



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 312

October 2023

On This Date-160 Years Ago

It seems our boys were in letter writing mood in October of 1863. The following is from Private Francis Flint to his sweetheart.

October 11, 1863

I will try to write you a few lines. I have written two letters since I read one from you but we have had mail captured and I thought they might have been lost. I am well as can be expected. The Boys are all well. Newb is on his pins yet. We have just been reorganized. We now belong in the same Div. with the 2nd regt. In the 14th Corps commanded by Gen. Thomas. Our Division is the same Gen Davis. We rather like the change.

I suppose that you have heard all about the battle so I won't say much about it except that we were in it and came out pretty well. Lieut. Woodberry D., one private wounded and one horse killed but we have been in considerable danger since we came here as the Rebs have several guns on the mountains that they like to bother us with. They throw shells all around and into the Baty. But all the damage that they have done yet is in the smashing of one wheel and one tent. It seems as if we are the most lucky battery in the army. There were batteries of both sides of us and when we got orders to leave (the Rebs were charging) they got the same orders at the same time. We got off all of our guns but the 8th Ind. Left four guns and they were taken by the Rebs but they did not hold them long for our Infnt. Retook them but that was no thanks to the battery. I hope that we never leave any of our guns for the Infnt. to pull off for us.

It is Sunday here and I wonder if it is Sunday there. If it is, I would like to be there and go to meeting with some pretty girl, but I'd like the supper that she'd get me when we got home from meeting even better. You see we are short of rations here at present and at such times my head is full of visions of good suppers up home and at the neighbors. I wish I could be there to help Robert dig his potatoes. We don't get any here and very little of anything else at present but are in hopes that it will be more plenty soon.

We are expecting the Minn. Troops down here. I should like to see some of the 7th boys first rate but wish that they could stay there. They would have it much easier. The Rebs are only about two miles from us. We can see their tents and camp fires but the battery that they shell us with we can't see. I had a letter from Harvey last week but haven't had one from home for some time, finally, there don't much from anybody come.

Frank

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 event goes on rain or shine and is a honor to participate in. If you have not attended this event before, it is both an honor and an incredible experience to hear the gun volleys echo off the river valley's bluffs.



Veterans Day, 2022. Let's hope it's a little warmer this year!

Next Meeting

11:00am Saturday October 28, 2023
Elks Club (306 W 4th Street) in Red Wing, MN.



Contact Ken Cunningham for agenda items or questions.

Battery Profile

John Gutteridge

When John enlisted on May 17, 1864, he was not the only member of the family in the Army. His father, Benjamin, was serving in Company H of the 9th Minnesota Infantry. Since John was only 19 years old, his mother had to give her consent before he could enlist.

I hereby certify I freely and voluntarily give my Consent to my son John Gutteridge enlisting in the scurvice of the United Stats and I further certify that his father is abscent from home in the army and that I have good right to his time and that his is under my controle.

The note was signed Mary Gutteridge and dated May 12, 1864, in Camden, Carver County, "Minnsota".

John went to St. Paul to enlist. His enlistment was credited to Wanamingo, Goodhue County, for their draft quota even though he never lived there. John's descriptive list had him 5' 5" tall, with gray eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. His occupation was farming. John had agreed to serve for three years or the end of the war.

John became sick on the way south to the Battery and he was sent to the hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He remained there until well when he again started for the Battery. He reported for duty on June 27, 1864. By September 12, John was back in the hospital, this time in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He stayed there almost week before returning to duty on the 18th.

In the spring of 1865, John was in a group of men assigned to Major Church for whom they cut logs for the garrison.

At the end of the war, John was mustered out at Fort Snelling. He went back to Carver County and lived in Young America for six years. He crossed over the county line to McLeod County in 1869 where he married Jane Ann Van Curler on June 18th.

The newlyweds remained in Carver County a couple years before moving to Stewart in Renville County, Minnesota. There they stayed until about 1900 when they moved to live near the town of Bruce, in Rusk County, Wisconsin.

John was at home on the farm on November 15, 1924, when he passed away. He was laid to rest in the Apollonia Cemetery near Bruce.

Throughout all of his military records and pension applications, John spelled his name



"Gutteridge," both when it was written by someone else and when he signed it himself. Yet, on his death certificate and his tombstone, the name is spelled "Gutheridge," the spelling used by many other family members in the Bruce area.

John has a large family marker as well as an individual marker

A Letter from the Battery

Richard Bloomfield wrote letters regularly to the St. Cloud newspaper. The following article appeared with his report about the battle at Chickamauga, Georgia.

ST CLOUD DEMOCRAT

St Cloud, Minnesota

Thursday, October 1, 1863, Page 2

FROM THE SECOND BATTERY

Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 25th, 1863

Dear DEMOCRAT:

Tired, weary and worn out with incessant marching, fighting and entrenching, we are at last encamped in line of battle at Chattanooga.

About the 16th and 17th, the 1st Division crossed Lookout Mountain, and encamped in Chattanooga Valley. Firing was heard at intervals all day the 18th, and it was apparent the enemy had concentrated and would give us battle. Nothing daunted our troops moved forward on the 19th passing Crawfish Springs, two miles to the left of which were General Rosecrans's Headquarters. Arriving at Rosy's Headquarters we were immediately ordered into position on the right of the road. Our Division consisted of the 2d and 3d Brigades, the 1st Brigade having been left behind to protect our transportation. The two brigades stretched in line of battle with the 2d Minnesota Battery on the right, into position under the fire of the enemy. This was about 8 PM. The engagement immediately became general and the roll of musketry was terrific. Heavy masses of the enemy could be seen on and across the open space. Now we were driven, then the enemy would fall back before the deliberate and regular fighting of our troops. We were opposed to the veterans of Longstreet's corps and they seemed by their reckless bravery and daring to make good their boast that they would teach the Western boys how to fight. They found their equals, men who braved death and had faced it on many a hard fought field. Until dark, the combat raged with incessant fury. Our troops protected by the woods repelled their heavy masses of advancing infantry. The loss on both sides was heavy. Large numbers of men strewed the field in front and around us, while greater numbers were going to the rear wounded. The 2d Battery from its position at the edge of the woods was vigorously and unflinchingly worked full three hours and did terrible execution, often repelling the charging rebels at times when it seemed they would drive our infantry from the ground. The Battery however, held its position with very slight loss. Towards evening our brave and gallant commander, Lieutenant Albert Woodbury, was struck in the left arm above the elbow, by a ball and the bone badly shattered at the same time. Colonel Heg commanding the 3d Brigade, was mortally wounded. He died the next morning. Four privates in the Battery were slightly wounded. The loss of field and line officers in the brigades was very heavy. Some regiments had no field officers left. General Davis and Staff were in all parts of the field and seemed to vie with one another in their brave efforts to cheer and lead their men on. Wherever the fire was the hottest, the General could be seen watching keenly and fearlessly the progress of the contest. While in different parts of the field, Captains Hall, Snyder and Hotchkiss, staff officers, exposed themselves regardless of danger, and rendered efficient aid to the General. The intrepid and valiant Carlin, with most of his staff had their horses shot under them. On the 20th, General Carlin rode a horse all day with a bullet hole through his neck.

The eve of the 19th we retired a short distance and encamped. On Sunday, the 20th, about noon, the enemy made a heavy feint upon our left and charged suddenly upon our right causing a panic and stampede, driving us a few miles before they were checked. Rebel prisoners state that their loss was so heavy in this charge, they could not get their artillery back off the field until they had removed the dead and wounded. We lost our field hospitals and many prisoners in the stampede. The Battery was not engaged and had a very narrow escape from being captured entire, but its good luck did not forsake it. Every piece, limber and caisson was brought off in safety.

The casualties sum up as follows in the Battery:

Albert Woodbury, Lieutenant, Commanding, wounded in left arm, fractured

Fordis Averill, Private, injured by caisson wheel, slightly

D Van Doren, Private, foot bruised by caisson wheel, slightly

Ed E Vaughn, Private, foot bruised by caisson wheel, slightly

Charles Lane, Private, struck in the knee by a spent ball, doing duty

On the morn of the 22d, the army fell back on Chattanooga, and is now strongly entrenched.

The first Division has lost fourteen hundred men out of twenty-five hundred that went into battle on the 19th.

We expect an attack at any moment, but the boys say let them come on they will never leave the entrenchments. They are determined and resolute and should the rebels attack, there will be an awful sacrifice of life.

The Battery occupies a position on the works. The boys are worn out but cheerful and resolute. Lieutenant R L Dawley, in command.

I visited Lieutenant Albert Woodbury today, he was cheerful and very comfortable. His arm will no doubt be saved. Dr Moody C Toleman, of the 2d Minnesota Regiment has been unceasing in his attention to him and we all hope for our brave commander's recovery.

The 2d Minnesota Regiment fought like tigers and were the means of saving the 4th Regular Battery. The boys suffered severely and their decimated ranks attest the valor of the boys from the "North Star State." It is difficult to state their loss. Albert Hall, of Dayton reported killed (but survived).

Albert Gowdy, David Coulthard, Edward Bloomfield and others are well. Lieutenant Alex Kinhead is also safe and as affable as ever.

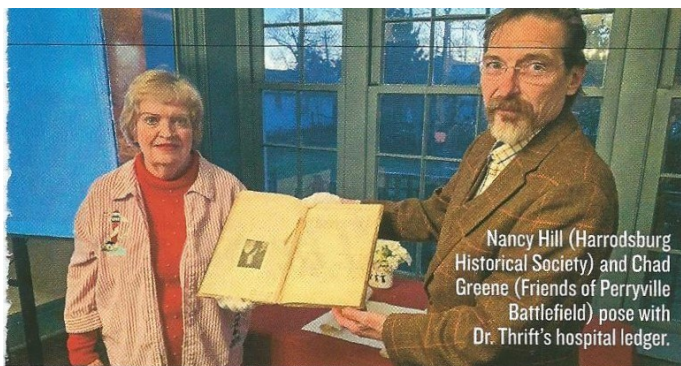
It is the calculation to hold Chattanooga. It is thought we are able to do it. Time will tell. If we do not hold it there will be no Army of the Cumberland.

DIXIE (Richard D Bloomfield)

A Perryville Treasure!

Brian Tomashek found the article copied at right and brought it to our attention. What a treasure these records are! While they will not have any of the Second Battery's boys names there (none of our boys were sent to Harrodsburg that we know of) it will certainly help tell the story of the aftermath of the battle.

This article appeared in the summer edition of *Hallowed Ground*, from the American Battlefield Trust.



Nancy Hill (Harrodsburg Historical Society) and Chad Greene (Friends of Perryville Battlefield) pose with Dr. Thrift's hospital ledger.



Just a little throwback to one year ago when we were honored to dedicate this marker to the Second Minnesota Battery at Perryville.

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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SOLD AT AUCTION *Perryville hospital ledger*



THE MARCH DISCOVERY of a hospital ledger that details hundreds of soldiers wounded at the Battle of Perryville has given preservation allies a new window into the aftermath of that bloody engagement. Alerted to the artifact's Ebay listing, the Friends of Perryville Battlefield raised

enough funds from its donors to retrieve the ledger from an antiques dealer in New York and return it to Kentucky and the care of the Harrodsburg Historical Society.

Many of those wounded during the Battle of Perryville were taken to Harrodsburg to be treated, overwhelming the city some 10 miles away from the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site following the largest battle of the Kentucky Campaign in the Civil War. In the engagement that led to the Confederate retreat from Kentucky, the Federals outnumbered the Confederates more than three-to-one and pushed Gen. Braxton Bragg's army back into East Tennessee.

The newly recovered ledger is attributed to Dr. Robert Wilson Thrift, surgeon of the 49th Ohio Infantry. It serves as a record of the soldiers treated in Harrodsburg and provides insight into the fates of many who wound up in the area. As often happens with history, the ledger may bring about more questions than answers. According to Civil War historian and preservationist Joni House, there appear to be discrepancies regarding some of the Georgia regiments, leading her to posit that the Georgia soldiers could have lied about their origins.

The Friends of Perryville will be assisting the Harrodsburg Historical Society by taking donations for restoration of the ledger, as some pages are partially pasted over and obscured, and their contents could illuminate more about those treated. The nonprofit's president, Chad Greene, described the importance of bringing this document back to the community to examine it, stating that "many of those young men's families may not have known what happened to their loved one during the war. We hope that this is a chance to give back to those men who sacrificed so much."

Learn how you can help support study and safekeeping of this important artifact at www.friendsofperryville.org★



Photos courtesy HARRODSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY