



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

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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2014 Spring Edition



1st US Sharpshooters, Gettysburg

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

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Website :- www.acws.co.uk

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr Michael Smart, Chairman



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Projects



Miss Claire Morris, Membership



Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety



Mrs Val Holt, Communications



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander



Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Commander



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Projects Assistant

Chairman's Report

Greetings fellow members.

Well here we are at the beginning of another season and since the last news letter the events diary has filled out a bit with the good news that Tatton park is now back on. Unfortunately the proposed filming weekend has had to be put off till later in the year/early next year due to ground conditions being too wet at the moment.

Hopefully this newsletter reaches you before the training weekends have taken place, I will be at Tatton park on the Saturday and Avon croft on the Sunday and will come and talk to you all to get feedback as to things that you would like to see change and I

will be looking for volunteers to help with ideas for the Authentic camp and recruitment tent. Artillery has been arranged to be at both training weekends so artillery men/women please attend as it has been a lot of hard work to arrange this and if nobody turns up it will have been a waste of time, effort and money to get them there.

On the newsletter front if any members run their own business or make kit in their spare time and would like to advertise in the newsletter please get in touch with Val to discuss prices.

And last but not least if you haven't re-joined yet please do so as this will be the last newsletter you get till you do and remember it's YOUR society and only You can make it a success.

Regards
Mick

Summary of ACWS Board Meeting on Saturday 25th January 2014

The Directors present were Mr Mike Smart Chairman, Mr Philip Clark Secretary, Mr Ian Morris Treasurer, Mr Martin Cross H&S, Mrs Vivien Corbishley Projects Assistant, Miss Claire Morris Membership Secretary, Mr Mike Bussey Webmaster, Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Army Commander, Mr Peter Holt Projects, Mrs Val Holt Communications and Mr Gary Holman Federal Army Representative (Standing in for Mr Tim Davies, who was unable to attend).

Also in attendance were Mrs Jennifer Clark Solicitor, and Mrs Debbie Davies Minutes Secretary.

Apologies were received from Mr Tim Davies, the Federal Army Commander.

The meeting started at 12 noon.

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 12th October 2013 were approved and duly signed by the new Chairman. Also the minutes of the AGM of the 7th December 2013 were agreed by all, subject to the next AGM.

Matters Arising – It was agreed that all Members of the Board who needed to identify themselves already had business cards, which will suffice. Formal Directors ID cards were considered too officious. Martin Cross handed over copies of re-drafted version of the Society rules governing transport, and the arrangements for our van were discussed. Miss Morris explained how she was generating search traffic via various social media and Mr Holt reported many overlaps of events this year amongst various groups associated with ACWS. Kevin Holden is taking over the powder trailer, and check it for the need for repairs and report back. It was agreed that video conferencing, as discussed at the last meeting, was not a practical possibility for the way this Board works, unless and until the technology improves significantly.

There was a discussion about ‘show and tell’ in schools and Victorian History schools days. Chairman suggested trying to do this as the year progresses but he stressed the importance of getting the volunteers in place first and then approach the local schools to an event if it looks feasible. Miss Morris said she would be happy to deal with newspapers and Mr Holt is happy to deal with radio stations as and when a sponsor requires our support services in these matters. The scenario/theme for the season was discussed. Mr Gibson was to talk with Mr Davies and it was agreed that this year will be 1864 with scenarios throughout the year coordinated across both armies and the Cadet Corp. focusing on that years history. This will also be advertised to members in advance via the Warning Orders, on Facebook and via the website. Mr Morris confirmed that the junior membership category has been agreed with our insurers.

As at the date of the meeting the Board waited to hear from Peter Francis-Wemyss regarding the van and transport for the artillery. Mr Morris needs copies of the driving licenses of those likely to drive the van (insurance reasons).

Directors Reports – Mr Holt thanked Mrs Corbishley for all her assistance whilst he has been ill recently. This years events list has been ever changing. Mr Holt wanted clarification and certainty of the cannon transport arrangements before promising sponsors artillery,

but the meeting assured him that someone will fetch the guns one way or another as may be necessary. There was also a discussion about the deployment of pyrotechnics at events and it was agreed that a cannon would be at each of the army training weekends on 5/6 April for artillery training. Various events, as listed in the events calendar, were discussed including income from sponsors, whether cavalry and artillery and pyrotechnics would be there and other practical arrangements. It was noted that on the first weekend in September, 6th and 7th, an event was being negotiated by Projects and Chairman at Shackerstone Leicestershire, as a nice finale for the season.

2015 events were also noted. Hopefully we will be at Sewerby Hall for that spring bank holiday and 4th to 8th November 2015 there would be a celebration in Liverpool of the surrender of the SS Shenandoah, as the 'last event of the American Civil War', in co-operation and co-ordination with a group of American visitors. There was also a discussion about a possible filming opportunity brought to ACWS by Peter Francis-Wemyss. Further information was awaited, but it was believed that this filming would be at Chatsworth in May and June. It was agreed that Projects must fine-detail the contract which must be agreed between the film company and ACWS direct.

The Secretary Mr Clark reported that he was still working on the amendments required to our Rules and Bylaws arising from the AGM, which he will discuss with Mr Bussey. Mr Clark congratulated Miss Morris on her 'Call to Duty' advertising campaign, and advised that work on the next one is underway, aimed towards families and those who liked camping. The Treasurer, Mr Morris went through his events budget for the year including estimates for registration fees and other costs (gunpowder, pyrotechnics, insurances etc.). He was concerned that the sponsorship income from events was not as much as he would have liked, and hopefully the Society will break even financially in 2014. Further information was awaited from Roger Willison-Grey regarding the sale of the ex Boys Brigade tents. Mr Morris reported that the 2013 accounts are currently with the Accountant, for onward progression to HMRC and Companies House.

Approval of Officers of the Society. As Mr Gibson, as voted at the AGM, is now Confederate Army Commander, Andy Booth is now in command of 37nd Virginia as a Sgt. This was approved by all present. Mr Holman and Miss Morris confirmed that Nigel Morgan is having a sabbatical this season and if he is not present then Darren Paul will

be a brevet Officer rank in Nigel's absence. It was also noted that Carl Smith from the Sharpshooters will be the Federal RSM this year. It was agreed that Martin Cross attend the NAReS pyro course, so there will be somebody extra to help run pyros in the season if necessary. Gary Holman asked for clarification about how long a person is allowed to keep a rank if that member fails to attend for a whole season. The answer was 'one season'; if they do not rejoin, and attend, then they forfeit the rank and start from scratch again as and when they rejoin.

The 2014 AGM has been booked in Rubery again but the Chairman noted that in 2015 ACWS will have its 40th Anniversary, so that may be a good time for a change of AGM venue, and also an opportunity for a celebration. Mr Holman and Mr Gibson thought that having the AGM in 2015 in Gainsborough would be a good idea, for a change of venue, where a very reasonably priced hall could be available together with entertaining and catering facilities. Other Directors reports were considered, and it was noted with concern that there are now no Sutlers left in ACWS (with the demise of Westpoint, ARK and Tennessee Stitchers). Mrs Holt had contacted Lisa Lambert of Civil War Sutlers to see if she would be interested in attending some ACWS events.

Membership. Claire Morris reported that only 40 people have rejoined so far, which was disappointing, even though membership forms had already been sent out following the AGM decisions. All were reminded to chase up units regarding this matter, and encourage re-join progress. Miss Morris also reported on the various social media accounts she is running, and how this year we plan to contact caravan and camping clubs, war gamers and LARP groups, to try and encourage recruiting.

Regarding percussion caps and 9mm ammo, now that West Point no longer traded, it was agreed that the Society would arrange for it's own purchases, to be made available to members at events, to be sold at purchase price i.e. cost price.

It was agreed that e-voting and helping history teachers in 6th forms agenda items would be postponed until the next meeting, to be held at Kegworth on Saturday 29th March 2014.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 4.15pm.

The Boy Martyr of the Confederacy

Young David. O. Dodd hung on the end of a rope in the yards of his alma mater, St Johns College. His death was not a merciful one as the rope stretched and nearly 5 minutes passed before he passed away. Convicted of spying on occupying Federal forces in Little Rock, Arkansas, he had been sentenced to death by Union forces. The date was January 8th 1864. David was only 17 years old and he has forever been known as the “Boy Martyr of the Confederacy”.

David Owen Dodd was born in Port Lavaca, Texas in November of



The only known photograph of David Owen Dodd

1846. In his youth, his parents moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. He studied at St John`s Masonic College before a bout of malaria curtailed his studies. The onset of the Civil War turned many lives

including the Dodds family upside down when Union forces under Union General Frederick Steele captured Little Rock, Arkansas. As a result, the family evacuated south to Confederate held Camden, Arkansas. However, they still retained connections in Little Rock.

On December 24th 1864, David Dodd, only 17 and assumed a minor, neutral and below the age of conscription, travelled to Little Rock on his mule ostensibly on behalf of his father`s business and carrying letters purporting to this business. He carried a pass from Confederate General James Fagan and his birth certificate to aid in passing between the Union and Confederate lines.

The truth behind David Dodds` sojourn to Little Rock remains murky but his trip highlighted some holiday soirees as he was popular with the local girls as there were very few young men in the village.

Upon his return on 29th December 1864, he handed over his pass to the Union Authorities as he crossed the federal lines. Yet, after leaving the Union lines, he accidentally stumbled back into them. As such, he found himself without identification and in enemy hands. Attempting to provide some sort of identification, he turned over a small, leather book to the Union soldiers.

On examining the book, the Union soldiers passed the book to a Union Officer who discovered a series of

dots and dashes which he quickly determined to be Morse code. The message was deciphered and pinpointed the precise strength and location of Union forces particularly the 3rd Ohio Battery and 11th Ohio Battery around Little Rock. He was subsequently imprisoned in a nearby house called "The Ten Mile House". This was an Union outpost on the outskirts of Little Rock. He was later transferred to the Union arsenal in downtown Little Rock where he was interrogated for 2 days. He was then tried by a Military Tribunal of 6 Union Officers and following a verdict of 4 – 2 was convicted of spying. The Union General Frederick Steele offered him his freedom and life if he revealed the names of those who supplied him with the dispositions of the Union forces. He replied "I can give my life for my country but I cannot betray a friend". Though he never revealed the names, he had previously met a 15 year old girl called Mary Dodge and her father whose home was used as Union Officer quarters. She was described by the Federal authorities as an "ardent little rebel" and both her and her father were later both summarily escorted to Vermont by Union armed guards to reside there for the rest of the war. This refusal to reveal any names sealed his fate. On January 8th 1864, a day so cold and bitter that the Arkansas river froze over, David O Dodd was hung. 5 to 6 thousand people

watched but these onlookers and Union soldiers were both ill and appalled at the macabre spectacle as the rope stretched and he took 5 minutes to die. The records are unclear as to his actual demise but some contend 2 Union soldiers grabbed his legs to hasten his death whilst others contend a Union soldier climbed up the gibbet to twist the rope and raise him off the ground. Military Doctors recorded his death as due to "a disrupted spine".

David O. Dodd remains a hero by many in Little Rock and is known as the "The Boy Martyr of the Confederacy" and the "Arkansas Boy Hero". He rests in Mount Holly Cemetery in downtown Little Rock. He is honoured every year by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and remains in local folklore. There is a scroll at the base of his grave. It reads "Arkansas Boy Martyr of the Confederacy".

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Goobers Notes

- 1) Dodds story inspired the famous poem "The Long, Long Thoughts of Youth" by Marie Erwin Ward.
- 2) This story inspired a full length play and a 1915 silent Hollywood movie which has not survived.

- 3) There are more monuments to David O. Dodd in Arkansas than any other war hero including General Douglas MacArthur.
- 4) In November 1994, the Sons of Confederate Veterans awarded the Confederate Medal of Honour to David Dodd. One of only 22 persons so honoured.

Sources: Wikipedia; The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture; The Unfortunate Case of David O Dodd: Arkansas Boy Martyr of the Confederacy by Zac Cowsett:

I came across an article written some years ago by Bob George, who was the Provost Marshall for the Union. I don't know if it was ever used in the newsletter but If it was I think it is worth another reading.

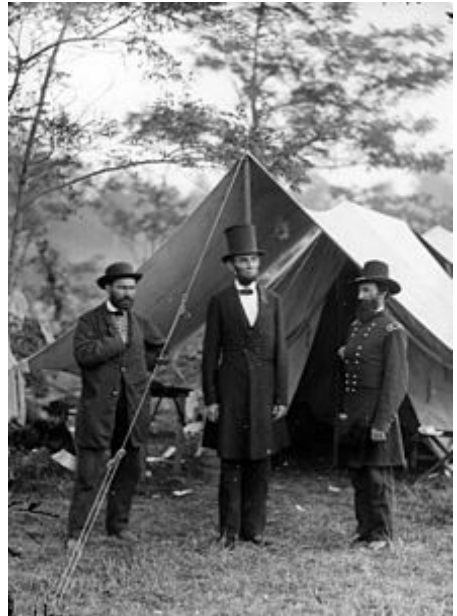
THE FAMOUS ALAN PINKERTON

"Information is like cotton, it needs someone to gather it, sort it, then create the greatest profit from it."

A statement from John Witson Gant, a member of the Pinkerton Agency.

As in any conflict the two most important requirements of any opponents are intelligence of the

enemy and communication within its own forces.



**Pinkerton (left) with
Abraham Lincoln and
Major General
John A. McClernand**

As the war escalated, the need for up to date information regarding Governmental decisions and Military movement were crucial for both Armies. Rumour control was in overdrive. Misinformation, disinformation, exaggeration, part truths and fairy stories were being passed around deliberately to confuse and disrupt both Armies' information gatherers and spies. As both North and South began closing doors on all fronts, land and

sea, it became obvious that the civilian population would need to be impregnated with eyes and ears from both sides. Everyone became aware of the 'strangers in town' syndrome and walls of secrecy were being built. Witch hunts became more common and any suspects could expect short shift, including local communities doling out their own punishment, usually a public hanging. It was not unusual to find bodies hanging from trees with 'spy' written on the forehead or a note pinned to the chest, to act as a deterrent for anyone intending a casual visit. It was not long before a long line of civilian involvement would be working within the Military. However, this type of action could prove costly. Being caught by either side would usually mean certain death. In reading the many stories written by spies, about spies, it was a very risky business and the use of the *femme fatale* was well recorded.

Any civilian movement within a conflict area would create instant suspicion and regardless of excuse or reason, it was believed that it must have some covert implication worthy of investigation and interrogation. It was well known that black slaves and freed slaves were regularly used as messengers between North and South. The numbers alone would be difficult to police, with many knowing various tracks, backwoods

and swamps that most Military forces would not or could not follow.

Problems, Problems

Ambrose Burnside must have curled his sideburns when the Provost Guard were formed. General Porter, with glee, handed over the big stick to Andrew Bell Birney to deal with Military misbehaviour and smoked his cigar and toasted their almost immediate success. With desertion being dealt with, congress went fishing for civil control, but were without Military officers to action it. The Provost Guard were tied up by 'Soldiers Stuff'. They were not police trained and couldn't work outside uniform. Washington talked through the night and agreed a possible solution.

Hello, Hello, Hello or "Oh NO, You must be joking"

It was well known that Alan Pinkerton and his agents were extremely good detectives pre war and probably the first C.I.D. on the scene. His services were deemed to be an asset in detection and intelligence gathering regarding civil matters.

(Now for all you Pinkerton fans I'll apologise for the next paragraph or two) as most of it is my opinion, for what it's worth, and I'm looking through a soldier's eyes. Firstly, he should have been allowed to work for the Military, not within it. He

failed to be able to think military and forged ahead in his usual way, bearing in mind they were civilian police and could afford to take their time in sorting information. Time the Military didn't have.

Loved by some, hated by others, he desperately tried to impress Congress, as he had delusions of grandeur planned for the post war period. Most of the information he passed on was already known, gathered by other means or predicted in advance by unit commanders. On being dismissed from a battle plan meeting at Corp Command, he was so enraged by the lack of respect shown to him, he was overheard muttering "They relied on his agency and he would go elsewhere, where he would be appreciated." (OH WHAT!)

Need To Know Basis

Military commanders agreed at all levels that what was needed were Military Area detectives, 'Soldiers in Civvies', Officers detached from Corp and Divisional level that were well trained in covert operations being able to integrate with a community. They would pose as professional people, teachers, cattle or horse dealers, traders etc. They would be able to operate alone or in small cells, arranging safe houses and sifting information to be relayed to regular forces nearby. As the suspicions grew, so did the need to infiltrate all areas of society. Area detectives were

expected to gain favour with the local dignitaries, the wealthy, being able to hob nob with the local governmental officials that weren't exempt scrutiny. Civil law enforcement had little power and the Military would leave the Civil population very clear about who was in charge. It would prove vital to report back any potential opposition to the military powers in-situ.

We'll Never Know

As in all wars there are many small cogs in the great war machine. Without which the great machine 'don't work'. The unsung individuals, that perhaps passed on a snippet here and there, unknowingly affecting the outcome of a battle, even the war. Who knows?

How many unnamed men and women that gave their lives in the service of the side they love, never had a burial, headstone or a place in history recorded. How many just went missing for their cause. One can only salute their loyalty and bravery - blue and grey.

The use of the Area Detective would continue well on after the war and would eventually form the links during the Indian Nations Wars and the subsequent policing of the Indian reservations and their Rites.

Bob George, 20th Maine



Confederate Commander's Report

A fine welcome to all Southern Soldiers, Ladies & children,
This is my first address to you in our Societies newsletter as Army commander.

Firstly I would like to thank the retiring Major, Bill Brown for all his hard work over the last few years.

Secondly a warm welcome to all New & existing members, and I believe a lot of returning members for the coming year ahead.

As commander I would be grateful if everyone can re-join ASAP as to determine what numbers the Army will have this year.

As most of you are aware some changes have been made in the set up of the Army and more changes will be needed, with your help and co-operation to move forward.

At the time of writing this I am trying to organise an Artillery piece to be at our training weekend at Tatton, hopefully we can get one there and include our fine gun crews in the training programme.

This years event calendar may look a bit on the empty side but lets make each one we have a weekend to remember, by enjoying ourselves. I have a few ideas which I will put forward to my opposite number in the coming season to make the start of battles different and try and involve more of the non-coms and civilians.

I also believe that as an Army we really need to interact with the public more and not just sit there. So if anyone wants to do something involving the public lets get up and do it.

I can rattle on and on, but lets learn to walk again before starting to run, if you know what I mean.

So lets all start getting our kit sorted, licenses renewed, paperwork in place and start this year in a happy positive mood and forward direction (Hopefully towards the enemy)

Onward and Steadfast
your obedient servant

Major Glenn Gibson
C.O -- ACWS Confederate Forces

FEDERAL TRAINING WEEKEND

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings

Bromsgrove: B60 4JR

Event: Living history & Drill from 10am till 5pm Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th April 2014 This event is open to all members of the Federal Brigade and there will be an artillery piece in attendance.

Camping from Friday 5pm till Monday: for those arriving Saturday morning, sorry no cars will be allowed on site after 9.30am until the site is closed at 5pm. Break camp on Sunday 5pm: no cars allowed on site till 5pm Please be aware because of the site layout there is limited road access, the path leading to the camping area is only wide enough for one car at a time and has few passing places, so at peak times a convoy system will be in operation. Your cooperation & patience with this would be appreciated. Raised fires only; please remove the turf, store and replace when finished. A limited amount of non-authentic firewood will be provided, but I can't guarantee this will last two nights, so if you can bring some please do so. Please empty the ashes from your fire pit & all rubbish (bagged please) in the marked area on site.

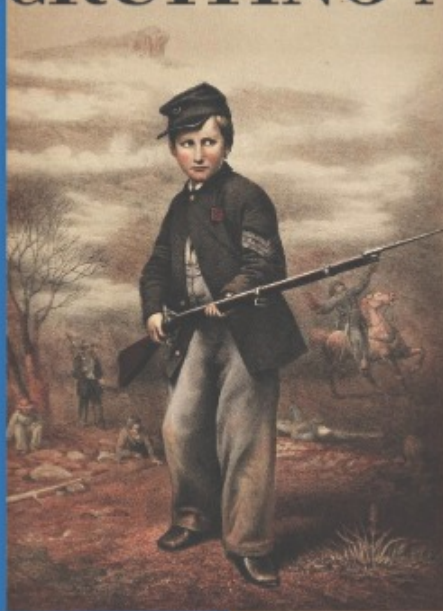
CONFEDERATE TRAINING WEEKEND

Tatton Old Hall,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
WA16 6QN

Event: Living history & Drill from 10am till 5pm Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th April 2014 This event is open to all members of the Confederate Battalion. Major Glenn Gibson is, at present, trying to organise for an artillery piece to be brought to the event and will be announced on the website. Camping from Friday 5pm till Sunday Break camp on Sunday 5pm: no cars allowed on site till 5pm Raised fires only; Please empty the ashes from your fire pit & all rubbish (bagged please) in the marked area on site.



CADET CORPS RECRUITING NOW



If you are aged between 7 -14 years old, you might be interested in joining the ACWS Cadet Corps, to learn about the American Civil War, and have fun at events, please contact Sharon Paul at shazpaul10@yahoo.co.uk or 01656 859938 for further information.



ARE RECRUITING FOR MEMBERS FOR THE

FIFE & DRUM CORPS



If you are interested in learning to play the drums or fife in the ACWS fife & drum band, & want further information, please contact:-

Drum Major John Dale,

0191 377 01446

jdhigland1@btinternet.com

(All members from all units, and all ages welcome,
no experience necessary)



BLANKET SALE

TATTON OLD HALL

SATURDAY 24th MAY 2014

AT 4:00 PM

**THERE WILL BE WHAT HAS BECOME OUR
ANNUAL BLANKET SALE
SO BRING ALONG ANY ARTICLES
YOU NO LONGER HAVE NEED FOR
SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE A USE FOR THEM
AND YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF SOME
CASH AND SPEND IT ON THAT BIT
OF KIT YOU SO DESPERATELY NEED.**



Union Prison of War Camp found under Alcatraz.

An astonishing find has just been discovered following ground penetrating radar techniques that have just been used on the infamous Alcatraz Prison on the San Francisco Bay Island. It was always known that an old military fortress existed on the site but it was long believed to have been completely destroyed with no evidence remaining of its existence. However, Texas A and M Researchers using state of the art radar have now discovered evidence of old structures.

The San Francisco Bay Island was once the home of Fort Alcatraz built upon the discovery of gold in the area and was later transformed into part of a defence line during the American Civil War. Although the fort never fired a shot in anger during the Civil War, it did house Confederate sympathizers who were jailed for denouncing the Federal Government. The radar appears to have located old fortifications and buried magazine buildings and tunnels dated long before the main prison building was constructed in 1915.

"From 1850 to 1907 was the era of Fortress Alcatraz" explains Texas A and M Professor of Geology and Physics Mark Everett. Much of the remaining fortress is totally inaccessible under prison buildings but archaeologists hope to now start excavations in the near future to discover what lies beneath the prison's parade ground. Mark Everett adds "It is called a caponier and it is a large structure that juts out into the bay and provides defensive cover. We have seen it in old photographs but it has completely disappeared from present view".

Mark Everett states that the National Park Service asked his team to search for Civil War era structures at the Alcatraz site using equipment that scans under the earth in a similar way people look for oil deposits. Another interesting fact is that the archaeology and structures may contain the oldest concrete in the US which was likely imported from Europe.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Sources : Fox News Feb 27 2014.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
THIS IS YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER YOU
WILL RECEIVE UNTIL
YOU HAVE PAID YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FOR
2014**



The Projects Team



Here we are at the start of another season and let us hope that the weather improves for us, otherwise we might all be joining the navy. We are happy to announce that Tatton Old Hall is back on the agenda, after having a revision of their budget and that Ingleton have brought forward the date of their event to the August Bank Holiday weekend in the hope we can beat the weather and have a fair, if not totally sunny, weekend.

The season kicks off with the Training Weekends for both sides on the weekend of 5th April 2014. The Federals will be at Avoncroft Museum and the Confederates at Tatton Old Hall (please see the announcements on page 13 of this newsletter).

24th – 26th May Tatton Old Hall, WA16 6QN (Spring Bank Holiday)

Camping will be from Friday 23rd (arrival time TBA and will be announced in Warning Orders) to noon on Tuesday 27th May. The Old Hall is not open to the public on Saturday, this will enable members to arrive on Saturday and set up throughout the day. Public days are Sunday and Monday and there is a change to the normal programme in so much as there will be two skirmishes each day at 2pm and

4pm. These will involve both Infantry and Artillery. Tatton have asked that we interact with the public more this year and have more scenarios and displays.

21st - 22nd June Castle Bytham, Lincs. NG33 4RH

Camping from noon Friday 20th to noon Monday 23rd June. This is a village fayre similar to Marbury. The whole village is taken over by this event with displays, entertainments and market stalls covering a wide area including the village streets. For our part, Saturday will be given over to Living History, drill and Firing Displays in various parts of the village. The Beer Tent opens to the public at 15:00 hrs until 22:00hrs, but ACWS members will NOT be served alcohol until AFTER 17:00hrs when all our displays are finished for the day. N.B. all weapons MUST be removed before entry to the beer tent, by order of the organising committee. Sunday is Living History, drill displays along with an Infantry and Artillery skirmish. The time for this is yet to be finalised and will be published on the website and in the warning orders when it is known. The Family Camp is situated in a disused quarry within walking distance of the authentic camps. There are two very nice pubs, both sell food throughout the day. The usual fast food outlets will also be attendance in the village.

27th – 28th July Hull Veterans Weekend, East Park HU8 8JU

Unfortunately this event has been cancelled for us. Please see the letter we received from the organiser on page 26.

17th – 18th August Scottish Festival of History, Hamilton ML3 7UE

Unfortunately, this whole event has been cancelled by the organisers stating losses at last year's event due to the weather and inability to raise any new funding for 2014.

17th – 18th August Spetchley Park WR5 1RS Camping from Friday 16th

– Monday 19th. This will take the usual format for Infantry and Artillery with Living History and a small arena display (if required) and a small skirmish each day.

23rd – 25th August Ingleton LA6

3ET Camping from noon on Friday 22nd to noon Tuesday 26th August (weather permitting). The Ingleton Committee have moved the date of this event forward in the hope of better weather and that being over the bank holiday weekend the visitor attendance will also be increased. The whole village participates in the spirit of this event, down to changing its name for the weekend. Last year I believe it was "Limestone Gulch". The local hostleries extend a very warm welcome to our members. The Chilli Eating Competition is always well attended and participated in. Activities on Saturday are not yet confirmed, but Sunday and Monday will consist of Living History and Drill displays, which take place in the village itself, with an Infantry and Artillery skirmish each day. The Family Camp will be in a new location

this time, the exact position is to be confirmed and will be published on the website as soon as it is known.

Although we have not been able as yet secure any events which include horses this season, the Cavalry are always welcome to take part; either with an Infantry unit or with the artillery. The Projects team is still in negotiations with various organisations for events for both this year and next. Unfortunately, the very wet winter has put paid to some of our planned events because the land is so saturated that it will take the whole of this year to dry out provided we do not have any more significant amounts of the wet stuff. For example, the proposed filming programme has been postponed until at least next year as the estate management did not think the waterlogged ground would stand up to having the heavy traffic of lorries and trailers as well as many pairs of feet. Other organisations and sponsors have also expressed doubts as to the state of their grounds. Don't forget that we are always ready to listen to suggestions and any possibility of an event will be followed up, so if you think you know of anything let me know either via a phone call or email. See you all on the field and above all 'Keep your powder dry' especially in this weather

LATEST

Team Projects and your Chairman are actively looking for a replacement event to cover the week-end we are not now going to

Hull. There are two good possibilities. You will be informed just as soon as we have something to tell you, via the web site. If you do not have Internet access please ask someone from your regiment to keep you informed.

Peter Holt and Viv Corbishley

All's Fair In Love and War

The following snippets show that people still fall in love or carry on in loving relationships during conflicts and war.

Romance on the Run

Linda and Keith Blalock wed prior to the outbreak of the Civil War and were loyal to the Union, despite their residency in North Carolina. Keith joined the Confederate Army with the sole intention of defecting to the Union as soon as he was in Northern territory.

Linda, was determined to follow Keith in his journey. To do so she disguised herself as a man and enlisted in her husband's regiment as "Sam" Blalock. She was soon discovered, however, and forced to leave the army.

Keith rolled in a patch of poison ivy to convince the doctors he had an incurable disease. The plan

worked. Keith and Linda lived a life on the run as Union raiders in the Appalachian Mountains for the rest of the war.

Secret Love

General John Reynolds was commanding troops at West Point when he fell in love with Mary "Kate" Hewitt. Kate, however, was a Catholic, which was not widely accepted at the time. Reynolds kept their relationship a secret so that Kate's religious affiliation would not cost him a promotion.



Reynolds was shot and killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. His personal belongings were sent to his family and that is when the secret was revealed. Instead of wearing the customary West Point ring, Reynolds had opted for a simple band with the inscription, "Dear Kate."

The Reynolds family contacted Kate, who insisted that the family keep the ring. Kate then joined a convent since she could never marry Reynolds.

The Gallant General

General George E. Pickett is best known for leading bloody “Pickett’s Charge” at Gettysburg. His fellow officers remembered him with “long ringlets flowed loosely over his shoulders, trimmed and highly perfumed, his beard likewise was curling and giving up the scent of Araby.”



He wrote many letters to his wife while he was with the army. After Gettysburg, he wrote: “Oh, God! I can’t write you a love letter today, my Sallie, for, with my great love for you and my gratitude to God for sparing my life to devote to you, comes the...moans of my wounded boys, the sight of the dead, upturned faces flood my soul with grief; and here am I, whom they trusted, whom they followed, leaving them on the field of carnage.”

On his deathbed after the war, General Pickett refused painkillers, telling the doctor, “I want to go in my right mind. I would rather suffer pain and know. Please leave me now. I do not want anybody but my wife.” Sallie would survive for another 44 years, writing books and travelling the country to tell her husband’s story.

The Lone Confederate Sentinel

In a small cemetery in front of St Rose of Lima Catholic Church on Clopper Road in Gaithersburg, Maryland not far from the border of Washington D.C stands a desolate gravestone. It reminds one of a lone sentinel and it is a long forgotten remnant of the final invasion of the North by the Confederate States Army. This is the moving and touching story of the lone Confederate cavalryman who remained behind when the Confederate Army under Confederate General Jubal Early retreated on 14th July 1864.

After getting a \$200,000 ransom from the city of Frederick, Maryland, sending off his main body of cavalry toward Baltimore to destroy all the railroad bridges and telegraph lines and fighting the Battle of Monocacy on July 9th 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early led his Confederate Army of approximately 14,000 men down Route 355 as he purposely advanced towards Washington D.C, the Federal capital. The Army would camp at Rockville on July 10th before menacing the Washington defences of Fort Stevens on July 11th and July 12th. They would later retreat across White’s Ford on July 14th.

Private William Scott of Co. D 14th Virginia Cavalry was riding with his Unit in advance of the main

Confederate Army when they skirmished with a retreating Federal cavalry unit. During this skirmish, Private Scott was shot and wounded and he had to make his own way to the nearest farmhouse. The farmhouse was owned by Francis C. Clopper.

The Clopper daughters were extremely kind and caring individuals and nursed the injured cavalryman as best as they could. They even sent for a Confederate military doctor as the Confederate Army passed by. However, nothing could be done to save him. As he lay dying, the daughters tenderly cared for him and sent for a Priest. The young cavalryman converted to the Catholic faith before he soon passed on. The daughters did not want it known that they had helped an enemy soldier as many of their friends and neighbours had been arrested for such acts. As such, they quietly and with dignity buried him in the middle of the night under a hedge in front of the Church making sure he would rest undisturbed in hallowed ground. Many years later, the current gravestone with his name, company and regiment inscribed was erected to mark his final resting place.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas.

Sources : Ken Holland – Lone Confederate Cavalryman buried in small church cemetery not far from DC.

C.S.S. Shenandoah Event Merseyside 3-8 November 2015 "Last Flag Down"

A group of Americans are coming over in 2015 to re enact the surrender of the CSS Shenandoah to the British Authorities. This event will take place at the Albert Dock in Liverpool with other activities such as church services and dedications at various other sites in and around the Liverpool area over the period of the week 3rd to 8th November 2015.

I have been asked, by the American organiser, if one of our members would be available during the day and possibly evenings for the entire week, plus rehearsal times, to be part of their colour guard to carry a 35 star Union flag. This person must wear Union attire. Anyone interested please contact me, Peter Holt, with an evening telephone number and email address. This will be passed on to the American organiser who will make contact personally. Any ACWS members who wish to attend, may do so as members of the general public, and not in period costume. *Hope to have a full programme of timings and events early next year.*

*Peter Holt
Projects Director.*

Hiram Berdan and the US Sharpshooters



Hiram Berdan was a talented inventor with over 30 patents to his name. These range from a collapsible life boat (a patent that was donated to a charity, and never built) to machines to automate the production of bread (these machines were used by some companies at the time of the Civil War to make Army Bread, or Hardtack) to post-war weapons modifications sold to the Russian military. Through these patents, Berdan became a very wealthy man with contacts in important governmental and business positions.

He was a likely choice to form a regiment of expert marksmen because of his influence, and because he was known to be the best rifle shot in the United States at the time, in formal competition. Target shooting was a popular sport in the northern United States for affluent and common men alike.. Most of the men who formed the Sharpshooters were not wealthy business men, like Berdan, but rather men who had learned to shoot through hunting, competition

shooting, or previous war experience. The call to a Sharpshooter regiments was well received, so well in fact, that the states began keeping their marksmen for volunteer sharpshooting regiments, to the dissatisfaction of Berdan.

At the beginning of the war Hiram Berdan used his recognition to persuade the Federal government to allow him to establish a regiment of Sharpshooters recruited from each of the loyal states and meeting specific marksmen restrictions. It is currently debated by historians and scholars whether this idea actually belonged to Hiram Berdan. It is possible that Casper Trepp, who served as Captain of Company A, 1st U.S. Sharpshooters and later Major to Hiram Berdan, brought the idea of a rifle regiment from Europe. Trepp came from Switzerland after serving in the Crimean war. He was an experienced infantryman and had witnessed both Napoleonic tactics and the rifle regiments of the European armies. The tactics used by the Sharpshooters (operating in small teams, using stealth and cover, trying to maintain distance to the enemy) are believe to be the direct parent of later American fighting tactics. Other aspects of the Sharpshooters with European flavour are the green uniforms (tradition European uniform colour for riflemen - possible the origin of

the Green Berets as a symbol of an elite fighting force), the leather leggings and the hairy calf-skin knapsack that the Sharpshooters carried. It is likely that Trepp knew he did not have the clout needed to persuade the Union to form these rifle regiments, and so gave Berdan the push needed to campaign for the regiments. There is some evidence of this in the writings of other Swiss Sharpshooters. Regardless of this, there grew a significant level of animosity between the two men, leading Trepp to attempted resignation (Berdan refused to accept Trepp's resignation, several times) and both men to file legal claims against each other.

The claims against Hiram Berdan were largely centred around the fact that he was seldom, if ever, seen on the field of battle. Though Berdan spent a great amount of time and effort to gain the ranks of Brigadier-General and Major-General, these were fought largely on the grounds that Berdan had not actually aided the battles. Berdan was not a military man by nature, and was possibly the most difficult Sharpshooter to be taught drill. It was Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Mears who taught the Sharpshooters how to drill and to fight, largely against his will. Mears left the Sharpshooters to command the 4th U.S. Regulars.

Hiram Berdan stayed in Washington D.C. for several months of the war, recovering from

a wound (that the military records do not mention) and attempting to draw more recruits to fill the ranks of the two Regiments, now depleted by war-time losses. After Casper Trepp was officially given command the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters after Hiram Berdan officially became the Chief of Sharpshooters. He was killed at the Battle of Mine Run, November 30, 1863.

After Gettysburg, Berdan petitioned for discharge and left the army January 2nd, 1864. After the war, Berdan took his family to Europe, where he was successful with several weapons patents. Berdan died on March 31, 1893, and was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery

A Trio Of 'Class L' Ironclads

Although the category was never official, just three ironclads qualified to be listed as 'Ironclads, Class L'. Two cruisers, the CSS Charleston and the CSS Fredericksburg, were moderately successful. T5600 ton CSS Georgia which was converted from the Scottish owned merchant ship Japan, racked up a record by taking nine prizes,

Each of the three warships was purchased with money raised from raffles, auctions concerts and fairs sponsored by Ladies Gunboat Societies throughout the South.



Mama's Mutterings

Another season is almost upon us and we have just been dealt a huge blow with the cancellation of the Hull Event for us. For all the dissenters out there, let me tell you that the Projects teams have worked hard all winter trying to procure events for us. I know because even though I am The communications Director I live with Projects 24/7 as does Mike Corbishley and I am sure he will agree with me about the hours of work it involves. Since the cancellation of Hull, emails and telephone calls have abounded trying to fill the gap. ACWS could fill every weekend during the summer, if we ran 'self funding' events., but this would mean higher membership fees and/or higher registration fees, which as you know we are trying to reduce. Too many places which used to book us are now struggling to keep their heads above water and now only 'Hire Out' their grounds for events whereas years back they did the hiring in and paid us thousands of pounds for the privilege. Sponsors now weigh up the cost of hiring and servicing

portaloos, providing wood and paying our fees.

There are those who say that there should be more regimentals, all very well and good, go out and organise them. It is very different putting on a regimental to a full society event and it is not the project teams job to organise these events, but they will give help and advice on what has to be taken into consideration when organising such an event to anyone who asks for it. To date no one has approached them to request advice.

Now instead of focusing on the negatives let us make the most of the events we do have and enjoy them to the full, come Hell or high water. I hope that is not a prophesy about high water considering the weather we have had.

See you all on the field.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014?
IF NOT, THIS WILL BE YOUR
LAST NEWSLETTER UNTIL
YOU HAVE



Mr P Holt
American Civil War Society UK Ltd

Your Ref: Veterans Weekend 2014

My Ref:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

Textphone:

Date: 7th March 2014

Dear Mr Holt

Veterans Weekend, Saturday 26th and 27th July 2014

Further to your recent application to attend the above mentioned event.

Numerous meetings and lengthy discussions have taken place between the partners with regards to the event as a whole, including the processing of the applications and addressing the budget available.

I am sure you will appreciate as event organisers we do have to make changes to the planned programme each year and we are always looking to attract new displays and exhibitions as without any changes any event will become repetitive. This year is no different and with a more restricted budget!

It is with regret that I have to inform you that unfortunately this year I am unable to confirm a booking and offer you a position. Whilst I appreciate your attraction is popular the decisions being made are really tough and I know without a doubt this decision will cause you some disappointment.

I would like to reiterate this is merely for change of programme/working within a restricted budget and is not a reflection of anything your company/participants have done.

I will of course keep your details on file for any future events.

Yours sincerely,

Event Officer



Corporate Events,

FIRST AID KITS & DRINKING WATER

Members please to remember to bring personal first aid kits with them to events, just as you would take on holiday. This should contain plasters, wipes, etc along with any medication you may need and any painkillers, medication for upset stomach if you've needed it in the past. The First Aiders are not allowed to give out any medication under any circumstances.

Also last season at a couple of events a few members had upset stomachs possibly from the water, so I would recommend that you boil water drawn from the taps onsite and take bottled water with you for putting in your canteens and for cold drinks.

So let's all be careful out there.

Ian Morris

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Copy date for the Next Issue will be 4th July 2014 for the next issue

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

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BEFORE PUBLICATION, FOR SPELLING, GRAMMAR, DECENCY OR
LENGTH.

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NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE A.C.W.S LTD.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

Federal Training Weekend
5 – 6 April Avoncroft Museum
B60 4JR
Confirmed

Confederate Training Weekend
5 – 6 April Tatton Old Hall
WA16 6QN
Confirmed

24-26 May Tatton Old Hall
WA16 6QN
Confirmed

21 – 22 June Castle Bytham near Grantham
NG33 4RH
Confirmed

16 – 17 August Spetchley Park
WR5 1RS
Confirmed

24 – 25 August (Sun & Mon) Ingleton
LA6 3ET
Confirmed