

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 248

August 2017

On This Date-155 Years Ago

August, 1862

The Battery was in the South, but they had yet to “see the elephant.” That first battle would not come until October, but no fighting did not mean sitting around camp. The boys were on the move as the daily accounts in the Battery Muster Roll indicate. This is a transcription of the handwritten pages preserved on microfilm.

Battery Muster Roll for July & August, 1862, shows station of the battery:

In the field.

Record of Events:

July 1, 1862 Retreated from Shelby Creek via Ripley to camp on branch of Little Hatchie River. 17 miles

July 31 Marched from Rienzi Depot to camp 2 miles east of Jacinto, Miss. 8 1/2 miles

Aug. 14/62 Left camp near Jacinto and marched on the Tuscumbia (Ala.) Road. 8 Miles

Aug. 16 Marched to luka, Miss. 10 Miles

Aug. 22/62 Quit camp at luka and marched to (?) Miss. crossed the Tennessee River and camped. Distance 10 miles.

Aug. 24, 62 Quit camp opposite Eastford (?) and marched on the road to Florence, Ala., 8 miles.

Aug. 26/62 Marched to Florence, Ala. 22 miles.

Aug. 27/62 Marched out on the road to (??)burg, Tes(?) (??)

Aug. 28 Marched to (?)burg 15 miles

Aug. 29/62 Marched to Manchester(?), Tenn. 22 miles.

Aug. 30 Marched to Columbia, Tenn. 12 miles

Aug. 31/62 Marched out on the road to Nashville, Tenn. 17 miles.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 26-7 Shooter’s Roundup – Ahlmans, Morristown, MN

We will be firing the cannon at 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 4:00 each day with a basic camp set up. The event is scheduled for 9:00 – 5:00. Even though our group has not been asked to participate in a demonstration of uniforms this year, John Cain suggested those attending be prepared and bring uniforms as was done last year. More info at:

<http://www.ahlmans.com/main/shooters-roundup.html>

PLEASE RSVP to Daryl Duden if you plan to attend this event so appropriate meal planning is possible.

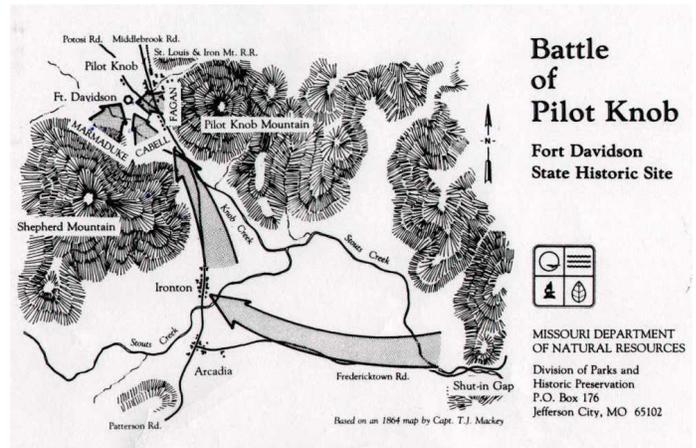
September 23-24 Pilot Knob, Missouri

At the last count, there are 25 members indicating they will be attending this event.

If your attendance status has changed (either going or not), please notify John Cain or Daryl Duden ASAP.

Dress for this event will be civilian clothing, not uniforms. The schedule and additional information about the event are available at:

<http://www.battleofpilotknob.org/reenactment.html>



Battle of Pilot Knob
Fort Davidson State Historic Site



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Parks and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Next Meeting

September 2, 2017 11:00am

Marie’s Underground Dining, Red Wing
Call Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items.
651 388-2945.



Battery Profile

Edwin W. Vaughn

Edwin was born about 1836 in Brooklyn, Connecticut. In 1861, he married Jennie. When Edwin arrived in Minnesota is not known, neither is the date he first enlisted into the Second Battery. No official enlistment papers or records noting his date of enlistment have been found, though his pension papers state he joined the Battery on March 21, 1862.

Edwin's muster sheet for March and April of 1862 show him present, but the May and June report him as "absent" without an explanatory remark. Edwin is back in the "present" category in July of 1862 after which he is then consistently listed as present with the Battery. The descriptive roll showed him 5' 6" tall, with blue eyes, brown hair and a sandy complexion. He was a farmer.

It was at the battle at Stones River, Tennessee, on January 1, 1863, that Edwin came very close to losing his life. While fighting in that battle, a cannon ball passed so close to Edwin's left side that it "whirled him round such being the force and close proximity of the Ball," said Battery comrade John Gibson. Another man in the Battery, Orestus Dudley agreed, adding that he "always afterward knew him (Edwin) to be hard of hearing."

Edwin continued to serve in the Battery, his hearing not being anything that would render him unsuitable for the service.

The Battery was with General Rosecranz when he left Chattanooga in September to march south toward Atlanta. The Battery was caught up in the fighting that erupted on the banks of Chickamauga Creek on September 20, 1863. The fighting was hard on the field where the Second Battery was placed and the position of the guns was ordered changed. Somehow in the confusion and chaos of battle, Edwin was "thrown beneath a caisson" as they were moving and the wheel injured his right ankle. A rebel bullet also hit him in the wrist, but Edwin was able to stay with the Battery as they pulled back and eventually made it into the relative safety of Chattanooga. Once there, Edwin was sent to the hospital where he stayed until February 29, 1864. From there he was transferred to another hospital near Nashville and stayed there until the end of June. It was not the last transfer as Edwin was next sent to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, where he was assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps. It was the unit Edwin spent the last months of his service with, though his days were less than smooth. Edwin was in Pennsylvania with the Veteran Reserve Corps when his eyes began to bother him. A surgeon examined the inflammation and put him under treatment for "ophthalmic with granular lid and ulceration of the cornea." The surgeon said Edwin was not capable of duty or providing for himself. Being in the Veteran's Reserve Corps, Edwin was not discharged until March 21, 1865, at Baltimore, Maryland, when his three year obligation was up.

Edwin went home to Minnesota and Jennie. The next years of their life leave only a few clues about them. The 1870 census lists Edwin as a farmer in Leaf Valley, Douglas County, Minnesota, with Jennie and a daughter named Abby, born in 1869. Edwin and Jennie were in Montana in September of 1883 when they were legally divorced. On September 26, 1890, Edwin married Mary J. Clough in Warren County, Iowa. Mary was a widow, so this was a second marriage for both of them. Edwin, however, might not have been totally honest with Mary. After his death when Mary filed for a pension, she said Edwin had been married before, but that his first wife had died in 1883. It is not clear if Mary got any pension help.

In 1918, Jennie, Edwin's first wife, had an attorney write a letter to the Pension Department to see if she could get half of Edwin's pension if he was still alive or all of a widow's pension if he were dead. Clearly, she had no contact with Edwin as he had been dead for 26 years when she asked for pension money. The Pension Department wrote back that they had all of the divorce papers stating Jennie and Edwin were not husband and wife and she was not entitled to anything.

Edwin's pension papers state that he died in Flora, Illinois, on June 23, 1892. No death record for Edwin can be found in Flora, nor in the state vital statistics, but Illinois law did not require death certificates until after Edwin's death. Cemetery readings do not show Edwin as having a tombstone in Flora or the counties that surround that area. He does not appear in the Illinois Roll of Honor showing the burial places of thousands of Illinois veterans. His grave is not listed with those in the Soldiers Home Cemetery near Quincy, Illinois. No obituary has been located for him after extensive searches in Flora and surrounding communities. Where Edwin lies remains a mystery.

\$\$\$ What did it cost in 1861?

The value of currency fluctuated greatly as the economy reflected the effects of the Civil War. Inflation was high at the beginning of the war. Following are the prices of some of the common costs in the Northern States in 1861 along with the equivalent value in today's dollar.

	1861	2017
Rye Flour / pound	\$.04	\$ 1.08
Beef / pound	\$.11	\$ 2.98
Butter / pound	\$.18	\$ 4.88
Rice / pound	\$.06	\$ 1.63
Milk / quart	\$.04	\$ 1.08
Roasted Coffee / pound	\$.18	\$ 4.88
Beans / quart	\$.07	\$ 1.90
Cheese/ pound	\$.11	\$ 2.98
Potatoes / bushel	\$.45	\$ 12.20
Rent 4-room tenement / month	\$ 4.45	\$ 120.67
Room & Board – Men / week	\$ 2.50	\$ 67.79
Room & Board – Women / week	\$ 1.75	\$ 47.45
Army Private / Month	\$ 13.00	\$ 352.51



Data extrapolated from: *Report of the Special Commissioner of the Revenue for the Year 1868*. Washington: Govt. print. off., 1868.

PECAN SHORTBREAD

From Katie Demarco

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ¾ cup all-purpose flour*
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped*
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened*
- ½ cup sugar*
- ¼ cup cornstarch*



Preparation:

In large bowl, measure all ingredients. With mixer at low speed, beat ingredients just until blended, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Increase speed to medium; beat until well mixed. Divide dough in half; wrap each half in plastic wrap. Refrigerate dough until easy to handle, about 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 350°F. On lightly floured surface with floured rolling pin, roll half of dough into 9" x 6" rectangle, keeping remaining dough refrigerated. Cut dough lengthwise into 4 strips; cut each strip crosswise into six 1½" squares. Place cookies, 1-inch apart, on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake cookies 10-12 minutes until edges are lightly browned. Remove cookies to wire racks to cool. Repeat with remaining dough. Store in tightly covered container. Makes about 4 dozen cookies. If extra sweetness is desired, sprinkle with powdered sugar while warm.

Recap

July 15-16, Olmstead County Historical Society, Rochester, MN

It was a warm weekend with the temperatures and in the welcome we received from both site staff and visitors. Our ladies were quite busy, running four stations in addition to our usual camp. Miss Katie and Miss Tanya talked about Civil War era quilts and fielded many questions about the log cabin. Miss Mandy was the apothecary on the back porch, Miss Lynn and Miss Vickie ran the Soldiers' Aid tent. The Delphic Oracle made its debut to rave reviews from visitors. Misses Becky, Stacy, and Riley told fortunes to benefit the Sanitary Commission in the best reflection of the 1864 St. Louis Fair. (Special thanks to Lt. Cain for his talents in building the Delphic Wheel!!)



Our soldiers had extra roles as well. Saturday's battle was Perryville, Kentucky, and Pvt. Briar Golden portrayed James Hunter, an original Battery member wounded and left on the field. Other Battery members donned their gray uniforms to play Confederates and make the sides a bit more accurate. Sunday was Wilson's Creek and saw our Babs in action against our Corporal James Livingstone who, with his howitzer, played Confederate for the battle. It was a most excellent event and will be looked forward to with anticipation for 2018.



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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 Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: (651) 388-2945

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Twin Cities Metro Area Contact

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

July 29, Battle Lake, MN Prospect House & Museum

The day was perfect—light breeze, mid-80s, and blue sky! While the organizers were a bit disappointed in the attendance, Battery members saw visitors very engaged and staying a long time.

We set up a small arms station (Privates Ritchie and Hoekstra), a flag station (Lt. Cain), quilts (Miss Katie), the Delphic Oracle (Misses Becky, Kim, Riley and Stacy) and a laundry station (Misses Lynn and Vickie). Vickie noticed far more adults washing clothes than expected. The museum upgrades were nice and everyone had a good time.

