



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 224

February 2015

### On This Date-150 Years Ago

The Second Minnesota Battery was stationed near Chattanooga, Tennessee on garrison duty for the winter of 1864-65. They were seldom engaged in much activity beyond guard duty, but the war was winding down. The South had been split with Sherman's arrival in Savannah and it was becoming evident the South could no hold out much longer. The Battery was part of the rear guard waiting game.

Remarks for the Month of February, 1865  
(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 6 Sergt. John McCausland died of Small Pox in Hosp't. Chattanooga, Tenn. Jan. 25, 1865.
- 9 Ole Erickson recruit arrived from Ft. Snelling, Minn. in charge Capt. N. C. Daniels 9th Minn. Vol. Infy. Sergt. E. A. Whitefield and private James A. Hagadorn absent with leave since Feb. 6, 1865.
- 10 James Blair absent with leave since Jan 27, 1865
- 11 Martin Hosli returned from Hospital.
- 20 John H. Arnell, artificer discharged from U. S. service for disability by reason of Surg. Certificate, By Order of Maj. Gen Thomas, on date 16 Feb
- 21 Corp. J. B. White promoted to Serg't to date from Feb. 20, 1865.
- 25 Sergt. E. A. Whitefield absent without leave since Feb. 20/64. J. A. Hagadorn absent sick since Feb. 26/64 per Surg. Certificate dated Feb. 14, 1865

### Upcoming Events

#### **Springfield, IL - 150<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Funeral Train May 1-3, 2015**

The arrival of a replica full size historic Lincoln Funeral train and funeral car will highlight this 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. There are many events planned around this anniversary. Some are TICKETED events and will need advance purchase to attend. There is also walking venues of Receiving the Train & Coffin (Saturday – one mile) and The Oak Ridge Procession (Sunday – 4 miles).

Federal artillery will fire at two ceremonies during the weekend, about 6 shots per gun. **Those members wishing to participate will need to register individually on the website.**

<http://lincolnfunealtrain.org/>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Battery will reimburse each member who attends this event the \$20 participation fee. The registration fee will be used to pay for the amenities and the re-enactor shuttle buses to get folks to other venues and historic sites. Reenactor camp will be in Lincoln Park along with the sutlers, but the firing will take place at the Old State Capitol and the cemetery as it did 150 years ago. We will need to trailer the guns through the city streets. Members voted to add this 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event to our 2015 schedule.

#### **February—Planning Meeting for 2015**

We will be putting a calendar together at this meeting, so review the events listed on page four and be prepared to vote on which events YOU WILL ATTEND in 2015. If you suggested events, please be prepared to answer any further questions about it should there be any prior to voting.

#### **Next Meeting**

**February 28, 2015 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.

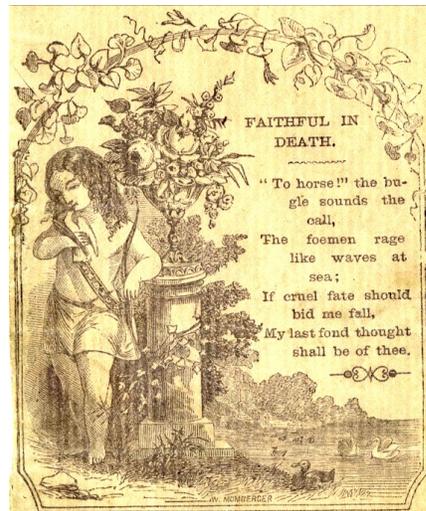


## Valentines: Love 'em or Hate 'em

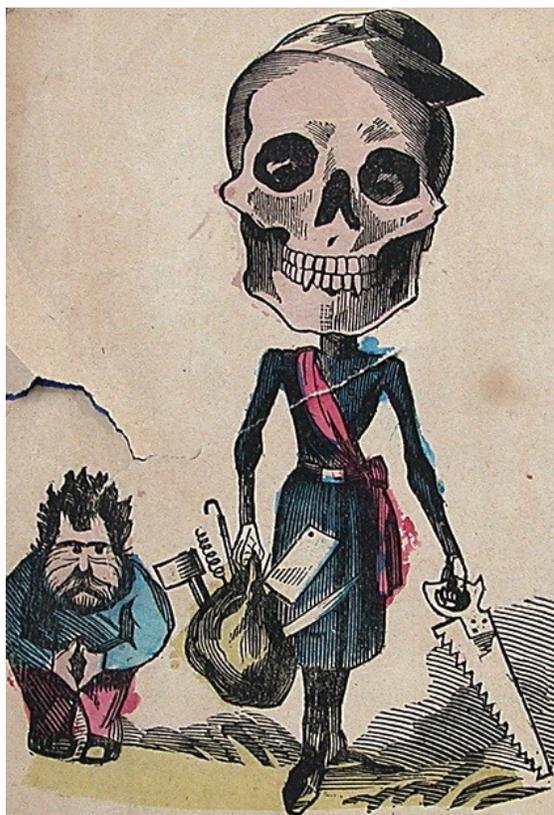
Valentine's day was celebrated during the Civil War with soldiers sending their love notes home and hoping for valentines at mail call. It is believed Americans began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." These were precious valentines carrying thoughts of love. The Kansas Historical Society has several valentines in its collection that were mailed during the Civil War. One of them contains this poem:

### MY LOVE

*'Mid bugle's blast and cannon's roar,  
And 'mid the battles angry flame;  
'Mid clashing sabres red with gore,  
I fondly breathe thy much-loved name.  
I feel thee near at dead of night,  
When I my vigil lone am keeping--  
Thy image guards me, angel bright,  
In dreams when wearied I am sleeping,  
Each northward wind wafts on its breath,  
To thee a yearning kiss of mine--  
On glory's field or bed of death,  
I live or die thy Valentine.*



A valentine sent during the Civil War.



### TO THE SURGEON.

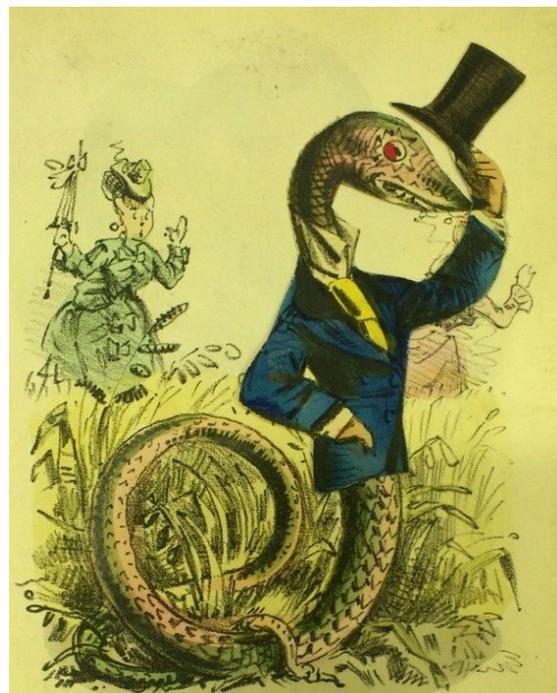
*Ho! ho! old saw bones, here you come,  
Yes, when the rebels whack us,  
You are always ready with your traps,  
To mangle, saw, and hack us.*

A vinegar valentine from the 1860s featuring a surgeon visiting a Civil War battlefield.

Loving messages were not the only kinds of valentines. Penny dreadfuls, also called vinegar valentines, began to appear about 1858. These valentines were not sentimental or filled with sweet thoughts, they were designed to insult the receiver. They were most often sent anonymously to people who were considered "unlovable"—spinsters or bachelors, teachers, certain business owners, etc. Even some of the big name printers were involved in printing the cheap, mean spirited valentines. They typically had poor quality printing in limited colors with simple artwork, insulting verses, and only printed on one side of cheap paper. The name "penny dreadfuls" came from the cost of these valentines, one cent. The price helped make them popular as they were so inexpensive nearly everyone could buy them.

When these were mailed as post cards without envelopes, postal workers could confiscate those that were deemed "unfit" for mailing.

Vinegar valentines continued to be popular until well into the 1950s and continues today in the humorous cards still available today.



*I'm not attracted by your glitter,  
For well I know how very bitter  
My life would be, if I should take,  
You for my spouse, a rattlesnake.  
Oh no, I'd not accept the ring,  
Or evermore I would prove a sting*

This vinegar valentine was printed in the 1870s.

# Battery Profile

## Ephraim H. Mattocks

Ephraim was born in Iowa and moved north to Minnesota by the summer of 1864. He was one of the men who joined the Second Battery from the draft rendezvous in the fall of 1864. His name was credited to the draft quota for Wilson in Winona County, but the land he was farming was in Ashland, Dodge County.

For his promise to serve in the army one year, Ephraim received a bounty of \$100, a third up front and the rest due later. He was 21 years old, had gray eyes, dark hair and a light complexion. He stood 5', 11" tall

The time Ephraim spent with the Battery was uneventful. He was never absent sick or sent on a special detail, he was never promoted. He simply served and was discharged at the end of the war on August 16, 1865.

Where Ephraim went or what he did after the war is unknown as he left no record until he was admitted to the Old Soldier's Home in Leavenworth, Kansas. How he got from Texas to Kansas is unknown. Records there show him married to Marcia and their home was at 1523 Beaumont Street in Dallas, Texas. It gave his occupation as that of carpenter. The Old Soldier's Home records stated Ephraim could not read or write, but his enlistment papers did bear his signature.

Ephraim's health was not good and at 12:05 p.m. on May 31, 1923, he passed away from "Chronic myocarditis" and the contributing "arterio sclerosis." His funeral was held three days later at the chapel in the Leavenworth National Cemetery where he rests among hundreds of other Civil War veterans.



## Events Under Discussion for 2015

There are some choices and decisions to be made as several possible events fall on the same dates. Please check your calendars to decide what events you will be attending. If there is not sufficient interest in an event to get enough members to attend, we will not register for that event.

There are two events we have already committed to by special vote of the members at past meetings. They are the Lincoln Funeral Train event on May 1-3 and the event in Willmar on September 26. The event in Willmar is a one day event and will pay us \$750, something that is a lot more important now that we have lost many of our school events because of the changes in curriculum.

**Bring your calendars to the February meeting and plan to vote on which events you will be attending in 2015.**

- April 25      Rochester, MN – Gamehaven Council BSA, Civil War Learning Experience
- May 1-3      Springfield, IL – 150th Lincoln Funeral Train historic event (We are attending this event as a Battery, see Upcoming Events on page 1 for details.)
- May 11      Edina, MN – Calvin Christian School (9:50am – 2:35pm)
- May 25      Red Wing, MN – Memorial Day Observance
- June 6-7      Fairfax, MN – Historic Fort Ridgley Civil War Weekend
- June 13-14      Waukon, IA – 3rd Annual Allamakee County Thunder in the Park event
- July (tbd)      Menomonie, WI – Wilson Park Concert, Ludington Guard Band
- July 11-12      Wauconda, IL – 24th Annual Civil War Days reenactment/Lake County Discovery Museum
- July 11-12      Cedar Rapids, IA – Seminole Valley Farm (2014 event was cancelled due to flooding)
- July 25      Battle Lake, MN – Prospect House & Civil War Museum, 403 Lake Avenue,
- August 1-2      Boscobel, WI – 23rd Annual Muskets & Memories Civil War weekend
- August 15-16      St. Paul, MN – Historic Fort Snelling, Civil War Muster Out Day
- August 22-23      Morristown, MN – Annual Shooter's Roundup event (10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00)

***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>**

September 26      Willmar, MN – Kandiyohi County Historical Society (We have already committed to the event as they wrote a grant to pay us, \$750.)

November 11      Winona, MN – Veteran's Day Tribute

