

# 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 229

August 2015

## On This Date-150 Years Ago

Keeping records was not something the men of the original Battery were good at as the war was winding down. No morning reports were written, nor was the Battery's muster roll kept up. They spent the last days of their service at the front in Philadelphia, Tennessee, about 75 miles from Chattanooga.

According to the St. Cloud newspaper, the *Democrat*, the men of the Battery left Philadelphia on July 13th to return to Minnesota and Fort Snelling. They arrived during the very last days of the month. The *Democrat* published a report on August 3, 1865, stating:

### **SECOND BATTERY**

*The Second Minnesota Battery, Capt. W. A. Hotchkiss, numbering 149 men and five officers, arrived in St. Paul on Friday afternoon. They were welcomed by State, city and military officers and by the people and were conducted to the to the capitol for a good supper, provided by the ladies.*

When the boys returned to Fort Snelling to be mustered out, those in charge had a bit of explaining to do. According to the *St. Paul Press*, the Fort did not have enough cash on hand to pay off the men. Without their final pay settlement, the men could not be discharged, so a two week furlough was granted to the Battery members to allow time for the money to arrive. The men were required to return to the Fort to be given their back pay, any bounties they were owed and be formally discharged.

The *St. Paul Press* carried the story August 17, 1865.

***The Second Battery -- The Second Battery, Capt. Hotchkiss, was mustered out yesterday, nearly 150 men retiring to civil life. They will not be paid off until to -day. It will require nearly \$30,000 to pay them off as most of them have a year's pay due them and even more.***

Any man who did not return from the furlough was considered a deserter and his pay was forfeit. There were a few men who did not return and it caused them a great deal of trouble later in life when they went to apply for pensions.

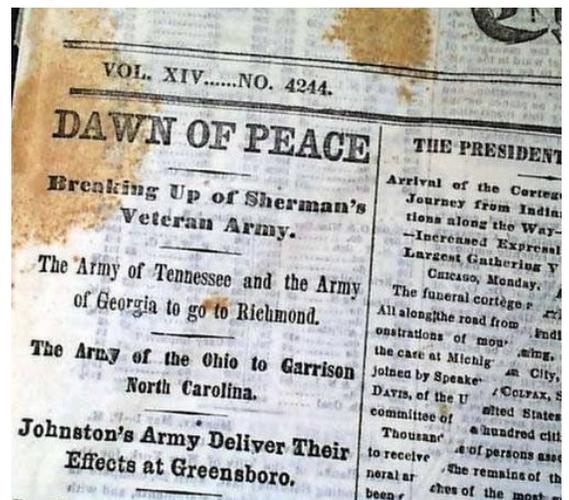
## Upcoming Events

### **August 1-2 Boscobel, WI – 24th Annual Muskets & Memories Civil War weekend**

This is one of our favorite events all year—fun battle scenarios, lots of participants, and PIE! As discussed at the June meeting, this event usually draws a large number of our members and meal planning gets much more difficult. PLEASE RSVP when the planning email goes out whether you will be attending or not. More info at: <http://www.musketsandmemories.net/sched.html>

### **August 22-23, Morristown, MN**

Fort Ahlman Encampment & Firing Demonstration at what is without question the wildest event we attend all year. We'll be firing our gun on a regular schedule so members will have plenty of time to visit the many other activities happening at this event (and eat shaved ice!).



## Next Meeting

**August 29, 2015 11:00**

Marie's Underground Dining, Red Wing  
For more info or directions, contact Ken Cunningham, (651) 388-2945.



# Battery Profile

## Hugh Dunn

Hugh Dunn was a 30 year old policeman in St. Paul when he enlisted in the Second Battery on March 31, 1864. He enlisted for three years or the duration of the war and received a bounty of \$300. He was 5' 11" tall, had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. He had been born in Ohio and claimed Rose, Ramsey County, as his home in 1864.

Having had some experience with driving teams, Hugh was detailed to drive a six mule team while the Battery was on the march from Nashville to Chattanooga, Tennessee, in June of 1864. Hugh's pension application explained what happened about June 10th. "My team and load became lodged in a muddy place in the road. I was endeavoring to extricate them and in so doing my left hand was caught between the wheel and wagon box and was crushed and was treated therefore by the Battery surgeon, Hospital steward, and by a citizen Physician...and at a private house five miles west of Chattanooga...where I remained three months."

Despite the injury, Hugh was promoted to the rank of Corporal in the Battery on August 14, 1864. The Battery saw little active service in the last months of the war and Hugh remained with the Battery until it was mustered out in August of 1865.

On May 27, 1867, Hugh married Hattie Joy in St. Anthony. She may well have been the sister of Benjamin and Horatio Joy who served in the Battery with Hugh. Hugh and Hattie had three children, one girl and two boys.

In 1883, the family was living in Minneapolis, Hennepin County and Hugh received a pension of \$8.00 a month. His disability was for an "injury of left hand causing contraction of fingers, diar. and dis. of abdominal viscera". The intestinal problems were what finally caught up to Hugh. A doctor's certificate described Hugh as having been bed ridden for most of the last year of his life and for long spells before that. The doctor listed the cause of death as chronic diarrhea.

Hugh died November 2, 1884. He was buried in the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery in Minneapolis. The old name of this cemetery was Layman's Cemetery as that was the name of the man who owned it when Hugh was buried there.



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## The Big Guns of the Battery

(There have been several requests to repeat this article, especially for the newer members.)

The Second Minnesota Battery didn't keep the same guns throughout the war. In fact, from references currently in our possession, they seem to have changed guns fairly often. Mentions in reports, letters and orders give only glimpses of the kind of guns the Battery was using at any given moment. At present, this is what we know:

17 May 1862	Four 6 pound cannon and two 12 pound howitzers
Late 1862	Four 10 pound parrots and two 12 pound Napoleons
Oct. 1862	"A section of howitzers" (Flint letters)
8 Oct 1862	"two guns-howitzers..." (Civil & Indian, p. 657)
25 Jan 1863	"exchanged six-pounders for ten-pounder parrots" (Civil & Indian, p. 661)
7 March 1863	"Section of parrots" (Col. Heg report)
16 Aug. 1863	Two 10 pound parrots and four 12 pound Napoleons (Artillery report)
19 Sept 1863	2 10-pounder Parrots & 4 Napoleons (Marker, Chickamauga NMP)
1 May 1864	Went to Chattanooga to "exchange guns" (Shaw diary)
15 Oct. 1864	"Our detachment with howitzers" (Spaulding diary)

## 8 Lessons on People-Skills from Victorian Ladies

First published in 1860 by Florence Hartley, *The Ladies' Book of Etiquette, and Manual of Politeness* provided full directions for correct manners, deportment, and conversation. Much of this could be well applied today!

Here are the last four timeless nuggets of advice from a Victorian lady that could help you make more friends, earn more respect, and increase your social currency. The first four lessons were in the July newsletter.

5. Do not criticize or correct anyone. Advice is strong against correcting others on mispronounced words or grammatical errors that might arise during a conversation. If you must correct someone, speak to them in private—never in public—and be gentle and kind with how you phrase your critique.

Don't watch for faults in people, waiting for an opportunity to show your superior wisdom. Let modesty and kind feeling be your guide. If your companion uses words or expressions which you do not understand, do not feign knowledge or be ashamed of your ignorance, but frankly ask for an explanation. If you can't remember names involved in relating an incident, it's better to avoid the story altogether. Don't use substitutes for proper names or places and never phrases like "What-d-ya call it", "Thingummy", "What's his name". Do not complete sentences for anyone or anticipate the punchline of a joke or anecdote. Whilst you may have heard the story before, it may be new to others, so let the storyteller finish in their own words.

Be careful, when traveling, not to criticize the native city or country of others by trying to prove how your home is better. Never discredit an absent friend. It is the height of rudeness. If you put someone down whom others admire, you will most likely be viewed as envious and it will be your own character that comes into question, not the person you are criticizing.

6. Honor the confidentiality of conversations. One should go to great lengths to remember that what people tell us should be assumed to be in confidence. We should avoid the temptation to tell others what may seem like irresistibly juicy gossip. This is perhaps one of the most difficult challenges. But if we abide by it, we are more likely to earn others' respect and make long-lasting, genuine friendships. "Amongst well-bred persons, every conversation is considered in a measure confidential. A lady or gentleman tacitly confides in you when he (or she) tells you an incident which may cause trouble if repeated, and you violate a confidence as much in such a repetition, as if you were bound over to secrecy. Remember this.

7. The Best Way to Win an Argument is to Avoid One. Avoid argument; it is not a conversation, and frequently leads to ill feeling. If you are unfortunately drawn into an argument, keep your temper under control, and if you find your adversary is getting agitated, try to introduce a different topic.

8. Always be learning. Read widely and stay up to date on current events. "To be able to converse really well, you must read much, treasure in your memory the pearls of what you read; you must have a quick comprehension, observe passing events, and listen attentively whenever there is any opportunity of acquiring knowledge. A quick tact is necessary, too, in conversation.

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### Recap (continued)

#### July 26 Grave marker dedication, Maine Township, Otter Tail County, MN

This was a long time in coming! Battery members have known about John's grave being unmarked for at least ten years and had almost given up on ever getting anything set on the grave of John Phelps. With help from the Otter Tail County Historical Society, the right connections were finally made and the stone was set. The day had bright sun with a good deal of humidity to go along with the heat, but no one cared. Some 60 people attended the dedication of the stone for John and the full service charges in the gun made for very pleasing honor volleys. A local man, Bob Johnson, played a hauntingly beautiful rendition of *Taps* on his harmonica. The church across the street, though not affiliated with the cemetery, provided a wonderful hot lunch for everyone at the end of the dedication. We did, perhaps, startle the church ladies when we all gave—quite loudly—three huzzahs for the cooks! It was a wonderful day and very meaningful to finally dedicate a marker to this original Battery member.



Special thanks to Private Wendel's sister, Lynn, for taking pictures of the events at the Prospect House and the Cemetery.



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# Recap



## July 11-12 Wauconda, IL

This is a fun event, though there were a few glitches in the overall organization. It's a long way to drive, but it is a nice site and pretty well attended. The site provided a hamburger supper and even the weather cooperated so everyone took home dry canvas.



## July 25 Battle Lake, MN – Prospect House & Civil War Museum

This was a beautiful setting for lots of Civil War activity! We set up our stations on the lawn around the house and chatted with a LOT of people.



While we never heard a total number of visitors, we know the tours were full throughout the entire day and there were few times when our stations were without visitors. The event was cut a little short when it started to sprinkle rain about 4:00, but other than that, even the weather cooperated with



clouds to keep it at least a bit cooler. It was still plenty hot and humid, though! Four of our Battery boys marched in the city parade as a Civil War Color Guard to represent the Prospect House. The people at the site were VERY VERY VERY VERY (she had a lot more verys in there) pleased with how the day went. A good time was indeed had by all.



**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 event also was a good reminder that we all need to watch out for each other as well as ourselves when the weather is hot and humid. Remember to drink plenty of fluids including those that will help replenish the electrolytes your body needs, (pickles are good for this, too.) Be careful when standing at attention, don't lock your knees. Be mindful of what you are wearing—skip the vest on a hot day and leave the jacket unbuttoned as much as possible. Stay out of the sun as much as you can (remember the rule about always dying in the shade), keep a hat on in the sun and off in the shade. Your body can get rid of a lot of heat through your head, but only if the sun isn't shining on it!



(See page 3 for more Recap)