



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 320

July 2024

### On This Date-160 Years Ago

#### Remarks for the Month of July, 1864

(Numbers indicate the day of the month)

1 Sergt G. H. Hamilton returned from Hospital at Chattanooga.

2 Wm. Costello and Thos. McInerny rept'd for duty. Command left of the front with horses

3 E. G. Bloomfield, transferred to V. R. C. G. O. No. 188. W. D. dated Apr 28, 1864.

4 C. P. Russell was enlisted & mustered into service at St. Paul Minn. as a recruit in 2d Minn Bty Dec 22 1863. March 1864 he was placed under command Capt. Woodbury. While enroute for the battery at Chattanooga, he was taken sick and left in hospital. Lieut. Dawley, then in command of the battery upon receipt of the muster & Deserter Roll failed to take him up on the morning report. An error was not discovered until July 4, 1864.

John Ball on previous return reported as 2d Lieut awaiting muster, the Battery being below the minimum strength thereby declining him from muster he resigned his commission to the Gov. of Minn.

5 Ing. Olsen, Dischg. March 9th 1864. Cert. of Disability Notice rec'd from Col. J. L. Simonsen, Indianapolis, Ind. of date April 1st 1864.

10 Whitman, a recruit erroneously dropped and not taken up in Report. Corp. W. A. Spaulding reported for duty from hospital.

18 Returned to camp Shinger's Farm from 'the front' - Marietta, Geo.

23 Corp. H. W. Towle sent to F. Hosp No. 2 Chattanooga, Tenn.

30 Ed T. Tillotson -- joined from arrest for desertion. Rep't'd a deserter May 25, 1864. Apprehended in Chicago Ills. May 28, 1864 and for safekeeping was placed in the guard house, whence from some misapprehension, he was sent without the knowledge of his commdg officer to Camp Douglas. He should have been taken up May 28, 1864 on this Report and reported absent in arrest.

31 Ed Tillotson Under arrest and sent to Chattanooga T. under guard

### Upcoming Events

#### July 6 Family Fun Day Red Wing, MN

The program at the Goodhue County History Center (1166 Oak Street) is from noon – 3:00pm. Volunteers are needed. We have been asked to provide 3 or 4 learning stations in addition to firing demonstrations on our M1861 10 Pdr Parrott Rifle.

Arrive at 11:00 for set up. Eat lunch early or bring a bag lunch to eat before visitors arrive at noon.

#### July 27 Whitewater River Fest, Elba, MN

We have been asked to fire a three volley salute following their Veteran's Memorial Dedication Ceremony. Set up is at 10:00 am. Please contact Daryl Duden to let him know you will be attending.



### Next Meeting

August 3, 11:00 am

Elks Club, 306 W 4th Street, Red Wing

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



# Battery Profiles

## Francis A. Stevens

Francis was one of five sons of Henry and Dorothy Stevens. All five sons served in the Civil War. Francis was not one of the first to enlist as he did not join the Second Battery until September 2, 1864, a part of the draft rendezvous that summer. Francis was 28 years old, had blue eyes, dark hair and a light complexion. He stood 5' 9" tall, was married, and was farming land in Dodge County, Minnesota, when he enlisted. He was given one third of his promised \$100 bounty for his agreement to serve one year. He allowed his name to be credited to Clairmont in Dodge County for the draft.

Garrison duty and a few scouting missions were the main activities for the Battery during that last year of the war and Francis never participated in any big battles while he served in the army. He served with good health and conduct as his name never appeared in the morning reports for any reason other than attendance. When the Battery was mustered out at the end of the war, Francis went back to his family in Dodge County.

Francis and his wife, Helen, were married before coming to Minnesota. Francis had been born in New Hampshire on September 21, 1835. He married Helen Mitchell on July 4, 1853, and they came to Minnesota in 1860. The couple had five children, four boys and one girl.

Farming must have appealed to Francis as he chose it over other occupations even though he had other experience and training. At the age of 12, he was working in a cotton mill and by 14, he learned the cutler's trade. He followed that path for a few years before he moved to Minnesota to take land to farm until he left for his year in the army.

They farmed in Dodge County until 1878 when Francis decided to take advantage of the homestead credit he had earned for serving in the army and they moved to land in Leota Township in Nobles County, Minnesota. Here, Francis got involved in the organizing of the township and at one time or another, held most of the township offices. In 1886, he was elected clerk of district court in Nobles County and served in that office for 12 years.

Age and discomfort were probably behind Francis' decision to apply for a pension in 1889. He cited the time he spent sleeping in "pup tents" in wet weather without adequate clothing as

having caused him to ache with rheumatism. Captain Hotchkiss said that as commanding officer of the Battery, he saw the situation and agreed that Francis had suffered from the cold and wet conditions while on duty with the Battery.

On January 31, 1891, Helen died in Worthington, Minnesota. Francis remained alone until he married Hannah Hoynes in St. Paul on April 15, 1895. She was a widow and brought a step son to join their family. In 1896, Hannah and Francis had a son together and they named him Frank.

By 1911, age and heart disease were taking their toll on Francis. He died on October 10, 1911, in Worthington, Minnesota. He was laid to rest in the Worthington City Cemetery with a simple family stone to mark his grave.





# *The Worst Picnic in History Was Interrupted by a War*

From the Battlefield Trust website, written by Elizabeth Nix

On July 21, 1861, Washingtonians trekked to the countryside near Manassas, Virginia, to watch Union and Confederate forces clash in the first major battle of the American Civil War. Known in the North as the First Battle of Bull Run and in the South as the Battle of First Manassas, the military engagement also earned the nickname the “picnic battle” because spectators showed up with sandwiches and opera glasses. These onlookers, who included a number of U.S. congressmen, expected a victory for the Union and a swift end to the war that had begun three months before.



The ruins of the Henry House, destroyed by Union artillery fire during the First Battle of Manassas. Photo by Matthew B. Brady in the National Archives.

Instead, the battle that day resulted in a bloody defeat for the Union and sent the picnickers scrambling to safety.

On July 16, federal forces led by Brigadier General Irvin McDowell began marching from the nation’s capital toward the strategic railroad junction at Manassas, some 30 miles away, where Confederate troops commanded by General Pierre G. T. Beauregard had

amassed. Five days later, ordinary citizens—along with various U.S. senators and representatives, reporters and the photographer Mathew Brady, who went on to become famous for his images of the war—arrived in the area to check out the action. Many people parked themselves near Centreville, Virginia, several miles from the actual fighting.

The battle got off to a promising start for the Yankees; however, the Confederates soon called in reinforcements and counterattacked. Later that afternoon, Union troops, who like their opponents were poorly trained, began to withdraw. Some soldiers panicked and ran from the battlefield, and the spectators’ amusing summer outing turned chaotic. Civilians hustled back to Washington along with retreating Union troops. Some legislators attempted to stem the tide.

Out of more than 28,000 Union soldiers at the First Battle of Bull Run, over 2,800 were killed, wounded, missing or captured; of the more than 32,000 Confederates, there were over 1,900 casualties. The battle showed Congress and President Abraham Lincoln that the Civil War would be much longer and tougher than they’d anticipated.

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Painting depicting Stonewall Jackson at the battle of Bull Run



# Recap

**June 15 A.A. Arnold House, Galesville, WI**

It was a gray and gloomy start as we set up in the yard of this historic house, but the few rain drops that fell were not enough to really get anything wet. Concerns about more rain changed our set up to be under the flies, but the rain stayed away. Visitors didn't! We were very busy with visitors in the morning and they were full of questions! We talked to very interested people up to about 1:00, then it got pretty quiet. The second firing of the gun was an "abbreviated" demo as there were nearly no people there. The lack of visitors in the afternoon worked in our favor as we were able to pack up and get all our canvas down while it was still dry! It was, as always, a nice event.



***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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