



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

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## *The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER*

### 2014 Autumn Edition



### **TATTON 2014**

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

**N·A·Re·S**

**Issue 174**

**Website :- [www.acws.co.uk](http://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, Events



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, Events Assistant

## **Summary Report of ACWS Board Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014**

Present: Michael Smart Chairman, Philip Clark Secretary, Ian Morris Treasurer, Martin Cross H&S, Vivienne Corbishley Projects Assistant, Claire Morris Membership Secretary, Mike Bussey Webmaster, Peter Holt Projects, Val Holt Communications and Tim Davies Federal Army Commander.

In attendance: Jennifer Clark Solicitor, Debbie Davies Minutes Secretary, Andrew Parrott, M McCarroll and Andy Wright.

Apologies received from Glenn Gibson Confederate Army Commander.

The meeting started at noon and the minutes of the previous meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March were approved unanimously.

Matters arising from the last meeting included Claire Morris reporting that her survey of former Members and why they left showed no overall clear results. Some had left for age or health reasons, some to do immersive events in re-enacting etc. but all agreed it was a very useful piece of research work. Regarding the tent sales in partnership with the Boys Brigade, it was noted that no up to date figures or report have been received from Roger Willison-Gray. Kevin Holden is now dealing with the repairs to the gunpowder trailer. Businesses are being contacted to advertise in our newsletter. Martin Cross reported he is now working with the King Edward's Foundation School in Birmingham to help them with their re-enacting Society artillery matters.

Reports came next, with the first from Events/Projects. The 2014 events already being common knowledge, 2015 events prospects were discussed. It was noted that members want to know well in advance if possible so that they can book holidays from employers but this is not always possible due to many organisations, particularly local authorities often not making decisions on who they are going to hire in a particular year until March/April i.e. their turn of financial year. We have a one day event near Wrexham 'subject to contract' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August and Sewerby Hall, again 'subject to contract', 24/25 May the second May bank holiday. It was noted that Paul Edensor and Kerry are to get married there on the Saturday. Whittington Castle is a possibility, as is Rempstone Steam and Country show. We are look into the possibility of going back to

Hingham in Norfolk whilst Army Training weekends are to be arranged by the respective Army Commanders. Negotiations are proceeding with Tatton, Spetchley and Shackerstone, but nothing concrete yet. In Liverpool on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 there will be a celebration of the final event of the American Civil War, the Surrender of the CSS Shenandoah, with American CSN re-enactors there.

Mr Clark proposed that there should be a change of name from 'Projects' to 'Events'. All present were in complete agreement and the idea would be taken to the AGM

Mr Morris in his Treasurer's report predicted a loss overall financially this year, due to fewer events and poor fee income. Mr Bussey felt little had been done to reduce overheads over the years and it was agreed that he would go away and write up a list of expenditure he thought ought to be cut or could be considered for elimination. The area of a big potential saving is artillery, but that is the very element that is required to keep the Society gaining business. We have eliminated one van. Whilst we now run on the basis that no event will make a loss, sometimes we have not got a paying event at the last minute and have to take on extra events that are low paying, in order to try to maintain membership interest and support. Whilst next year is looking better, it is vital that we cut costs wherever possible. It was acknowledged that we are a small Society now and therefore we cannot charge the high fees we require to balance our books. It was noted that small, regular Living History events do bring in money for little cost, so 'Regimentals' ought to be encouraged. The Confederate Commander had reported increasing enthusiasm amongst his army and some excellent inter-action with the public at events. It was felt we need to further promote British links to event sites to explain why American re-enacting takes place in the UK. The Federal Commanders report similar to Mr Gibsons and they are working together to encourage more public involvement at events. The children's questionnaires were a big success. Encouraging our members to talk to the public and engage with them is a good thing. Mrs Holt reported that she had delayed publishing the current Newsletter pending the AGM notice, which had been settled at this meeting

Mr Clark, as Secretary, announced the written resignation of Mike Corbishley the Society Powder Officer at the end of 2014. Accordingly a replacement was required as soon as possible and all were to seek out a volunteer to fill this vital position in 2015. Mr Clark also introduced

Andy Wright as he will replace the Minutes Secretary soon, with a view to him taking on the Secretary's role at the 2015 AGM. There followed discussion regarding the AGM notice and it was agreed that the post of Marketing Director should be abolished and that there be a Marketing Officer at assistant level to deal with 'pure marketing' whilst Claire Morris deals with the Social Media side of things. A volunteer is to be sought. Mr Bussey noted that often in ACWS there was little or no succession planning, and everybody ought to try harder to sort this out. Vivienne Corbishley has decided to cease to be a Director this AGM and the Projects Assistant post would revert to an Officer position. She will carry on in that job as long as Peter Holt wants her to.

Regarding Health & Safety, matters Martin Cross noted that there had been very few FSPC Trade Tests being carried out within units. He requested that all units carry out the Trade Tests, and copy all the results to him, whilst retaining a copy in the unit and presenting the soldier with the original version for him to keep. These 'Trade Tests' must be carried out each year by everybody, according to their arm-of-service, to ensure that we are safe and as a requirement of our insurers.

Artillery matters were further discussed. Would we save money by selling some artillery pieces? The history of cannon repair was discussed as was the market value of a set of four cannon. It was agreed that more information is required and therefore a decision on this matter was postponed. Regarding guests, the Chairman advised he had been asked why people can only guest once as an individual and then have to join, even if they are members of a different re-enactment society. It was clarified that invited groups can attend ACWS events as often as the Board wishes. They pay a registration fee plus a guest fee. That gets reimbursed if an individual joins that year. However all the guests as individuals can only guest once before having to join ACWS, otherwise the system would be abused and people come as often as they like, without joining ACWS.

Rules and Bye-Laws amendments – as a result of last years AGM regarding e-votes, junior memberships and disciplinary matters, the Rules and Bye-laws had been redrafted accordingly. In accordance with last AGM's delegations to the Board, the redrafting now considered was approved unanimously. Gunpowder audit. Claire Morris wanted to find out who had what Society gunpowder. It was explained that Mike Corbishley knew where all his powder and boxes were, but some Regiments had surplus powder held over from events with their Acquire & Keep License holders. It was agreed that an audit take place of loose blackpowder held on behalf of the Society, excluding made up rounds

and excluding Mr Corbishleys boxes. It may well be that we do not need to spend so much money on gunpowder in 2015 and that surplus holdings can be used up. Two disciplinary matters were discussed and the actions to be taken agreed. One concerned shouting and screaming by two individuals at an event and another referred to urinating in the open during daylight. Appropriate action had already taken place to obtain apologies and to remonstrate with the individuals concerned. The Chairman sought views from all Directors as to the need for further disciplinary action within our Disciplinary Procedures and Codes. It was agreed that the Secretary issue the appropriate written warnings this time round.

The next meeting will be on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> October (pre AGM meeting) and this meeting finished at 6pm.

**A.C.W.S.**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**December 6th 2014**

**The Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club,**

**64 New Road,**

**Rubery,**

**Birmingham,**

**B45 9HY**

**starting at 1 pm.**

# **Resignation of Company Secretary**

On 25th September, Philip Clark was admitted to hospital suffering from what was eventually diagnosed as being a serious stroke. Although this has not really affected Philip's speech, the stroke has weakened his other abilities and activities, primarily affecting his balance and co-ordination. Following subsequent stabilisation and tests, it became apparent to Philip that he could not perform his duties as Secretary and Director of ACWS, and therefore was forced to give up, and retire from, the position of Company Secretary due to ill-health. Philip's letter of resignation was received on 20th October and was effective immediate.

This retirement is a year earlier than planned and happened too late for the post to be advertised and candidates sought for election at the AGM. The Board would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the significant contributions Philip has made to ACWS especially during his years as a Board Member.

Philip has only recently been discharged from hospital and is now recuperating at home. I am sure we all wish him well and as full a recovery as possible.

Due to his long experience as a Director and Committee member of ACWS including the post of Company Secretary, Mike Bussey was asked to and agreed to step in and become Acting Secretary until at least the AGM in December. The Board will then, after the AGM, sort out the Secretary role and co-opt an appropriate candidate as per the ACWS Bye-Laws.

Mike Bussey

Acting Secretary and Director ACWS Ltd

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

28th October 2014

I am sure we all wish Philip a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him on the field again very soon. Ed.

## **Summary of ACWS Board Meeting 11th October 2014**

Directors present: Michael Smart Chairman, Mike Bussey Acting Secretary & Webmaster, Ian Morris Treasurer, Martin Cross H&S, Vivienne Corbishley Projects Assistant, Claire Morris Membership Secretary, .

In attendance: Debbie Davies Minutes Secretary, Gary Holman Incoming Explosives Officer, Mike Corbishley Outgoing Explosives Officer, Gareth Hamilton, and Andy Wright.

Apologies received from Philip Clark Secretary, Peter Holt Projects, Val Holt Communications, Glenn Gibson Confederate Army Commander, Tim Davies Federal Army Commander, Jennifer Clark Solicitor.

The meeting started at 12:15pm and the minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd August 2014, with proposed corrections, were approved unanimously.

Matters arising and action points from the last meeting were discussed. Events team to contact as many of the old Event Management Companies as possible. There was a need to furnish Sewerby Hall with the scenarios for 2015. It was agreed to use "The Road to Appomattox" as it is the 150th Anniversary next year. Firearms Safe Practice Certificates have been handed in by most regiments. Martin Cross to look into possibility of FSPC lasting for more than one year. Reports came next, with the first from Events/Projects. The 2015 events prospects were discussed. We have a one day event near Wrexham 'subject to contract' on the 2nd August and Sewerby Hall, again 'subject to contract', 24/25 May the second May bank holiday, plus Spetchley on 15/16 August. We have also agreed to a Living History and/or Training Weekend at Bruntingthorpe, site of the International Living History Fair, and on the same weekend of 10/12 April. Rempstone Steam and Country show is still a possibility for July. Negotiations are continuing with Tatton and Shackerstone, but nothing concrete yet. We are still looking for a suitable venue to hold some sort of 40th Anniversary celebration in 2015. In Liverpool on the 4th November 2015 there will be a celebration of the final event of the American Civil War, the Surrender of the CSS Shenandoah, with American CSN re-enactors there.

It was agreed once more that we should seek sponsorship for events on a top down basis, i.e. ask for the highest price and negotiate down if necessary, providing only what the sponsor can afford. We cannot

afford to take on loss making events. We are also looking to use the cannon as a marketable asset with a potential profitable income stream of their own.

The Treasurer Mr Morris reported a loss overall financially this year, due to fewer events and poor fee income. Sponsorship is down this year (due to losing 2 events) but other income is basically the same. Postage costs have rocketed this year due to the increase in the cost of stamps but also the increased events enquiries posted out. Board Members were encouraged to use email rather than letters. It was re-emphasised the need to cut costs and raise money wherever possible. Claire agreed to organise raffles at events next year to help fund any 40th Anniversary Celebrations, with donations for prizes to be requested.

Glenn Gibson's and Tim Davis' Army Commander Reports were read out, both reporting encouraging signs for rebuilding.

The Board formally recognised Matt Body as Captain and Commanding Officer of the Cavalry.

Regarding Membership, Claire Morris reported that membership was down on last year, but there are already new recruits signed up for next year, and the possibility of re-enactors from other groups who took part at Spetchley, joining us next year.

She commended the idea of hiring out the cannon to generate income and will work on marketing material during the close season.

Regarding Health & Safety, matters Martin Cross' report was accepted, and suggestions were made to ensure the artillery crews were all working to the same Code Of Conduct following changes of personnel and more "part-time" crew taking part. Need to ensure the Trade Tests are completed and filed away.

AGM Matters were then covered. Mike Bussey in Philip Clark's absence noted that there were no proposals or nominations for election from the membership. So the only proposals were those of the Board, namely to rename Projects team as Events, retire the Directorships of Marketing and Assistant Projects to that of Officers of the Society. The Board then agreed to keep the Membership, Registration and Guest Fees unchanged for 2015. It had also been agreed at the last meeting to retire the Non-Combatants, Signals and Civilian units due to lack of members, and the existing members transfer to other units of their choosing. This needs to be announced at the AGM.

The Board appointed Gary Holman to be Explosives Officer from next season replacing Mike Corbishley, who is retiring.

The location of the 2015 AGM was then discussed and it was agreed that it would be in Gainsborough on 5th December 2015.

The next Board meeting will be on Saturday the 24th January 2015 and this meeting finished at 6pm.

### **ADDENDUM TO MINUTES**

Due to ill-health, Philip Clark has been forced to resign as Company Secretary, effective immediately, and effectively retiring a year earlier than planned. This resignation came too late to seek another candidate to be voted in at the AGM, so the Board will need to consider co-opting a suitable person as Company Secretary. In the meantime, Mike Bussey will continue as Acting Secretary

### **ACWS at Ingleton**

The American Civil War Society travelled to Ingleton, North Yorkshire on the Bank Holiday weekend of 23 August to 25 August 2014. This was a move by both the ACWS Board and the Event Organiser designed to try and (hopefully!) get better weather with the last few Ingleton Events in September being rained off on the Sundays. The move proved perfect with excellent weather over the whole weekend (apart from some late evening rain) and, as such, the full ACWS programme arranged managed to go ahead and the public that attended allowed to bask in the late summer weather. Although the Friday was officially a rest day, the Confederate Army, as pre-arranged, marched to the village square in an effort to

publicise the event. Whilst there and due to the large crowd present, Mike Bussey, ACWS webmaster, gave an interesting and informed talk on the Civil War and Denis "General Lee" Jarwick gave a talk on the pre arranged Confederate Flag display. The ACWS Confederate Army has many authentic State, Regimental and Battle flags and this was a perfect opportunity to display them in their entirety. The display was then accompanied by the Event Organiser and ACWS member John Ward singing an excellent rendition of Elvis Presley's American Trilogy with the flags being lowered and then raised as the song progressed. Following the display, the Union and Confederate Armies then took part in the Annual Ingleton Chilli Eating Competition. Once again, the Union Army Team totally dominated this Event by easily beating the poor Rebel Team attempt with the Union

Major, Tim Davies easily beating last years Champion, Union Sharpshooter, Paul "Uncle Fester" Edensor in the final individual play (eat!) off. As the non bias adjudicator responsible for cleaning up after the Event, it is obvious the Confederate Army clearly have a long way to go to compete on an equal level as many of the Rebels selected managed to spill and splash most of their Chilli on either the floor, their uniforms, the table as well as a member of the public who was standing over 10 yards away! On the Saturday, the Union Army marched to the village square and this was very well received by the public as there was an excellent attendance at the subsequent battle. The overall battle was well planned by Confederate Major Glen Gibson and Union Major Tim Davies and designed to be exciting to both the public and the participants. The charging through the camps as well as pyrotechnic charges being placed in the lines was a fresh scenario. The use of large authentic wooden barrels and hay bales as protective cover for both armies also made for a different approach. On the Sunday, both armies marched to the village square which was a particularly impressive site and provided a nice contrast with the different uniforms and equipment displayed by the respective armies. The Confederates repeated their flag display. The Sunday battle had

more pyrotechnics as well as an arms depot which was blown up in the grand finale. The battle involved a mass Confederate charge as well as lots of movement around the battlefield and through both camps and was thoroughly enjoyed by the public. Both the Union and Confederate artillery batteries were in full swing during both battles and added to the publics excitement and entertainment.

Throughout the whole weekend, there were lots of activities for both the public and the re-enactors including 3 evening Social Events with 3 different bands, a Duck Race \*, the Ask a Soldier Quiz as well as the Sunday highlight of ACWS members Leigh and Stuart Wardley's wedding buffet and party.

Overall, this was the best Ingleton Event yet and an excellent weekend. It was pleasing to note that for once the Confederate Army slightly outnumbered the Union Army and were able to field 3 separate fighting regimental companies. This is the first time this has occurred for quite some time and it is hoped that all the new Union and Confederate recruits present sign up permanently for the next 2015 season and increase the membership.

This Event would not have occurred without the hard work, necessary fund raising and

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## Spetchley Park



## INGLETON



# IMGLETON



## Avoncroft



considerable effort put in almost single handedly by ACWS member and Event Organiser John Ward and his family. Many thanks must go to them. Many ACWS members, both Union and Confederate, have stated how much they enjoy this Event and it is hoped that in the future whether as a Full, Small or Regimental ACWS Society Event, we can all return sometime in the future. It is such an enjoyable event in stunning surroundings with very welcoming village hospitality.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

\*The vast majority of the yellow numbered plastic ducks were not retrieved by the Reb Army. It has been reported that some have now been sighted in the Morecambe Bay Wildlife Reserve causing bewildered and confused Birdwatchers to scratch their heads!

## **Lincoln's Pocket Watch**

On the surface, it could be any other high-end watch from the mid-1800s. Inside, however, amidst the cogs and gears, is a different story. The words "Fort Sumpter was attacked by the rebels. Thank God we have a

government" are etched there, though the author of the text remembered writing something a tad different, as you'll soon see.

The watch was Abraham Lincoln's. On April 13, 1861, it was being repaired by Jonathan Dillon at M.W. Galt and Co. jewellers. Dillon reported that he was just screwing on the dial when one Mr. Galt approached him with the news that shots had been fired on Fort Sumter.

Fort Sumter was a federal fort in South Carolina, which had seceded from the Union in December 1860—however, because the fort was owned by the federal government, it remained part of the Union and was manned by Union troops. To fire upon the fort was an act of war, and Dillon knew he was hearing of history. Indeed, the shots fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 kicked off the Civil War.

Forty-five years later, the Union was whole again and Abraham Lincoln was dead. Dillon reported what he did to the New York Times, saying, "I unscrewed the dial, and with a sharp instrument wrote on the metal beneath: 'The first gun is fired. Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a President who at least will try.'"

The watch was still around, but for whatever reason the claim about the message wasn't investigated further—perhaps because people were skeptical of the legitimacy of Dillon's claim. It wasn't until Harry Rubenstein, the chief curator of the Abraham

Lincoln bicentennial exhibit, received a phone call from Douglas Stiles, Dillon's great-great-grandson, that the message came to light.

Deciding to check for the message was a slightly risky move as one doesn't take apart a complex piece of machinery, and a priceless piece of history, on a whim. Nevertheless, Rubenstein decided to take the risk, and in March 2009 the watch was carefully opened up at the National Museum of American History by master watchmaker George Thomas.

Sure enough, there was a message there, just not quite what Dillon himself had reported, but the sentiment was more or less the same. Historians speculate that Dillon was rushed while writing the message, and perhaps meant for something with more meaning which he added in the interview with the Times 1906. Alternatively, perhaps he just ran out of room to give his full thought.

Whatever the case, besides Dillon's message, when they opened the watch in 2009, they were surprised to find other writing as well. Specifically, there are two other messages that were added to Dillon's: "LE Grofs Sept 1864 Wash DC" and simply, "Jeff Davis." Jefferson Davis was, of course, the leader of the confederacy during the Civil War. However, it's unknown whether he somehow got

hold of the watch after the war and scribbled his name in it (unlikely), if s o m e o n e else named Jeff Davis managed to put his name in the watch,

or if someone knew it was Lincoln's watch and decided to write "Jeff Davis" to be contrary- the 19th century watchmaker version of the classic children's taunt "Jeff Davis Rules, Lincoln Drools".

As for LE Grofs, it's likely that he was another jeweller—the watch would need to be taken in for cleaning every now and then, after all. It's possible that he wrote "Jeff Davis" in the watch in 1864, at the height of the Civil War.

The inscription find doesn't change history, of course, but it's uplifting to think that Lincoln carried a message of support in his pocket during the war, apparently without ever knowing that it was there.

In the end, despite it saying something slightly different than originally reported, Stiles was happy to be able to see his ancestor's inscription, saying, "That's Lincoln's watch and my ancestor put graffiti on it." Taken from Today I Learned.



## Medal of Honour For Alonzo Cushing



First Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing was bleeding profusely from wounds to his abdomen and shoulder as thousands of Confederate infantrymen advanced on his artillery battery in the Battle of Gettysburg. At least one of his soldiers begged him to seek medical treatment, but he refused. He stayed on the battlefield another 90 minutes while under attack, ordering his men to keep firing their three-inch cannons right up until the moment that he was killed with a gunshot to the head. The Union Army's ability to stop that assault by at least 13,000 soldiers — known as Pickett's Charge, after a Confederate general who led rebel troops taking part in it — is a key part of the Civil War's most iconic battle.

But the heroism of Cushing, 22, on July 3, 1863, was not honoured with the nation's highest award for combat valour, even though 63 other Union soldiers received the prestigious decoration.

U.S. officials will rectify that Thursday.

President Obama is scheduled to award the Medal of Honour in a White House ceremony to descendants of the Cushing family, more than 151 years after the battle. They've passed his story down for generations with pride, but had not considered it possible that Cushing would receive the award, they said.

"His whole family was a very brave family," said Jessica Loring, who is Cushing's first cousin, three generations removed. "His mother would say, 'Death before dishonour' when she sent her sons off to war, and three of them died very young."

It's a highly rare, if not unprecedented, occurrence for battlefield bravery to be recognized with the Medal of Honour so many years later. Cushing initially was recognized posthumously with an honorary "brevet" promotion to lieutenant colonel, something that was common for officers at the time, said Mark Bradley, a historian with the U.S. Army Centre of Military History. But officers rarely received the Medal of Honour at the time.

Some other Union soldiers who were awarded the medal for actions at Gettysburg received it posthumously; for decades, no one nominated Cushing.

About 40 years ago, a woman who lived on a farm in Delafield, Wis., once owned by the Cushing family began asking why not. Margaret Zerwekh, now 94, learned about the soldier's heroism while researching his family, and began compiling an application to nominate him for the Medal of Honour. She enlisted the help of then-Sen. William Proxmire (D.-Wis.), and later received backing from other members of her state's congressional delegation. Then-Sen. Russ Feingold (D.-Wis.) nominated Cushing for the Medal of Honour in 2002, Army officials said.

Even then, the process took years. The Army approved the nomination in 2010, but the amount of time that had passed since Cushing's act of heroism required Congress to suspend the statute of limitations on the honour. Legislation to do so passed in 2013, paving the way for Obama's approval of the award. Zerwekh and many members of the Cushing family had not met until this week, turning the event into something of an extended family reunion. Helen Loring Ensign, 85, of Palm Desert, Calif., will receive the medal from the

president at the White House. It will be displayed in numerous locations afterward, including Gettysburg and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., which Cushing attended and where he later was buried.

"The idea is that it shouldn't just sit on someone's mantelpiece and just stay there," said Jessica Loring. "It needs to be shown so people today can understand the price of making our country free and the sacrifice it takes. We want to bring Alonzo to life in what he did for this nation."

Although Medals of Honour awarded today require proof beyond a reasonable doubt of acts of valour, Bradley said it is difficult to determine the exact details of Cushing's actions 151 years later. The standard at the time was not as stringent, however, and there is no doubt that Cushing faced a fearsome barrage and refused to give up his command.

"That area looked like a slaughterhouse," Bradley said of the battlefield around Cushing, known as Cemetery Ridge. "There were dismembered horses... literally hundreds of Confederate dead and dying lying in front of the guns. This was not a sight for the faint-hearted, and that is where Alonzo Cushing spent his last hours on this hour."

Two of Cushing's brothers also are considered war heroes. William B.

Cushing was a commander in the Union navy, and best known for playing a key role in the sinking of the CSS Albemarle, an ironclad Confederate ship. An older brother, Howard B. Cushing, was a soldier during the Civil War and later killed in a fight with Native Americans in the Apache tribe.

Dan Lamothe covers national security for The Washington Post and anchors its military blog, Checkpoint.



John Rhienholdt

It is always sad to hear of the passing of a comrade and in September we heard of the passing of a much respected member and former Provost Marshal John Rhienholdt. He was a member of 69<sup>th</sup> NY where he was affectionately known as "Dad". Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Geraldine and his family at this sad time.. The 69<sup>th</sup> NY will raise a glass to John's memory at the first event next season. R.I.P. Old friend.

## The Events Team



**11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
International Living History  
Fair, Bruntingthorpe, Bath  
Lane, Lutterworth, Lincs LE17  
5SQ.**

This will be a joint Union and Confederate Training and Living History weekend (full society event) with authentic camps and a shared family camp. Camping will be available from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 17.00 until Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 19.00. Public opening times are to be arranged. Dogs allowed outside in the camps but not inside the hall. They must be kept under control at all times, especially at night as the security patrols use dog handlers as part of the security sweep. If members wish to visit the indoor fair, the usual admission charge will apply.

**24-25 May 2015 (Spring Bank  
Holiday) Sewerby Hall,  
Bridlington, N. Yorks YO15 1EA**

This is a fully society event with Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery,

although the cannons will not be fired because of the close proximity to the house. Camping will be from Friday afternoon until Tuesday morning. Two members of the Sharpshooters will be married there on Saturday and ACWS wishes that everything goes well and that the weather is kind to them. This year the house will not be used for scenarios as in the past, but negotiations are under way as to the use of the Orangery.

**11-12 July 2015 POSSIBLE event in Liecs.** We are still in discussions with the organiser. This would be a fully society event with Infantry and Artillery.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015 Bersham Heritage Centre, Bersham Road, Wrexham Clwyd N Wales LL14 4HT.**

This is a full society event with Infantry and Artillery. Living History and skirmish on Sunday only. Camping from Saturday until Sunday actual times to be arranged.

**15-16 August 2015 Spetchley Multi-period, Spetchley Park Gardens, Spetchley, Worcs WR5 1RS.**

This will be roughly the same as in previous years with Living History and Skirmish on Saturday and Sunday. NO

DOGS ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON SITE. Camping from Friday until Monday.

**5-6 September 2015 CONFIRMED EVENT at Tatton Old Hall.**

**5 December 2015 ACWS AGM Gainsborough Lincs.** It has been decided to change the venue for the AGM in 2015 details will follow in due course.

Final details and timings for each event will be given in the Warning Orders and on the Website. I am in contact with other sponsors with a view to staging other events but at present I have no dates to pass on to you. As soon as anything occurs I will inform the Webmaster so he can post the information to the website.

## **ACWS**

### **LENDING LIBRARY**

We have a great collection of books which can be borrowed to use for reference purposes or just for the sheer pleasure of reading a book about the Civil War.

Lists of titles and how to go about borrowing a book can be obtained from Tim or Caz Davies.

We have all heard of NAReS but how many of us know what it does for re-enactors. So I hope this will help you understand.

## **N.a.Re.S National Association of Re-enactment Societies.**

Since 1991 NAReS has acted as an advocate and advice resource to those involved in historical re-enactment of all period.

Quite simply, if NAReS did not exist, re-enactment as we know it today would be entirely different.

NAReS Executive Committee members meet with government, the police and H&SE (among others) – we are officially recognised as representing re-enactment by many official bodies. We watch for potential legislation at EU, UK and local level, and speak up for us all where our interests are affected or likely to be affected.

However we do not work in isolation and are always keen to hear from member societies or others involved in historical re-enactment if they have relevant information, concerns or require help relating to specific related issue.

Our input into lawmaking has resulted in legal protections for our hobby, such as:

Gaining a legal definition of re-enactment in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006;

Gaining a defence to purchasing a replica imitation firearm in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006; By consultation with ACPO, re-enactment is now recognised as a legitimate reason for being granted a section 1 or 2 firearms certificate;

Providing invaluable consultation with regards to the legislation on samurai swords;

Consulted with the Health and Safety executive in relation to the new legislation over the transport and storage of black powder;

Making positive contributions to the debates over pistols in private hands, thus saving black powder, percussion & flintlock pistols from being banned.

Best practice guidelines for re-enactment have been produced on our website on a wide range of subjects covering Film, TV and Media Work; The transportation of Firearms; Food Hygiene; Basic Guide to Risk Assessment and many more.

We have organised courses for members of affiliated societies – for example on pyrotechnics.

NAReS is constantly working on a wide range of issues that might or will affect re-enactment, both at the present time or in the future, to try and minimize their effects. These cover many topics and

have included regulation on knives and swords, gun licensing, safeguarding and data protection to name just a few.

In short – **we do the boring stuff – so you don't have to.**

Many societies and their members have already benefited from NAReS advocacy and the guidelines that are freely available on the website – so why should your society join or stay in membership? NAReS currently represents a number of re-enactment societies who have total membership of about 18,000 re-enactors. However it is estimated that there are many more re-enactors in the UK and we to make sure that everyone has a voice and is represented. If your group is not a member we need your participation and input. As we all know there is strength in numbers, therefore the more members we represent, the more our voice will be heard. More societies joining NAReS means that we can say to legislators and officials that we speak for an even larger constituency. It puts us in a much stronger position to lobby in defence of our hobby.

NAReS is a not-for-profit organisation, run by volunteer re-enactors, like you. Membership money goes towards basic running costs and a 'fighting fund' that can be used to lobby parliament in defence of re-

enactment, if that becomes necessary. Membership of NAReS gives those who come into contact with your society, for example, potential clients, the knowledge that you adhere to the highest standards in the hobby. It also means you have a direct say in the future of your hobby.

### **The Greatest Bank Robbery in the Civil War**

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 1864, a young man mounted the steps of a hotel in a small quiet village just 15 miles from the Canadian Border and with his gun drawn loudly announced "This city is now in the possession of the Confederate States of America!" Panic, shock and confusion immediately spread throughout the village as gun toting horsemen suddenly appeared, rode down the Main Street and herded all the confused and frightened residents onto the village green. This occurrence was the Northernmost land engagement of the Civil War and although relatively minor in nature was to have far reaching political and diplomatic repercussions. This is the amazing story of the Greatest Bank Robbery of the Civil War which occurred in St Albans, Vermont.

In this highly unusual incident, the raid was led by Lieutenant Bennett H. Young of the Confederate States

Army. He had been captured during Confederate General Morgan's raid into Ohio at the Battle of Salineville in 1863. He later escaped from Chicago into Canada (part of the British Empire) and returned to the South via Bermuda and then through the Union blockade. On his return to Richmond, he advocated raids into the Union from the Canadian border to firstly build the Confederate treasury, secondly to bring the hardships of war and shock to those well away from the battlefields of the South and thirdly force the Union Army to divert troops from the South to protect the Canadian Border. The Confederate Authorities were impressed by the proposals and he was commissioned a Lieutenant and returned to Canada. Here he met Confederate Agent, George Sanders and they quickly recruited other escaped Confederate prisoners of war to participate in his raid on St Albans, Vermont. Initially, Lieutenant Bennett Young and 2 others checked into a local hotel in St Alban's on the pretence of a "sporting vacation" on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1864. Every day, 2 or 3 other young men arrived until on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 21 rebel cavalrymen were present. Just before 3.00pm, the group simultaneously staged bank robberies on the three banks in the village. During the raid, they clearly announced they were

Confederate soldiers by taking off their overcoats and revealing their Confederate uniforms with a pair of Navy sixes. They emptied the tills and vaults of all the money they could carry and even had time to force the bank tellers to swear allegiance to the Confederate States of America. As the banks were being robbed, the remaining Confederates herded the townspeople onto the village green and took their horses. Lieutenant Bennett Young then ordered the village to be torched but the four-ounce bottles of Greek Fire (an incendiary chemical that bursts into flame when exposed to air) they had brought failed to ignite and only one small woodshed was burned. Although they subsequently lost much of their loot whilst escaping, they still managed to make off with \$208,000. By the time a pursuit was organised, they were well over the border and back in Canada. During the skirmish that ensued, one townsman was killed, another wounded and one raider was injured and later died. Following the raid, Union Governor General Monck ordered out the Militia and the survivors were later captured in Montreal and subsequently tried. However, they were never extradited despite energetic demands from the Federal Government in Washington. They contended that the raiders were criminals but Canada argued that they were

military belligerents, so as to remain neutral, and refused to convict them of any crime. The Canadian Court cemented this position. However, the Court did return the \$88,000 the raiders had on their persons when captured.

The pro Lincoln Chicago Tribune screamed "take Canada by the throat and throttle her as a St Bernard would a poodle pup!" President Lincoln immediately announced that Canadians would now have to produce passports to gain entry to the United States. He also imposed tax duties on goods now passing between the 2 countries. The Federal Government subsequently moved troops to patrol the border and the Canadian Court ruling was interpreted by many that this was clear recognition of the Confederate States of America by the British Government since Canada was a province and part of the British Empire.

From a Confederate perspective, the St Alban's raid was one of the most successful Confederate Secret Service Operations. It was due to the loyalty, fraternity and leadership of the Confederate soldiers (average age of 23) who were mainly General Morgan's Kentucky cavalymen and they were never infiltrated or exposed by Federal informers. Their Defence Counsel, Toussaint Antoine Rodolphe LaFlamme, QC said at their trial "In no other

country, perhaps, but in the Southern Confederacy, could 20 young men be found who would be prepared to risk their lives, to offer them to a certain ignominious death in taking possession of a town of inhabitants". Following the raid, Lieutenant Bennett Young was promoted to the rank of a Confederate General. After the Civil War, when he visited Montreal in 1911, a group of St Albans dignitaries paid him a courtesy visit at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. In 1914, a commemorative plaque was placed at the entrance of the Franklin County Bank which was the only bank robbed that still remained standing from the raid.

### Goobers Notes

- 1) The 1954 Film "The Raid" is loosely based on this incident.
- 2) The only standing remaining bank from the raid is now called the Toronto Dominion Bank Branch.

Article by Stewart "Goobar"  
Douglas

Sources: Wikipedia; Virtual Vermont Internet Magazine; St Albans Raid by Jonathan Allen July 6 2009.

Thanks for this very interesting article Stewart. Keep them coming.

## **New Recruits?**

All too often I have to report the passing of another comrade, so it is a pleasure to welcome not one but two new arrivals.

On Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014 saw the arrival of

Grace Janet and Hope Rose to Charlotte Parkin (1<sup>st</sup> USS) and her partner George.



Grace Janet

2lb 4oz



Hope Rose

3lb 5oz

Both babies are being cared for in the Neo Natal Unit of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

I think I speak for all ACWS members in wishing these little ones 'All the Very Best' in life and look forward to seeing them running about the field very soon.

## **FIRST AID KITS & DRINKING WATER**

Members please 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 or 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 few years 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 for the next issue

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

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## **EVENTS CALENDAR 2014**

### **December 6th - ACWS A.G.M.**

The Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club, 64 New Road,  
Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9HY starting at 1 pm.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR 2015**

### **April 11-12th - Bruntingthorpe**

Full Society Event at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground, Bath Lane,  
Lutterworth, Leics. LE17 5QS.

### **24-25 May 2015 Sewerby Hall.**

Church Lane, Sewerby, Bridlington,  
East Riding of Yorkshire, YO15 1EA

### **11-12 July POSSIBLE EVENT Liecs.**

No details yet as negotiations are on going

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015 Bursham Iron Works, LL14 4LL**

in the Clywedog Valley, 2 miles west of Wrexham, N Wales.

### **15-16 August 2015 Spetchley Multi Period**

Spetchley Park Gardens, Spetchley, Worcs WR5 1RD.

### **5-6 September 2015 Tatton Old Hall**

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN

### **5<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

### **ACWS AGM Gainsborough**

Details to Follow

**These dates are subject to contract.**

**Watch this space for future events**