- 10 One Horse died in Camp
- 12 Sergt McCausland detailed for duty with Pioneer Brig. by S. F. O. No. 41 Maj. Genl. Thomas.
- 15 2d Lieut R. L. Dawley placed in arrest by order of Capt. W. Aug. Hotchkiss and command turned over to Henry W. Harder, 1st Lieut. One Horse died in camp.
- 18 2d Lieut Chas. N. Earl put in arrest by order of Capt. Wm. Augustus Hotchkiss
- 19 One Horse died in Camp
- 23 One Section of the Batty under the com'nd of Lieut. Harder went to the "Front" with the Division
- 27 Section returned

This was not the best time for the Second Battery boys, camped near Rossville, Georgia. The weather was cold and wet. Supplies were available, but the distribution was slow. As noted in the morning reports, the horses were not faring well, but the men seemed to be better as there were no notations of men sent to the hospital.

There was not a lot of action for the Battery in February of 1864, so the days were spent fighting boredom and camp troubles instead of Confederates. One section did go to the "front" late in the month, but they returned four days later without seeing any real action.

Upcoming Events

March 15, Civil War Symposium, Mankato

A full day of presentations, storytelling, interactive exhibits, costumed reenactors, authors, and much more with a focus on 1864. This is a fundraising event to restore a Civil War monument in Mankato. For more information, see their website: www.boyinblue.org

April 12, Rum River Library, Anoka

4201 6th Avenue, Anoka, 10:30-1:00

Civil War Camp and Ladies Aid Society

There are always two fronts in any war—the battle front and the home front. We will recreate what a soldier's life was like in camp while the ladies hold an Aid Society meeting back home at the Rum River Library. Ladies will share their support efforts from the home front while the soldiers talk of the hardships, uniforms, and tools of war carried by soldiers. Ladies, bring your hand work! More info to come.

2014 Dues are due!

Almost everyone has done a great job getting their dues in! Thank you! To remain an active Second Minnesota Battery member, your dues must be paid before the March meeting.

Dues for associate members dues are also due. Both levels of membership receive the monthly (most months anyhow) newsletter, *Action Front*.

Please send your dues, along with the form on page 5, to Daryl Duden, 1210 West 4th Street, Red Wing, MN, 55066.

The form is requested to be sure we have all of your contact information up to date with correct email and cell phone numbers.

Next Meeting

February 22, 2014 11:00am

We will meet at Marie's Underground Dining in Red Wing. Call John Cain if you need the address or directions, (651) 388-9250.



Battery Profiles

Edwin A. Whitefield

Edwin was another of the men who left few records behind to tell of his life. He was born on October 12, 1838, in Bedford, New York. When he enlisted in 1862, he was farming in Stearns County, Minnesota, and he already had a connection to the Second Battery. His brother-in-law, Alexander Kinkead, had joined the Battery on February 2, so when Edwin joined on February 21, he already knew at least one man in the Battery. Edwin was 24 years old, had black eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion. He stood 5' 8-1/2" tall.

Life in the army seemed to be agreeable to Edwin since he was never in the hospital for any illness. He did spend some time in the hospital, but it was for a wound he received at the battle of Stones River on December 31, 1862. Little detail was recorded about his wound. The Battery's morning report listed the killed and wounded, Edwin's name was on the wounded list with no detail of the wound provided.

Edwin reported for duty after his hospital stay on March 6, 1863, and continued to serve. When it came time to reenlist, Edwin agreed to stay in the army another three years or the duration. It earned him a bounty and a 30 day furlough. On November 16, 1864, Edwin was promoted to corporal and on 9th of February, 1865, he was promoted to sergeant with the promotion to back date to November 1, 1864. It appears he was already acting in the role of sergeant since he was referred as such in the morning reports after November of 1864.

Edwin was not there to know he had officially been promoted to sergeant since he had been granted a 14 day furlough on the 6th of February. He and another private were both gone on furlough and due back on the 20th, but neither of them returned at their appointed time. Edwin returned to the Battery on March 13; no report of any punishment was noted in the morning reports or order book for his tardiness.

The war ended and Edwin was with the Battery as they mustered out of the army on August 16, 1865.

In 1898, Edwin applied for a pension, citing the chronic diarrhea he first had during the service. He made no mention of any wound in his pension application. The application asked where he had lived since leaving the army and Edwin wrote in, "numerous localities" rather than list them. He also changed his occupation, saying he had worked as a carpenter ever since leaving the army. He told the Pension Department he was not married and had no children. The pension application was filed in Washington State

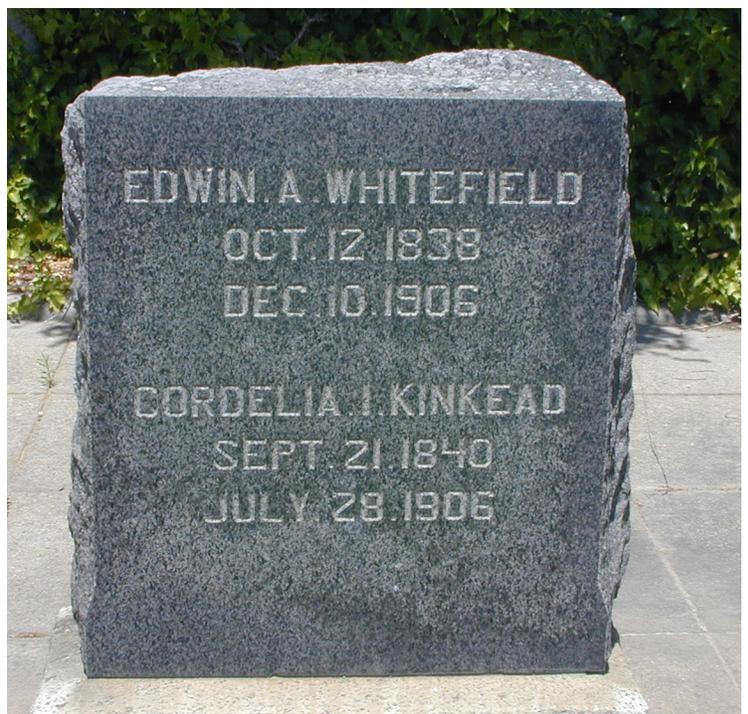
and it was granted.

In 1906, Edwin applied for an increase in his pension allotment. The application was filed in Santa Cruz, California. He was rated at \$10 per month as he was no longer able to earn his support by manual labor.

Edwin died suddenly after an illness of only a few days on December 10, 1906. His obituary noted he was living alone at the time since his wife had died a few years earlier. Edwin had told the Pension Department he was not married, so it raises a question.

Edwin was buried in the Santa Cruz Memorial Park where his name and dates are carved on a plain gray stone. Beneath them, are the name and dates of Cordelia Kinkead. Cordelia was Edwin's sister. She had been married to Alexander Kinkead, the lieutenant of the Battery her brother served with, in 1860. They were divorced in 1876 and Cordelia was living either near or with her brother in California at the time of her death in 1906. She may have been confused as being Edwin's wife in his obituary or, Edwin's wife may have died before he applied for a pension and that was why he said he was not married. The answer is not known.

No evidence has been found to support it, but the fact that Edwin is buried two graves away from another man who served in the Second Minnesota Battery would indicate they probably were friends. George Crowson rests only a few feet from Edwin. A third Battery member, Philip Hymes, also lived in Santa Cruz at the same time as George and Edwin.



Revenue Stamps

(Information from the Tax History Museum)

War is expensive and the Federal Government had to find a way to pay for it when the fighting began in 1861. The Internal Revenue Act of 1862 was a broad system of internal taxation that not only insured a valuable source of income, but it shielded the northern economy from the sort of ruinous inflation experienced by the South. The *Internal Revenue Act of 1862*, enacted by Congress in July, 1862, took the inflationary pressure produced by federally issued greenback dollars.

The Act placed excise taxes on just about everything, including sin and luxury items like liquor, tobacco, playing cards, carriages, yachts, billiard tables, and jewelry. It taxed patent medicines and newspaper advertisements. It imposed license taxes on practically every profession or service except the clergy. It instituted stamp taxes, value added taxes on manufactured goods and processed meats, inheritance taxes, taxes on the gross receipts of corporations, banks, and insurance companies, as well as taxes on dividends or interest they paid to investors. To administer these excise taxes, along with the tariff system, the Internal Revenue Act also created a *Bureau of Internal Revenue*, whose first commissioner, George Boutwell, described it as "the largest Government department ever organized."

Because most of these taxes affected lower income Americans more than higher-income Americans, Republicans looked to reinforce the system's fairness by implementing a supplementary system of taxation that more accurately reflected taxpayers' "ability to pay." The income tax addressed this need. The first federal income tax in American history actually preceded the Internal Revenue Act of 1862. Passed in August 1861, it helped assure the financial community that the government would have a reliable source of income to pay the interest on war bonds.



Conveyance stamps were proof of tax payment and had to appear on any document that conveyed real property to a buyer. A deed is an example or title are examples. A property with a value between \$100 and \$500 had to pay a tax of 50¢, the smallest denomination printed in conveyance stamps. If your deed did not have the proper stamps on it, the fine was \$100.



The Certificate stamps were affixed to certificates of deposit, damage, profits stock, or measurements certificates. Failure to have a stamp (pay the tax) was punishable by a fine of \$100. Cost of the stamps varied with the value of the transaction and the type of bond.

Contract stamps taxed a brokers contract, note, or memo for a sale of any kind except bullion, securities, or currency. The only denomination of contract stamps was the 10¢ stamp, failure to pay was \$100 fine.



Postage Stamp

These were the "reissued" postage stamps from the Federal Government at the outbreak of the Civil War. The new stamps replaced all previous stamps, making them worthless. It was thought postmasters in the disloyal states had "vast quantities of stamps" and the Federal government wanted to prevent their "fraudulent use" so a new design of stamp was issued. Postage stamps were often used as currency since faith in the government dollars was weak and coins for change were in short supply.

The three-cent stamp saw the most use of any stamp during the war because at the time, three cents was the postal rate per ½ oz on letters traveling not more than 3,000 miles. The Civil War caused a large increase in stamp sales because of the correspondence between soldiers, their family members, and friends. It is estimates that some two billion of these three-cent stamps were printed.

It is still valid for postage today!



“Fort Snelling, Minnesota, Rendezvous of the Minnesota Volunteers,” drawn by W.J. Whitefield for *Harper’s Weekly Magazine*, September 28, 1861.

Fort Snelling was the Federal government presence in Minnesota until the towns of Minneapolis and St. Paul reduced the need for a military post in the region. The Army sold Fort Snelling to Franklin Steele in 1858 for \$90,000—most of which he never did pay. (Steel County, MN is named for him.) During the Civil War, Steele leased Fort Snelling back to the War Department where more than 24,000 recruits from Minnesota assembled and received whatever training they got before being sent South or to fight the Dakota. The Fort was used as a concentration camp for the captive Dakota people; their internment camp was on the river flats below the fort through the winter of 1862-63. After the war, United States Army regulars returned to Fort Snelling. The fort dispatched forces to protect the interests of settlers on the frontier and remained in Army hands until after WWII.

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:

President

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



A friend with an interest in the Civil War sent the above cartoon to me after the week of Southern ice/snow storms and all the problems it caused dominated the news. I couldn't resist sharing it with all of you!

Your Country Needs You!

And so does the Battery!

2014 dues are DUE!! To remain on the active member 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:

Daryl Duden
1210 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

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