



P.O. Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire,

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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

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150th Anniversary Gettysburg, 2013

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A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Projects



Miss Claire Morris, Membership



Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety



Mrs Val Holt, Communications



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander



Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Rep



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Projects Assistant



Mr Bill Brown, Confederate Commander

Summary of ACWS Board Meeting Saturday 6th April 2013

10 members of the Board could be present on this occasion. Regarding matters arising and action points, the Chairman noted that we still do not have a volunteer to lead the proposed Cadet Corps. The Chairman commented that the Cavalry are looking to take some horses to Hull at their own expense, if funding to support the Cavalry does not come through. A new event at Cheadle, Nr Stoke-on-Trent for Sunday the 4th August was put forward by Projects, and Mr Holt would have further discussions with the organisers to make the necessary arrangements. There was also discussion regarding a possible Cavalry regimental in September at Stonham Aspell in Suffolk – the Stamping Ground Festival of Americana – but this has now been re-scheduled for the second May Bank Holiday 2014.

Mrs Corbishley reminded the meeting that events coming onto the programme late would create shortages of gunpowder because the bulk order had already been placed with Orica. Mike Corbishley MUST be advised of new events as soon as they emerge, so we can order enough gunpowder. He is not a psychic! Peter Holt reported another enquiry for an event in June at Biddulph in Staffordshire, but this was only a preliminary enquiry. This led to a general discussion regarding the provision and distribution of gunpowder for ACWS.

Regarding finding events, Chairman hopes to talk to Newstead Abbey about a possible event there in 2014. Peter Holt is setting up his database in two groups – those events suitable for the whole of ACWS and those for either Cavalry, artillery or infantry regimentals. He reported he had a system for contacting potential sponsors, by letter first and then a chase-up e.mail. This approach had elicited some replies e.g. Driffield Showground in the summer of 2014 for a full Society event.

The Treasurer reported with revised figures for the years projections and explained how the cost of the new van goes into the figures as a capital item. Because the old van had been 100% written off, the cash we got on its disposal has to be shown as 'profit'. Our Public Liability Insurances have now been renewed to March 2014 and the Treasurer awaited further advices from Roger Willison-Gray regarding further tent sales.

The Secretary's report was next to be considered. He was able to confirm, in reply to a query, that the Company's memorandum and articles of association were flexible regarding fund-raising powers but having powers to do things does not mean we can engage in any risky business, and the Board have to agree that whatever is to be done is commercially prudent.

Regarding his work of re-drafting the Code of Conduct, he reported his 'work in progress' and submitted a Disciplinary Code to be added to the bye laws and rules at the next AGM and Safety Notes for Firing Percussion Muskets to go in the C of C. After some discussion, these were accepted in principle.

There then followed a discussion on the composition of the Board. Is there any need to have this many Directors? The Chairman's Forward Plan looked at the organisation and management of the Society. The subject was discussed generally. The Secretary observed that the Company needs a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, and, constitutionally, we have one decision making body only namely the Board of Directors and each Army Commander, or his representative, must be on the Board and voted for by that Army only. Likewise Projects and H&S must be voting Directors because of the seniority and seriousness of their work. Thus the Board must always be not less than seven members. The Board were asked if any wanted to volunteer to cease to be voting Directors, whilst continuing to carry out their current workload i.e. create a Director with perhaps two assistants, covering a larger portfolio? It was observed that the Directors work together to solve problems, sometimes in working groups. The example of the production of the Newsletter was given i.e. Val Holt produces it, Ian Morris sorts it out electronically, Mike Bussey distributes the electronic copies and Philip Clark gets the paper copies printed and posted. The Board does lots of things like this by such team work efforts. Claire Morris commented that workloads need to be spread and there was a need for all opinions to be fully represented around the table by voting Directors. In the 21st Century, with the rapid expansion of electronic media services, we need more help to use these things for communications and marketing. After some further discussion the Chairman asked whether the Board was content with its current composition. It was proposed and seconded that the Board be left as it is currently. This proposition was carried by nine votes with one abstention.

The way the Society was managed was then discussed. Roger Willison-Gray (not present) had emailed to say that he thought the Society had

excellent administration, but big efforts were needed to reverse the membership decline. He thought that the Chairman's 'grand vision' may or may not work, but doing nothing was not an option. After some further discussion the Chairman asked the Board did they feel they needed to review procedures or continue as present? Claire Morris asked him what it was he thought we ought to do differently or in addition. The Chairman commented that we are open to bright ideas. It was agreed that the 'foot soldiers' on the ground are important and you best recruit via them. It was agreed that we will keep the structure/system of operation under consideration, and in the Master Plan the reference to 'working party' would be removed, as it was agreed that the whole Board would do this.

The next item to be discussed was the Secretary's report regarding why we have an AGM the way we do and when it needs to be held. Glenn Gibson reported that there was no consensus in the Confederate Army about when to have the AGM or where, and whether to have a party/social in a pub on the evening of the AGM. In response to the question "could we have the AGM earlier in the year", Tim Davies said we need to have the AGM once the season has closed, and the financial figures can be reported, membership fees for the next year agreed and the next seasons events revealed to the Membership. Ian Morris explained how it was not possible to get the accountants to approve the figures for a meeting any faster than on the last Saturday of November, although the first Saturday in December – as it is now – would be more convenient. He was particularly keen to present audited figures to the AGM to give him as Treasurer both protection and the membership confidence in the accounts.

The Secretary reported that Company's law, and what was possible with small companies these days, was not really relevant to ACWS, because the Society works as a democracy, and re-electing the Board every year means we have to have an AGM every Autumn. Having an AGM mid season would be totally impractical.

Claire Morris reported that we only have 133 members re-joined as at the day of the Board, including 12 brand new members. Getting members to re-join was becoming a struggle this year – would regimental commanders please chase up their membership. Claire Morris was praised for her initiative in getting some marketing material prepared including a recruiting banner. Certain legalities as to copying the artwork/trademarks of others was discussed, and a revised format was settled.

Glenn Gibson advised that ladies in the Confederate Army intended to start a period children's school, which would need to be linked to the Cadet Corps proposal, if this happens. Mr Gibson also reported on re-grouping of Confederate regiments and various other practical arrangements.

Martin Cross was in discussions regarding how best to manage our artillery and powder arrangements for them in the future, and practical transport operations. Mr Cross was actively seeking H&S assistance to cover both armies and the family camp and stressed the importance of ensuring all members carried out their FSPC this year. The transport discussions also involved talking about the gunpowder trailer that needs to be produced at events for Police and safety requirements, and that even yet no volunteer had come forward to bring this trailer to events. It was essential to the successful operation of ACWS. Various other practicalities regarding site licensing for explosives were sorted out.

The Chairman's report was next discussed. He advised he would go to both training weekends. He reported that in discussions with some of the membership his Forward Plan had been warmly welcomed. He stressed that if it is possible to get events with budgets of about £4,000, for five times a season, we would not have financial problems, and the membership would be attracted to good, fun events at new locations. He praised Peter Holt's efforts to get events, and that they were showing signs of success. The lack of events for the Cavalry had been a considerable blow. He observed that in his experience the best recruiting method is word of mouth approaches by a member who is happy and excited by the event he has just attended. However, if we could not get big, well paid events at new locations, we would still have to soldier on, and Regimentals were to be encouraged.

Various other matters were discussed such as the value, or otherwise, in attending Game Fairs, and a request that guest fee pricing and arrangements be reconsidered.

Also discussed was diversification. Martin Cross noted that English Heritage always wanted something 'British' and he had the idea of using the guns for 'Victoria's Artillery' at separate, fund raising 'Regimentals' e.g. firing a salute at the Gainsborough River Festival. Monies raised by the artillery at Tamworth could be used this year to get the guns to Spetchley. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the whole key to our success and turn-round is the quality of our events and sites. There

was some discussion about attending Country and Western Fairs, which were thought to be good recruiting grounds. The meeting having started at 11.55, all topics being exhausted, the meeting finished at 15.30 hrs.

Resignation of Director.

It is with regret that I write to inform you of the resignation of Roger Willison-Gray as Marketing Director for ACWS. Recent changes in Roger's work, spending most of his time in Scotland, have led him to conclude that he can no longer give to the post and to the work of the Board the time that it requires. I am sure that all of his fellow Directors and the whole membership of the society will join me in thanking Roger wholeheartedly for his hard work on behalf of ACWS over many years.

I am pleased to say that Roger will not be disappearing into the Highland mist, or Glasgow fog, but will be continuing to attend events as he can, riding with the cavalry and supporting ACWS as he can.

For the moment any correspondence concerning marketing matters should continue to be addressed to marketing@acws.co.uk or to myself, chairman@acws.co.uk.

David Blackmore
Chairman

Statement re resignation of David Blackmore as Chairman

Well, as you all know, David Blackmore is no longer Chairman, having resigned. Your faithful Secretary is again Acting Chairman, until a volunteer comes forward to be Chairman. He or She could be co-opted in at the next Board Meeting (10th August) or, as happened last time, the candidate(s) chose to wait until the AGM so as to be elected by the Membership.

Firstly, may I thank David Blackmore for what he has done for ACWS. He has certainly given the Society something to think about! We now have some better Board procedures and he certainly ran things like a Chief Executive. I am very glad he remains as the Cavalry Commander : he likes horses and doing cavalry things, so it is always good to do something you like doing.

However, I would like to stress to the Membership that the reasons for Denis Jarwick resigning last year were entirely different from those that led to David leaving the Chairmanship.

We all have a lot of challenges to tackle now. I shall do my very best to lead the Team again, albeit temporarily, and take ACWS forward. All of you must NOT think of your Board as a group of obstructive fuddy-duddies: this is very far from the case. We all work hard, in a co-ordinated and democratic way, to get the enormous amount of work done that has to be accomplished to get in event bookings, recruit, and all the other things associated with running the Society and it's events.

Anybody out there got a magic wand that will make everything easier & better?!

Whilst it is easy to snipe & criticise your Board or officers of your Society on Social Media sites especially, the bottom line is if you think you could do a better job, then just volunteer and do some of the work. We would welcome the assistance and positive, realistic suggestions. We now summarise Board Meetings for you in the Newsletter & on the Forum. Also, as we have said many times before, any Member is more than welcome to attend Board meetings. Prior notice would be appreciated. In any event, thank you David for your 6 months as Chairman.

Philip Clark
Secretary & Acting Chairman.

GENERALS AND THEIR HORSES

Only one book describes the Civil War through the eyes of a horse: Traveller, who was Gen Robert E Lee's favourite horse.. Traveller had had two names prior to this, Jeff Davis then Greenbrier. Several other Generals had favourite mounts too.

Gen. G B McClellan	Dan Webster and Kentuck
Gen 'Stonewall' Jackson	Little Sorrell
Gen. U S Grant	Cincinnati, Jack, Kangaroo and Fox
Gen N B Forrest	King Philip
Gen A S Johnston	Fireater
Gen. GG Meade	Baldy



Claire Morris
Marbury
Remarks

Wow, what a cracking weekend! Marbury Merry Days has been an excellent event.

We arrived at the most lovely site on Friday afternoon, the battlefield and campsite looked over a beautiful mere and a 15th century church which looked amazing when lit up at night. The family camp was close by in a little meadow off the main village road, next to the Swan pub.

On Saturday morning all units got their practice drill in before the event was opened to the public to blow off the winter cobwebs. Early in the afternoon both Union and Confederates picked two men from each unit to provide an honour guard for the Cheshire Dairy Queen (which turned out to be a young lady being driven around the site in the worlds 4th oldest Bentley, rather than a prize cow on a cart like I had originally thought!) Unfortunately we were hampered by two heavy thunder and hail storms which delayed the timings somewhat, and resulted in all the honour guard hiding underneath a nearby tree like Penguins. Straight after the honour guard the Confederates stayed in the arena and did a comprehensive and professional

drill display, with Christian Sprakes on the commentary.

The battle on Saturday was a very good start to the season with the Confederates “finding” a Union hospital with recuperating soldiers, and attacking it. The Union force repelled the attack back up the hill (not sure what happened next as I went down early on), and the cannon fire echoed impressively around the surrounding hills.

Saturday evening was spent catching up with old friends, meeting new ones, and enjoying the hog roast at the Swan pub.

Sunday again saw us on a 2pm display in the main arena with the Union doing the drill and firing displays all round the perimeter of the roped off area, and then coming together in the centre for the various firing drills. This was then followed by a firing competition between breech loaders of the sharp shooters and muzzle loaders.

A serious downturn in the afternoon’s weather saw our skirmish being brought forward, and us being the flexible consummate professionals hurriedly got together and sorted out kit to oblige the sponsors.

Again the Union fought up hill against the Confederates defending their position behind the stone wall. Lots of casualties later, the battlefield was strewn with both sides “dead” and “wounded”, with

everyone playing the game and putting on a real spectacle for the watching crowd. Everyone I spoke to after the battle was extremely happy with our performance, and my fellow re-enactors seemed MORE than happy too!

All in all Marbury was an excellent site, an excellent event, with really convincing portrayals of attacking and defending a strongly protected position. ACWS should be very proud of what they achieved this weekend, and roll on the next one. Thanks to the projects team for getting us this excellent event, and I'm sure we'll be invited back.

If you had a great time this weekend, give your friends a call & get them to come along to Tatton Park at the beginning of July. Spread the word....spread the FUN!

Claire Morris
ACWS Membership Secretary

The following remarks were sent to the Projects Director the day after the event:-

I am pleased to tell you how much we enjoyed your participation in our village's main event. You certainly made things go with a bang. Everybody I have spoken to have said how much they liked the ACWS and much appreciated how you joined in our village life over the weekend – so I hope that in the future I can contact you again and arrange a return visit.

**CALLING ALL MEMBERS
UNDER
14
YEARS OF AGE**

**DO YOU GET BORED
AT EVENTS?**

**DO YOU WANT SOMETHING
WORTHWHILE TO DO?**

**WHY NOT JOIN THE
NEW CADET CORPS**

Sharon Paul is starting up a Cadet Corps for those members under 14 years old who want to do something worthwhile and learn what it was like to be a cadet back in the 1860's.

It won't last all day, so there will still be plenty of time to play and do all those other things you do on camp.

Come along and talk to Sharon Paul at the Hull Event or the next event your family attends and find out more.

You will find Sharon on the 69th New York lines.

ACWS – NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that it's AGM will be held on Saturday 7th December 2013, starting at 1pm prompt at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club , 64 New Road , Rubery , Birmingham B45 9HY.

If you are a current member and have any nominations for posts of Directors or Army Commanders of the Society and/or you have any agenda items appropriate for the AGM, then put them in writing as soon as possible addressed to the Secretary ACWS, P O Box 52 Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ. These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Friday 4th October 2013.

Nominations for other than existing post holders have to be signed by the nominee and proposed by at least one other current member, who must also sign the nomination. The nominee may submit a short address for circulation to the membership to support their candidature.

Currently, as at the date of this Notice, the Chairperson's post & that of the Marketing Director are vacant. Otherwise, the current directors are standing for re-election as far as is now known.

The current Union Army Commander is also standing for re-election as at the date of this notice, but the Confederate Army Commander has indicated he will step down at the AGM, so the Confederate Army will need to elect a new Commander then. Please let the Secretary have nomination(s) before the due date, & indicate whether (if elected) you will attend Board Meetings & be a Director , or, if not, you need a Confederate Army Representative on the Board

Once relevant inputs have been received, the AGM Agenda can be put together and the appropriate documentation sent to you before the AGM. Please note, only current members of ACWS are entitled to vote at the AGM or to submit proxy forms. Members who wish to attend the meeting are asked to bring their membership cards to the AGM to help validation, admission and/or voting if necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board
Philip Clark
Company Secretary and Director
21th June 2013

NB: Electronic delivery of Agenda and voting slips . We will seek to send all the AGM paperwork to all those of you who have e-mail addresses electronically by that means (to cut down on printing and postage) and post only to those who currently have no e-mail address or who have specifically opted-out of e-voting. PLEASE NOTE , your Webmaster has devised a secure way for you to deliver your Proxy Vote electronically. This will save everybody a lot of time & cost of postage. If you are coming to the AGM, you will NOT be voting electronically (or by post) . However, you all need to make sure either Mike Bussey or Claire Morris have your correct, up-to-date e-mail address for this to happen. If you fail to do this then you will not get the AGM papers or proxy vote form, will you? Make sure we have the right information by NO LATER than Friday 27th September 2013.



Claire Morris

Tatton Talk

Yet another fantastic weekend! I arrived in Tatton Park mid afternoon on Friday with the sun beating down, and the deer and sheep in the outer park lying in the shade. After putting the caravan on the family camp outside in the grounds, we went into the Old Hall to set up my tent in the period camp which were aligned as usual with the Confederates against the old barn, and the Union spread around the trees, the Hall, with the 19th down in “dingly dell”. By Friday late evening most of us had arrived safely, renewed friendships and set up camp.

Saturday morning we awoke to a most unusual sight - blazing sunshine! This put everyone in a good mood and ready to get on with the day ahead. To be honest though it was hot...so drill was undertaken earlier than normal before the heat of

the mid-day sun started to take its toll. At 1pm the Union did extra drill/display duties with most of the infantry having a go at learning how to load and man the artillery. Useful to know ;-)
After lunch the Confederates marched over the top of the ridge overlooking the Old Hall, as the Union forces took the long way round to reach the same destination...obviously a ploy to tire us all out before the skirmish began. The basic story of the scenario was that the Confederate forces were making their way back from an engagement to an aid station; where the injured were to receive treatment, with the Union company harassing them. A good battle ensued with the Union attacking in company waves, uphill with

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MARBURY MERRIDAYS



TATTON OLD HALL



TATTON OLD HALL



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flags flying against the Confederate defences.

Once the general public left the site, we had a blanket sale with many people picking up bargains, and swapping kit. After tea we had an open society meeting in the Old Hall with discussions about the direction of the society, and the vacant positions that need filling. In the words of Phil Clark "Ask not what your Society can do for you, but what YOU can do for your society!" After the meeting Tatton Old Hall custodian Mick Ricketts, kindly took anyone who wished to view the Old Hall in the twilight on a guided ghost tour, whilst others sang around campfires, including some welcome guests from SOSKAN.

Sunday began again with the outrageous heat, which around midday was going to be about 26 degrees centigrade. We again participated in early morning drill due to the heat, whilst others manned their displays talking about the Navy, Signals or millinery etc. Alex Burnham brought his Victorian tintype mobile darkroom and equipment to take tintypes, many took advantage and had some fabulous period shots done.

The regular Sunday morning church service occurred around mid day with a large crowd of public surrounding our members.

Hymns were sung, and scriptures read. After a quick break for lunch, the Confederates and Union marched off to the ridge above the Old Hall and waited for the skirmish to commence. The aid station was used again as a basic scenario with Union following the Confederates over the bridge and harassing them. After too-ing and frow-ing across the field, with the Confederates losing forces the Union command offered the Confederates at the aid station a way out with the offer of a surrender...which they declined to accept. At which point the Union artillery up on the ridge pummelled the Confederate forces in front of the Hall. After a minor incident near the end of the battle, the Union brigade massed and moved towards the crowd to do a quick drill and firing display as the medics took care of the unfortunate casualty.

All in all it was a fantastic weekend, in a fantastic setting. If you enjoyed it as much as I did, then tell your friends and spread the fun.

Roll on the next one...

Best Wishes

Claire Morris
ACWS Membership Secretary



**Wise Words
from
Mike Bussey**

Your Board of Directors (or Committee Members in old speak) all want to see the ACWS successful, being ACW reenactors themselves, of course. A Master Plan was put into operation earlier this year which only served to reinforce the already recognised issues which the society was facing. This Master Plan was just that however, a Plan but with no tangible Actions on how we were to achieve the stated goals.

So, we now need a new Revised Forward Plan, one that is realistic and practical.

The following are just some of the Major Aims that I believe the Board and Members should continue to be working towards:

1) Better, more varied events with (hopefully) bigger budgets. Co-operate on big events with other ACW Societies “to fill the arena“ if we can't.

2) Increase membership with a sustained recruiting campaign, both from within and externally, especially Confederates.

3) Review fixed costs and event costs

4) Review use and positioning of artillery - how to get guns to events more economically.

5) Aim to reduce or remove event Registration fees.

6) Improve decision making efficiency & communications within Society.

However , it's a “ chicken and egg”/ “catch 22” situation on 1 and 2. How can we get bigger better and more varied events without significant recruiting? How can we significantly recruit without the bigger better and more varied events?

So the 64 million dollar question is "How are we going to achieve these (and other important) goals?"

Your Directors are willing to work with members and their suggestions (as long as they are practical and affordable) and welcome any assistance you can give. Two of the most important positions on the Board are currently vacant: that of Marketing Director whose role includes getting us new sponsors and recruits and that of Chairman whose role includes leading the Society in the right

direction. All the Directors posts are up for election at every AGM, so if you feel you can do the job, then you can always put yourself forward for election at the AGM.

Mike Bussey
ACWS Forum Administrator
1st Sgt. Co.E 1st Tennessee
Volunteer Infantry, CSA



PROJECTS SUMMER REPORT

We have had two good events up to now with widely different weather. Marbury provided us with sunshine, chilly winds and hailstones as big as peas. The order 'Huddle like penguins. was given at one point. Tatton, on the other hand gave us high temperatures and wall to wall sunshine.

Hull Veteran Weekend will be for Infantry and Artillery with some cavalry members taking their own horses along at their own expense as Hull could not afford to pay for a full cavalry contingent. There will be the normal Drumhead Service on Sunday morning, which all members are invited to attend.

The following weekend, we have a new event for Infantry and Artillery at Cheadle near Stoke On Trent. This event takes place on Sunday 4th August, but I have secured camping from Saturday. Although this is an arena event, ACWS are receiving a substantial amount for attending and I urge everyone to take part. Even if you are just 'daytripping' please bring a tent to set up to create a camp scenario. I would gratefully appreciate your attendance and cooperation at this event. There will be a short parade on Sunday morning and the Artillery will perform a drill and firing display. The Infantry will undertake a skirmish later in the day. May I remind you that the Spetchly and Hamilton events take place on the same weekend this year (17th – 18th Aug) and that camping for the Hamilton event is available from THURSDAY 15th Aug through to Monday 19th Aug and Spetchly from Friday 16th Aug to Monday as usual and that the NO DOGS rule is still in place at Spetchly this year. Ingleton takes place on 14-15 Sept and includes Infantry and Artillery this year and an order for dry weather has been placed with the organiser.

Peter Holt Projects Director

Viv Corbishley Projects Assts.

ACWS Artillery – A discussion document

There has been much debate over ACWS Artillery over the years. Once upon a time, in the days of Nick Richards, Peter Smith and Mike Lawson, there was a dispute over the ownership of the guns, it went to a court case, and the winner promptly took what had been declared to be his artillery pieces away, and ACWS was left with no guns. Very embarrassing. The Society then invested in their own guns, so we never had to rely on anybody else bringing their private artillery pieces, which is where we are today.

We have a 'four-pack' of heavy artillery on a trailer towed behind a van in the Northamptonshire area. The old LDV van was about to fall to bits, so we had to get a new van. We used to have two vans, the other one to tow the other trailer with four lighter cannon on it. These are currently held in the Manchester area.

Efforts have been made to utilise this ACWS asset not only at our events but also for hiring out to fire salutes at Festivals, weddings and for the Olympic torch. Our Gunners are trying to make more use of this asset.

The artillery pieces do require constant maintenance and repair. The particular 'challenge' with the 'four pack' in Northamptonshire is that the barrels are very heavy. We are currently fortunate to keep them

in a Police Force area where they are realistic about storage of these 'shotguns' (smooth bore barrels greater than 24 inches long and a bore or calibre under 2") so they go on the shotgun certificate of the 'custodian', as Trustee for ACWS, the owners. This Police Force allows them to be left on their trailer in a secure compound. Other Police Forces require the barrel taking off and chaining in a garage or even putting in a firearms cabinet! These barrels would require block and tackle lifting gear and four strong men getting a hernia every time they were lifted and moved elsewhere, if this unpractical procedure for 'the security of these particular shotguns' when not in use was followed. A new custodian of our van and this four pack will be needed for next year. For practical reasons of getting to events and not costing an arm and a leg in fuel, they really ought to be kept somewhere in the East or West Midlands.

As to the other four guns, they are lighter and slightly smaller in scale, and are therefore more amenable to being distributed about in penny packets. These guns could be put on a smaller trailer and towed behind a car, probably singly, or one or two of them put in the back of a van to go to events, owner/driver preferably, hired for the purpose for the event otherwise (but this increases costs). If we are to distribute these cannon in 'penny-packets', then for practical and fuel

economy reasons, ideally homes should be found for them anywhere in the 'box' Birmingham-Leicester-Sheffield-Manchester area.

I recently discovered that to buy one of our pieces of artillery NEW would cost about £10,000 each. ACWS really does not want to sell-off any of these assets at knock-down second hand prices. If we have an ambition to grow again, and recruit full artillery crews, then we must keep ownership of the cannon. Anybody who becomes a keeper of any of this artillery will need to be able to carry out routine maintenance and preservation including painting, greasing and other maintenance.

If you are to take on one of these jobs, you have to be responsible for bringing the cannon to the event as directed, to have a shotgun license, to be a suitably qualified driver and have or get the necessary 'wheels' to bring the guns when wanted and to have storage facilities that your local Police Force are prepared to sanction (and are not impractical!). Any volunteers please.

Like the driver towing the gunpowder storage trailer to events, you will get the necessary support from ACWS e.g. your fuel bill paid for and, if necessary, a tow bar fitted to your vehicle. Currently (unless for a very big event) we tend not to make much use of the Manchester guns, whilst the 'four-pack' and van bring those guns, some or all of which are used by both sides in our armies.

By adding artillery fire, cavalry and pyrotechnics to our substantial infantry displays makes a weekend and a battle really worthwhile. There is nothing more impressive than the roar from the cannon, without which few of the larger event organisers would hire ACWS.

Has anybody in the Society got any bright ideas on how to tackle this artillery storage and transport challenge? Please let myself, Philip Clark, or Martin Cross have these thoughts/ideas, but we really only want practical, lawful ones that you or somebody you know is prepared to implement. We need practical answers to practical questions, not theorising, please. Really need your help and advice here, guys and gals, so please do your best to help.

Thank you very much.

Philip Clark
Secretary & Acting Chairman
June 2013

Re Query At Tatton Meeting

Just to clear up a query that was brought up at the meeting at Tatton regarding the cannons in the accounts, they are shown in the Balance Sheet under Fixed Assets as Plant & Machinery and in the draft accounts that went out before the AGM are valued at £2,627

Ian Morris
Treasurer

“Gettysburg – A Family Affair” By Harper Wright

“Gettysburg” is a word that conjures for many Americans complex emotions that range from pride to sorrow and confusion. The battle marked the high water mark of the Confederacy and lasted for 3 days. Its impact was terrible because it was a civil war battle, a war that tore families apart, a war in which all the casualties were American.

Growing up during the Centenary of the Civil War (1961-65), I knew that Harper Carroll, my great-grandfather, was a soldier in the Confederate Army. There was therefore a family inclination to sympathise with the “Lost Cause” of the doomed but chivalrous Confederacy, especially as Robert E Lee was a very distant cousin. The Carrolls came from Maryland, a border state, and the family story was that when the war started one brother went South, one went North and the third brother stayed at home to look after the farm. Family stories and sympathies, however, can come crashing down when one starts to research and look at what actually happened.

When my Mother, Helen Marguerite Carroll, died in 1996, she left the family archives in my care. This was fortunate timing as it was just as the Internet was opening up new ways to research family history. One of

my first finds was photocopies of Harper Carroll’s letters to his first wife, Eleanor Thompson. I transcribed the letters and then went online to research the context of the letters, the originals of which were donated by Mother and Mary Lee Carroll Muth to the Maryland Historical Society in 1968 (www.mdhs.org). I quickly discovered that two brothers (Albert and Harper) went South and two brothers (John Lee and Charles) stayed at home with the land. Bang went family story Number One.

I then wrote to the National Archives in Washington and requested Harper Carroll’s service records. The only available records indicated that he enlisted in the 1st Virginia Cavalry in May 1861, and was discharged a year later. This was not a concern because Confederate Army records are known to be incomplete as some were destroyed during the war. His letters and other records show that he served in the Confederate Army until late 1864, including periods on the staffs of Generals JEB Stuart and RS Ewell. He participated in many of the key battles from Bull Run to the Defence of Richmond.

Only a few weeks after his wedding in the Shenandoah Valley, Harper Carroll caught up with the Confederate Army at Gettysburg on 2 July 1863. His

role with the Army is unclear as he was dressed as a civilian and only carrying a pocket pistol. Perhaps he was acting as a scout. Just 4 days after the battle he dashed off a poignant letter to his wife:

My Darling Girl

We have had a fearful time this attempt to get at Maryland. We marched through Penn. very well till reaching Gettysburg where Gen. Lee I believe gave way to his officers and corp commanders and attacked an impregnable position. We were repulsed with 15 or 20000 loss hardly the latter. We are now in a bad position as the river is high but these troops are very ready to meet the Yankees fairly. Our cavalry has been very active. I missed Gen. Stuart at first & by it I missed getting home as he passed within 3 miles of the Manor. The weather is most horrible raining heavily cold wet. We are hungry, horses half starved and bare footed. I have not time to write more. Do not fear our army being whipped. One single word, one smile from you my darling little wife would disperse in an instant all my troubles. I have been unable to get anything as I have no federal money & have now no friends. If it is possible send me note telling me of yourself, one line from you would give me so much pleasure. Remember me to all. Your most attached.

Harper

He remained with Lee's Army as it retreated back to Virginia, and was

involved in the skirmish at Hagerstown, Maryland. By October 1863, he had a clear role as a Lieutenant on the staff of Gen R S Ewell.

In another letter that I found, a Maryland private, D.R. Howard, wrote many years later of Harper Carroll "- on recovery from wound received at Gettysburg I returned to the army on the Rapidan. Charlie Bradock and I were bed fellows. We had one light flimsy blanket and suffered from cold + were made ill. About the same time Col. J.S. Rhett ... left for me a splendid double white citizens/blanket. One day Lieut Harper Carroll of Gen. Ewell's Staff came into our camp, having brought the blanket all the way from Richmond. Truly it was a God send. This act of kindness is still appreciated, altho' 40 years have passed since it was done." Also at Gettysburg was a Capt. Alanson M. Randol, a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point. I found some of his letters in a biscuit tin in Mother's attic, and these opened up new perspectives of the Civil War. A quick search of the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion"

(<http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html>) showed that he was at Gettysburg where he commanded 1st United States Artillery Batteries E and G, supporting the Cavalry Corps including Brig. Gen. George Custer amongst others. On

Saturday 3rd July 1863 these batteries helped repulse Gen. JEB Stuart's attempt to turn the Union line and get behind the Army of the Potomac.

In his official report, Brig. Gen. D. McM. Gregg wrote "The batteries commanded by Capt. A.M. Randol and Lieut. A.C.M. Pennington, Jr., rendered most effective service. The fire of the artillery during this engagement was the most accurate that I have ever seen". Today there are two monuments to Randol's batteries on East Cavalry Field

What is the significance of this Union soldier at the same battle as my great grandfather and why were his letters in Mother's attic? In 1900 Harper Carroll's son, Charles Carroll, married Mary Randol, Alanson Randol's niece. Also on the field of battle that day were Capt. R.B. Smith, 11th US Infantry (Mary Randolph's uncle by marriage) as well as many distant cousins of Harper Carroll including three senior officers (two Confederate generals and one Union colonel). Two other Union officers were also married to cousins of Harper Carroll, one of whom, Dr Jonathan Letterman, was the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, and is now considered to be the Father of Battlefield Medicine Dr Letterman was married to one of the many Mary Digges Lees, and her brother, Charles Carroll Lee, was a surgeon on Dr Letterman's medical staff.

I was therefore fascinated to discover that another member of the family also helped care for the wounded in the aftermath of the terrible battle. A lucky find on the floor of Mother's basement were over 200 hand written pages of memoirs of yet another distant "cousin", Mrs Mary Amis Hooper. Mary Amis was born and bred in the Deep South, and on her mother's death in 1851, she and her sisters went to New York to live with their aunt, who was married to Alanson Randol's uncle. The memoirs almost read like fiction:

"The civil war was a terrible experience for everyone. There was scarcely a family who had not friends or relations engaged on both sides Union and Confederate. Cousin Emily's husband, George B Butler was a lieutenant in the New York 7th regiment and was wounded at Gettysburg – how badly we were unable to find out – so my aunt and Cousin Emily went to Gettysburg to search for him and have him cared for. After two days search they found him in a hospital. He had lost his right arm. They had him removed to a private dwelling, where the family kindly gave up their parlour to him.

There were no trained nurses to be had. My cousin became ill from fatigue and anxiety. My aunt found a maid to wait on my cousin while she nursed Lt Butler.

My aunt was however called home, and telegraphed for me to come take her place beside George's bed. I arrived in Gettysburg 4 days after the battle. The hospitals were over crowded. Many of the southern wounded and dying, lying on the floor. The stench was terrible, and I had to wear a veil over my face to keep off the hordes of flies which swarmed everywhere. I would sit up at night to keep George's arm wet with a preparation the doctors left for him, and in the day I would visit the wounded southerners in the hospitals, carrying them all the ice I could steal from the ice pitcher. This I would hide under my shawl which I had to wear though I nearly melted in the August heat. Ice was scarce and only a few favored ones had it."

Was George Butler's arm amputated by either Dr Letterman or Dr Lee? In any event it must have been well done as Butler was an artist, and he learned to paint again with his left hand, working for many years in Italy.

If Harper Carroll and Alanson Randol actually fired at each other at any of the battles in which they both fought, I am thankful that they didn't kill each other. Fortunately they both survived the war, and afterwards raised two great families. Sadly Eleanor Thompson Carroll died of TB in 1865.



MAMA'S MUTTERINGS

I must apologise for the lack of historical information and stories in this addition, but it is the society newsletter primarily and we seem to have had a lot of news and business to get through this time. I promise to do better next time. I have been asked to remind the ladies to cover up tattoos and remove facial piercings i.e. nose and lip rings and studs as they were not in vogue and ladies during the Victorian period did not have them, and please remember that 'respectable ladies' of the period did not wear any make-up except maybe a sprinkling of talcum powder and a dab of scent behind the ears, but in these days of skincare and skin cancer watch, I would suggest that everyone, yes even the guys and especially the children, slaps on the sunscreen/blocker, no one wishes you to put your life on the line for the sake of your hobby. Thank you ladies for your cooperation and stay safe and happy

Val Holt
ACWS Communications Director.

.REMEMBERING Sgt. DAVE VAUN

It is always sad to hear of the passing of an old friend, and so it was to learn of Dave's demise. Dave had his problems over the years, but I will always remember Dave with affection.

Dave was a founder member of the 69th NYSV and was 1st Sgt when the Holt family joined in 1998. Our first event was at Saltburn and when Peter and Magz were taken off to learn drill before going on the field, I was left on camp, and although I was made to feel very welcome, I felt a little out of it, but not for long. Dave came and sat down beside me and chattered for a few minutes, then produced a heavy musket, which he informed me was a decac, hence the weight, and I must learn to use it even though I was non-com. He took me to a fence and helped me to hold the monster against my shoulder and told me to squeeze the trigger..... BOOM which was followed by an expletive from me. The twinkle in Dave's eye told me I had been well and truly tricked as he then admitted that the musket was 'well loaded.' Much to the amusement of all present. I am sure all who knew him has just such a fond memory of Dave.

DRIVER WANTED

Driver wanted to transport Ordnance Trailer to and from events.

The Society will pay all fuel costs and if necessary, provide a tow bar.

The trailer will normally be required on site by the Thursday prior to the event.

**You will not be storing or transporting powder
Just pulling the trailer, which holds the canvas
cover and sometimes empty wooden boxes .**

For more information please contact:

Mike - 01832 734674

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

**27-28 July Hull Veterans Day
Confirmed**

NEW EVENT

**4th August Cheadle near Stoke on Trent
Confirmed**

**17-18 August Scottish Festival of History
Hamilton Scotland.
Confirmed**

**17-18 August Spetchly Park
Worcester Re enactors
Confirmed**

**14-15 Sept Ingleton
North Yorks
Confirmed**