



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 287

April 2021

### On This Date-160 Years Ago

April of 1861 was a very momentous month in American history. It was on April 12, 1861, that South Carolina militia (the Confederate Army did not officially exist yet) began the bombardment of Fort Sumter in the harbor at Charleston. Federal forces had left the adjacent Fort Moultrie and concentrated—such as they could—in Sumter.

Major Robert Anderson was in charge and after 36 hours of near constant bombardment, he surrendered the fort. He was allowed to take his flag when he and his men left the fort. No one from either side was killed in the bombardment, but two Union men were killed and four wounded when a spark ignited some powder during the evacuation of the fort.

Anderson carried the Fort Sumter Flag with him north, where it became a widely known symbol of the battle and rallying point for supporters of the Union. This inspired Frederic Edwin Church to paint *Our Banner in the Sky*, described as a "symbolic landscape embodying the stars and stripes." A chromolithograph was then created and sold to benefit the families of Union soldiers.



## Have you paid your 2021 dues?

### Upcoming Events

We don't have many upcoming events for sure, but we can all be on the lookout to see what might be planned for 2021. The virus situation continues to change and there is no way to know what the future holds for events. See page 4 for the "maybe" calendar of events.

#### **May 1 2021 Rochester, MN**

Gamehaven Scout Camp on May 1st, 2021. This event will be held at the Gamehaven Scout Reservation located on 5015 Simpson Rd. SE, Rochester, MN.

This event will be completely OUTSIDE and will follow all social distancing guidelines. We WILL wear masks and Scouts will not be within six feet of us, nor will they handle any of our equipment. The plan for this camporee is similar to what we did last time we were there a few years ago. The 2nd MN Battery will present 6 stations dealing with various aspects of Civil War life where groups of scouts cycle through every 30 minutes in the morning and afternoon. The Gamehaven Camping Committee will staff an additional 4 stations to cover requirements in the American Heritage merit badge. Each station will be presented 10 times to keep group size as small as possible.

**BRING A BAG LUNCH!** We will be too far from their food to make it work to eat and be back to our stations in the allotted time.

There is space for a few campers if any of our members would like to go down Friday night to be ready for Scouts at 9:00 am the next morning.

### Next Meeting

**April 24, 2021 11:00am**

The meeting will be held at Red Wing Area Seniors facility located at 240 Harrison Street, STE 2, in Red Wing and will follow CDC guidance for masks and social distancing. Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items.



# Battery Profile

## Joel T. Davis

*I, Joel T. Davis do solemnly swear, (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto.*

This Oath of Allegiance was signed by Joel Davis on November 14, 1864, upon his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant of the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. The Battery was at Chattanooga, Tennessee, doing various duties including garrison duty, guard and picket duty, and riding out on scouting missions. It was also time to reorganize, promote, discharge, and recruit in the Battery.

Joel enlisted as a private on November 21, 1861. Joel's enlistment was very early. He enlisted on the day the First Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery was accepted into the service of the United States. This may explain why his promotion to sergeant in the Second Battery came equally early. The Second Battery was not accepted into United States service until March 21, 1862, but by that time, Joel had been in long enough and proven himself worthy of the rank of sergeant.

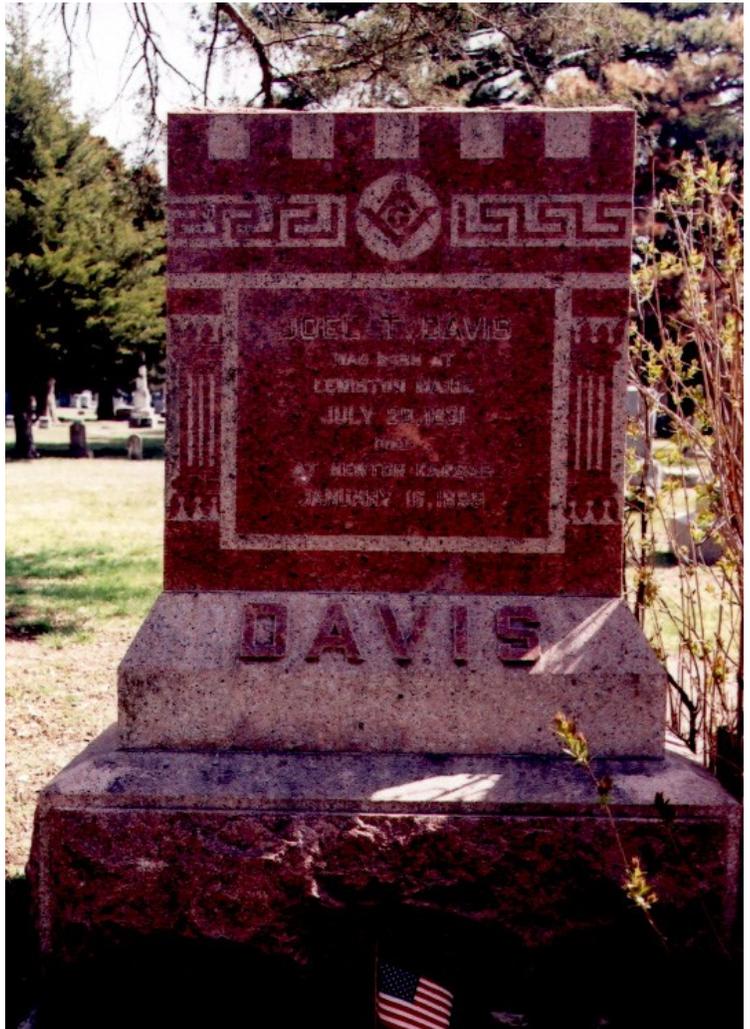
His hometown was Anoka, Minnesota, where he was a farmer. He had been born in Lewiston, Maine, on July 29, 1831. By 1861, he stood 5' 7-1/2" tall, with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion. He was single, a status that did not change during his entire life.

Joel was the sergeant in charge of a gun at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19th, 1863. The Battery was ordered into the fight at the "double quick" under enemy fire. The captain of the Battery, William Hotchkiss, described what happened next. "A ball from the enemy's skirmish line of sharpshooter hit the horse upon which said Joel T. Davis was riding causing it to stumble or fall throwing him forward onto the front of his saddle with such force as to cause an injury to his groin which terminated in a rupture; that notwithstanding said injury Davis remained on duty with his gun during the battle." Joel was treated after the battle by the Battery's hospital steward, Albert Gowdy. It was an unofficial position and it is not known how much or how little medical training Gowdy may have had. The injury did cause Joel problems as several members of the Battery noted that after being hurt, Joel did not do any more mounted or foot drill and it was said he could not ride at a trot without a great deal of pain.

Despite the injury, Joel reenlisted for another three years or the duration of the war while the Battery was stationed at Rossville, Georgia. He was paid a \$35 bounty.

When the war ended, Joel stayed in Minnesota for a few years. In 1871, he moved to Newton, Kansas, where he took a claim three miles from the town. In town, Joel entered into a partnership with another man and they started a bakery. Joel built the building to house their bakery and it was one of the first buildings on Main Street in Newton. The business did well and few men "did more to advance the interests of this section" than Joel Davis according to the newspaper. He was a member of the Newton Masonic Lodge and received his degrees there. At his death, the newspaper stated, "He was a man of the strictest integrity, very quiet and unobtrusive in his manner, but respected and esteemed by all who knew him."

Joel died on January 16, 1899 and was laid to rest in the Greenwood Cemetery in Newton.

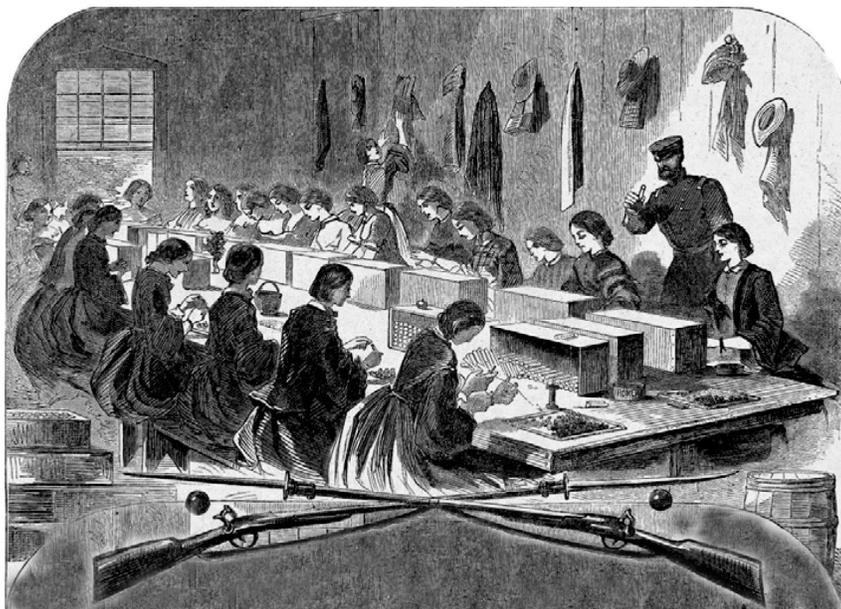


# Civil War Munition Workers

From the National Archives Blog

Much like "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII, Northern and Southern women were essential to ammunition production. Arsenals in cities like Atlanta, Charleston, and St. Louis employed thousands of women, many of whom were the wives of soldiers. While employed in these arsenals, they helped make musket and rifle cartridges, arm artillery shells, and sew powder bags. Their work was not without danger though, as experienced in the tragic explosions at the Allegheny Arsenal in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in September 1862 that killed 78 workers, mostly young women, and the explosion at the Confederate States Laboratory in Richmond, Virginia, that killed 45 and injured 23 others.

At Chickamauga, almost every shot fired on the battlefield was due to the labor of these women.



Women working in an arsenal rolling cartridges from Harpers Weekly.

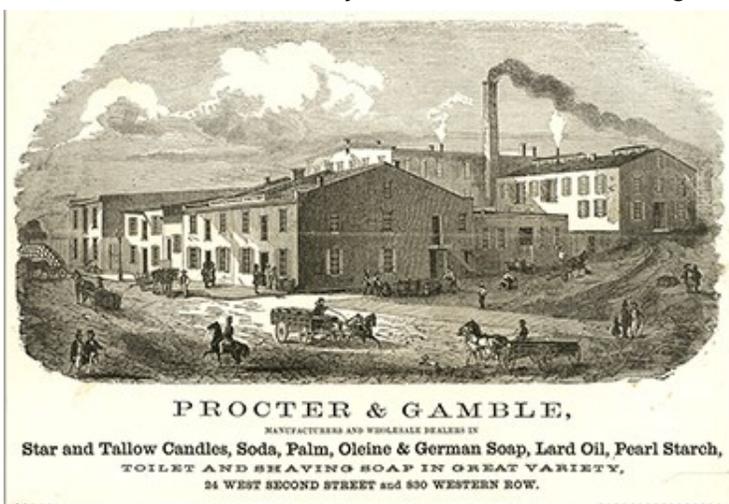
# Washing up in the Army

From the Ohio State Historical Society

Procter & Gamble is a multinational consumer goods company with corporate headquarters in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. An English candle maker, William Procter, and an Irish soap maker, James Gamble, established the company on October 31, 1837. In the beginning, Procter & Gamble's manufacturing operations were located downtown on Central Avenue, near the Ohio River. The company prospered during the nineteenth century. In 1859, sales reached one million dollars. During the Civil War the company won contracts to supply the Union army with soap and candles. In addition to the increasing the company's profits experienced during the war, the military contracts introduced soldiers from all over the country to Procter & Gamble's products. After the men returned home from the war, they continued to purchase the company's products.

In the 1880s, Procter & Gamble began to market a new product, an inexpensive yet high-quality soap with the brand name "Ivory." Demand for the floating white bar soared. In January 1884 a fire destroyed most of the buildings at P&G's manufacturing center downtown. The company seized the opportunity to reconfigure its manufacturing operations to mass production. That decision led to the creation of the 11-acre Ivorydale campus in 1886. It was located on Spring Grove Avenue between Mill Creek and Township Avenue in the Cincinnati suburb of St. Bernard, Ohio. The giant complex would eventually cover 243 acres with 120 buildings, including the 43-acre food plant built in 1911. The campus included its own fire station, dining rooms, and recreational facilities. Over time, Procter & Gamble increasingly focused on producing soap and eventually stopped manufacturing candles in 1920.

Procter & Gamble's headquarters remain in Cincinnati.



P&G buildings in the 1860s.

## Proposed and Tentative Events Calendar for 2021

Please note that EVERYTHING on this list is considered TENTATIVE and could be changed or canceled at anytime because of the continuing health risks posed by the coronavirus. Please watch your emails for updates to events on this calendar. Many of these events have not yet contacted us and no status of the event is known. They are only added to our calendar because they are events we have attended in the past.

May 1	Rochester, MN	Gamehaven Council BS
May 17	Edina, MN	Avail Academy (No contact from them yet)
Jun 19	Galesville, WI	A. A. Arnold House Founder's Day
Jul 10-11	Cedar Rapids, IA	Seminole Valley Farm
Jul 17-18	Rochester, MN	Olmsted County History Fair
Jul 24	Battle Lake, MN	Prospect House Museum
Aug TBD	Elba, MN	Monument Dedication
Aug 28-29	Morristown, MN	Shooters Roundup
Sep 11-12	Mason City, IA	28th Annual East Park
Sep 25-26	Pilot Knob Mo	(postponed from 2020)
Oct 2-3	Perryville, KY	159th Anniversary (Unlikely since our monument project is on "hold")
Nov 11	Winona, MN	Veterans Day

The Battery has been contacted to participate in the following 2022 events.

Jul 23	Lake City, MN	150th Event (incorporated 1872)
Aug 8-9	Pipestone, MN	Civil War Days

**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: [2mnbattery@gmail.com](mailto:2mnbattery@gmail.com)**

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

## ***Elections***

As required in the Battery bylaws, elections were held at our annual meeting on March 27, 2021.

All members in current leadership positions indicated they would accept a nomination for their position and there were no nominations from the floor.

Corporate Officers reelected were President Ken Cunningham, Vice President James Livingstone, Secretary/Treasurer Daryl Duden and Unit Historian Vickie Wendel.

Military Leadership positions reelected were Lieutenant John Cain, Quartermaster Sergeant Ron Graves, Sergeant Daryl Duden and Corporals James Livingstone and Ron Wendel.

Thank you for to each of these members your past service to the Battery and for your continued willingness to serve in these positions.

**Your Country Needs You!**  
**And so does the Battery!**

**2021 dues are DUE!!** To remain on the active member list, your dues are:

Civilian Member	\$12.00
Military Member	\$12.00
Associate Member	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (14-17)	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (under 14)	Free

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check to:

Daryl Duden  
1210 West 4th Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

**UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORDS!**

Cell phone numbers and email address change, so be sure we have  
your correct information to be included in all vital communications  
(especially emergency situations).

Thank you!