



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 259

August 2018

On This Date-155 Years Ago

Some significant events for August 1863

Aug 1—Federal forces begin a prolonged bombardment of entrenchments around Charleston Harbor.

Aug 2—Following Lee's retreat from Gettysburg, the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac establish lines with the Rappahannock River between them.

Aug 5—In a letter to Nathaniel Banks, Abraham Lincoln states 'I am an anti-slavery man' and goes on to state he would never return a "negro" freed under the Emancipation Proclamation to slavery.

Aug 8—Robert E. Lee offers his resignation to Jefferson Davis. Davis refuses the offer.

Aug 10—President Lincoln meets with former slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Among the topics discussed are the treatment and pay of black soldiers in the U. S. Army.

Aug 17—In an impressive display of firepower, Federal batteries begin heavy shelling of Confederate positions ringing Charleston Harbor including Fort Sumter. Using Parrott rifled cannon including the 200 pound Swamp Angel, the artillery is deadly accurate and easily breaches Sumter, but no assault is forthcoming. Although the initial attack is the heaviest, Federal assaults continue off and on until September, 1864.

Aug 19—300 men under the command of William Quantrill, popularly known as Quantrill's Raiders, leave Blackwater Creek, Missouri heading for Lawrence, Kansas.

Aug 21—The Confederate Navy attempts to attack the *USS New Ironsides* with a torpedo from the four-man vessel the *CSS David*. The attack is ineffective.

Aug 21—Quantrill's Raiders, now numbering more 400, attack Lawrence, Kansas, killing every male they could find who was old enough to carry a gun (a total of 183 men). One they missed was U. S. Senator James H. Lane, who hid in a cornfield in his nightshirt. Quantrill's men burned the town following the raid

Aug 25—In response to Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas, Brigadier General Thomas Ewing [US] orders civilians out of their homes in 3 Missouri counties (Jackson, Cass and Bates) and parts of a fourth (Vernon). Union soldiers burn the homes, barns and crops.

Aug 29—The Army of the Cumberland begins the Chickamauga Campaign, heading east for passes in Lookout Mountain

Upcoming Events

Aug 11-12, Pipestone, MN, Civil War Days

This is a favorite event featuring many programs, lectures, two battles, a dance, and much more on the Hiawatha Pageant grounds. For more info, see: <http://pipestoneminnesota.com/cwd/Home.html>

Our unit will be providing breakfasts and lunches to our members. Supper on Saturday will be out in town using the coupons in your registration packets. If there is any change in your attendance, PLEASE notify Daryl Duden or John Cain ASAP.

Aug 25-26, Morristown, MN, Ahlman's Shooters Roundup

This is a wild event held on the backlot of Ahlman's GunShop featuring firearms of all kinds. We will be firing our gun during four demos throughout the day. Remember, the shave ice guy is usually there!

Your Answer is Needed ASAP!!

We must register in advance for the event on October 20-21 in Minooka, Illinois. Please respond no later than September 20 so we can get you registered! Please respond to Daryl Duden— damdude1210@gmail.com. NOT ANSWERING AT ALL IS NOT AN ANSWER!! Please respond with "attending" or "not attending" ASAP.

For more info, see their web page: Dollinger Family Farm Civil War Reenactment, <http://edmilam.coffeecup.com/>

Next Meeting

September 22, 2018 11:00am

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



Battery Profile

James William Boardman

James came to Minnesota from his birthplace in Niagara County, New York, and began farming in Utica, Winona County. When the call came for men to serve in a second battery of artillery being formed in Minnesota in January of 1862, James enlisted. He was 29 years old, stood 5' 8" tall, had hazel eyes, light hair, and light complexion.

Joining the army may have provided some conflict for James as his wife, Mary, had been born in Virginia. The two were married on October 28, 1856. If Mary had family, they could have had Confederate sympathies, but no mention is made of it in James' records. The couple had no children when James enlisted, but after the war, their family grew to include six children.

James went south with the Battery and served through the marches and battles until the Battery was involved in the battle at Stones River, Tennessee, on December 31, 1862. What happened is unclear, but James' name was recorded among those killed in the Battery. His name was dropped from the Battery's muster role as a casualty.

This, however, was incorrect. James had not been killed, but captured at Stones River. He was taken to Richmond where he was held until January 16, 1863. Prisoner exchanges were going on and James was exchanged at City Point, Virginia, on February 3rd. When he reported in to Camp Parole, he was sick with the mumps. He was then sent to Benton Barracks, Missouri, where he reported in on March 11. Eventually, James made it back to the Battery, his name returned to the muster sheets and he continued to serve with them. He reenlisted when the Battery veteranized in March of 1864 and went home on a veteran's furlough.

In the summer of 1864, James was working with the Battery's mules when one of the animals fell, injuring James' ankle. This injury would be the basis for his pension claim when James filed in 1891.

James was mustered out with the Battery on August 16, 1865, at Fort Snelling. He went home to Winona County and continued farming. In 1868, James and another man, William Luark, took out a mortgage for \$563 against nearly 200 acres of land in Winona County. What they planned or what went wrong is unknown, but the land was sold on the courthouse steps by sheriff's auction in 1876. The men had not made their mortgage payments, so the mortgage was foreclosed. James may well have been investing in land around the county as in 1876, he sold some property he owned in the community of Hart to L. G. Boardman for \$100. It is unknown if there was a connection between James and L.G.

What James did in the next years is unknown. The 1890 Veteran's census listed John living in Arbuckle, Mason County, West Virginia. No disability was listed and the notes portion stated that James could not remember the details of his service. John and Mary were still were living in Mason County, West Virginia, when John filed for a pension. It was there that James died on January 8, 1897. No further information has been found about his final resting place despite numerous research attempts.

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FOR THE SANITARY FAIR.—The
ladies connected with the Soldiers
d Aid Society of this place, are work-
i- ing very assiduously in procuring arti-
n- cles to be forwarded to the St. Louis
p- Sanitary Fair. They wish to fill
or one or more boxes with useful arti-
d- cles that can be used for the relief of
le the sick and wounded soldiers of the
West. The object is a noble one,
i- and the efforts of the society should be
h- seconded by all. They earnestly so-
is- licit from those who have at heart
is the comfort and welfare of the brave
or soldiers in the western armies, such
y- donations as they may have at their
i- command. There should be no delay:
ge but go to work, friends, and help the
ll Aid Society to carry out their enter-
e- prise. Donations may be left with
at this office.

SAS Article from Minnesota

Our friends from the Boy in Blue Project in Mankato located and shared this article from their newspaper. It was published in the *Mankato Weekly Union*, 6 May 1864. It gives evidence of one of the more than 3,200 small, grass roots groups who were working for the good of Union soldiers. This Mankato group was collecting articles for the big Sanitary Fair to be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

The large regional fairs featured many "booths" of articles for sale, special articles to buy chances on, things to look at (for a fee) or things to do (again, for a fee.) When the St. Louis fair was over, it had raised \$550,000 to help provide for the Union soldiers and the ladies of Mankato, Minnesota, helped with their donations!

Buying Groceries During the War

Info from the book, *Starving the South: How the North Won the Civil War* by Andrew F. Smith

Supply and demand have always dictated market prices. Most of the war was fought on Southern soil and Union forces specifically targeted Confederate food supplies to gain physical advantage. Transportation blockades (railroads, rivers, ports), supply reallocation (commandeering forts and merchants inventory) and farm destruction (pillage, burning) proved effective. Food was scarce; prices rose. Northern food prices reflected lack of Southern produce but most folks above the Mason Dixon line were not starving.

"The Confederate-controlled Fort Henry and Fort Donelson protected major agricultural areas in Western Tennessee and well as crucial railroads and rivers on which provisions were transported within the Confederacy...Fort Henry fell to Union naval forces, and the Union army proceeded overland to take Fort Donelson. Despite its strategic location, the garrison at Fort Donelson ran out of provisions...The effects of these losses were felt as far east as Macon, Georgia, where beef prices went from ten to twenty cents a pound in a few days...The scarcity of provisions for the army and the price for food in the marketplace caused concern throughout the South."

"When food became unaffordable for many Southerners, the Confederate government stepped in and tried to place price controls on various commodities in the hope of keeping prices down. However, farmers hoarded staples rather than sell them at the artificially lower prices, resulting in less food on the open market. Price controls were discontinued, but inflation then ran rampant."

"By February 1863 the price of flour had more than doubled in Richmond. Bacon, which cost \$1.25 per pound in 1860, sold for \$10, while the price of sugar increased more than fifteen-fold and coffee cost forty times what it had previously...Rapidly escalating prices encouraged hoarding and speculation, which drove prices up even more. Since the salaries of soldiers, government workers, and factory laborers were fixed--or at least did not rise quickly enough to cover inflation--food became unaffordable."

"[In Atlanta, 1864] food prices...escalated--a pound of butter cost \$15, a bushel of potatoes sold for \$24, a barrel of flour went for \$250, and one hundred pounds of bacon cost \$500."

"Even before the siege of Vicksburg commenced, food was a problem in the city. Confederate soldiers engaged in 'the customary pilfering--fruits, vegetables, chickens, and livestock disappeared; troops drained the city of supplies, created shortages, and sent prices soaring. Food became scarce. Butter sold for \$1.50 a pound, and flour was virtually unavailable...Although food was plentiful outside Vicksburg...plantation owners were often unwilling to sell food to the military authorities, simply because farmers could get better prices on the open market. Well before the arrival of the Federal army, Vicksburg residents had to drive into the countryside to purchase salt for \$45 a bag and turkeys at \$50 each, which were unavailable in the city."

1861 prices in the Macon [Georgia] market--The prices for all leading articles are considerably lower than in any other city, as is conclusively demonstrated by the fact that our merchants are daily shipping goods to all the principal cities in this and adjoining States. Retail country dealers have therefore only to choose whether they will pay the prices demanded by our merchants and thus keep the good share, or let them be sold to other points. Our merchants, so far, have not ran the prices up to correspond with other cities, and prices have only advanced with the heavy demand. For instance, the single article of Lard Oil is quoted in New Orleans at from 2.50-3.00 per gallon; it is quoted in our market at from 2.75-3.00 per gallon.

Groceries (Prices from the *Macon Daily Telegraph*, 31 October 1861

Bacon—The market has been stationary. Clear sides held firm at 2-3 cents. Hams 24 to 26 cents and Shoulders 24-25 cents. The stock on hand is nearly exhausted. Canvasses and country ham, 28-30 cents.
Lard—Stock exhausted. Selling at 25 cents
Flour—Advancing. Superfine, 3.50-3.75, Family, 4.00. Stock light
Corn meal—Good demand at 1.00-1.05
Coffee—Very light stock. Rio, 40-45 cents. Laguria, 45-50 cents. Java, 45-50 cents.
Rice—Very good stock. Sells from 3.5-4.5 cents
Sugars—New Orleans, 9.5-13.5 cents. The stock of A, B, and C Refined Coffee Sugars have become exhausted. Crushed and Powdered, 25 cents.
Molasses—Declined 5 cents per gallon. Cuba 50-55 cents. Golden Syrup, 80 cents-1.00. New Orleans Syrup, 50 cents.
Soda—Super Carbonate, 25 cents. Considerable advance.
Salt—7.50-8.00. This article is rapidly advancing.
Wheat—In good demand at 1.25
Corn—New corn is selling at 75 cents
Oats—But few in market quoted at 60-65 cents shelled
Rye—1.25/bushel
Barley—Barley brings 1.50/bushel
Peas—In great demand. A large quantity can be disposed of at from 85-90 cents.

Recap

July 14-15, Rochester, MN, Living History Fair & Reenactment

What a FANTASTIC event!! This event is so well organized and reenactors are very well taken care of. A great deal of preparation work was done to give the battlefield the right feel and loads of planning made the farmyard look like Vicksburg, Mississippi. Even the weather got in on the act with heat and humidity just like the deep south! Miss Becky managed the Delphic Oracle with the help of a bevy of our pretty young ladies (which were often called upon by the young gentlemen!)



Others of our ladies lived in the caves, interpreting the lives of civilians in Vicksburg during the siege. Overall, this event was outstanding! So was the display on dioramas inside the museum created by our very own John Cain!



July 17, Goodhue, MN Goodhue County 4-H

We partnered with friends in the Third Minnesota Infantry to staff five learning stations for 4-H kids from primary grades through high school. These kids were really good, with questions and paid great attention. It was a nice day with sunshine and light breezes for a change!



July 28, Battle Lake, MN Prospect House



It was a perfect day with sun, a gentle breeze, and reasonable temperatures. The lawn was a great place to set up our learning stations and talk with a couple of hundred visitors. The welcome from the Museum and the community was warm and we had a great time. They did come up with one of the most creative solutions to warning the



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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traffic about the gun firing! Arrangements were made to take the gun and our soldiers through the parade, which made our dinner hour pretty late, but a good time was had by all.

