



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### 2nd Minnesota Batt, Class Book

Camp,  
Near Rossville 5 miles from Chattanooga

On the evening of March the 18th(?), 1864, Eleven members of the 2nd Minnesota Battery, including four detailed men, of Davis Division organized a class on christian education, under the proper intentions of the Rev. Mr. Morres, Chaplain of the 113th Ohio Vols.

#### Members

Frederick Kohlstadt	
John Craven	
W. S. Hale	
George Garver	
W. A. Spaulding	
J. A. Hovey	
J. F. Peak	Detail
J. B. Talcott	
J. H. Baker	Detail
W. W. Wiles	Detail
John Gibson	
Wm. Stanley	Detail

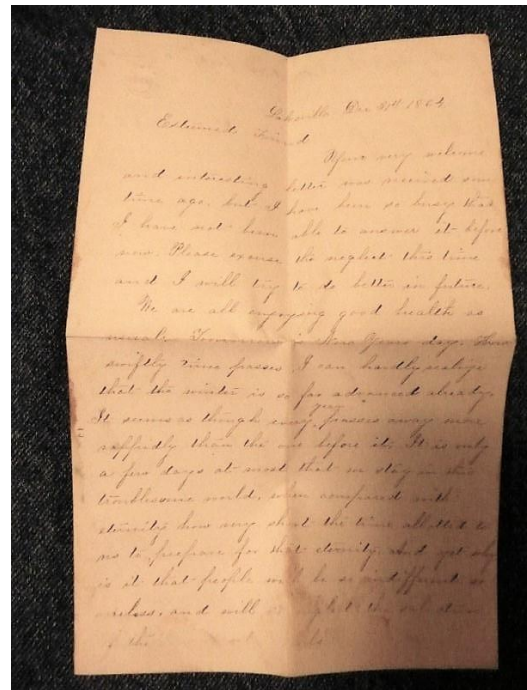
Afterwards, died from a gunshot wound, in Shermans campaign, from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Chaplain Morres "said that He died right" "to give evidence of a christian on his deathbed".

Of the above number, John Craven was elected, Classleader. On the 11th of April the veterans of the Battery, Started for the State, & left by four of the original members. They, with the non-veterans was detailed into the Battery I 2nd Ills Arty, & continued with them through Sherman's Summer campaign, till the 14th of Oct When they was returned to the original Batt, 2nd Minn.

During the campaign, four of Batt I joined our Class & continued till seperated, Namely James A. Weatherly, Corp James Austin, W. Wildman, ? H. Nobel, Thomas Peniwell, of blessed memory Who had his right arm shattered by the premature discharge of the piece, in front of Kennesaw Mt.

During the summer The class continued to hold meetings, When practical. Sometimes only two could meet, & God met with & blessed us. The woods or solitary field aforded us a temple to worship in.

The origin of the class was like this About the 20th June 1863 two of the number John Craven and Kohlstadt was returning from the meeting in the 21st Ills. in the vicinity of Murfreesboro. Their minds being impressed they agreed to go to the woods to pray. After reading in the New testament &



Dist.	16	862	21	350	1.25
10	10		1	645	1.75
1.05	10		1	7.00	2.75
7.80	10	344	3	13.00	4.00
2.30	10		4	15.25	4.75
2.75	10		5	15.75	6.00
3.82	10	1.24	6	2.100	1.75
1.25	10		7	23.25	3.00
3.28	10	1.24	11	27.00	11.00
5.74	10		12	32.70	13.00
6.74	10	2	15	33.20	15.50
7.10	10	2.24	20	5.00	16.50
11.00	10	3	25	5.00	23.50
17.9	10	3.24	30	5.70	27.50
12.7	10	3.24	35	6.20	34.50
Total				307.7	167.50

singing a hymn, they knelt & prayed to express their feelings to each other, & their experience & God blest them there. They then covanted to labour for the salvation of their comrades. This was the first & last meeting together till the following February, as they started on the campaign for Chattanooga, on the 24th & Craven was disabled & sent back from a caisson running over his ankles. But on coming up again their meeting & covenant was renewed again. We was now four in number. They at first held their meetings in the woods. But God drove them into camp with a storm. Their singing

attracted the attention of others Whose heart God had been opening, & led them to gain in the service & cast their lots with the Children of God. Then God blessed them & gathered a goodly number together.

After the return of the non veterans to the Battery, they held one or two meetings, But as everything seemed inconvenient & there was meetings held every night at the Post Chapel about 700 rods distant it appeared as if this aforded a better privelage. But our experience proved to us that we wanted more of a family connection at home. And again was renewed our former practice of meeting together & it seems to be the best rule to hold class & prayer meeting together & then go to hear preaching as often as practical. And if possible to establish

a place to meet in for worship. (?) we did at first, We erected a tent to hold devine service in that would conveniently acomodate 25 persons.

John Craven  
Frederick Kohlstadt

December the 11th 1864  
2nd Minnesota Battery  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Volunteers for Jesus

Names

Frederick Kohlstadt	removed by letter
William E. Pulk	
John Craven (name crossed out)	removed by letter droped
A. F. Bates (name crossed out)	droped
J. A. Hovey	
John H. Savage	
Wm. S. Hale (name not legible)	removed by letter removed by letter
Benjamin Joy (name crossed out)	
John B. Talcott	
Joseph Varney	
F. D. James	
John M. Sisler	
Wm. F. Silsbee	
Charles Lane	
Samuel F. Woods	
John Gutteridge	
Charles L. Mason	
Hara(?) Boriel(?)	

### Philadelphia East Ten

For the benefit of information of those interested -- The four persons(?) first holding meetings at Rossville, Was W. A. Spaulding, Frederick Kohlstadt, A. T. Peck & Craven. Previous to this Spaulding & Kohlstadt had assembled together for religious promotion.

In December 1864 the Spirit began again to move on the hearts of the members of the Battery so that a number joined the class; Some of them however were recruits just from the

State Who was members of christian societies when at home & naturally fell in with the worshipers.

One instance alone of withdrawal or excommunication has ocured with us Who fell into sin & desired to with draw, namely Richard M. Johnson

On the evening of the first of March 1865 a meeting of the class was called to elect a new leader to fill the vacancy made by the discharge of the former from the U.S. service [In prospect]

Benjamin Joy, was nominated & unanimously chosen by all present as Leader & J. A. Hovey Treasurer,

I will notice here that W. S. Hale was the first treasurer at Rossville, & Benjamin Joy, was filling that office when elected classleader

A resolution was also passed on the first of March 1865 That All except able members on leaving should have 2 certificates of membership from the class or in case of the death of any of the members, It shall be the duty of the class to forward to his friends, a notice certifying to his life as a christian member & membership. --

John Craven

*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. Visit our website at <http://www.2mnbattery.org> for more information about our soldiers and our organization.*

Updated: 28 April 2019