



ACWS Ltd PO Box 270 Washington,
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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2017 Spring Edition



MARBURY 2017

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

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A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders

Mr Tim Davies Chairman

Mrs Linda Reed, Secretary

Ian Morris, Treasurer

Mr Peter Holt, Events

Miss Claire Morris, Membership

Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety

Mrs Val Holt, Communications

Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster

Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, International Co ordinator

Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander

Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Commander

New Chairman's Statement

Greetings One and all,

As you're now aware our previous Chairman has resigned. I have been co-opted by the board to be the Chairman for 2017. Can I just start by saying thank you for your support and kind words both from "Blue and Grey". I know if we all work together the upcoming season promises to be one of the best we have had in a long time.

This year as you are aware we have a few fantastic events coming up such as the Alamo and culminating the International.

With the Alamo we all need to register that means the whole family not just soldiers, women and children also. ACWS is registering under the Toluca Battalion both Blue, Grey and of course Green for the first time I can think of we can all fight on the same side apart from those portraying Texians. Last date of registration is the 23rd April. To all our Artillery you have been given a great opportunity to fight inside the Alamo. So yes this means you get to shoot at me! Registration forms are available on [Remember the Alamo Facebook page](#) and ACWS member's page in the files section. I'm sure Major Gibson will have some paper copies if you are struggling to find them please contact Glenn. Uniform wise I will go over ideas at the training weekend. Also on the Alamo Face book page there is a link for Uniforms and hats if you wish to buy new ones.

On a personal note I'd like to thank the past chair for his friendship and all his hard work for the society a lot of it has been behind the scenes I have now a big set of shoes to fill.

This is the first of my ramblings there will no doubt be a lot more you know where to find me on camp i'm in the white tent!

I may look ugly and scary but believe it or not i'm a big teddy bear so please feel free to come along have a chat or give me a ring if there is anything I can help you with. I am looking forwards to working with everybody on both sides no matter what colour jacket they wear.

Cheers,

Tim Davies
Chairman ACWS Ltd
30th January 2017

Summary of ACWS Board Meeting

8th April 2017

Directors present: Tim Davies Chairman and Federal Army Commander, Linda Reed Secretary, Ian Morris Treasurer, Mike Bussey Webmaster, Claire Morris Membership, Peter Holt Projects, Martin Cross Health and Safety, Val Holt Communications and Glenn Gibson Confederate Army Commander.

In attendance: James Reed principal musician, Darren Paul member and Margaret McCarroll Catering.

Apologies received from Viv Corbishley, Stephen Griffin and Roger Willison-Gray.

The usual routine matters such as approving previous minutes and tracking action points from previous meetings were covered, but this note is intended to keep everybody informed about the important decisions taken.

It was noted that the board received the resignation of Michael Smart and Linda Reed took temporary chairman until Tim Davies was co-opted on the 27th January.

Other decisions which had been made since the meeting in January were also noted, namely Roger Willison-Gray was welcomed into the position of Marketing officer to work alongside Claire Morris and the postal address was changed to PO Box 270, Washington, NE37 9BX.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their support.

The board have kindly accepted an invitation from Nares to display an advertisement banner at our events.

Ian Morris (Treasurer) is expecting the finances to be down at the end of the season due to the excessive costs to recover the van and cannon.

More raffles and football cards will be held during the 2017 season.

A discussion was had to be open and honest to the membership regarding recent events, everyone was in agreement this will be held at Kelham preparation weekend in May.

Mike Bussey (Webmaster) has changed the website from http to

https, which means that we now have secure connections on our website, our rankings in google and other search engines will not fall.

Claire Morris (Membership) noted membership renewals are about average, however we do have 13 new members for the upcoming season.

Glenn Gibson (Confederate Commander) stated the confederate army was recruiting well and some interest has been paid in rebuilding Rockbridge Artillery.

Peter Holt (Events) gave an update on the Events for 2017 and registration fees were set.

Darren Paul now has the battle plans for the International.

The Chairman has been in contact with Chris Greenaway (Soskan Chairman) and talks went well. All past politics and bad feeling was now behind us all and we are looking to the future working together. Everyone is welcome including the Sharpshooters and Soskan have invited us to a 24 hour campaign next season.

A break down of the costs for the society van and cannon to be retrieved and items missing was given and it was noted that the cannon have now been moved to a new storage site.

Thanks was given to everybody in Gainsborough for helping.

The Roger Zwarycz trophy has now been purchased and the 32nd Virginia have chosen the engraving, this will be available for everyone to see at the Kelham Hall preparation weekend.

The meeting commenced at 12.17pm and concluded at 4.29pm

Appointment of Marketing Officer

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Roger Willison-Gray to the position of Marketing Officer of the American Civil War Society Ltd to work alongside Claire Morris (social media) effective 30th January 2017. I wish him every success in this role, of which he has had previous experience.

Linda Reed Secretary For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
31st January 2017

ACWS at Kelham Hall, Newark

The ACWS travelled to Kelham Hall, Newark on the 6th and 7th May for the first ACWS event of the 2017 season. This was billed as a Training weekend with the main intention preparing for the International Event on 23rd and 24th September 2017. Although the weather was cold at times, the rain held off throughout and this superb venue always makes it a really enjoyable event which again proved to be the case. Kelham Hall and Country Park is a beautiful Victorian stately home located in the Trent Valley and nestling within 44 acres of stunning parkland. A significant feature for the ACWS is the cornfield which has now just been planted in readiness for our International event. This should turn into a huge field of 6ft tall maize which every Civil War re-enactor should relish. Kelham Hall itself is a stunning building and has a rich history as the ancestral home of the Manners-Sutton family and as a theological college for an Anglican Order of Monks for the preparation for missionary work. The distinct and unique features were built by renowned architect George Gilbert Scott who also designed St Pancras Hotel and Railway Station and the similarities are striking.

The most impressive feature of Kelham Hall is the incredible 70 foot huge domed chapel which makes it a year round favourite for weddings and events.

This Training weekend certainly bodes well for the 2017 season as there was an excellent turnout from both armies which was much improved from recent years training events. From a Union perspective, the US Sharpshooters looked impressive and from a Confederate perspective, both the 1st Tennessee and the 32nd Virginia had fine turnouts. In addition, it was really pleasing to see a lot of new but clearly experienced re-enactors in all the regiments in both armies. Overall, the main purpose of this event was for both armies to walk through and prepare for the International Event on 23rd and 24th September 2017 which they did. The scenario is the September 17th 1862 battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg with a focus on the clashes in the Millers Cornfield and the Sunken Road (Bloody Lane). It was the bloodiest single day battle in American history with a combined tally of 22, 717 dead, wounded or missing. . The Millers Cornfield clash occurred in the early morning of 17th September at the Northern end of the battlefield and the Union army scenario will be representing Union

Brigadier General John Gibbon's 4th Brigade of Doubledays Division recently named the Iron Brigade as they advance with colours flying through the Cornfield and pushing the rebels before them. The Confederate army scenario will be representing Brigadier General John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade as they push the Union forces back into the Cornfield having been called up from their reserve position to aid Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. They will attack with particular ferocity having been interrupted from their first hot breakfast for days. ("the most deadly fire of the war. Rifles are shot to pieces in the hands of soldiers, canteens and haversacks are riddled with bullets, the dead and wounded go down in scores" – Captain Benjamin Cook, 12th Massachusetts Infantry at the Cornfield). Casualties around the Cornfield were massive on both sides totalling 13,000 in this early morning first phase. As such, the Cornfield at Kelham should see some considerable action as well as the long authentic looking picket fence that is to be constructed along its entire length. The second scenario will be the midday phase at the centre of the Confederate line at the Sunken Road (later called Bloody Lane). This part of the battle involved numerous mass assaults by Union

forces particularly the Irish Brigade against this weakened central sector of the Confederate line. The Union forces will eventually totally overrun the line and cause particular devastation by getting on the flank and pouring enfilade fire into the trap by seizing a knoll overlooking the sunken road ("We were shooting them down like sheep in a pen. If a bullet missed the mark at first it was liable to strike the further bank, angle back and take them secondarily" – Sergeant of the 61st New York). Confederate Colonel John B Gordon was shot 5 times in the sunken road and only survived by a Union bullet passing through his cap and allowing the blood to drain out from a wound to his face as he lay unconscious. Again, casualties will be massive with 5,600 from both sides with Confederate casualties laying 5 thick in the Bloody Lane. Please look at some of Alexander Gardners original post battle photographs or Captain James Hope image of Bloody Lane to get an impression of the carnage. The large battlefield at Kelham Hall also has a significant dip in the middle which will be perfect for this second part of the scenario. Hopefully, this re-enactment will be filmed as both the scenario and backdrop certainly match and look the part. Apart from the preparation for the International Event, the training weekend also allowed for both

armies to prepare for the season and carry out the necessary Trade Health and Safety Checks which every soldier going on the battlefield has to undertake. In addition, all firing muskets should be thoroughly checked to ensure they are fit for purpose. There was also a Pyrotechnic display by the ACWS Pyro Team which demonstrated the noise and blast range ! of the various Pyrotechnic charges used. Both armies also had individual regimental and battalion drill and firing practice sessions throughout the weekend which looked really impressive as well as the Artillery and the Fife and Drum Corps also having their own respective training sessions. Both included potential new recruits and members.

Every ACWS weekend always has an unexpected highlight and for this event it was the superb and hotly contested tug of war between the 2 armies. The first bout was won by the Union with a well disciplined swinging routine. After changing ends, the Confederates managed to get an early rhythm going and won the second bout. On changing ends again for the final winning bout, the Union started strongest and certainly got the early edge but somehow the Confederates dug in, held on, managed to get another slow rhythm going and won the contest. Both sides must be really applauded for the real effort,

strength and sweat put in. On the social side, it was clearly evident by the noise, music, singing and partying taking place in the evenings that everybody was glad to be at their first event of the season and renew old acquaintances and welcome the new members. Both armies enjoyed lots of singing, merriment and drinking around the various camp fires and long may it continue.

Other highlights of the weekend included the ever popular beginning of season blanket sale for the discerning Civil War re-enactor bargain hunter. In addition, it was nice to see Lisa, Civil War Sutlers present at the event in order that many of the new members could pick up the required uniforms and equipment. In addition, many members picked up their Texian/ Mexican impressions she had made or ordered for the Alamo Event. The Civil War Sutlers will be next at the ACWS Spetchley Event if any member wants to order anything in the future.

The ACWS next travel to Marbury, Cheshire for the Marbury Merry Days Event on the weekend of 13th and 14th May 2017. Highlights last time were the Cheshire Dairy Queen, the authentic Civil War Church Service and fighting behind the Church stone wall. Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd NC.



John Buford, Jr.

John Buford, Jr. (March 4, 1826 – December 16, 1863) was a United States Army cavalry officer. He fought for the Union as a brigadier general during the American Civil War. Buford is best known for having played a major role in the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 while in command of a division. Buford graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1848. Buford remained loyal to the United States at the beginning of the Civil War, despite having been born in the divided border state of Kentucky. He fought during the war against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia as part of the Army of the Potomac. His first command was a cavalry brigade under Major General John Pope, and he distinguished himself at Second Bull Run in August 1862, where he was wounded, and also saw action at Antietam in September and Stoneman's Raid in spring 1863. Buford's cavalry

division played a crucial role in the Gettysburg Campaign that summer. Arriving at the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on June 30 before the Confederate troops reached the place, Buford set up defensive positions. On the morning of July 1, Buford's division was attacked by a Confederate division under the command of Major General Henry Heth. His men held just long enough for Union reinforcements to arrive. After a massive three day battle, the Union troops emerged victorious. Later, Buford rendered valuable service to the Army, both in the pursuit of Robert E. Lee after the Battle of Gettysburg, and in the Bristoe Campaign that autumn, but his health started to fail, possibly from typhoid. On his deathbed, he received a personal message from President Abraham Lincoln, promoting him to major general of volunteers in recognition of his tactical skill and leadership displayed on the first day of Gettysburg. He died at age 37.

Early Years Buford was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, but was raised in Rock Island, Illinois, from the age of eight.^[1] His father was a prominent Democratic politician in Illinois and a political opponent of Abraham Lincoln. Buford was of English descent. His family had a long military tradition. John Jr.'s grandfather, Simeon Buford, served in the cavalry

during the American Revolutionary War under Henry "Lighthorse" Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee.^[3] His great-uncle, Colonel Abraham Buford (of the Waxhaw Massacre), also served in a Virginia regiment. His half-brother, Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, would become a major general in the Union Army, while his cousin, Abraham Buford, would become a cavalry brigadier general in the Confederate States Army.

After attending Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, for one year, Buford was accepted into the Class of 1848 at the United States Military Academy (West Point). Upperclassmen during Buford's time at West Point included Fitz-John Porter (Class of 1845), George B. McClellan (1846), Thomas J. Jackson (1846), George Pickett (1846), and two future commanders and friends, George Stoneman (1846) and Ambrose Burnside (1847). The Class of 1847 also included A.P. Hill and Henry Heth, two men Buford would face at Gettysburg on the morning of July 1, 1863. Buford graduated 16th of 38 cadets and was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Dragoons, transferring the next year to the 2nd U.S. Dragoons.^[4] He served in Texas and against the Sioux, served on peacekeeping duty in Bleeding Kansas, and in the Utah War in

1858. He was stationed at Fort Crittenden, Utah, from 1859 to 1861.^[5] He studied the works of General John Watts de Peyster, who urged that the skirmish line become the new line of battle. **Civil War** Throughout 1860, Buford and his fellow soldiers had lived with talk of secession and the possibility of civil war until the Pony Express brought word that Fort Sumter had been fired on in April 1861, confirming secession as fact. As was the case with many West Pointers, Buford had to choose between North and South. Based on his background, Buford had ample reason to join the Confederacy. He was a native Kentuckian, the son of a slave-owning father, and the husband of a woman whose relatives would fight for the South, as would a number of his own. On the other hand, Buford had been educated in the North and come to maturity within the Army. His two most influential professional role models, Colonels William S. Harney and Philip St. George Cooke, were Southerners who elected to remain with the Union and the U.S. Army. He loved his profession and his time on the frontier had snapped the ties that drew other Southerners home. John Gibbon, a North Carolinian facing the same dilemma, recalled in a post-war memoir the evening that John Buford committed himself to the Union:

One night after the arrival of the mail we were in his (Buford's) room, when Buford said in his slow and deliberate way "I got a letter from the Governor of Kentucky. He sent me word to come to Kentucky at once and I shall have anything I want." With a good deal of anxiety, I (Gibbon) asked "What did you answer, John?" And my relief was great when he replied "I sent him word I was a Captain in the United States Army and I intended to remain one!"

In November 1861, Buford was appointed Assistant Inspector General with the rank of major, and, in July 1862, after having served for several months in the defense of Washington, was raised to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. In 1862, he was given his first position, under Major General John Pope, as commander of the II Corps Cavalry Brigade of the Union Army of Virginia, which fought with distinction at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Buford personally led a charge late in the battle, but was wounded in the knee by a spent bullet. The injury was painful, but not serious, although some Union newspapers reported that he had been killed.^[7] He returned to active service, and served as chief of cavalry to Major Generals George B. McClellan and Ambrose E. Burnside in the Army of the Potomac. Unfortunately, this assignment was nothing more

than a staff position, and he chafed for a field command. In McClellan's Maryland Campaign, Buford was in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, replacing Brigadier General George Stoneman on McClellan's staff. Under Major General Joseph Hooker in 1863, however, Buford was given the Reserve Brigade of regular cavalry in the 1st Division, Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac. After the Battle of Chancellorsville, Major General Alfred Pleasonton was given command of the Cavalry Corps, although Hooker later agreed that Buford would have been the better choice. Buford first led his new division at the Battle of Brandy Station, which was virtually an all-cavalry engagement, and then again at the Battle of Upperville.

In the Gettysburg Campaign, Buford, who had been promoted to command of the 1st Division, is credited with selecting the field of battle at Gettysburg. On June 30, Buford's command rode into the small town of Gettysburg. Very soon, Buford realized that he was facing a superior force of rebels to his front and set about creating a defense against the Confederate advance. He was acutely aware of the tactical importance of holding the high ground south of Gettysburg, and so he did, beginning one of the most important battles in American military history

. His skillful defensive troop dispositions, coupled with the bravery and tenacity of his dismounted men, allowed the I Corps, under Major General John F. Reynolds, time to come up in support and thus maintain a Union foothold in tactically important positions. Despite Lee's barrage attack of 140 cannons and a final infantry attack on the third day of the battle, the Union army won a strategic victory. The importance of Buford's leadership and tactical foresight on July 1 cannot be overstated in its contribution to this victory. Afterward, Buford's troopers were sent by Pleasanton to Emmitsburg, Maryland, to resupply and refit, an ill-advised decision that uncovered the Union left flank. In the Retreat from Gettysburg, Buford pursued the Confederates to Warrenton, Virginia, and was afterward engaged in many operations in central Virginia, rendering particularly valuable service in covering Major General George Meade's retrograde movement in the October 1863 Bristoe Campaign. The hero at Oak Ridge was John Buford... he not only showed the rarest tenacity, but his personal capacity made his cavalry accomplish marvels, and rival infantry in their steadfastness... Glorious John Buford!

Death and Legacy By mid-December, it was obvious that

Buford was sick, possibly from contracting typhoid, and he took respite at the Washington home of his good friend, General George Stoneman. On December 16, Stoneman initiated the proposal that Buford be promoted to major general, and President Abraham Lincoln assented, writing as follows: "I am informed that General Buford will not survive the day. It suggests itself to me that he will be made Major General for distinguished and meritorious service at the Battle of Gettysburg." Informed of the promotion, Buford inquired doubtfully, "Does he mean it?" When assured the promotion was genuine, he replied simply, "It is too late, now I wish I could live." In the last hours, Buford was attended by his aide, Captain Myles Keogh, and by Edward, his black servant. Also present were Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Alexander and General Stoneman. His wife Pattie was traveling from Rock Island, Illinois, but would not arrive in time. Near the end, he became delirious and began admonishing the servant, but then, in a moment of clarity, called for the man and apologized: "Edward, I hear that I have been scolding you. I did not know what I was doing. You have been a faithful servant, Edward." John Buford died at 2 p.m., December 16, 1863, while Myles Keogh held

Kelham May 2017



Marbury



Marbury



Kelham May 2017



him in his arms. His final reported words were "Put guards on all the roads, and don't let the men run to the rear."

On December 20, memorial services were held at a church on the corner of H. Street and New York Avenue in Washington, D.C. President Lincoln was among the mourners. Buford's wife was unable to attend due to illness. The pallbearers included Generals Casey, Heintzelman, Sickles, Schofield, Hancock, Doubleday, and Warren. General Stoneman commanded the escort in a procession that included "Grey Eagle," Buford's old white horse that he rode at Gettysburg. After the service, two of Buford's staff, Captains Keogh and Wadsworth, escorted his body to West Point, where it was buried alongside fellow Gettysburg hero Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing, who had died defending the "high ground" (Cemetery Ridge) that Buford had chosen. In 1865, a 25-foot obelisk style monument was erected over his grave, financed by members of his old division. The officers of his staff published a resolution that set forth the esteem in which he was held by those in his command: ... we, the staff officers of the late Major General John Buford, fully appreciating his merits as a gentleman, soldier, commander, and patriot, conceive his death to be an irreparable loss to the

cavalry arm of the service. That we have been deprived of a friend and leader whose sole ambition was our success, and whose chief pleasure was in administering to the welfare, safety and happiness of the officers and men of his command.

... That to his unwearied exertions in the many responsible positions which he has occupied, the service at large is indebted for much of its efficiency, and in his death the cavalry has lost firm friend and most ardent advocate. That we are called to mourn the loss of one who was ever to us as the kindest and tenderest father, and that our fondest desire and wish will ever be to perpetuate his memory and emulate his greatness."

In 1866, a military fort established on the Missouri-Yellowstone confluence in what is now North Dakota, was named Fort Buford after the general. The town of Buford, Wyoming, was renamed in the general's honor. It is the smallest town in America. It was sold at auction for \$900,000 on April 5, 2012 to an unnamed Vietnamese by its owner, who had served in the U.S. military in 1968–1969. In 1895, a bronze statue of Buford designed by artist James E. Kelly was dedicated on the Gettysburg Battlefield. In 1992, the M8 Buford light tank was produced and named after him.

ACWS at Marbury

The ACWS travelled to the Marbury Merry Days on the weekend of 13th and 14th May 2017 and due to the splendid weather (apart from the occasional shower) enjoyed an excellent weekend. This picturesque village site must be one of the best the ACWS has been in recent years. The awesome views from the magnificent St Michaels Church which overlook the Big Mere are stunning. This is a particularly historic site and the gate to the Church is a poignant First World War Memorial with its inscriptions and there is a First World War Memorial Grave in the graveyard. The Big Mere also reputedly contains an unexploded World War 2 German bomb and as such care has to be taken with regards any activities that take place on or under the waters of the Mere. This is always an excellent site for a Civil War skirmish re-enactment due to being able to utilise the Church wall and the hill that climbs up to it.

The ACWS were the main headline act of the Marbury Merry Days village fete and were contracted to do infantry and artillery drill sessions during the day as well as 2 battle skirmishes at the end of each day. The ACWS formally opened the weekend by providing a Guard of Honour for

the Cheshire Dairy Queen which was well received as she inspected all the troops. The first skirmish on the Saturday started at the top of the hill when an unsuspecting Confederate guard was taken out and dragged behind the Church wall and the 2 Confederate artillery pieces he was supposed to be guarding were quickly overrun and captured by Union forces. The Union forces were led by the quick firing green jacketed US Sharpshooters who drove off the remaining Confederate rearguard. The Union forces then appeared en masse, manned the 2 captured artillery pieces and proceeded to head down towards the Confederate artillery camp. However, unknown to the Union forces, the Confederate camp also contained battle hardened Confederate Infantry and they quickly formed a battle line on the drums and started to advance towards the Union forces to try and recapture their invaluable 2 artillery pieces. The skirmish developed into a fierce fire fight as the Confederates doggedly advanced up the hill but kept taking heavy casualties from the massive Union volleys being poured into them in the process. As a result, the Confederates were forced to slowly retreat leaving the whole battlefield covered in blue, green and grey bodies. The second skirmish on the Sunday started

with both armies in the Church yard and the Confederates portraying a forage party that was heading back down the hill towards their camp. The Union army led by Union Major Tim Davis are unsuspectingly hot on their heels and ambush the Confederate rear guard of the 32nd Virginia. The Confederates are forced to retreat and regroup as the Union forces surge forward. On the right flank of the Union army is the 118th Pennsylvania Regiment - "The Corn Exchange Regiment" - led by their indomitable 1st Sergeant Phil Golder who literally lets nothing stand in his way as they surge forward in an effort to outflank the confused and retreating rebel army. Nevertheless, the Confederate army regroups and by forming a dogged and determined firing line stop the pursuing Union forces and start to slowly push them back up the hill. They are soon reinforced by a Confederate cannon which suddenly appears on their left and they begin to take the upper hand as the Union forces gradually retreat. However, the Confederate cannon is taken out by a direct hit from the Union artillery and the tide turns towards the Union army as their numbers begin to tell. Both sides then take huge casualties as the Confederate army is slowly forced back and the Union takes

the field but at a huge cost. Both battles were thoroughly enjoyed by the public and organisers and full credit to both armies for taking massive casualties. Both the artillery and the excellent pyrotechnics added to the overall impression.

Nevertheless, everyone will agree that the most credit must go to Martin Clarke, 2nd South Carolina, who stood in at the last moment and did an excellent and informative commentary on both days for the public. From a personal perspective, his ability to pick up on all the orders and commands being shouted and screamed by the Officers and NCOS from sides and why they were doing them was a really informative and interesting style for the public to enjoy.

This was a busy weekend for the ACWS with numerous additional activities taking place throughout the weekend. Both armies took it in turns to do full drill and firing sessions in the arena. Confederate Major Glen Gibson led the ever popular Kids drill with the wooden muskets which the public thoroughly enjoyed. The Ask a Soldier questionnaire continues to be popular at such events and encourages good interaction between the younger members of the public and the Civil War re-enactors. The ACWS Drum and Fife Corps held their ever increasing popular practice sessions. Cont on page 22



Events Report

Here we are with the International Preparation event and our first society event under our belts. There was a good turnout for both events with very good atmosphere prevailing throughout both camps. It was also good to see some members returning to the fold after time away. Those who attended Kelham have an idea of what the International event weekend will be like having seen the area and battlefield. I am sorry we could not attend Marbury but the feedback I have received has been very positive and a good time was had by all. Please take note of the dates and venues of the new events which have added to our programme recently.

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2017, Hardwick Hall East Park, Sedgfield, Co. Durham, TS21 2DN

Camping From Friday to Monday. I am awaiting the finer details from the organisers and these will be included in the warning orders. A multi-period event as last year. Our

authentic camps will have a bigger area than last time and be in a more central position. Living History with Infantry Skirmish both days.

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2017 The Alamo Event, Weston Park, Weston-Under Lizard, Nr. Shifnal, Telford, Shropshire, TF11 8LE

This is NOT an ACWS run event, it is part of MFest 300. Glenn Gibson is our main contact; and details are updated on their Facebook page. Registration for this event is now closed. ACWS will not be issuing warning orders for this event.

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th July 2017 St Margaret's Summer Fayre, Draycott-in-the-Moors, Staffs. ST11 9AE

Camping Friday – Sunday. Parade Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening local rock group with bar and barbeque. Sunday Drill Display, Kid's Drill and Infantry only skirmish. This is a full society event. Confirmed subject to contract.

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th July 2017 Heckington Show Hall Grounds Heckington, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 9RP.

Camping from Friday – Monday. This the 'Largest Village Show' in England with over 35,000 visitors over two days last year.

On Saturday evening there will be a Firework Concert and a tribute band Queen II. Living History, Drill and Firing Displays on both days.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th August 2017, Spetchley Hall and Gardens, Worcester WR5 1RS, Camping from Friday 11th to Monday 14th August 2017. Living history with a skirmish each day, infantry, artillery and cavalry attendance as self-funding.

Saturday 26th – Monday 28th August 2017. (Bank Holiday Weekend) Oulton Park Circuit, Cheshire, CW6 9BW. Camping from Friday – Tuesday. This is a Historic racing Weekend with multi-period History Weekend with no firing whatsoever. No Animals Allowed due to the nature of the event. This event is by invitation from a WWII group we have not worked with before if successful this could lead to other events in the future. There is a restaurant and bar for the use of re-enactors in the evening. This is a full society event. Confirmed subject to contract. I will need names and numbers of adults and children whether you will be attending this event by 16th July 2017. You will be asked to show your ACWS membership cards, so if bringing guests I will need their full names and details.

Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd September 2017. Earls Barton, Northants. The Midlands History Festival 2017. I do not have the final details regarding camping or time etc. these will be published on FB members page and ACWS website as soon as I get them. This is a fully society event with Living History and skirmish with Infantry and Artillery on both days. Saturday evening entertainment includes a Wedding Reception with live music provided by Greenman Rising. Troll's Bottom (Spetchley Beer Tent organisers) are running the bar as well as celebrating their 20th Birthday Party, I am assured there will be cake and jelly. This run by Re-enactor for Re-enactors so come along and join in the fun.

Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th September 2017, ACWS International Event 2017 at Kelham Hall and Country Park near Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX. Living history and battles each day involving infantry, artillery and cavalry. Confirmed subject to contract full society event open to all members and guests. If you wish to give a hand in the setting up of this event you will be very welcome and you can camp from Thursday to Tuesday. All others camping from Friday to Monday. Maps the details of camps etc will be issued with the Warning Orders. Peter Holt

Cont from Page 19

The Southern Womens display also proved popular and informative. One of the highlights of this particular event is always the Church Service at St Michaels Church on the Sunday morning. As usual, it was commendably well attended by both Union and Confederate re-enactors in their respective uniforms and well appreciated by both the Reverend and the congregation. Another unexpected highlight for those hand full of Confederates that participated was an early evening fully kitted march around the Big Mere.

Taking over 3 hours through difficult and boggy terrain, they eventually made it safely back and it was thoroughly enjoyed by them all. Certainly a possibility for expanding and developing by both armies the next time we attend. During both fine evenings, the Union and Confederate armies enjoyed their usual friendly and enjoyable campfire sessions and it is really nice to see officers and soldiers from both armies now regularly visiting each others campfires.

Overall, both Union and Confederate armies had good attendances and from a Confederate perspective it was nice to see a full turnout from the 43rd North Carolina and pleasing to see new Confederate artillery

Sergeant Stuart Wardley commanding a full artillery crew. This is important as the bigger Union artillery is always well crewed and the Union artillery display in the arena was excellent and again well received by the public. Credit for both must go to ACWS Health and Safety Officer Martin Cross for all these artillery developments and improvements and all the necessary training that is required. At the end of the Event, the organisers formally thanked the ACWS for their excellent participation throughout the duration of the weekend and hopefully we will be invited back again in the future.

The ACWS next travel to the Frontline Multi Period Event at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield on 17th and 18th June 2017. The following weekend of 24th and 25th June 2017, many members of the ACWS will also be attending the Alamo Event at Weston Park, Telford, Shropshire.

Article by
Stewart "Goober" Douglas,
43rd North Carolina.

Peter has had a Thank you from Marbury saying we added colour and excitement and were highly entertaining and they had raised over £10,000 for the church. Ed.

Legend of the Lost Civil War Cannon on Cotton Hill

Most Civil soldiers both Blue and Gray lost many personal and military items during the American Civil War. However, 1 Confederate captain lost something a little bit bigger. He lost his precious bronze cannon and it's whereabouts still remain hidden up to this very day. This is the fascinating story of the long lost Confederate cannon on Cotton Hill.

In an official post war Civil War account the details are as follows.

Captain Joel H Abbott, Co. H, 8th Virginia Cavalry recalls that on September 9th 1862, the overall Confederate commander, General Loring had begun to move his Confederate army down to confront General Cox's Federal army then based in the Fayetteville area. Confederate Captain Joel Abbott was subsequently given orders to take a detachment of his 8th Virginia cavalry through the woods to the Cotton Hill area and cut any telegraph wires and hold the road leading to a temporary bridge across the River Gauley to obstruct the Federals. However, on September 10th a regiment of Union cavalry crossed the river and climbed Cotton Hill and cut off Captain Abbott and his rebel

cavalry detachment forcing them to retreat back to the main Confederate army which was eventually achieved with difficulty.

On September 11th, General Cox's Federal army suddenly retreated and Confederate General Loring ordered all the Confederate forces to pursue the retreating Federals and Captain Abbott and his troopers to take with them a bronze cannon back up to the cliffs on Cotton Hill overlooking the River Gauley to destroy a temporary bridge the retreating Federals were using and generally harass them. The subsequent action was successful with the bridge being hit and demolished by the cannon as well as knocking out a munitions magazine that was in the mouth of nearby Zoll's Hollow. However, in his post Civil War account, Captain Abbott fully recalls that after this engagement "and then trying to get the gun back and finding it a difficult job, we hid it in a deep ravine, and it is there yet". All the Confederate forces then left the area in pursuit of the Federal forces resulting in the battle of Charleston on September 13th 1862. However, all the conversations since this successful engagement by Captain Abbott have centred not on the actual operation itself but what happened afterwards to this lost Confederate cannon. Because he was such a respected and

dependable captain it was believed he would not make up such a tale. So, is the cannon still out there and if not, where is it now?

To back up his story, several people in the local community have their own stories about the missing bronze cannon. In the early 1900's, a local coal miner found the cannon and due to a miners strike at the time in 1902 was desperate to put the cannon back to good use by using it against the coal companies. However, his friends declined to participate in such a foolhardy venture and refused to help retrieve the cannon. It remained where he found it. In addition, a young child called Jimmy Blevins remembers finding the cannon whilst out playing and his young siblings who accompanied him at the time fully recall this. However, being unable to move it or get it home, they just left it where it was in the dense undergrowth. In addition, a couple of hunters have also stated that they have come across the cannon whilst out hunting. However, none of these parties have been able to positively identify the actual location of the cannon and it would also appear to have been spotted in different areas in the vicinity whilst still covered in dense undergrowth. As such, if it is still out there, it lies somewhere in the New River Gorge area, West Virginia. So if you ever go rock

climbing or hiking in the area keep your eyes peeled as you may across a valuable piece of American Civil War history!

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina.

USEFUL TIPS FOR MUSKETS

1. Bore will be clean and clear, a distinct ping is expected when the ramrod is dropped to the breech
2. Lock, half cock is expected to engage and hold the weapon's weight on the hammer as well as not fire from normal trigger pressure
3. Cone is to be clean outside as well as clear through; the bolster area around the cone is also to be free of major fouling.
4. Bands should be tight and not moveable with hand pressure, all screws are to be present and also be seated well enough to resist finger pressure
5. Blued weapons are expected to be free of any major surface rust; bright weapons are expected to be bright and free of rust.
6. Stocks are to be free of any major cracks/missing pieces of wood.
7. Bayonets should be well fitting to the rifle and the locking ring should be present and functional.
8. Bayonet scabbards are required. A tip / finial must be

present and covering the point of the bayonet.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina.

Hemlines for young Ladies

All little girl's like to copy their Mom's and wear make-up and high heels when playing, but re-enacting is not just playing 'The Lady' it is re-creating history, so let's do it right.

Victorian fashions for little children followed strict rules and etiquette just as for adults. Until babies were toilet trained boys and girls were dressed alike in petticoats and dresses, the hair style was the gender give away. Hair parted in the middle was for girls and parted to one side and it was a boy. It didn't matter if the boy had curls. It was a big day in a small boy's life when he was taken to the barber for his first grown up haircut. It would also be about this time that he would be 'breached' and put into trousers for the first time.

Little girls continued to wear the petticoats and dresses. It is a misnomer that little girls wore 'long' dresses with the hemline sweeping the floor. Apart from being impractical it was dangerous. Picture a cute baby taking its first steps and falling back onto its bottom and rolling

over to its knees, pulling itself up again to try all over again. A long dress would get in the way of little feet, and once they have mastered the art of walking, accidents still happen. Victorian houses were not child friendly places. Fitted carpets were not the norm so little feet had loose rugs to contend with as well as open fires, which does not bear thinking about. Victorian mothers saw the need to keep their little ones as clean as they could. Remember they did not have the luxury of throwing dresses into the washing machine and walking away to do something else with their time. Laundry day was time consuming. First the copper had to be filled and a fire lit under it, and wait until water hot enough to begin the washing. Clothes were then scrubbed, rinsed several times. The clothes were then put through the mangle to get all the water out of them and finally hung out to dry. At aged 3-4 years old the hem was knee length progressing down towards the ankle as the child got older until she was 13-14 years old when it had reached ankle length. By the time girls were about the age of 15, they started work. The girl is now classed as a adult now and the hemline dropped to its optimum length.

I recently received the following letter from one of our members and thought it may be of interest to some of you. : Editor

The Editor
ACWS Newsletter

Richard John Page
Pentrosfa
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
Wales

Dear Sir,

Re: New Book of Civil War Art by Mr Don Troiani

Members may have Mr Troiani's books on Civil War art, and may know that he has more recently been concentrating on the American War of Independence.

Mr Troiani has decided to retire (he is, after all, 6 months older than me) but he is issuing one last Civil War Art Book with 10 NEW paintings and 300 photographs. It should be out in early December 2017 on Amazon at £25.00. This may/may not be of interest to you all!

Best wishes
Yours sincerely

Richard Page.

Change of Society Address

Following the resignation of Mike Smart, the ACWS have had to change our correspondence address which had been set up at Mike's business address.

Therefore, please note the new Postal correspondence address for the Society:

ACWS Ltd, PO Box 270, WASHINGTON, NE37 9BX

Please change any literature etc which may reference 17 Swan Street, Sileby, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE12 7NN to the new address. All mail to the Directors will still be forwarded if sent to the new address.

We tried, but were unable to get PO Box 1861 Washington.

Mike Bussey For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
11th February 2017

The Newest Recruit



We welcome Anastasia Kathleen Dawn Davies
into the ACWS Family.

She was born to Major Tim and Caz Davies
on 23rd March 2017.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

17th & 18th June 2017
Sedgefield

24th & 25th June 2017
The Alamo

8th & 9th July 2017
St Margaret's Fayre
Draycot on the Moor

29th - 30th July 2017
Heckington Show, Sleaford, Lincs.

12th & 13th August 2017
Spetchley Park

26th 27th & 28th August 2017
Oulton Park, Cheshire

2nd - 3rd September 2017
The Midlands History Festival
East Baton, Northants.

23rd & 24th September 2017
Kelham Hall International

Watch this space for future events