



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 260

September 2018

On This Date-155 Years Ago

Stories are the most fascinating parts of history and give us fuller pictures of what the original members of the Battery experienced. Bits of story sometimes appear in the most unlikely places and just such a place was a letter from Major James E. Calloway, written just after the battle of Chickamauga. Calloway was in command of the 81st Indiana Infantry during that battle, a unit that was brigaded with the Second Minnesota Battery.

He wrote:

A fearful accident occurred in the Second Minnesota Battery on the twenty-fifth by which a member of our regiment was killed. One of the men of Company D, who was detailed for service in the battery, laid down under one of the pieces, and went to sleep. The piece was unlimbered, bringing it nearly to a balance. A horse that was fastened to one end of it got his halter fastened, and in raising his head brought up the end of the piece so that the other end fell with force on the forehead of the soldier, crushing his head horribly.

Battery records indicate the man killed was Hezekiah Roberts, a private in the 81st Indiana Infantry. Hezekiah was from Jennings, Scott County, Indiana, having been born in Indiana 26 years earlier. Hezekiah was assigned to the Battery to serve as a blacksmith. He left a wife and small son when he died. Hezekiah was buried in what became the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Upcoming Events

Oct 20-21, Minooka, IL Dollinger Family Farm Civil War Reenactment

We will be discussing this event in more detail at the September meeting. If you have plans (attending or not attending) and are not going to be at the meeting, please let John Cain, Daryl Duden or Ken Cunningham know ASAP.

Use this website to find out more about the event:
<http://edmilam.coffeecup.com/>

November 11, Winona, MN Veterans Day

.....This annual recognition in a beautiful park on the lake shore has includes a salute from our gun at the conclusion of the ceremonies. We will once again provide a gun crew for the day—weather permitting. Snow could preclude our participation if hauling the gun is a hazard. Those attending should arrive at the park by 9:45 to unload the gun and be ready for the program that starts at 11:11 am.



Next Meeting

September 22, 2018 11:00am

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



“Let go of the wheel, Jim. Rest well.”

One of our retired Battery members, James Rosasco, passed away last month. Jim served with our reenacting Battery for many years and was best known for his (period correct) grand arguments against women's rights with the laundress and for a spectacular handstand and cartwheel when he didn't let go of the wheel while moving the gun. That cartwheel resulted in a very battered tin cup that Jim proudly carried, earning him a great deal of ribbing for not letting go of the wheel at every appearance of that cup. Though no longer active with the Battery, Jim kept up with Battery events through the newsletter. He was a dear friend to many of us and we send our deepest sympathy to his family. The following is Jim's obituary.



James Joseph Rosasco, 94, of Red Wing, died Monday, August 20, 2018 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

He was born February 11, 1924, in New York City, to James and Jeanne (Cramer) Rosasco, grew up and attended school there until he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps. He was discharged from the military in Sioux Falls,

South Dakota, where he attended Augustana College on the GI Bill. It was there he met and married his wife, Ardis Lavonne Falmoe. In 1953, they moved to Kenyon, MN, where he worked as a social studies teacher until 1959, when they moved to Red Wing and he worked as a guidance counselor at Red Wing Central High School. In 1972, he was elected as president of the MEA and then served as Past President and on several boards, before returning to his position at RWCHS in 1976, where he worked until his retirement in 1986. Throughout his life, James served on several boards and organizations some of them being the MN State Training School Community Board, Horace Mann Board and he was a consultant for Hazelton Drug Rehabilitation. He, along with other dedicated professionals, started “The Center” in Red Wing, a local drug abuse counseling program for at risk youth at the RWCHS. He was a member of the Red Wing Arts Association and had been a decades long member of the 2nd MN Battery Light Artillery Civil War Reenactment group. Throughout his life, he enjoyed fishing, traveling--especially European travels and cross-country skiing. Family was always important to James, and he was very proud of his children.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Ardis of Red Wing; children Paul (Winni McNamara) Rosasco of Skagit Valley, WA, Mark (Rose Diaz) Rosasco of Tucson, AZ, James Christopher Rosasco of Kansas City, MO and Jeanne (Steve) Boleen of Prescott, WI; grandchildren, Aslan, Liane, Christina and Katherine Rosasco, Erin (Timothy) Brown and Jamie (Dustin) Cesafsky and 8 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 sisters.

His Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at United Lutheran Church. Burial with military honors was at Oakwood Cemetery in Red Wing. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the RW Arts Association or donor's choice.



Battery Profile

Alfred P. Derby

Alfred left little about himself to be found in later years. What is known is that at the time of his enlistment in the Union Army, he was 25 years old, had blue eyes, auburn hair, and a fair complexion. He was 5' 11 1/2" tall, had been born in Worcester County, Massachusetts, and was married. He and his wife, Josephine, were farming in southeastern Minnesota when he joined the Second Minnesota Battery on August 16, 1864. Alfred went to Lake City to join and received a bounty for his enlistment.

From a marriage certificate, it is known that Alfred and Josephine were married on November 16, 1861, in Huron County, Ohio. Her maiden name was Josephine A. Shelleck and they were married by a Justice of the Peace.

Alfred went South after enlisting and caught up to the Second Battery where he served as a private. On April 7, 1865, he was sent to the hospital in Knoxville and he remained there until May 1st when he was allowed to return to the Battery.

By 1880, Alfred and Josephine were living in Portland, Ionia County, Michigan. They had five sons ranging in age from 17 years to 4 years. A daughter named Nellie at just one year old rounded out the family. Alfred was working in a sawmill, as was their oldest son, Otto.

The 1905 City Directory for Portland, Michigan, recorded Alfred as an "engineer." The next record Alfred left is his application for a veteran's pension in 1912. He received \$20 a month.

Alfred died on October 22, 1916, in Portland, Michigan. He was laid to rest in the Portland Cemetery with a family stone to mark his grave. Since no newspaper was published in the community that year, no obituary appeared to tell of his life. Alfred's stories may be forgotten, but Alfred is not .



Random Facts from the History Channel

One-third of the soldiers who fought for the Union Army were immigrants, and nearly one in 10 was African American. The Union Army was a multicultural force—even a multinational one. We often hear about Irish soldiers (7.5 percent of the army), but the Union's ranks included even more Germans (10 percent), who marched off in regiments such as the Steuben Volunteers. Other immigrant soldiers were French, Italian, Polish, English and Scottish. In fact, one in four regiments contained a majority of foreigners. Blacks were permitted to join the Union Army in 1863, and some scholars believe this infusion of soldiers may have turned the tide of the war.

Black Union soldiers refused their salaries for 18 months to protest being paid lower wages than white soldiers. When Black soldiers began signing up with the Union Army in early 1863, they were paid \$10 a month. White soldiers were paid at least \$13, with officers earning more. Blacks were further insulted when only they were charged a \$3 monthly fee for clothing, lowering their pay to \$7. As a result, the highest-paid Black soldier earned about half the lowest-paid white soldier's salary. To protest these conditions, Black regiments refused to accept their inferior wages. Finally, pressure from abolitionist congressmen coupled with the courage Black soldiers had shown in combat persuaded Congress to rectify the pay structure. In September 1864, Black soldiers finally received equal pay that was retroactive to their enlistment date. For many, this meant they finally had enough money to send some home to their families.

General Ulysses S. Grant wasn't the bloodiest general of the war—Robert E. Lee was. Mary Lincoln called Grant a "butcher" for the horrific losses sustained by his troops during the Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864—twice the number of casualties as Lee's army. But if casualties are counted proportionally, Lee's army suffered the most throughout the war. This is because Lee relished the attack, a trait that won him key battles such as Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg but cost him heavy casualties—Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg is an example—and eventually decimated the Army of Northern Virginia.

Both before and during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln pushed to send freed slaves abroad. The policy, called colonization, had been supported by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay—a hero of Lincoln's—and even Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose protagonists in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" ultimately emigrate from the United States to Africa. In August 1862, Lincoln brought five black ministers to the White House and told them that slavery and the war had demonstrated that it would be "better for us both, therefore, to be separated." He wanted to send freed blacks to Central America, even calling for a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to pay for colonization. But prominent abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison were appalled by the idea. Lincoln never succeeded at gathering support for the policy, and after he signed the Emancipation Proclamation he never mentioned it publicly again.

Recap



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

As expected a great time was had by all who attended. The weekend was filled with eventful skirmishes, lectures, and loads of visitors.

Saturday night the battery joined in the invasion of Pizza Ranch for dinner, and for those who haven't heard, this was not the last Pipestone - we'll be back in 2020!

Submitted by Miss Mandy



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

The 2nd Minnesota Battery had a great turnout for Ahlman's Shooters Roundup this year. Once again, we conducted exhibitions of how Civil War artillery was fired using our M1861 10 Pdr. Parrott with Limber. Even though there were light showers on Sunday, we managed to attract a good crowd for our firing demonstrations at 10:30, 12:30, 2:30 & 4:00 both days. During the banquet Saturday evening, our unit was the first presenter thanked by Larry Ahlman. He indicated we were a fan favorite and continue to fill the stands year after year. Members who participated on the gun crew this year were Bruce Arnoldy, Bracy Bahm, John Cain, Ken Cunningham, Mike Cunningham, Daryl Duden, Briar Golden, James Livingstone, Michael Ritchie, Jay Overby, Thomas Schmit and Ron Wendel.

Two additional members, Becky Loader and

Laura Ringeisen, also attended the event. Battery members managed to keep the shaved ice vendor busy all weekend. After our 10:30 firing on Sunday, the entire ten man gun crew was given a coupon for a free shaved ice of their choice.

Respectfully submitted, SGT Duden



Goodhue County History Center - September 2

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery conducted an educational experience at the Goodhue County History Center in

Red Wing from noon to 3:00pm. At one station, inside the building, Michael Ritchie displayed and talked about his collection of Civil War era rifles, muskets, carbines and pistols. At another station inside, John Cain displayed the Battery's case of artifacts and his extensive collection of Civil War flags, historical documents and currency. Outside the building near the entrance, our M1861 10 Pdr. Parrott with Limber and our collection of Civil War artillery projectiles were on display. James Livingstone and Daryl Duden manned this station and shared how Civil War artillery was fired and the various projectiles on display. Although the event was held on Labor Day weekend and free tours of several paddle wheelers docked in Red Wing limited attendance, staff reported the guests who did attend enjoyed the experience. The Battery received a \$200 honorarium for our efforts.

Among the guests in attendance were Brig. General Lowell Kruse and his wife. Following the event, he followed us to the storage facility and he was able to see, up close, the 3/4 scale Parrott, limber and trailer his re-enacting organization, SDSU 7th US Cavalry, is purchasing from us. He indicated, although the pictures we sent him were outstanding, the entire package of trailer, gun, limber and equipment, after inspection, exceeded his expectations. Gen. Kruse indicated arrangements will be made for a final payment and pickup as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted, SGT Duden

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:

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