



P.O. Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 1JQ, England

THE A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition



Stanford Hall 2009

Issue No 154

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*2009 Christmas Dance
Saturday 5th December 2009
7.30pm - midnight*

*Alsager Civic Centre ,
Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2AE*

Tickets £9 each

*Barndance/Ceilidh provided by
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Blue Grass style music*

*Hot food will also be available by purchase of a separate ticket,
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*For tickets contact: Debbie & Howard Davies,
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Tel: 01270 873998

Email: debjdavies@tesco.net

*Tickets must be purchased in advance, and Food Tickets
no later than **20th November**, for catering purposes.
Please make cheques or postal orders payable to ACWS Ltd and
enclose a S.A.E.*

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 5th December 2009, starting at 1pm prompt at the Alsager Civic Centre, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2AE.

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 Saturday 3rd October 2009.

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.

The current Directors are standing for re-election as at the date of this notice are as follows:-

Chairman	-	Mike Bussey
Secretary	-	Philip Clark
Treasurer	-	Ian Morris
Membership	-	Miss Claire Morris
Health & Safety	-	Tony Radcliffe
Marketing	-	Roger Willison-Gray
Confederate Army Representative	-	Lee Fairlee
Communications	-	Mrs Val Holt

Mrs Viv Corbishley is standing down as Projects Director and Mr Andrew Hopwood has been duly proposed and seconded as the new Projects Director. Mrs Corbishley is proposed and seconded as a non-Executive Director (i.e. a director without portfolio).

The current Army Commanders are standing for re-election as at the date of this notice as follows:-

Federal	-	Tim Davies (a Director)
Confederate	-	Bill Brown (not a Director, hence Confederate Rep on 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
26th July 2009

NB: Alsager is easily accessible from M6 j16. Civic Centre in the middle of Alsager, near to cross road traffic lights.



PROJECTS REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Here we are at over halfway through the season, the last 3 events have happened: Market Deeping, Hingham and Cusworth, and we have done what was asked of us and maybe more.

Market Deeping: Once again, a very disappointing turnout from our members but a fantastic weekend for all those who attended. It was a carnival event with a march, but the transport was fun, to the start of the parade, an open top bus! The route was about 1½ miles long, but it did seem a lot longer, both armies acquitted themselves well considering we had a postage stamp to fight on, due to the artillery being placed in the middle of the arena nearly muzzle to muzzle! Although there was plenty of space to begin with. We had lots of interest from the public and plenty of questions etc, and I do believe we even picked up one or two new members. I (Viv) would like to say a big Thank you to all the drummers who turned up and Congratulations to John Fairfield for all the effort he went to contacting these people. It really did make the parade, we could hear you coming from some considerable way off. See the letter of thanks from the sponsors printed herewith.

Hingham: This was a brilliant event in a small Norfolk market town, the birthplace of Abraham Lincolns

ancestors. The event was to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's Birth. The townsfolk were very accommodating, obliging, and delighted with everything we did. We camped in the middle of the town, with easy access to the pub, shops, and tea room. There was a small parade through the town on the Saturday followed by living history and some firing displays. Unfortunately, Roger had a nasty accident when an ambulance decided to sound it's blues and twos just as he was mounting Aister. Roger ended up on the road with a broken collarbone and a nasty bump on the head, and the horse ended up on her side in the road as well. Although it was very nasty at the time, Aister recovered within a couple of days, and Roger is still recovering having had an operation to put his collarbone back together again. Well done to all the members who sprang into action to form a human cordon, helped with the horses and directed the traffic. Also, Christian Sprakes did a sterling job informing the public what was going on without alarming anyone and liaising with the people on site. The parade went ahead an hour late and no-one complained or moved from where they were lined up waiting to watch.

There was a Blue Grass concert in the local community hall in the evening which was very much enjoyed by all who went and there was loads of food supplied afterwards. So much so that the leftovers were brought over to the camp afterwards.

On the Sunday afternoon there was a short parade to the church (the largest in Norfolk) followed by a service to commemorate Lincoln's life. This was very well organised by members of the Society and an extremely enjoyable

service.

An amazing weekend, dominated by talking to the public.

Well done to Roger for organising this event so well, just a pity he missed it!

Cusworth Hall: the second time we have been to this location, the first being last year. All we can say is well done everyone, overall everyone was happy. The Saturday battle, maybe not as fluid as it could have been, was good, with all stops being pulled out on Sunday. The sponsors are very impressed with us, and find us approachable and accommodating, they especially mentioned our ability to talk to the public and our displays that we set out for them to look at. We are pretty sure that we will be returning to Cusworth in the future.

By the time you read this Sheffield will be a memory but we will still have the Tatton Old Hall event at Tatton Park 12th -13th September. This event is growing in momentum and Tatton are keen to work with us. Our instructions' are simple, look after Tatton's public and Tatton will look after us. So plenty of Living History, scenarios around the camps, and talking to the public! and a thundering good battle on each day to round off the season. Could we also point out that the park is 5000 acres, and that we are the only event of note that weekend.

Access is from 12.30 Friday.

The gates will close for access/ exit to/ from the park at 23.00 on Friday night and Saturday 21.00. Sunday 19.00.

Well, that's all for this time folks, see you at Tatton, hopefully we will have a record attendance.

Regards,

Viv Corbishley and Andy Hopwood
The Projects Team



Mama's Mutterings

Here we are in August and the season is almost over. We have had some really cracking events this year. A big thank you to the projects team for their efforts.

I want to thank Griff and Neil Huddle for the wonderful photographs they have taken this year., and for allowing me to use them to put together a colour feature in the centre of this newsletter. I had so many to choose from I wish I could have filled the whole thing with them. Someone sent me the cavalryman, which I used as the cover picture, without telling me who it was, so I am unable to give the photographer the credit for the picture. If it was you, let me know who you are and who the photographer was so credit can be given where it is due.

You will also see that the society has received two letters from sponsors thanking us for our efforts and one from John Fairfield expressing his personal thanks to the drummers who answered his call to attend Market Deeping. It is always nice to know the society is appreciated.

The Secretary has given a comprehensive report on Hingham, so I will make no further comment on that, except to see to those who could not make. You missed a treat.

There I have had my say. Looking forward to the rest of the season.

**DON'T FORGET TO BUY
YOUR DANCE TICKETS!**

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

15th May 2009

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

I wanted to write to express my appreciation for the excellent weekend that you organised over the bank holiday 3rd & 4th May 2009.

The organisation of the weekend was, from my perspectives, as professional as I could have hoped for. The pre planning and time spent carrying out reconnaissance was well spent and resulted in an event which ran faultlessly. Your encampments, which were beautifully laid out, were fascinating and visitors were clearly enjoying a glimpse in to times past and having an opportunity to chat to your members.

The main pitch battle was outstanding. The site albeit rather steep for participants was perfect from the perspective of the spectator in that the entire battlefield was visible to all throughout. The battle choreographer did a great job ensuring that there was constant activity.

The day following your departure there was almost no evidence of your having been here, well done.

Please be kind enough to convey my thanks to all your members without whom there would have been no event.

Andrew Norman
Operations Manager
The Estate Office, Rockingham Castle,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire,
LE16 8TH

MARKET DEEEPING

Dear Viv

I would like to thank you both personally and on behalf of the Deepings Lions Club for the magnificent way in which the ACWS supported our 2009 Carnival. I can assure you that you exceeded our expectations and delighted us all with the activities that you undertook for us. The highlight was of course the re-enactment which thrilled the crowds around the arena. Taking part in the Carnival Parade was a challenge for your group not only because of the distance involved but also due to the hot weather and was greatly appreciated both by our Lions Members and by those lining the Streets.

The re-enactment commentator added to the whole show with the details of the history of the battle and of the soldiers and weapons used. The pyrotechnics were wonderfully explosive and gave vivid realism to the event.

I hope that your members enjoyed their visit to Market Deeping. Please thank them on behalf of the Deeping Lions Club, the citizens of Market Deeping, Deeping St James and surrounding towns and villages.

A member of the Deeping Lions said at the end of the event, "How do we follow that next year?" I'm not sure but it will be a heck of a challenge.

Yours sincerely
T.R. Felton
Deepings Lions Club
5th July 2009

A LETTER OF THANKS FROM JOHN FAIRFIELD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my present and retired drummers for their support at this event.

The first to answer the call was the one and only Nathan Parkin of the Sharpe Shooters.

The next was Owen Paul who travelled from Swansea to support us. This young man is making a career in music. He is already in a band and they have made a C.D. Three days before he travelled, he won a talent competition.

Then we come to two brothers, Jason and Michael Savage, who were my first drummers when I took over the Band. Jason is a person who picked up the beatings more quickly than anyone I have known. I advised him to go and join a Pipe Band, where the drumming is a lot harder than ours. He ended up in one of the best Pipe Bands in the Midlands. He won two Solo drumming competitions. Then we come to Michael 'the hard faced one'. He has been with me from the beginning. He is the anchorman of this Band. He has very rarely let me down and is one of our best drummers in the Band. If anyone should deserve a medal for long service, it is Michael.

Next we have the Barrett Family, Roberta, Neil and Sam. They are having a year out at the moment. On Friday before I left home to travel to the event, I had a phone call from Roberta offering her help. Now Sam is going to make a career as a Musician. he can play the drums, guitar and violin. A very talented lad.

Next we come to the work horses of the Parade. Dependable Nick Cole from the 19th and a newcomer from

the Signals, big Lawrence Trent. If we wouldn't have had them, we would not have been able to bring the massive Base Drum on Parade. I think that they also deserve a medal.

Now we come to our new Drum Major Eddy, who has taken this year off, but when he heard that we would be short of drummers, he volunteered his services and travelled from Liverpool for the day, good on you Eddy.

From the Society and myself, thank you to all drummers for their support.

Cabar Feidh (my old Regimental Battle Cry),



Ms Maureen F Tray
Mayor of Market Deeping

The Mayor of Market Deeping expressed a wish to be dressed 1860's style for the event held there, and I was happy and indeed honoured to be able to oblige her request with an outfit of mine which for some unknown reason has shrunk whilst in storage over a couple of seasons.

Val Holt
Editor

Libby Prison

Libby Prison was one of the famous prisons located in Richmond. The Libby building, the only building in the area to have running water, was considered an ideal site by the Confederate authorities. The building was formally the Libby & Son Ship Chandlers & Grocers. It was somewhat isolated and could be easily guarded. Situated in a neighbourhood that had several warehouses, a number of shanties, an old meeting house, several stables, and numerous vacant lots. The site was accessible by both railroad and water transportation, bordered by the James River, and was away from the congestion of downtown.

The building was 3 stories at the front, 4 stories in the rear, and measured almost 45,000 square feet. It was about 135-foot wide and extended 90-foot back. The inside was divided into 3 sections by thick walls that extended up from the basement to the roof. This gave the appearance from the back that the building was made up of 3 smaller buildings built side by side. Each story was divided into 3 low, oblong rooms measuring 45x90 feet, with exposed beams. There were 100 prisoners in each room. The prisoners were to occupy the 2 upper floors, or 6 upper rooms. At each end of these rooms were 4 small windows. It was arranged for all of the windows and doors to have flat-iron bars installed over them and makeshift water closets to be built on each floor. The middle room on the 1st floor was to be used for cooking. The kitchen was the only place in the building that a prisoner could have free access. The east room on the 1st floor was used as the hospital.

The west room was to be used as the quarters for prison officials, and the basement was divided into dungeons for the confinement and punishment of unruly prisoners. The prisoners were not allowed to go within 3 feet of the windows. The rooms did not have any furniture, the ventilation was poor, and the lighting was gloomy. Although the prison had running water, the water used by the prisoners was taken from the river, which was usually of poor quality.

Lt. Thomas Pratt Turner was the prison's first commandant. He would eventually be despised by the prisoners. The second in command was Richard R. "Dick" Turner. He quickly attracted the hatred of the prisoners because of his haste in using physical punishment. He was also known to kick the dying prisoners for no apparent reason when he found them lying on the floor. The third in command was George Emack, who later received a Lieutenant commission. He was as ruthless as "Dick" Turner and was equally hated by the prisoners. The prison clerk was Erasmus Ross. He was in charge of recording the prisoner's names upon arrival and conducted the daily roll calls. He, too was hated by the prisoners. The prison was guarded by 2 companies of 30 soldiers each. There were 30 guards on duty at all times.

The guards lived in tents on the vacant lots nearby.

The first group of prisoners arrived on March 26, 1862, when more than 500 prisoners came from Richmond's surrounding prisons the first registered prisoner was Mr. Philander A. Streator of Holyoke, Massachusetts. The prison grew to 700 only after 3 days after opening, and another 600 political prisoners were added a few days later.

They were soon moved out due to severe overcrowding. The prison was briefly used as the main hospital for all of Richmond's prisoners in the summer of 1862. By autumn of 1863, conditions at the prison became so bad that many of Richmond's former prisons were now being used as prison hospitals.

Libby, serving as the headquarters for the Confederate States Military Prisons since the first of the year, 1863, was the depot prison to which all prisoners were brought before being transferred to other facilities in or outside the city. Each day more prisoners were brought in than would leave, thus increasing the prison population at Libby. After a short lull during the prisoner exchange program, the population quickly rose to over 4,000 and was never less than 1,200 prisoners on each floor, or an average of 400 to each room.

The floor. They were packed so tight that when they slept, it became the responsibility of the highest ranking man in each room to call out "spoon over!" throughout the night to enable everyone to roll over in unison. Prisoners complained of short rations, cold, and lice, yet many were able to buy extra provisions and receive packages from home. The prisoners suffered from the intense cold weather. The windows at the prison were broken out during the summer for relief from the heat, and now the cold weather came in the broken windows. Smallpox and diseases were increasing dramatically. Black servants (captured Northerners) served the white officers, and there was running water and even primitive flush toilets. Still, inmates' letters fuelled Northern reports of inhumane conditions, especially after sentries were ordered to shoot anyone appearing at the windows, and hundreds of pounds of gunpowder were ominously



LIFE & CONDITIONS :
By 1863, the rooms became so crowded that the prisoners had to sleep "spoon-fashion". They were head to foot in alternating rows along

placed in the cellar following a mass escape early in 1864. Confederate authorities tried to head off negative opinion by inviting in outside observers. They reported plentiful that

books, games of whist, and classes in Greek. There were, however, many activities that the prisoners did engage in during the daytime. Chess was the most popular pastime, with there being chess tournaments. The prison became one of a number of prisons that had a prison newspaper, the Libby Prison Chronicle.

By 1863, the daily rations were getting smaller. A daily ration then consisted of a couple of ounces of meat, 1/2 pound of bread, and a small cup of beans or rice. Many escapes occurred. The most spectacular was one, led by Col. Thomas E. Rose (77th Pennsylvania Volunteers) assisted by Maj. A.G. Hamilton (12th Kentucky) on February 9, 1864, in which 109 officers tunneled their way out. 48 were recaptured and 59 were able to reach Union lines, but 2 drowned. Rose was one of the unlucky, finding himself back in Libby. He was later exchanged on April 30, 1864. The only tools which they had to use in the long tunnel digging were an old pocket knife, some chisels, a piece of rope, a rubber cloth and a wooden spittoon. They constructed the 53-foot long tunnel in 17 days.

By 1864, the conditions in the prison continued to get worse. Half of the prison's 76 windows were without glass in them. Wood rations were limited to only 1 or 2 armloads a day. Each room had only 2 stoves and held about 400 prisoners. There was an increase in illness among the prisoners. Scurvy, chronic diarrhoea, dysentery, and typhoid pneumonia became the most prevalent diseases and, before long, 2 or 3 deaths a day were not uncommon.

The dead bodies were placed in the west cellar. The bodies were allowed to accumulate until a full wagon-load

was obtained. The bodies were taken to Oakwood Cemetery for burial.

Miss Elizabeth Van Lew, the Union agent in Richmond, was a frequent visitor to Libby, bringing food and reading material. It is stated that she obtained much valuable information from the men there and passed it through her efficient agents to the Union. She is also credited with arranging for a number of men to escape, though no tunnel existed between the prison and her Church Hill home, as has been said.

On April 2, 1865, Richmond was under orders to evacuate the city. The Union troops were upon the city and all of the prison commandants were to evacuate their prisons, leaving back only the sick and prisoners too weak to move. Maj. Thomas Turner was the last man to leave the prison, burning as many prison records as possible. By 3:00 A.M. on the April 3, Richmond was abandoned and in flames. Nearly all of the tobacco factories and warehouses used to confine prisoners were destroyed by the fire.

When Richmond fell into Union hands, up to 700 Confederates were gathered from around the city and confined at Libby Prison. Only Libby and Castle Thunder survived the flames that burned most of the city.

NOTICE FOR FAMILY CAMPERS

If you are camping on the family camp, would you please sign on with Viv on the Family Camp, preferably on Friday afternoon or evening when you arrive. It is most important that we have a register of everyone in case of emergency.

Thank you.



American Civil War Books For Sale



Including two full sets of the Photographic History of the Civil War,
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(Unless YOU want to pay extra for postage!).



ACWS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Once again we are holding our
Annual Photographic Competition
Entries are restricted to six per person

Photographs to be in by 3rd October 2009 and
sent to:

administrator@acws.co.uk

or

P O Box 52
BRIGHOUSE
W Yorks
HD6 1JQ

Get those cameras clicking

Hingham Norfolk

On the invitation of South Norfolk District Council and Hingham Town Council ACWS was part of the Abraham Lincoln Festival on Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th July in Hingham, on the busy B1108 to Norwich. This was to celebrate President Lincoln's bicentenary, whose ancestors had links to the market town of Hingham. Samuel Lincoln was born in Hingham and baptised in St Andrews Church on the 24th August 1622. As a boy, Samuel was apprenticed to Francis Lawes, a weaver of Norwich. On the 8th April 1637 he sailed with Lawes and his family on the 'John and Dorothy'. They reached Boston on the 20th June. Samuel was to settle in Hingham Massachusetts and his direct descendant Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) became the 16th President of the United States of America when elected in 1860. There is a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln in St Andrews Church which is a copy of the 1860 sculpture by the American, Bernard Wells Folk.

On behalf of the Society, I do thank all of you who made the effort to get to Hingham (I acknowledge that anywhere in Norfolk seems a long way, due to the lack of motorways and fast roads). It was a splendid weekend, blessed with good weather, located in an exquisite town full of Georgian and earlier architectural masterpieces, unspoiled by modern developments.

As there was no room for a battle site, and as the two Councils were only prepared to pay for a living history camp, that is what they got; the

Confederate camp was on one side of the main road on the village green, and the Union camp on the other side, adjacent to the Lincoln Hall (the village hall!). On the other side of the green was the Lincoln tea shoppe, next to Harrods of Hingham village store! Soon, by Friday evening, both sides of the road were full of white tents, and the White Heart pub was doing a roaring trade, as was the fish and chip shop.

The local vicar, Mark Kichenside, did a lot of work on Sundays church service, whilst we had lots of help from volunteers from the Festival Organising Committee and both the Town and the District Councils with ropes and pins, access to water and wood, toilets, marshalling and security. Could not have asked for more pleasant and enthusiastic help and support.

By 9am Saturday morning we were into full living history mode, engaging with the public and being friendly. A detachment of SoSkAn Confederate Artillery was also able to join us, and was most welcome, adding a 5th gun to our battery of 4.

The plan was for the soldiery to go to the market place, and come back for a march past at 2pm in front of Debra Heine Deputy Consul General from the American Embassy and Lt. Col. Mark Ciero from USAF Lakenheath taking the salute. Then Consul General Heine would formally open the event. The event was attended by Gaynor and Roger Willison-Gray, on their horses. Very unfortunately at 1.30, as Roger was mounting his horse, an emergency ambulance went past on the Norwich road at full tilt, all lights

on, siren blazing, which caused Roger's horse to 'throw a wobbly' and to throw Roger off somewhat spectacularly. He does not bounce very well onto tarmac!

All of a sudden the road was blocked a loose horse had to be gathered in and medics descended on a prone, bleeding Roger lying in the road. I have to tell you that the professionalism, competence, team work and inspired leadership that is ACWS came to the fore in an instant.

Traffic control was set up, horses sorted, and medics swiftly surrounded the prone Roger (who, having done so much and worked so hard to set this event up, we all felt it was so unfair that this accident had happened to him). He did actually land in front of the A&E consultant from Norwich Hospital, whilst a theatre sister was also close by in the crowd. As well as our own medics, the local fire brigade crew was also able to help. Another ambulance turned up to take him away and, to our great relief, it transpired that (apart from a few cuts and bruises) the main injury was a broken, in two places, left collar bone. This has subsequently been plated and pinned.

But at the time it did not look so good and our journalist student visitor from America Jay Seawell was raising his camera to take shots of what was going on, in the best paparazzi tradition. This, of course, was not on to us and he was asked to desist. When he failed to get the message, he was promptly escorted from the scene. He has subsequently understood our point of view and apologised, for which we thank him.

Anyway, the show must go on, so somewhat delayed the march past duly took place, the event opened and firing demonstrations duly rendered, to the background sound of 'rolling thunder' from the guns. Our artillery had to be placed at the back of a field at the edge of town, beyond where our cars were parked, as the only place where they could be safely fired. When they had done this, they came back to camp and added to the living history by carrying out artillery dry drills.

Ian Morris led the medical displays and Christian Sprakes was our living history interpreter/microphone aided speaker to the crowds. The good citizens of Hingham and District and their visitors were amazed at our professionalism, and said so. Later that evening Roger returned from hospital with his arm in a sling to much enthusiastic cheering and applause, whilst the vet had checked out the horse and pronounced everything OK. So ended a busy day, including rehearsals for Sundays church service.

Sunday morning was a welcome rest. Then we all formed up and went to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Anniversary Festival Service in St Andrew's church, which is a massive old building about the size of a small cathedral. The colours of each side were duly laid beside the Abraham Lincoln memorial and a guard mounted, one soldier from each side. The other colours were then laid by the high altar and, with a full congregation, the service began.

The Vicar certainly likes singing – we

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ROCKINGHAM 2009



STANFORD HALL 2009





CUSWORTH HALL 2009



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had 6 hymns in the service, but it all went very well. Philip Clark read the lesson from the bible and Nic Cole read the Gettysburg address of President Lincoln. In re-forming the colours later in the service the Reverend Ron supervised excellently well. Angela Cross and Christian Sprakes played violin and accompanied the church organist on the piano, whilst Christian blew taps at the end of the service. The congregation were very pleased and impressed with what we did, including a guard of honour outside at the end and the Vicar praised our professionalism and competence.

Then it was all over to the Lincoln Hall, with the congregation and others, for tea and cakes, and finished at 5pm with the formal lowering of the flag ceremony. Job well done!

As for Hadfield and Market Deeping, whilst this event was not a 'big battle' it got ACWS and re-enacting into the public eye, earned some much needed cash for the Society and it was all good fun. Overall, a very enjoyable weekend, with the added frisson of excitement of Roger digging holes in Norfolk highways department tarmac, the hard way. May I congratulate everybody who attended, and for their valuable contributions to this much praised and appreciated event. We think we might even have recruited the USAF Lt. Col., but lets wait and see.....

Philip Clark,
Company
Secretary



America's Civil War The operational battlefield 1861 – 1863 – Brian Holden Reid

I was delighted and honoured to be given this book to review, published by Prometheus Books. Professor Reid is Professor of American History and Military Institutions and former head of the Department of War Studies at Kings College London. He has written a number of other books, but his civil war series include 'The origins of the American Civil War' and this volume, with a final volume in the trilogy dealing with 1864/5 and the aftermath of the war likely to be available soon. He has also published 'Robert E Lee: Icon for a Nation' and 'The American Civil War and the Wars of the Industrial Revolution'.

In this book he examines the diverse contexts of the war that influenced strategic planning and the operational execution of battlefield tactics by both Union and Confederate forces. He demonstrates how the aims and ideologies of the north and the south changed over the course of the first three years of the conflict. He delved into the personalities that led the armies, and offers a look at the common soldiers who filled the ranks and followed the orders, however incompetent at time. He carefully, concisely and intelligently analyses strategy and logistics, and the inter-play with the personal challenges faced by Commanders (e.g. George McClellan, who always fooled himself into thinking the enemy was stronger than they were, or Braxton Bragg who could not inspire his Confederate troops because he was loathed and feared.)

Some historians have claimed that Civil War tactics meant armies were invulnerable when on the defensive. Holden Reid makes a powerful argument against this way of thinking. He looks at the victories and defeats of the early campaigns, rejects unsupported comparisons between the strategies employed in this war and other wars of the 1800's, and gives us some very useful, informed views of the social and political climate of the Civil War.

'Tactical failure on so many Civil War battlefields had just as much to do with command inexperience and the failure to exploit offensive opportunities as it did with the power of the defensive, the rifled musket and breast works, as the latter in any case did not become prevalent until 1863'.

'The nature and impact of any war, even one as destructive as this Civil War, cannot be measured by the sum of its military operations. Forces that operate beyond the battlefield are just as potent in framing strategy and military policy as the ceaseless engagements led by rival commanders in the field'.

This intellectually rigorous book is, nevertheless, a good read, and I wholeheartedly commend it to serious students of the American Civil War as a perceptive analysis that asked some interestingly challenges questions.

Philip Clark

Thank you Philip for that interesting review. It is not a book that is presently in our collection, but it may very soon will be.
Editor

AUTHENTICITY

It appears that many members are slipping in their dress code. Whether you are a member who has been in the Society for several years or a newcomer, you should all know our Authenticity Guidelines, which are printed in the Bye-laws, Rules and Policies booklet that everyone receives when they join - Available from Claire Morris - Membership Secretary.

The biggest problem that members seem to have is not knowing the fact that they did not wear modern digital wristwatches in the American Civil War, yet time and time again when soldiers are firing their guns, the arm goes up to fire and Hey Presto out comes a wristwatch. I have spoken to so many members over the years about this problem and you wouldn't believe some of the excuses they come out with - I have to time the battle! No you don't, the officers do that. Oh I wear it way up my arm out of sight, so why can I see it? When I first became a member of my first small ACW group in 1977, we were fined 50p for wearing a wristwatch, quite a sum 32 years ago, but you only did it once. I take my watch off at the beginning of the weekend and put it back on just as we are leaving, or even when we get home. Old habits die hard.

The other big problem we have is members wearing modern glasses, and worse still reacta light lenses or sunglasses. You people are really letting the Society down. Please do something about it instead of making invalid excuses why you do it. You can buy period spectacle frames at really reasonable prices and have your

own prescription fitted into them, or do what I do, wear contact lenses!

Ladies – do not be seen smoking, it just wasn't done. Worse still, ladies and gentlemen smoking filter tipped cigarettes, they just didn't have them. Clothing – mixed dress i.e. a combination of modern items of external clothing and period costume should not be worn. Clothing should not be of modern material e.g. nylon etc. There should be NO zip fasteners apparent. No face piercing furniture should be visible e.g. nose, eyebrow or lip rings studs or the like. Intelligent and sensible application of the principles of what was worn and used in 1860's North America is required in the interests of Authentic Re-enacting on or in the neighbourhood of the Authentic Camps, when in uniform, out-of-camp and at Battlefield events. (The last 6 lines are taken from the Authentic Camp Regulations and Guidelines).

Don't under any circumstances wear trainers with either a uniform or civilian outfit. You have taken the trouble to pay good money for your clothing, so why ruin the look. In my mind you have wasted your money. Research to find out what is correct and what is acceptable.

Commanding Officers, you are letting the Society down also by allowing these members to get away with wearing and using this incorrect equipment, so perhaps this should start from the top down and members, if you are told by your officer to remove an incorrect item, please don't argue with him. Do the right thing.

Both EventPlan and English Heritage have basic Authenticity Guidelines and

these must be adhered to at all times. You all keep asking to be booked again by EH, all the time we have members who can't or won't adhere to the correct dress code, we will not get invited back.

Howard Giles is the same, very strict about dress codes. Please don't even been seen licking an ice-cream from a cornet at his events, buy it and put it in a bowl and eat with a spoon.

Now please, stop letting us down and do it properly.

Viv Corbishley
Projects Director

DID YOU KNOW?

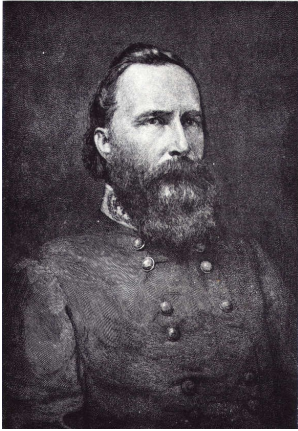
Georges Clemenceau, who as premier would lead France to Victory during WWI, served as a war correspondent with the Army of the Potomac during 1864.

The last man killed in action during the Civil War seems to have been private John J. Williams, company b 34th Indiana, who fell ay Palmito ranch, the final battle of the war on 13 May 1865.

For Christmas 1861 each soldier from Rhode Island received a new pair of socks and a new pair of warm woollen mittens, all donated by the citizens of that state.

Having decided that the intense fire with which the First Lieutenant Alonso Cushing's battery was replying to the Confederate bombardment that precluded Pickett's Charge on 3 July 1863 was having little effect, Cpt John G Hazard told the gallant officer. "Young man, are you aware that every round you fire costs the government \$2.67?"

CONFEDERATE GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET



James Longstreet was one of Robert E. Lee's most able lieutenants during the American Civil War. However, his post-war career was controversial,

at least in the South. He became a Republican and friend of U. S. Grant. However, perhaps his worst offence in some eyes was that on occasion he had disagreed with Lee, and been correct to do so.

James Longstreet was born in South Carolina, and raised in Georgia. He did not excel at West Point. He graduated 54th out of 62 in his class in 1842, below William Rosecrans, D.H. Hill and Earl Van Dorn. U.S. Grant, in the year below, became a close friend – Longstreet was present at Grant's wedding. After West Point he was brevetted second lieutenant of the 4th Infantry. During the Mexican War he served under Zachary Taylor, taking part in the battle of Monterey, then joined Scott on the expedition to Mexico City. He was wounded at the battle of Chapultepec, and promoted to brevet major.

Longstreet remaining in the army between the Mexican War and the start of the civil war, reaching the rank of major in 1858. He resigned from the US. Army on 1 June 1861, and on 17 June was appointed a brigadier-

general in the nearly formed Confederate army.

Most of his subsequent military career was spend in Virginia.

He was promoted to major-general on 17 October, partly as a reward for his performance at 1st Bull Run. When McClellan launched the Peninsula campaign of 1862, Longstreet's division was one of the units moved to Yorktown. At Williamsburg (5 May 1862) he was in command of the rear guard that helped hold off the Union advance for a day, thus allowing the Confederate army to reach the defences of Richmond.

Throughout his career Longstreet was prone to move slowly but hit hard when he arrived. This did lead to the danger that his arrival would be too late. His performance during the battle of Seven Pines or Fair Oaks (31 May-1 June 1862) was not good – he moved his troops along the wrong road on 31 May, delaying the start of the main attack.

Seven Pines also saw Robert E. Lee promoted to command the Confederate armies in Virginia after Joseph Johnston was wounded.

The partnership between Lee and Longstreet began well. During the Seven Days' Battles Longstreet performed much better than his much-vaunted colleague "Stonewall Jackson", who for one moved slower than Longstreet.

Jackson soon recovered his speed as he moved against General John Pope's army in northern Virginia. While McClellan was slowly retreating from the Peninsula, Lee was free to turn north to help Jackson. On 13 August Lee detached more than half of his infantry from the army around Richmond, and dispatched it north to join Jackson, under Longstreet's

command. This time Longstreet was meant to move fairly slowly, to make sure that his troops were ready to fight when they found the enemy. On 29 August Longstreet and his men reached the Confederate positions at Bull Run. The next day Longstreet launched the attack that almost away Pope's army (2nd Bull Run 28-29 Aug) Longstreet did not share Lee's belief in the value of an invasion of the North. He was not keen on the invasion of Maryland, and events proved him correct. At Antietam (17 September 1862) Longstreet's men fought well, and Longstreet earned a promotion to lieutenant-general (11 October 1862). With it came command of the I Corps. It was this unit that did the bulk of the fighting at Fredericksburg (13 December 1862), although given the appalling lack of intelligence in the Union attack this victory hardly required any great skill on Longstreet's part.

The events of 1863 demonstrate some Lee and Longstreet's flaws. Early in the year Longstreet was sent to south east Virginia, to guard the supply routes into Richmond. There he found himself facing an equal number of Federal troops, very rare for any Confederate commander. However, Longstreet was not the man to launch an attack on his own initiative. Lee now demonstrated one of his great failing – he did not like to give direct orders to his subordinates, considering it to be wrong to give orders to gentlemen. Instead he suggested that Longstreet would be best to either attack the Federal troops south east of Richmond, or rejoin the main Confederate army. Longstreet did neither, and so missed the battle of Chancellorsville with two divisions. Chancellorsville saw the death of

Stonewall Jackson. This promoted Longstreet to the status of Lee's senior lieutenant. Lee was now determined to launch his second invasion of the north. Longstreet was not opposed to the idea, but wanted it to be offensive in strategy, but defensive in tactics – he wanted Lee to manoeuvre the Union commander into a position where he would have to attack the Confederate army. Longstreet had become aware of the power of the defensive during the civil war rather more quickly than Lee, possibly because of his experience at Fredericksburg. Longstreet may well have been convinced that Lee had agreed to this.

Gettysburg proved that Lee had agreed to no such idea. Longstreet now demonstrated his own greatest weakness. If he agreed with a plan he could implement it as well as any of Lee's generals, but if he disagreed with that plan then he could slow to a crawl. On the second day at Gettysburg Longstreet was under orders to attack Cemetery Ridge as during the morning (not at dawn). In the end the attack went in late in the afternoon. When Longstreet did launch his attack, he discovered that the Union line was further advanced than expected, and all he could do was force the line back to Cemetery Ridge. Even if he had attacked in the morning there is no guarantee that his attack would have succeeded.

Pickett's Charge is probably the most controversial incident in Lee's career. The Union position on Cemetery Ridge was now stronger than it had been on the previous day. Any attack directly up the ridge would surely result in many useless casualties, as had the Union attacks at Fredericksburg. Longstreet certainly thought so, telling

Lee that “there never was a body of fifteen thousand men who could make that attack”. Longstreet was right. Pickett’s charge was a disaster. Pickett’s men suffered 7,000 casualties from a force of 13,500 men and achieved nothing. This time Longstreet was not to blame. His greatest mistake here was to have publicly disagreed with Lee, to have later repeated that disagreement in print, and worse of all to be right.

The Confederacy had one more chance to achieve a great victory after Gettysburg, and Longstreet was partly responsible for it. While Lee had been launching his invasion of Pennsylvania, further west Union forces had been advancing on Chattanooga. After a series of carefully prepared

advances across the summer of 1863, on 9 September General Rosecrans’s army entered the key Confederate rail junction. On the same day, despite Lee’s strenuous efforts to prevent it, Longstreet with two divisions was dispatched from the Army of Northern Virginia to reinforce Braxton Bragg, now south of Chattanooga.

Longstreet’s men began to reach Bragg on 18 September. The next day Bragg launched his counterattack at Chickamauga (19-20 September 1863). The first day of the battle saw a series of poorly coordinated Confederate attacks on the Union line. That evening Longstreet reached the battlefield. It is a sign of the regard with which he was held by his fellow Confederate generals that in the middle of a battle Bragg reorganised the structure of his army, giving the newly arrived Longstreet command of the left wing.

The next day Longstreet proved that Bragg had been correct to do so.

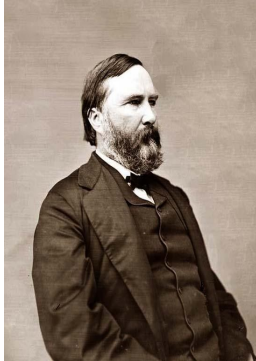
Bragg’s original plan had been for his right wing under Leonidas Polk to begin the attack. Longstreet would then attack a weakened Union line. Polk’s attack went in late, and did not achieve everything that Bragg had hoped for. However, when Longstreet did make his attack he had a great stroke of luck. He had decided to make a strong attack on a small part of the Union line, and had formed his eight brigades into three lines. This strong column marched straight into a temporary gap in the Union line, formed when one unit was moved to block a non-existent gap in the line. Rosecrans and half of his army fled back to Chattanooga in the rout. Only the resistance of General George Thomas on the left prevented a total disaster.

The Confederate triumph soon turned sour. Bragg decided not to attack Rosecrans at Chattanooga, but instead settled down for a siege. This allowed the Union to rush reinforcements to the city. U.S. Grant was appointed to command in the west, and was soon in Chattanooga himself. Meanwhile outside the city Bragg was arguing with all of his subordinates. The situation had got so bad that President Davis had been forced to visit the siege camp. His visit did little to help the situation around Chattanooga.

One of his suggestions was that Longstreet should be sent north east, to recapture Knoxville, the main city in east Tennessee. Bragg had dispatched some troops in that direction during October. Finally, at the start of November Longstreet joined them. He did not perform particularly well in east Tennessee. The Federal commander, Ambrose Burnside, was able to pull his troops back into

Knoxville. Longstreet began his own siege on 19 November. On 29 November he attempted a direct assault on the lines around Knoxville and was repulsed. On 4 December, with a Federal relief force under Sherman approaching, Longstreet was forced to abandon the siege, and retreat north east, towards Virginia.

Longstreet spent the next four months in East Tennessee. He and his troops returned to Virginia in April 1864, just in time to play a crucial role at the Battle



of the Wilderness (4-7 May 1864)

On 6 May a strong Union attack came close to crushing Lee's left wing, and almost captured Lee himself. In the nick of time Longstreet's fresh troops arrived on the battlefield, pushed back the Union attack, and quite probably saved Lee from capture.

The battle of the Wilderness was the last battle at which Lee's army was able to manoeuvre with its normal skill. After that the fighting in Virginia settled into a grim pattern of attritional warfare, as Grant slowly worked his way towards Richmond and Petersburg. Longstreet missed much of this fighting, having been wounded at the Wilderness. He returned to service in November, just in time to participate in the final Confederate collapse. He was present on the final retreat to Appomattox Court House, where his knowledge of Grant played a part in persuading Lee that he would get fair terms.

Longstreet has been one target of the

"lost cause" myth. It was him, and not Lee, that lost Gettysburg, and therefore the entire civil war. Avoiding any questions on whether a Confederate victory at Gettysburg would have actually won them the war or not, this is rather unfair on Longstreet.

He was a capable corps commander, possibly slow moving, but whose attacks hit hard. Pickett's Charge was entirely Lee's mistake.

Longstreet's second great mistake (after disagreeing with Lee at Gettysburg) was to become a Republican after the war. Some of his post-war writing was also eccentric – in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* he suggested that even a Confederate victory would not have led to permanent secession. He expressed the view that the south had to accept that it had lost the war, and work towards reconstruction within the framework of the law, which made him unpopular with more radical ex-Confederates. During U.S. Grant's presidency, Longstreet was appointed to several Federal posts, including surveyor of Customs in New Orleans, United States marshal for Georgia and minister resident to Turkey. By the time of his death in 1904 he was the last survivor of the Confederate high command.

Rickard, J (30 January 2007)

DID YOU KNOW?

The introduction of balloons for Union reconnaissance during the winter of 1861-62 led the Confederate army to develop what were probably the world's first ever overhead camouflage techniques.



CRAZY BET'S CIPHER

Elizabeth Van Lew was probably the most successful Union spy in the Confederacy, with a network of agent's that reached right into the Confederate War Department and reportedly even Jefferson Davis' household. Of course once secured, information had to be passed on to the appropriate Union authorities. For this Van Lew used a surprisingly simple cipher.

6	R	N	B	H	T	X
3	V	1	U	8	4	W
1	E	M	3	J	5	G
5	L	A	9	0	I	D
2	K	7	2	Z	6	S
4	P	O	Y	C	F	Q
	1	3	6	2	5	4

Using the cipher was quite Easy. All the letters were represented by a two digit number, which corresponded to the letter location on the grid. Thus 'Robert E Lee' would cipher as 61-43-11-61-65-11-51-11-11.

This a a very simple coding system, and easy to break given some samples, some brain work, and a little

some readily available book, such as a particular edition of the Bible, and a few protocols. For example, the first message could enciphered using the order in the first chapter of Genesis, the second using the order in the first chapter of Exodus and so forth. The recipient of the message must have the same book and know the protocols.

In contrast , Van Lew's cipher required a copy of the cipher grid and that was all. With the attendant risk a copy may fall into enemy hands. Worse, Van Lew seems to have used the same cipher for every message throughout the war. By good fortune and not to mention poor Confederate counter intelligence – of her messages was ever intercepted. Had that happened it would not have taken long for some clever cryptanalyst to break the cipher.

IT'S A MIRACLE

There are numerous tales about the ingenuity, inventiveness and wit of the Civil War Soldier- regardless of side. Some may be true, who knows. Let us consider the following anecdote.

It seems that a soldier – side indeterminate.- lost his bayonet. Not wishing to report the loss and having to pay for its replacement, he whittled a reasonable facsimile from wood so that, except on close inspection, he would seem to have one. The young soldier calculated that when he went into action he would have a chance to replace the lost item.

This improvisation worked for a time until came a formal inspection. Passing along a line of troops, the inspecting officer halted before him and asked 'Let me see your bayonet

soldier.'

The quick thinking lad answered 'Sir, I promised my father that I would never draw my bayonet unless I intended to kill with it.'

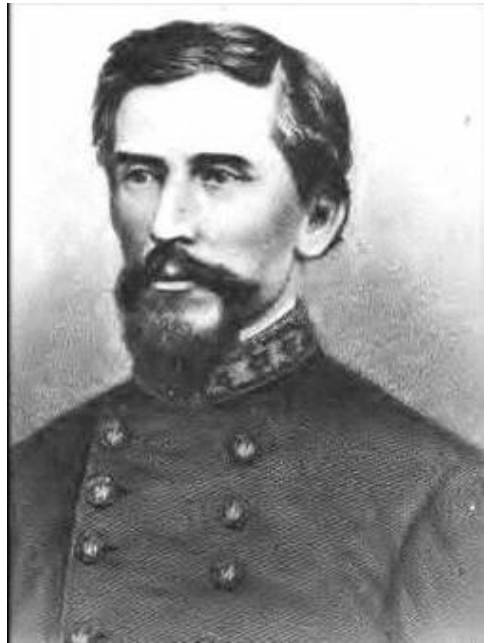
The officer insisted. Seeing no other option than to comply with the order. Looking skyward as he drew the bayonet said. 'May the Lord change this bayonet to wood for breaking my vow.'

MRS DABNEYS CODE

Here is another story about a woman's Ingenuity. The Dabney's were an African American couple who served as spied for the Union army in Virginia during the Spring of 1863. Mr Dabney was with the army of the Potomac north of the Rappahannock River, while Mrs Dabney worked as cook and laundress at the headquarters of a Confederate general south of the river. This put her in a good position to overhear important information.

Although the intelligence supplied by the Dabney's proved excellent, some Union officers wondered how they obtained it, since Mr Dabney rarely seemed to disappear for any protracted periods. Shortly before the Chancellor campaign, someone asked him how he received the information from his wife. Dabney answered by pointing to a clothes line that could be seen through a telescope:

That grey shirt is Longstreet; and when she takes it off, it means he's gone down to Richmond. That white shirt means Hill, and when she moves it up to the west end of the line, Hill has moved upstream. The red one is Stonewall. He's down on the right now, if he moves, she will move that red shirt.



Patrick Ronayne Cleburne

General Patrick Cleburne was born March 17, 1828 in a Bridgepark cottage on the River Bride in Ireland. He became one of two foreign born officers to become a Major General. General Cleburne was known as a great combat officer, sometimes being compared to General Nathan Bedford Forrest.. He trained his soldiers personally and made sure their needs were met. He was sometimes called the "Stonewall Jackson" of the West." He received a note of thanks from the Confederate Congress after he saved trains belonging to the Army of Tennessee. General Cleburne died leading his men at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Before the battle he said. **"If we are going to die, let us die like men."** Cleburne was buried near Franklin, Tennessee but his body was later moved to Helena, Arkansas.

THE VETERAN MAKES HIMSELF COMFORTABLE

The difference between the veteran and the recruit are many and varied. The veteran is hard and the recruit is soft. The veteran battle-wise but war weary, the recruit green but enthusiastic. The one is relaxed and informal and careless or rank. The other is liable to be overly respectful of it. But nowhere is the difference more noticeable than when it comes to comfort, as told by Frank Moore in his *Anecdotes, Poetry and Incidents of the War* (New York 1866)

It is a trite remark that a man never knows how much he can do without until he tries it, but it is more to my present purpose to say that he never knows with how little he can make himself comfortable until he makes the experiment. Nobody possesses this invaluable knowledge so much as a veteran. Put a recruit in a pine forest with his shelter tent, and have nobody but recruits with him, ten to one you will find him under his shelter tent three weeks from that time.

Not so with the veteran. If he be camped in a pine forest, give him an old axe, a boot-leg, a mud puddle, a board or two and a handful of nails and he builds himself a house, and a house too, comfortable and commodious. and not wanting in architectural beauty. First he fells trees, then cuts and notches his logs and lays them together to the required height. His roof he puts on a great slope, and thatches it with the green of the pine trees.

He is careful to leave window spaces and tacking pieces of his shelter tent

over these., he has provided light, but keeps the nipping air of winter out. With the board he makes a door and the boot-leg supplying the hinges, it soon swings into place. Then he fills the spaces between the logs with the soft earth from his mud puddle and his house is done, except the chimney and the forest and mud puddle soon provide that, his chimney is nothing but a pile of sticks plentifully plastered with mud from the puddle. Then with his old axe he manufactures of pine logs a full assortment of furniture, bedstead, chairs table wardrobe and generally adds a mantle. Then with a bright fire upon his hearth, he is prepared to laugh at winter, and generally does.

“HAVE I GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU”

Late in 1862 Lt Col Judson Kilpatrick was on a forging expedition in Virginia with the 2nd New York Cavalry. Although the troops were supposed to pay for what they took and not to take everything, leaving the locals destitute, these guidelines were not always honored.

On this occasion a farmer complained that the 2nd had looted his property so efficiently that “Everything that I have they have taken; everything except my hope in the hereafter, but that they can’t take.”

At that Kilpatrick relied. “Don’t be too sure, the 10th New York is coming behind you.”

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All advertisement & editorial copy should be sent by the above date

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