



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 311

September 2023

### On This Date-160 Years Ago

Bits of story sometimes appear in the most unlikely places and just such a place was a letter from Major James E. Calloway, written just after the battle of Chickamauga. Calloway was in command of the 81st Indiana Infantry during that battle, a unit that was brigaded with the Second Minnesota Battery.

Calloway wrote:

*A fearful accident occurred in the Second Minnesota Battery on the twenty-fifth by which a member of our regiment was killed. One of the men of Company D, who was detailed for service in the battery, laid down under one of the pieces, and went to sleep. The piece was unlimbered, bringing it nearly to a balance. A horse that was fastened to one end of it got his halter fastened, and in raising his head brought up the end of the piece so that the other end fell with force on the forehead of the soldier, crushing his head horribly.*

Battery records indicate the man killed was Hezekiah Roberts, a private in the 81st Indiana Infantry. Hezekiah was from Jennings, Scott County, Indiana, having been born in Indiana 26 years earlier. Hezekiah had been assigned to the Battery to serve as a blacksmith. He left a wife and small son when he died. Hezekiah was buried in what became the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

### Next Meeting

TO BE ANNOUNCED!!  
WATCH YOUR EMAIL!



### Upcoming Events

#### **September 9, Red Wing, MN**

#### **11:00 Potluck and meeting at the Bruce's!**

We are combining our meeting with a social time to have a potluck lunch at the home of Neil and Rose Bruce, 859 Pioneer Road, Red Wing. If you have not already done so, please respond **REPLY ALL** to the email sent previously with what you plan to bring for the potluck. If you do not have or did not get the email with potluck details, email Daryl or Neil with your planned contribution. From the emails seen so far, this will be a feast beyond measure!!

#### **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.

This 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.



# Battery Profile

## William Wallace Galespie

William never lived in Minnesota. In 1864, he was working as a laborer on the east side of the St. Croix River in Polk County, Wisconsin. When he and his friend, Ezra Jewel, decided to enlist on August 30, 1864, they went to the nearest town with a recruiting office. That office was across the river in Taylor's Falls, Minnesota. It put the two men in the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery where they would serve the last year of the war together and continue their friendship for the rest of their lives.

William was born on June 23, 1822, in Louisville, Kentucky, but he grew up in Illinois. He came to Marine Mills, Wisconsin, in 1844, making him one of the earliest settlers of the county. He made his home in Clam Falls. That home included Cecilia M. Ring, a widow, whom William had married in 1851. The family grew further with the addition of two sons and one daughter.

When he enlisted in 1864, he was 42 years and two months old, with blue eyes, sandy hair and a fair complexion. He stood 5' 11" tall. He was promised a bounty of \$100 in exchange for serving one year in the Army.

William's last name was spelled Galespie (with an A) in all of his military records, including William's own signature. It is only after he applied for a pension that the spelling in his records changed that A to an I. The spelling with an I is the one used in William's pension records and appears to be the spelling used by William's sons.

Being his enlistment was only for a year and it was late in the war, William started and ended his military career as a private. On December 5, 1864, he was detailed with a group of men from the Battery to cut logs for the garrison. Ezra was one of the later men detailed to this duty, so the friends still served together even though they were cutting logs.

William and Ezra returned to the Battery for duty on April 5, 1865, and came north when the unit was mustered out on August 16, 1865.

William continued to live and work in Polk County. In 1878, he moved the family to a homestead in Loraine, still in Polk County, WI, where he ran a hotel in addition to his farming operations. Ezra was still William's neighbor. By 1891, William was applying for a pension. He wrote, "My breast bone was broken 7 years ago by falling from a wagon, it causes a great deal of pain in my heart shoulder and back."

The Pension Department agreed and added "disease of heart" to the disability.

William was living in Stone Lake with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Tuttle, in 1913. His pension was paid at a rate of \$22.50 per month and the last check was issued in May. William died on May 23, 1913, and his funeral was in St. Croix Falls. The cemetery, however, was across the river in Taylors Falls Minnesota. He never lived in Minnesota, but his final resting place was in the state he served during the war.

Both of the old soldiers were dead when the wife of William's friend and Battery comrade, Ezra Jewel, needed help. Ezra's wife lost her pension certificate in a house fire and needed proof of her husband's service before she could receive any further help from the Pension Department. William's son, William A. Galespie, signed an affidavit for her stating he had known the Jewel family for many years and knew the claim to be correct. It was the proof she needed and her widow's assistance was restored.



*The following are the newspaper accounts in St. Paul following the battle of Chickamauga. It is typed to follow the original layout—it took a lot of column inches for this story! It appeared on the front page of the paper, it must have been considered the very top news of the day. It is worthy to note that the paper included an article from a Richmond, Virginia, paper giving their account of the battle. The “how” and “why” the Southern article was reprinted in the St. Paul papers is unknown.*

*As with all newspaper accounts, it was immediate and often left out details, was missing information not yet available, or accurately (or inaccurately) quoted someone who did not have accurate information.)*

# **Pioneer and Democrat**

Saint Paul, Friday, September 25, 1863

BY TELEGRAPH.

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**HIGHLY INTERESTING  
TELEGRAMS FROM  
BRAGG'S ARMY**

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**THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SIX REBEL GENERALS  
WERE KILLED AND  
TEN WOUNDED.**

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THE RICHMOND SENTINEL CAUTIONS AGAINST BELIEVING  
IN ENTIRE SUCCESS.

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**GOV. HARRIS TELEGRAPHS THAT  
BRAGG'S SUCCESS WAS  
COMPLETE.**

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**THE LATEST NEWS  
FROM ROSECRANS'  
ARMY.**

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NO INDICATIONS OF ANOTHER BATTLE YESTERDAY.

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**REINFORCEMENTS NOT  
YET RECEIVED.**

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NO OCCASION FOR ALARM CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF THE ARMY.

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**ATTEMPT TO BURN RAIL-  
ROAD BRIDGES IN  
KENTUCKY.**

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**FROM ROSECRANS' ARMY.**

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**The Army Safe and In Good Spirits---  
Attempt to Intercept Burnside---  
No Reinforcements arrived.**

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CHATTANOOGA, Sept. 23 -- No attack has yet been made by the enemy, though it was confidently expected to-day. Our position is vastly strengthened meanwhile by additional works commanding the approaches from the south, while the flanks and communications are amply cared for.

The army is in the best of spirits since the fact became apparent that Chickamauga was almost much of a defeat for the rebels as for us.

Rosecrans was rapturously received along the lines this afternoon. The only demonstration made to-day was by a heavy column of infantry and artillery, which threatened our left, but crossed Missionary Ridge towards Ringgold, without replying to our artillery.

It is believed that this movement is intended to interrupt Burnside's advance, which is expected by the rebels.

The battle of Chickamauga River has probably been much over-estimated at the North, and there is no occasion for any alarm concerning the safety of this army, should it be again attacked.

#### ANXIETY IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 -- According to official information received from the Army of the Cumberland, dated last night, it is supposed the battle was renewed to-day.

Much anxiety in relation the arrival of reinforcements is expressed. If the orders of Government have been obeyed, there would not be no solicitude upon that point. It is known here that Rosecrans had sufficient stores and supplies for many days to come.

Assistance is on its way and may reach him in time to be of immense service.

#### REPORTS FROM NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE, Sept. 23. -- The news from the front to-day is meagre. No trains arrived from the south to-night. It is reported they are being detailed to bring up the wounded.

A telegram from the front reports no fighting to-day. Our forces still hold the position of yesterday, which is an evidence of strength, as every hour increases the chances for reinforcements from Burnside to arrive and enables our forces to more thoroughly entrench themselves. But no definite assurance of the arrival of reinforcements has been yet received.

Brig.-Gen. John H. King, reported to be wounded and a prisoner, is neither. A telegram from the front reports him all safe.

Maj. Coolidge, in command of the same brigade, is certainly killed.

Four hundred guerrillas, under Tom Murray, are hovering about Carthage, and are threatening to attack that place. A small force of guerrillas under Hawkins are reported running about in that vicinity, having their headquarters at Williamsport, west of Franklin, on Duck river.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 -- A dispatch from Rosecrans, dated at his headquarters last night, says: "I cannot be dislodged from my present position." Another dispatch, from one of Rosecrans' staff, written at 11:40 last night, says there would be fighting to-day (the 23d).

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. -- A Nashville letter to the *World*, mentioned a rumor that Rosecrans is to be reinforced by Sigel, who is to be placed in command of a corps.

*(This column appeared beside the report of the Battle of Chickamauga in the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat.. It appears to be lifted directly from southern papers and gives a very different point of view.)*

#### INTERESTING FROM THE SOUTH

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#### **Rebel Reports of the Battles-- A Score of Rebel Generals Killed and Wounded**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24. -- Telegraphic information has reached here stating that Richmond papers of yesterday have been received from Gen. Meade's front, where we obtain interesting telegrams from Bragg's Army.

They say that in the engagement of Saturday and Sunday last they lost Major Gen. Hood, of Texas, whose leg was shot off; Brig. Gen. Wm. Preston Smith, of Tennessee; Gen. Wolford, of Georgia; Gen. Waltham, of Mississippi; and General Desuler, killed. Maj. Gens. Wm. Preston, of Kentucky; Clayborne, of Arkansas; and Gregg; Brig. Gens. Benning, Daniel, Adams, Ball, Brown, and John Helm, were wounded.

If Ben. F. Helm, who is brother-in-law of Mrs. Lincoln, is a Major General, he may be the one announced as killed. If not, the reference must be to Brig. Gen. John Helm.

The Richmond *Sentinel* of yesterday cautions, its readers against receiving the accounts so far as received as proof of entire success in that quarter, admitting that the battles of Saturday and Sunday were not conclusive, though claiming that the advantage was on the rebel side.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 23d says the battle was 12 miles from Ringgold and on Saturday Rosecrans' army was driven two miles by a combined charge of the corps of Gens. D. H. Hill and Polk, the Union artillery fire being the heaviest that has taken place in the war. Also that on Saturday Hood's division of Longstreet's corps made an attack and was repulsed.

A dispatch reports that on Sunday the Union forces fell back eight miles and that the rebel loss was 5,000 killed and wounded in the two days' fight.

It claims that the rebels took 2,000 prisoners and seven pieces of artillery on Saturday and that a heavy smoke on that night indicated that Rosecrans was burning his stores. Another dispatch on Sunday night says that a combined attack by Gens. Hill and Longstreet was to be made on Monday.

A dispatch from Atlanta, dated at Ringgold this morning, reports that 4,000 Union prisoners have been taken, and also thirty pieces of artillery. It states that three rebel divisions are in pursuit, and claims a complete Confederate victory, with large captures of artillery and colors, while it admits a heavy loss of officers and men.

An Atlanta dispatch of the 22d says that all of Rosecrans' army was engaged; that Help, of Kentucky, was killed; that Hood was mortally wounded; and that Major Richmond, of Polk's staff, was killed.

The dispatch further says, that on Saturday night Generals Hill and Longstreet made a combined attack and took 6,000 prisoners.

It adds as a prophecy, that they will drive Rosecrans from the Mission Ridge.

Governor Isham Harris of Tennessee, in his dispatch to the *Appeal*, dated Sunday night, says that the two days' fighting had not had

a definite result, and that Generals John C. Brown and Hood, Gregg, Dane, Adams, and John Helm were wounded and disabled, and that the rebels had captured 2,500 prisoners, and from twenty-five to thirty pieces of artillery.

On Monday Gov. Harris telegraphed that the confederate victory was complete. He adds, is reported that we have taken 5,000 prisoners, and we expect twenty more pieces of artillery to be brought in.

The Richmond Whig of the 22d, received reports three days' hard fighting in Northern Georgia, with heavy losses on both sides. Rebel loss 5,000, including many valuable officers. Among the killed are---

Brig. General Wolford, of Georgia

Brig. General Waltham, of Mississippi

Brig. Generals Helman and Deshler.

Among the wounded are Brigadier Generals Adams, Brown, Gregg, Bunn, Preston, Cleburn and Banning.

Major General Hood, who was wounded, has since died.

ATLANTA, Sept. 22.-- The fight still goes on. We have every confidence that the enemy will be driven from his present stand, Mission Ridge, six to eight miles from Chattanooga. In the three days' fight the enemy was driven across Peavine Creek, and the West Chickamingo, about eleven miles to his present position. The Whig, editorially speaking of the affairs about Chattanooga is quite desponding.

## **The Saint Paul Pioneer & Democrat**

St. Paul, Friday

September 25, 1863

**Lieut. Woodbury Wounded**

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We regret to learn that Lieut. Albert Woodbury of the Second Minnesota Battery was severely wounded in battle on the 19th inst. Lieut. Woodbury is a son of Hon. Dwight Woodbury of Anoka.

This photo was taken at Crawfish Springs where the Battle of Chickamauga began in 1867.



# Recap

## August 12 Gun Maintenance Day

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery gathered in the garage and driveway at John Cain's house in Red Wing for a day of maintenance. The cannon and limber were unloaded from the trailer and rolled into the garage. With check list in hand, we went to work, starting with all the wheels. We used a jack stacked on wooden boxes to carefully lift one wheel at a time so we could spin that wheel. A die grinder was used to remove any burrs from each wheel rim while others were busy sanding the wood. Then the entire wheel was painted. Black paint for the rim and metal parts and our custom olive drab paint for all the wood.



While some members were working on the wheels others were busy sanding all the woodwork and metal parts on the gun carriage, limber, limber chest and implements in preparation for paint. Once all the sanding was done everyone grabbed a paintbrush and began to apply paint. Although our initial intent was just some "touch up", everything eventually received a fresh coat of paint. We took a short break for donuts at 12:30pm and still had all our check list completed by 2:00pm. Battery members participating were Neil Bruce, John Cain, Daryl Duden, Bart Hoekstra, James Livingstone, Ben Norman and Ron Wendel. Respectfully submitted, SGT Duden

## Aug 26-27 Morristown MN– Ahlman's Annual Shooters Roundup

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery began arriving at Fort Ahlman in Morristown on Friday evening. We had a nice weekend to be wearing wool with daytime temperatures never higher than the mid 80s and overnight temperatures in the low



50s. We were all thrilled when we saw Waseca Sno Biz setting up his trailer in it's usual spot just down the gravel road from our bleachers. We knew that this year a shaved ice would be available following each firing demonstration. We had a large group in camp for breakfast and lunch both Saturday and Sunday. Because Alman's discontinued their Saturday evening meal at the Lucky Lady Saloon, members camping overnight were instead treated to dinner off the menu at the Old Town Tavern in Morristown. The schedule had our firing demonstrations for both days scheduled at 9:30am, 11:30am, 2:30pm & 4:00pm. We had eleven people available for all four of our firings on Saturday and a diminished crew

***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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of eight for our Sunday firings. During our down time we had time to visit other venues. Vince and Teresa Bergdale operated their history of the G.A.R. station. Our friends at Battery I 1st US had two Gatling guns on the firing line this year. They also brought a Coehorn mortar that for \$30 you could pull the lanyard and send a frozen melon about two hundred fifty yards out into Lake Ahlman. It was a popular venue. They exhausted their supply of 150 frozen melons by early Sunday afternoon. Battery members who attended the event during the weekend were Bruce Arnoldy, Mardelle Arnoldy, Carmen Arnoldy, Bracy Bahm, Teresa Bergdale, Vince Bergdale, Neil Bruce, John Cain, Daryl Duden, Bart Hoekstra, James Livingstone, Mikaela Livingstone, Jim Morgan, Michael Ritchie, Linnea Schmit, Thomas Schmit and John Watkins. Guests joining us in camp this year were Steve Savre (Carmen Arnoldy), Dave Felty (Neil Bruce) and James Livingstone's 2023 foreign exchange student from Poland, Dominik Swiatek. Respectfully submitted, SGT Duden

