

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 301

August 2022

On This Date-160 Years Ago

August, 1862

The Battery's morning reports for August of 1862 show what was happening—on the days someone actually wrote the report. The numbers indicate the day of the month.

- 8 Earl ap'd Sergt
- 14 Quit camp near Jacinto at 4 1/2 O'clock p.m. and encamped eight miles out on the Tuscumbia Road. Moved in the morning (15th July) at 5 O'clock and arrived at luka 12 O'clock same day. Distance 10 miles
- 18 Received Report of the death of B. Thew of "Ulceration of the Bowels" at Genl Hospital "Keokuk" Iowa July 30th 1862.
- 21 Quit camp luka and marched east on the Tennessee River. Crossed to the Alabama side on Steamer Des Moines & barge, time of crossing 6 hours Distance 10 Miles.
- 23 In Camp opposite East Port on Tennessee River.
- 24 Quit Camp opposite East Port and marched 8 Miles. Passed the Village of Water Loo and Crossed the "2nd Creek".
- 25 Quit Camp 10 Miles out from the Second Creek & marched to Florence Alabama distance 22 Miles.
- 26 In Camp at Florence Ala.
- 27 Quit Camp at Florence & marched 20 Miles. Passed "Lauderdale Factory" Forded "Shallow Creek"
- 28 Marched to Lawrenceburgh Tenn, distance 15 Miles.
- 29 Marched to Mount Pleasant distance 22 Miles
- 30 Marched to Columbia distance 12 miles crossed "Duck River" Marched to {Columbia} distance 17.
- 31 Marched to {Columbia} distance 16 Passed through village of Franklin

Upcoming Events

August 20 Kandiyohi County Historical Society, Willmar MN

This is a celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, which had a number of Civil War soldiers as charter members of the organization. This event will take place from **10:00am-4:00pm at the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds (907 7th St NW, Willmar, MN 56201)**. The fairgrounds are available for camping on Friday night. There is electricity for modern camping. We will bring the M1861 10 Pdr. Parrott Rifle and Limber. Cannon firing demonstrations will take place at 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. In addition to our cannon firing demonstrations, our stations will include the apothecary, a quilt display and artifacts, etc. The society is having a pie auction, root beer floats, kids' carnival games, and food available, but the 2nd Minnesota Battery is going to be the main draw to the event.

Take note of the Battery profile on page 2—original Battery members with ties to Kandiyohi County are highlighted.

See the last page of this newsletter for the poster advertising the event. Posters have been already been spotted in several places in west central Minnesota, so the word is out!

Aug 27-28 Morristown MN – Ahlman's Annual Shooters Roundup.

Our Battery firing demonstrations have historically been voted one of the most popular venues of the weekend. The event is **open from 9:00am – 5:00pm**. We will camp inside Fort Ahlman and provide cannon firing demonstrations at 10:00am 12:00pm 2:00pm 4:00pm both days. The air conditioned building inside Fort Ahlman is for our use all weekend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided both days to all members attending. It is expected—but NOT promised—that we will be invited to a sit down pork tenderloin dinner in the Lucky Lady Dance Hall on Saturday evening.

Next Meeting

September 10, 2022 Elks Club, 306 W 4th Street, Red Wing, Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items. 651-388-2945.



Battery Profile (Willmar Edition)

Henry Peterson

Many Norwegian immigrants had trouble the spellings and pronunciations of their names when they arrived in the United States. It led to misspellings or even wrong names on official documents and often to the “Americanizing” of their names. Language barriers may have contributed to the confusion in their names. Henry is one of those immigrants with name issues. His name went from Henry Peterson on the 1857 census to Hendrick Petterson on pension applications with various changes along the way. His own signature adds another question about his name. On his enlistment papers, he signed his name as “Henry Peterson Buh.” It is the only place his name appears like this and it is the only known signature Henry left.

Born in Norway, Henry had made it to Minnesota in time for the 1857 territorial census. He was 24 years old and living in Dakota County in a household of 11 people. Henry is the only one with the surname Peterson, the others appear to be two other families. The ages of the parents in the Abrahamson and Newson families make it possible they were sisters or cousins of Henry as they are similar. All but the youngest in the families were born in Norway; the two “fathers” were naturalized citizens. The men were listed as farmers. The next bit of the story Henry left was when he enlisted into the Second Battery. He was living in Eurika, Dakota County, and working on a farm when he went to Faribault to enlist on August 26, 1864. He allowed his name to be credited to the town of Wheeling for the draft, but it appears he had no connections there. Henry was 31 years and 10 months old, stood 5’ 7” tall, with gray eyes, light hair, and a light complexion. He was single. He was entitled to a bounty of \$100 for his promise to serve one year in the army.

No special remarks were made about Henry other than he was sent on a detail to Major Church to help cut logs for the garrison in March of 1865. Henry served a few days less than his full year, being discharged at the end of the war on August 16, 1865.

One of his neighbors said when Henry came home from the Army, he stayed with them for a few weeks. They said Henry suffered a lot with diarrhea and “he looked like a mere skeleton. He could not at any time accomplish more than a half a days work and consequently became very poor and, and could not hold his place, and had to move west.”

By this time, Henry had married Karen Maria Andreasdatter Johnson. They were married at the Christiana Church in Dakota County on October 14, 1866.

When Henry decided to move west, he went to Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, and took up farming once again. By 1880, Henry and Karen had nine children ranging in age from 12 years to two months. Karen’s mother was also living with them.

Karen died just after Christmas in 1899. Henry followed her in death on December 14, 1901. He was buried in the Free Lutheran Church Cemetery in Willmar.

Henry left two children under the age of 16 when he died; neither of their names are listed on the 1880 census, so it is possible Henry and Karen had more children than the nine known about. Laurentius was born in 1889 and Fred was born in 1892. They were taken in by Anton Peter Peterson. It is unknown if Anton was related to Henry or simply another Norwegian immigrant with the same name.



Richard D. Bloomfield

R D Bloomfield, a former resident of Willmar, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, and who will be remembered by the older citizens here as one of the early residents of our city, passed away on December 16, 1906, at Tacoma, Washington, which city he had made his home since 1897. The news of his death reached here a short time ago and was learned with much regret by his old Willmar friends and especially his Masonic brethren. He was one of the first agents at Willmar for the old St Paul and Pacific Railroad Company, now known as the Great Northern.

Recap

July 7 Field of Flags Mazeppa, MN

It was a warm evening at 5:30pm when members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery rolled their cannons into Cooper's Park in Mazeppa, MN. The ballfield was lined with stakes indicating where the almost 500 American flags would be placed in honor or memory of veterans during the ceremony. We unloaded the M1861 10 Pdr Parrott Rifle with Limber first. It was placed about twenty yards outside and parallel to the third base line of the ballfield. Then the M1841 12 Pdr Mountain Howitzer was placed 15 yards to the left of the Parrott. We stood at attention on our guns for the National Anthem and then rested in place until it was time to shoot. We fired a three round salute and as they began to walk flags into the Field of Honor, we began loading the guns back on their trailers. We had some difficulty loading the Parrott when the wire came off the winch but fortunately we had enough men to push the gun up onto the trailer and we were soon headed home. Members of the Battery participating in this event were Bruce Arnoldy, Neil Bruce, John Cain, Ken Cunningham, Daryl Duden, James Livingstone, Jim Morgan, Michael Ritchie and Brian Tomashek.

July 9 Family Fun Day Red Wing, MN

Perfect weather and great attendance made this event a hit! We set up learning stations both inside and outside on the lawn of the Goodhue County Historical Society and fired the gun over the edge of the bluff. Visitors heard about flags with Lt. Cain, had their "ailments" discussed at the apothecary table, did some laundry and got their fortunes told by the Delphic Oracle. It was reported by HS staff that there were more than 400 people visiting throughout the afternoon! Their "usual" attendance for these Family Fun events is between 50 and 100—interest in Civil War history is alive and well! Thanks to all who attended!



Recap

.....Continued

July 23 150th Anniversary Lake City, MN

We set up three learning stations in addition to our gun at the Lake City Sportsman Club on the bank of the Mississippi River. The weather was hot and humid in the morning, but we hardly had time to notice as we had a steady flow of visitors asking questions and checking out the gun. Miss Linnea told many fortunes with the Delphic Oracle while Miss Mandy and Mrs. Wendel ran the Soldiers' Aid Society tent. Lt. Cain talked with visitors about the projectiles and artifacts. Everyone—Battery members and visitors—were constantly checking their “weather rocks” as severe storms were predicted and the air was ripe for them. About 1:00, the rain began and everyone still on the site—most visitors had already retreated to escape what everyone knew was coming—took shelter inside the air conditioned Lodge where Kwik Trip provided free donuts and ice water. By 2:30, the organizers decided to call the event, so we went back out to fire one last volley over the river (the echo was awesome!) before packing up in the rain to head home. While the event was cut short, it was very well attended in the morning and a good time was had by all.

A visitor shared a couple outstanding photos of the gun with us!

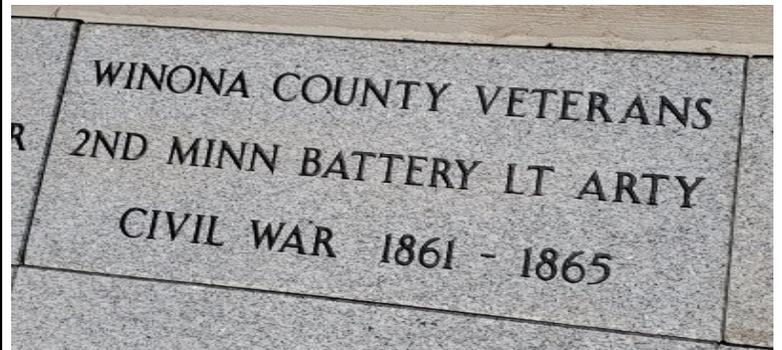


July 30 Veterans Program Elba MN

When our trailer with the M1861 10 Pdr Parrott Rifle with Limber rolled into Elba, MN, at 9:50 am, we were greeted by numerous Battery members who were already waiting at the Veteran's Memorial. We quickly unloaded the gun and limber and rolled them into place behind and to the right of the Veteran's Memorial. The paver the Battery purchased to honor original Battery members from Winona County looked awesome. Sgt. Duden explained to members of the Elba Community Outreach that men from Winona County accounted for 20% of the Second Independent Battery Minnesota Light Artillery that left Fort Snelling in 1862 to fight in the Civil War.

Although there were fewer people in attendance at this year's 11:00am ceremony, our three round salute was flawless and outstanding. Battery members participating in this event were John Cain, Daryl Duden, Ron Graves, Bart Hoekstra, James Livingstone, Mikaela Livingstone, Michael Ritchie and Brian Tomashek. Tanya Graves also attended as a spectator.

Regards,
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:

President

Ken Cunningham
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Treasurer

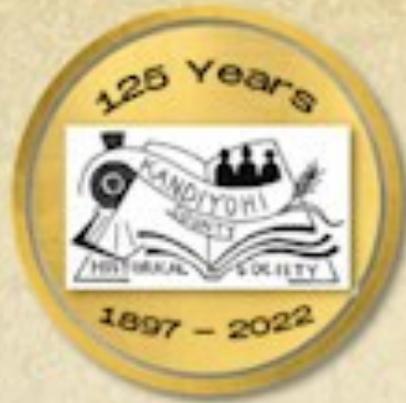
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125 YEARS

Come and help us celebrate the
Kandiyohi County Historical Society
turning 125!!

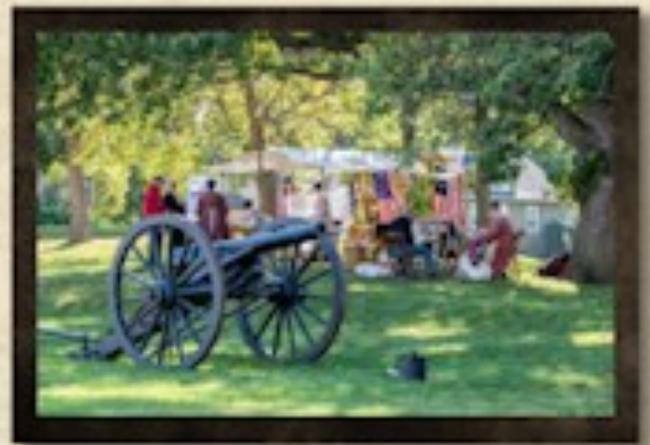
Saturday, August 20, 2022

10am-4pm

Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds

Willmar, MN

Featuring the
2nd Minnesota
Battery Light Artillery
Civil War Encampment!



Silent Pie Auction
Root Beer Floats
Music, Food &
Kids Carnival Games

Gun Drill at
11am, 1pm, & 3pm
125 years Historical
Society Display

For more information, check out www.kandiyohicountyhistory.com