

## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 235

April 2016

### On This Date-155 Years Ago

#### From the Civil War Trust

When South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860, United States Maj. Robert Anderson and his force of 85 soldiers were positioned at Fort Moultrie near the mouth of Charleston Harbor. On December 26, fearing for the safety of his men, Anderson moved his command to Fort Sumter, an imposing fortification in the middle of the harbor. While politicians and military commanders wrote and screamed about the legality and appropriateness of this provocative move, Anderson's position became perilous.

Just after the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1861, Anderson reported that he had only a six week supply of food left in the fort and Confederate patience for a foreign force in its territory was wearing thin.

On Thursday, April 11, 1861, Confederate Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard dispatched aides to Maj. Anderson to demand the fort's surrender. Anderson refused. The next morning, at 4:30 a.m., Confederate batteries opened fire on Fort Sumter and continued for 34 hours. The Civil War had begun! Anderson did not return the fire for the first two hours. The fort's supply of ammunition was not suited for an equal fight and Anderson lacked fuses for his exploding shells--only solid shot could be used against the Rebel batteries. At about 7:00 A.M., Union Capt. Abner Doubleday, the fort's second in command, was afforded the honor of firing the first shot in defense of the fort.

The firing continued all day, although much less rapidly since the Union fire aimed to conserve ammunition. "The crashing of the shot, the bursting of the shells, the falling of the walls, and the roar of the flames, made a pandemonium of the fort," wrote Doubleday. The fort's large flag staff was struck and the colors fell to the ground and a brave lieutenant, Norman J. Hall, bravely exposed himself to enemy fire as he put the Stars and Stripes back up. That evening, the firing was sporadic with but an occasional round landing on or in Fort Sumter.

On Saturday, April 13, Anderson surrendered the fort. Incredibly, no soldiers were killed in battle. The generous terms of surrender, however, allowed Anderson to perform a 100-gun salute before he and his men evacuated the fort the next day. The salute began at 2:00 P.M. on April 14, but was cut short to 50 guns after an accidental explosion killed one of the gunners and mortally wounded another.

Carrying their tattered banner, the men marched out of the fort and boarded a boat that ferried them to the Union ships outside the harbor. They were greeted as heroes on their return to the North.



### Upcoming Events

**May 16 Calvin Christian School, Edina MN**  
**4015 Inglewood Ave. S, Edina.**

Arrive at 9:00 to set up, students arrive at 9:50. We will set up 5 stations and rotate students through. BRING A BAG LUNCH!

**May 30 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN**

Arrive at Bay Point Park by 7:30 to set up. There will be a reading by one of our Battery ladies for the Memorial Day service and honor volleys from our gun. RSVP to Daryl Duden or John Cain.

### Election Results!

With none of the campaigning of the national elections!

Ken Cunningham remains the organizational president for the Second Battery.

Brian Tomashek was reelected vice president. Katie Demarco was reelected to the position of secretary and Daryl Duden is the treasurer. Vickie Wendel remains the unit historian and newsletter editor.

Military leadership positions for 2016 are as follows: John Cain as lieutenant; Ron Graves is quartermaster sergeant; Daryl Duden is sergeant, and the two corporals are Ron Wendel and Jim Livingstone.

Congratulations and thanks to all for taking on the responsibilities of these leadership roles.

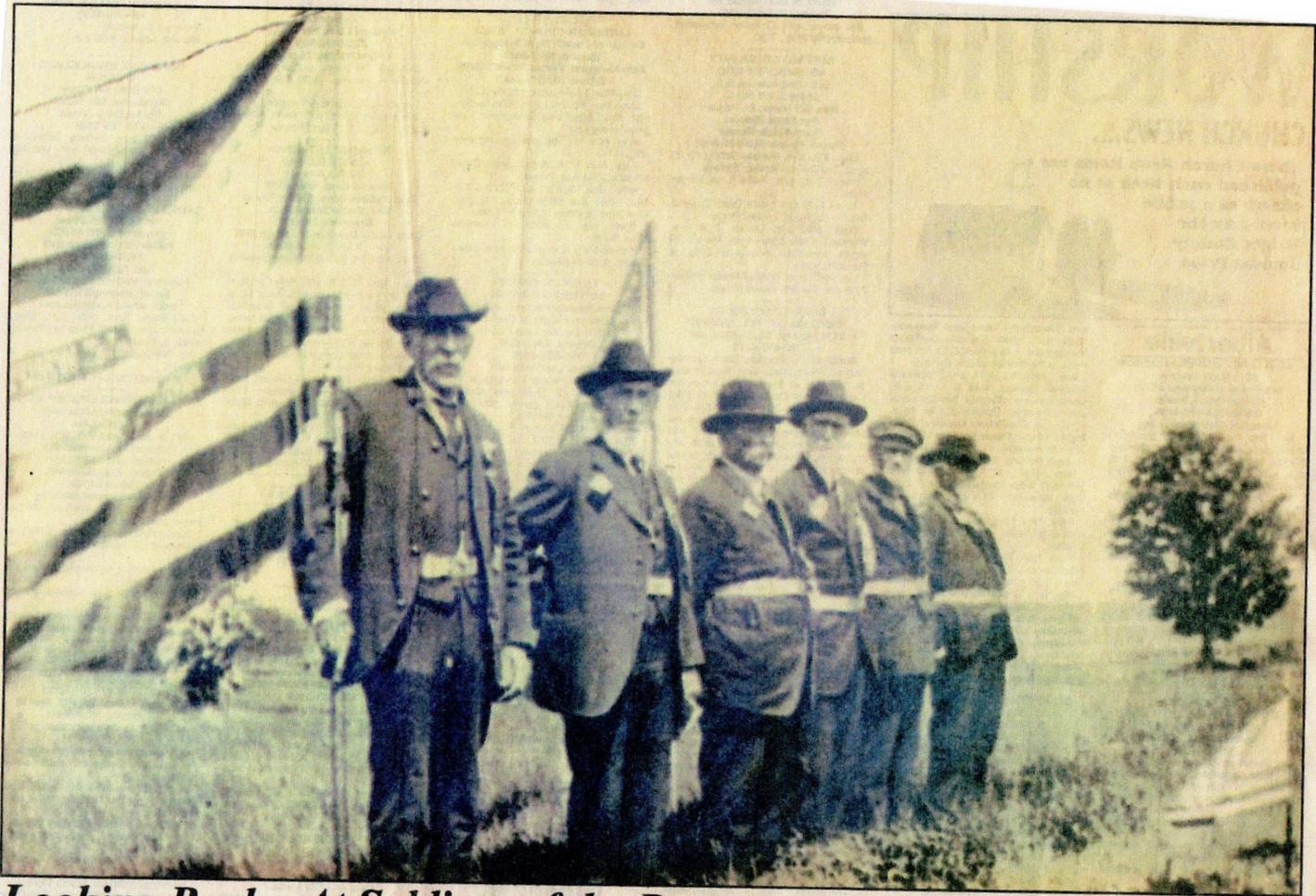
### Next Meeting

**April 30, 2016**

**11:00am**

We will meet at Marie's Underground Dining in Red Wing. Call Ken Cunningham if you need the address or directions, (651) 388-2945.





## ***Looking Back - At Soldiers of the Past***

In honor of Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, area resident Al Weege shared this photo with us this week. He said it shows some of the last surviving local veterans of the Civil War, and the last person on the right is his great-great grandfather, George Kreidler. Al said the Kreidler Cemetery northeast of Montrose is named after George Kreidler, and, going by Kreidler's age, Al said it's a good bet the picture was taken at the cemetery during a Veterans' Day ceremony right after World War I. The photo was on display for many years at the Wright County Courthouse, and Al received a copy of the photo because he is a descendant of one of the veterans in the photo. Others in the photo are identified as: (from left) Mr. Derefield, Mr. Kraus, Mr. Stoltz, Mr. Weekly, and Mr. Streeter. Al said Kreidler fought with Gen. Sherman after enlisting in Monticello and reporting to Camp Ripley. Thanks, Al, for letting us show the picture to our readers.

Thanks to Keith Stinson for providing this interesting clipping!

## ***National Event at Perryville, Kentucky***

For those interested in attending the national event at Perryville this coming October, each participant **MUST REGISTER ONLINE**. Here is the link to the registration page:

[http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org/html/registration\\_2016.html](http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org/html/registration_2016.html)

You may pay the \$20 registration fee with a credit card or a PayPal account. **KEEP** the number you are given with your receipt as this will be what gets you onto the battlefield site. The Battery will reimburse the registration fee to those who attend the event.

Please register as Second Minnesota Battery, Federal Artillery and **MIXED CAMP**.

There will be a convoy traveling to Kentucky. If you are interested in joining the convoy group, contact John Cain, Battery coordinator for this event.



# Battery Profile

## Richard Duxberry

Richard Duxberry was born in England on November 14, 1838. He came to Minnesota and was farming in Spring Grove, Fillmore County, Minnesota, in 1864, when he joined the Second Battery on September 3 during the draft rendezvous. He was 31 years old when he enlisted for one year and received a bounty of \$100, agreeing to allow his name be credited to Harmony, a neighboring town, for the draft quota of Houston County. Richard stood 5' 3" tall, had gray eyes, dark hair and a sandy complexion.

Richard served as a private until the Battery was mustered out on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling. He stayed in Minnesota, some fifty years farming in Spring Valley, Fillmore County, where he lived with his wife, Miranda and where they raised at least seven children. In his later years and after Miranda died, Richard moved to St. Paul to live with his son.

Richard applied for a pension and was receiving \$12 a month for rheumatism and heart disease. In 1892, he requested an increase in his pension, citing the times he had been sick during in the army and the treatment received under the care of Battery comrade Albert Gowdy. Gowdy acted as the Battery's hospital steward since they had no surgeon attached to the unit. Richard also claimed a loss of hearing due to his army service. This, Richard said, happened near Philadelphia, Tennessee, on the Fourth of July in 1865, while in the line of duty. The Battery was part of a national salute on that first Independence Day after the end of the war. A sworn deposition from Captain Hotchkiss stated that "it was a very sultry day and the applicant (Richard Duxberry) became overheated, took cold from the effects" while serving the gun for the salute. Hotchkiss went on to say one of the lingering effects of the overheating was that Richard "became quite deaf." Hotchkiss said he knew Richard well and saw him frequently in the years after the war as they lived near each other. He also knew Richard's "habits to be good and that he has always complained of the effects of his said sickness and deafness."

On December 7, 1907, Richard died at the home of his son in St. Paul. Richard was taken back to Fillmore County to be buried in the Big Spring Cemetery near Harmony. Richard has a large family stone, a head stone, and a military marker.



# 2016 Event Calendar

This is the 2016 Second Battery as voted on by the membership at the last meeting. Ark your calenders for this busy and exciting reenacting season!

May 16 Edina, MN – Calvin Christian School (9:50am – 2:35pm)  
May 30 Red Wing, MN – Memorial Day Observance

June 11-12 Waukon, IA – 3rd Annual Allamakee County Thunder in the Park event  
June 23 (Thursday) Goodhue County Historical Society/Red Wing YMCA Civil War Learning event

June 28 Menomonie, WI – Wilson Park Concert, Ludington Guard Band, 8:00 pm

July 9-10 Wauconda, IL – 24th Annual Civil War Days reenactment/Lake County Museum  
July 16-17 Olmstead County Historical Society, Rochester, MN. Encampment & learning stations.  
July 23 Battle Lake, MN – Prospect House & Civil War Museum, 403 Lake Avenue  
July 24 Grave marker dedication, for Henry St. Cyr, Fergus Fall, MN

August 13-14 Pipestone, MN, Civil War reenactment  
August 27-28 Morristown, MN – Annual Shooter's Roundup shooting demo event

September 10 Thunder in the Valley, Patriotic Concert and celebration, New Ulm, MN  
September 24-25 Wabasha, MN Encampment event with learning stations

October 7-9 NATIONAL EVENT Perryville, Kentucky. MEMBERS NEED TO REGISTER ONLINE AS INDIVIDUALS with a Second Minnesota Battery affiliation. There is a \$20 registration fee you must pay at the time of registration, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Battery will reimburse each member who attends.

November 11 Winona, MN – Veteran's Day Tribute

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**Recap** Respectfully submitted, Sgt Duden

## **March 3 – Twin Bluff Middle School**

Sgt Duden spent the day sharing information about the Civil War with +200 6th grader students in the IMC. There were seven 42 minute classes that day. It was a long day, but the students were great. Thank you cards from the students mentioned they liked hearing about the uniforms & equipment, flags and weapons. One student indicated she "loved" hearing about the Remington pistol because that was her dogs' name. The seven students who were given military physicals all wrote that was their favorite part of the day. Sara Shannon, 6th grade social studies teacher, indicated the students were still buzzing about the day well into the next week. The 2nd Minnesota Battery Light Artillery received an honorarium for this presentation.

***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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## **March 18 – Red Wing Area Homeschool**

Sgt. Duden spoke at an event called "An Evening of War Fair" hosted by the Red Wing Area Home School at Cornerstone Community Church in Red Wing MN. About 75 students and their parents attended. The first speaker was Lou Chicquette, a 92 year old B-29 tail gunner. During WWII, Lou was stationed on Tinian Island in the Marianas and his bomb group was responsible for mining the Straights of Japan and fire bombing Tokyo. Lou described a newer model B-29 on the far end of the field on Tinian with no gun turrets and a single bomb bay door, but no one new much else about the plane or its crew. Returning in a B-29 from a fire bombing raid on Tokyo, the crew heard over the radio about an atom bomb that had just been dropped on Hiroshima. The crew was elated the war with Japan might end without an invasion of the Japanese homeland. Then Sgt. Duden, spoke about the 2nd Minnesota Battery and described uniforms, equipment, and weapons from artillery pieces to hand guns, marching rations, battle flags and discussed women's roles. Because these were home schooled students, a list of "good" Civil War authors was provided along with a mention of some of the best Civil War films. After the lecture, parents and students asked questions at the tables of equipment, photos and memorabilia that were provided by both speakers. Julie Place, event coordinator, indicated this was "one of the best" events the Red Wing Area Home School has attended. The 2nd Minnesota Battery Light Artillery received an honorarium for this one hour presentation.