



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 306

April 2023

On This Date-160 Years Ago

Remarks for the Month of April, 1863

- 1 Emil Solner on Extra duty as Teamster
- 2 Corp. E. A. Rogers & Privates Wm. H. Staples, & John Kennedy finally discharged
- 5 W. A. Spaulding promoted from private to Corporal
- 7 Newbry Briggs returned to duty
- 9 Miles A. Brown reported a deserter Louis F. Benge, J. H. Snyder, Philip E. Sargent, & Andrew W. Jackson transferred from 21 Regt Ill. V. I. & joined bat for duty
- 11 Rec'd official Notice of the Discharge of William Blake at Evansville, Ind. Oct 10 1862
- 15 3rd Sec. Lt. D. went out on picket duty
- 19 D. W. Coulthard returned from Hosp. to duty.
- 20 3rd Sec. ret'd

The Battery was still camped outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They were called for picket duty by section on April 15 and the third section remained on that duty until the 20th. It is not clear if they were acting as infantry with muskets while they were on picket or if they actually fell into some kind of picket line with their cannon.

The number of the men in the Battery was falling through illness, discharges for disability, and desertion. To bring the Battery back up to fighting strength, men were sent to serve with the Second Minnesota from other infantry units, this time from the 21st Illinois Regiment. Some of these men served only a few days with the Battery; others served for many months.

Next Meeting

March 25, 11:00 am

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



Upcoming Events

April 15 34th Division Artillery Flag Uncasing Ceremony.

Field Artillery history presentation at 1:00 followed by the uncasing ceremony at 3:00. General Vessey Readiness Center, 4800 Hamline Ave, Arden Hills, MN. Uniforms for military, casual for civilians.

May 9 Old Court House Museum, 315 West Madison Street, Durand, WI.

Arrive by 8:00 to set up five learning stations and rotate students through them, about 18-20 in each group. Following the school groups, we will remain at our stations for members of the Historical Society and the public to visit. **Bring your bag lunch.**

May 18 Avail Academy School. Edina

4015 Inglewood Ave S, Edina, MN
 This is the school we know as Calvin Christian School. All that has changed is their name.
Arrive at 9:00 to set up, students arrive at 9:50. We will set up 5 stations and rotate students through. **Bring your bag lunch.**

Election Results

Thanks to all the members who attended the annual meeting in person or via text and proxy votes. We had a quorum and the election of both military and corporate officers was completed. Results are:

For Military Officers:

Lieutenant	John Cain
Sergeant	Daryl Duden
Quartermaster	Ron Graves
Corporals	James Livingstone
	Ron Wendel

For Corporate Officers:

President	Ken Cunningham
Vice President	James Livingstone
Secretary/Treasurer	Daryl Duden
Historian	Vickie Wendel

Battery Profile

Hudson Wheaton

Hudson came with his parents to Minnesota from New York where he had been born. They settled in Houston County in 1859. Hudson was 19 years old and he lived at home while he learned the trade of carpentry. When the draft rendezvous began in the summer of 1864, Hudson decided to join the army. He was mustered into the Second Minnesota Battery on August 25, 1864. His agreement to serve earned him a bounty of \$100, a third of which he received at his enlistment. At the time, he stood 5' 8" tall, had hazel eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion. He was 25 years old and single.

Hudson and the other new recruits caught up to the Battery while they were camped outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee, at a place they called Stringers Farm. Shortly after their arrival, the Battery moved into Chattanooga and began building a fort. It was known as Fort Erwin and the men of the Battery were detailed to help construct it. Hudson was part of the team assigned to haul the cut oak logs from across the Cumberland River and distribute them to several camps. He was the teamster and it was while working with the logging operation that Hudson became sick. He was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga on November 6, 1864. Another man in the Battery, Ole Errickson, said Hudson had gotten sick as a result of exposure, but he did not know exactly what kind of illness Hudson suffered with.

Once out of the hospital, Hudson was again assigned to Major Church where he was sent back to the work of cutting logs for the garrison. Hudson's army time was spent mostly working as a lumber man and it is doubtful if he ever fired a shot at the enemy.

The Battery was mustered out in August of 1865 and Hudson went home to Caledonia. As was allowed, he took his knapsack, haversack, and canteen with him.

Hudson opened a carpentry and cabinetry shop on Kingston Street in Caledonia in 1866 and made it a successful business. On July 14, 1867, Hudson married Fannie E. Bean. The couple had two children, Herbert and Jesse.

A group of citizens in Caledonia began looking into the idea of building a railroad in the last months of 1873. Hudson agreed with the project and through many stops and starts, it finally came to an election of a board of directors. Hudson was elected to a position on the board, but the enterprise never made him rich.

On October 15, 1878, Hudson and another man were both appointed special deputy sheriffs for Houston County. They were to act and be respected as such during the term of the court. The sheriff swore the men in and they completed their duties faithfully.

Other community involvement Hudson engaged in was holding offices in the local Masonic Lodge and the Billy Mattison Post of the G.A.R. He was a member of the Episcopal Church and was said to attend regularly.

Hudson applied for a pension and cited the problems he had from the army as being "bloody piles." The pension was granted, but Hudson died from blood poisoning on April 9, 1896. He was laid to rest in the Westside Cemetery in Caledonia, his grave marked by a large family stone.



Prussian Blue

From the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

The Bertrand was a steamboat which sank on April 1, 1865, while carrying cargo up the Missouri River to Virginia City, Montana Territory, after hitting a snag in the river north of Omaha, Nebraska. Half of its cargo was recovered during an excavation in 1968, more than 100 years later. Today, the artifacts are displayed in a museum at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge near Missouri Valley, Iowa. The display makes up the largest intact collection of Civil War-era artifacts in the United States, and are an invaluable time capsule of everyday life during that period.

Two of the artifacts recovered from the *Bertrand* were crates of deep blue clumps of powder. One of the crates was labeled “DOMESTIC/INDIGO/10 lbs.” But the powder was not indigo. It was actually ferric ferrocyanide, more commonly known as “Prussian blue”. Prussian blue was first created by accident in the early 1700s by Johann Jacob Deisbach, a paint maker in Berlin. Deisbach had been attempting to create a red pigment using cochineal - a small insect used for centuries to create a crimson dye – by mixing the cochineal with potash and iron sulfate. But his potash had been contaminated with animal blood. The potash, cochineal, and iron sulfate reacted to form iron (ferric) ferrocyanide. Instead of a deep red pigment, Deisbach’s pigment was a very distinct blue.

Prussian blue was very quickly adapted for use in oil paints, watercolors and dyes. Over the next few centuries, it acquired several other uses, including in medicine, chemistry and toolmaking. It was also used in the household as a whitener for laundry.

The “indigo” found on the *Bertrand* was probably intended for this last purpose, and possibly as a dye. How does adding a blue dye make laundry white? After use, white fabric can acquire a yellow tint. Because blue and yellow are complementary colors, adding a bit of blue to the off-white tint makes the fabric appear whiter. “Godey’s Ladies’ Book” (Feb. 1862) gives instructions for using “Bluing for Clothes”: “Take one ounce of soft Prussian blue powder and put it into a bottle with one quart of clear rainwater and add a quarter of an ounce of oxalic acid (powdered); a teaspoonful is sufficient for a large washing.” (“Henley’s Formulas for Home and Workshop” [Gardner D. Hiscox, 1907], however, says “the use of oxalic is to be deprecated for the use of laundresses, as it would set up blood poisoning should it get into any cuts”.)

Hand-stenciling on both *Bertrand* crates indicates the Prussian blue was manufactured by Strode, Ruben & Co. of St. Louis. The crates were intended for Vivian & Simpson in Virginia City, M.T.



2023 Schedule

As approved by the membership at the March meeting

- May 9** **Pepin County Historical Society, Durand, WI**
Educational event for local schools followed by a public time
- May 18** **Avail Academy (formerly Calvin Christian School), Edina, MN**
Educational event
- May 29** **Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN**
Honors at the traditional Memorial Day program
- June 17** **Founders Day at A.A. Arnold House, Galesville, WI**
Encampment on the lawn of this historic home
- June 27** **Patriotic Night, Concert in the Park**
Volleys throughout the concert with the music
- July 22** **Prospect House Museum (tentative)**
Encampment on the lawn of this house museum (TENTATIVE)
- July 29** **Whitewater River Fest**
Honor volleys
- August 26-27** **Ahlman's Shooters Roundup**
Educational event
- November 11** **Veterans Day**
Honor volleys as part of this annual program

***There are a couple of yet pending events that are not listed at this time. More information will be coming as we get it.*

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

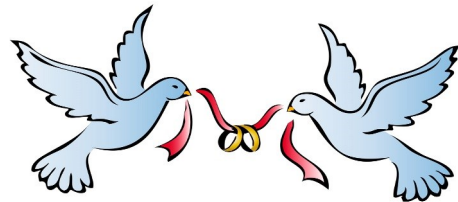
Daryl Duden
1210 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: (651) 388-6520

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

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



*Please join us for the wedding of
Rebecca Jean Buxton
and
Cameron Addison Larson
Sunday, June 11, 2023
At 3 o'clock
Barn at Trinity Peak
Oconomowoc, WI*

*For more information, please visit:
theknot.com/rebeccaandcameronlarson*

*Please RSVP to Cameron's email
at larsoncamerou6@gmail.com by May
22, 2023. Include guest names and
how many will be attending.*