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THE A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition



Stanford Hall 2009

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Events 2010

***All events are FULL SOCIETY EVENTS unless otherwise stated
Camping from Friday until Monday unless otherwise stated.***

2-5th April - EASTER TRAINING WEEKEND - CONFIRMED

Easter holiday weekend event at West Wales Museum of Childhood Penffynnon, Llangeler, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5EY. Authentic and family camping available (family camp area for tents, but only 3 caravan/motorhome places available please contact Claire Morris 69th NY to register if you need a place). Camping available from Good Friday through to the following Tuesday. Facilities include:- water; indoor toilets; showers; tea-room; toy museum Please bring some wood with you.

10-11th April - CONFEDERATE TRAINING WEEKEND and

17-18th April - FEDERAL CAMP OF INSTRUCTION - CONFIRMED

Society Training Weekends at Tatton Old Hall. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN.

Members camping available from Friday until Sunday. No arrivals before 15.00 hours on Friday, gates will close at 21.00 hours Friday and 19.00 hours Saturday. They open again at 07.00 hours each morning, Sunday evening last exit will be 21.00 hours. Private training on SATURDAY and SUNDAY

2nd-3rd May - ROCKINGHAM CASTLE, Leics – CONFIRMED

Members camping available from Friday afternoon until Tuesday. Camping and parking arrangements will be similar to last year. There will be a beer tent and catering bar available on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Displays on SUNDAY and Bank Holiday MONDAY

30-31st May - SEWERBY HALL CONFIRMED

Spring Bank Holiday Weekend. Members camping from Friday afternoon until Tuesday. Displays on SUNDAY and MONDAY



19-20th June - STANFORD HALL, Leics - CONFIRMED

Self-sponsored event. There will be a beer tent available on Saturday night. Private event on SATURDAY and Public Battle on SUNDAY.

3rd July - EYNSHAM CARNIVAL - CONFIRMED

Members camping available from Friday until Sunday. Public event only on SATURDAY including two battle displays.

10-11th July - SILLOTH, WIGTON CUMBRIA - CONFIRMED

Multi-period event at Silloth, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 4AW, with Vikings, Romans, English Civil War, Napoleonic and ourselves in attendance. Members camping available from Friday afternoon until Sunday. Living History on SATURDAY & SUNDAY with the main event including battle on Sunday.

14-15th August - SPETCHLEY MULTI-PERIOD – Subject To Confirmation

Possible multi-period event at Spetchley Park Gardens, Worcester, WR5 1RS. Details to follow once confirmed.

29-30th August - SHEFFIELD, South Yorks – CONFIRMED

Sheffield City Council event with EventPlan staging Multi-Period displays again as part of the Sheffield Fayre. Members camping available from Friday after 3 p.m. until Tuesday a.m. Displays on SUNDAY and MONDAY.

11-12th September - TATTON, Cheshire – CONFIRMED

No arrivals before noon on Friday, gates will close at 21.00 hours Friday and 19.00 hours Saturday. They open again at 07.00 hours each morning

18-19th September - INGLETON - CONFIRMED

Small event to finish the year with in stunning surroundings on the edge of the Yorkshire moors at Waterfalls Field, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EP. Members camping available from Friday until Sunday.



17-18th July - KELMARSH HALL - CONFIRMED

English Heritage Multi-Period Event - Festival of History, at Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire ACWS members have been invited to participate as Boer Infantry in the main arena at this event. Displays SATURDAY & SUNDAY Numbers strictly limited to those who pre-register with Kevin Holden.

You Could Not Make This Up

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846

John F Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860

John F Kennedy was elected President in 1960

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.

Both wives lost their children while living in the White House

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday

Both presidents were shot in the head
It get even more weird from now on.

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy

Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln

Both were assassinated by southerners

Both were succeeded by southerners named Johnson

Andrew Johnson who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808

Lyndon Johnson who succeeded Kennedy was born in 1908

John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln was born in 1839

Lee Harvey Oswald who assassinated Kennedy was born in 1939

Both assassins were known by their three names

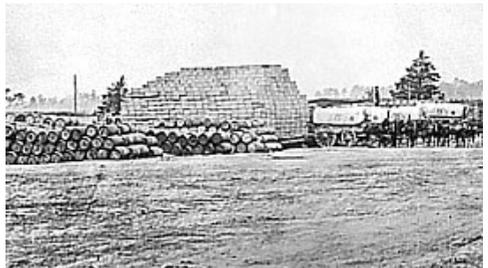
Both are composed of fifteen letters
Now hang on to your seat
Lincoln was shot at the theatre named Ford

Kennedy was shot in a car called Lincoln made by Ford

Lincoln was shot in a theatre and his assassin ran and hid in a warehouse

Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin ran and hid in a theatre

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trails



Feeding The Troops

This photograph shows what a temporary Union commissary depot looked like during the war. Large wooden barrels containing salted meat, coffee beans, and sugar are stacked next to crates of hardtack. It took a lot of food to feed the army even for one day!

(photo Library of Congress)



OBITUARY

BARRY HUSBANDS 25.12.1943 – 18.1.2010

Barry joined the ACWS 20 years ago and was a very loyal and dedicated re enactor. A member of 32nd. Virginia he was a confederate through and through. Until 6 years ago, Barry attended every event and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Unfortunately at that time he discovered he had cancer. He was seriously ill for a while and then went into remission. He then started attending events again. Sadly the cancer returned 18 months ago and the last time he came to an event was at Rockingham 2009 , where he visited just for the day on the Sunday. Although he was unable to go on the field and fight, he still wore his uniform with pride. He's probably now up in Heaven sitting with Roger listening to his stories and going over old battles. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Carol and his devoted family.



PROJECTS TEAM REPORT

Well folks the season is looming at an ever quickening rate, and what an action packed year for all of you we have. We have events from the razzmatazz of carnivals, with crowds, to quiet little backwaters in idyllic surroundings. From coast to plain to Hill, I am sure you will agree a very diverse programme. We are all met by challenges and restraints including myself and this I appreciate but do please support as many events as you can. I hope to see many of you at the forthcoming training weekends and do feel free to come along and have a chat put forward your views and thoughts, I will be more accessible this year and can be found in the vicinity of the 'U.S.Signals' on the federal camp. This does not mean I only talk to federal members and all members blue, green, grey, butternut, civilian and even modern dressed are welcome to come and pull up a chair and smell the coffee. My only request is that period protocol is used during public opening hours. My 'Office' will be usually the Signal Officers wall tent, distinguishable by a multitude of red and white flags outside.

Most Events will have warning orders issued prior to events, these will be cascaded down the chain of command to each individual member, and there will be site specific information, location of water points, toilets, positions of camps car parking and overall timings.

Now to what most of you want to know the events themselves:

2-5th April – PEN FYNNON Wales SA44 5EY Registration Fee £ 3

For those of you that have never been, this is an absolutely cracking little venue, Paul and Hilary were members of the Iron Brigade years back and are very receptive to A.C.W.S. they have a cracking little cafe and hot water, flushing loos, and even showers on site. The 69th N.Y. have been going for some time now and have built a gun emplacement and breast works with plenty of space. At night it is so dark due to the lack of light pollution, you can get a real feel of what it could have been like out on the campaign all those years ago. This is over the Easter weekend, so an excellent opportunity to have an inexpensive weekend away over with friends.

TATTON OLD HALL WA16 6QN
Registration Fee £ 3

10-11TH April CONFEDERATE TRAINING

17-18TH April FEDERAL CAMP OF INSTRUCTION

The army training weekends this year will be the second time we

have used Tatton Old Hall as a training venue. We have at our disposal hundreds of acres to use during Saturday, even I don't know what your army commanders have planned but with the parameters available I am sure they will provide plenty for you to do. I will make a suggestion though; make sure you take suitable food and drink to fill your haversack with rations!! Sunday will be spent around the camp areas as there will be public access to us.

30-31st May - SEWERBY HALL YO15 1EA Registration Fee £ 6

Back to our old favourite at Bridlington, and one of two visits to the coastline this year, Saturday is a free day with many members taking the opportunity of heading into the nearby town of Bridlington in uniform and being seen by the public, excellent pubs and restaurants typical of British seaside towns, of course don't take any weapons at all with you! There is also an excellent tea room by the stable block at Sewerby Hall itself serving over the weekend, please check for trading hours. Sewerby Hall also has a pub in very short walking distance, serving a variety of beverages and a good choice in way of food.

Sunday and Monday will consist of Living History displays and the battle this year we are portraying Battle for Knoxville, Knoxville was the scene of numerous engagements over a large area, of which we will be depicting a small

section. The cavalry will also be in attendance to enhance what promises to be an excellent weekend.

19-20th June - STANFORD HALL,
LE17 6DH Registration Fee £ 10

Our annual favourite, this year we are back at the front of the house, we have extensive use of the grounds with a very large area on which to operate, the army commanders are looking at the area we have to use and I am sure they are going to provide an exciting campaign for Saturday. There will also be Battle on the Sunday for the public on site. A good weekend to also try out your new ideas for displays and living history and maybe a first person scenario or two, this is a golden opportunity to try out some ideas away from the public glare. There will be the same beer tent we have used at Rockingham in attendance this weekend and it will be sited up the track towards the family camp, hopefully this will cater for all our members who want different things for evening entertainment.

3rd. JULY 2010 EYNSHAM
CARNIVAL, EYNSHAM
OX29 4HG Registration Fee £6

Camping from Friday lunchtime 2nd. until Sunday lunchtime 4th. July. This is a really lovely village with 8 pubs, 2 chippies and a Chinese takeaway. The Carnival is a very prestigious event which has been going some 20 years. The site for the Authentic camps is very

spacious and there is a separate arena for ACWS. There will be a short parade at 1.00pm followed by a full afternoon programme. We are contracted to do 2 x 30 minute battles, one at 3.30 and the other at 5.00pm, although these times are subject to change. Please can we have the band at this event as they were very spectacular at Market Deeping and we would like to repeat this. We were recommended to the sponsor by a leading member of the English Civil War Society, so please let's have a good turn out and stand up to our good reputation.

10-11th July - SILLOTH,
CA7 4AW Registration Fee £6

Our second visit to the coast finds us in Silloth on the seafront for a multi-period event, living history for Saturday and the main event happens on Sunday with us providing an arena display. The site overlooks the Solway Firth and into Scotland in the distance there is a wide range of pubs in the area and similar to Sewerby the local population is boosted by holiday makers, an ideal chance for you to recruit in a previously untouched area by A.C.W.S. all this in a beautiful part of the world.

25-26th July – GLEMHAM HALL –
SALUTE FOR HEROES

More details to follow

14-15th August - SPETCHLEY
MULTI-PERIOD WR5 1RS

Registration Fee £6

Next on this busy schedule is 'M5', a name coined by sitting down with a cup of tea and friends, it basically describes the event, not far from the M5 motorway and the five main representative periods that will be present Medieval, 17th century, Napoleonic, Victorian and 20th century, 'Military 5' It is being run by Worcester re enactors who are all, yes you got it, re enactors themselves. This is their first attempt at a major show with the hope that it will grow year in year, there will be a market area, beer tent and caterers in attendance and a large battle field. Battles Saturday and Sunday, could I have a volunteer to organise a work party to enhance the battlefield with the other groups please.

There is a small tea room and extensive gardens on site which are accessible during the day.

Another note for this event is FIRE PITS MUST BE DUG, if you are using a raised fire a pit must be dug for the fire to sit in.

29-30th August - SHEFFIELD, South York's S2 2RU Registration Fee £6

This weekend finds us at Norfolk Park Sheffield, camps will be in their usual places, battles Sunday and Monday, the Sheffield Fayre is staged by Sheffield City council, with our friend Howard Giles of Event plan providing the historical displays of which we are part of.

There is plenty to do and see here

with a flower show, crafts, animals and many other attractions and previous years have seen flypasts of The Red Arrows, Lancaster, what's coming this year?

11-12th September – TATTON OLD HALL, WA16 6QN

Registration Fee £6

A.C.W.S. s third visit to Tatton Park of the year will be this weekend, for the main event of the year; we have battles Saturday and Sunday with living history both days. Our instructions are simply to engage the public and give them an enjoyable, entertaining and educating experience. There will be a few changes to the layout this year with family camp being moved to a different location and possible timings being changed.

18-19th September - INGLETON LA6 3EP Registration Fee £3

The final event of the year will be in Waterfalls field Ingleton on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, it is a country and western themed weekend not far from Lancaster. Ingleton is a very pretty village steeped in history with spectacular views and of course the waterfalls. The programme will be a relaxed one with a cafe and flushing loos accessible.

We hope to see you all, over the course of the events this year, Projects is at times a difficult job to do because you all want different things out of your hobby and listening to you I try to accommodate you all in there

somewhere. Often we have to adhere to sponsors wishes and procedures, which some may not agree with, but the guy paying the piper gets to call the tune. I am always open to ideas and suggestions of what you, the individual member would like and will try to accommodate any suggestions when I can, and I would also like to ask if anybody would like to get involved in setting up and running events as part of the team come along and have an informal chat with either myself or Viv. We also have the international next year and we will need some help setting up and running it, do have an enjoyable season and we shall see you all soon

Varina Davis
The Wife and Influence Behind
Jefferson Davis.



Varina was born at "The Briars," in Natchez, Mississippi on May 7, 1826, she married Jefferson Davis in 1845, she was his second wife, and His first wife had been the daughter of Zachary Taylor, who had died three months after their wedding.

Varina was a very religious woman, and very intelligent, who received little formal education; however, in her teens she did attend a finishing school where her social graces were enhanced. When she married Jefferson Davis at the age of nineteen, her mother objected, as Jefferson was eighteen years older than she. But, their married turned out to be a long and most happy one. Varina had a strong interest in politics; therefore her adjustment to the political life as the wife of a politician in Washington, D.C. was easy. She also was a consummate hostess, and an exuberant conversationalist and a story teller. Unlike her husband, she handled condemnation well, which was an asset through the tough years as the First Lady of the Confederacy. In 1862, when conditions in Richmond stated to deteriorate and food was becoming scarce, she found herself under public scrutiny for her entertaining at the White House of the Confederacy. Yet, others complained that her parties were not extravagant enough. Jefferson and Varina would have six children together, one of whom was born during the troubled times of the war, and another who died tragically. At war's end, when Jefferson Davis was captured and arrested in Irwinsville, Georgia, Varina was with her husband. Upon his confinement at Fort Monroe, Virginia, Varina spent this time campaigning to free her husband.

These attempts being unrelenting, Jefferson was finally released in May 1867.

The Davises lived in Canada for a short while, in virtual poverty, until the early 1870s, when a friend arranged for them to purchase the Mississippi estate known as "Beauvoir." They retired here, and following Jefferson's death in 1889, Varina remained to write her memoirs.

Varina eventually moved to New York City, and gave Beauvoir to the state of Mississippi to be used as a Confederate veteran's home. While in New York, she supported herself by continuing to write articles for various magazines. Varina Davis died in New York City on October 16, 1905. Sadly, she was survived by only one of her six children.



ACWS PHOTOGRAPHI COMPETITION 2010

Once again A.C.W.S. will be running the photographic competition on 2010.

Keep those cameras clicking and enter your best photos .

Details will be published in the newsletter and on the website at a

Why not send some of your photos to me for inclusion in the newsletter. If you have a tale to tell so much the better.



CONFEDERATE REPORT

Greetings my Fellow Southerners

Hope you have all had a good winter and are eager to go again.

New campaigns lie ahead for us this year, so lets hope that all of you can make it an outstanding good one.

I'm also hoping that the numbers in attendance will be up from last year, we always put on a spectacular show to the public and by having a great turnout of Confederates, it shows them just what we're capable of.

Lets all march to Tatton Old Hall for our annual training weekend where we can get things sorted for the campaign that lies ahead.

What better place than this to give your kit a good going over, so you'll be ready to march on to Rockingham which promises to be another cracking do.

We will be having our OFFICERS and NCOs meeting at Tatton as usual, so if you have anything that you or your unit wishes to be brought up, this is the place to do it.

Hope to see you all soon

Major Bill Brown
CS STAFF...
DEO VINDICE



The Battle of Pea Ridge 7-8 March 1862

The Battle of Pea Ridge (AKA Battle of Elkhorn Tavern) played a pivotal role in securing Missouri for the Union and opened Arkansas to Union occupation. It played a large role in preserving Missouri's tenuous loyal-state status.

After the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, August 10, 1861, the command structure on both sides in Missouri underwent major overhauls. Union Major General Henry W. Halleck chose Brigadier General Samuel Ryan Curtis to command the force that fought at Wilson's Creek, the newly christened Army of the Southwest. The Confederates also had command issues. Major General Sterling Price and Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch feuded bitterly, and President Jefferson Davis chose Major General Earl Van Dorn to revive the Confederacy's fortunes in the new Military District of the Trans-Mississippi.

Van Dorn's plan to reinvigorate the Rebel cause west of the Mississippi River exhibited his reputation as an aggressive fighter. He planned to attack Curtis's troops in northwest Arkansas and to capture St. Louis, Missouri. The Rebel Army of the West had about 16,000 men available for

the upcoming struggle, while the Federal Army of the Southwest had about 10,250. The Confederates had advantages in men and artillery relative to their opponents, greater than any other Confederate force in a single campaign during the entire Civil War.

Van Dorn ordered the Army of the West north toward Fayette (Washington County), hoping to destroy the scattered Union detachments that Curtis dispersed around his central position near Little Sugar Creek. The plan failed as Union Brigadier General Franz Sigel's forces in Bentonville escaped to Union lines around Little Sugar Creek. The Confederate men and animals were worn out from the march over the Boston Mountains, had had little sleep, and brought few supplies. Despite this, Van Dorn formed an even more ambitious plan. He decided to attack from the rear. He split the Army of the West into two forces, separated by Pea Ridge, one under McCulloch to skirt the western edge of the ridge and come in behind the Federal troops, while the other wing under Price would take the Bentonville Detour around the ridge, then take Telegraph Road south and link with McCulloch at Elkhorn Tavern to attack in the rear.

While Curtis did not anticipate such a wide-ranging envelopment, he took precautions by felling trees and making obstructions to delay any Rebel moves around Pea Ridge via the Bentonville Detour. The Confederate attack began the morning of March 7. Curtis initially believed that the Rebels were trying to slip part of their force around his right flank but that most of the force was in front of him. He dispatched troops under Colonel Peter J. Osterhaus from the

Second Division to determine the strength of the Confederates to the west of his army. This sparked the first shots of the battle.

After initial success, the Rebel attack at Leetown (Benton County) met disaster as McCulloch decided to reconnoitre the Federal position and was killed by Union troops. Yankee soldiers also gunned down the second



-in-command, Brigadier General James McIntosh. The Confederates had huge advantages in numbers and men, but no leaders.

All was not lost for the Rebels. Colonel Louis Hébert led a large force east of Leetown in an attack on still outnumbered forces. Hebert did not know about McCulloch and McIntosh's deaths and that he was the highest ranking Confederate officer on this part of the field. He led his force of about 2,000 in an uncoordinated and unsupported attack. His attack ran into dense woods and seemed to make progress. Yankee reinforcements led by Colonel Jefferson Columbus Davis of the Third Division blunted the assault; Hebert got lost in the woods and was captured. Thus the Confederates were down to the fourth-ranking officer on the battlefield, Brigadier General Albert Pike. Pike did nothing to keep the Rebel effort going. Price's force was late in starting its

attack, but once in action the Confederates made great progress. About 10:30 a.m., Curtis became aware of large numbers of Rebels on Telegraph Road, behind him. Colonel Eugene Carr's Fourth Division gave ground grudgingly before Price's superior numbers. In the late afternoon, the Confederates pushed Carr's battered Fourth Division back from the area around Elkhorn Tavern. Missouri rebels led by Colonel Henry Little forced the Federal troops around Elkhorn Tavern south to Ruddick's cornfield. A flank movement by Price's forces against the Fourth Iowa under Colonel Grenville Dodge failed, but Little's men moving east on Huntsville Road dislodged the lowans as nightfall ended the fighting.

The Battle of Pea Ridge would be decided the next day. Curtis spent most of the night of March 7 preparing. He rearranged the Army of the Southwest and made sure the men were fed, rested, and supplied with ammunition. The next morning, Union troops were ready to resume combat, but the Confederates were not. Van Dorn needed to reconcentrate the army. In the process, he forgot to bring up the supply trains. Most of the Rebels did not get food or new ammunition. The mistake proved fatal. The fighting on March 8 was decisive. Federal cannonneers quickly silenced, destroyed, or forced their Rebel counterparts to retreat. As Curtis prepared to attack with the entire Army of the Southwest, Van Dorn realized his supply trains were still in Bentonville. Comprehending he had lost and was in danger of being trapped and destroyed, Van Dorn sent the exhausted army east toward Huntsville.

The Battle of Pea Ridge was over, and

The Trench At Pen Ffynnon





The Sutherland Affair

On April 23, 1865 in a small town twelve miles west of Petersburg, VA, disparate cymbals crashed against one another, part of a symphony orchestrated by bigotry and hunger and a demand for respect. It was a clash in which two opponents forgot they were part of a common cause, part of a fraternity of triumphant soldiers, and were each ready to draw the blood of comrades in blue. For two days following the Confederate surrender of arms at Appomattox, regiments of the Third Brigade of the First Division of the Fifth Corps had drawn the unenviable task of collecting weapons, munitions, and stores left behind in the Rebel camps. According to John Smith, historian for the 118th Pennsylvania Infantry, "whole battalions had stacked their arms and left for home, taking no part in the surrender, not even signing their parole." It was also a task performed on nearly empty stomachs, as rations had been exhausted. Railroad bridges had been destroyed preventing supply trains from reaching the area, while road conditions kept wagons from moving. Foraging parties were sent out, but pickings were slim. Beef was scarce and what little was found was "poor and tough." Some scavengers picked the ground for corn that had been fed to horses and mules and, according to Smith, ate it "with great relish."

Eleven days earlier and 90 miles to the east, one thousand Black troopers of the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry had followed Col. Charles Francis Adams, the great-grandson of John Adams and grandson of John

Quincy Adams, into Richmond. Lt. Edward J. Bartlett would write home "Today, is the most glorious in the history both of the country and our regiment." Fannie Walker, a Richmond native, would react with "horror" at the sight of the "Negro" cavalymen singing "John Brown's Body" in the streets of the fallen Confederate capitol. The Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry had been mustered into service over a three-month period, from January to May 1864. Twenty-one of its white officer cadre was drawn from the 1st and 2nd Mass. cavalries, three from the ranks of the 44th Mass. Infantry, while 12 had no prior military experience. The enlisted ranks were overwhelmingly filled by free blacks hailing primarily from Massachusetts cities and towns, including Boston, Framingham, Rehobeth, Amherst, Springfield, Marshfield, Waltham, Roxbury, Duxbury, Provincetown, Dorchester, and Middleboro. The barbers, laborers, waiters, farmers, sailors, painters, and blacksmiths from the Old Bay State were joined by enlistees from such distant locales as Pittsburgh, Raritan and Jersey City, New Jersey, New Orleans, Newbern, Goldsboro and Plymouth, North Carolina, St. John's in New Brunswick, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Reading, Pennsylvania, Frankfort and Logan County, Kentucky, Wellsville and Cincinnati, Ohio, Chicago, Batavia and Elmira, New York, South Kingston and Providence, Rhode Island, the West Indies, and Valparaiso, Chile. Assigned to the 18th Corps in the Army of the James, they had initially performed picket and reconnaissance duty and then became part of the

general troop movement toward Richmond in June. The regiment had been engaged at the battle of Baylor's Farm, where three of its members were killed and another eighteen wounded. They would not be allowed to further their combat record, however. In late June the regiment was reassigned to supplement companies drawn from the Veterans Reserve Corps and stand guard over Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland, the largest of all Northern POW camps. There were reports of rough treatment of prisoners by members of the 5th and after five prisoners were shot dead in three separate incidents, including two for supposedly talking in their tent after dark, James Barnes, commanding the military district of St. Mary's came down hard and warned the regiment that unwarranted or unjustified discharge of weapons would meet with harsh consequences.

The warning served its purpose and a cavalry regiment that wasn't a cavalry regiment performed their duty as required. Like any regiment they had their good and bad elements, drunks, slackers, two who were found guilty of striking their sergeant, others who verbally abused their officers, or were found to be mutinous by disobeying orders, but as a whole performed well and the majority without incident. They'd continue this duty through Thanksgiving, when they sat down to a traditional New England repast, afterwards chasing a greased pig and engaging in wheelbarrow races, then Christmas, on into the fading winter, when finally, in March 1865, the regiment joined the siege at Petersburg, occupying the extreme

right of Union lines at Deep Bottom as part of the 25th Corps.

On April 6th, three days after their entry into Richmond, Adams was given orders to shift the regiment to Petersburg. They remained a day before receiving additional orders to move twelve miles to the west, to Sutherland Station, to guard the Southside Railroad. Adams own stay at Sutherland Station lasted only nine days. On the 16th of April he was summoned to appear before Major General Edward O.C. Ord, then commanding the Army of the James. There Adams was arrested and charged with neglect of duty in "allowing his command to straggle and maraud," and was further ordered to report to Fortress Monroe for trial. The charge of marauding was leveled because of complaints from Richmond citizens alleging members of the 5th Mass had appropriated horses for their own use.

The Third Brigade began its march back to Washington on April 14th. Spirits were dampened and there was no sense they were a conquering or triumphant army. Hunger and rain will do that. Officers used a carrot and stick approach, urging the men toward Farmville, 27 miles away, where rations were said to be waiting. After two days of marching through mud, the strung out column finally reached its first milestone destination and found the promised supplies waiting. As Smith recalled, "We stacked arms and laid around, and for the first time realized that the war over." The whole scene was brightened further by the clearing of rain clouds overhead, but any feelings of contentment were

shattered at 4 p.m. when a dispatch was read aloud announcing the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln had won the love and devotion of the Army of the Potomac. In a display of mourning the color bearers from all regiments draped their flags in black, dyeing white handkerchiefs and any other fabric available in ink obtained from the ranks.

On April 20th the Third Brigade, which included veterans of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania, would break camp and resume its eastward trek along what is now Rt. 460. They had 55 miles to go before they would reach Sutherland Station and make their acquaintance with the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry.

While the 5th Massachusetts encamped, the Third Brigade swept through Burkeville, fifteen miles from Farmville, reaching Nottoway nine miles further on. By the 21st they were at Wilson's Station, and finally on the 22nd, eight days after leaving Appomattox, within easy reach of Sutherland. One day beyond Sutherland lay the city of trenches and bombproofs that had shielded them for ten months from everything Petersburg had to throw at them, except snipers. Beyond that, after four long years for some, Richmond, and beyond that, a mere hundred miles away, the dome atop the Capitol building. Beyond that home, and children never seen before, wives who had gone without an embrace, fathers and mothers who had grayed, and younger siblings who had grown more than a foot taller in their absence. Those

thoughts buoyed their every step through the Virginia countryside.

On Sunday the 23rd, dirty, dissheveled, and stomachs growling, the Third Brigade stacked arms at Sutherland Station. Men of the 118th Pennsylvania took quick note of the 5th Massachusetts camped in their front. They were put off by the cleanliness of the cavalry uniforms and the perception, real or imagined, that they were being looked down upon by black men. Some of Philadelphia's best immediately began itching for a fight and looking for an excuse headed for the tent of the 5th's sutler. None had money to pay for what they wanted, they simply began taking it and were joined by more comrades in the taking. Three of the 5th, assigned to guard duty, ordered the 118th to back off. That demand only drew more of a crowd, until the corporal of the guard, "a big black fellow, wishing to magnify his office, came up and undertook to arrest our men for disobeying orders."

Sergeant Charles Brightmeyer of the 118th threw the first punch, knocking the corporal to the ground, and then all hell broke loose. Knives sliced through ropes holding up the sutler's tent and a rush began for boxes of canned peaches, canned tomatoes, sardines, tobacco, cheese, and every other item that someone could pick up and run with. Soldiers from the 20th Maine and 1st Michigan joined in the pillaging. While a distraught sutler looked on, buglers could be heard in the distance sounding "Boots and Saddles."

Officers from the 5th Massachusetts, brandishing swords and intent on making arrests, were immediately set upon and became participants in an

all out brawl. Swords went flying into the air, while tassled hats were kicked around like balls. Samuel Chamberlain, acting Colonel of the 5th in place of Charles Adams, raced to the scene on his horse, the rest of his command in close pursuit. Fists froze in mid-punch. Chamberlain demanded officers from the three white regiments arrest those responsible and hold them strictly accountable, threatening to take action himself if his demands weren't met. The troopers, under Chamberlain's direction, formed a line in front of the sutler's tent, ready to spur their horses forward if signaled to do so. There was no mistaking the now steeled expressions and open contempt that registered in the eyes of white men who looked at black men led by white men. An unidentified Third Brigade colonel ordered them to fix bayonets, six to eight of which were then thrust into the chest, belly, and flank of Chamberlain's horse.

Major General Alfred L. Pearson, commanding the Third Brigade, finally arrived on the scene to restore order. Chamberlain launched an immediate protest and looked for justice, not only for his men, but his horse that was later destroyed due to its wounds. Pearson quickly sized up the situation and ordered Chamberlain to withdraw his men, cautioning the Colonel that unless he complied some of them were certain to be killed.

A month later, on May 23rd, the Third Brigade stepped out into the line of march and proudly paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue with the rest of the Fifth Corps and the triumphant Army of the Potomac, in lock step,

arms swinging upward, eyes right when they passed the reviewing stand, the cheers of the crowd deafening in their ears.

The Fifth Massachusetts moved from Sutherland to City Point, where on June 16th they loaded their horses onto trains to begin a 1200 mile journey to Clarksville, Texas. They would stand vigil along the Mexican border until mustered out of service on October 31, 1865.

Carl Culshaw
118th Pen

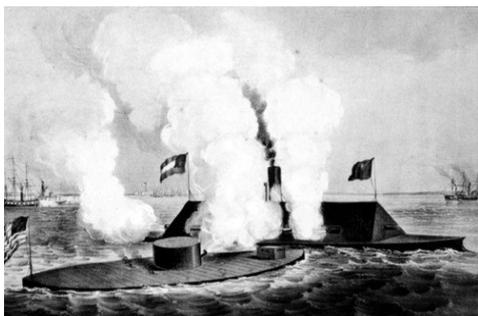


The Battle of Pea Ridge 7-8 March 1862

Continued from page 13

it was a resounding Union victory. The battle was one of the bloodiest west of the Mississippi. The Confederates suffered about 2,000 casualties. The Union had 1,384 casualties.

Pea Ridge changed the strategic outlook of the Civil War in the trans-Mississippi west. Van Dorn was so demoralized that he took the Army of the West to the east bank of the Mississippi, leaving Arkansas defenceless. This combined with the Union victory at Pea Ridge, secured Missouri for the Union. Although Confederates made other attempts to take Missouri, the Pea Ridge Campaign proved to be the best opportunity for the Rebels. With Missouri and St. Louis secure, the Union emphasis switched to capturing the rest of the Mississippi River Valley.



Action between USS Monitor and CSS Virginia , 9 March 1862

Monitor and Merrimack, two American warships that fought the first engagement between ironclad ships. When, at the beginning of the Civil War, the Union forces abandoned the Norfolk Navy Yard at Portsmouth, Va., they scuttled the powerful steam frigate Merrimack. She was subsequently raised by the Confederates, converted into an ironclad, and renamed the Virginia. On Mar. 8, 1862, the Virginia, commanded by Capt. Franklin Buchanan, sallied forth into Hampton Roads against the wooden ships of the Union blockading squadron. She rammed and sank the Cumberland, destroyed the Congress after running her aground, destroying both and killing more than 240 of their crewmen, and scattered the remaining ships, all the while sustaining practically no damage to herself. At dawn on 9 March 1862, CSS Virginia prepared for renewed combat. She expected to inflict a similar fate on the grounded steam frigate Minnesota and other enemy ships, probably freeing the lower Chesapeake Bay region of Union sea power and the land forces it supported. Virginia would thus contribute importantly to the Confederacy's military, and perhaps diplomatic, fortunes. However, as they surveyed the opposite side of

Hampton Roads, where the Minnesota and other potential victims awaited their fate, the Confederates realized that things were not going to be so simple. There, looking small and low near the lofty frigate, was a vessel that could only be USS Monitor, the Union Navy's own ironclad, which had arrived the previous evening after a perilous voyage from New York. Though her crew was exhausted and their ship untested, the Monitor was also preparing for action. Undeterred, Virginia steamed out into Hampton Roads. Monitor positioned herself to protect the immobile Minnesota, and a general battle began. Both ships hammered away at each other with heavy cannon, and tried to run down and hopefully disable the other, but their iron-armoured sides prevented vital damage. Virginia's smokestack was shot away, further reducing her already modest mobility, and Monitor's technological teething troubles hindered the effectiveness of her two eleven-inch guns, the Navy's most powerful weapons. Ammunition supply problems required her to temporarily pull away into shallower water, where the deep-drafted Virginia could not follow, but she always covered the Minnesota.

Soon after noon, Virginia gunners concentrated their fire on Monitor's pilothouse, a small iron blockhouse near her bow. A shell hit there blinded Lieutenant John L. Worden, the Union ship's Commanding Officer, forcing another withdrawal until he could be relieved at the con. By the time she was ready to return to the fight, Virginia had turned away toward Norfolk.

The first battle between ironclad warships had ended in stalemate, a situation that lasted until Virginia's self-

destruction two months later. However, the outcome of combat between armoured equals, compared with the previous day's terrible mismatch, symbolized the triumph of industrial age warfare. The value of existing ships of the line and frigates was heavily discounted in popular and professional opinion. Ironclad construction programs, already underway in America and Europe, accelerated. The resulting armoured warship competition would continue into the 1940s, some eight decades in the future.



Mary Boykin Miller Chesnut

She was born Mary Boykin Miller in Statesburg, South Carolina on March 31, 1823. She is

remembered with writing her diary, that of all the women who kept diaries during the war, hers stands out as the most detailed, and is a very important source on the life of the Confederacy.

As Mary came from a wealthy Southern family, she was well qualified to write on her experiences. Her father was Stephen Decatur Miller, a southern lawyer, governor and congressman. Her upbringing and education gave her the opportunity to intelligently observe and record all classes of people, including the slaves.

At the age of seventeen, Mary married James Chesnut, Jr., and was his confidante throughout their marriage. James was a wealthy planter, a defender of slavery and a staunch secessionist. As a U.S. Senator, he was active in the South Carolina secession convention, served the Confederate army as a brigadier

general, as well as an aide to President Jefferson Davis.

Through her husband, Mary became good friends with Varina Davis, the wife of Jefferson Davis. Through this relationship she formed friendships with many of the Confederate leaders; governmental and military, and wrote about them all in her diary.

Following the war, Mary Chesnut rewrote her diary, condensing it from its original 400,000 words to about 150,000. She and her husband James had no children, so upon Mary's death on November 22, 1886, she left her diary to a friend.

In 1905 Mary's diary was first published under the title: *A Diary from Dixie*.

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BALLOONS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Both the Union and Confederate armies used balloons for reconnaissance during the American Civil War, marking the first time that balloons were used in the United States for reconnaissance. The professional aeronaut John Wise was the first to receive orders to build a balloon for the Union army. However, the balloon never was used because it escaped its tethers and was shot down to prevent it from falling into Confederate hands.

Both Thaddeus Lowe and John LaMountain carried out reconnaissance activities for the Union army during the war. Lowe had foreseen the usefulness of balloon observations when he had accidentally landed in South Carolina on a flight from Cincinnati, Ohio, to the Atlantic Ocean in April 1861. One of his financial supporters, Murat Halstead, editor of the *Cincinnati Daily Commercial*, wrote to U.S. Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase and suggested that the United States establish a balloon corps under Lowe's command. This corps would provide aerial reconnaissance for the Union armies.

Secretary Chase arranged a meeting between Lowe and President Abraham Lincoln for June 11, 1861. On July 17, 1861, Lowe demonstrated his ideas for balloon reconnaissance and also for sending telegrams from the

balloon to the commanders below. He used the '*Enterprise*', attached to tethers and floating 500 feet (152 meters) above Washington, D.C. President Lincoln was duly impressed. Later that summer, President Lincoln established the Balloon Corps, a civilian organization under the authority of the Union's Bureau of Topographical Engineers, and granted Lowe permission to requisition equipment and personnel. Lowe received funds to build a balloon on August 2, 1861. The first U.S. balloon designed for military use, the *Union*, was ready for action on August 28. Because he was forced to inflate the balloon with gas from municipal lines in Washington, D.C (he had not received his funds yet for a portable gas generator), the balloon could not be moved far, which limited operations to the Washington, DC, area.

On September 24, 1861, Lowe ascended to more than 1,000 feet (305 meters) near Arlington, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC, and began telegraphing intelligence on the Confederate troops located at Falls Church, Virginia, more than three miles (4.8 kilometers) away. Union guns were aimed and fired accurately at the Confederate troops without actually being able to see them—a first in the history of warfare.

This triumph led the Secretary of War Simon Cameron to direct Lowe to build four additional



The Civil War balloon Intrepid.

balloons.

Two more followed shortly. The fleet now consisted of the *Intrepid*, *Constitution*, *United States*, *Washington*, *Eagle*, *Excelsior*, and the original *Union*. The balloons ranged in size from 32,000 cubic feet (906 cubic meters) down to 15,000 cubic feet (425 cubic meters). Each had enough cable to climb 5,000 feet (1524 meters).

At the same time, fellow aeronaut John LaMountain was also attempting to provide balloon services for the Union. He wrote to Secretary Cameron in 1861, but, because he had no influential backers, LaMountain did not receive a reply. However, the commander of the Union Forces at Fort Monroe, Major General Benjamin F. Butler, contacted him and asked for a demonstration. Using the Atlantic which he had used to attempt to reach the

Atlantic Ocean earlier, he made two two successful ascents at Fort Monroe in July 1861. The *New York Times* reported that LaMountain could view the Confederate encampments beyond Newmarket Bridge, Virginia, and also at the James River north of Newport News. LaMountain had actually made the first aerial reconnaissance of the Civil War and also was the first to gather intelligence by free balloon flight rather than from a tethered balloon.

LaMountain, however, did not have the Union Army behind him, and he had difficulty obtaining equipment. He managed to obtain another balloon, the *Saratoga*. That balloon, however, was lost on November 16, 1861. He tried to get some of Lowe's equipment, but Lowe refused to cooperate. Each man found supporters, and the rivalry between the two grew. Finally, after accusations and hostilities on both sides, on February 19, 1862, General McClellan dismissed LaMountain from any further service to the military.

Lowe continued providing tactical reports to the Union troops. He provided information during the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, and in late April 1863, at Fredericksburg, he transmitted hourly reports on Confederate movements. During the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, Lowe continually transmitted information on enemy troop positions. Observations made

during this battle proved to be crucial to the Union victory.

The presence of the balloons forced the Confederates to conceal their forces. To avoid Detection, they blacked out their camps after dark and also created dummy encampments and gun emplacements, all of which took valuable time and personnel.

However, the balloon corps did not last until the end of the war. General George McClellan was relieved of his command in 1863, and Captain Cyrus Comstock, who was assigned to oversee the balloon corps, cut its funding and thus its effectiveness. Lowe was also accused of financial impropriety, and his pay was reduced. Lowe resigned from the balloon corps on May 8, 1863. By August 1863, the corps had disbanded.

As well as aerial reconnaissance and telegraphy, Lowe and LaMountain also introduced the use of aircraft carriers. Lowe directed the construction in 1861 of the first aircraft carrier, *George Washington Parke Custis*, a rebuilt coal barge with a flight deck superstructure. On one occasion, she towed one of Lowe's balloons for 13 miles (21 kilometers) at an altitude of 1,000 feet (305 meters) while Lowe made continuous observations. On August 3, 1861, LaMountain used the deck of the small vessel *Fanny* to launch an observation balloon 2,000 feet (610 meters) over the James River. He used the Union tugboat *Adriatic*



A reconnaissance balloon is launched from the coal barge George Washington Parke Curtis, during the American Civil War.

for the same purpose. Word of the Americans' achievements even reached Europe, where the Prussian army sent Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin to learn what he could from this kind of warfare, and we all know what that led to.

Some authorities claim that, although balloon observations contributed to battle victories, the Union Army's commanding generals did not use the balloon observations advantageously. Vague reports on Robert E. Lee's movements issued from the hydrogen balloon *Intrepid* during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign apparently served only to panic General McClellan. The general withdrew his vastly superior forces

and positioned them seven miles (11 kilometers) from Richmond, Virginia, rather than attacking the sparsely defended Confederate capital and ending the war three years and tens of thousands of lives sooner. After McClellan was relieved of his command, Ulysses S. Grant took over and reorganized the Army of the Potomac. Preferring to rely more on attrition than on intelligence, he disbanded the Balloon Corps.

The Confederate Army also formed a smaller version of the balloon corps. In the spring of 1862, Captain John Randolph Bryan offered to oversee the building and deployment of an observation balloon. This balloon consisted of a cotton envelope coated with varnish. Unlike the hydrogen-filled Union balloons, it was a Montgolfiere—filled with hot air—because the Confederacy did not have the equipment for generating hydrogen in the field.

Bryan launched the balloon on April 13, 1862, over Yorktown, Virginia. Even though the balloon was rotating on its single tether while aloft, Bryan managed to sketch a map of Union positions. On his next flight, Bryan ended up in free flight after the tether was cut to free an entangled ground crew member. He was fired upon by Confederate troops below who thought he was the enemy, but managed to escape and land safely.

The second Confederate balloon was constructed of multi-coloured

silk, which gave rise to the legend that this Confederate balloon was made from silk dresses donated by the ladies of the Confederacy.

Although the "Silk Dress Balloon" was constructed from dress silk, no actual dresses were sacrificed. This balloon was gas-filled in Richmond, Virginia, and carried to the field by tethering it to a locomotive. In 1862, when the battle area moved too far from the railroad, it was attached to a tugboat and carried down the James River where the tug, unfortunately, ran aground and was captured.

Another "Silk Dress Balloon" was constructed and went into service at Richmond in the fall of 1862. It provided aerial observations from its post until the summer of 1863 when it escaped in a high wind and was captured by Union troops.



The war balloon at General McDowell's headquarters

Duprey. *Thaddeus Lowe, America's One-Man Air Corps.*

Rolt, L.T.C. *The Aeronauts: A History of Ballooning - 1783-1903.*

Evans, Charles M. "Air War Over Virginia."



Mama's Mutterings

Here we are almost at the beginning of another season. The Projects team have been hard at it over the winter securing events for us so we can once again enjoy another full season of re enacting.

The Pre Season event in Wales promises to get us off to a good start. I have included some photographs of the 69th's endeavours to build a gun emplacement there. They started in the autumn of 2008 and continued it over a few spare weekends in 2009. It was a lot of work, but it gave us an insight into how much effort was put into this type of work during the Civil War. It was a learning curve for us. The trench had to be dug, branches found and cut down to size and woven into gabions and breast works. We had to learn how to support these when the earth was piled into them. At most there was about ten guys and gals doing this work over a weekend, in the war, there would have been many more doing the work. This type of work was thrown up overnight in many cases. Of course they were not meant to last. The 69th are hoping theirs will last for many a year. This is an on going project for us until we have a small cannon in place and then it will have to be maintained to keep it in order.

Why not come down and have a look, we might even let you have a go at firing from the firing step.

That part is finished and in use. There

are a few smaller events this year, but let us not forget, that without the smaller events bringing in the revenue, we could not afford to put the larger events on, so let's all make an effort to attend the small events as well as the bigger ones. Gone are the days of going out on the field and banging merrily away with your musket. These days we have to work for our money. Sponsors want entertainment all day and that means Living History. I know that the economic situation for a lot of folk has not got any better, but please attend as many events as you can, and let's have a cracking good season.

I hope to see many of you in Wales over Easter, if not there, then at Rockingham Castle.

Val Holt
Editor

Civil War Fruit Cake

Combine in a large saucepan:

3 medium apples, peeled and diced

2 cups raisins 2 cups water

1 cup white sugar 1 cup brown sugar

2 tablespoons lard or shortening Cook together for five minutes.

Remove from heat and cool thoroughly. Sift together into a large

mixing bowl: 3 cup flour

2 teaspoon soda 1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon Add apple-raisin mixture and stir thoroughly.

Add 1 cup chopped nuts.

Pour into a greased and lined tube cake pan. Bake at 350 about an hour or until done. This is the original recipe. If you use self-rising flour, omit salt and soda.

Also omit sugar if you use 1 cup molasses.

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