



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 249

September 2017

On This Date-155 Years Ago

September, 1862

See page 3 and 4 to read the letter reprinted in the St. Cloud, Minnesota, newspaper written by Lieutenant Alexander Kinhead. While his letter was dated August 18, it did not appear in the newspaper until September.

Camp Cooks submitted by Katie Demarco

At the start of the war, James M. Sanderson, a member of the Sanitary Commission, became concerned with reports of poor food quality and preparation. Sanderson, who was also a hotel operator in New York, believed that his experience would be of value to the Union.

With the help of New York Governor Edwin D. Morgan, Sanderson set out to visit soldiers in the field, in hopes of teaching them a few simple cooking techniques. He started with the camps of the 12th New York, as they were deemed “most deficient in the proper culinary knowledge.” He reportedly saw a significant change in just three days.

On July 22, 1861, just after the Union’s loss in the First Battle of Bull Run, Sanderson approached the War Department with a proposal. He asked that a “respectable minority” in each company be expertly trained in the essential basics of cooking. For every 100-man company, the skilled cook would be appointed two privates; one position would be permanent and the other would rotate among the men of the company. The skilled cook would be given the rank of “Cook Major” and receive a monthly salary of \$50. It would be the Cook Major’s responsibility to ration the food, prepare it, and delegate tasks to the company cooks. Sanderson had unknowingly proposed his idea at exactly the right time. Washington was faced with the likelihood of the war lasting years, rather than months. The government was actively looking for ways to increase soldier comfort. Sanderson’s proposal reached the Military Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate. Though they did not follow his instructions specifically, Sanderson did receive a commission—he was named Captain in the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence from the War Department.

Quote from “Civil War Cooking: What the Union Soldiers Ate” by Tori Avey. (www.thehistorykitchen.com)

Upcoming Events

September 23-24 Pilot Knob, Missouri

At the last count, there are 23 members indicating they will be attending this event. Motel reservations have been made for those caravanning with the gun. Everyone else is responsible for their own reservations. We will have 9 tents and 2 flys set up in camp. Breakfast will be provided for those sleeping in camp. Lunch will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Saturday evening for all attendees. The group expects to arrive in camp around 11:00am Friday morning.

We will be representing Missouri Irregulars and will wear civilian clothing, not uniforms. Clothing could include blue or butternut pants, a white or colored shirt, and a vest. An “oddball” period correct hat is appropriate.

Each member must pay \$10.00 when registering. This will be reimbursed by the Battery.

The schedule and additional information about the event are available at:

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

This website also has some good background history about the battle and the role it played in the overall war. This is good reading in preparation for this event!! Reading it is HIGHLY recommended!

Next Meeting

September 30, 2017 11:00am

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



Battery Profile

Miles A. Brown

(This is an update to a previous biography as new information has recently been found.)

"I, Asa Brown, of Cold Spring, Stearns Co., Minnesota, do certify that I am the Father of Miles A. Brown; that the said Miles A. Brown is Nineteen (19) years of age; and I do hereby freely give my consent to his enlisting as a soldier in the Army of the United States, for the period of three years or during the war--Asa Brown".

The note of permission, witnessed by William Kinkead who also served in the Second Battery, allowed Miles Brown to join the army. Miles signed his enlistment papers in Anoka on the 19th of August, 1862. His descriptive role noted his height at 5' 8" tall. He had blue eyes, dark hair and a fair complexion.

Miles caught up with the Battery as it was marching through Tennessee on their way into Kentucky and he was with the Battery when they fought in the battle at Perryville, Kentucky. Miles was engaged in that battle on October 8, 1862.

On December 9th, he was went to Hospital No. 4 at Nashville, Tennessee, and then on to the Convalescent Barracks about the 3rd of January. It was from the Convalescent Barracks on January 20th that Miles obtained a pass to go, as he requested, "to the front". The front at that time was near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where the Second Battery had been fighting.

Miles was never heard from again. The official reports simply say, "Since which he has not been heard from, It is believe he has deserted." Officially, Miles was carried on the Battery's roles until April 9th when he was declared a deserter and his name removed.

Why Miles left or where he went is unclear, as is how he managed to enlist in a Minnesota artillery unit. Census records provide evidence that Miles was still living in Indiana in 1860 and no records of him in Minnesota have been found other than enlistment records. Records do show that Miles' had a brother named Charles Bond Brown living in LeRoy, Minnesota. Did Miles enlist impulsively while he was visiting his brother in Minnesota and later regret his decision, leading to desertion? It is unlikely that question will ever be answered.

By 1870, Miles was living in New Lots, Kings County, New York. He married Emma Louise Smith on October 30, 1876, and the couple soon began a family. Their first child, Miles Elton, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1879. They added two daughters before their family was complete. In 1910, the census showed Miles and his wife had moved. They were living Hartford, Connecticut. Ten years later, their home was in West Hoboken, New Jersey. Emma died in 1921 while they were living in Weehawken, Hudson, New Jersey.

It is likely Miles went to live near his son, who went by the name Elton, as both were living in Jamaica, Queens County, New York, on the probate papers filed to clear up Miles' estate after he died on January 22, 1926. Elton was the executor of the estate, but only one daughter was listed in Miles' will.

The estate Miles left was valued at just over \$6,000, but he owed money for a mortgage and his final expenses, leaving only about \$1,000 left when all was settled.

Where Miles was laid to rest is unknown as no records yet found have provided the location of his grave.

I, MILES ASA BROWN, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and considering the uncertainty of this life, do make, publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament as follows, hereby revoking all other and former Wills by me at any time made.

First, after my lawful debts are paid, I give, devise and bequeath all property, of which I may die seised or possessed, both real and personal and of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situated, to my beloved Son, Elton Brown of Jamaica, New York, and my beloved daughter, Florence Reiber of 310 High Point Avenue, Union City (formerly West Hoboken, New Jersey) in equal shares for sole and exclusive benefit, possession and use of my said children.

I hereby appoint my son Elton Brown to be Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my seal, the 16th day of November in the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

WITNESSES:

William H. Hurd
Joseph J. Beckler

Subscribed by Miles Asa Brown, the Testator named in the foregoing Will, in the presence of each of us, and at the time of making such subscription, the above instrument was declared by the said Testator to be his last Will and Testament, and each of us, at the request of said Testator and in his presence and in the presence of each other, signed our names as witnesses thereto.

William H. Hurd Residing 4111 Ave S Brooklyn
Joseph J. Beckler Residing 1730 East 35th Brooklyn

St. Cloud Democrat

Saint Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota

The following letter appeared in the September 11, 1862, edition

Transcribed by Keith & Elaine Hedlund. Keith is a descendant of Lt. Alexander Kinkead, original member of the Second Battery.

From the Second Minnesota Battery.

[Letter received by Wm. Kinkead of this place, from his brother Alex.]
IUKA, Miss., August 18th, 1862.

DEAR BROTHER. - On the 18th day of August, the 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, quit "Camp near Jacinto" and took up the line of march, keeping the Tuscumbia Road, and on the 2nd day, arrived about noon at Iuka, a place of some moment on the Charleston and Memphis railroad. We had the usual compliment of dust, plenty of good water to wash it off with, and plenty of fruit.

When within about eight miles of Iuka, Col. Frederick was fired at by some miscreant concealed in the bush. The ball just grazed him. Cavalry immediately scoured the woods but without finding anyone. I have had a like escape myself. The same ball that passed close to me barely missed Col. Carlin, our Brigade Commander. The opposition is that the shot was fired at him. It is not at all safe to get beyond the pickets or to straggle behind the main column on a march.

Iuka is a picturesque place, and is resorted to in Summertime on account of its fine chaly-be-ate springs. The "Iuka Home" now dead to the hum of voices, save those of our own officers, is a large frame building, and thereabouts may be seen several fine springs with the usual Summer house endearments, where, in happier times the "curled darlings" of Tishomingo county "looked love to eyes that spake again;" and where from "the witching hour of night" there was - "No sleep till morn, where youth and pleasure meet, To chase the glowing hours with flying feet." To speak plainly, the place where the chivalry danced until they "couldn't rest." It is said that His Satanie Majesty's cousin, Jeff Davis, condescended to spend an hour or two at the same Springs - to meet and poison the brains of those young Southerners whom he might chance to see, just before secession became a by-word.

In one suite of rooms in the "Iuka House" may be seen a handsome rosewood Paintings, and on the door leading to those rooms "Those apartments reserved for the Proprietor." This timely notice was rendered necessary since Uncle Samuel has taken violent possession of the premises for the use of invalid soldiers. The country around is high and rolling, and numerous fine springs, the waters of which gurgle through the ravines, and to the pleasantness of the place and the comfort of the soldiers.

On the march to this place our Battery occupied the post of honor, on the right, and is now commanding the approach by rail to the town on the South side with the 21st Illinois infantry on our left. Free present signs the onward movement has commenced. Troops are being thrown forward rapidly. We are in possession of the rail road from here to Corinth and south from here to Tuscumbia. The cars go out and come in with rations and run daily. The 2nd Minnesota regiment is to Tuscumbia, another Southern watering place, and the 5th Minnesota regiment arrived at Iuka today. We shall quit this place tomorrow night and by way Tuscumbia to go Decatur, the junction of the Memphis, Charleston and Nashville railroads. We expect to have a battle. As near as I can learn the enemy is in force at Decatur and by referring to the map one can see that it is a strategic point, of no small importance. I believe also that with Corinth as a base, we shall operate along the line of the M. & C. railroad and gradually throw the main portion of Gen. Grant's command into South Carolina, or at some point to intercept any great stampede of the rebels from Richmond South; also to prevent guerrilla bands from overrunning Tennessee. A glance at a map will give you a clear view of the importance of present movements.

Since the passage of the Confiscation Act, many negroes have come within the lines and many others have been brought in. Using

negroes as drivers, waiters, etc, will throw at least one hundred thousand men into the ranks for active operations. Take our own company for instance; we have six good men as mule drivers, four in the mess room, and altogether fifteen men doing work not strictly military. Let negroes fill these places, and we have fifteen available cannoneers. Parties go out foraging almost daily. As a sample - We mount 25 or 30 men, armed cap-a-pie, in charge of a commissioned or noncommissioned officer who go out eight or ten miles accompanied by a wagon. All along the road are plantations, the proprietors of which are in the rebel army - an overseer perhaps in charge. In some instances only the wife and children are at home, the negroes taking charge of the crops. All such as come under the ban are dealt with according to law. Chickens, sheep, honey, fruit, mules, horses, "anything deemed necessary for the soldier or the efficiency of the army" is taken. Nothing is wantonly destroyed, nor are the soldiers insolent. We visited an old secesh Colonel's plantation a few days ago. The wife, an overseer, children and negroes at home. An aged colored damsel is notified that with the consent of the mistress she might bring out the bread and milk, which is done, but not with that ease and grace on the part of the mistress which is said to characterize Southern ladies. In the meantime, Jack F. and Peter C. are busy with their sulfur matches at the bee hive. Noise in the direction of the bee-hive attracts the attention of the mistress, who springs to her feet, throws her arms wildly into the air and begs someone to shoot her; she wants to die; she would rather die than be robbed. Pretty daughter with wavy black hair, and of "aspect mild" endeavors to calm the old lady: "Now, mother, do be quiet." "Mother, what's a little honey" - men are seen approaching with the carcass of a sheep, others with vegetables, others with mules; old lady (she'd make a capital Lady Macbeth in the dagger

Continued on page 4

scene) again gesticulates violently, calls us Vandals; says she will write to President Lincoln about us; her daughter shall call on Gen. Davis; curls her somewhat withered lips, and with the grace of a Madame Pompadour, the Majestic strides of a mimic queen, leaves the room, carefully protecting her train as she passes from contact with the "Vandals";—the lovely Rebecca follows, casting a look at the good looking officer, who evidently appreciates the lady-like bearing of the young lady. The wagon is loaded. Green-corn, vegetables of all kinds, fruit, poultry, a span of mules two negroes, and honey oppress, or rather press, its sides.

Old lady again appears on the stage; orders the negroes out of her sight; evidently wants to break things; saves herself by saying that her husband is a Col in the Rebel army; she hopes he will kill a dozen Yankees at least; (young lady again "Oh Mother!") says she will go immediately to Col. Davis to seek redress; "yes you good for-nothing-man (meaning the officer) to bring these men here to rob me, and that good for-nothing-nigger-(pointing to a colored man we brought with us) he must call my cream 'Secesh cream.'" While all this scene is occurring within, the men are busy without; not a man has opened his mouth, not a rude jest from them—nothing save a broad smile from Jack F. would indicate; anything unusual going on. Old lady exhausted drops into a chair, officer endeavors to explain, shows the evident justice, of the whole proceeding, and intimates that it is about time, for the. Col. to give up soldiering and return to his allegiance; smiles sweetly on Rebecca, and with a Chesterfieldian touch of the hat, bows himself out of the house.

The effect of our confiscation of rebel property is just as I anticipated - it annoys and hurts them. I might say that they are frightened. The only trouble is with some of our over sensitive commanders. The fact is, if the Administration had recognized

the belligerent rights of the Government, and had competent Generals to make war on Military principles, a different condition of things would exist today. Jomine justly shows that a General should be capable of making all the resources of the invaded country contribute to the success of his enterprise. This is sound doctrine - just here have we been weak. The simple and universally adopted course is "that everything should best served to the success of the war, and to this add the entire resources of the enemy's country are subject." Our military commanders have been manifestly unjust, to the injury of their soldiers, in a matter which is justified by common sense universal military custom; that is, in obliging or rather exorbitant prices for vegetables, since in a hot climate like this, vegetable acid is necessary to mix with so much salt food, as a preventative to scurvy. Several cases of scurvy have come under my own notice. Now, our commanders have had the power to enforce by compulsory means the right to get vegetables without stealing, at any time, and this little fact goes to show how closely our commanders have sailed to a positive sympathy with rebellion, as evinced by a nice regard for their feelings and property in the matter of sentinels mentioned in a former letter. Think of it: I ride up to a farmer's gate; a sentinel halts me; the proprietor approaches; can let me have onions at 10 cents each, new potatoes \$2.50 per bushel, 50 cents for a head of cabbage; refusing anything but coin in payment, thus draining the army of coin to enrich the coffers of Jeff Davis, and else taking advantage of the demands created by the march of a large army, to charge exorbitant prices for produce. Again, their people ignore the existence of a Northern Government in refusing to take our paper money—insult the victorious soldier at their gates by telling him that "your treasury notes have no foundation; your Government is bankrupt - no, your

cash or none of my onions."

Ye gods and little fishes! Did all Generalship die with Washington? All common sense with Webster and Clay? Has Mr. Seward and the Secretary of War blindly run contrary to the universal custom of war and military rights clearly lain down by eminent writers on belligerent rights intentionally, or has Congress wire pulled and stupidly carried out the war by throwing clogs in the paths of our cabinet officers? Will the President see that our rose tinted Generals do their duty? Will Uncle Sam take possession of the thousands of bushels of corn now ripening in this State and to be used to subsist rebel troops if needed? We shall see. Carry out the principles of the Confiscation Act and what will it be? Nothing, absolutely nothing, not clearly the right and duty of our authorities to see enforced from the very beginning; nothing not sanctioned amid all civil aid people by the hard necessities of war. These are the necessary accompaniments of war; not its object, nor its glories.

By passengers just armed I learn that last night's train from Tuscumbia was fired into by guerrillas and five men killed. One hundred and fifty bullet holes have been counted on the cars. The land is of better quality here than it is some fifteen miles away though all the land through would be considered poor in Minnesota. There is plenty of peaches, but almost all are of the natural kind. I have tasted but little grafted fruit. No cotton growing. A great deal of corn. Around luka the corn looks well.

ALEX

Recap

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

Although the weekend included some rain, a number of battery members attended this annual event. We provided firing demonstrations with our M1861 10-pounder Parrott Rifle four times daily and saw numerous familiar faces in the stands at each firing. Using charcoal instead of wood, we were able to cook breakfast and feed everyone under one of our tent flies which kept us out of the morning rain. Ponchos were required for the noon firing on Saturday, but although the skies were often threatening, we packed dry canvas when we left on Sunday afternoon.



Battery members who participated in the gun crew during the two day event were Bruce Arnoldy, Teresa Bergdale, John Cain, Daryl Duden, Bart Hoekstra, Cameron Larson, James Livingstone, Jay Overby, Michael Ritchie, Steven Scurek, Ron Wendel, and with the assistance from members of Pvt. Larson's family: father Chris & brother Ben. Additional Battery members who were in the bleachers watching the firing demonstrations and joined us in camp for lunch were Becky Loader, Susan Scurek, Jackson



Klamm, Briar Golden and Laura Ringeison. Although the temperature was cooler this year than in prior years, due to members numerous trips to the shaved ice vendor, gun crew members were treated to a free shaved ice on Sunday, compliments of the vendor.

Larry Ahlman stopped by on Sunday with our honorarium and said, "I change presenters every year based on popularity, but you folks are consistently on the



top of the list of "fan favorites" and continue to fill the bleachers. The people love your historical accuracy and that you are so willing to share your knowledge of Civil War artillery freely with them. Thank you, once again, for your participation and we will see you next year."

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

Ken Cunningham
1170 Golf Ridge Circle
Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: (651) 388-2945

Treasurer

Daryl Duden
1210 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: (651) 388-6520

Twin Cities Metro Area Contact

Ron & Vickie Wendel
12419 Redwood Street NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448 Phone: (763) 754-2476

E-mail: momwendel@hotmail.com

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

