



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

HD6 1JQ, England

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2011 Winter Edition



**THE ENTIRE CAST OF
ACWS DANCE 2010**

Issue 159

Website :- www.acws.co.uk

Little know facts about the Civil War

There were more than 10,000 soldiers serving in the Union Army that were under the age of 18.

Union and Confederate forces stationed at Fredericksburg during the winter of 1862 traded items by constructing small boats and floating them back and forth across the Rappahannock river.

General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, travelled with a pet hen that laid one egg under his cot every morning.

Approximately 130,000 freed slaves became Union soldiers during the war.

The artillery barrage at the battle of Gettysburg during Pickett's charge was heard over 100 miles away in Pittsburgh.

The famous Confederate blockade - runner, the C.S.S. Alabama, never entered a Confederate port during the length of her service.

The first civilian killed by the abolitionist John Brown and his cohorts at Harper's Ferry was a free black man

Did you know that President Lincoln's favourite tune was "Dixie"?

Gen Grant professed he only knew two tunes. One was 'Yankee Doodle' and the other one wasn't.

General Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, had twenty-nine horses shot from beneath him during the war years.

Did you know that during the Civil War, muzzle loading rifles were preferred over the faster firing breach loader's? The breach loading rifle was invented in 1803 and had been issued by the army in 1825. They were discontinued and all government research stopped in 1840, however, because it was thought that the soldiers would waste ammunition.

Approximately 6000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War.



Chairman's Report

As your newly elected chairman I would hope that you have all had a good Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. The coming season will I feel be an important one for the society. As mentioned at the AGM we have unfortunately made a loss on operational costs in the past two seasons, and cannot afford to do so this year. In the Secretary's report at the AGM it was mentioned that running any re-enactment society in the current economic climate is a big challenge and this certainly will be the case in the future. So how can we rise to meet this challenge?

There has been much discussion in the past few months on our forum as to the direction the ACWS must take to not only attract new members (and to keep those we have) entertain the public and how to be more military, professional/ authentic. There have been many interesting and innovative ideas put forward as to how to take these issues forward. However these ideas will only take root and develop if the need for change is accepted by all the members-both blue and grey.

Change can be challenging and at times uncomfortable (especially for long standing members), however if we as a society are to develop and evolve this is something we must all

accept. However change-if accepted-must not only cascade downwards-ie Army Commanders and Officers etc but also from within the ranks ie NCO's and privates. In April 2011 there are training weekends for both Confederate and Union at Murton Park and Tatton Old Hall respectively. Let us use these events to discuss these issues and how they can be implemented in the coming season to enhance both the enjoyment of our hobby and the presentation of the ACWS's re-enactments to the public.

Unfortunately the event at Nantwich in Cheshire on July 9/10th has been cancelled due to the withdrawal of funding, therefore our first full society event (at the moment) is at Tatton Old Hall in Cheshire on May 28th-30th.

In the meanwhile the projects team are working hard to obtain other venues for events. As can be appreciated in the present economic climate this may not be easy.

There may be many challenges and hurdles throughout the coming season that will have to be faced and hopefully surmounted if we as a society are to flourish and survive. However with your support I feel confident that this season we can move the society forward with renewed energy and commitment to the benefit of us all.

Denis Jarwick
Chairman ACWS.

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of The American Civil War Society Ltd

**Held at the Nautical Club, 5-6 Bishopsgate Street,
Birmingham On Saturday 4th December 2010**

Present:

Directors: Mr Philip Clark : Secretary : PC
Mrs Val Holt : Communications : VH
Miss Claire Morris : Membership : CM
Mr Ian Morris : Treasurer : IM
Mr Roger Willison-Gray : Marketing : RWG
Mrs Vivienne Corbishley : Projects : VC
Mr Kevin Holden : Confederate Army Rep : KH

Society Officers: Mr Mike Corbishley : Explosives Officer : MC

Society Solicitor: Mrs Jennifer Clark

Together with Members in the Hall, making a total of 39 members present.

The meeting started at 1.00 pm.

1. PC (in the absence of the Chairman , Mike Bussey, who was snowed in!) welcomed everybody to the 35th Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending despite the challenging weather.
2. Apologies were received from the following:

Mr M Bussey, Mr B Brown, Mr B Coxon, Miss V Coxon, Miss L Coxon, Mr T Davies, Mr A Hopwood, Mr T Radcliffe, Mrs A Radcliffe, Mrs C Wilson, Mr H Davies, Mr J Enright, Mr J Quick, Ms D Amer, Mr G Preston, Mr L Fairlee, Mr P Golder, Mrs Kath Filer, Mr C Sprakes, Mr C Elwood and Mr M Isam.

3. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2009 AGM held at Alsager Civic Centre, Alsager, Cheshire on Saturday 5th December 2009. This was proposed by Martin Cross and seconded by G Holman, and duly voted upon:

	FOR	all present
Proxy votes were:	FOR	52
	AGAINST	0
	ABSTENTIONS	1

The motion was duly approved, and the minutes signed by PC.

4. Motion to receive the Reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2010 Season as published and issued to members in November 2010 as part of the Agenda booklet.

4.1 Secretary : Mr P Clark

PC commented that the weather has not been the only challenge in our hobby – also the economic climate has made it difficult to get events, especially paying ones and therefore makes it difficult for ACWS to balance the books.

He reported the “Hellos and Goodbyes” that have happened this season: Lee Fairlee has retired as Confederate Army Representative due to family and work commitments, and has been replaced by Kevin Holden.

Andy Hopwood resigned suddenly on 3rd September, and Viv Corbishley has leapt back into the hot seat again, working hard to get events, aided by Pete Holt and Kevin Holden. He offered sincere thanks to VC for stepping back up, but pointed out that she cannot go on doing this hard work for ever. He invited any budding potential Projects Officers to contact the Board.

PC reminded everyone that Mike Bussey announced last year his intention to step down as Chairman, and that today is the day to elect a replacement. The only nomination received was from Denis Jarwick, and he has attended Board Meetings and been included in email circulations ever since his nomination. PC

expressed his confidence in DJ's contribution and welcomed him onto the Board of Directors in anticipation of the vote.

PC went on to express his thanks to MB for all his hard work as Chairman, his fairness and honesty, his Yorkshire grit and personality, his intelligent handling of difficult matters, and above all his support and friendship. He then reminded everyone that MB will remain a Director without portfolio, with responsibility for the PO Box and our all important Webmaster.

PC expressed his personal thanks to Neil Hoddle for his tremendous efforts and excellent work on creating a new Society information and recruiting leaflet. It was all his own work and has received universal praise from many quarters.

PC then explained how the attempts to stage an International event have failed because Rockingham pulled the plug and changed their mind halfway through the planning stage. This was obviously disappointing but their new stance was financially untenable for the Society, so ACWS could not proceed. The Directors do not wish to take any financial risk with ventures such as this any more. Other possibilities were looked at with, for example Help For Heroes, but all still proved too risky to take on. Therefore there is no international event envisaged for the next few years.

4.2 Projects : Mrs V Corbishley

VC expressed a wish to praise some unsung heroes in the membership, in particular, Alan Shatford and Hilary Haynes, in charge of one of the artillery vans. They are always willing and uncomplaining about the hard work that is required with the Artillery, and VC expressed huge personal thanks to them.

VC stated that unfortunately the Confederate Artillery has had to be mothballed until a new driver can be found. She appealed for a volunteer to take on the responsibility.

She also wished to make special mention of Mike Corbishley and all his efforts in obtaining the powder, organising licences, as well as turning up at events early and setting up the powder tent. Again VC expressed huge personal thanks to him.

She expressed her shock to be back in the Projects job again, and explained that P Holt and K Holden will assist her this year: PH taking on responsibility for small events; and KH taking on events in the Midlands. She expressed her thanks to them for their help already this year.

She re-iterated that she is happy to stand till a replacement can be found, but would like that to be sooner rather than later, so again budding volunteers were encouraged to come forward.

4.3 Treasurer : Mr I Morris

IM had nothing to add to his published report, except that the accountant has added £580 depreciation to the accounts for trailers/motor vehicles.

He also stated that the Accountant has warned that another year of loss cannot be withstood by the Society (overall total loss of £8000 over the last 2 years).

Martin Cross asked if there was any news of remuneration from the Glemham event. PC reported that no progress has been made and the Accountant has chosen to write off the debt which is a fairly realistic approach as it appears the Glemham event committee has no available funds .

4.4 Membership : Miss C Morris

CM stated that she had nothing to add to her published report.

John Ewers (118 Penn) concurred that increasing the membership is very important and suggested a presence at Freshers Fairs at Universities, with perhaps a reduced membership fee for students. CM to consider.

Denis Jarwick asked about the proportion of active vs postal members. CM replied that there are now very few postal members.

4.5 Marketing : Mr R Willison-Gray

RWG explained that marketing has historically always been problematic as there is no money available for it, although this year he has had a budget. Essentially, there is a need for a team of recruiters who are often required mid-week at marketing events.

Most people, although willing, cannot afford to take time off work, incur the expense of travel, etc. As a result, there is often only a handful of Members who take on a lot of effort and personal expense. He therefore proposed a new approach – to use Facebook (which has a high population of around 500,000,000 users). Facebook’s demographics show a continued growth in membership. Twitter is also used by business more and more nowadays. They are both a marketplace for chatting about things, and he proposes that ACWS need to use this mechanism for increasing awareness and recruiting. Specifically his proposal is that the ACWS public forum is closed (leaving only the Members Only forum), and replaced by a Facebook group for these types of conversations, so that the conversations, sharing of photos, etc is done in the same place and on behalf of the Society.

What is required is a group of people willing to take part in it, eg share photos, give commentary on events, etc. RWG would direct the technical side in conjunction with our website. He stressed that content is important and required from all members ,which RWG cannot do on his own. It needs all aspects of the Society to be covered, eg youth perspective, infantry perspective, artillery etc. He stated that it would also give the Society power to communicate with potential sponsors, etc. The aim is to create an ACWS community that people can link into. It needs 6-7 people to be authors etc to shape the page , build it up and operate it.

Nathan Parkin offered to help with this.

Carena Parkin sought reassurance about the ‘child safe-ness’ of the networking society.

Glenn Gibson asked RWG for photos and promotional disks to take to possible sponsors for an event he is pursuing. RWG assured him that traditional media is still available and will continue to be. VC to provide.

4.6 Confederate Army Representative : Mr K Holden

KH stated that there was nothing to add to B Brown’s published report.

Glenn Gibson asked about progress on the Roger Zwarycz Trophy. KH confirmed that there is a collection ongoing and this is to be dealt with in the new year.

KH also explained the purpose of Stripes: a morning meeting on the Confederate camp to discuss order of events for the weekend and for any other communications. He also opened it up to Union members for anything that needs to be communicated to Confederates from “the dark side”. PC commented that the Union Army had a similar meeting whenever necessary, but they called it “Stars” .

4.7 Federal Army C.O. : Mr G Holman

Gary Holman stated that there was nothing to add to T Davies’ published report.

John Ewers expressed the feeling that there is a need for more provost guards in Union camp. It was agreed that this is an issue for Federal command to resolve.

4.8 Communications : Mrs V Holt

VH had nothing to add to her published report and there were no questions of her.

4.9 Health & Safety : Mr K Holden

In the absence of T Radcliffe, K Holden stated that he had nothing to add to the published report.

PC congratulated everyone and commended the smooth efficiency of the medics and the safety routines of the Society in respect of Nick Pennock’s fall from his horse at Sheffield. He also gave a reminder to all units to carry out Trade tests at training weekends and get the job done early in the season.

John Filer suggested that there is a real need to train new recruits better in pyrotechnics, ie give demonstrations and H&S brief at the start of season. PC suggested that John or one of his team attend both training camps to do demonstrations.

4.10 Chairman : Mr P Clark

On behalf of MB, PC highlighted the new better website and the need to embrace the modern age.

He stated that there will be no photographic competition this year as no entries have been received.

He re-iterated IM's point that ACWS cannot make a loss for a 3rd year, otherwise the Society as a business will go bust.

He stated that small regimental shows are to be encouraged, put together by units in co-operation with other bits of ACWS to create an appropriate package for the job. The Society must recognise the need for smaller scale events, which are no longer necessarily centralised in terms of projects. However he emphasised that any proposed events must go through Projects and Marketing first.

Motion to adopt the directors' reports

This was proposed by Dave Parkin and seconded by Helen Gibson, and duly voted upon:

	FOR	All present
Proxy votes were	FOR	50
	AGAINST	1
	ABSTENTIONS	2

Motion duly approved.

5. Motion to receive the Audited Accounts

This motion was proposed by Phil Olden and seconded by Paul Edensor and duly voted upon:

	FOR	38
Proxy votes were	FOR	50
	AGAINST	2
	ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion duly approved.

6. Motion to Reappoint Messrs David Carty & Co Chartered Accountants as Auditors

This motion was proposed by Gary Holman, and seconded by Magz McCarroll .

	FOR	38
Proxy votes were	FOR	49
	AGAINST	2
	ABSTENTIONS	2

Motion duly approved.

7. Membership & Registration fees for the 2011 season

This motion as presented by the Board was proposed by Martin Cross and seconded by Gary Holman .

	FOR	all present
Proxy votes were	FOR	48
	AGAINST	2
	ABSTENTIONS	3

Motion duly approved.

8. Election of Board of Directors

There being no desired debate, this motion was proposed by Trevor Stevens and seconded by Darren Bond and duly voted upon:

FOR	36	Proxy votes were	FOR	46
AGAINST	2		AGAINST	6
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion approved. Mr Clark announced his stint as temporary Chairman of the meeting had now come to an end and called upon the newly elected Chairman to take his place.

Denis Jarwick then took his place as Chairman of the Board of Directorsto the applause of the meeting.

9. Re-election of Mr T Davies as Federal Commanding Officer

This was proposed by Gary Holman and seconded by Dave Parkin and duly voted upon by Federal members only:

FOR	21	Proxy votes were	FOR	20
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	8
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion approved.

10. Re-election of Mr B Brown as Confederate Commanding Officer

This motion was proposed by Darren Bond and seconded by Bob Smith and duly voted upon by Confederate members only:

FOR	5	Proxy votes were	FOR	21
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	1
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	0

Mr Bill Brown was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for 2011.

11. Projects Announcements regarding events for 2011

Mrs Corbishley then took the meeting through the 2011 season as negotiated so far.

16th – 17th April – Training weekends CONFIRMED
Union Army – Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Cheshire
Confederate Army – Murton Park, Nr York

23rd – 24th April (Easter weekend) – Promotional event at St Georges Hall, Liverpool
 Activities to commence at 10am each day.
 CONFIRMED

This was a very busy event last year and ACWS were a popular attraction. It is a good venue for promoting the Society and recruiting. Both blue and grey volunteers needed, each day, probably from the north west. PC dealing with the co-ordination

28th – 30th May (Spring Bank Holiday) – Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Cheshire. Camping Friday to Tuesday. Living History Saturday; battles Sunday and Monday CONFIRMED

REVIEW OF THE YEAR



DANCE 2010



Thanks go to Kevin Wolf and Jayne Olden for the use of the photos in this edition.

SHEFFIELD



TATTON &
ROCKINGHAM



9th – 10th July – Nantwich Family Fun Day, Barony Park, Nantwich, Cheshire **CONFIRMED**
Full Society event.

20th – 21st August – Spetchley Park, Spetchley, Worcester
POSSIBLE
Negotiations ongoing, but there is a need to be sure of receiving a fee.
Awaiting agreement.

27th – 29th August – Norfolk Park, Sheffield **UNCONFIRMED**
Organisers of this event still do not know if it is taking place. Depends on Sheffield City Council.

17th – 18th September – Ingleton, North Yorkshire
CONFIRMED

VC added that she is continuing to try to secure more events for the season, but felt that the listed events so far was quite an achievement from a standing start when she took over in September.

Angela Cross pointed out that smaller regimental events could actually have more impact if there are more events going on in several places across the country than if the whole Society is all in one place. RWG offered help to any regiments with applying for Awards For All Lottery grants if money is required to stage an event.

John Ewers suggested that Pontins' new owners may be interested in hosting ACWS. VC will consider.

MC/VC reminded everyone that if small events do take place using black powder, a licence is necessary. A COER is needed for any event using powder, obtained from the Police HQ Firearms Unit for that area, applying at least 3 months prior to the date. Regiments must get such a licence and confirm ACWS insurance cover with Treasurer and Projects Director. It is recommended that anyone considering hosting a regimental event contact MC first for advice. Even for Living History only, ACWS insurance is required, so contact Projects first for risk assessment, insurance documents etc.

RWG re-iterated that the rule of thumb is to contact Projects or any other Board member first for advice, guidance and help, but ACWS Board must know about all events which take place.

12. Any Other Business

a) Darren Bond made the point that old-style re-enacting is not good enough any more, and that he has already posted some new ideas on the forum. He stressed that we have to give the public more to look at and give narrators like Christian Sprakes more to commentate on. He suggested that we also need to re-think Living History – think outside the box, eg. Have a rolling programme in a dedicated arena between the two camps, demonstrating all aspects of the ACW. He believes that we also need to consider shorter, more focussed battles and avoid ending every battle with a firing display.

RWG expressed his support for all these ideas, but stated that in practice it doesn't happen because plans get changed on arrival on site. Each event needs one co-ordinator to ensure that the rolling programmes etc get done, and there is already great difficulty in getting volunteers for anything.

Glenn Gibson agreed that we need to change Living History to more interesting scenarios, rather than just sitting in awnings.

Kevin Holden supported the idea of new scenarios, but recommended Darren's idea that these things take place in a designated area so that the public know that something will be going on all day.

Denis Jarwick emphasised that ACWS must take on profitable events. He recognised that there is a wealth of good experience amongst the membership who should get together and agree on some new ideas to create change. This needs to happen from the Officers down - and from the members upwards. It is down to each individual to support the Society as best as possible.

Darren and Glenn volunteered to take these ideas and drive them forward at the first event.

- b) Martin Cross announced that £46.45 had been raised by the membership through USCC in aid of Help for Heroes.
- c) Phil Olden expressed his displeasure at the people who bad-mouthed the venue for this year's AGM and Dance. VC proposed a vote of thanks to the Oldens for their hard work in organising the event.
- d) Gary Holman announced that the Graham Forbes Trophy was not awarded this year.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 3.02 pm.



**PROJECTS
REPORT**

Unfortunately there will not be a projects report in this newsletter. Viv has been struck down with the "Dreaded Lurgy" (Swine Flu), and has been unable to put pen to paper, or finger to keyboard.

She does assure me that she still has things in hand and will be taking charge trying to secure events for the season when she has recovered. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

Il am sure I speak for all of us when I say Get Well Soon Viv.

Editor



**MAMA'S
MUTTERINGS**

A belated Happy New Year to everyone.

The Projects team are working hard on your behalf trying to get events for you to enjoy. This year will be a tough year, as the cuts bite deeply. So please support the society as much as you can through these hard times. This issue has a copy of the AGM minutes for those of you who were snowed in and could not attend. A good time was had by all of those attended the dance. I apologise to the Ladies as this issue has been restricted to 28 pages to help cut costs, I could not include the Ladies page. I promise to include one in the next issue.

Snowball Fight

The following is an after action report of a snowball fight between the Third & Fourth Vermont and the Twenty-sixth New Jersey. Black eyes, bloody noses and all!

A snowball Battle - A soldier of one of the New Jersey regiment writes as follows:

"You are probably aware that the Second Brigade of this division consists of four Vermont regiments, besides the Twenty-sixth. During the late heavy fall of snow, the Vermonters twice made an attack on the encampment of the Twenty-sixth, sending a perfect shower of snow balls at the head of every luckless Jerseyman who made his appearance without his tent. The first attack was a complete surprise to us; but we essayed a sally from the camp, and drove the attacking party back to their reserves. Being heavily re-enforced, they charged on us again, and after a desperate resistance we were driven back into camp, fighting absolutely from the shelter of our tents until darkness put an end to the contest. Our casualties were quite heavy, but those of the enemy, it is thought, exceeded ours. A few days afterwards the attack was renewed, but we took up a strong position on a hill in the rear of the camp and repulsed every assault of the foe. The snow crimsomed with blood issuing from the olfactory organs of the Vermonters, and the appearance of the battle-field indicated the fierce nature of the contest. The enemy raised a flag of truce, an armistice of a few hours was concluded, and then ensued that novel spectacle of war - men, who but a few

minutes previous were engaged in one of the most sanguinary battles of modern times, harmonizing and fraternizing with clasped hands.

"But the matter did not rest. The night of the 24th had enveloped terra firma with its dusky shades. Many a waxen nose in the camps of the Second brigade snored sonorously, happily unconscious of its ruby discoloration on the morrow. Many an eye placidly closed in slumber was to be violently closed in battle ere the approach of another nightfall. And many a phrenological bump sparsely developed on the night in question was



to be suddenly brought to an age of puberty on the approaching day. The eventful morning opened. Colonel Morrison sent a challenge to Colonel Seaver of the Third Vermont to engage in the open field at three o'clock P.M. The challenge was accepted, on the condition that the Fourth Vermont should be included with the Third. This was agreed to by the Colonel. Before the appointed time some of our men were detailed on fatigue duty, and at the time of the engagement we were only able to muster some three hundred men.

"Nothing daunted by the superiority of numbers, Colonel Morrison ordered Lieutenant McCleese of Company C

(Captain Pemberton being sick) to fortify a small hill on our right, make as much ammunition as possible, and pile the snow balls in pyramids. This arduous duty was hastily performed. It was a strong position, a swollen brook at its base answering the purpose of a moat - too strong, in fact, for the Vermonters. The hills were covered with spectators, and the eagerness to witness the novel contest knew no bounds. Companies A and B were thrown out as skirmishers. Company E occupied the right, C was given the centre, and H rested on the left. The Colonel dashed over the field in all directions, encouraging the men to stand fast, amid the blue wreaths curling from a 'brier wood' nonchalantly held in his left hand, and the Adjutant danced about on a spirited charger, apparently impatiently awaiting the hour of contest, the light of battle dilating within his eyes, and a quid of 'navy plug' reposing beneath his cheek. Lieutenant Woods, of the ambulance corps, and Lieutenant — acted as mounted aids to the Colonel, while the 'Sergeant' and John K. Shaw, an aspiring Newark youth of eighteen, acted as perambulating aids. The line being formed and everything in readiness for the contest, a red flag was raised as a signal, and in a breath of time a strong body of the enemy drove in our skirmishers, and fiercely attacked our centre. At the same moment another strong force advanced against our right, but only as a feint; for they suddenly wheeled to the right, and joined their comrades in a furious charge on our centre. Major Morris ordered up Company E from our right, but too late to be of any advantage, and they were completely cut off from the main body of our army.

Although flanked and pressed in front by overwhelming numbers, our centre heroically contested the advance of the enemy. Animated by the presence of the Colonel, they fought like veterans, and the white snowballs eddied through the air like popping corn from a frying pan. But the human endurance to stand such a perfect feu d'enfer any longer. Gradually the centre fell back inch by inch, the line then wavered to and fro, and finally the men broke in confusion and rolled down the hill followed by the victorious Vermonters. In vain the Colonel breasted the torrent; in vain the Major urged the men to stand fast; in vain the Adjutant White, the chivalric De Bayard of the Twenty-sixth, implore the gods for aid.

"The boys never rallied. Lieutenant Woods made an attempt to rally them and form them in hollow square on the fortified hill to the right, but he was mistaken by the boys for a Vermonter, and unceremoniously pelted from their midst. But the Colonel was not totally deserted by his men. The Vermonters seized his horse by the bridle, and made a desperate attempt to take him prisoner. The fight at this point was terrific beyond description. The men fought hand to hand. Colonel Seaver, the Achilles of the day, dashed through the combatants, seized Colonel Morrison by the shoulder, and called upon him to surrender. But his demand was choked by the incessant patter of snow-balls on his 'physog.' Around the rival chieftains the men

struggled fearfully; there was the auburn-haired Hodge, alias 'Wild Dutchmen' fighting manfully. There was the fierce Teuton Captain of Company E, dropping the foe right and

left at every swing of his arms; but all in vain. Amid the wild excitement consequent upon the shouting, the rearing, and plunging of horses, the Colonel was drawn from his saddle and taken by the enemy. Most of his 'staff' followed him as prisoners. A desperate attempt was made to rescue him, but it proved of no avail. Major Morris fared no better. Adjutant White, however, made a bold attempt to retrieve the fortunes of the day. Dashing into the dense ranks of the foe, he seized the bridle of Colonel Stoughton's Bucephalus, and gallantly attempted the impossibility of capturing the Colonel, who was the acting Brigadier of the attacking party. But the adjutant had 'caught Tartar,' for the Vermonters rushed around him like the waves beating upon some lone rock in the ocean, and vainly clamoured for his surrender. He fought like an Ajax mounted on a 'Black Bass', retaining his position in the saddle by resting his knees against the pommel. This was at last observed by a shrewd Yankee, who detoxously slipped between the two horses, detached the supporting knee, and the Adjutant fell from his lofty position like a tornado-stricken oak. This fall disheartened the Twenty-sixth, and only detached parties of a dozen, scattered over the field, persisted in an obstinate resistance. The 'Sergeant' received a solid shot in the back of the head, and was borne to the rear a captive, and then

'The bugles sang truce.'

"Thus ended the great battle of Fairview; unequalled in desperateness, and the theme of many a future poet's cogitations. Our loss was very heavy, and we were

severely defeated. The spectators, acting on the well-known principle of kicking a man when he is down, pitched into us most unmercifully when our centre was broken, and prevented us from re-forming in line of battle. The slaughter of the enemy was fearful, and the prowess of the Newark ball players and fireman was displayed on their battered visages. Colonel Stoughton was honoured with a black eye, and the gallant Seaver fared but little better. The following is a fair recapitulation of the casualties on both sides:

"Bloody noses, fifty-three; bunged peppers, eighty-one; extraordinary phrenological developments, twenty-nine; shot in the neck after the engagement, unknown.

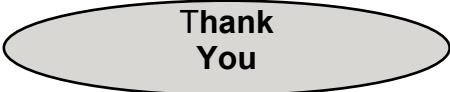
"The Vermonters fought with the determined energy characterizing them when engaging Jeff's myrmidons."

p. 310-311

The Civil War in Song & Story

by Frank Moore

P. F. Collier, Publisher [1889]



**Thank
You**

Linda Calligan would like to thank everyone who sent her cards, flowers, gifts and good wishes during her recent illness.

All your ACWS friends wish you well
Linda and hope to see you soon.

The Siege Of Petersburg

Petersburg in Virginia came under attack during the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign (June 1864-March 1865)

On June 9, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler dispatched about 4,500 cavalry and infantry against the 2,500 Confederate defenders of Petersburg.

While Butler's infantry demonstrated against the outer line of entrenchments east of Petersburg, Kautz's cavalry division attempted to enter the city from the south via the Jerusalem Plank Road

but was repulsed by Home Guards. Afterwards, Butler withdrew. This was called the "battle of old men and young boys" by local residents. On June 14-17, the Army of the Potomac crossed the James River and began moving towards Petersburg to support and renew Butler's assaults

Marching from Cold Harbour, Meade's Army of the Potomac

crossed the James River on transports On June 15th 1864 and a 2,200-foot long pontoon bridge at Windmill Point. Butler's leading elements (XVIII Corps and Kautz's cavalry) crossed the Appomattox River at Windmill Point and attacked the Petersburg defences on June 15. The 5,400 defenders of Petersburg under command of Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard were driven from their first line of



Soldiers in the trenches before battle, Petersburg, Va., 1865

entrenchments back to Harrison Creek. After dark the XVIII Corps was relieved by the II Corps. On June 16, the II Corps captured another section of the Confederate line; on the 17th, the IX Corps gained more ground. Beauregard stripped the Howlett Line (Bermuda Hundred) to defend the city, and Lee rushed reinforcements to Petersburg from

the Army of Northern Virginia. The II, XI, and V Corps from right to left attacked on June 18 but was repulsed with heavy casualties. By now the Confederate works were heavily manned and the greatest opportunity to capture Petersburg without a siege was lost. The siege of Petersburg began. Union Gen. James St. Clair Morton, chief engineer of the IX Corps, was killed on June 17.

Appomattox Campaign (March-April 1865)

With Confederate defeat at Five Forks on April 1, Grant and Meade ordered a general assault against the Petersburg lines by II, IX, VI and XXIV Corps on April 2. A heroic defence of Fort Gregg by a handful of Confederates prevented the Federals from entering the city that night. Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill was killed trying to reach his troops in the confusion. After dark, Lee ordered the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond. Grant had achieved one of the major military objectives of the war: the capture of Petersburg, which led to the fall of Richmond, the Capitol of the Confederacy.

Battle of Little Blue River Missouri

Maj. Gen. Stirling Price's march along the Missouri River was slow, providing the Yankees a chance to concentrate. Maj. Gen.

William S. Rosecrans commanding the Department of the Missouri, proposed a pincer movement to trap Price and his army, but he was unable to communicate with Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, commander of the Department of Kansas, to formalize the plan. Curtis was having problems because many of his troops were Kansas militia and they refused to enter Missouri, but a force of about 2,000 men under the command of Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt did set out for Lexington. He met the Confederate troops at Lexington on the 19th, slowed their progress, but was defeated and retreated. On the 20th, Blunt's troops arrived on the Little Blue River, eight miles east of Independence. The Union force prepared to engage the Confederates again in a strong defensive position on the west bank. Curtis, however, ordered Blunt into Independence while leaving a small force, under Col. Thomas Moonlight, on the Little Blue. The next day, Curtis ordered Blunt to take all of the volunteers and return to the Little Blue. As he neared the stream, he discovered that Moonlight's small force had burned the bridge as ordered, engaged the enemy, and retreated away from the strong defensive position occupied the day before, crossing the river. Blunt entered the fray and attempted to drive the enemy back beyond the defensive position that he wished to reoccupy.

The Yankees forced the Confederates to fall back, at first, but their numerical superiority took its toll in the five-hour battle. The Federals retreated to Independence and went into camp there after dark. Once again, the Confederates had been slowed and more Union reinforcements were arriving.

Washington, A Capital Without Defences

With the outbreak of the American Civil War, Washington, DC turned into the training ground, arsenal, supply depot, and nerve centre for the Union cause. Newly formed regiments encamped in every quarter, and streets reverberated under the wheels of cannons. Cattle for meat grazed on the National Mall; sacks of flour, stacked against siege, surrounded the U.S. Treasury. To protect the city and vital supply routes from enemy hands, Union armies built a ring of earthen fortifications.

In the spring of 1861 the city lay open to attack by states that withdrew from the Union. Virginia, just across the Potomac, seceded in April. Maryland, a slave state, had many southern sympathizers. They answered President Lincoln's call for volunteers by burning bridges and tearing tracks to prevent Union soldiers from reaching the capital. In spite of hostile acts, enough regiments

arrived to seize and fortify footholds across the river in Virginia, occupying points from below Alexandria to hills above Chain Bridge, including the Arlington plantation of the Robert E. Lee family. This move placed offices of the federal government beyond the reach of Confederate cannons.

When the Civil War began, only one fortification existed for the capital's defence: Outmoded Fort Washington, nearly 12 miles down the Potomac, built to guard against enemy ships following the War of 1812. It took the rout of federal forces at Manassas in July 1861 to reveal how truly vulnerable the city was. Taking command of and reorganizing the Army of the Potomac, Major General George B. McClellan appointed Major (later brevet major general) John G. Barnard of the Corps of Engineers to build many new forts.

Selecting sites a few miles outside the city limits, Barnard's engineers picked high points that overlooked major turnpikes, railroads, and shipping lanes. Natural fords upriver from the city, allowing the enemy to cross the Potomac during low water, spurred the building of more forts and batteries. Rifle pits filled the gaps. By spring 1865, the defence system totalled 68 forts and 93 batteries with 807 cannons and 98 mortars in place. Twenty miles of rifle trenches flanked the bristling strongholds, joined by more than 30 miles of military roads

over which companies of soldiers and guns could move as reinforcements. Washington had become the most heavily fortified city in the world.

Fort construction plans followed the standard treatise on field fortifications, though no two forts were exactly alike. Labourers piled up earthworks so that parapets 12 to 18-feet thick faced exposed fronts. Within the ramparts, field and siege guns were mounted on platforms to lay down a wide angle of fire. Outside the earthworks, a steep slope led down to a dry moat. Beyond this ditch, felled trees in front with sharpened branches pointing outward (called an abatis) ringed the fort. Work parties cleared all brush and trees in front of the fort for up to two miles, leaving no cover.

Inside the fort a rounded structure of heavy timbers heaped with 10 or more feet of rammed earth formed the magazine for storing ammunition and kegs of gunpowder. The bombproof, a longer mound, sheltered gun crews and officers. Often the bomb proof's dirt covering was notched to make a bench from which rifleman could fire. Every fort had a well or spring for clean water and a flagstaff to fly the Union colours. The entrance was called the sally port.

The effort to protect the capital continued throughout the war. At first, companies of soldiers worked on the defences before being called

to drill and prepare for battle. Later hired labourers--carpenters, teamsters, blacksmiths, and others--made up the work crews. Of the thousands of contrabands--fugitives from slavery--that took refuge in the city, hundreds laboured on fortifications and served the garrisons. "None need be idle," reported the *Anglo-African* newspaper.

Life for enlisted men in the forts began at dawn. Drill, repairs, duties, parades, and inspection consumed the day. "The time passed pleasantly enough," wrote one soldier, spared from hardships in the field.

More Little know facts about the Civil War

Approximately 2,000 men served in the 26th North Carolina Regiment during the course of the Civil War. With Lee's surrender at the Appomattox courthouse, there were only 131 men left to receive their paroles.

Artillery was used extensively, but only about 10 percent of the wounded were the victims of artillery fire.

Besides the rifle and cannon, weapons consisted of revolvers, swords, cutlasses, hand grenades, Greek fire and land mines.

TENNESSEE STITCHERS



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

DERAN BEATTIE
AND LESLEY BUSSEY
E-MAIL:

TENNSTITCH@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE: DERAN ON
01480-455828



West Point Albion Small Arms

(Trading as West Point ASA)



RFD 1951 West Midlands

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

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

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



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

E-mail address Editor@acws.co.uk or send to
PO Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ
Web Site: - <http://www.acws.co.uk>

Copy date for the Next Issue will be 31st March 2011 for the next issue

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

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALL ARTICLES

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



EVENTS CALENDAR 2011

16th – 17th April – Training weekends
CONFIRMED

Union Army – Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Cheshire

Confederate Army – Murton Park, Nr York

23rd – 24th April (Easter weekend) – Promotional event at St Georges Hall, Liverpool. Activities to commence at 10am each day. CONFIRMED

28th – 30th May (Spring Bank Holiday) – Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Cheshire. Camping Friday to Tuesday. Living History Saturday; battles Sunday and Monday
CONFIRMED

20th – 21st August – Spetchley Park, Spetchley, Worcester
POSSIBLE

27th – 29th August – Norfolk Park, Sheffield
UNCONFIRMED

17th – 18th September – Ingleton, North Yorkshire
CONFIRMED