

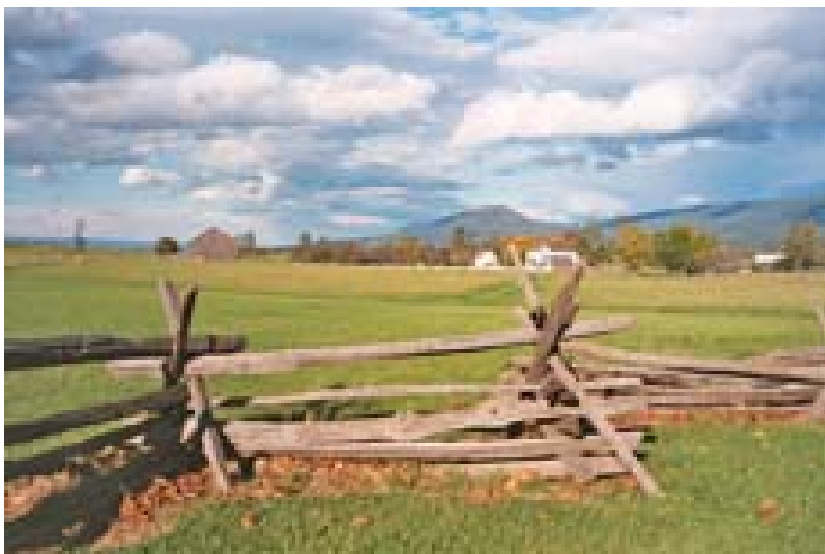


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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2010 Autumn Edition



**Field of Lost Shoes
Newmarket Virginia**

Issue 158

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



EVENTS CALENDAR 2010

18-19th September - INGLETON - North Yorkshire

Small event to finish the year with in stunning surroundings on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales at Waterfalls Field, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EP.

Members camping available from Friday until Monday. Very small Family Camp

This is not a full society event

2-3rd October – Murton Park Yorkshire

Living History Only

U.S. Staff/U.S. Signals are hosting an event at the Yorkshire Farming Museum, Murton Lane, Murton, York, YO19 5UF

This is not a full society event

4th December - ACWS AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY -

The ACWS Annual General Meeting and The Christmas Party are to be held on the same day at the The Nautical Club, 5-6 Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham, B15 1ET,

The AGM will be held in the afternoon at 1 PM and the Dance in the evening from 7.30 PM until midnight.



Chairman's Report

Here we are almost at the end of another re-enactment season. It's been a difficult year regarding events and trying to balance the books.

The current recession and budget cutting are affecting our discussions with potential sponsors who just don't have the finances which we require available any more. Our fixed costs exceed our fixed income, and the best way to balance the books is to obtain profitable sponsored events. If there are not enough of these type of events, then we make a loss, cannot afford to self fund events, have to raise membership or registration fees, or cut costs accordingly. At a recent Board Meeting in July, all these issues and possible solutions were discussed, some of which were quite drastic. The theme was 'how does the Society survive financially and also be attractive to members?' To summarise a long discussion, it was agreed that the ACWS need to be more flexible with our offerings when talking to prospective sponsors. We must ensure that the sponsor gets what he wants and that what we deliver is within both ours and their budget. This means, for example, that the ACWS may have to book some smaller events to which the whole society cannot attend due to reduced budget or space availability. This also means that the Stanford Hall self-funding yet loss-making type events are no longer practical.

It was also agreed to allow regiments more scope in organising their own

'local' events (under ACWS Rules and Regulations) when there are no major Society events booked. These regimental events would be invite only so as to control numbers and would need appointed officers for the weekend such as safety, explosives, etc. The Board have seen the success both on the field and financially of the 19th and 22nd Foot non-ACW period units, where sponsors do have a few hundred rather than a few thousand pounds to spare. The Board will discuss these models further at it's next meeting in October and hopefully be able to produce a framework document to which regiments may work. Income from these events would go to the host regiment(s) who may then share their income with the invited regiments, but also pay a levy to ACWS for the use of insurance and a donation for other ACWS provided central services such as artillery, cavalry and gun powder, where appropriate. More on this later.

However, the ACWS will still attempt to obtain full society events throughout the season, such as at Bank and School Holidays. The difficult bit is knowing when these events have been confirmed and therefore which weekends are available for the smaller and regimental events. This will need careful co-ordination with the Projects team. So we might end up next season with maybe 3 to 5 full society events, and a lot more smaller events. Hopefully, this will be financially viable and give our members enough variety of events to make them want to remain members of ACWS.

The ACWS should then be more flexible in what we can offer and deliver combinations of any of the following

such as full society battle re-enactment, skirmish, large skirmish with cannon, living history, artillery, cavalry, multi-period (19th/22nd Foot plus ACW and Cavalry.

We also need to market ourselves better, and will put more effort into the web site to attract potential sponsors, showing them better what we can do and, for example, maybe a menu from which they can choose what they want.

On example of times being more difficult is at Rockingham Castle, where we were negotiating with the Events Manager for two events next year, one in May and one in August, the latter for our planned 2011 International. Unfortunately, the site owner dramatically changed his policy to be very risk averse, taking the Events Manager and ACWS by surprise. As a result he was expecting ACWS to pay him thousands of pounds for the privilege of using his land, and he would still take all the gate money!! We are very sorry that we have had to cancel the International for 2011, but we will look at feasible alternatives for 2012.

This will be my last Chairman's Report, as you should all know by now I am standing down as Chairman, having done the job for several years now following the financial losses at Weston Park in 2003. However, following my heart attack of two years ago, I do need to step back and make life a little more easier for me and my family. I trust that I leave the Board and the new Chairman in as good a position as could have been expected when I became Chairman. Unfortunately, a new spell of uncertainty faces the ACWS and also many of us in our

personal lives due to the current recession, so I wish my fellow Board Members and the new Chairman all the very best.

Best Regards and Keep Your Powder Dry.

Mike Bussey, Chairman ACWS Ltd

PROJECTS REPORT



Hi All

Not going to say much here, great season plenty of events and 2 more left,

18-19th September - INGLETON -

Small event to finish the year with in stunning surroundings on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales at Waterfalls Field, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EP.

Members camping available from Friday until Monday.

Location Maps: LA6 3EP

2-3rd October –Murton Park

U.S. Staff/U.S. Signals are hosting an event at the Yorkshire Farming museum, Living History event where we can use the buildings on the site.

22nd Foot will be billeted in the Tudor Farm House while the Federal and Confederate troops fight over possession of the fort. Whose flag will flutter over the fortification at the end of the day?

Continued on page 17

Death of John Wilkes Booth



Near the banks of the Rappahannock River in Virginia, investigators closed in on Booth and his companion, David Herold, on April 26. Everton Conger and two other investigators pulled Willie Jett out of a bed in a hotel in Bowling Green to demand, "Where are the two men who came with you across the river?" Jett knew that Conger meant Booth and Herold. When Jett had talked with the two conspirators they had made no effort to hide their identity. Herold had boldly declared, "We are the assassins of the President. Yonder is J. Wilkes Booth, the man who killed Lincoln." Jett told Conger that the men they sought "are on the road to Port Royal" at the home of "Mr. Garrett's."

Reaching Garrett's farm, the government party ordered an old man, Garrett, out of his home and asked, "Where are the two men who stopped here at your house?" "Gone to the woods," Garrett answered. Unsatisfied with Garrett's response, Conger told one of his men, "Bring me a lariat rope here, and I will put that man up to the top of one of those locust trees." One of his sons broke in, "Don't hurt the old man; he is scared; I will tell you where the men are--...in the barn."

Finding the suspects to be in the Garrett barn, Conger gave Booth and Herold five minutes to get out or, he said, he would set fire to it. Booth

responded, "Let us have a little time to consider it." After some discussion in the barn, Booth proposed that if the capturing party were withdrawn "one hundred yards from the door, I will come out and fight you." When his proposal--and a second one for a withdrawal to fifty yards--was rejected, Booth said in a theatrical voice, "Well, my brave boys, prepare a stretcher for me." As Conger ordered pine boughs placed against the barn to start a fire, Booth announced, "There's a man who wants to come out." After being called "a damned coward" by his partner, David Herold stepped out of the door of the barn and into the hands of his capturers.

Conger lit the fire minutes later. With flames rising around him, Booth, carrying a carbine, started toward the door of the barn. A shot rang out from the gun of Sergeant Boston Corbett. Booth fell. Soldiers carried Booth out on the grass. Booth turned to Conger and said, "Tell mother I die for my country." Moved into Garrett's house, Booth revived somewhat. Repeatedly he begged of his captors, "Kill me, kill me." Booth again weakened. Two or three hours after being shot, he died.



LOTTERY WINNERS

September 2009

Name – Philip Berry 19th Indiana

Number - 51 Prize - £13

October 2009

Name – Alan Shatford 2nd US

Battery B Number - 40 Prize -
£10.50

November 2009

Name – John Ewers 118th Pen

Number - 77 Prize - £13

December 2009

Name – John Filer Pyro

Number - 94 Prize - £11.50

January 2010

Name – Clarice Wilson 19th Indiana

Number - 28 Prize - £13.50

February 2010

Name – Martin Clarke Rockbridge

Artillery Number - 2 Prize - £13.50

March 2010

Name – Sharon Lord 1st Tenn

Number - 21 Prize - £13.50

April 2010

Name – Richard Page 2nd SC

Number - 101 Prize - £12.50

May 2010

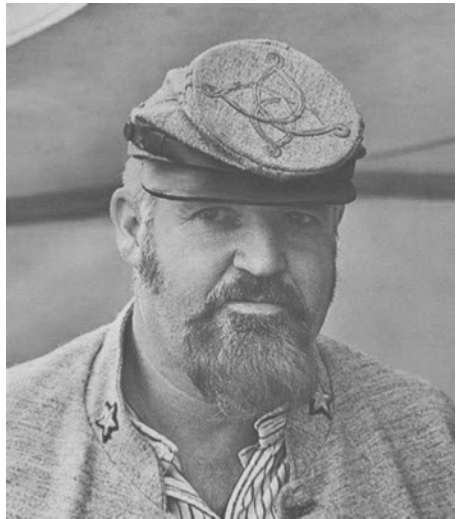
Name – Val Holt 69th NY

Number - 92 Prize - £15.50

June 2010

Name – Neil Manison 19th Indiana

Number - 23 Prize - £16.00



GREETINGS MY FELLOW SOUTHERNERS

Well as i write this report, i would just like to thank you all for all the hard work you have put in to this campaign. We have had some great weekends and a couple more to come.

As you know Lee Fairlee has had to resign his position on the board. I would like to thank him for all the work that he has done on the behalf of the Confederates.

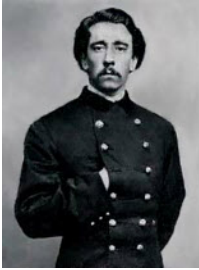
I would now like to thank Kevin Holden for stepping in and filling that position

See you in the field.

DEO VINDICE

Major Bill Brown

CSA Staff



Elisha Hunt Rhodes Private To General

Gen. Elisha Hunt Rhodes. Among the gallant citizens of Rhode Island who served in the late civil war, is the present collector of U. S. internal revenue for the district of Rhode Island, Gen. Elisha H. Rhodes. He was born in Pawtuxet, March 21, 1842. His father, Elisha H. Rhodes, was a sea-captain, as were his ancestors for several generations, and was lost at sea Dec. 10, 1858, while in command of the schooner "Worcester" of Providence. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools, and at Potter & Hammond's Commercial Academy in Providence. Enlisting in the Union Army, as a member of the 2nd R. I. Vols., early in May, 1861, he took part in the first battle, July 21st of that year. He was successively promoted through the various company grades, having, as First Lieutenant, for a time command of Company B, which position he held until Nov. 7, 1863, when he became Adjutant of the regiment. During all this time, as indeed in all its history, the gallant 2nd regiment was actively engaged in service. On the plains and hills of East Virginia, on the Peninsula, before Richmond, and in checking Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, he saw severe and protracted service. Re-enlisting, with the patriotic purpose of seeing the war through, his efficient labours were rewarded by a further

promotion. As senior officer on duty, he took command of the regiment June 5, 1864, and was promoted to Captain, his commission dating May 5, 1864. Having reorganized the regiment, and being assigned to its command by Major General Wright, of the 6th Army Corps, he took an active part in Gen. Sheridan's Shenandoah campaign, and was breveted Major, "for gallant conduct at Winchester." He returned to Petersburg in December, 1864, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Jan. 31, 1865, was breveted Colonel of U. S. Vols., "for gallant conduct at the charge on the rebel works at Petersburg," received full commission as Colonel July 18, 1865, and ten days later was honourably discharged, having served four years and two months, and participating in every campaign of the Army of the Potomac, from the first battle of Bull Run to Appomattox. Since the war, Gen. Rhodes has received many military honours. He was Adjutant of Prescott Post, No. 1, in 1867, Commander of the post the next year, Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Rhode Island in 1871, Commander of the department in 1872-3, member of the National Encampment in 1874-5, senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of G. A. R. in 1877, and Vice President of the Army of the Potomac the same year, and President of the Second Rhode Island Volunteer Association. He has also been President of the Rhode Island Soldiers' and Sailors' Historical Society since its formation, in 1873, and in 1879 was Vice President of the 6th Army Corps Association. On the re-organization of the Rhode Island militia, in that year, he was unanimously elected Brigadier

General. He received the appointment to his present position, as Collector of U. S. internal revenue of Rhode Island, in 1875. He married, June 12, 1866, Caroline P., daughter of Joshua Hunt, of Providence. Gen. Rhodes has prepared papers on historical and biographical subjects upon several occasions, and takes an active interest in civil, social and religious affairs.

(From the book entitled: "A Popular History of New England Containing Historical and Descriptive Sketches of the Counties, Cities and Principal Towns of the Six New England States" Author is R.H. & Henry E. Crocker Howard Crocker & Co. Publishers 1881. Page 24-5)

Thank you For Eynsham and Silloth

July was a very busy period for ACWS re-enactors. In order to get events that pay some money to help finance the Society, projects unfortunately had to accept bookings at Eynsham in Oxfordshire and Silloth in Cumbria on 'back-to-back' weekends. Sorry about that, but it's down to the Sponsors requirements.

Eynsham, a beautiful village 5 miles west of Oxford, was a wonderful weekend. OK, the march through town as part of the village carnival procession was a lot of stop-start, and was very hot. Enough of us turned up (thank God!) to mean that we did not break our contract, and we got paid. Essentially it was living history on Saturday, when not parading or battling in the arena, but it was a 1 day event and everybody could

go home, in their own time, on Sunday. The local residents were very pleasant and rumour has it that the beverages sold in the local hostelrys were very acceptable!

We had four cannon, two a side, pyrotechnics and between 30 and 40 infantry on each side and had to do a 'wham bam, thank you mam' battle at 3 O'clock and 5 O'clock in the afternoon, which we duly did. Lots of movement, lots of fire power, impressive pyros, lots of bodies and the cannon (as ever) making the ground tremble. The big crowd appreciated the show and were loud in their praise. Well done everybody who attended. Thank YOU ! That's the sort of thing our customers want. That's the sort of thing Projects can sell to event sponsors, now that ACWS is not as big as it used to be. Our artillery might be quite expensive to run, but they are certainly the impressive show-stopper at an event. When the guns fire, the crowd notices!

Silloth is a lovely Georgian town and port on the Solway Firth overlooking the sea to Scotland, a long way west of Carlisle. Our camp site had a belt of pine trees behind us, then the promenade and then the sea. Again may I personally thank all the Members who made the effort to travel that far north. It was a 2 day multi period put on by the local town council to promote tourism in Silloth. Also there was the Lancashire Militia from the English Civil War, some Vikings and some Romans from the VI Legion.

Saturday was Living History and a few fire power demonstrations in the arena, and talking to the locals and tourists (mainly Scots), with a view to a battle-

ette on the Sunday. Our sponsors and the public were very pleased with us and interested in what we did on the Saturday, and at 10pm, when it was dusk, all the artillery was laid out along the coastal promenade – two ACWS cannon and five ECW cannon of various sorts . A night-time firing session took place to the interest and entertainment of large numbers of people. Quite impressive artillery firing at night!

Unfortunately the weather 'over the hills' towards Scotland was NOT the blazing sunshine of Eynsham the weekend before. It was very windy with swirls of rain. Very early on Sunday morning the wind got up to a howling gale with bursts of torrential rain. A number of our 'happy campers' woke up before dawn with their tents blown away. This was not a happy experience. I do thank all members for their good comradeship, teamwork and patience in rescuing the situation. Come breakfast virtually all the tents had to be taken down and all belongings packed away in vehicles, because the wind was really rather scary. I have only experienced an ACWS event being stopped by bad weather once before and that was at a stately home in the Midlands at Easter, when a very heavy snow fall stopped play half way through the weekend.

Anyway, most of us hung on to see if either the weather would improve or the Sponsor would cancel the event (so it wasn't our fault!) and at 11am on the Sunday morning – with the wind howling and the rain pouring down still – the Sponsor duly cancelled.

Extraordinary weather. On the motorway going south once you got past junction 36 (the

Kendal/Windermere turn) it became bright and sunny, a very pleasant day. I therefore want to thank, personally, all those stalwart members who went either or both to Eynsham and Silloth. Thank you for your support and your efforts. Well done! Both events, in their own way, were certainly experiences!

Philip Clark
Secretary ACWS

MESSAGE SENT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

Thank you for the display at Norfolk Park, Sheffield, Aug 29/30 2010.

I was working as a steward for Constant Security during the event and had a most enjoyable time throughout, chatting with interesting people and learning not to put my fingers in my ears when the cannons roared in case I exploded my ear drums!

I will particularly remember the youngsters on the Monday evening searching the "battlefield" for spent ammunition, especially the young lad who offered me a doughnut because "I had been kind to him" and the young girl collecting cases who didn't dare touch her white bonnet because her hands were dirty with soot!

They know who they are! Their parents must be so proud of them, and so they should be.

I am a teacher in term time and rarely meet such pleasant, polite and sociable youngsters. A credit to you all.

Gill Fawdrey
Rotherham

Salute For Heroes

The best way to describe the weekend is as a 'Carnival in extremis', a Kirby Hall or Sheffield with much more and a serious purpose.

With two arenas as well as the main Battlefield and many static displays, there was so much to see, that I doubt any of our number managed to see everything.

There were re-enactors from Romans, Vikings, Medieval, English & American Civil Wars and World War II.

The highlights for some were the aerial displays by a pair of American Mustang fighters, 'The Sally B' - an American B17 bomber (starred in the film Memphis Belle), and a Spitfire.

Also there, to bring things right up date were The Light Dragoons who returned from Afghanistan in November 2009. Although the Regiment in its current format has only existed since 1992 its roots go back to the mid 1800's and the Crimean, with its antecedents taking part in The Charge of the Light Brigade. For the event our two Batteries, Rockbridge Artillery and Battery B, 2nd US Artillery operated as a single Artillery Brigade under the command of Major Tim Davies with myself acting as Brigade Sergeant Major.

As it had not been possible to complete repairs to one of the Societies guns our thanks go to Nat Henson who brought along his gun to complete our eight gun Battery.

As ACWS we were engaged to take part in a "Heroes, warriors, weapons and firepower through the ages" display and the "Salute for Heroes" finale.

For the firepower through the ages display, our colleagues from SoSkan

put out an Infantry Company supported by ACWS Artillery.

On Saturday we put out Union Artillery, in support of Confederate Infantry, and then on Sunday in support of Union Infantry our Confederate Artillery.

On both days some of our number took part in the ACW battle display, for which SoSkan had been engaged. Some joined in as Infantry, others helped man one of their artillery pieces.

On Sunday Morning some of our members attended the Drumhead Service, continuing our regular Sunday activities, along with several other groups of re-enactors.

The major part of our involvement was as part of each days Finale.

"A Salute for Heroes"

This was to include a parade of all participants, British Legion Standards, a mass volley of musketry, Last Post, Piper's Lament, Minute's silence, a Mustang fly past and a 21 gun cannon salute.

On Saturday we actually had 23 guns arranged in line along the ridge of the battlefield area overlooking the whole site. (On Sunday an ECWS gun had to be stood down so only 22 took part.)

We owe our thanks to Corporal Mallinson, The Light Dragoons, who helped when staging the guns by carrying tools, buckets and limber chests up the hill with his tractor & trailer.

The plan was to fire four rounds, the first as a mass salvo, two 'rolling fire' and a final salvo.

The problem of giving the 'fire' order to a line of guns extending over 300 yards was solved by our own Major Davies using a flag to give the command.

The sight and sound of all those guns was awesome from behind the line, one can only imagine the effect in front. We did receive reports that it had been heard over 8 miles away!

On the first day after the salute we were busy parking the cannon but on the Sunday we left the guns, marched 'double time' to join in the final march past.

During the march we paid our respects to not only other re-enactors but also to the British Legion Standards and our current armed forces, The Light Dragoons.

Accolades for the efforts of ACWS came from our fellow re-enactors - SoSkan and the ECWS gunners and also the main event organisers as well as Event Plan.

After discussions we believe that this was the greatest number of Black Powder Muzzle Loading Artillery arranged in Battery in Modern Times. It is hoped that this event may be put on again in two years time and, if so, we should attempt to beat this possible 'record'.

We have heard that the overall event did not reach the visitor numbers expected and we will have to wait to hear the financial outcome, but all who attended both re-enactors and visitors will have an event to remember for a long time - and more importantly all in a Good cause.

Those attending the event:-

1st Maryland Colin Evans

2nd S.Carolina Jack Solomon

4thTexas Antoon Jansen, RobYarker

Rockbridge Artillery Jessica Barr
Martyn Clarke, Sandra Evans, Dave Longstreet, Jason Savage, Michael Savage, Andy White

19th Indiana

Elwood, Gerry Preston

69th New York

Peter Holt, Val Holt

US Signals

Andy Hopwood

2nd US Artillery, Battery B

John Bennett, Linda Calligan,

Angela Cross, Martin Cross,

Jack Enright, Hilary Haynes,

Nat Henson, Mark Isam,

Alison Nightingale, Glyn Nightingale,

Dean Payne, Robert Payne,

Sam Payne, Shannon Payne,

Alan Shatford

US Staff

Caz Carnell Tim Davies

Raoul Hesse-Phillipson

Civilian

Geoff Calligan

Charles

Submitted by Martin Cross
Battery B

WANTED



DRUM MAJOR

Due to family commitments, 'Steady' Eddy Ellison has had to resign his post as Drum Major, therefore ACWS are on the lookout for a musician who can play drums and bugle and can teach up and coming young musicians in the art of military music.

If you fit the bill, speak to your army commander.

The Board would like to thank John Fairfield for stepping into the breach this year.

SPETCHLEY PARK



SHEFFIELD FAYRE





PHILIP SHERIDAN, (1831-88).

Philip Sheridan ranks with Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman as one of the three great Union commanders of the American Civil War. Of the three he was the only one who devoted his whole life to the United States Army.

Philip Henry Sheridan was born in Albany, N.Y. His parents had settled there after emigrating from Ireland. Soon after his birth the family moved to Perry County, Ohio. The Mexican War prompted Sheridan to become a soldier. He secured an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., graduating from there in 1853.

Sheridan was a first lieutenant when the American Civil War began. Distinguished service brought him rapid promotions. When Grant took command of the United States Army in 1864, he gave Sheridan command of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac. During the Wilderness campaign of 1864 Sheridan aided Grant by destroying Confederate lines of communication.

In July 1864 a strong Confederate force under Jubal Early drove the Federal Army from the Shenandoah Valley in north western Virginia. Sheridan was given command of the area. He defeated Early at Winchester and again at Fisher's Hill, driving the Confederates back to Staunton. These

victories won for Sheridan a commission as brigadier general.

On the morning of October 19, Early counterattacked at Cedar Creek and drove the Federal force back in confusion. At that time Sheridan was returning from a conference in Washington D.C. Reaching Winchester, 20 miles (32 kilometres) away, he learned of the turn of events. Speedily he rode forward and reorganized the Union troops. At 3 PM his forces attacked and drove the Confederates 30 miles (48 kilometres) up the valley. For this Sheridan was made a major general and received the thanks of Congress.

In March 1865 Sheridan rejoined the Army of the Potomac. At Five Forks he entrapped and routed George Edward Pickett's troops, causing the Confederates to abandon Petersburg. When Gen. Robert E. Lee started to retreat, Sheridan's cavalry blocked the Confederate escape route at Appomattox Court House. This forced Lee to surrender.

After the war Sheridan was placed in command in the Southwest near the Mexican border. Later he headed the Department of Missouri, with headquarters in Chicago. During the great Chicago fire of 1871, Sheridan's troops helped maintain order in the city.

In 1870 Sheridan served as the American military observer with the Prussian army in the Franco-Prussian War. In 1884 he succeeded Sherman as general in chief of the United States Army. He received the rank of general a few months before his death. Sheridan died on Aug. 5, 1888, in Nonquitt, Mass.

For the Lady Re enactor.

I have thought for some time now that the Ladies of the society seem to be left out. I plan to put that right by having a 'Ladies' Page. We have all heard of WAGS, and it was suggested that it should be called 'SWAGS' (Soldiers Wives and Girlfriends) 'but it sounded too much like "WAGS" then I thought maybe we could call it 'SLAGS' now don't get upperty. 'Soldier's Ladies And Girlfriends', but I thought better of it. If you have any suggestions I am open to suggestions

Things have come a long way since I became a re enactor 13 years ago. Back then a long skirt and shirt tucked in was considered sufficient for a lady to wear. Patterns for period correct dresses were very thin on the ground in the UK. How things have changed, but are we getting it right? We like the romance of hoops and frills, but are practical on the field?

Over the next few issues of the newsletter I hope to give some tips taken from a very useful booklet published by Donna Abraham, who runs the store called 'Abarham's Lady' in Gettysburg, which specialises in Ladies clothing for the 1860's. Those who have been to Gettysburg will have spent many happy hours in the store trying on the dresses and bonnets and may have spent many of their dear husband's hard earned cash too, I know I have and I am looking forward to doing it all again very soon. Donna graciously gave her permission to reproduce articles from her booklet 'How to Avoid Farbiness.'. Anything you see printed in italics is a quote from the booklet.

So I will start with some advice from Donna for those of you who are new to re enacting and maybe some of us who have been doing our hobby for a long time might need to refresh our memories.

"First of all look at old period photos. You will find that the clothes are not as fancy as you see in French Fashion books. Think about the colours you wear. Light colours tend to show the dirt. In camp it will rain, the morning dew will saturate your hemline, and other delightful messy situations await you near the camp fire etc..."

Do not go running off for the first pretty pastel dress for ordinary day wear you see. If it makes you look like a character in 'Gone with the Wind' 10 to 1 it is not correct! Just because you bought it at a sutler's store does not make it right. Let the Buyer Beware. Some sutler's don't care that it is not period correct, all they want to do is fatten their purse with you hard earned money. Another thing to consider, is it 100% cotton? Polymix is not authentic, but it is a fire hazard. Polymix burns at a lower temperature than cotton and the resin clings to the skin. Don't become a statistic."

If the clothes are to fit you have to dress correctly from the inside out. This means chemise, pantalletes, corset, petticoat a small hoop an over petticoat.

It may be advisable to leave the hoop off if you are cooking over a campfire. A word about hoped petticoats. "Huge circus tent hoops belong on Scarlet O'Hara. Research shows hoops were usually 90-110 inches in circumference. Although up to 120 inches has been reported for a ball gown, anything over that is 'Hollywood'

Remember you are portraying a Mid Victorian woman. Back then if you reached the age of 30, you were classed as Middle aged and expected dress according to your age. Leave the pastel colours to the young. Dark colours are much more serviceable for camp. You can dress up a plain dress with collars, cuffs and belts, which can be removed for washing if you are not going to wash the dress after every event.

Val Holt
Editor

With extracts from 'How to Avoid Farbiness' by Donna Abraham



Sojourner Truth 1797(?) - 1883

Born Isabella Baumfree, Sojourner Truth was one of the earliest and most passionate of female abolitionists-for she herself had once been a slave. In

the 1820s, when still quite a young woman, she escaped from her New York owner after being brutally treated and sold away from her family. By the 1840s, Truth had become a powerful speaker against slavery, often moving her audiences to tears and exclamations of horror with her firsthand accounts of what many of her black brethren and sisters were enduring at the hands of cruel masters. She would tell listeners of how some slaves were kept cowed and afraid to act by beatings, sometimes with spiked sticks and chains; she herself, as a teenager, had been taken into the barn by her master one afternoon for absolutely no reason and tied up by the wrists. Then he tore the shirt from her back and whipped her with a bundle of sticks until her back bled. In a voice contemporaries described as rich and deep, she described how she refused to give him the satisfaction of screaming, by clenching her fists so hard her fingernails drew blood from her palms.

She also spoke of the living conditions many slaves were forced to endure, crowded together into cabins with no privacy, overworked, fed scraps in many cases, and clothed in threadbare hand-me-downs. Her audiences must have felt the shame as Truth recalled the auction block, upon which men and women alike were frequently forced to strip and stand before potential buyers, who would search their bodies for marks of the whip or of wrist or leg irons, the presence of which would indicate the slave had been frequently punished. The

slaves would be forced to endure impersonal and degrading inspections of their teeth, muscles, and other body parts, depending on what the buyer was looking for in the purchase.

Truth was self-educated, and much of her speaking bore the stamp of a deep love of and acquaintance with Scripture. When explaining to Harriet Beecher Stowe how she came to change her name, Truth said she felt God had called her "to travel up and down the land, showing the people their sins and being a sign unto them." She also possessed a quick wit, coupled with an ability to think fast and turn the unkind words of others against them. Facing a heckler once who told her he did not care for her anti-slavery talk anymore than he would for the bite of a flea, Truth retorted, "Perhaps not, but Lord willing I'll keep you scratching."

She was very involved in political causes, and strongly supported suffrage. During the Civil War, she gathered supplies for black volunteer regiments, and, in tribute to her efforts, was received at the White House by President Lincoln in 1864. Truth was appointed to the National Freedman's Relief Association in 1864, where she worked diligently to better conditions for African-Americans.

She lived long enough to see her people brought to freedom, but never stopped in her efforts to win more equality for them. Right up until her death, in Battle Creek, Michigan, she continued to speak out for her race; when she died in 1883, she went to her grave a much lamented and beloved figure in abolitionist lore.

Projects Report Cont

There are excellent facilities on site, flushing loos, water, cafe and an area for family camping. Fire wood will be supplied for Living History but suggest bringing a little of your own for the evening blaze.

Whilst there is plenty of room at the venue it would be useful to know of expected attendance so that an area's can be allocated for the authentic camps.

Martin Clark of The Rockbridge Artillery has kindly volunteered and will be liaison with the site management and assisting Andy Hopwood with the running of the event.

Not forgetting what really is the last event of the year:

4th December - ACWS AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY -

The ACWS Annual General Meeting and The Christmas Party are to be held on the same day at the The Nautical Club, 5-6 Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham, B15 1ET, on Saturday 4th December 2010.

The AGM will be held in the afternoon at 1 PM and the Dance in the evening from 7.30 PM until midnight.

See you soon

Andy Hopwood and Viv Corbishley,

The Projects Team

Battle of Cedar Creek 1864.

The Confederate commander in the valley, Jubal Early, had lost half of his army in two earlier defeats (3rd Battle of Winchester, 19 September 1864 and Fisher's Hill, 22 September 1864). Sheridan and Grant were now convinced that the valley campaign was over, and began to plan how to move Sheridan's men to the Richmond and Petersburg theatre. Grant preferred an overland route through Virginia, while Sheridan favoured using the Potomac, suspecting that while Early was down, he was not entirely out. Before Cedar Creek, the Federal Sixth Corps had actually started to move east.

Sheridan was right. While the Federal commanders were debating how to move troops from the valley, Lee was moving troops into it. Kershaw's Division was sent west to reinforce Early, who estimated his strength at Cedar's Creek at about 8,500 infantry, 1,200 cavalry and 40 pieces of artillery. Sheridan's force still numbered around 40,000 men (although some were scattered in garrisons around the valley).

Early's new army reoccupied Fisher's Hill on 13 October. This had the immediate effect of pulling the Federal Sixth Corps back to Cedar Creek (where Sheridan's army was encamped). However, Sheridan was not alarmed enough to rush back to his army. Instead, he attended a conference in Washington, and overnight on 18-19 October was sleeping at Winchester, fourteen miles north of his army.

That left General Wright in charge of the army. He was convinced that his left flank was protected by the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, and so concentrated his efforts on protecting his right, where he expected any attack to come. He was wrong. The Confederates knew the valley well, and on the night of 19 October made a night march around the Federal left. Early that morning, the Confederates launched their attack.

It was an immediate and spectacular success. The Federal Eighth Corps was hit first, and retreated in chaos. Next was the Nineteenth Corps, which was also pushed out of its camp, although in slightly better condition. Finally, the Sixth Corps was forced back by the Confederate rush, although this time in reasonably good order. By mid-morning most of Early's men thought that they had won a great victory.

This was when Early's day started to go sour. The Federal Sixth Corps had not routed, and was able to form a strong line north of the battlefield. Elements of the Nineteenth Corps began to form around them, and by 10.30 this new line was probably too strong for Early's men to attack with any chance of success. At the same time, many of the Confederate soldiers settled down to looting the Union camp. Early was later to blame this for his eventual defeat.

Worse was to come. Sheridan had been woken early by the sound of artillery from the south. At first he dismissed it as too light to indicate a battle, but soon changed his mind, and began what was to become his famous ride from Winchester. Just

south of Winchester, Sheridan found the first evidence of the disaster at Cedar Creek – fleeing men, mostly of the Eighth Corps, desperate to get to safety.

Sheridan was about to secure his reputation. Riding south, he rallied as many men as he could, stopping whenever he encountered a large group of retreating soldiers to encourage them to turn south. By the time he reached the new Union line, at about 10.30, he had turned the tide of retreat. Over the next five hours, Sheridan reorganised his shattered army, in preparation for a counterattack. He was always at his best in a crisis, and this was the biggest crisis he faced while in command of an army. Very few other commanders on either side could have rallied an army that had suffered such a reverse in the morning and persuaded them to launch a counterattack on the very same day.

That counterattack went in at four in the afternoon. Early's men briefly held, but broke under the Federal attack and fled from the field. Once again, Sheridan suffered more losses than Early, but once again he could afford to. Early lost 320 dead, 1540 wounded, 1050 missing and captured, 43 guns and most of his supplies – perhaps as much as a third of his entire force. Sheridan's men lost 644 dead, 3430 wounded and 1591 missing and wounded, demonstrating the ferocity of the fighting. Even so, that still left him outnumbering Early by as much as five to one.

Despite this, Early and the Confederates did not flee the valley. While Sheridan spent the winter at

Kernstown, Early camped at New Market, where he received a small number of reinforcements. Sheridan was finally able to dispatch most of his infantry to the Petersburg front. He was to have one more encounter with Early, at Waynesborough (2 March 1865), but after Cedar Creek most of the Shenandoah Valley was effectively lost to the Confederacy.



**Belle Grove Plantation
Cedar Creek Virginia**

The History of Belle Grove begins with the German immigration into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In 1732, Jost Hite, his partner Robert McKay, and 16 families journeyed to the northern Valley to settle on 140,000 acres obtained in two land grants. A grandson of Jost Hite was Major Isaac Hite Jr, who attended William and Mary College and served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1783, his father gave him and his bride Nelly Conway Madison, sister of a future President of the United States, the 483 acres on which Belle Grove house was later built. In 1794, construction began, and was completed in 1797. The mansion was built with limestone quarried on the property, and, as was customary in that day, was intended to display the owners' social and financial status.



**Pierre Gustave Toutant
Beauregard
(1818-1893)**

The services of "The Hero of Fort Sumter," Pierre G.T. Beauregard, were not utilized to their fullest due to bad blood between the Confederate general and Jefferson Davis. The native Louisianan had graduated second in the 1838 class at West Point. There he had become a great admirer of Napoleon and was nicknamed "The Little Napoleon." Posted to the artillery, he was transferred to the engineers a week later. As a staff officer with Winfield Scott in Mexico he won two brevets and was wounded at both Churubusco and Chapultepec. In the interwar years he was engaged in clearing the Mississippi River of obstructions. In 1861 he served the shortest term ever-January 23-28 as superintendent at West Point. Southern leanings probably resulted in his prompt removal. On February 20, 1861, he resigned his captaincy in the engineers and offered his services to the South.

His Confederate assignments included: brigadier general, CSA (March 1, 1861); commanding Charleston Harbor (March 3 - May 27, 1861); commanding Alexandria Line June 2-20, 1861); commanding Army of the Potomac June 20 - July 20, 1861); commanding 1st Corps, Army of the Potomac July 20 - October 22, 1861); general, CSA (August 31, 1861 to rank from July 21); commanding Potomac District, Department of Northern Virginia (October 22, 1861 - January 29, 1862); commanding Army of the Mississippi (March 17-29 and April 6 - May 7, 1862); second in command, Army of the Mississippi and Department Y2 (March 29-April 6, 1862); commanding the department (April 6 - June 17, 1862); commanding Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida (August 29, 1862 - April 20, 1864); commanding Department of North Carolina and Southern Virginia (April 22-ca. September 23, 1864); commanding Military Division of the West (October 17, 1864-March 16, 1865); and second in command, Army of Tennessee (March 16-April 26, 1865).

Placed in charge of the South Carolina troops in Charleston Harbor, he won the nearly bloodless victory at Fort Sumter. "The Little Creole" was hailed throughout the South. Ordered to Virginia, he commanded the forces opposite Washington and created the Confederate Army of the Potomac. Reinforced by Joseph E. Johnston and his Army of the Shenandoah, Beauregard was reduced to corps command under Johnston the day before 1st Bull Run. However, during the battle Beauregard, being familiar

with the field, exercised tactical command while Johnston forwarded troops to the threatened left. Both officers later claimed that they could have taken the Union capital if they had been properly supplied with rations for their men. This was one of Beauregard's first conflicts with Davis. Nonetheless he was named a full general from the date of the battle and early in 1862 was sent to the West as Albert Sidney Johnston's second in command.

Utilizing Napoleonic style, he drafted the attack orders for Shiloh and took command when Johnston was mortally wounded on the first day of the battle. On the evening of the first day he let victory slip through his fingers by calling off the attacks. Controversy over his decision has raged to this day. The next day he was driven from the field by Grant's and Buell's combined armies. He was eventually forced to evacuate Corinth, Mississippi-his supply base in the face of Henry W. Halleck's overwhelming force. Shortly after that he went on sick leave without gaining Davis' permission; he was permanently relieved of his army and departmental commands on June 27, 1862, by special direction of the president.

Two months later he returned to the scene of his earlier triumph as commander along the Southern coast from the North Carolina-South Carolina line to the tip of Florida. He held this command for over a year and a half and was engaged in the determined defence of Charleston against naval and ground forces. Ordered north, he took command in

North Carolina and southern Virginia while Lee faced Grant in northern Virginia. Gradually the two forces were pushed together in an awkward command arrangement.

Beauregard managed to bottle up Benjamin F. Butler in the Bermuda Hundred lines after defeating him at Drewry's Bluff. This was Beauregard's finest performance of the war. At this point he started making grandiose proposals for defeating both Butler and Grant and invading the North by taking a large part of Lee's army with him. This resulted in lengthy correspondence between the two commanders and the Richmond authorities. Beauregard also managed to thwart the early Union attempts to take Petersburg while Lee was still north of the James River. With the siege of the city under way, he continued to serve under Lee until September 1864 when he was assigned to overall command in the West with John B. Hood's Army of Tennessee and Richard Taylor's Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana under him. With no forces under his immediate command he was powerless in trying to stop Sherman's March to the Sea.

In the final days of the war he was again second in command to Joseph E. Johnston, this time in North Carolina. Following the capitulation he returned to New Orleans and refused high rank in the Egyptian and Rumanian armies. Engaged in railroading, his reputation was tarnished by his association with the Louisiana Lottery as a supervisor. For a time he was Louisiana's adjutant

general, and he engaged in historical writing including his

A Commentary on the Campaign and Battle of Manassas.

(Williams, T. Harry, P.G.T. Beauregard, Napoleon in Gray)



Mama's Mutterings

Well here we are with another season almost behind us. It does not seem two minutes since I was writing about looking forward to a new season. Time flies by when you are enjoying yourself, and we have had some wonderful events this year.

Our return to Rockingham, Sewerby and Stanford Hall were all good events. Eynsham was a lovely little event, the beautiful weather helped too. Those who went to Silloth have other memories, which were not quite

so pleasant, in fact the weather was the worst I have ever experienced for a re enactment, but Silloth itself was very nice. The setting was good. Flat clean grass and the widest streets, still cobbled too. The buildings had a lovely Georgian elegance of a bygone age.

As I write this I am looking forward to another visit to Tatton Old Hall, and a visit to Ingleton. A new venue for ACWS, but a place I know well from visits there in my younger days. The countryside is wonderful and the air is clean and fresh. Let's hope that the good weather holds.

The AGM and Dance return to Birmingham this year. The 69th NY were involved with the St Patrick's parade there this year and Jayne Olden organised a lunch for us at the Nautical Club. It seems to be a very nice place, with plenty of room for our purposes.

See you all Soon
Val Holt, Editor.

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

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4th December -2010

ACWS AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY

*The ACWS AGM and Dance are to be held on at the
The Nautical Club, 5-6 Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham, B15 1ET,*

On

Saturday 4th December 2010.

The AGM will be held in the afternoon

at 1 PM

and the Dance in the evening

from 7.30 PM until midnight.

Tickets £9 (includes food)

from Jayne Olden at Westpoint Sutlers,

And at Singing In Points at events