

2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 321

August 2024

On This Date-160 Years Ago

Remarks for the Month of July, 1864

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

- 1 S. F. Woods absent without leave. W. H. H. Jackins, Discharged March 17, 1864. Surg. Cert. Disability at Chattanooga
- 2 E. W. Vaughn Transferred to V. R. C. Gen. Orders War Dept. No. 86. 1864 Lucius H. Pratt Transferred to V. R. C. order, No. 20 1864.
- 3 S. F. Woods rept'd for duty from Hospital.
- 4 Paymaster Maj. W. N. Stewart paid command up to June 30, 1864
- 9 Paymaster Maj. W. H. Howard paid Veteran bounty : 2d Installment.
- 11 17 E. men attached from Ep. camp, Chattanooga, T. for duty: not borne on this Report.
- 29 Harris Harrison, bugler, sent to hospital Chattanooga, T.
- 30 27 E. men attached from Ex. camp. Chattanooga T. taken up on this report.

This report is interesting in that it lists pay day (August 4) and a second payday to give the “veteran bounty, second installment (August 8). It says the men were paid through June of 1864. Did they not get paid after that until they were mustered out in August of 1865? We know the men had a substantial amount of back pay due them at discharge, enough that Fort Snelling didn't have enough to pay them off, so they had to wait two weeks for more money to arrive. And why did the morning report note this pay day and no others?

It also creates another puzzle with the abbreviations that are not exactly clear. What is the “Ep.” camp? Any ideas?

Upcoming Events

August 17– 18, Canton South Dakota

We are setting up camp for the weekend and participating in two battles. This is the first time we will be attending the event, but this is not the first time these organizers have done an event. Many of the people involved were involved in the old Pipestone event.

Please note: We will NOT be making breakfast in camp. The majority of our members will be staying in motels—the closest one of which is 25+ miles away—so the decision was made at the meeting to not make breakfast in camp. We WILL be making lunches and supper.

IF YOU WANT EAT IN CAMP, you MUST let Daryl know asap!! If we don't know you are coming, we can't cook for you!

Here is the website for the event:

[Canton Civil War Days - Home \(cantonsouthdakota.com\)](http://cantonsouthdakota.com)

Aug 24-25 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. Breakfast and lunch will be provided both days to all members attending **IF YOU RSVP TO Daryl that you are coming!** Breakfasts and lunches will be made in camp; Saturday night we will be eating at a local restaurant.

August 31 Rescheduled 4th of July, Stillwater, MN

The rescheduled 4th of July event will be held on August 31 with the same schedule as was previously planned. Battery I will be firing volleys as a part of the event and could use some extra cannoneers to man their guns. Contact Daryl if you are interested.

Next Meeting

September 7, 11:00 am

Elks Club, 306 W 4th Street, Red Wing

Contact Ken Cunningham with questions or agenda items.
651-388-2945.



Battery Profiles

Cornelius F. Harder

Cornelius enlisted in Captain Caligan's Company of 101st Regiment of Ohio Infantry on August 7, 1862. He joined the regiment at Camp Monroeville on August 30. He was from Lyme, Ohio, and agreed to serve for three years. At the time he was mustered in, he was given \$27 from Captain E. Drake. What he may not have told the recruiting offers was that he was only recently released from prison. In 1860, Cornelius was serving time in the penitentiary at Jeffersonville, Indiana, for larceny.

The descriptive book of the 101st Ohio Infantry placed him in Company A. He was 39 years old, was a harness maker and had been born in Hudson, New York. He was 5' 8" tall, had hazel eyes, brown hair and a sandy complexion.

Cornelius served as a private with the infantry until December 26, 1862, when he was left at the convalescent camp in Nashville. By February 28, 1863, he was back with the regiment.

On March 1, 1863, Cornelius and a number of other men from the 101st Ohio Infantry were detailed to serve with the Second Minnesota Battery. Orders were not officially written until the 29th, but they were backdated to reflect the date the men joined the Battery. It was while serving in the Battery that Cornelius began to have trouble. By June, he was under arrest for drunkenness, absence without leave and stealing. He was delivered to the provost marshal on June 22.

Three charges were preferred against Cornelius. The first was a "Violation of No. 44, Articles of War" with the specification that he "did fail to report at the time fixed, to the place of drill; he not being Excused therefrom by any competent Authority."

The second charge was "Absence from Camp without leave. In this; that he, the said Cornelius F. Harder, Private Co. A 101" Reg't Ohio Vol. Inf. did, without permission from competent Authority, absent himself from the camp of his Company, and did remain absent until arrested and bought back to said camp by a party sent after him by his Commanding officer."

Stealing was the third charge, "In this: that he, the said Cornelius F. Harder, Private Co. A 101" Reg't Ohio Vol. Inf. did steal from his comrade, David Coulthard, Private, 2" Battery Light Artillery Minnesota Vols. One Silver Watch: this at the Camp of the 2" Minnesota Battery, near Murfreesboro, Tenn. On or about the 22" day of June A.D. 1863."

The charges were drawn up by the Battery's Lieutenant, Albert Woodbury and witnessed by four Battery men: Lt. Richard L. Dawley, 2nd Lt. Alexander Kinkead, Corporal Daniel Frye and Private David W. Coulthard. The charges were forwarded up the chain of command, but the outcome is unknown. The next record of Cornelius was that he was left sick in the hospital at Chattanooga in September of 1863.

Orders transferred him back to his Infantry regiment in October and he was present with Company A, 101st Ohio Infantry by November.

Cornelius stayed out of trouble in the infantry until he was assigned daily duty as a saddler in May of 1864. The good conduct didn't last as on November 27, he was listed as a deserter at Columbia, Tennessee. The company muster role made a careful list of all the equipment Cornelius had taken when he left along with the value of each item.

1 Springfield Rifle Musket, Complete (58 cal)		\$19.25
1 cartridge box, Complete (58 cal)	3.25	
1 Ball screw	.13	
1 screw driver	.20	
1 Spring vice	.30	
1 Knapsack	2.15	
1 Haversack	.40	
1 Canteen and strap	.45	
1 Shelter Tent	4.60	
Total:		\$30.96

On December 29, Cornelius was listed as a patient at Hospital No. 3 in Nashville, Tennessee, and was due two months pay on the hospital muster role. The regimental muster role dated December 31 listed him as a deserter and again detailed the equipment Cornelius had and its respective values. The desertion was probably a misunderstanding of his being left at the hospital and must have been cleared up as Cornelius returned to duty with the 101st Ohio on January 28, 1865.

However, by February 8th when the Regiment was at Huntsville, he was back under arrest for desertion once again. This time, charges were preferred and the specifications listed desertion. Again, the list of his equipment with its value was noted, but this time the value of some articles had gone down, so he only owed \$28.41.

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Despite all the charges preferred against him at one time or another, Cornelius was with his company when they were discharged from the service at the end of the war. His discharge was listed as honorable at Camp Harker, Tennessee, on June 12, 1865. He was owed back pay of \$116.79 since he had not received pay since August 31, 1864. The government got its money back, though, as they held \$25.75 from his pay to cover the cost of lost equipment.

Cornelius did not remain in Ohio. By 1880, he was living in Canaan, Columbia County, New York, with his wife and children and working as a laborer. He and his wife, Ruby, had four children living with them at the time, two girls and two boys. The eldest son was 26 with the occupation of laborer. The youngest two were at a school and the eldest daughter was at home. Cornelius and Ruby must have moved around some as the first two children were born in New York. The third was born in Massachusetts and the last one back in New York again. The next record found is when Cornelius died on September 27, 1887. He was laid to rest in the Red Rock Cemetery in Red Rock, Columbia County, New York. Ruby was laid to rest beside him on December 10, 1912.

Records only hint at a relationship between Cornelius and another Second Battery man, Henry Harder. A family record lists the children of John and Rebecca Harder. Failing Cornelius was the oldest, Henry was four years younger. With a first name like Failing, it would be little surprise if he went by his middle name. While the family record dates do not correspond exactly with the ages the boys said they were when they enlisted, the locations of birth do match. Henry's apparent downturn in his behavior—according to Captain Hotchkiss—coincides with the departure of Cornelius from the Battery. Henry's urgently needed leave also matches close to the dates Cornelius was in the hospital in Nashville. Were they brothers who managed to connect during the war? The sparse records left leave much room for guessing, but provide few answers.



Youtube Stars!

Recently, your editor received an email from the organizer at the Arnold House. She wanted to share a link to a youtube program that was created by “Nancy” when the Battery was at the A.A. Arnold House. Nancy was filming during that day and put this together. The link below should take you to the program. Have some time when you click the link—it runs almost an hour!

[2nd Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery- Founders Day '24 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

The video covers the gun drill and stops at several of our stations with interviews of our members.



2 Civil War soldiers to receive Medal of Honor for one of the Army's earliest special ops missions

Article copied from: Matthew Adams/*Stars and Stripes*, 3 July 2024

Scott and Kimberly Chandler heard family stories growing up about their great-great-great grandfather, George Wilson, being a spy. "Hearing from my mom, it was talked about in hush terms or whispers," Kimberly Chandler said.

Wilson was born in Belmont County, Ohio, in 1830. He was a tradesman who supported his family as a journeyman shoemaker, according to the Army. Wilson enlisted in the Union Army's 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment on Aug. 31, 1861.

Philip Shadrach enlisted into the same regiment the following month. He was born in Somerset County, Pa., in 1840, and left orphaned at an early age.

Less is known of Shadrach's work, other than he was a "laborer." But on Sept. 20, 1861, he left home and enlisted, according to the service. The two men eventually volunteered for the same mission and experienced the same fate.

Pvts. Wilson and Shadrach will be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously Wednesday, becoming the last members of a unit known as Andrews' Raiders to be recognized with the nation's highest decoration for combat valor.

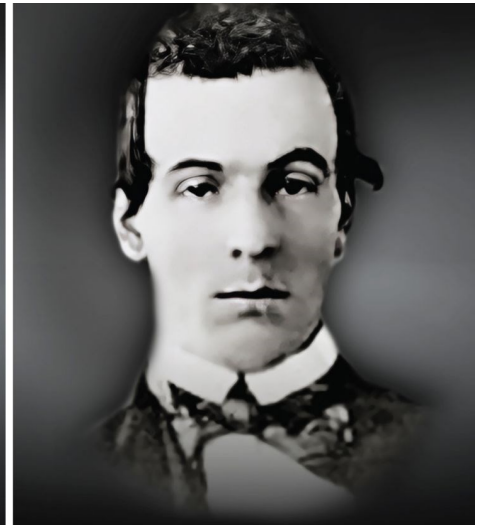
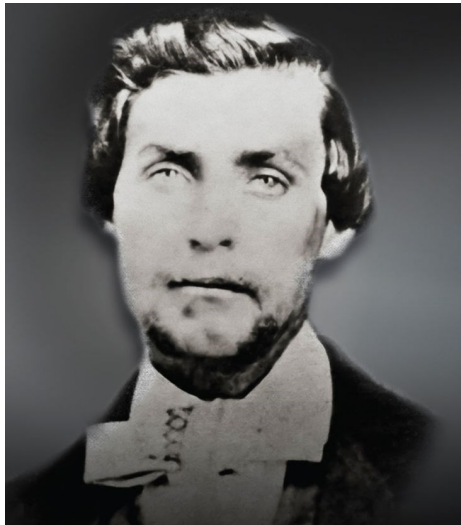
In one of the earliest special operations in Army history, Union soldiers dressed as civilians to infiltrate the Confederacy, hijack a train and drive it north for 87 miles, destroying enemy infrastructure along the way.

During what became known as the Great Locomotive Chase, six of the Union soldiers became the Army's first recipients of the newly created Medal of Honor, according to the service.

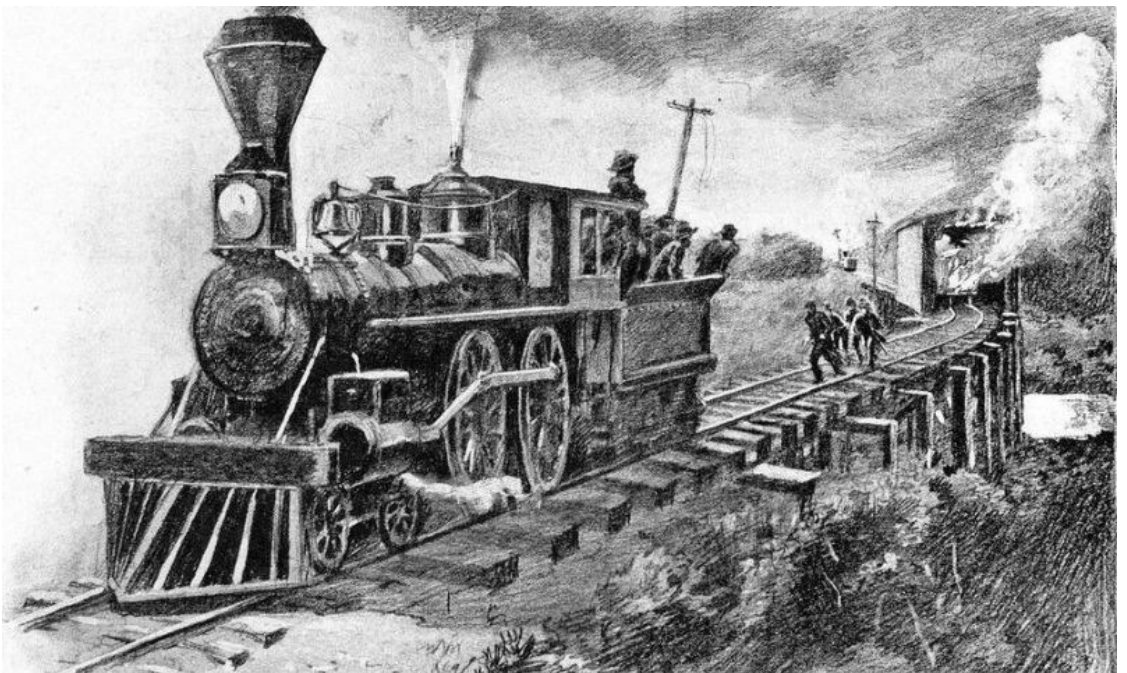
The plan for the Great Locomotive Chase was hatched by James Andrews, a Kentucky-born civilian who served as a spy and scout. He proposed a group of volunteers penetrate the Confederacy with the aim of degrading the railway and communication lines that supported the South's stronghold of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Andrews, another civilian and 22 volunteer Union soldiers, who later became known as Andrews' Raiders, made their rendezvous point in Marietta, Ga. Shane Makowicki, a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, said the plan was hatched April 6, 1862.

Wilson, Shadrach and the other soldiers volunteered one day later. They made it to Marietta on April 11. On April 12, 22 of them commandeered a locomotive known as the General and proceeded north, tearing up railroad tracks and cutting telegraph wires as they went along.



These portraits restored by the US Army Visual Information Office show Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson.
US Army



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The General's conductor, William Fuller, and two others began chasing the raiders — first on foot, then by a handcar, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Andrews' efforts driving the General were slowed by their sabotage efforts and because he needed to permit oncoming trains to pass on the single-track railway. This allowed Fuller's party to gain on the Union force.

Running low on fuel and with the Texas, a locomotive commandeered by Fuller, on their heels, Andrews' Raiders abandoned their effort just 18 miles short of Chattanooga.

After it became clear the mission failed, Shadrach and Wilson along with several others attempted to evade Confederate troops and escape. Some including Shadrach and Wilson were eventually captured.

"The event, if it would have been successful and cut off Chattanooga from Confederate supplies, it could have shortened the war by a year, year and half, two years," author and historian Brad Quinlin told reporters Tuesday.

Andrews was tried as a spy and saboteur and executed on June 7, 1862. Seven others were subsequently hanged, including Shadrach and Wilson, on June 18. Nineteen of the 22 Union soldiers received the Medal of Honor. One soldier was offered the medal but declined as he did not fully participate.

Former President George W. Bush signed the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act that included a measure to allow him to award Wilson and Shadrach with the medal. But Bush never did.

"The Civil War Medal of Honor is ancient history. Things moved in relevant and more current directions," Ron Shadrach, a great cousin of Shadrach, said Tuesday.

Makowicki said it is important to remember the Medal of Honor at the time of the Civil War was a new award. "Today we might think everybody on the mission would have good documentation and every soldier who participated would be awarded the medal just the same," he said. "You often needed someone to advocate on your behalf if your officers had left the regiment. It was a bit more of an ad hoc process, so it really does appear to be by all accounts more of an oversight than certainly any comment on their behavior."

Ron Shadrach, 67, from Independence, Ohio, remembers seeing a plaque his aunt showed him as a little kid that had the Shadrach name on it but didn't know what it was about. In 2003, he saw a newspaper article pulling for Wilson and Shadrach to get the Medal of Honor.

"That started to connect the dots. Anytime I brought it up over the years my dad would say the same thing, 'It's something that happened down South and we're totally not related,'" Shadrach said.

Once he learned of the relation, Shadrach started to work on getting the Medal of Honor for both men. He started compiling the information in 2012 and connected with Brad Quinlin.

Shadrach had a binder of information that he submitted in February 2016 to Gen. Mark Milley who was the Army Chief of Staff at the time. The binder includes drawings of Wilson and Shadrach before being executed by hanging. There were photos of letters that the private's youngest sister wrote for 20 years trying to get back pay and any rations that Shadrach was eligible for while in a Confederate prison.

"I didn't have much patience with the government for these delays. It's like, 'This makes no sense,'" Shadrach said. "If not for that delay, I wouldn't have had time to put this document together. It wouldn't have uncovered all this information. It's like a blessing in disguise."

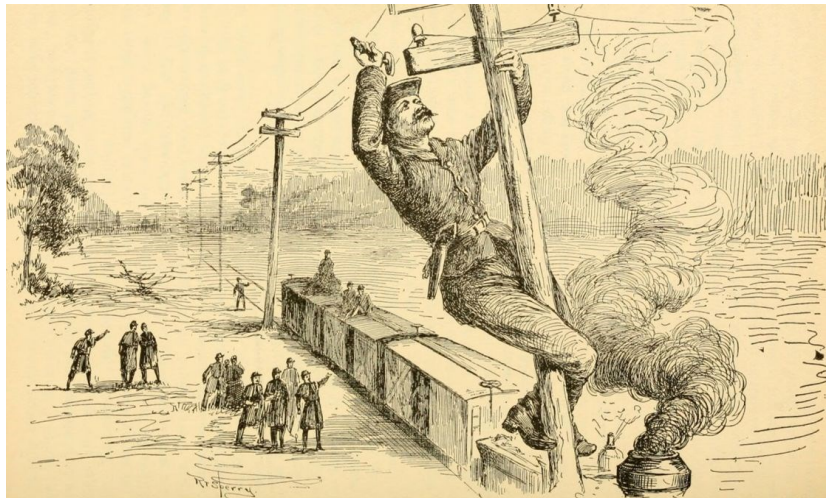
Scott Chandler, 61, from Fredericktown, Ohio, said he got into this story back in 2020 when there was talk about Wilson receiving the Medal of Honor. But his family didn't have much knowledge of Wilson.

"I just had the thought — My mom's [older than] 80, her sisters aren't far behind her in age so I started pushing for it because I wanted to see her be able to accept it," Chandler said.

He heard the award was on the president's desk so there wasn't much he could do. During that time, Chandler started doing his own research. He used some information that his mother had and was sharing some with his sister, Kimberly, 59, who lives in Walla Walla, Wash., with her family.

In accounts about Wilson, he was fighting to help keep the Union together and it appeared he wanted slavery abolished. There is a drawing that depicts Wilson and the men being hung. He gave a final statement, saying he had "no ill-will toward the South" and ended it by saying "one day the Union flag will fly over your states again," according to Chandler.

Chandler said his mother and her two sisters will keep Wilson's Medal of Honor for a while but will donate it afterward to the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga, Tenn. The medal will be displayed in the same city where Wilson is buried at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.



In this illustration provided by the US Army, Union soldiers cut telegraph wires and commandeered a locomotive known as the General that was on its way toward Chattanooga in April 1862. They would stop occasionally along the route to "tear up track, switches, and bridges, inflicting as much damage as possible." US Army

Recap

July 6 Family Fun Day Red Wing, MN

It was a perfect day with sun, a very light breeze, and not too hot so it made for a great turnout from the public. Stations were busy with people even before the event was open, so we were interpreting while we were setting up!



The site on the museum grounds is very nice and the center plaza near the flag pole made a perfect place for the ladies to set up their quilts, apothecary and fish pond. All agreed this was probably the prettiest set up we have ever had for displaying the quilts.

The "boom" of the gun from that high bluff is spectacular and there is plenty of room for our other stations without being too close to each other.

Museum staff was very pleased with the event. Their best count how many visitors came was nearly 300. There were probably more people than that as the count was only those people who went inside the museum.

Huzzahs all around for those who made this event a great success!



July 27, 2024 - Whitewater River Fest Elba, MN

When members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery arrived in Elba, MN for their 10:30am Veteran's Memorial Ceremony, it was humid and already 78 degrees. We were fortunate there was a light breeze, but still decided we would conduct our three-round salute in shirtsleeves and vests. We unloaded our M1861 10 Pdr.

Parrott and Limber and waited for instructions from the event organizer, Krystal Marking.

When I inquired where I might find her, Bracy Bahm responded "She is right over there with my wife Shianne, they work together and are best friends." How fortunate for us! Krystal indicated our three-round salute would follow the Main Address and the Master of Ceremonies would provide our introduction.

Although this year there was no volleyball tournament in Veteran's Memorial Park, the ceremony still drew a nice crowd. When the American Legion Color Guard formed for the flag raising ceremony, we took our places on the gun: #1 Bracy Bahm, #2 Bruce Arnoldy, #3 Daryl Duden, #4 Mikaela Livingstone, #5 John Cain, G James Livingstone. Since the program was a tribute to those who served in our armed forces, it was fitting that we would have so many military veterans on our crew. Our three-round salute was flawless and following TAPS and a brief prayer the program was over.

While we posed for pictures for various local Facebook pages, Krystal "passed the hat" to raise our honorarium. Once the gun and limber were loaded back on the trailer, she presented me with a handful of bills totaling \$510 and an invitation from her on behalf of Elba Community Outreach for us to return in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
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
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>