



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

HD6 1JQ, England

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER



Spetchley Park

2011 Autumn Edition

Issue 162

Website :- www.acws.co.uk

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr Denis Jarwick, Chairman
Gen.lee43@43nc.com



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary
philiptresvillae@btinternet.com



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer
treasurer@acws.co.uk



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Projects
acwsprojects@btopenworld.com



Miss Claire Morris, Membership
membership@acws.co.uk



Mr Roger Willison-Gray, Marketing
marketing@acws.co.uk



Mr Tony Radcliffe, Health & Safety
Aradcliffe22559@yahoo.co.uk



Mrs Val Holt, Communications
editor@acws.co.uk



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster
webmaster@acws.co.uk



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander
timmykins@aol.com



Mr Kevin Holden Confederate Representative
kevin-h@blueyonder.co.uk



Mr Bill Brown, Confederate Commander
bill.brown@blueyonder.co.uk

LETTER FROM HOWARD GILES

Hi all,

I'm writing with a slightly belated thank you for staging an excellent series of displays at the Sheffield Fayre last weekend. These, big appreciative crowds and reasonable weather (well, except for packing up!) made it all worthwhile for you hopefully. The new modern camp location worked well and the beer tent proved popular once again. The security team did a good job too. So all in all, a very good weekend I thought.

As you'll know two members of the Northern World War Two Association pyro team were injured on Monday when a charge exploded during the laying process. They suffered superficial injuries and were kept in hospital overnight. However I'm happy to report that the association confirm that they are fine now & recovering well, which I think has much to do to the very prompt & efficient treatment by the ACWS paramedics Howard and Stuart. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Richard and Dave a speedy and full recovery. No doubt there will be a thorough investigation of the accident, I'll let you know what the results are (assuming I'm kept informed, and I'm using this opportunity to request this). *Personally* I don't like pyros much, having been fairly comprehensively blown up by one (operated by someone who literally got his wires crossed) in a battle in 1980, but there's no doubt that the public do, and the "fuel dump" finale to the WWII battle was certainly very spectacular. As usual I welcome any feedback from groups on the show/arrangements etc.

A couple of small gripes. Wood was left all over the place by some groups, please ensure your members replace unused wood back into the pile for collection (thanks to Martin and the other couple of ACWS who helped me load some after the show). One (western?) fire plate had burned the ground so had obviously been placed too low. Also, the cooled contents of one confederate fire were simply left poured over the ground, likewise one WWII fire complete with a lot of used cans (albeit in the trees). I had to clear these up personally when I found them so please don't let your members do this again - army/group coordinators should check the ground/members' tidy up arrangements *before* they leave. On the whole though the ground was left in good condition, especially on the Roman/medieval "ridge", so thanks for that. Well done to all the commentators, all very good, especially the three who were busiest, David, Christian and Paul. Finally, thanks to the EventPlan team - Kath, Laura, Mac, Ruth & Tony, who as ever kept "our bit" ticking over very efficiently.

Don't forget to check out Red Zebra's photos of the show at redzebraphoto.co.uk Hopefully we'll be back again next year, & as soon as I have any news I'll let you know.

All the best

Howard

A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond Va, found that they had in their collection of artefacts a small glass bottle, less than 2 inches in length, had sat undisturbed at the museum since 1896. It was a gift from Capt. William A. Smith, of King George County, who served during the Vicksburg siege. A glass vial stopped with a cork during the Civil War contained a coded message to the desperate Confederate commander in Vicksburg on the day the Mississippi city fell to Union forces 147 years ago.

The dispatch offered no hope to doomed Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton: Reinforcements are not on the way.

The collections manager, Catherine M. Wright, decided to investigate the contents of the strange little bottle containing a tightly wrapped note, a .38-caliber bullet and a white thread. "Just sort of a curiosity thing," said Wright. "This notion of, do we have any idea what his message says? The answer was no."

Wright asked a local art conservator, Scott Nolley, to examine the clear vial before she attempted to open it. He looked at the bottle under an electron microscope and discovered that salt had bonded the cork tightly

to the bottle's mouth. He put the bottle on a hotplate to expand the glass, used a scalpel to loosen the cork, then gently plucked it out with tweezers. The sewing thread was looped around the 6 1/2-by-2 1/2-inch paper, which was folded to fit into the bottle. The rolled message was removed and taken to a paper conservator, who successfully unfurled the message. But the coded message, which appears to be a random collection of letters, did not reveal itself immediately. The encrypted, 6-line message was dated July 4, 1863, the date of Pemberton's surrender to Union forces led by Ulysses S. Grant, ending the Siege of Vicksburg in what historians say was a turning point midway into the Civil War. The message is from a Confederate commander on the west side of the Mississippi River across from Pemberton. Eager to learn the meaning of the code, Wright took the message home for the weekend to decipher. She had no success. A retired CIA code breaker, David Gaddy, was contacted, and he cracked the code in several weeks. A Navy cryptologist independently confirmed Gaddy's interpretation. Cmdr. John B. Hunter, an information warfare officer, said he deciphered the code over two weeks while on deployment aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. A computer could have unscrambled the words in a fraction of the time. "To me, it was not that difficult," he

said. "I had fun with this and it took me longer than I should have."

The code is called the "Vigenere cipher," a centuries-old encryption in which letters of the alphabet are shifted a set number of places so an "a" would become a "d" -- essentially, creating words with different letter combinations. The code was widely used by Southern forces during the Civil War, according to Civil War Times Illustrated. The source of the message was likely Maj. Gen. John G. Walker, of the Texas Division, who had under his command William Smith, the donor of the bottle.

The full text of the message to Pemberton reads:

"Gen'l Pemberton:

You can expect no help from this side of the river. Let Gen'l Johnston know, if possible, when you can attack the same point on the enemy's lines. Inform me also and I will endeavor to make a diversion. I have sent some caps (explosive devices). I subjoin a despatch from General Johnston."

The last line, Wright said, seems to suggest a separate delivery to Pemberton would be the code to break the message.

"The date of this message clearly indicates that this person has no idea that the city is about to be surrendered," she said.

The Johnston mentioned in the dispatch is Gen. Joseph E.

Johnston, whose 32,000 troops were encamped south of Vicksburg and prevented from assisting Pemberton by Grant's 35,000 Union troops. Pemberton had held out hope that Johnston would eventually come to his aid.

The message was dispatched during an especially terrible time in Vicksburg. Grant was unsuccessful in defeating Pemberton's troops on two occasions, so the Union commander instead decided to encircle the city and block the flow of supplies or support. Many in the city resorted to eating cats, dogs and leather. Soup was made from wallpaper paste. After a six-week siege, Pemberton relented. Vicksburg, so scarred by the experience, refused to celebrate July 4 for the next 80 years.

So what about the bullet in the bottom of the bottle? Wright suspects the messenger was instructed to toss the bottle into the river if Union troops intercepted his passage. The weight of the bullet would have carried the corked bottle to the bottom, she said.

For Pemberton, the bottle is symbolic of his lost cause: the bad news never made it to him. The Confederate messenger probably arrived to the river's edge and saw a U.S. flag flying over the city. "He figured out what was going on and said, 'Well, this is pointless,' and turned back,"

DRIVER WANTED

Driver wanted to transport Ordnance Trailer to and from events.

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

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

**For more information please contact:
Mike - 01832 734674**

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Have you thought about receiving yours A.C.W.S. Newsletter electronically ?

It is easy, all you have to do is inform the Webmaster, Mike Bussey, or the Membership Secretary, Claire Morris, when you sign in at events.

You can read your newsletter on screen or you can print it off if you wish and you will be saving the society money, as there is no printing, envelopes or postage to pay for.



John Lincoln Clem

Civil War Figure, United States Army General. On May 24, 1861, at just 9-years of age, he left his home in Newark, Ohio, to join the fighting that had recently erupted in what would become the Civil War. His mother had been killed in a train accident, and he was now free to do his part to protect the Union. The first thing he did was to change his name. He was born John Joseph Klem, but changed his middle name to Lincoln because of his admiration for President Abraham Lincoln. He then changed the spelling of his last name, spelling his name with a C instead of a K which was used by his German immigrant family. Although he would become the youngest soldier ever to serve in the United States Army, he quickly found the army wasn't interested in boys his age. When he applied to the commander of the 3rd Ohio Regiment, the officer turned him down. He then tried the 22nd Michigan, and its commander said roughly the same thing. Determined, he tagged after the regiment, acted just as the other

drummer boys did, and wore down resistance. Though still not regularly enrolled, he performed camp duties and received a soldier's pay, \$13 a month, a sum donated by the officers. The next April, at Shiloh, his drum was smashed by an artillery round and he became a minor news item as "Johnny Shiloh," the smallest drummer. More than a year later, at the Battle of Chickamauga, he rode an artillery caisson to the front and wielded a musket trimmed to his size. In one of the Union retreats, a Confederate officer ran after the cannon he rode with. Clem shot him, although it's uncertain if the officer was killed or wounded, and later eluded capture by playing dead. Once reunited with his regiment, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, becoming the youngest American soldier ever to hold that rank. His heroic action also earned him national attention and the name, "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga." The remainder of the war found him at Murfreesboro, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta. He was captured by Confederate forces shortly after Chickamauga, but was exchanged two months later. Twice he had ponies shot from under him, later served as a courier, and was wounded in the hip by a shell fragment. Between Shiloh and Chickamauga he was regularly enrolled in the service and thereafter received his own pay. He was discharged from the Army in 1864,



at the age of 13. After the war, he tried to enter West Point but was turned down because of his slim education. He then made a personal appeal to President Ulysses S.

Grant, his general at Shiloh. The appeal was heard by Grant, who personally handed him his second lieutenant's commission on December 18, 1871. He saw action during the Spanish-American War, and in 1903 became a Colonel and assistant quartermaster general. In 1915, he was promoted to Brigadier General; and retired in 1916 as a Major General after 53 years of active duty, the last Civil War veteran on active duty. When the United States entered World War I, Clem, now 65, sought permission to be activated to join the fighting in France, however President Woodrow Wilson refused his request. He retired to San Antonio, Texas, where he would later die.



What Did He Have In His Pocketsies?

While sitting by the 69th NY campfire on Saturday night at Hull, young James McAnearny earned himself the new nickname of 'Sparky'. He put his hand into his pants pocket, only to withdraw it quickly with a sharp cry of 'OUCH!'. Those sitting next to him said there was a strong smell of burning. On closer inspection it was found that James had a burn to his finger and a bigger scorch mark on his pocket lining. James assured all present that he did not put cartridge papers into his trouser pockets, but that he had bought this pair second-hand, so who knows what had been placed in this pocket previously? But what had caused the spark? The only thing we could come up with at the time was that the trousers were made of a wool and nylon mix and a few grains of powder had been ignited by static electricity from James' hand. This just shows that re-enacting can be a dangerous game. DO NOT put powder papers in your pocket. If you have another theory, answers on a postcard to Sparky McAnearny 69th New York

TAKING THE BISCUIT

On arrival at Lanark on Thursday 18th August, we found a very churned up and muddy field. There was no way anyone could camp there, so we drove back along the road and spotted a lorry with half a dozen blue boxes on the back turning into a narrow lane. That looked promising; portaloos could only mean one thing. We followed and pulled up on the hard stand area where we were given a warm welcome by a gentleman who introduced himself as 'George'. He went on to explain that the council had given permission to twenty travellers with mobile homes to camp there the previous weekend and over one hundred had turned up and trashed the field completely, consequently the festival had to change venues to this smaller field. George then showed us where we could set up, although they were still measuring out the site allocations for the groups attending. This quickly became a spectator sport. The volunteers walked up and down the site with measuring tapes and wheels, sticking guide markers into the ground. If that ever becomes an Olympic sport; my money is on Scotland, because they can do it in the dark with a torch.

After a good night's sleep, we woke to a bright and breezy day.

We donned our Civil War clothes and felt the weekend had begun.. The Confederate Camp grew over the day as more arrived and soon they outnumbered the Union by three to one at least.

More and more groups arrived throughout the day and our small Union Camp was visited by many other re enactors, including a young man, trading under the name of "The Taste Of The Seychelles", who wished to borrow a couple of teabags so he could brew up a folk remedy for a sore throat. This paid off on Saturday Night after a visit to the Beer Tent when we got a discount on a curry.

On Friday afternoon we were asked to go the beer tent to register. Once there we were given a thin cord with a bead on it to wear round our necks. This marked us as re-enactors and therefore we did not have to pay an entrance fee to the beer tent, along with this necklace we were given a box of shortbread biscuits as a present from the sponsors of the event, Borders Shortbread.

When the gates opened on Saturday morning, crowds of people descended upon us. I had set my pots and pans over the fire and was amazed and amused how many people took photographs of bubbly pots. At lunchtime I set food out for myself and Peter as well as Ian and Sue Morris, it was nearer teatime by the time we got to eat it. The Scots take their history seriously and proved to be very knowledgeable by the questions they asked us.

Ian's medical equipment well taken with, especially the brass syringe. Men gasped in horror at Ian's explanation of its use. Peter had set up a tent displaying stores including tins, candles, soap etc. as well as small ration bags. His pup tent was set up to look as if a soldier had just left it for a moment, leaving his leather work, blanket and canteen. The ladies seemed to generate towards me to ask about the fashions of the time and cooking. We were all kept busy talking to the public. Derek Phillips regaled them with the dramatic story of Cpt Wilcox ADC to General Reynolds. By the end of the day we all needed the Seychelles folk remedy, but settled for a 'few bevvies' in a very noisy beer tent followed by a very tasty curry.

The weather continued to hold true on Sunday. The Confederates repeated their drill and firing display in the small arena as well as 'Firing Through The Ages'. General Lee made an appearance accompanied by General Goober and Major Brown. Both days culminated in a Grand Parade, which was received enthusiastically by the crowds, of which there were many hundreds, watching, again our throats were hoarse and dry from talking.

George, the organiser, came to see us to see that they had had many good reports concerning ACWS and the way we had conducted ourselves and were promptly invited back next year.

Members of both sides had mixed together and sat together in the beer tent, sharing jokes and memories of the day as well as making new friends among other groups.

Late on Sunday night those who were still there were given more boxes of shortbread. This was the first time I came home from an event with more biscuits than I went with. It was a long way to go, but well worth the trip. Would I go again? You bet your bottom dollar I would.

Val Holt
69th NYSV

Did You Know?

Henry Heth He was Pickett's cousin, After the Battle of Blue Waters a notice ran in the *New York Times* that he had been killed in the battle. His West Point chums were distraught because everybody loved him. Heth was very charismatic, he was good looking, he was witty, and always having fun. They set up a memorial for him and published a poem in the *Times* about how gallant he was. But it turned out the report was wrong; he hadn't even been wounded. He collected all the clippings of everybody saying wonderful things about him and said, "It's a wonderful thing to be dead to read what people say about you."

HULL, VETERANS WEEKEND



Photos courtesy of
Devious Wolf

Etruria Stoke on Trent



Photos courtesy of Peter Holt

Sheffield Fayre



Photos courtesy of
Devious Wolf

Ingleton



Photos courtesy of
Devious Wolf



79th New York Highlanders

The original 79th New York Highlanders were formed in 1859, just prior to the American Civil War. The idea was promoted by the British Counsel in

New York, along with the New York Caledonian Club (which still exists and is thriving to this day). The number "79" being available, and corresponding to the famous 79th Cameron Highlanders of the British Army, it was determined to pattern much of the regiment's uniform after its British fore bearer.

Before the firing on Fort Sumter, the Regiment had four kilted companies, and, besides drilling as a militia regiment (equal to our national guard now), the 79th Highlanders provided a contingent of soldiers for visiting dignitaries and special events. They were part of a review for the Prince of Wales, as well as welcoming the Japanese ambassador.

With the firing on Fort Sumter and the immediate threat to the nation's capital, they "volunteered to a man" to answer President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men to restore order and the rule of law. First, however, they needed to meet war department "manning

standards" and had to recruit up to wartime levels. That meant that four companies would not be enough: they had to have ten companies.

What had been a regiment of mostly Scottish immigrants now had a large Irish contingent, and anyone else who wanted to join. While the first four companies were kilted, it was decided to have the next four companies in tartan trews (pants made of kilt material), since the available tartan "yardage" would make a lot more pants than kilts. The remaining two companies wore the light blue pants common to Union Army regiments, although the coat was similar to the other companies.

Their first battle was Bull Run, and they were under the brigade command of (then) Colonel William T. Sherman (later the famous General). In that battle, they fought well and suffered much. In fact, their regimental commander, Col. Cameron, was killed and the regiment suffered the most casualties of any Union Army regiment, and was the last to leave the field, covering the Army's retreat.

They were considered one of the best regiments in the Civil War, of either side. As the Charleston Mercury Newspaper said, "Thank God Lincoln only has one 79th Regiment."

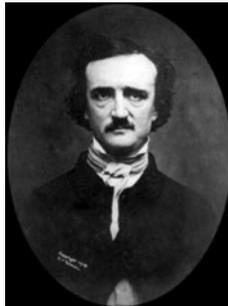
Expelled From West Point



Everyone knows about Whistler's mother, of course, because she's in her son's painting but Whistler's father was a noted

civil engineer of his day and a top ten West Point graduate from the class of 1819. James followed in his father's footsteps and went to West Point, but he was not like his father. He was kind of a screwball. He liked to go drinking and make sketches and flirt with girls. He was okay academically but his heart wasn't in it and in his third year he failed chemistry by misidentifying silicon as a gas.

A little known fact about Edgar Allen Poe was that he was a sergeant major of artillery before he went to West



Point. He was recommended there by one of his officers who said that he was of sound temper and entirely free of drink, which as we know, is not true. He only spent about half-a-year at West Point. The thing about Poe was that he was such a genius that he got great grades without studying.

The lore at West Point is that Poe was a bad student but that's not true. He was a good student in the sense that he could take a test and score high, but he was also very interested in smuggling drink into the barracks and having other adventures. After about six months he stopped reporting to class and assembly and they expelled him.

West Point "Goats"

The Goat is the person who comes in last in his class. Goat has also been used to refer to anyone who comes in towards the bottom of the class, or to someone who has to repeat a year, like James Longstreet and Jefferson Davis. There are two types of Goats. Some go to West Point and work as hard as they can, but they just barely hang on and graduate at the bottom. The other kind like Custer, Pickett and Heth—are the one's who are actually pretty smart. They know they can graduate but don't care about grades. They study just enough to get by, and use any extra time to have a good time. It's an important distinction because the former, they are earnest, and hang in there and do a good job, but they have a different type of personality. Custer, for instance, proved early in life that he could do school. That wasn't his issue. He just wanted to have fun. Same with Pickett and Heth. They were goodtime Charlie's.

Merseyside and the Civil War

It might be of interest to the readers to know that, several curious unknown facts have recently emerged in respect of the bitter struggle involving my neck of the woods, namely Merseyside in particular.

To begin with, it was surprisingly revealed that former British PM Tony Blair's wife, Cherie (nee Booth), of Liverpool is a descendant of infamous John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated President Lincoln in 1865. Added to which her father, Tony Booth is, like the assassin, an actor and well known it has to be said having appeared with Hollywood star John Wayne in the movie "Brannigan".

However, from the onset of the war in 1861, the first shot fired by the Confederates against the Union's Fort Sumter came from a 3.75in Blakely rifle gun given to South Carolina by local resident Charles Khun. It had been made in 1860 by the Liverpool Company, Fawcett, Preston & Co. The Gun is still on display in the town of Galena, Illinois.

In 1862, Laird shipyard built the Confederate CSS Alabama, a commerce raider, which went on to sink 65 ships, with a predominately Liverpool crew.



CSS Alabama

On November 6 1865, another British built Confederate raider Shenandoah sailed into Liverpool. Her captain, Lt Com James Waddell, had refused to surrender to the Northern States and instead did so to the Mayor of a friendly city.

Living in the city at the time was Confederate banker James Dunwoody Bulloch, the man sent by President Jefferson Davis to oversee the building of powerful warships and to obtain arms. At the end of the war, however, he was refused entry back into the US and is buried in Liverpool. The inscription on his gravestone reads: 'An American by birth, an Englishman by choice' He is said to be the model for author Margaret Mitchell's hero Rhett Butler in 'Gone With The Wind'.

Kel Stringer

118th Penn.



Mama's Mutterings

You will have noticed that there are no director's reports in this issue of the newsletter, that is because you should have read them in the A.G.M. papers, which you will have received by now.

Don't forget to send your voting papers in by the cut off date if you are not going to the A.G.M. in December 2011.

Once again we have had a wonderful season, considering this time last year there were no dates in the dairy. The Project's teams have already been working really hard on your behalf and have secured several dates for next season already, along with some possible and probable events, and are still looking into more leads for further events. The forthcoming Olympics seem to have some bearing on events this coming year, as does the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, so Viv and Peter have done very well in getting so many events as they have.

Some places we have visited before, like Tatton Park, Sewerby Hall and Ingleton, others are new to us. You may remember Kiplin Hall in Yorks some years ago and we have a one day event there this year, although we are looking into the possibility on camping there overnight. These dates can be reviewed on the back page of this publication.

I would like, on a personal note say a few thank you's to Kevin and Griff for the supply of wonderful photographs this season, and to Ian Morris who has helped me with the newsletter again this year. Also to everyone who has contributed articles. I really appreciate them, keep them coming please.

Wishing you all 'Season's Greetings' and look forward to seeing you all on the field next season.

The Editor

Battle of Saylor's Creek

After the Battle of Five Forks and the Union breakthrough at Petersburg on April 2, Gen. Robert E. Lee had to retreat. He headed west as fast as he could, but the Army of Northern Virginia was exhausted after a winter in the trenches and weakened by short rations. Lee could never shake the Union pursuit, which was simplified because Lee had an obvious goal: the railroads west towards Lynchburg, his new supply base. With every step Lee's army

was shrinking, thanks to Union cavalry snapping at his heels, and demoralized and hungry stragglers falling out of the Confederate columns.

On April 6, things took a rapid turn for the worse for Lee, or a rapid turn towards peace and the restoration of the Union. To move faster, Lee had split his army and was strung out, moving west in one long column on two roads. Maj. Gen. James Longstreet's large corps was leading the way on the southern road towards Rice's Station, while the wagon train with Anderson's and Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell's 2 weak corps were taking the northern road that crossed 2 branches of Saylor's Creek. Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon with 3 divisions was the rearguard. With his cavalry out ahead to clear the roads, Lee had his army basically in 4 pieces, relying on them to maintain contact and help each other.

Then, Longstreet was pinned down at Rice's Station by Union infantry, and had to commit 3 of his 4 divisions. He staved off the attack with little difficulty, but it was important because Longstreet wasn't able to send more men to bail out the centre of the column.

Both Anderson and Ewell ran into trouble— and didn't pass on the news soon enough. Ewell halted to drive back pursuing infantry from Wright's VI Corps. He drove them back temporarily, but lost time in doing so, which put him at risk if the centre of the column broke.

Sheridan's cavalry were doing just that. Anderson had to deploy to drive

off cavalry that were harassing his flanks, and the main wagon train (despite the mobility problems Lee had to keep the wagons to transport ammunition, else he would have to surrender the moment his men ran out). Then Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan saw the possibilities: Anderson was stopped, with nothing protecting him to the west. Sheridan shook out 2 cavalry divisions, Maj. Gens. George A. Custer's and Devin's, to hold Anderson. Then, seeing the confusion in Anderson's men, he seized his opportunity. "Never mind your flanks. Go through them! They're demoralized as hell!" Anderson's tired, hungry men were indeed demoralized, and they collapsed. Only Wise's brigade of Virginians fought their way out as a unit. Anderson managed to get half of his 3,000 men away, but the catastrophe was not just to him: it opened the way for Sheridan to pounce on Ewell.

Sheridan knew right away what the situation was. He left Custer's men to round up Confederate prisoners, and headed north to where Wright still had Ewell pinned down. Artillery had been firing all morning, inflicting some losses but nothing serious, while three blue-clad infantry divisions prepared to attack east to west across the valley of Little Saylor's Creek. Ewell had only 2 divisions, Kershaw's veterans and Custis Lee's miscellany of reserve clerks and naval personnel.

Kershaw's men fought hard but Sheridan's cavalry was suddenly on their flank and in their rear. Even

Cont. on page 21 column 2

Memories of A Comrade

Myles Jagers

1930 to 2011

I met Myles when I joined ACWS in 1994. He would have been in his sixties and probably the oldest member of Battery B even then. The Battery being legendary for, alternately, "What are we? - the Best!" and "What are we? - Knackered!" he was introduced as "Myles - he's only got one lung". Due to his fits of coughing at night he was given the nickname "Coffindodger". Myles got into ACW re-enacting from Western societies and at first was a Confederate.

Later he joined the US Artillery but always remained a Rebel at heart, often wearing a belt with a Confederate Battle Flag belt buckle instead of his regulation issue.

Myles was a corporal, usually on his favourite No 3 gun "Old Abe". His timing on section and battery fire varied markedly, which was generally attributed to his deafness. However, when you knew him better you realised that Myles only obeyed orders if he respected the person giving them. If not, he would deliberately mis-time his firing.

Although he did not suffer fools gladly, Myles was one of the most generous people you could meet. He was always welcoming to new members, giving away uniform and

bits of kit, buying drinks, giving spare food away at the end of a weekend rather than take it home again. If he bought himself a new coat he would give away his old one, not try and sell it. If an event was near shops, a market or a museum he would look for souvenirs for his granddaughters. Other re-enactors remember Myles for his anecdotes about youthful escapades and misdemeanours in various units of the British Army. You needed to hear these two or three times as Myles would start chuckling before he got to the end of a story and set himself off wheezing and coughing. The reminiscences able to be mentioned at a funeral were:

- * Leading a goat up onto a roof in Wellingborough and then stranding it there by removing the ladders and boxes.

- * Going for lunchtime drinks with a mate when working for the railway, sleeping it off in an empty carriage and waking up in a siding at Kettering (penalty, half a week's wages)

- * Ploughing up a newly surfaced road in Germany by driving a tank up it.

Myles was a typical old soldier, cantankerous and complaining on camp, but in the off season he couldn't wait to start campaigning again. He would spend the winter reading history books and watching war movies. At the end of every

season he would say "I expect this is the last year I'll be able to do this" but then he would return saying "Well I'm still here"

As Myles became less physically able he gave up his corporal stripes and acted as camp guard while the rest of us went off to battle. He was usually to be found sitting on a stool in the warmest, most sheltered spot. This resulted in his being re-nicknamed "Myles the Cat".

Myles had to give up ACWS once his emphysema had deteriorated to the point where he needed continuous oxygen. The last season he attended was 2006 although he kept in touch and was able to visit nearby events in Rockingham and Stamford hall, driving his artillery red mobility scooter. Myles adjusted to his disability, showing remarkable patience and fortitude and taking each day as it came - "Well, I'm still here then!" His final months were in a nursing home in Wellingborough, where he reportedly died peacefully surrounded by family including his younger sister from America.

RIP

Hilary Haynes,
Battery B

And so another soldier fades away.

Eric Curran ex 32nd Virginia passed away on 18th July 2011 after 11 yr battle with cancer
Lyn Orrick (ex Davies)

Cont. from page 19

then they didn't immediately give up, but when it became clear there was no way out, the alternatives were surrender or being shot to pieces, surrender made more sense. Ewell did the honours, and of his 3,000 men only about 200 escaped in the confusion.

Lee staved off even worse defeat by juggling his reserves. He grabbed Mahone's division from Longstreet, and deployed them to stop pursuit westward from Saylor's Creek. He was depressed by the rout and surrender he saw: "My God! Has the army been dissolved?" but Mahone was firm and Lee recovered. He advanced beyond Mahone's line and sat on his horse with a flag to rally the refugees.

The results were catastrophic for the Army of Northern Virginia. Anderson's Corps was remnants; barely 200 men from Ewell's were still with the army. Gordon's 3 divisions lost another 1,700 prisoners; the total just of prisoners was 6,000. Add in the 2,000 killed or wounded, and Lee had lost one-third of his strength. Ewell was himself one of the prisoners, and knew defeat when he tasted it. "Our cause is lost; Lee should surrender before more lives are wasted."

This action can be considered the death knell of the Confederate army. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant did not ease the pace of pursuit, and 2 days later Union cavalry finally moved west of Lee.

THANK YOU

Clarice Wilson (19th Indiana) would like to thank everyone who sent her good wishes, cards, gifts and flowers after she had her accident a few months ago.

Thankfully Clarice is on the mend and will be back re-enacting with us next season.

Please Clarice don't do any more bungie jumping down the stairs, because now you know it hurts the next day, (and all those other days afterwards).

Little know facts about the Civil War

Of the 364,000 on the Union side who lost their lives, a third were killed or died of wounds and two-thirds died of disease.

About 15 percent of the wounded died in the Civil War; about 8 percent in World War I; about 4 percent in World War II; about 2 percent in the Korean War.

Most infantry rifles were equipped with bayonets, but very few men wounded by bayonet showed up at hospitals. The conclusion was that the bayonet was not a lethal weapon. The explanation probably lay in the fact that opposing soldiers did not often actually come to grips and, when they did, were prone to use their rifles as clubs.

Many doctors who saw service in the Civil War had never been to medical school, but had served an apprenticeship in the office of an established practitioner.

In the Peninsular campaign in the spring of 1862, as many as 5000 wounded were brought into a hospital where there were only one medical man and five hospital stewards to care for them.

In the battle of Gettysburg, 1100 ambulances were in use. The medical director of the Union army boasted that all the wounded were picked up from the field within 12 hours after the battle was over. This was a far cry from the second battle of Bull Run, when many of the wounded were left on the field in the rain, heat, and sun for three or four days.

Card's For All Occasion's
For Re-enactor's

acw, ww1/2, Inf, Cav, Navy, Art,
etc

Prices start from £1.50.

Contact Details:

Dawn Stringer

Mob 07776376937

Facebook: Dawn Denise Stringer

Email: dwnstringer@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest

TENNESSEE STITCHERS

LADIES', MEN'S, CHILDREN'S
CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

DERAN BEATTIE
AND LESLEY BUSSEY
E-MAIL:

TENNSTITCH@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE: DERAN ON
01480-455828



West Point Albion Small Arms

(Trading as West Point ASA)

RFD 1951 West Midlands

17th-19th century muzzle loading muskets
& pistols ♦ Blank firing pistols & revolvers
Gun accessories & cleaning equipment
Gun repairs & deactivations
Antique guns & other curios
Leatherwear, brasswear & insignia

Proprietors: Phil & Jayne Olden
21 Edgewood Road
Rednal
Birmingham
B45 8SB. UK
Tel: 0121 453 7016
Mob: 07974956401

Email: westpointsutlers@blueyonder.co.uk
Website: www.westpointsutlers.org



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

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

PO Box 52, Brighthouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ

Web Site: - <http://www.acws.co.uk>

Copy date for the Next Issue will be 31st Jan 2012 for the next issue

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

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALL ARTICLES

BEFORE PUBLICATION, FOR SPELLING, GRAMMAR, DECENCY OR
LENGTH ARTICLES AND VIEWS PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE
NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE A.C.W.S LTD.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2012

31st March-1st April Confirmed
Confederate Training, Murton Park

14-15 April Confirmed
Federal Training, Tatton Park

6-7 May Confirmed
Sewerby Hall

16-17 June Probable
Morley Leeds

24 June (one Day Event) Confirmed
Kiplin Hall

7-8 July Probable
Tatton Park

28-29 July Confirmed
East Park Hull

18-19 August Probable
Lanark

15-16 September Confirmed
Ingleton

8th December Confirmed
Annual General Meeting

Dates correct at time of printing