



2nd MINNESOTA BATTERY

“ACTION FRONT”

Circular No. 343

September 2026

On This Date-165 Years Ago

From the Smithsonian Magazine, September 2011

Five months into the Civil War—on September 9—Richmond, Virginia’s Daily Dispatch editorialized that the time for debate had passed. “Words are now of no avail: blood is more potent than rhetoric, more profound than logic.” Six days earlier, Confederate forces had invaded Kentucky, drawing that state into the war on the Union side and firming up the border between North and South.

But who to trust in the border states? “We have had no success lately, and never can have success, while the enemy know all our plans and dispositions,” wrote Confederate war clerk John Beauchamp Jones from Richmond. “Their spies and emissaries here are so many torch-bearers for them.” In Washington, President Lincoln confronted disloyalty even to his north; between the 12th and 17th, he ordered troops in Maryland to arrest 30 secessionists, including members of the state legislature.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee was waging and losing his first campaign, at Cheat Mountain in Western Virginia. Even soldiers spared direct battle had no easy time. “I must again march without one bite of anything to eat,” the Confederate soldier Cyrus F. Jenkins wrote in his diary from a spot some 80 miles away. “The clouds are flying over us and the rain is falling thick and fast.” Union generals lost a weeklong siege of Lexington, Missouri, but took control of Ship Island, off the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. The island would later serve as a staging ground for the campaign against New Orleans.

Although Lincoln had upheld the Fugitive Slave Act in his inaugural address, the runaway slave question remained fraught. How would Union soldiers treat fugitives they encountered? In a letter to a friend, author and abolitionist Lydia Maria Child quoted a Union soldier commanded to return fleeing slaves: “That is an order I will not obey.”

Lincoln doubted that he had the power to obliterate slavery by decree. In any case, such an act would alienate the crucial border states whose favor he struggled to retain. In late August, Union major general John C. Frémont had issued a sweeping proclamation declaring free the slaves of Confederate sympathizers in Missouri. On September 11, Lincoln ordered Frémont to rescind the order, citing legal questions. (Lincoln’s own more carefully considered proclamation would ripen over the course of the coming year.)

Ulysses S. Grant, then a brigadier general in the Union Army, had just confided to his sister Mary: “This war...is formidable and I regret to say cannot end so soon as I anticipated at first.”

Upcoming Events

September 12 Castle Rock Museum

10:00-4:00 402 South Second Street, Alma, WI

Plan to **arrive** on site between 9:00. We will be setting up stations at this armament museum and sharing with the public in “sessions” in addition to walk-by visitors. There will be gun drills on the street in front of the museum and a quilt display in the courtyard.

This is a unique museum and has drawn visitors from around the world! **BRING A BAG LUNCH!** Arrive by 9:00 am to be set up by 10:00!

More info at their website: [Castlerock Museum](#)

September 26—Minnesota Military Museum, Camp Ripley

There will be a full six gun battery at this special event, all Minnesota units. The Second Battery ladies will setup the SAS display, quilt display, apothecary, and children’s toys, so lots of opportunities to be included in this special event. Their website has more info:

[MN Military & Vet Museum | Discover Veterans Stories Today](#)

Plan to arrive on site between 8:30 and 9:00 to be set to be ready at 10:00. All soldiers are expected to be in shell jackets, be sure you bring yours! There are rumors of food for those in period clothing at lunchtime, but that is uncertain. You might want to bring a bag lunch.

SOLDIERS: Check your email. You should have received from John Cain a detailed schedule of events for the day. If you did not, contact John or Daryl. Gun crews will be assigned upon arrival and set up is complete.

Next Meeting

**October 3, 11:00, Goodhue County
Historical Society 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing**

Contact Neil Bruce with questions or agenda items.
Phone: (651) 301-9232 Email: nfbrkb@gmail.com



Battery Profile

George Favor

This certifies that I am the mother and lawful guardian of George Favor a minor and at his request I hereby give my consent to his enlistment as a volunteer for three years or during the war to be mustered into the United States service in witness whereof I have subscribed my name this twenty seventh day of January A D 1862.

The note was signed Marilla Goray and it allowed 18 year old George Edwin Favor to join the Second Battery as it was forming up at Fort Snelling. Marilla was George's mother. His father had died when he was a small boy, so his mother left George and his sister with an aunt in New York while she came to Minnesota. After remarrying, she sent for George and he came to Minnesota to live. His sister remained in New York and only once came to Minnesota to visit. George was already an adult when he next saw his sister and it was then that he changed the spelling of his name. Though it was always pronounced "faver", George spelled it several ways during his life. As a child and through the army, it was spelled Favor. When George's sister visited Minnesota, she explained to him that the family name should be spelled "Favre", so George and his family began spelling the name as his sister directed. Occasionally, the name took the French spelling of Faivre. George himself signed his name in different ways throughout his life.

The descriptive role shows George to be 5' 7-1/4" tall, with dark eyes, light hair and light complexion. He was a farmer. His birth was in Shortsville, Ontario County, New York, on December 5, 1844.

George served as a private in the Second Battery until he was discharged at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for "general disability" on February 14, 1863. The examining surgeon noted that George was "always ready and willing", he "will not again be of any Service to the Army."

Though George left the army, he did not stay out of government service for very long. In June of 1863, he joined Captain James Fisk as an artillery man and scout to escort emigrants to settle in Montana. While on this journey, George said he drew government rations, clothing and pay, but he did not consider himself a soldier sworn to service. The expedition disbanded in Idaho by October and George went back to Minnesota.

On November 25, 1869, George married Martha J. Paul. It was not to be a long marriage as Martha died the day before their first anniversary. George married a second time on February 23, 1871, while living in Todd County, Minnesota. She was Harriett Adelaide Perry and together she and George had nine children.

George was farming in Todd County, but decided to move the family to California for a while. Their fourth child was born in near Sacramento, California, in 1877. The next three children were all born in Todd County, Minnesota, in 1877, 1882, and 1887. Child number eight was born in Santa Clara, California, in 1889. The last baby, Ruby, was born in 1895 and in Minnesota. Why the family went back and forth between California and Minnesota is unknown.

In 1898, George applied for a pension. His letter in February of that year was terse and questioned why, even after Senator Knute Nelson brought George's claim to the attention of the Pension Department, no action had been taken. He wanted an answer, ending the letter with the statement, "I would like you to write me about it."

The Pension Department did answer George and asked him to send in various forms. George did, but evidently, the Pension Department repeated their requests from George as he added a note to the bottom of one form. "This is the third blank of this kind sent to the department. Hope you will get enough of them."

George did eventually get his pension. He and Harriett were living in Tacoma, Washington, when George suffered a "hemorrhage of the brain, 2nd attack" and died on August 20, 1910. The occupation Harriett wrote on George's death certificate was carpenter and she had him buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Tacoma. Harriett buried one of their son's next to George in 1914 and she joined them in 1920. Of note is the spelling of their names. George's stone has the surname spelled "Favor". Harriet and Frank have it spelled "Favre".



Filming A Promotional Video – Aug 12, 2026.

Battery members who attended this Triglass Productions event to shoot a promo video for the Columbus Blue Jackets NHL team for their in-stadium productions all learned, with any movie production, the normal situation is “HURRY UP – AND WAIT”. We arrived at the site in Lakeville at 12:15 pm. Soon we were joined by a few soldiers from the 1st Minnesota Infantry and our friends in Battery I 1st US and the New Ulm Battery.



We had our M1861 10 Pdr. Parrott Rifle with limber and the other two artillery units brought M1841 Bronze 6 Pounders with limbers. At 1:00pm, we met the film producer and the four unit representatives who negotiated our honorarium, were taken to the actual site of the filming and given a brief overview of the scenes they wanted to shoot. When they returned, we moved our guns into place. Our gun was placed on the right and the two 6 Pounders were in line on our left. We were excited to learn that the director chose “Babs” to be the featured piece in

the video. While we parked our gun trailers, they built a “railroad” track around our gun and mounted a camera on a four-wheel cart to circle the track.



At 4:00pm everyone on site joined the film crew for a meal of build your own burger (beef or veggie) with all the fixings (tomato, onion, lettuce, cheese, pickles, mustard, catsup, mayo), a variety of bagged chips and Cheetos, cookies, pastries, bottled water, Gatorade, and soft drinks.

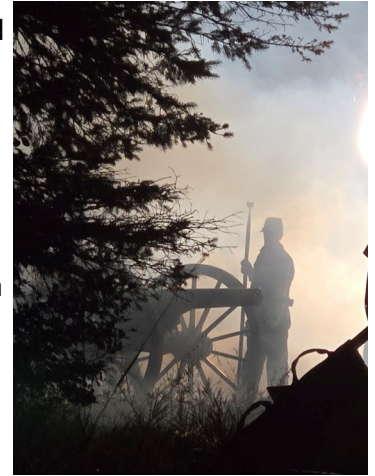
Although the first cannon firing was scheduled for 5:00pm, that firing did not occur until 7:10pm. There were numerous close-ups as the camera circled our gun crew as they loaded and fired the cannon without cartridge. To add to the



realism, they fogged the area and shrouded us in smoke. Although we only fired 10 – 12 ounce rounds, we popped an additional 23 friction primers to get the images the director wanted to get on film. Other than three rounds “By the piece, from the right with no delay”, the bronze guns were mostly silent. At 10:00pm we put on our

greatcoats and scarves and they made it snow as we fired our cannon in a snowstorm. Then they asked us to change from greatcoats to ponchos and they made it rain. Finally at 11:00pm, they lit a bonfire in the valley behind us and filmed us firing one last shot with a huge blaze burning behind us. It was almost midnight when we began loading Babs for the trip home.

A big THANK YOU to Neil Bruce for representing us in the negotiations, and all of our movie stars: #1 Sam Garms, #2 Ben Garms, #3 John Crozier and Daryl Duden, #4 Caleb Garms, #5 Thomas Schmit, #6 John Cain, G Neil Bruce and our ladies who kept us well hydrated all day: Leesha Garms, Jayme Garms and Linnea Schmit.



Recap

Aug 1 Elba, MN, Whitewater River Fest

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery rolled into Elba, MN at 9:45am to set up for their Veterans Salute. We honored veterans with a three-round artillery salute with our M1861 10-Pounder Parrott Rifle during the 10:30am program. It was a brief program this year and by 11:15am they were already passing an ice cream bucket for our honorarium. Members who participated were Bruce Arnoldy, Bracy Baum, Neil Bruce, John Cain, Daryl Duden, James Livingstone, Mikaela Livingstone, Thomas Schmit and Linnea Schmit. It was also nice to have both Shianne Baum and Libby Schmit in attendance.

Aug 15-16 Canton Civil War Days



This battle reenactment featured Shiloh, so the Union guns had a big role. The weather was great for set up, gloomy and drizzling rain at times on Saturday and perfect on Sunday. The organizers had water, mountains of ice and wood for the camps as well as Gatorade

donated by the local grocer. The battles were shorter, only about 20 minutes, but the crowd was big and they enjoyed every minute. We had a lot more visitors through the camp than the last time at this event and they were quite engaged with questions.

Five members of our unit attended the dignified cemetery ceremony honoring 87 Civil War veterans buried in the Canton Cemetery. 15 Battery members were present and we all ate well from supper cooked over the fire. Private Tristan Overby "saw the elephant" at this event, running powder for both battles and completely enjoyed the week. Huzzah to the organizers for a great event!



Aug 23-24 Ahlman's Annual Shooters Roundup.

Members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery traveled to Morristown, MN to participate in an annual event for the Battery. This was our 21st appearance inside Fort Ahlman during Ahlman's Shooters Roundup. We set up our tents and flies inside the fort and our firing demonstrations are conducted in front of the bleachers just outside the fort. We fire two rounds during each demonstration, one with detail and one without. Our demonstrations were conducted at 9:30am, 11:30am and 2:30pm on both days. The temperature was in the 70's, so Battery members wore their wool vests during most firing demonstrations. Unfortunately, this year there was no shaved ice vendor on-site. We were all disappointed to learn the Waseca Sno-Biz trailer had a scheduling conflict and was at the Steele County Fair.

It was wonderful to continue to see all three bleachers full at almost every demonstration. During our final firing on Sunday, describing their equipment and responsibilities, every member of the gun crew smiled as they indicated that their position on the gun crew was the most important. When Harley



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

Neil Bruce
859 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066 Phone: (651) 301-9232

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>

indicated his #3 position was not only the most important, but it was far more important than that of our Sergeant, Sgt. Duden responded that Harley had indeed expatiated commensurably; his verbosity was unequivocally resplendent. Battery members who attended this event were Bruce Arnoldy, Mardelle Arnoldy, Carmen Arnoldy, Steve Savre, Teresa "Patience" Bergdale, Vince "Harley" Bergdale, Neil Bruce, Michael Ritchie, John Cain, Daryl Duden, Linnea Schmit and Thomas Schmit. Respectfully submitted, Sgt. Duden



Miss Linnea did laundry demos at their city celebration for the 4th of July and for National Night Out!! Nice job bringing history to a new audience!

