



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 280

August 2020

On This Date-156 Years Ago)

A page from the diary of Battery member, John Craven, August 1864.

Tuesday, August 2nd Remain in camp. Work to ?? my boots & write a letter.

August 3rd Wednesday on guard. A contraband die ??

Thursday, August 4th National Fort. On the afternoon move to the right of break ?? of morning not knowing what work lie before us. On the road I pickd up some Benjamin Franklins, wright ? finde cannonading and of? In them. Halt. I caurall up an olde barn in the edge of a corn field for the night. Our corps is on the extreme right.

Friday August 5th Moved a few yard in to the wood for shade and shelter, ? miles west of Atlanta.

Saturday August the 6th Ly in camp or rather clean up camp. ?? ?? a heavy charge is made in front, right, left. Our men close heavy

Sunday August the 7th Holde prayer meeting under difficult circumstances as heavy firing occurred during the meeting. Move to the front after night fall & forty fie close to the ? work lines Not more than 500 yards from the rebs first line of works. Work all night except a few minutes sleep or rest

Monday August 8th Skirmishing all day Rebbel bullet make ? by close. Three on four of their cannon ball lodge in our location & I knock Murfrees works badly knocking some of the rails, hurting Hail & others slightly Besides stoveing fien? Riches works so as to stop his firing, One of the horses of our sec was killed, fire 70 rnds

Tuesday August 8th Camp & ? but feel well in soul a letter from Marcha stating a change in her mocral sentiments makes me feel glad Our gunner knocks down several of their head loggs down Blair was wounded in hand the calarter? Was wounded in the leg while working on the fortification fired 35

Weddensday August 10 Firing on both sides still kept up as usual, Riley was wounded under the left shoulder blade, early in the morning News had just arrived that ? died yesterday, one of the wheels of Lin? Gun was broken by a solid shot fire 40

Thursday, August 11th Sharpshooting as usual but more fated to us than usual, 2 of our men in Millers squad was wounded ? of while ? loading, the bullet passing through the embrasure, one of them ? of 2nd ? fire 27 rounds Reported that Lincoln is at Shermans headquarters

Events NOT Upcoming

Shooters Round up, Ahlman’s Gun Shop in Morristown, MN. The event is going on at this time, though with modifications. We were told the stage shows, trick shooters, and other special events within the Roundup were not happening to prevent people from gathering in crowds.

The **Flynn Family Gathering** our gun was invited to in September is also canceled. They are looking at rescheduling for next summer.

We have received official word from **Pilot Knob, Missouri**. The event is canceled for 2020. They are hopeful it might happen in 2021.

There has been no official announcement from **Perryville, Kentucky**, about their event. Discussion at past meetings indicated very little support for attending in 2020. It has been canceled on the Battery calendar.

Stay safe, stay hopeful, stay positive!



An image to tease you into reading the article on page 3 about parasites during the Civil War. In case you can’t read the caption, it says BOILING LICE!!

Next Meeting

August 29, 2020 11:00am

The meeting will be held OUTSIDE at Colvill Park in Red Wing and follow CDC guidance for social distancing. Hopefully, we will be in a picnic shelter. Members must BRING THEIR OWN CHAIRS. Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items. 651-388-2945.



Battery Profile

Jerry A. Hovey

Jerry? Jera? Jery? All of these spellings of Jerry's name appear in his records, even in his own handwriting. What the proper spelling of his name may be is unclear, so the spelling used here is simply an arbitrary choice.

He was born in Bath, New York, on February 28, 1831. He came to Minnesota and settled in Saratoga, Winona County, where he took up his occupation as a painter. Jerry had blue eyes, brown hair and a light complexion. He was 31 years old, 5' 5" tall and single.

Jerry was probably not alone when he came to Minnesota. John Hovey was most likely with him. The men were both living in Saratoga in Winona County before the war. They were both born in Bath, New York, eight years apart. It is possible they were cousins since it is known they were not brothers.

Jerry enlisted in the Battery on Christmas Day, 1861. He was not mustered in until January 28, 1862, the same day as John.

Army life agreed with Jerry as his name never appeared on the roster of the sick or hospitalized. When his first three years were up, Jerry reenlisted and served until the end of the war.

It was while coming to St. Paul to be mustered out that Jerry was injured. The Battery was riding on a barge up the Mississippi River coming home at the end of July, 1865. Jerry was detailed to help care for Ole Erickson, a Battery comrade who had broken his leg in a train derailment. Jerry was going down into the hold to check on Ole when he swung down, slipped and fell. His right wrist was twisted in the fall and the outer bone broken along with tendons and ligaments badly sprained. Jerry's wrist was treated at Fort Snelling by the post doctor, a man the men knew. It was Gustav Rosenk, the man who had acted as the Battery's doctor during the early months of the war.

Jerry went home with William Kimber, another Battery comrade, when the men were given two weeks furlough. The furlough before discharge was necessary because not enough money was on hand to pay the men their back pay before discharging them.

On August 16, 1865, the Battery was mustered out and Private Hovey became Mr. Hovey. He went back to his painting business in Winona County until 1877 when he moved to South Dakota. In the 1890 Veteran's Census, both Jerry and John were living in Oelriches, South Dakota. John moved on and Jerry remained in South Dakota for the rest of his life.

Almost. In 1890, Jerry applied for admittance to the South Dakota Old Soldiers Home in Hot Springs. He was admitted on December 1st that year. In exchange for his admittance, Jerry agreed that he would do the work expected of him at the home, and that he did not own any property. He said was "not quite" destitute, and was not receiving a pension. Even though he had been admitted, Jerry did not stay at the Soldiers Home. He was discharged, then readmitted on December 1, 1896. He stayed for a year and a half before leaving again. This time, he was gone for three years before he applied to be readmitted. Records state he was dropped from the rolls for a while, then readmitted in July of 1904. Jerry left the Home three years later and was readmitted four months later. No records explain why there was all this coming and going, but it can be speculated that Jerry may have had a reoccurring illness that made it necessary for him to have care at times, but at other times, was able to take care of himself.

In 1912, pension application papers for Jerry were filed and he began receiving a pension of \$30 a month.

Sometime after this is when Jerry went visiting in Tennessee and New York. He was gone from the state of South Dakota for about a year and a half. When he went back to South Dakota and wanted to be readmitted to the Soldiers Home at Hot Springs, his admittance was refused on the grounds that he was no longer a resident of the state. Several letters between lawyers finally reached the conclusion that since Jerry had never given up his thought of South Dakota as his home and he had never voted in any other state, they would accept that he was a resident of South Dakota. Jerry was readmitted for the last time.

He died on September 3, 1914. He was laid to rest in the State Veteran's Home Cemetery in Hot Springs.



How Parasites Changed the American Civil War

From the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Posted: June 1st, 2018

Disease was a large part of a soldier's life (and death) during the Civil War. Parasites were common menaces and more than just mere annoyances. Upon taking a closer look, one can see that the war's tiniest participants may have served incredibly influential roles.

After the battle of Shiloh in early April of 1862, hundreds of stranded wounded soldiers remained on the battlefield clinging to life. Many lay unattended on the battlefield for up to two days. After extensive time sitting in cold mud, many of the soldiers' wounds began to glow a soft bluish-green. To their astonishment, surgeons documented that those who experienced these glowing wounds actually had a higher survival rate, a faster healing time, and less-visible scarring. There had to be a miracle-worker involved; but was it an angel, or a parasite?

Recent studies have discovered that parasitic worms, called nematodes, carry a glowing bacteria named *Photobacterium luminescens*, or *P. luminescens*. *P. luminescens* is used by the nematode to kill their host (which includes plants, burrowing larva, or open flesh), and any surrounding microorganisms. Nematodes usually cannot survive the heat of the human body, however the soldiers' body temperatures were lowered from laying out in the cold, creating the perfect environment for the worms to thrive. Routinely, the nematode vomits the glowing bacteria into the wound upon entry, a process which kills their other microscopic hosts. In this instance, *P. luminescens* instead kills off all other bacteria in the wound, staying on the surface for some time. Naturally, the human body does not stay cold forever and upon reheating after rescue, the parasites die shortly after. The soldiers with "Angel's Glow" had a greater chance of surviving owing to *Photobacterium luminescens* and most experienced a quick and healthy recovery, all from the elimination of infection-causing bacteria in the wounds.

Although this parasite was extremely beneficial, others were not. Ticks, fleas, mites and lice infested camps at unbelievable rates. Such parasites exposed soldiers to diseases such as Typhus, relapsing fevers, malaria, and other infections. Although surgeons examining recruits were told to not approve soldiers who carried lice (also dubbed "greybacks" and "bluebellies"), they still found their way into camp in great numbers. Heavy, layered wool clothing provided the perfect temperature and environment for body lice to thrive. *A Sergeant from an Iowa unit reported: "I have seen many men literally wear out their underclothes without a change and when they threw them off they swarm with Vermin like a live Ant hill when disturbed."* As for fleas, mites, and ticks, these were all found in the outdoors in which the soldiers lived for years until the end of the Civil War. Camp mascots and other animals living in close vicinity to the soldiers also brought in the vermin. These bugs lived on bodies, in clothing, floor coverings, and crevices of living quarters.

Mosquitos, another infamous external parasite, contributed its share of damage as well. Malaria is a parasitic *Plasmodium* infection that is commonly transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, however, medical experts back then believed it was caused by humidity or "swamp effluvia" (a harmful air or odor). After outbreaks of malaria forced significant setbacks in many Northern campaigns, Confederate General Robert E. Lee had such confidence that malaria would continue to plague the Union army that, in the summer of 1863, he said, *"troops ordered from Virginia to the Mississippi at this season would be greatly endangered by the climate," and went on to assure that "the climate in June will force the enemy to retire."*

Fortunately, the Union army had access to the effective drug, Quinine, to treat malaria. Due to the naval blockade, Southern soldiers could not access Quinine and had to resort to weaker native plants and medicinal herbs to combat the illness. One could argue the Confederate Army's struggle with the parasite was a contributing factor to the outcome of the war. One of the reasons the Union siege of Vicksburg was successful was because the Confederates were debilitated by an outbreak of malaria. This seemingly small outbreak across a Confederate encampment changed the course of the war immensely, because it turned the Mississippi River into the North's hands, consequently splitting the Confederacy in half.

It is said that diarrhea and malaria combined made up half of the sick and wounded during the war. Amoebic dysentery (caused by the parasite *Entamoeba histolytica*) was the most lethal of diarrheal infections due to its infestation of not only the intestines, but the lungs, brain, and other important organs. This parasite was commonly transmitted through feces-contaminated food and water, which were bountiful in filthy encampments. Soldiers frequently went to the bathroom relatively close to their tents and water sources since every soldier's worst fear was to be shot "with his pants down." An army surgeon reported: *"Men were in the habit of going out into the bushes, and not infrequently some 30 or 40 feet from some of their tents and relieving themselves; in fact, human excrement has been promiscuously deposited in every direction, until the atmosphere... is so heavily loaded with effluvia that is sickening."*

Although thoroughly disgusting, parasites played a crucial role in the Civil War. Countless sources link parasitic infections to victories and defeats on both sides of the war. They also served as great annoyances to the soldiers but, sometimes, were life-savers. Parasites were a large part of a Civil War soldier's life, and death, and thus should never be overlooked.

Recap

Veteran's Salute, Elba, MN, August 1

At 9:00am on Saturday August 1st, two gun trailers and members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery rolled into the small community of Elba, Minnesota. There is no easy way to get there. The event was held at their Veteran's Memorial Park which we helped dedicate in 2019. This year the city was honoring two of Elba's surviving WWII veterans. In addition to our unit participating, there were four Color Guards from area American Legions and an Honor Guard of individuals from each branch of service who participated in the flag raising ceremony.

The ceremony began with a brief invocation. The Master of Ceremonies thanked local organizers for their work in expanding the park. They have a couple of bronze sculptures, an area of paving stones dedicated to individual veterans and flanking this area is a large flagpole for our National Flag



and several slightly smaller flagpoles where a POW flag, flags for the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine were raised. The National Anthem was sung during the raising of the National Flag and recorded music accompanied the raising of each of the other flags. The music was a little monotonous as they used the same music for each flag. The two WWII veterans were introduced and each was presented a Quilt of Valor for their service. The 2nd Minnesota Battery then fired, by section, a three round artillery salute.

There was cheering and applause after each round of firing from our guns. Immediately following our salute, a mother and her daughter played echo TAPS. The Pastor gave a brief benediction and the ceremony was over.



Following the ceremony, the Pastor told your contributor, "I must admit, the cannon firing was incredible and my favorite part." Members participating on the 12 pdr Mountain Howitzer: James Livingstone, Daryl Duden and Mikaela Livingstone. The crew for the 10 pdr Parrott: Brian Tomashek, Bart Hoekstra, Bill Crowder,

Thomas Schmit and John Cain. Wearing her period dress and taking pictures of the event: Linnea Schmit. As the guns were being loaded on their trailers, a member of the organizing committee presented the Battery with a cash honorarium for our efforts.

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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