



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 245

May 2017

On This Date-155 Years Ago

May, 1862

The boys of the Battery were in the South! At least as far as St. Louis where they had arrived on April 25th. They received their guns, 115 horses, 18 mules, and other equipment. Then they spent a great deal of time drilling and drilling and drilling some more according to Private George Murphie. This was probably to get them used to their own guns, their own horses and mules, and polish their skills with the equipment they would use when they faced the enemy.

On May 21st, the boys left Benton Barracks and boarded the steamer, *Warsaw*. They continued on their southward journey to Tennessee, stopping at Pittsburg Landing. The boys saw the aftermath of the battle of Shiloh some six weeks earlier.

They continued on to Hamburg, Tennessee, where they arrived on May 25th. The Battery's travels on the river took them 480 miles deeper into the South.

They unloaded the boat and set out on the road toward Farmington. They marched five miles and set up camp. The next day, they marched the remaining 13 miles to Farmington where they would remain until the 31st when they marched another seven miles to a camp near General Pope's Headquarters.

The Battery Returns state that this camp was three miles from Corinth, Mississippi.

Upcoming Events

**May 15 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 29 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN

Arrive at Bay Point Park by 8:00 to set up. There will be a reading by one of our Battery members for the Memorial Day service and honor volleys from our gun. RSVP to Daryl Duden or John Cain.

June 10-11, Fort Ridgely, Fairfax, MN

72404 County Road 30, Fairfax, MN. The Fifth Minnesota is hosting this encampment event at the historic site of the Fort. Plans include a "schedule" of what we usually do at our school stations. Visitors will be given this schedule and each station will do a school type presentation at their time. This is hoped to get more people to all of the stations rather than just the first couple of stations near the main building.

NOTE: This site is inside the state park and a park pass is required. We are checking to see if passes will be available. More info to come. The site is open from 10-5 and we will be doing living history during these hours. We can set up as early as Friday morning, but we must be set up and ready for the public by 10 am Saturday.

1860's - On the Homefront...

Did you know that several of the food products and brands that we know today were introduced during the 1860s:



Folger's Coffee
Tabasco Sauce
Van Camp's pork and beans
Fleischmann's Compressed Yeast
NECCO Candy Wafers
Arm & Hammer Baking Soda

Next Meeting

June 3, 2017 11:00am

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



Battery Profile

Gustav Rosenk

Gustav is a bit of a mystery man and, at least by some accounts, he may have preferred it that way. The first recorded evidence Gustav left of his life was the record of land he purchased in 1859. He paid cash for 107.3 acres at the Minneapolis land office. The land was probably bought for speculation as the city of St. Paul was expanding rapidly and if one owned land in the right place, a good profit could be quickly made.

In 1860, Gustav was living in St. Paul with his French-born wife, Catherine, and their three daughters. Gustav was a physician, born about 1815 in Prussia. The first two daughters were born in Ohio; the youngest was just one year old and had been born in Minnesota.

When the Second Battery was forming up at Fort Snelling in the early months of 1862, Gustav was listed as a first lieutenant. His official date of enlistment was January 18, 1862. As an officer, he was not listed on the descriptive roll as the enlisted men were, but records indicate he was 44 years old, a doctor, and a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Battery was formally accepted into U.S. service on March 21, 1862, though they did not leave for the south until in May. On April 12, the *St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat* newspaper carried an article naming the officers and NCOs of the Second Battery. The only first lieutenant listed is Augustus Rosenk, likely an "Americanized" version of his name or a simple mistake on the part of the newspaper. It is the only place found where his name is Augustus rather than Gustav, though Gustav is often spelled creatively.

R.	2 Indpt. Battery.	Minn.
Gustave Rosenk		
1st., 2 Indpt. Batt'y, Minn. L. Art'y.		
Appears on		
Battery Muster Roll		
for July & Aug. 1862		
Present or absent Absent.		
Stoppage, \$ 100 for		
Due Gov't \$ 100 for		
Valuation of horse, \$ 100		
Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100		
Remarks: Has been absent without leave since the 22 nd day of June 1862.		

Gustav went south with the Battery to their first camp at Benton Barracks, Missouri. A medical certificate was issued for him on May 20, 1862, describing an injury to his right foot sustained "by the fall of his horse" and "twenty days" leave of absence was recommended by the brigade surgeon.

The muster sheet for Gustav for July and August of 1862 notes that he had been absent without leave since June 22 and a letter to General Scofield of the Union Army in headquarters at St. Louis adds to the story.

The letter was dated August 13, 1862, in St. Louis.

Dear Sir,

There is an officer in the City, named Dr. Rosenk who claims to be Surgeon of a Minnesota Battery, He had been here for about 3 mos drawing Government pay -- He says he is disabled & keeps getting furloughs &c from his officers. The Dr is perfectly able to attend to his business in this city as a practicing Physician & so gets his pay from the Government & also from his patients here. I think when Dr's are so much needed as now he ought to be in the field. He lives at the St. Louis Restaurant No. 11 North 4th street -- at which place I am also employed.

The letter was signed, Louis Steeler (The signature is very hard to read.)

The allegation must have been checked out as the next report stated, "Dr. Rosenk of a Minn. Battery is in the city able for duty." On August 16th, Gustav was ordered to report to the District Headquarters.

From there, a transportation requisition was issued to him. He was placed in charge of stragglers and was to go from St. Louis, Missouri, to Columbus, Kentucky. The requisition was dated August 28.

It is unlikely Gustav ever made this journey as he was dismissed from the service of the United States on September 11, 1862, by special order of the Secretary of War. A final sheet in his compiled service records was a casualty sheet noting that he was dismissed on the 11th of September, but no cause of casualty or remarks were added, neither was the order signed.

Gustav went back to Minnesota. An ad in the *St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat* newspaper appeared on April 3, 1863. He was listed by name, then as a "physician and surgeon, offers his "services as 'accoucheur', dentist, and for the Diseases of the Eyes." (An accoucheur is a man who assists in the birth of a baby, an obstetrician.) The ad promised care for all general diseases, both male and female, and that he would "pay due regard to the circumstances of the needy." The ad provided his hours and address. The ad ran quite frequently until late 1870 when it stopped without

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Got a cup?

From: *Everyday Life During The Civil War* by Michael J. Varhola

Coffee by far was the most popular beverage in both the North and South before and after the war. Coffee did not run out in the North for civilians or soldiers as their supply remained open and steady. However in the South, coffee became nearly nonexistent. Southerners had many substitutes for coffee. These included chicory, acorns, beans, beets, corn, cornmeal, cotton seeds, dandelion root, okra seeds, peanuts, peas, sugar cane seeds, and wheat berries. These were parched, dried, browned or roasted and ground to make coffee. Other versions of coffee used tubers like carrots or yams which were cut into small pieces, dried, toasted and ground up.

Tea was another popular drink. It had to be imported. Tea remained available in the North, but in South, the price of tea rose year by year. In 1862, it was about \$10 a pound and by 1864 it was \$40 a pound. The substitutes for tea were better than ones for coffee. Some substitutes were the leaves of blackberry, dittany, holly, huckleberry, spice berry and many varieties of mint. They also used palmetto berries, sassafras roots, sumac berries and yaupon shrub twigs.

Other popular beverages were cider and lemonade, as well as shrubs and switchels, which were drinks made from cool water, juice, vinegar, and a sweetener like loaf sugar, moist sugar or treacle. Wine, champagne and distilled spirits were generally import items and again became largely unavailable in the South as a result of Federal blockade of Confederate ports. Simpler domestic beverages such as apple cider and beer became far more popular during the war. One type of homemade alcoholic beverage that became popular in the South was made by the mixing one part corn syrup and/or molasses with three parts water and then fermenting it in a barrel.

And what might that cup look like?

China patterns prevalent at this time ranged from the nostalgic and tender to the warlike and proud. The decor of the time held room for both national and patriotic images as well as romantic and exotic motifs. The desire for variety and budgetary considerations made transferware popular -- this china printed with colorful scenes was not as expensive as hand-painted china. Many patterns that arose in the Civil War were originally conceived by a single maker and then copied to various degrees by other producers hungry to provide an additional outlet for the public's desires.

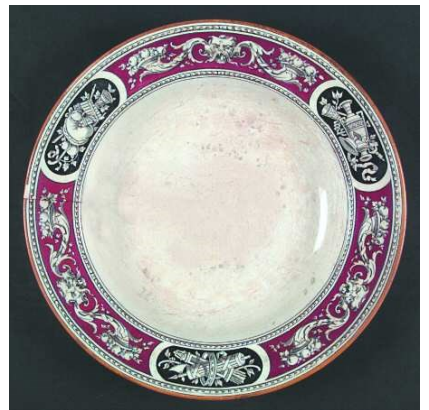


Willow or Blue Willow

The Willow pattern by Thomas Minton, also called Blue Willow, originated in the late 18th century in England, but was unflaggingly popular in America during the Civil War era. The dinnerware was produced in several colors, blue being the most coveted. Based upon an ancient Chinese legend of lovers torn asunder, the Willow pattern shows two doves -- the reincarnated souls of the lovers -- surveying a scene of trees and pagodas.

Trophy

No trace of softness or sentiment presents itself in the Minton creation Trophy, and the china pattern was discontinued in 1867 as the country strained under Reconstruction. It's a marriage of martial and classical design. The pattern features a wide maroon border and bears the lion-like heads of Green Men flanked by overflowing horns of plenty. This natural motif alternates with three black lozenges depicting hunting and war-related implements such as axes, panpipes and horns.



American Marine

A popular pattern from the transferware genre was American Marine, a design in brown made simultaneously by George L. Ashworth Brothers of Staffordshire, England, and Frances Morley, both in cooperation with Charles Masons. The plate has no border and its focal point is a pair of tall sailing ships. The motif also features a rowboat carrying three sailors wearing Pilgrim-style hats, a tower on a craggy cliff, and two small Viking-like ships, possibly in retreat.

Solferino or Royal Purple

Armed with design specifications direct from the first lady, Mary Todd Lincoln, Haviland and Company of Paris produced a china pattern worthy of her husband's administration. The pattern was named Solferino for the Italian village where the reddish-purple tint given to its scalloped border was discovered. The service later became known as Royal Purple, and became unquestionably popular -- it was reordered by many later presidents. Featured prominently at the center of the pattern is the bald eagle, clutching arrows and olive branches.



explanation.

The 1870 census listed Gustav as a physician, Catherine as keeping house, the two oldest girls were living at home, but working as seamstresses and the youngest was "at home." They were living in Ward 4 in St. Paul. Gustav had a taxable real estate value of \$5,000 and a personal estate valued at \$400.

The next trace of Gustav was another ad for his medical services in March of 1873, but this ad appeared in the *Morning Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon. He no longer advertised dental, but the ad said he "will guaranty all obstetrical manipulation, and operations of any kind."

This ad appeared several times a month in the *Oregonian* until a different sort of ad appeared in the May 9, 1874 issue. It read:

CAUTION.

The undersigned hereby cautions the public against one Doctor Rosenk of Portland, Oregon, he having falsely and fraudulently with misrepresentation received from me the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars. United States gold coin, without a valuable consideration. P. Griesber.

It was the last mention of Dr. Rosenk in the newspaper.

The 1880 census showed Catherine and Gustav no longer living together. Catherine was living in the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Wasco County, Oregon. Gustav was still a practicing physician, but living in Oakland, California. He had only a housekeeper in the dwelling with him.

According to the 1900 census, Gustav was living alone in Alameda County, California. While other occupations on the same census page noted "retired", Gustav's listing still read "physician", no added word of retired even though Gustav was about 80 years. He had a housekeeper living there, Katherine Grasso.

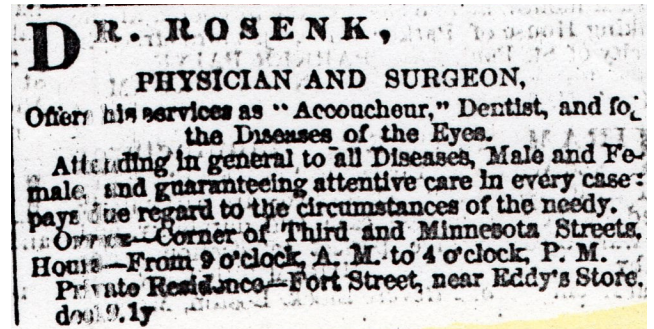
Gustav's death notice appeared in the *San Francisco Call*. It was a one sentence notice stating that he had died in Oakland on December 3, 1903, was 88 years and nine months old, a native of Germany.

Just because he died did not mean there were no further records of Gustav. A month later, notice appeared in the paper that Gustav had a son, Sapho Rosenkranz, in Germany and that son was appointed the executor of the estate. The value of the estate was estimated at \$50,000. Three fourths of it was to go to "family in Germany" and the remainder to "friends of the deceased living here." The article explained the different last name by noting that Gustav had dropped the last letters of his name "as a matter of convenience when he came to this country."

When the accounting of the estate was completed, it became evident that Gustav had some eccentricities. Money was found hidden in his rooms in a tobacco bag (\$200), two chamois bags (\$1500 and \$2000), \$400 in his wallet, \$4100 in gold hidden in a bureau, and bank accounts in six different banks. He also owned part of the block located at 7th and Broadway in the city of Oakland, California, where he had a two story brick building.

With that much money at stake, there were soon claims on it, the most serious made by Katherine Grasso, his housekeeper. She brought a law suit against the estate, saying Gustav promised her the money in the bureau for her services as his housekeeper for 17 years. She also said money was owed her for services, so she felt she was due nearly \$10,000. The law suit was where she made a mistake. Gustav had a provision in his will that said anyone who brought a suit or contested the probating of the will would be disinherited. The attorneys for the estate brought that clause forward and the matter ended.

Gustav's remains were cremated and his ashes were placed in the Chapel of Memories in Oakland according to crematorium records. At some point in 1904, the ashes were shipped to Chemnitz Saxony in eastern Germany.



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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