



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 272

October-November 2019

On This Date-155 Years Ago

The following article is from the *St. Cloud Democrat* (Saint Cloud, Stearns County, Minn.) November 3, 1864. Transcribed by Keith & Elaine Hedlund.

NOTES: “Will Kinkead” is William Kinkead. He and his brother, Alexander, both served in the Battery, enlisting from St. Cloud and returning to the city after the war. The brothers both wrote letters and/or articles about their experiences “at the front” during the war and these were published by the St. Cloud newspapers. Both appeared to have strong opinions and were not shy about sharing them.

The letters were transcribed by the descendant of Alexander, Keith Hedlund and his wife, Elaine.

LETTER FROM MRS. JANE G. SWISSHELM
... In the procession Minnesota appeared with a fine transparency bearing the State Seal on one side; "North Star Union Club," on another; "Our climate Kills Copperheads!" and "Treason cannot survive our winters!" on the others. Our old friend, Will Kinkead, was one of the Committee Arrangements and is, I think, responsible for the mottoes. As he has gone to St. Cloud on furlough, the people can call him to account if they do not suit their ideas. He has a civil appointment in the War Department, is steady as an old Dutch clock, and is a rising man(?).

JANE G. SWISSHELM

Upcoming Events

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. Those attending should arrive at the park by 10:00 to unload the gun and be ready for the program that starts at 11:11 am. The speaker is Richard McClure with the story of his father who is just below General Eisenhower’s chin in this famous photograph of his speech to the troops of D-Day.



November 16, 5:00-9:00 Goodhue Gala, Red Wing

This event at the Goodhue County Historical Society celebrates 150 years of history with lots of activities including music, auctions, a speak-easy, raffles, living history and more. Several members of the Battery have been invited to participate in the event. Everyone is welcome, but since this is a fundraiser for the Historical Society, those not actively involved may be asked to pay for their admission.

More information can be found at: <https://goodhuecountyhistory.org/news/hats-off-to-history-gala/>

Next Meeting

December 7, 2019 11:00am

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



LOOKING BACK AT "TRADITIONAL" FAMILY RECIPES

Submitted by Matt Dedrick, great grandson of original Battery member, John Dedrick

Great Granddad John Henry Dederick/Dedrick was born in 1827, in Sindorf-Bergheim, about 50 miles west of Cologne in the Rheine region of Germany, According to my Grandmother Amelia (Molly) Dedrick, the Dederick family were once traditional Foresters/Jaegermeister in the great forests owned by the Kings and nobility of West PrussiaAccording to her, the family "always had meat on the table" Great Granddad emigrated to the USA in 1850 eventually settling with other members of his family in Minnesota. He enlisted in the 2nd Battery, Minnesota Volunteer Light Artillery in 1862.

One of the traditional German family meals passed down to me from my father was "panhaas"...which is a traditional food usually cooked after the autumn "Schlachtfest" in the Westfal (Westphalia) region of Germany. Following the boiling of pork sausages the cooks added Buckwheat flour together with various spices to the cooking water. When thickened, the savoury mix was eaten either as a 'porridge' or fried "hard" in bacon fat .

The Dederick family carried on cooking this traditional food for many years. When I was growing up, my father, J. Mattie ("Mathi") Dedrick made Panhaas on the kitchen stove, using pork "cracklings" (the hard "left overs" from pork fat after it was rendered down and drained) mixed with buckwheat flour and spices....My father cooked Panhaas for us, following the recipe his father John Henry Jr. had taught him so many years before',

Dad's recipe for Panhaas as written in his recipe book, was typically simple...and vague;

Pork gravens from rendering pork fat

Water as much as you need to make a batch,

Season to taste with the following; Salt, Pepper, Nutmeg. Allspice, cloves

When seasoned to taste, boil, then add buckwheat flour and stir in while boiling, until

thick

Pour into dishes and leave until cool

Slice thin and fry in bacon fat.

I helped my father make Panhaas many times over the years. The recipe I still use is a refined version based on Dad's recipe...at least as I remember it.

In a large pot, add cracklings, water, and spices as follows:

1 Lb. Pork gravings (cracklings) with liquid fat drained off

1 1/2 Tsp Allspice

1 Tsp ground nutmeg

1/2 Tsp ground cloves

1/2 Tsp ground black pepper (I did not use salt in this recipe, as we usually ate it salted, if wanted add between 1/2 to 1 tsp salt)

Approx 32 fl. oz water

Heat water mixture until boiling then add approx 1 cup of Light Buckwheat flour, stirring it in until thick. (a spoon should be able to stand straight up in the mix) Continue on low heat, adding more buckwheat flour if necessary. Stir and ladle mix into low pans to a depth of about 1 i/2 inches, spread evenly, Cool pans in refrigerator (usually overnight) Cut into thin slices and fry in bacon fat until hard. Eat crisp slices of panhaas "salted to taste". (Others did use homemade syrup)

Dad occasionally made a supper from left overs. Any cooked potatoes, chopped pieces of meat, together with cracked up pieces of hard dry bread softened with water or milk, ..(all left over from previous meals), were cooked together in bacon fat in a frying pan on the stove top and repeatedly turned over until both sides were crusted over.... Dad learned the "recipe" from his father John Henry Jr., who called the concoction " Slumgullion". It was a meal Granddad's Civil War veteran father had taught him. If so, "slumgullion" was probably another name for the Civil War "Skillygallee." We ate it because it was what we had to eat, sometimes salting it to taste...I never could find any reason to appreciate the merits of "Slumgullion".

Then of course, there was always corn meal, boiled in a large pot as a "double batch" with one 'batch' to eat for breakfast as corn mush, the other to cook the next morning, cut into thin slices and fried in bacon fat and eaten with corn syrup. (There was always a jar of bacon fat kept in the refrigerator for frying etc.)

(continued from page 2)

When Great Grandad mustered out of the 2nd Battery in 1865, he traveled to Buffalo River, Minnesota, where he married Gertrude Hellmann. The couple and their new baby, later moved by wagon train, (commanded by a "Captain Geddy") to a new town site in Minnesota later called "Geddy's Grove" (now Melrose) According to my father, when they got there, they found " lambs Quarters" growing in abundance on the prairie...and used these greens to make a salad, which Dad called "German Lettuce"

"German Lettuce" was basically a bowl of fresh cut greens (lettuce, cabbage, or other edible greens) with pieces of fried bacon. The mix was then topped and tossed together with a swirl of hot vinegar, heated in the pan used to cook the bacon (after the excess bacon fat was drained off). At Grandad's old Homestead at Steep Rock, Manitoba, for the early spring salads, they again used natural greens. Perhaps these were lambs quarters.

Of course there was always sauerkraut, made up in a large crock covered by a wooden top plate, which was held down by a large rock and kept in a cool place. When the empty crock was not in use making sauerkraut, Grandmother Dedrick used it to make up a batch of home-made soap, a process which may have added a special "tang" to later batches of sauerkraut.)

There are other traditional family recipes such as "liver dumpling soup," "Johnny Cake," "home brewed beer" and so on, some of which came north in 1910, when my Grandfather left Minnesota for Manitoba. Not all were "traditional" German family or Civil War recipes. With the passage of time there were new ones added to the family's recipe books. . At the homestead up at Steep Rock, the old "Fairford trail" passed close by the house, so. Grandmother Dedrick learned to make Bannock from the trappers and Indians traveling along the trail. She also prepared meals using recipes given to her by her neighbours, many of whom also came from the USA. Over time these foods also became favourites in our family.

The panhaas,"slumgullion", German lettuce, corn mush and the other "traditional" family recipes are ones I grew up with, so many long years ago. Sadly, in this present era of fast foods with an overabundance of readily available foodstuffs, these and the other favourite meals of my family will probably be ignored and forgotten by the upcoming generations

Matt Dedrick
Carman, Manitoba, Canada

One of Our Own

It is with a heavy heart that this notice about Ardee Rosasco is shared, but those in the Battery who knew Ardee treasure her memory. Her hands were ready to help, no matter what the task. Her smile and sunny disposition endeared her to so many members of the Battery. She freely shared her research and her talents in drawing with us all.

Her service was held on the day of the Frontenac event, necessitating a "dividing of forces" with some Battery members honoring Ardee and others honoring our promise to be at the event.



Ardis L Rosasco

Ardis Lavonne Rosasco, 89, of Red Wing, died Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at Atrium Acute Post Care in Ellsworth, WI. She was born on November 27,



1929, in Boyd, Minnesota to Clifford and Gerta (Dregseth) Falmoe. She graduated from high school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On September 24, 1950, she was united in marriage to James Rosasco. They lived in various areas before moving to Red Wing in 1959. For a few years she owned and operated the Cloak Room with Barbara Delahunty and later was a real estate agent. For many years she had an art studio at the Anderson Center. She was a worldly traveler where she enjoyed and studied art in the various countries she visited. She was an active member of United Lutheran Church in Red Wing participating in several circles. She was also a member of the Red Wing Arts Association and the Sons of Norway.

She is survived by her four 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; six grandchildren, Aslan, Liane, Christina and Katherine Rosasco, Erin (Timothy) Brown and Jamie (Dustin) Cesafsky and six great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband on August 20, 2018 and her sister and brother, Grace and Donald.

Memorial service will be 4 p.m. Saturday, September 21, 2019, at United Lutheran Church with Reverend Karl Rydholm officiating. Burial will be 10 a.m. Monday at the Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are preferred to the Red Wing Art Association. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mahfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Unknown Civil War Dead Are Nameless No Longer

By Peter Maugle

THE OFFICER STOOD OVER the freshly exhumed grave with a pencil and ledger in his hands. He told others to search the remains as he struggled to decipher the crude etching on a weathered piece of wood. The faded and worn lettering seemed to read “W.A.W.” A worker called the officer’s attention to a hat badge indicating the deceased was from New Hampshire, but no additional identifiable information was found, prompting the officer to record in the ledger book, “Grave #1221, W.A.W., NH, removed from O’Bannon’s Farm.” A pile of bones and decayed clothing was then placed into a rough wooden coffin for transport to the newly established Fredericksburg National Cemetery.

The aforementioned scene was repeated more than 15,000 times in Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Spotsylvania counties from 1866 to 1868. During this period, U.S. Army reburial details scoured the region cataloging and reinterring the remains of Union soldiers. Sadly, more than 12,000 of the graves were simply marked “Unknown”—the result of no standard issue identification for the soldiers, no protocol for properly identifying or marking graves, and the sheer magnitude of casualties incurred on a landscape that witnessed four of the war’s costliest battles.

The federal government established national cemeteries throughout the South, to better administer and honor the multitude of Union dead there. Army officers were assigned to supervise parties of contracted workers, some former slaves, to reinter the remains of Union soldiers in these cemeteries. Despite the inherent difficulties, they were to establish identification to the best of their ability, and it appears they took this responsibility quite seriously.

Gravestones at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery show a wide disparity in details about the deceased. Some give name and state, others just initials.

Unfortunately, many found it nearly impossible to discern any semblance of identity from decomposing corpses that had been buried haphazardly several years prior. But there were exceptions. Some rudimentary grave markers actually survived relatively unscathed, making the ID process fairly straightforward. There were many graves with only a partially discernible marker; a soldier with his last name or initials stenciled on their equipment or uniform; an officer whose rank and unit could be determined from his insignia. Instead of simply denoting these partially identified men as “unknown,” the officers supervising the reburial details made a point to record any tidbits of information. As a result, the Fredericksburg National Cemetery has gravestones engraved with only initials or a first or last name. The rank or state may also be noted, and the original site of the grave documented.

Graves registration officers thought the crude marker left over grave No. 1221 in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery said “W.A.W.” New research indicates that the occupant is Private George A. Wheeler of New Hampshire.

Fast forward 152 years later, as Steve Morin, a volunteer at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, pores through the yellowed pages of an antique book, cross-referencing it with his iPad. A retired FBI research specialist and student of the Civil War, Morin is attempting to determine the identity of an unknown soldier. He is not using DNA to perform this task, but rather a combination of rosters, books, and online resources.

Morin scrutinizes enlistment and payroll records, unit rosters, pension applications, and a multitude of other sources. He must also take into account misspellings or misinterpretations of writing from more than 150 years ago. When a solid deduction is made based on all available evidence, the outcome is denoted in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery records.

Another researcher assisting with the project is Michael Taylor, a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. Taylor was inspired to take this on after visiting the Fredericksburg battlefield with his fellow midshipmen in 2018. Taylor was struck by the extent of unknown graves in the national cemetery—more than 12,000—and asked park staff if there was any way to identify these soldiers. When informed of the arduous and complicated process involved, Taylor was not deterred. Within a week, he had delved into digital resources provided by the National Park Service and came up with promising leads. A year later, his work has resulted in nearly 100 corrections and probable identifications for these previously unknown Civil War soldiers.

It is remarkable to consider that when the Army reburial parties went about their grim task more than 150 years ago, every possible effort was made to identify the fallen. Even if it entailed only part of a name or a state of origin, expectations were that the task would be completed some day. Otherwise, why bother inscribing “W.A.W.” on a gravestone? Now, with vast archives and multitudes of records available at a few keystrokes, the seemingly impossible is viable. Persistent research allows us the opportunity to fulfill the aspirations of our forebears by finally identifying these Civil War dead.

Today, one gravestone in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery is still inscribed with the same ambiguous lettering, “W.A.W.” National Park Service policy prohibits correcting gravestones for “errors of fact”; however, after extensive research by Morin, the cemetery roster—maintained by the National Park Service and available to the public—indicates this grave likely belongs to Private George A. Wheeler of the 5th New Hampshire Infantry. Documentation indicates a soldier from New Hampshire named Wheeler was wounded at Fredericksburg, removed to a field hospital, and died a few days later. Perhaps his comrades crafted the rudimentary marker that a reburial detail found four years later. Their efforts, while diminished by the elements, later provided at least some vague information associated with these remains, eventually enabling an amateur historian to piece together the story of an otherwise unidentifiable casualty of our nation’s costliest conflict.

The important work done by Morin, Taylor, and others was highlighted at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery’s Luminaria on May 25, 2019. For the past 23 years, local scouts have lit more than 15,000 candles on Memorial Day weekend, one for every soldier interred at the cemetery. The 2019 program was uniquely different, however, as attendees were encouraged to visit the graves of several previously unknown soldiers and learn about the remarkable process it took to have their stories finally told.

Peter Maugle is a Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park historian. This post first appeared on the park’s “Mysteries & Conundrums” blog in May 2019 and was published in the January 2020 issue of America’s Civil War.

Battery Profile

Jesse Baker

Jesse was born in August of 1838 in Epsom, England, and eventually made his way to Illinois. He was farming near Mt. Morris in 1861 when the Civil War began. He enlisted on September 7, 1861, joining Company H of the 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was 23 years old, with blue eyes, light hair, and a fair complexion. He stood 5' 7-1/2" tall. For his agreement to serve three years, Jesse was given a bounty of \$100.00. Jesse was a transfer man to the Battery before his time in the army was through.

Jesse's regiment was in the western theater of the war by the summer of 1862, and Jesse was left in General Buell's Hospital near Corinth, Mississippi, on June 10th. The muster rolls of August to December still record Jesse as "absent, sick", but note that he was in the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky, until April 10, 1863. It is likely Jesse was sick, but remained with the regiment as in May and June, the roll says he was still sick, but now he was at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The roll remained the same until September when a correction noted he was "present" in May.

More confusion appears in the next roll when it states Jesse reported to his company for duty from the hospital on October 28, 1863. Whether he returned to the regiment and took sick again or never returned at all until October is unclear.

In any case, Jesse was with his regiment less than a month when he was sent on a detail to help bolster the ranks of the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. Jesse served as an artillery man with the Battery from November 21, 1863, until January 6, 1864. Jesse had to go back to his own regiment that first week of January as his term of enlistment was up and he was either to be discharged or reenlist. Jesse chose to reenlist and agreed to serve another three years or the duration of the war. This also gave him a 30 day furlough, which, with travel time, took the veterans of the 34th away from the front from January 8 to March 7, 1864.

Their arrival back in the South put the 34th Illinois squarely into what was called the "Georgia Campaign." The struggle to take the southern city of Atlanta lasted for months as it covered the distance between Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. Somewhere on this campaign, Jesse was wounded, but his casualty sheet only noted that it happened on the first day of September. This would have been during the final day of the battle for Jonesboro, not far from Atlanta's outskirts. The nature of Jesse's wound was not given. Even Jesse did not mention it in his pension application years later, so it was probably a minor wound that did not put him under a doctor's care.

At some point during his service, Jesse was promoted to corporal. His rank on the last rolls of the regiment note he was a sergeant, but Jesse said he was only a corporal in his pension papers, and that it was the highest rank he had held.

The 34th Illinois was discharged on the 15th of July, 1865, and the men were civilians again. Jesse stayed in Illinois and on the 10th of October, 1865, he married Julia Barbara Wirt. The couple lived in Whiteside County, Illinois, until 1866 when they moved to Butler County in Iowa.

They lived there until December of 1873 when they moved to Columbia County, Washington Territory. They didn't stay there long before they moved to Astoria, Oregon. They stayed less than a year, then moved to Gray's River in Washington where they finally settled down in 1876. Along the way, their family grew to include nine children. Throughout this time, Jesse worked as a laborer. He also was seeing doctors because of failing health. When he applied for a pension in June of 1885, Jesse could name the doctors and treatments they had prescribed all along their many moves around the country. Jesse said bad drinking water and exposure were the causes of his broken health. The Pension Department agreed and Jesse received his pension.

Jesse died on June 4, 1903, while they were living in Gray's River, Washington. He was laid to rest in the Greenwood Cemetery in Cathlamet, Wahkiakum County, Washington. He has both a family stone and a stone from the Veteran's Administration.



Recap

September 21 Frontenac 160 Celebration

Our own Lt., John Cain, sat in on many, many meetings to be sure this event came off well and it did indeed! The day was cloudy with threats of rain, but we only had the slightest of sprinkles a time or two.

The day began with a ceremony at the cemetery where our gun provided three honor volleys.

Following the opening, members set up four



stations: the officer tent, SAS, small arms and the cannon. Many visitors came to the stations and asked good questions, spending a lot of time in the camp area. Kids especially enjoyed



the fish pond in the SAS tent, but they had to talk to a soldier to get a fractional with which to pay! It was a very good day of sharing history with visitors of all ages. Reports from organizers said they were happy with the day.



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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It was a long day for some members who decided a nap under the tree was in order!!

