



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 329

May 2025

### On This Date-160 Years Ago

#### May 1865

With the surrender of Lee's army in April, activities in the Battery were winding down. They were in garrison near Philadelphia, Tennessee,.

Alfred Derby returned from the hospital; Sidney Norris and Baird Oleson were sent to it. Richard Bloomfield and William Wardwell were each given a week's leave of absence and upon their return, were detailed to the quartermaster department. Captain Hotchkiss had been on leave and returned on the 13th.

Several men were sent on various details to headquarters by special orders.

Christian Denlinger and Emil Solner were both dropped from the muster roll as deserters. Emil did not speak English very well and as a result, had not really deserted. He had joined the Navy in Chicago while home on veteran's furlough, believing the Navy and Army would work out the details.

Christian was one of the men taken prisoner near Franklin, Tennessee, exchanged at City Point, Virginia on March 7th and went to the hospital. Christian served on detached duty in Annapolis, Maryland, for a time. Letters from Francis Flint said Christian was “used up” and he never returned to the Battery. Christian may have not agreed with the charge of desertion as he applied for a pension in later years. If he had been a deserter, he would have been ineligible. Christian died before the Pension Department could act and his records leave no answers as to what may have really happened.

### Upcoming Events

**May 8 Old Court House Museum, 315 West Madison Street, Durand, WI.**

**Arrive by 7:30** 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 a bag lunch.**

**May 16-18 Fields of Valor -Maplewood, MN  
Bruentrup Heritage Farm, 2170 E.  
County Road D, Maplewood.**

This is new encampment-style event with our gun doing demonstrations and our ladies interpreting Civil War era quilt history. Camping is allowed on the grounds, but NO vehicles after 4:00 on Friday. We have been told meals are provided EXCEPT for the noon meal on Saturday. There will be food trucks or you can bring your own lunch. More details at:

[Fields of Valor : Civil War History Weekend | Facebook](#)

**May 26 Memorial Day, Red Wing, MN**

**Arrive at Bay Point Park by 7:30** to set up. There will be a reading by one of our Battery members for the Memorial Day service and honor volleys from our gun. If you were not at the April meeting and can attend this event, please contact John Cain or Dary; Duden as soon as possible.

### Next Meeting

**May 31, 11:00, Goodhue County Historical Society 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing**



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

# Battery Profiles

## Henry Anderson

Henry was a 22-year-old immigrant farmer when he answered the call for soldiers to serve in the new artillery unit forming in Minnesota. Henry was living with his wife in Fillmore County, Minnesota, on February 20, 1862, when he signed the enlistment papers. Officially, he was 5' 9" tall, had hazel eyes, a light complexion and light hair.

Born in Sostrand, Norway, on June 22, 1840, Henry immigrated to Wisconsin in 1857 before coming to Minnesota in 1861. He began farming in southern Minnesota. On Christmas Day, 1860, he married Andrea Johnson. She also went by Anna, a nickname that caused confusion when she applied for a widow's pension later in life.

Henry went south with the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery in May of 1862 and served as a private, the only rank he held. He saw action in the battles at Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and other skirmishes before he decided not to reenlist. Henry's three years were up in February of 1864 and he decided he would not continue in the army. While those who had reenlisted went back to Minnesota for a veteran's furlough, Henry and others from the Second Minnesota Battery served on detached duty with the Second Illinois Battery, Company I. There, Henry saw more action in the battles for the city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Henry went back to the Second Minnesota Battery in October of 1864 and was mustered out on March 28, 1865. Henry returned to Minnesota and his family.

In 1867, Henry moved his family to Sandness Township in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota. They began farming and raising their family which would grow to include nine children. Later in life, Henry and Andrea moved into nearby Hanley Falls.

Henry died of "heart trouble" and "chronic bronchitis" on April 26, 1902. He was laid to rest in the Hanley Falls Cemetery.

Andrea filed for a widow's pension and she used both Andrea and Anna on the paperwork, something that confused the Pension Department. In order to determine she was the same person and entitled to a widow's pension, Andrea had to file her own deposition and have one filed by a reputable person who knew her. She sought the help of Henry's comrade in the Battery, Tennes Hanson. Tennes lived near them in Yellow Medicine County and filed a deposition on Andrea's behalf. He stated that he knew both Andrea and Henry before their marriage and explained the difference in her name as the differences in language between her Norwegian birth and American life.

Andrea's name was not the only name that changed. Henry was not this man's birth name, that was Hans. It was only after coming to the United States that Henry became Hans, at least on his military papers. How often he used Hans instead of Henry is not known, but his gravestone reads, "Hans."

Though Andrea applied for Henry's pension, she was fairly well off for 1902. Henry had left her with the farm, house and \$5,000 in cash. This earned her an estimated annual income of \$250, but that was her sole income as she was completely unable to work. Andrea lived alone until May 29, 1928, when she passed away. She was laid beside Henry in the Hanley Falls Cemetery.



# *The Beginning of Peace—May 1865*

From the Kansas City Library website: [May 1865 | Civil War on the Western Border](#)

In the previous month, one day before the cities of Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, fell on April 3, 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet fled the capital city by rail and reconvened in Danville in south-central Virginia. Less than a week later, the surrender of Major General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9 caused most Southerners to admit that the war was at an end.

Rather than laying down arms upon receiving word of Lee's capitulation, as many Confederate commanders would soon do, Davis and his cabinet vowed to continue fighting and fled again to Washington, Georgia. By the end of the month, General Joseph E. Johnston had surrendered the Army of Tennessee and all other forces under his command in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Although skirmishes and paramilitary activity would continue, large-scale Confederate military resistance promptly ended after Appomattox.

At the beginning of May 1865, a few Confederate commanders and political leaders, including Davis, still called on Confederates to continue the fight through means of guerrilla warfare. Most Confederates followed the lead of General Lee, who rejected the idea because he saw it as pointless, needlessly destructive for the South, and likely to ruin any opportunity for peaceful reconciliation between North and South. Rather than divide his Army of Northern Virginia so that elements of it could escape Grant's grasp—which would result in it breaking up into "bands of marauders" by Lee's description—he surrendered it outright. Other Confederate generals followed suit, especially because the generous terms being offered by Union commanders made the decision to surrender more palatable. Echoing Lincoln's second inaugural address, which promised "malice toward none," General Grant effectively pardoned Lee's entire army, offered parole so that his soldiers could return home rather than be imprisoned, allowed his officers to keep their side arms and horses, and even fed his starving men.

Recognizing the inevitable end of their rebellion, the Confederate cabinet dissolved itself on May 5, 1865, leaving the Confederacy without a government. Davis and his wife sought refuge in a foreign nation and were on their way to book passage overseas when they were captured by Union soldiers at Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10. Davis was indicted for treason and kept a prisoner for two years at Fort Monroe, Virginia, but he was released on parole in May 1867. He never faced trial because it would impede reconciliation for the nation and because a trial would spark debate about whether state secession had been legal all along. On December 25, 1868, President Andrew Johnson pardoned all members of the rebellion, but the 14th Amendment to the Constitution denied Davis and other high-ranking Confederate officeholders the right to hold public office in the future.

With the end of the Confederate rebellion apparent to everyone, the month of May 1865 ended with a Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, D.C., and the dismantling of a large portion of the Union war machine. The Army of the Potomac, with 80,000 soldiers, marched through the federal capital on May 23, and

the 65,000-man Army of Tennessee, commanded by William T. Sherman, marched the following day. One week later, both armies disbanded and the nation looked toward Reconstruction.



This drawing depicts Jefferson Davis in his prison cell at Fortress Monroe, Virginia after the conclusion of the Civil War. Two guards stand in Davis' cell, while the prisoner sits on his bed. Written in the lower, right hand corner: "The casemate, Fortress Monroe, Jeff Davis in prison." Drawn by Alfred Waud, original held at the Library of Congress.

# Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery 2025 Event Schedule

If other events come up during the year that you would like to see considered, please bring them to the attention of the Battery officers.

- |           |   |                 |                     |
|-----------|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| May 8     | Pepin County Historical Society   | Durand, WI      | Education Day       |
| May 16-18 | Fields of Valor - Minnesota & the Civil War<br>Encampment and demonstration | Maplewood, MN   |                     |
| May 26    | 2024 Memorial Day Observance  | Red Wing, MN    | Memorial Service    |
| Jun 21    | A. A. Arnold House  | Galesville, WI  | Demonstration       |
| July 1    | Patriotic Night Band Concert,   | Menominee, WI   |                     |
| July 12   | Castlerock Museum   | Alma, WI        | Educational Program |
| Jul 26    | Prospect House & Civil War Museum,  | Battle Lake, MN | Demonstration       |
| Aug 2     | Whitewater River Fest   | Elba, MN        | Ceremony            |
| Aug 23-24 | 2025 Ahlman's Shooters Roundup  | Morristown, MN  | Demonstration       |
| Sep 13-14 | Civil War Reenactment   | Mason City, IA  | Reenactment         |
| Nov 11    | 2024 Veterans Day - Veterans<br>Park, Winona, MN, Memorial Service          |                 |                     |

***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:

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