



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

HD6 1JQ, England

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2010 Summer Edition



Louisiana State Monument
Gettysburg

Issue 157

Website :- www.acws.co.uk Summer 2010

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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 4th December 2010, starting at 1pm prompt at the Nautical Club 5/6 Bishops Gate Street Birmingham B15 1ET.

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 or, if not nominations that have to be signed, then e-mailed

to : Philiptresvillae@btinternet.com.

These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Thursday 30th September 2010.

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

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
Projects	-	Andrew Hopwood
Non-Executive Director	-	Mrs Vivienne Corbishley

Cont on next page

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The current Chairman, Mr Mike Bussey, is standing down at this AGM. A volunteer is sought to fill this important position who needs to be an experienced and senior figure capable of representing the Society at this level.

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

12th May 2010

Directions to Nautical Club : Go South from City Centre on A38, its off Broad Street in Birmingham. About ½ mile from National Indoor Arena & Symphony Hall.

ACWS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2010

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

The prize for the winner is a year's free membership of ACWS for 2011.

Keep those cameras clicking and enter your best photos. Details will be published in the newsletter and on the website at a later date

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.

Val Holt Editor

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR FAMILY CAMPERS

Would all members camping on the Family Camp

Please sign in with Viv Corbishley on the Family Camp.

Preferably on Friday, anytime.

For Health and Safety reasons we must have a record of everyone camping there.

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No one can have missed the terrible and tragic events which took place in West Cumbria on Wednesday. A.C.W.S wish to express their condolences to those who have lost loved ones or suffered injuries in the attack by Derrick Bird.

Living History and Battle Re-enactment groups seek to portray life in times gone by and are carefully regulated by the Home Office. Formal training licensing and risk management are an essential part of our activity and together with the appropriate authorities ACWS takes its duty of care to our members and the wider community very seriously.

We, as a society must be very vigilant in our comments on open forums such as Facebook and Twitter, and if approached by Press or Media representatives, a 'No Comment' response must be made and direct all enquiries to the Board of Directors via the Secretary, Mr Philip Clark.

BATTLE OF HELENA ARKANSAS

4th July 1863

Helena, Arkansas was one of the many towns along the line of the Mississippi occupied by Union forces during 1862. In the summer of 1863 Union occupation of Helena served two purposes. First, it helped to protect the supply line along the Mississippi to the troops besieging Vicksburg. Second, it provided a possible base for any attack on the state capitol, at Little Rock.

The Confederate commander west of the Mississippi was Edmund Kirby-Smith (since March 1863). He had replaced Lieutenant-General Theophilus H. Holmes, who had demoted to command the District of Arkansas. Together, they decided to launch an attack on the Federal garrison at Helena, partly to help relieve the pressure at Vicksburg, and partly to protect the Confederate position in Arkansas.

Their timing was good. The Union garrison at Helena had recently been reduced from 20,000 men to 4,000, under Major-General B. M. Prentiss, when most of the men had been transferred to Vicksburg. However, they did have a strong position. Helena was overlooked by a line of hills, on which they had built a series of forts (Fort Righter to the north, Graveyard Hill in the middle and Fort Hindman to the south). A single gunboat, the *U.S.S. Tyler*, protected them from the river.

Holmes had 7,000 men at his disposal. He planned a three-pronged attack. General Stirling Price, with 3,000 men, was to attack the Federal centre on

Graveyard Hill. Generals John S. Marmaduke and L.M. Walker, with 2,780 men, were to attack Fort Righter and General James F. Fagan with 1,770 was to attack Fort Hindman.

The flank attacks were launched at daybreak on 4 July. Price's attack in



General Prentiss

the centre went in a little later. However, it was Price who met with the most success, capturing Graveyard Hill after a series of charges. With the flank attacks bogged down, all this achieved was to make Price's men the target for every gun in the Union army, as well as those on the *Tyler*. By 10.30 it was clear to Holmes that the attack had failed, and he ordered Price's men to pull back.

4 July 1863 was a bad day for the Confederacy. It saw the surrender of Vicksburg and Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. The defeat at Helena, while not in the same league, combined with the fall of Vicksburg to leave Arkansas vulnerable to Union attack. Prentiss reported losses of 57 dead, 146 wounded and 36 captured or missing, for a total of 239. Confederate losses were much higher, at 173 dead, 687 wounded and 776 missing or captured, for a total of

1,636, or just over 20% of Holmes's entire force. Helena remained in Union hands, and was used as the base for the expedition that captured Little Rock, only two months later.

Rickard, J (14 August 2007), *Battle of Helena, Arkansas, 4 July 1863*



Chairman's Report

My apologies for not writing a Chairman's Report for the last Newsletter. I just ran out of time before the deadline.

The 2010 Season is now well upon us with some excellent training weekends at Tatton and events at Rockingham Castle and Sewerby Hall. The feedback from the sponsors, public and members has so far been on the whole very complimentary.

There are always areas which can be improved some of which will require Board and/or Army commands to co-ordinate more effectively, but equally efforts to improve by every regiment and individual can also make a difference. So keep up the hard work which continues to reap rewards for all.

There are a couple of smaller events at Eynsham and Silloth. Please

support these if you can, even if you can only go to one of them, please do so.

Our apologies for the failure to issue Warning Orders for Sewerby Hall as promised, but unfortunately Andy Hopwood's computer died at the most inconvenient time with all his documents and contacts on board. This lack of Warning Orders shouldn't happen again as I have instructed Andy and the Board to put in contingency plans for the future.

As many of you know, this will be my last season as Chairman. I decided to step down last season but to give you twelve months' notice to find a successor. I believe I have performed the role I reluctantly accepted after the financial difficulties of Weston Park to ensure the Society came through those troubled times. I believe the Society has now come through these particular troubled times and new challenges lie in wait for the new Chairman and Board of Directors. I feel now is the right time to step aside and let some fresh ideas and methods be brought to the Society in order to continue to succeed in the activities we undertake. I have no plans to resign from any other position I hold, such as Webmaster, Powder Officer, Regimental NCO, IT Support and Consultancy etc, unless these begin to take up too much of my limited available spare time.

Keep Your Powder Dry

Best Regards

Mike Bussey, Chairman ACWS Ltd



Projects Report June 2010

Hello everybody, it's Viv writing this report as Andy's computer has collapsed under the strain. We have already done two successful events, Rockingham and Sewerby and both sponsors were delighted with our performance, but wasn't it blooming cold!

Never mind it can only get better. Thank you for leaving both sites as you found them, perfect. Keep it up.

18 – 20th. JUNE STANFORD HALL
LE17 6DH.

Now it's time for an announcement. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to camp in front of the house at Stanford Hall because the site is now managed by English Nature and they forbid any digging or fires. However, all is not lost. I found out about this on the way home from Sewerby and carried out a site visit last Saturday. They wanted to put us at the back again, but I stuck to my guns and they have now come up with an excellent alternative. You will enter the site not by the main gate but the one before it, by the area where the horses usually go. Just follow the yellow ACWS signs. For the authentic camps follow the family camp to the top and go through the gate at the top on the

right. This is a very large field which links with the back fields where we were last year, and has a superb view of the whole park. We have found good areas for the camps, Sutlers and Civilians. The family camp will be where it always used to be but I shall be moving it up nearer the top. The horses will be at the top of the field and also the Beer Tent. The Car Park will be as usual, on the left hand side of the family camp. There will be sufficient room to accommodate everyone. There is only one restriction for the Saturday Skirmish and that is that the woods are strictly out of bounds, however the whole property is at our disposal including the front. The battle on Sunday will take place in its usual position, in front of the house. We have invited Soskan to be our guests again, so let's have a cracking good weekend. Camping from Friday midday until Monday. Registration fee £10.

3rd. JULY 2010 EYNSHAM
CARNIVAL, EYNSHAM, NR.
OXFORD OX29 4HG

I know some of you sigh and say "Oh no not another Carnival", but please remember this is our bread and butter. This is an excellent site with our camps away to the left of the field with a backdrop of trees. The arena is solely ours to do with as we wish. There will be a short parade through this lovely village at 1.00pm and it would be really nice to have our Drum Corps out in full force as they did last year at Market Deeping. We are contracted to do two 30 minute battles, one at 3.30 and the other at 5.00pm, on Saturday only, although these

timings are subject to change. This is a full Society event so please, can we have a really good turnout and show them how good we are. Camping is from Friday lunchtime until Sunday lunchtime. The field for the family camp is next door to the event field with access through. There are several takeaway food places and 8 pubs in the village so this has the makings of a really enjoyable weekend. The expected turnout for public is approximately 10,000 spectators, so a good chance for recruiting. Registration fee £6.

10 – 11th. JULY – SILLOTH
CUMBRIA CA7 4AW

This event is aimed mainly at the Northern based members as it is a fair trek for anyone living South of Birmingham. It is not a full Society event. Saturday is living history and on Sunday there is a firing display to include one cannon. The setting is on the seafront overlooking the Solway Firth and into Scotland in the distance. This is a small multi-period event and in an area we have not been in for many years. Registration Fee £6.

25 – 26TH. JULY – GLEMHAM HALL,
SUFFOLK IP13 0BT

Organised by EventPlan, Salute for Heroes is a multi-period event with over 1000 performers celebrating our military forces, the emergency services and other heroes past and present, staged by the Suffolk supporters of *Help for Heroes* and with all profits donated to this extremely worthy charity. ACWS have been engaged to provide massed Artillery Batteries only, but all members are

welcome to attend and support the artillery. SoSkAn will also be in attendance running the ACW battle and ACWS members have been invited to guest with them, under their rules, if they are not taking part in the Artillery displays. Displays Saturday and Sunday. Camping from Thursday morning until Tuesday. No Registration fee

14 – 15th. AUGUST – SPETCHLEY
PARK GARDENS, SPETCHLEY,
WORCESTER WR5 1RS

This is a multi-period event with Medieval, 17th. Century, Napoleonic, Victorian and 20th. Century re-enactors taking part, and is being run by Worcester Re-enactors. This is their first attempt at a big show although they have been staging small events for some years.. Battles Saturday and Sunday. All fire pits must be dug even if you use a raised fire. Unfortunately No Dogs allowed on this site.

Camping from Friday until Monday lunchtime. There will be a Beer Tent on site for re-enactors in the evenings. Registration fee £6

29 – 30th. AUGUST – NORFOLK
PARK, SHEFFIELD S2 2RU

August Bank Holiday Multi-period event staged by Sheffield City Council and our friend Howard Giles of EventPlan providing the historical displays. I believe Howard is trying to make some changes this year but unfortunately there has not been a site meeting yet, so I am unable to tell you exactly what is happening although I do know that the family camp will be in a different location

somewhere in the park. More information later. Registration fee £6.

11 – 12th. SEPTEMBER – TATTON OLD HALL, TATTON, CHESHIRE WA16 6QN

Most of you will already have been to Tatton this year for the Training weekends. The event will be on similar lines to the previous two main events although the family camp may be in a different location. We probably won't know about this until we arrive, so family campers, prepare to be surprised! There will be Living History throughout the weekend with a battle on Saturday and Sunday, probably at an earlier time. Our instructions are simply to engage the public and give them an enjoyable, entertaining and educating experience. No problem! This will be the last main event of the season, however, carry on reading. Registration fee £6

18 – 19th. SEPTEMBER – WATERFALLS FIELD, INGLETON LE6 3EP

This is a lovely location on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. Ingleton is a very pretty village steeped in history with spectacular views and the waterfalls. This is predominantly a Living History with a small skirmish. There is room for 50 'A' frames and 4 – 5 caravans/motor homes. There is a café on site with flushing loos accessible. Registration fee £3

Don't forget to get your tickets for the ACWS Dance on Saturday 4th. December following the AGM which starts at 1.00pm. In an excellent venue, The Nautical Club, 5 – 6, Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham B15

1ET. The dance is from 7.30 until midnight. Tickets £9 (inc food) from Jayne Olden at Westpoint Sutlers, or at the signing in points.

Well, that's about it, I think I have said enough. I hope you all enjoy the events and look forward to seeing you there.

Best regards,

Viv Corbishley
Assistant Projects Director aided and abetted by Andy Hopwood Projects Director
The Projects Team.



Now for my bit. Here we are nearly half way through the season. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself? We have had some cracking events so far this season. Thanks to our very hard working Projects Team. It is not easy obtaining the right events. We know that the economy still dictates whether an event goes ahead or not. Sponsors want more for their money these days and we must be prepared to give it to them in terms of a 'good show'. Some little events give way to bigger things in the future.

My thanks to Mike Chesterfield, Peter Holt and Ian Morris for the photos used in this issue to the Newsletter

See Ya All
Val Holt Editor

HISTORY OF THE U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

Soon after the start of the Civil War, YMCA leaders became concerned with the religious and spiritual needs of the soldiers in the nearby camps. Vincent Colyer, a member of the New York City YMCA, had begun spending time visiting nearby encampments where soldiers were stationed temporarily on their way to the battle front. Colyer mingled with the soldiers, offered words of encouragement, and handed out religious tracts. Since few camps had chaplains, the chaplaincy then being in its infancy, Colyer's ministrations were welcomed by both the soldiers and their officers. As a result of these activities, and the apparent need to extend them, the New York Association established an "Army Committee" with Colyer as chairman, with its mission to provide preaching services, individual religious visitation, and publications for soldiers. In November, 1861, at the instigation of members of the board of the New York City YMCA, a special convention of fifty delegates representing fifteen YMCAs met in New York. A "Christian Commission" of twelve members was appointed to devise a plan for the Associations to act as a clearinghouse for all religious work in the armed forces. The work of the Commission was organized at the national level. Local Associations were encouraged to support the Commission while maintaining their own activities. Many Associations merged into local branches of the Christian Commission or resolved themselves into army committees in order to facilitate the work of the Commission. The national organization established an office in Philadelphia and the Associations of Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Louisville, New York,

St. Louis, and St. Paul became regional clearinghouses for the various activities channeled through the Commission. George H. Stuart, founder and first president of the Philadelphia Association, and then chairman of the YMCA's Central Committee, was designated as Chairman of the Commission, a post he held throughout the war. The method of operation was the appointment of "delegates" who served on a volunteer basis for terms averaging six weeks.

The general aim of the Commission was "to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the soldiers in the army and the sailors in the Navy, in cooperation with the Chaplains." Its early activities included publication of a collection of familiar hymns, bible readings and prayers, devotional meetings in the camps, the organization of of a "working Christian force" in every regiment, and aiding and supporting chaplains. Though originally devised to provide spiritual sustenance, the activities of the Commission soon expanded into the physical and social realm, making the Commission a valuable agency of wartime relief. A newspaper report of its first annual meeting described the objects of the organization as, "the promotion of the intellectual, moral and religious welfare of the Army and Navy, by suggesting needful national legislation and administration, securing well-qualified chaplains, encouraging Sabbath observance, promoting temperance, multiplying libraries, reading-rooms, and gymnasiums, and endeavouring to arouse the sentiment of the nation to a sense of its obligations to this class of citizens. Delegates, serving both at the front and behind the lines, established tents as social centres with stationery and periodicals provided, distributed emergency medical supplies,

Continued on page 14





food, and clothing, and operated canteens and lending libraries. A special work of compassion performed by delegates of the Commission was the assembling of records of those buried from prisons and in certain major battle areas. Prisoner-of-war work, which was to figure more prominently in YMCA war work in later conflicts, also began during the Civil War.

After the surrender of the Confederacy in 1865, the Commission continued to minister to the troops until they were discharged from military service. At a meeting of the Executive Committee in December, the decision was made to terminate the work of the Commission on January 1, 1866. During its 4 years of operation, the Christian Commission sent nearly 5,000 agents into the field;



The establishment of the Commission was a pivotal moment in the history of the YMCA movement in North America, which was then just ten years old. The work of the Commission provided the medium for large-scale cooperation between the Association and the general public and was significant in creating prestige for the YMCA movement. The value of the services rendered was recognized by civil and military authorities during the war and afterward.

distributed 95,000 packages, which included nearly 1.5 million portions or full scriptures, 1 million hymnbooks and over 39 million pages of tract. Total monies spent during the Civil War was estimated at over 6.2 million dollars. (Material adapted from Chapter 1, "How it All Began," of *Serving the U.S. Armed Forces, 1861-1986: The Story of the YMCA's Ministry to Military Personnel for 125 Years*, by Richard C. Lancaster.)

Submitted by Angela Cross
US Christian Commission

Liverpool's Connections with the American Civil War

We are in contact with Bob Jones, who runs an organisation that discovers the graves in Merseyside of people who died 'over here', but who fought in the American Civil War 'over there'. Once the grave has been identified, research is carried out about the history of the deceased, and involvement in the ACW. Contact is also made with American organisations who do the same sort of thing, and the grave is tidied up, and then a ceremony is arranged for its re-dedication.

At this point a number of dignitaries become involved, including ACWS volunteers, who take part in the graveside ceremony to re-dedicate the grave, and fire a volley over it. Surprising numbers of people went to America, ended up in the Civil War, but came home to the UK later, and are buried here. Bob concentrates on those buried in Merseyside.

Over the weekend 21st/22nd March in the main hall at St. George's Hall Liverpool Bob had a pitch or table to promote his organisation. He invited ACW re-enactors to join him, for recruiting and promotional purposes. The Hall was absolutely full of masses of displays and stands relating to the history of Merseyside and the whole thing was designated a History Fair. Very interesting it was, too!

It drew very large crowds, and the Hall was packed on both days. Bob's stand was the centre of much attention, because of the display of flags he had put up, and the re-enactors in uniform. We attracted a lot of interest, and this

is exactly the sort of profile raising, and recruiting we need to do (especially for the Confederate Army: I was delighted to be supported by a sufficiency of 'gentlemen in grey', who, hopefully, secured some interest). Well worth being there.

We were having to explain time after time to members of the public why Merseyside was so important to the ACW and so well connected. Quite apart from the several Confederate raiders built on Merseyside particularly by Lairds Shipyard in Birkenhead, of course most of the Southern cotton came through the port, and the blockade led to unemployment and starvation throughout the Lancashire cotton mills. Most of the cotton workers did not want to handle slave produced cotton, and to this day in Lincoln Square in central Manchester, is a statue to President Lincoln, paid for by public subscription.

Liverpool had both Confederate and Union Consuls offices (quite close to each other in Water Street) and both organisations 'kept tabs' on each other and spied on each other. Liverpool was the major port to export items to the Civil War e.g. cloth, lead ingots, copper and guns.

Items going to the North could be shipped easily, but items going to the South either had to go to Bermuda (for onward transmission by a blockade runner) or smuggled aboard after the ship had left port. This was done by the ship in question dropping anchor in the shipping lanes down the coast, and the 'contraband' items were rowed

BAZAAR in aid of the SOUTHERN PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND

Lady Patronesses

H. I. H. the Princess Murat
The Marchioness Of Lothian
The Marchioness of Bath
The Marchioness of Allesbury
La Marquise de Montmort
The Countess of Chesterfield
The Countess of Tankerville
Lady Mildred Beresford Hope
Lady Rosa Greville
The Countess Bentivoglio
Lady Georgina Fane
Lady Eustace Cecil
Lady Warcliffé
La Vicomtesse de Dampierre
La Baronne de Languetil
Lady de Hoghton
Lady Anson
Lady Eardly
Mrs Horsefall, Liverpool
Mrs Laird, Birkenhead
Mrs Akroyd, Halifax
Mrs J. R. Callender, Manchester
Mrs Collie, London
Mrs Hannan, Glasgow

It is intended to hold a BAZAAR in St. George's Hall, commencing on Tuesday, October 18, in aid of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund. Many ladies, in addition to those named, have promised their active aid.

The suffering of the Southern prisoners of war in

sickness, wounds, and deprivation of every comfort of life; the multitudes of widows to whom nothing remains, and of orphans unable to help themselves, form an amount of woe which some who are blessed here with an abundance and peace have felt a desire to alleviate.

Efforts have already been made, and not without success, through reliable friends in the Northern States, but unhappily the field is wide that aid is now required to replace the means already provided and exhausted.

It is hoped that assistance will not be refused in this work, which is wholly one of humanity - of sympathy for the great sorrows and suffering that now afflict a people of our own race.

The stalls of the Southern States will be held by the following ladies:

Virginia: La Vicomtesse de Dampierre. Mrs. Patterson. Mrs M. G. Klingender
N. Carolina: Mrs. Spence. Mrs Wothington.
S. Carolina: The Lady Warcliffé. Mrs. Prioleau
Georgia: Mrs Bulloch. Mrs Patrick
Alabama: Mrs Malcomson. Mrs. Pratt.
Mississippi: The Countess of Chesterfield. The Right Hon. Mrs Sliddell.
Louisiana: Mrs. Byrne. Mrs. T. Byrne. Mrs. F. Rodewald.
Texas: Mrs. A. Forwood. Mrs. W. Forwood. Mrs. W. Heyn.
Arkansas: Mrs. Sillem. Mrs. J. Wilkink.
Tennessee: The Lady M. Beresford Hope. Mrs. F. Hull.
Kentucky: Lady de Hoghton. Mrs. G. W. Oliver.

Treasurer: CHARLES K. PRIOLEAU.
Hon. Sec.: JAMES SPENCE

Liverpool. August 24, 1864

TAPS

out to the boats often from Formby Shore. Enfield rifles came in bundles of six, wrapped in hessian. The British took much interest in the ACW, and factions supported each of the sides. (Please note the notice from the Times of 7th October 1864 about the Bazaar, held in St. Georges Hall, Liverpool to raise money as a relief fund for Confederate prisoners of war).

Did you know the last act of the American Civil War took place in Liverpool Harbour? The Shenandoah was built in Birkenhead as a Confederate raider. Its Captain was James Waddell. In 1865 he was sinking US Whalers off Alaska when one of the captured Captains showed him a newspaper which reported General Lee's surrender. Realising the war was over, but not keen to return to America, for fear that he and his crew would be hung for piracy, he sailed his war ship down the Pacific, around South America and up the Atlantic, back to her 'home port' of Liverpool. They docked, the Confederate battle ensign was lowered for the last time, and the crew disappeared into the cheering crowds on Liverpool dockside. Twenty minutes later (tactfully!) the Police turned up to arrest them, but finding nobody, the ship was confiscated – later to be sold to the Sultan of Zanzibar. This happened on November the 6th 1865, seven months after the Civil War on the North American mainland had ended.

Submitted by
Philip Clark
19th Indiana

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings out a new meaning of it. In the United States everyone has heard the haunting song, 'Taps.' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His

request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of The dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

Fading light.
Dims the sight.
And a star.
Gems the sky.
Gleaming bright.
From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise.
For our days.
Neath the sun
Neath the stars.
Neath the sky

As we go.
This we know.
God is nigh

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the

words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country. Also Remember Those Who Have Served And Returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

Submitted by Phil Clark
19th Indiana

My thanks to Phil for this Article. I thought it right to include it now, when ACWS is taking part in the Salute to Hero's Event at the end of July. Nor did I know there were words to the music I know as Taps.
Editor.

Campfire Cooking Apple Dumplings

To 1 pound flour add half pound suet. Beat 2 eggs and mix with flour suet mix with just enough milk to make a smooth dough. Peel and core apples.

Roll out dough and cut one piece of each apple. Wrap the apple in the dough, making sure the edges are sealed.

Tie the apples in clean cloths and boil for 2 hours over a hot fire, making sure that the pan is well topped with water to cover the dumplings.

When ready take out dumplings and drain and allow to cool slightly before removing cloths.

Serve with cream or custard
Delicious hot or cold.



Johnny Clem
"Drummer Boy
of
Chickamauga"
August 13,
1851 - May 13,
1937

John Joseph Klem ran away from home to join the Union army in the spring of 1861, when he was not yet 10 years old. He was turned down because of his age by a couple of regiments passing through his Newark, Ohio, hometown

before he tagged along with the 22nd Massachusetts, which eventually adopted him as their mascot and drummer boy. Officers of the unit reportedly chipped in on his \$13 monthly salary, and fellow soldiers were said to have provided him with a shortened rifle and a uniform in his size. He officially enlisted in the 22nd Massachusetts in May 1863 and received his own pay thereafter.

On September 20, 1863, many members of the 22nd were captured in the Battle of

Chickamauga, but Johnny made his escape after shooting a Rebel officer who was trying to capture him. Union Gen. George H. Thomas promoted Johnny to lance corporal. When the newspapers picked up his story, little Johnny became a celebrity in the North and was known as the "drummer boy of Chickamauga," and also "Johnny Shiloh," since he was alleged to have had his drum smashed by cannon fire in the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. At some time during this period he changed his name and its spelling to John Lincoln Clem.

In October 1863, John Clem was captured by Confederate cavalry while detailed as a train guard. He was exchanged a short time later, but the Confederacy used his captivity to show "what sore straits the Yankees are driven, when they have to send their babies out to fight us." In January 1864, General Thomas assigned Johnny to his staff as a mounted orderly, and on September 19, 1864, Johnny was discharged from the army. President Grant appointed Johnny to West Point, but he failed several times to pass the entrance exam. In 1871, when Grant made him a 2nd lieutenant, Johnny began a second army term that did not end until he retired in 1915 with the rank of brigadier general. He was the last Civil War veteran on the army rolls at the time of his retirement. He died at the age of 85 in San Antonio, Tex., and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

It has been documented in many, many places, from diaries and letters of Civil War Veterans, to newspaper stories, about a tradition that occurred over and over in Federal and Confederate camps at the end of the day. At twilight, the regimental bands would begin their evening concerts. When the armies were bivouacked close to each other, the bands would play of an evening, and sometimes they would compete with each other or they would alternate playing different songs back and forth. Toward the end of their concerts the music would become tender and soothing calling up memories of home, family and better days.

One such occasion, I would like to tell about. It's twilight in Virginia, along the Rappahannock River. The Union Army of about 100,000 is camped on one side of the river and the Confederate Army of 70,000 is camped on the other. It's bitter cold that night on the 13th of December, 1862. A few weeks earlier they had fought the Battle of Fredericksburg, at that time in the conflict, the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil. Twelve thousand Federals and 5,000 Confederates had been killed or wounded. The bands from both armies had been playing that night and they were coming to the close of their concerts. That night they had alternated back and forth, the music becoming more and more tender, bringing tears and longing to the hearts of the soldiers.

Finally one Federal band had started one of the Civil War's favourite tunes. The music floated over the river while

men and boys were writing letters home. The moon was out and its light shown down on thousands of campfires sending streams of smoke up into the cold air. The music was so light, and haunting. No sooner had the Federal band started than a Confederate band joined in. One at a time, other regimental bands on both sides joined in, adding their "voice" to the music. Pens were put down, card games stopped; all talk and sounds of cleanup and preparing for bed stopped except for the music. Finally every regimental band had joined in to meld the music together. Still not a sound from 170,000 souls as they sat motionless with their frosty breath and the campfire smoke rising into the moonlit sky and listening to an "unearthly" song....

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we
may roam,
Be it ever so humble there's no place
like home!

A charm from the skies seems to
hallow us there,
Which, seek through the world, is ne'er
met with elsewhere;
Home! Home! sweet, sweet, Home!
There's no place like Home!

The music slowly began to fade, until the last note just drifted off into the night, fainter and fainter, until..... nothing. Suddenly from that awesome silence, both sides "Roared" up with heart rending shouts, and started cheering, jumping up and down, and throwing their hats in the air. "Had there not been a river between them, the two armies would have met face to face, shaken hands, and ended the war on that spot.

Biographic Sketch of John Wilkes Booth

John Wilkes Booth was the ninth of ten children born to the famous, eccentric, and hard-drinking actor, Junius Booth. The Booth family--along with their slaves--lived on a farm near Bel Air, Maryland.

Booth made his own stage debut at age seventeen in Baltimore, appearing in *Richard III*. His highly successful acting career for a Shakespearian company based in Richmond took him all over the United States. (On November 9, 1863, Abraham Lincoln watched Booth play Raphael in the play *Marble Heart* in the same box at Ford's Theatre that he would later be assassinated.)

Booth became politically active in the 1850s, joining the Know-Nothing Party, an organization devoted to reducing the stream of immigrants into the United States. Booth ardently supported the institution of slavery and in 1859 joined a Virginia company that aided in the capture of John Brown after his raid at Harper's Ferry. Booth was an eyewitness to Brown's execution.

During the Civil War, Booth worked as a Confederate secret agent. He met frequently with the heads of the Secret Service, Jacob Thompson and Clement Clay, in Montreal.

John Wilkes Booth's Role in the Conspiracy

In the summer of 1864, Booth began formulating plans to kidnap Abraham Lincoln. The plan called for Lincoln to be taken south to Richmond, where he

would be held until exchanged for Confederate prisoners-of-war. Booth recruited friends and known southern-sympathizers for his mission, including the eight persons tried before the 1865 military commission. Some who resisted his persuasive efforts, such as actor Samuel Chester, became key government witnesses in the trial.

On March 15, Booth and his most of his fellow conspirators met at a Restaurant three blocks from Ford's Theatre to plan their abduction of the President. Soon thereafter, Booth heard that the President would be attending a matinee performance of *Still Waters Run Deep* on March 17 at the Campbell Hospital on the outskirts of Washington. This, he decided, would be the perfect opportunity for a kidnapping and--according to John Surratt--Booth developed a plan to intercept Lincoln's carriage enroute to the play. Booth's plans were foiled, however, when the President changed his plans and decided instead to speak to the 140th Indiana Regiment and present a captured flag.

Booth then turned to plan to kidnap the President at a future performance at Ford's Theatre, where the actor had several friends, but the plan failed to win the support of some of his co-conspirators, who dismissed it as infeasible.

On April 14, 1865, after the fall of Richmond rendered moot his kidnap scheme, Booth set in motion his final plan--one of assassination. Booth may have made the decision to kill the President after hearing Lincoln deliver a speech urging Negro suffrage, according to Booth's former friend, Louis Weichmann. Weichmann spoke

of his viewing of the President's speech with Booth:

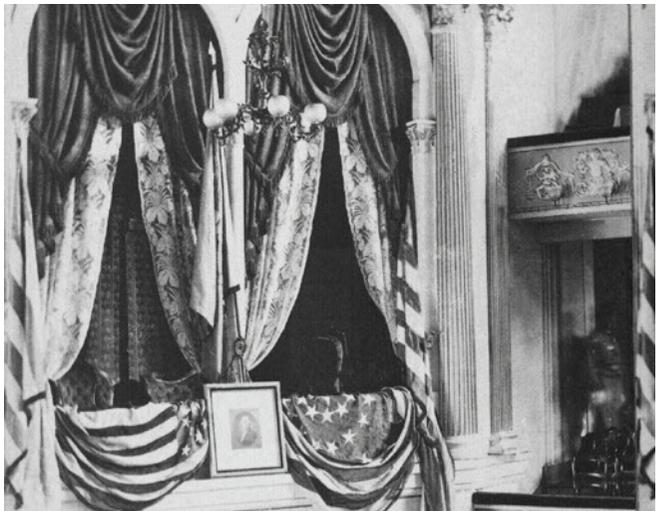
"I had never seen Mr. Lincoln up close and I knew he was a tall man, however nothing could have prepared me for the sight of him. A long shadow did he have. And his arms, when at his sides, touched near his knees. Very professionally he said that there would never be any suffrage based on differences in the way people look. Upon this, Booth turned to the two of us and said, "That means nigger citizenship. Now by God I'll put him through!"

Booth tried to convince several of his co-conspirators to participate in his plot to kill several high government officials (including the Vice President, the Secretary of State, and probably General Grant), but found few willing.

Around 10:15, as the President and the First Lady watched a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre, Booth, showed a card to a presidential aide and was allowed entry through a lobby door leading to the presidential box. Reaching the box, Booth pushed open the door. The President sat in his armchair, one hand on the railing and the other holding to the side a flag that decorated the box, in order to gain a better view of a person in the orchestra. From a distance of about four feet behind Lincoln, Booth fired

a bullet into the President's brain as he shouted "Revenge for the South!" (according to one witness) or "Freedom!" (according to another). Major Rathbone, seated with the President in the State Box, sprang up to grab the assassin, but Booth wrested himself away after slashing the general with a large knife. Booth rushed to the front of the box as Rathbone reached for him again, catching some of his clothes as Booth leapt over the railing. Rathbone's grab was enough to cause Booth to fall roughly on the stage below, where he badly fractured his leg.

Rising from the stage, Booth shouted "Sic semper tyrannus!" and ran across the stage and toward the back of the theatre. Booth rushed out the back door of the theatre to a horse being held for him by Joseph Burroughs (better known as "Peanuts"). Booth mounted the horse and swept rapidly down an alley, then to the left toward F Street--and disappeared into the Washington darkness.



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All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: - Val Holt Editor

E-mail address Editor@acws.co.uk or send to

PO Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ

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EVENTS 2010

19-20th June - STANFORD HALL, LEICS

Camping from Friday - Monday. . Reg Fee £10

3rd July - EYNSHAM CARNIVAL, OXFORDSHIRE

Camping Friday - Sunday.. Reg Fee £6

10-11th July - SILLOTH, WIGTON CUMBRIA

Camping Friday - TBA Reg Fee £6

17-18th July - KELMARSH HALL

See website for details.

24-25th July - GLEMHAM HALL, SUFFOLK

Camping from Thursday pm. until Tuesday No Reg fee

14-15th August - SPETCHLEY PARK, WORCESTER

Camping Friday - Monday. Reg Fee £6

29-30th August - SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKS

Camping from Friday - Tuesday . Reg Fee £6

11-12th September - TATTON PARK, CHESHIRE

Camping from Friday - Monday. Reg Fee £6

18-19th September INGLETON NORTH YORKS

Camping from Friday - Monday Reg Fee £3

4th December - ACWS AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY

See Projects report for details.