



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 337

March 2026

On This Date-165 Years Ago

(Condensed from www.ConstitutionCenter.org website)

On March 11, 1861, delegates from the newly formed Confederate States of America agreed on their own constitution. This is a brief overview.

Much of the Confederate Constitution mirrored the Constitution of the United States as it existed at the time, with differences in the matters of slavery and states' rights.

In 1860, there were more than 9 million people, including 3 million slaves, living in the states and territories that would leave the Union, compared with 22 million people outside those areas.

The document was drawn up and approved just a week after Abraham Lincoln became president of the United States on March 4th. There were seven southern states that had seceded at the time, and a total of 11 would secede and join the Confederacy.

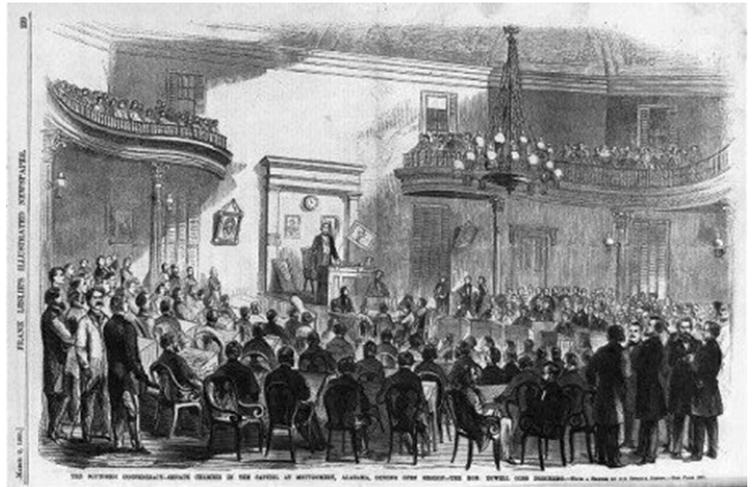
At first glance, much of the Confederate document was taken directly from the U.S. Constitution, but there were several passages related to slavery that were much different. The Confederate version used the word “slaves,” unlike the U.S. Constitution. One article banned any Confederate state from making slavery illegal. Another ensured enslavers could travel between Confederate states with their slaves.

The Confederate constitution also accounted for enslaved people as three-fifths of a state's population (like the U.S. Constitution did at the time), and it required that any new territory acquired by the nation allow slavery.

In other ways, the Confederate constitution was closer to the Articles of Confederation, which preceded the U.S. Constitution—it was focused on states' rights and limited federal power in many respects.

The Confederate preamble begins, “We, the people of the Confederate States, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character.” The U.S. Constitution starts with the more familiar, “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union.” Confederate states had the ability to impeach federal officials, collect more taxes, and make treaties with each other under certain circumstances. The Confederate constitution limited the president to one, six-year term in office in a person's lifetime. The vice president didn't have term limits.

The Confederate Constitution had a Bill of Rights, lumped together with rules about Congress. One additional right stated that the government couldn't impair “the right of property in negro slaves” to owners.



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.

Please fill in the form on the last page to update your email, phone, or anything else that may have changed. We want to have accurate info to find our members if we need to.



Next Meeting

March 21, 11:00, Goodhue County Historical Society 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing



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

Battery Profiles

Carter Fuller

Carter Fuller was born in Athens, Vermont. He moved to New York and from there to Minnesota to become one of the first to settle near the town of St. Charles in Winona County in 1854. He broke ground to farm this land, building a substantial log house which stood until after his death.

Minnesota was not yet a state and many schemes were afoot to gain wealth from this new land. In 1854, Carter was appointed the chairman of a land-claim society. This society was to guarantee each of its members the right to claim and hold possession of 320 acres of land including 40 acres of timber. The secretary, Joseph Wheeland, soon brought trouble to the society. He sold a portion of his land for a profit, then decided he would "float" onto another piece of land to fill his complement of 320 acres. This land was already claimed by another member and trouble followed. Some members thought that Wheeland should have been above such tricks as he was the secretary and since he was the first to break the by-laws of the society, he should "suffer for it".

While Wheeland was away in Winona on business, the party went to his house, took his wife and children to Carter Fuller's home, removed everything of value and burned down Wheeland's house. They cut down all the timber they could and hauled it away for themselves. They were then discovered and drove off the "spies", but feared Wheeland would set the law on them. They went to Carter's house where they had taken Wheeland's family, and demanded admittance. By this time, Carter was expecting trouble. He "prepared a vigorous defense. He had at hand one double-barreled rifle, one single-barreled rifle, one shotgun and a brace of pistols, all well loaded. He refused them admittance. He stood in his door with the rifle in hand and threatened to "shoot the first man who would dare to mount the fence to come" into his enclosure. Talk between the group and Carter continued and finally, a select few men were allowed to come in to talk to Mrs. Wheeland. The gang realized what they had done was wrong and feared the repercussions that might come to them. They wanted to know what it would cost them to make it up to Mrs. Wheeland. When she replied she wanted all the law would give her, they scattered. The law did become involved and Carter was called as a witness in the proceedings. The strong case notwithstanding, most of the men were cleared of the charges against them.

Carter himself was probably involved in the land holdings and probably overextended himself. The County of Winona foreclosed on a piece of property Carter had a mortgage on in 1863. Carter's wife, Catherine, was the one who had to deal with this as Carter was away at war.

When the war broke out, Carter volunteered and joined the Second Battery, even though he was already 43 years old. He was mustered in on "Leap Day", February 29, 1862, and his term of service was to be three years. He was 5' 4-1/4" tall, had gray eyes, brown hair and a light complexion.

Carter was active with the Battery as a farrier in the early months of the war, it being noted on his muster sheet that he had pay due for his extra services. The Army would reclaim that pay in January and February of 1865 in the form of stoppages on his pay for transportation on duty at Hospital #19 at Nashville. It reported that he had been at the hospital since April 27, 1864. Carter's obituary stated he worked in the hospitals tending to sick and wounded soldiers. His final muster sheet at the end of March 1865 showed that he owed the Army \$12.90 for clothing drawn, an additional \$24.09 for transportation, and \$3.27 for camp and garrison equipage. Carter still came out ahead as the muster sheet also showed the Army owed him \$100 in bounty money.

After the war, Carter returned to Catherine in Winona and it would appear he was still investing in land, though not successfully. Another mortgage foreclosure was served on him in March of 1870. He and Catherine owed \$589 on the property when it was sold at a sheriff's auction. The same thing happened to a third piece of property in January of 1871 when they owed \$1,360 that they could not pay. The mortgage had an interest rate of 12% when they took out the loan.

It is not known why, but Carter and Catherine moved the city of Fairmont in Martin County where they lived until Carter's death in June of 1884. He was buried in the Lakeside Cemetery in Fairmont with a military marker.



FROM THE ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lydia Hancock would have been classed by many as a “camp follower” when she went off to war at the heels of the company in which her husband was serving, but her actions defied that slanderous name and all it implied.

Lydia worked as a nurse for the men of Company A, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry from the time it was organized in the summer of 1862 until she was “honorably released” from her service in February of 1864. It was said, “She found it was not necessary to be either in hospitals or upon the battlefields to be of service to her country’s defenders.”

She was born in New Limerick, Maine, on April Fool’s Day of 1839. Her maiden name was Philpot and she moved to Minnesota with her family in 1854, where in 1857, she married Charles H. Hancock. Charles and Lydia began farming just outside of Elk River, Minnesota.

News of events in the South reached Minnesota and men were needed for the Union Army. Minnesota offered the first troops to Lincoln and continued to meet the President’s calls for more soldiers to put down the rebellion. Also watching the war were the Dakota Indians then living on a reservation along the Minnesota River. Angry braves rebelled at the lack of payment for their lands given up in treaties, the crop failures, and near starvation some of their people were facing. Their council of war suggested if ever there was a time to take back their lands, it was while so many of the white men were off fighting among themselves in the South. A disagreement between Dakota hunters and some white settlers near Acton, Minnesota, drew the first blood on August 17, 1862. That night, the Dakota’s council of war decided to attack settlements in an effort to drive the whites out. The Dakota Conflict began.

The day after that first confrontation at Acton, Charles enlisted in Company A of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, then forming up at Anoka. The captain of the company was John S. Cady, a local surveyor who was gathering recruits to form Company A from the men of Anoka County and the surrounding areas. The regiment was assigned immediately, in fact, even before many of the men were formally mustered into the service, to defend the settlers of Minnesota against the Dakota Indians.

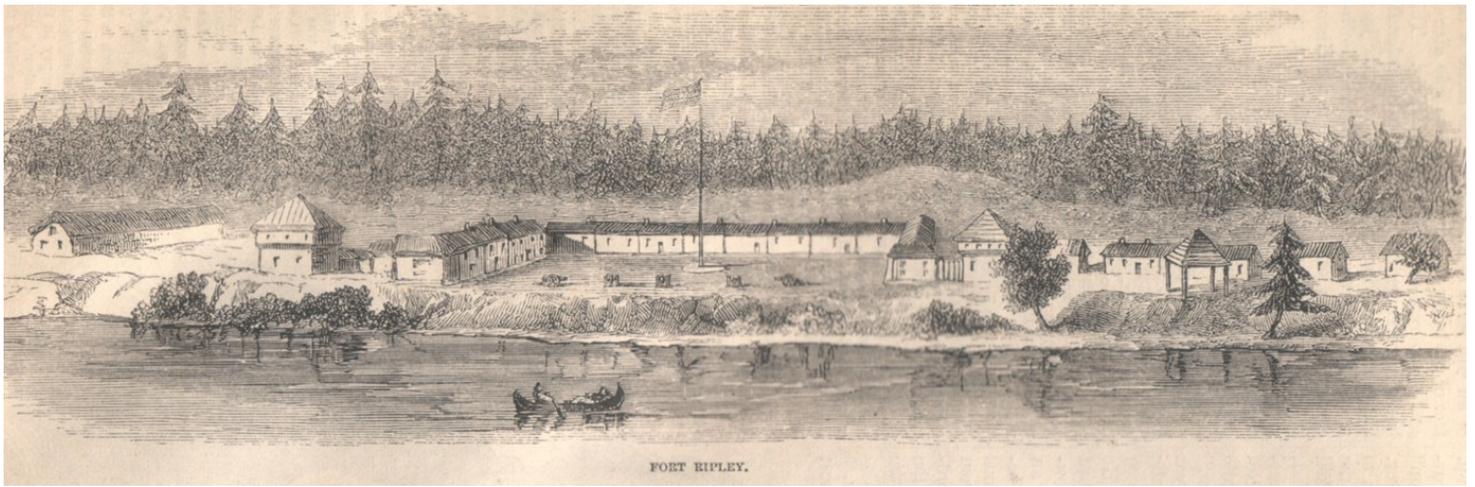
A tantalizing note appears in Lydia’s records--“By request of Captain John S. Cady.” Cady was probably very well known in the small community, one reason why he was so successful in raising the company. Did he ask Lydia to be the Company’s nurse because she had some special skills or because he knew her and or Charles? Lydia didn’t tell us that.



Applying to become a nurse was not as easy as it may seem, even if the captain requested her. Lydia had to make a petition to General John Pope, then at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, for permission to follow the company. Whether Pope was aware of the women’s movement or cared that his action might invite other women is not known, but he is noted as only giving Lydia *verbal* permission to accompany the regiment. No paper trail of his permission would haunt General Pope should his actions be questioned.

All this this took several months and it was December before Lydia set out across the frozen expanse of western Minnesota to join her company. She arrived at what was

called the Chippewa Agency along the Crow Wing River and was immediately sent to the post hospital. It was filled with 13 men suffering with the measles and more men were coming down with them every day. Lydia nursed them all and when the outbreak was over, she sent a message to Captain Cady, “All is well, not



Harpers New Monthly Magazine, April 1859.

a man lost.” Lydia’s care was credited for cheating death out of its harvest from the outbreak.

Beyond nursing, Lydia participated in the “mental and moral improvement” of the men of Company A as set out by Captain Cady. He sent for books and established classes in several branches of learning in addition to Bible studies and prayer meetings. Lydia was a constant participant.

When the Company was ordered to move to Fort Ripley near Little Falls in April of 1863, Lydia followed. From her position at the rear of the company, she gathered all of the “footsore and sick soldiers who had dropped out of the ranks” and continued her work in the post hospital at Fort Ripley.

Captain Cady was killed in a confrontation with the Dakota Indians in the summer of 1863 and the leadership of Company A went to another Anokan, Marcus Butterfield. Lydia continued to serve as nurse when the company was ordered to Fort Abercrombie in the Dakota Territory that next winter. By spring, her health was nearly broken and she needed a rest. Lydia returned to Anoka and remained there as the company continued their patrol of the frontier and struggles with the Dakota Indians. In the fall, the regiment went South, but Lydia did not accompany them. She waited in Anoka for Charles to return.

When the war was over and Charles came back to her, Lydia had to draw on every nursing skill she had as Charles was very ill. Many believed he would not survive, but Lydia’s care kept Charles alive until 1886, though he was declared an invalid and was not able to work for years before his death.

Even before Charles passed away, Lydia joined the local chapter of the Woman’s Relief Corps. This organization was involved with seeking care for veterans, their widows and orphans. It was to be an organization to which Lydia would give many years of her life and substantial amounts of her own money.

She remarried in 1887 to another veteran, Captain James George, and since he was very involved with the veterans organizations, Lydia continued her deep involvement with the WRC. She was elected president of the Minneapolis Chapter, then she was elected as the Department Head for Minnesota where she traveled through the state visiting chapters and checking on their progress. It was while involved with the WRC that Lydia took up the cause of pensions for Army nurses. Throughout the 1880s, this issue was debated at local, state and national levels, but by 1892, Lydia—and all former Army nurses--were able to apply for their own pensions as army nurses.

Lydia’s second husband died in 1891 and several years later, she married again, another veteran by the name of Rufus Whitmore. Their marriage only lasted a few years before Rufus, too, passed away.

When Lydia died in 1914, the Minneapolis newspaper carried a lengthy obituary for her, noting many of her accomplishments. It concluded with a bit of prose that read:

“Not dead, but only promoted. She has entered the Order above and there,



POTENTIAL Second Minnesota Battery 2026 Calendar

Please note there have been some changes since the last newsletter! These are events under DISCUSSION, not necessarily the final calendar. Please look them over and be prepared discuss the Battery's attendance at the March meeting. Voting on events will be at our March meeting.

- May 7 Durand, WI Pepin County Historical Society Bob Zika
315 W Madison St Durand WI (Confirmed)
- May 9 Hastings, MN Historical Reenactment Sale
1629 Vermillion Street Hastings, MN
Set up at 7:00am 8:00am-4:00pm
- 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
- 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

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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E-mail: 2mnbattery@gmail.com

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

- 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

If you know of other events to consider, it's not too late to bring FULL info to the March meeting for discussion and possible attendance.

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.