



## 2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

# “ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 336

February 2026

### On This Date-165 Years Ago

(From the American Battlefield Trust website)

*“Everybody seems to be getting excited, & some even frightened, in anticipation of what may happen in the attempt of some misguided scoundrels, who, it is said, intend to prevent, by force, the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the U.S.”* wrote Benjamin Brown French on January 1, 1861. This businessman and political officeholder’s words echoed many of the feelings and concerns that Americans had as 1861 dawned. It would be a year of a divided country each believing the others were the “misguided” ones in the conflict.

In November 1860, Abraham Lincoln won the presidential election. Acting on previous threats if the Republican candidate won, southern states considered secession. South Carolina led the way on December 20, 1860, declaring itself out the union and making moves to form a separate nation. Other southern states prepared for secession conventions and started seizing federal property within their states.

January 1861 found President James Buchanan floundering to lead while Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana all adopted Ordinances of Secession. The Crittenden Compromise failed in the U.S. Senate on January 16, ending efforts to protect slavery in an effort to avoid civil war. Meanwhile, one week earlier, on January 9, cadets from The Citadel fired shots at the Star of the West; the ship attempted to bring supplies to the federal garrison at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor but had to turn back from the South Carolina harbor.

At the beginning of February 1861, delegates from the seceded states gathered and established a Confederate government with a provisional constitution and provisionally elected Jefferson Davis as president. This provisional government created a Peace Commission to try to avoid a war with the United States, but the efforts fell apart. Texas voted for secession on February 23, the same day that President-elect Lincoln arrived in Washington, D.C.

Lincoln took the oath of office on March 4, becoming the 16th President of the United States. He concluded his First Inaugural Address appealing to the divided country: *“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”*

### Events for 2026

Please continue gathering information on events that we may want to consider for the 2026 reenacting season. A list of these potential events has been compiled and appears on page 3. We will continue to compile and discuss what we may attend at the February meeting with a final vote on the 2026 calendar in March.



### Dues Are Due!

The annual membership dues for 2026 are due, the form is attached to the last page of this newsletter. The treasurer would appreciate your prompt attention to the dues as he needs to be sure he knows who is a member in good standing. This is especially important as we come to the elections and decisions on events and expenditures.

Send dues to Dary Duden. His address is on the form.



### Next Meeting

**February 28, 11:00, Goodhue County Historical Society 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing**



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

# Battery Profiles

## Ingebreth Johnson

Ingebreth Johnson was born in Stavanger, Norway. He first came to the United States alone in 1853 and farmed for two years near Long Prairie, Illinois. He made enough money by 1855 to return to Norway to get his bride, Ane Augland, and his parents. They came to Minnesota; Ane and Ingebreth were married on September 10, 1860, in Fillmore County. There the newlyweds made their living by farming.

In February of 1862, Ingebreth enlisted in the Second Battery as a private. He was 26 years old, stood 5' 6" tall, had blue eyes, light hair and complexion. On January 1, 1863, he was detailed as a wagon master. He would remain on this duty until the end of September that year when he returned to regular duty. Ingebreth chose not to reenlist and was once again detailed, this time to Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery when the rest reenlisting members of the Minnesota Battery went home on their veteran's furlough. This detached service put Ingebreth in the hotly contested battles for Atlanta, Georgia. When the Minnesota Battery returned south, Ingebreth went back to finish his term of service with them, serving both as a cannoneer and as a driver. He was discharged on March 28, 1865, at the end of his three term.

Ingebreth returned to Minnesota and Ana. In 1866, reports abounded about the rich land further west in Redwood and Yellow Medicine Counties. Ingebreth and Ana moved, taking a homestead in the southeast quarter of Section 4, Sandness Township, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota. Their first child, Mary, was born that same year. Eventually, they would have five children.

Ingebreth may have been quite a character based on a surviving story about him recorded in a county history book. He was out cutting logs with a neighbor when a stray buffalo came near. The buffalo and Ingebreth got into a tangle and Ingebreth killed the buffalo with his axe. It was said the entire settlement had an unexpected treat of buffalo meat!

Stomach cancer finally overcame Ingebreth and he died at his home on June 15, 1899. He was 64. He was buried at the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery in Hanley Falls, Yellow Medicine County.

Ana applied for a widow's pension and had to provide proof of her need to the Pension Department. She had inherited from Ingebreth some land which was rented out, making her an annual income of \$111. She had some buildings on the property and their insurance value was \$6.00 per year. She paid \$38.40 per year in taxes. Her total worth including land, buildings, and household goods was estimated to be \$2,120.

The Pension Department granted her the pension and she remained in the area until her death in 1932. She was laid to rest beside Ingebreth where she shares his grave marker.



## POTENTIAL Second Minnesota Battery 2026 Calendar

Please note not all of these events are confirmed dates! These are events under DISCUSSION, not necessarily the final calendar. Please look them over and be prepared discuss the Battery's attendance at the February meeting. We will vote on which events to attend at our March meeting.

- May 7            Durand, WI            Pepin County Historical Society    Bob Zika  
315 W Madison St    Durand WI    (DATE IS TENTATIVE)
- May 9            Hastings, MN            Historical Reenactment Sale  
1629 Vermillion Street    Hastings, MN  
Set up at 7:00am    8:00am-4:00pm
- May 16-17    Maplewood, MN    Fields of Valor – Minnesota and the Civil War    T. J. Malaskee  
Bruentrup Heritage Farm    2170 E County Road D    Maplewood MN
- May 25            Red Wing, MN            2026 Memorial Day Observance    John Cain  
Bay Point Park    Red Wing MN
- Jun 6            Alexandria, MN    History 250    Brittany N. Johnson    320-762-0382  
118 City Park Road    Alexandria MN
- Jul 4            Red Wing, MN            Semiquincentennial (to be determined)    John Cain  
Bay Point Park    Red Wing MN
- Jul 25            Battle Lake, MN    Prospect House & Civil War Museum    Melody Nelson  
403 Lake Avenue, Battle Lake MN    (NOT CONFIRMED)
- Aug 1            Elba, MN            Whitewater River Fest    Krystal Marking    507-450-0206  
1200 S Main Street    Elba MN    55910    10:30am
- Aug 15-16    Canton, SD            Canton Civil War Days    Dave Renli    605-351-4452  
North Bridge Street    Canton SD    57013
- Aug 22-23    Morristown, MN    2026 Ahlman's Shooters Roundup    Stacy Chmelik  
9525 230th St W    Morristown MN    55052
- T.B.D.            Alma, WI            Castlerock Museum    James Livingstone  
204 South Second Street    Alma WI    54610    10:00am – 4:00pm
- Sep 26            Little Falls, MN    Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum    John Cain  
15000 Highway 115    Little Falls, MN    56345    10:00am – 4:00pm
- Nov 11            Winona, MN            2026 Veterans Day – Veterans Memorial Park    Brian Tomashek  
Lake Park Drive    Winona MN    55987
- Nov 24            Plymouth, MN            Providence Academy    Kristine McElroy  
15100 Schmidt Lake Road    Plymouth MN 55446



Image from *Harper's Weekly Magazine* from the Civil War years.

## Valentines Day!

The traditions of Valentines Day began many centuries ago with a Saint. It is SAINT Valentines Day, after all! There are at 3 different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, and there are legends about all of them to be the namesake of the day to celebrate love.

Americans began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s, mostly letters and notes rather than cards.

In 1948, Esther Howland, daughter of a book and stationary manufacturer in Massachusetts, was inspired by an English valentine card she had received.

She began designing and selling valentines produced using an all-female assembly line (long before Henry Ford's) in her home. She introduced a number of card ideas that remain popular to this day including pop ups, shadow boxes, and contrasting colors behind cutouts and lace. She became known as the "Mother of the Valentine" for her famous cards.

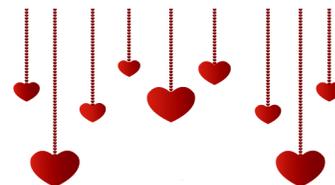
During the Civil War, magazines and newspapers didn't ignore Valentines Day. The above drawing appeared in *Harper's Weekly Magazine* during the Civil War. Millions of men were away from home fighting in the armies of North and South, so companies ran valentine ads that targeted women with loved ones off at war.

"Don't forget your soldier lovers. Keep their courage up with a rousing Valentine. All prices. Six cents to five dollars each," advertised Strong's Valentine Depot in 1862.

It's hard to imagine someone spending \$5 for a valentine when a soldier's pay was \$13 a month!

In 1863, New York City's American Valentine Company promoted "soldiers' valentine packets," and "army valentine packets." That made it easy to buy valentines for the soldiers.

In Washington D.C., where there were many soldiers stationed, a stationary store advertised packets specifically for soldiers to buy. Advertising said the packet "contains two superb sentimental valentines and elegant embossed envelopes; also comic valentines and beautiful valentine cards in fancy envelopes." Everyone a soldier was likely to want to send a valentine to was covered in one easy package.



**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**

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Battery Website:  
<http://www.2mnbattery.org>

**Your Country Needs You!**  
**And so does the Battery!**

**2026 dues are DUE!!** To remain on the active member list, your dues are:

Civilian Member	\$12.00
Military Member	\$12.00
Associate Member	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (14-17)	\$ 6.00
Junior Member (under 14)	Free

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check to:

Daryl Duden  
1210 West 4th Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

PLEASE fill out this form to be sure we have the most accurate contact info for members, especially if you have changed addresses, emails, phones, etc.