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

### **2011 Spring Edition**



The Sunken Road At Antietam

**Issue 160**

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

## Interesting Kin Folks In The Civil War

Kentucky was the scene of many family splits. Other than the Crittendens, who had a major general on either side, one of the best illustrations of the divisions caused by the war is the Buford family. General John Buford's wife Martha McDowell Duke Buford was an excellent example of this fact. She was a first cousin of the famed Confederate raider, Gen. Basil W. Duke, with whom she was raised. She was also a second cousin of Federal Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell.

Martha McDowell Duke Buford (known as Pattie) was also the granddaughter of the youngest sister of Chief Justice John Marshall. This means that she was closely related to Thomas Jefferson and all of the Virginia Randolphs. Among her cousins were Col. Thomas C. Marshall, commander of the 7th Virginia Cavalry, of the Laurel Brigade, and Col. James K. Marshall, of the 52nd North Carolina Infantry, who was KIA in Pickett's Charge. Finally, her maternal grandfather was a man named Col. Abraham Buford, a Revolutionary War hero. Col. Buford had a brother named Simeon.

Simeon and Abraham started the horse racing industry in Kentucky.

Then Simeon had several sons, including one named John Buford, Sr. That means that John Buford and his wife were third cousins. Another of Simeon's sons was the father of Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford, who commanded a division of cavalry under Forrest. Finally, another of the Bufords was married to Jubal Early's grandfather. This means that John Buford and Jubal Early were fourth cousins, although I suspect that they might not have known that. Finally, John had a half brother named Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, who was a major general in the Western Theatre whom Grant hated intensely.

Part of the Brandy Station battlefield is a small town called Stevensburg. Of course, John Buford made a great portion of his fame at Brandy Station, even though his division was not in the fighting at Stevensburg. The main road that runs through the Stevensburg battlefield is called Kirtley Road. The Buford relative that was married to Old Jubalee's grandfather was named Margaret Kirtley, whose mother's maiden name was Buford. The Earlys came from that part of Culpeper County, Virginia. How's that for an interesting tidbit?

### Did You Know?

Did you know that President Lincoln had a mild form smallpox (varioid) while he gave the Gettysburg Address. On the train back to Washington he quipped, "Now I have something that I can give everybody."



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I mentioned in my last Chairman's report that the coming season would be an extremely challenging one-not only in terms of arranging paying/profitable events-but also of the need for change in how we portray our hobby, in order to attract new sponsors and members so as to move the society forward. In April there are training weekends for both Confederate and Union at Murton Park and Tatton Old Hall respectively, where, hopefully, the many interesting and innovative ideas put forward at our last AGM and as discussion topics on the forum can be implemented.

At the beginning of the year our events calendar looked very sparse, however thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Projects Team, Viv Corbishley, and others organising Regimental events- this situation has been vastly improved.

The Society is always eager to encourage individual regiments-where practicable to arrange their own events so as to not only publicise our hobby to the wider public, but also to increase revenue to those events and the society in general.

This year, as I am sure you are all aware, is the sesquicentennial commemoration of the commencement of the Civil War in

April 1861. This gives us, in my opinion, a unique opportunity to engage, and hopefully educate the public (and ourselves) in the history of the Civil War and its connection to England. By actively engaging with the public in an informative and courteous way we can advance both their and ours knowledge and give greater kudos to our hobby.

In these difficult economic times in relation to employment petrol costs transportation etc there will be times when it may be impossible for members to attend particular events-after all this is only a hobby and, at the end of the day, does not come before relationships, employment or other personal issues which may arise unexpectedly. I can only ask all members of the society to endeavour to attend as many Society (and Regimental) events as is possible and practicable. I sincerely hope that we all have an enjoyable and successful season.

Denis Jarwick  
Chairman ACWS.

## **A.G.M.**

### **CHANGE OF DATE**

Would all members please note that the date of the A.G.M. has been rearranged. It will now take place on Saturday 3rd December 2011 at the Nautical Club in Birmingham. The room is available from 12 noon ready for a prompt 13:00 start.

There will be no dance this year.



## Secretary's Report

Greetings!

Well, after having to make a 'standing start' (virtually) last September, Aunty Viv has pulled a few rabbits out of the hat and you now have a pretty decent programme of events for 2011. Well done Viv, and all who helped her achieve these aims.

I know times are hard and there's not a lot of money about, but do please do your best to come to as many events as you can. Each year a lot of you re-join early in the year – excellent – but also a lot of you wait until the first event to put your forms in. Frankly, this puzzles me. Why wait? Anyway, however you do it, would those of you who have not yet rejoined please do so as soon as possible, if not at the Training Weekends, then certainly at the first main event at Tatton Old Hall, Knutsford on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May Bank Holiday (for details, see events list).

The only gap in the events is June so, this month for the family holiday perhaps?! It's usually VERY difficult to get an event for that month – organisers tend to go for when the kids are on their Summer Holidays. We used to fill it with Stanford Hall, but we're not any more, because that became a fiasco and cost us far too much money. In the current economic climate everybody has to cut their cloth according to their pocket: ACWS is no exception. Your Board has had

to decide NO MORE LOSS MAKING EVENTS (otherwise we go 'bust', due to Sponsors not being as generous with their fees and being harder to come by, so no more spare cash in the system to support 'lost leaders'). Likewise, we have had to temporarily 'mothball' one set of artillery because (a) sponsors currently won't pay for more than 4 guns at an event and (b) the cost of maintenance and running costs for two vans and trailer / gun sets is becoming prohibitive. NO problem: usually two guns go to one side and two to the other. After all, they are all our Society guns (NOT "theirs" and "ours"!).

Come the day somebody wants to hire 8 guns, we can pop them out, like the proverbial rabbit from the hat.

Meanwhile I know Aunty Viv will be working very hard with her team to get us a cracker of a season for 2012, now that she has time to plan and negotiate ahead. Lets hope the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee do not blow us off course "in the events market". Let's wait and see.

And now a word about filming companies. Our experience is often that its all last minute and they change their minds every 3 hours. We once did a wonderful filming weekend at Weston Park, but these engagements are few and far between. However, there are a lot of marginal production companies who "try it on". ACWS is very happy to be paid "a fair crust" for doing a good job. What we will NOT do is be used as dummies, and supply services for no remuneration (= a cost to us!). I know an Insurance Broker who now only sends temporary short-

term cover notes (until he gets the premium paid) because some film companies were getting the insurance documents and then not paying the premium for the cover. I know of another re-enactment group who have been messed about recently, just as we were over the filming in North Wales. These things seem to happen often. Therefore, would Members please leave it to Roger Willison-Gray, our “Mr Marketing”, to deal with these “luvvie” types. Please do not offer your services separately as a unit or as individuals. I have no idea if you are covered by insurance if you do this and, even though filming might be seen as “exciting” (no matter how long you have to hang around for a take) your intellectual property rights no doubt won’t be protected and you’re only helping the film company get something for nothing. As soon as our offer was rejected over this filming (they just walked away) their production assistant was onto the Internet begging for spare uniforms without explicitly saying they were for body-actors to have charges fired on them to show bullet strike i.e. the uniforms were going to have holes blown in them. ACWS is happy to do a fair days work for a fair days pay – but NOT to be ripped off. Anymore film company trawls like this – just please send it all straight to Roger Willison-Gray to deal with. Don’t rise to the bait!!

Within ACWS, not everybody wears blue or grey/butternut : now that we are a “multi-cultural society”, we also have RED jackets too, from both Crimean and AWI Wars. Let’s make the most of what this wonderful Society has to offer, and we even have the

possibility of Victorian Artillery and multi-period Cavalry. It’s all part of ONE Society. Thus we can offer our own, internal mini multi-period event! Do I even see some Boers lurking behind that hedge at Kelmash? We also have a lot of ingenuity and fertile imaginations (for example, those doing ultra-authentic living history and also our Naval Impression etc. etc.). I love ACWS and what it can do. Keep up the good work, folks. Its excellent fun and very impressive. So, get those re-join for 2011 forms in and keep on recruiting – the more the merrier!

All the best to you all and see you at the next event.

Philip Clark  
Your Secretary

### **More Curious Facts**

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the discarded rifles were collected and sent to Washington to be inspected and reissued. Of the 37,574 rifles recovered, approximately 24,000 were still loaded; 6,000 had one round in the barrel; 12,000 had two rounds in the barrel; 6,000 had three to ten rounds in the barrel. One rifle, the most remarkable of all, had been stuffed to the top with twenty-three rounds in the barrel.

The first U. S. Naval hospital ship, the Red Rover, was used on the inland waters during the Vicksburg campaign.

Eighty percent of all wounds during the Civil War were in the extremities.

The first organized ambulance corps were used in the Peninsular campaign and at Antietam

## “Rupert Vincent, I Presume?”

We have all heard of the exploits of Henry Morton Stanley\*, the Welshman who fought for both sides and served in both armed services of the protagonists of the Civil War; and then went on to become a Member of Parliament here in the U.K., as well as nipping over to Africa to find the ‘lost’ David Livingstone.

I have recently found references to the involvement of David Livingstone’s son, Robert, in the conflict, and would like to bring it to the attention of members for possible further research in these dark winter days.

Robert was born on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1846 whilst his mother, Mary, who was the daughter of David’s fellow missionary colleague, was in Africa with David. Robert’s early years were spent on mission stations with his other siblings but were returned subsequently returned to the U.K. to live with their aunt. Mary died on 27 April 1862 in Portuguese Africa, and this proved a turning point in Robert’s life.

The teenager decided to return to South Africa and managed to reach Durban, where he received a letter from his father forbidding him to remain in Africa and further, not to join with him in his missions. The boy then found his way to Cape Town where, penniless by now, somehow procured a ship to the U.S., landing in Boston. Presumably trying to find a way of providing for himself, and without funds, he joined, or was persuaded to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> New Hampshire Volunteer Regiment.

As a member of Company H, in 1863 it is quite likely that he took part in the first assault on Battery Wagner 10 – 13<sup>th</sup> July, and even the second assault on 18<sup>th</sup> July. In the spring of 1864, the 3<sup>rd</sup> were allocated to X Corps – the Army of the James and found service in Virginia. They were at the battle of Drewry’s Bluff 10<sup>th</sup> May 1864 and later on, on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, at Deep Bottom, after which they were most likely in and around the trenches in the siege of Richmond.

There is now some dispute about the next few months. Robert, who had enlisted under the name of “Rupert Vincent”, may have been wounded and captured at Laurel Hill, Va., or elsewhere around Richmond. He was taken to Salisbury Prisoner of War camp in North Carolina.

Salisbury was like most other prison camps: overcrowded, unsanitary and a place of despondency. It was originally a cotton mill and designated to take in 2,500 prisoners; by November 1864 there were 8740 inmates. On the 25<sup>th</sup> November, there was an attempt by the prisoners to stage a mass break out.

Several hundred men – whether Rupert was able to take part is debatable, if he had been previously wounded – but as the rush for freedom made for the gates, the guards were able to fire the gate cannon three times killing 65 of the mob. If Rupert was involved – and this is the common view – and wounded in this attempt, then he survived until his death on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Dead were usually collected each day at 2p.m. for burial in one of the cornfields near to the camp, and interred in one or other of the burial

trenches dug for the purpose. Rupert was laid to rest in one of these. We now know that one of the world's most famous moments is also linked to one of America's most memorable times. If you can add further details to this, then I'm sure that it will become yet another remarkable "Did you know...." talking point about the Civil War.

Submitted by  
Mike Crump

Private 19<sup>th</sup> Foot Crimean  
Civilian ACWS

\*If not, John Overton will very kindly appraise you of the details!

## Union Troops Caught by Surprise at Ball's Bluff

The Battle of Ball's Bluff, initiated by a telegram from Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, commander of U.S. armies in the Washington area, to Maj. Gen. George P. Stone, commander of troops along the Potomac River in Maryland.

McClellan told Stone to "keep a good lookout upon Leesburg, to see if this movement has the effect to drive them away. Perhaps a slight demonstration on your part would have the effect to move them." Leesburg was the Union destination because it was a transportation hub. There, two of Northern Virginia's main roads crossed. The town also was the western terminus of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad line, now the Washington & Old Dominion Trail.

Of further import, if Leesburg was captured, the Confederate perimeters

southeast of town would likely be abandoned for fear of a Union flanking movement from the northwest. Leesburg also had propaganda value, besides having the Lee family name indelibly linked to it. The town was the home of John Janney, and northern newspaper reporters were eager to interview him. Janney had been elected president of the 1861 Virginia Convention, which to secede from the Union. Although Janney then handed Robert E. Lee his sword and commission to lead the commonwealth's armies, he had voted against secession. In 1861, there was



only one detailed map of the Leesburg area, which had been drawn in 1852 by Loudoun County's Yardley Taylor. It showed a road leading from the Potomac River to Leesburg, 2 1/2 miles away, but it showed no bluff by the river. In reality, there was a very steep bluff, 80 to 100 feet high, and the beach by the swift-flowing river channel was a narrow one. Two companies of Minnesota troops had scaled the bluff

the night of Oct. 20, but if they did note its precipitous slope, their climb was secondary to the Confederate cannon they thought they saw -- in reality "cut cedars, their centres painted black," according to Helmi Carr, widow of the great-grandson of Minnesota scout Pelig Carr. They were lying atop a large Confederate fortification named Fort Evans for the Confederate commander, Nathan "Shanks" Evans.

"Inside the fort they had many torches burning," Helmi Carr said, "so they would think the fort full of troops. But there were only a few soldiers inside." Her late husband, Lester Carr, had visited Fort Evans in the late 1940s because his great-grandfather Pelig Carr was one of the Minnesota scouts, and Lester had heard the story of his manoeuvres told many times. In the 1950s, intrigued by the coincidence that Fort Evans was for sale, the Carrs bought the vast earthen star fort, which still stands in almost pristine condition, and they built a home right next to it.

Pelig Carr and his fellow scouts mentioned the fort to Stone, but as the redoubt was 1 1/2 miles from the Federals' projected landing place; Stone did not worry about its presence. During the battle, Fort Evans served as the headquarters of Gen. Evans, who did not once venture upon the field of fighting. Fellow officer Col. Eppa Hunton, of Fauquier County, noted "he was drinking freely during the day." Liquor was the bane of many an officer. An unknown diarist and veteran of Ball's Bluff said one Confederate officer was so drunk that he rode up to a Union detachment and ordered them to attack his fellow Southerners. The Yankees, "thinking [he] was one of their own officers, obeyed, and in the resulting attack quite a number [of Confederates] were killed

Numerous Union soldiers were massacred retreating down the bluff and while trying to swim in battle garb. Others drowned, and for the next few weeks, bodies were fished from the Potomac, some as far downriver as Fort Washington, 50 miles distant.

Of Union survivors, Leesburg teenager Virginia Miller wrote in her diary: "We saw several wounded . . . frightfully . . . with the blood streaming from his face, from a terrible wound in the head, some with arms and legs wounded and another with his jaw bone crushed. Oh, it was terrible and we were in a state of great suspense and excitement, but had no idea of what a battle was being fought so near us. . . . The musketry was perfectly terrific and we could plainly see the smoke and the dead and wounded of our men and the enemy rapidly increased. It was very mournful to see the ambulances with the yellow flags, coming and going all the time."

The hundreds of enlisted Union prisoners were herded onto the courthouse green at Leesburg. Union reaction was sombre. Col. Edward D. Baker, a leader of the Union assault and Oregon's first U.S. senator, was killed late in the battle. President Lincoln, who had known Baker since 1835 and had named his second son, Edward, in Baker's honour, had picnicked with Baker on Oct. 20, the day before the battle. Now, on Oct. 22, the president was in mourning and received no White House visitors.

McClellan became the scapegoat, but he blamed his superior, aging Gen. Winfield Scott, a hero of the U.S.-Mexican War. Suspicions then fell on Stone, who was imprisoned for 189 days without charges presented against him. After his release, he never

again held a responsible position in the U.S. military. At the battlefield next March, when Federal armies occupied Leesburg, a Michigan detachment rode to Ball's Bluff, the New York Times noted, "and buried the whitened bones of the brave Union soldiers who fell on that field on October last." Union Col. James More's words were more graphic. He wrote, "No kindly feeling seems to have actuated those living in the vicinity to care for the dead, and after they were permitted to lie for days, exposed to the ravages of animals, were only coffered with earth when the air became foetid with the odour from the bodies."



More's men gathered up more remains in December 1865 and buried them on the bluff in 25 graves forming a circle -- the typical way of interring unknown soldiers in the South. That month, the circle became today's Ball's Bluff National Cemetery.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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



## PROJECT DIRECTORS REPORT

I hope you all enjoyed your Training weekend and trust that you are all now in fine fettle for the season. I think I have managed to pull a good season together albeit all in the North, makes a change doesn't it? So here it is as follows:-

**May 27<sup>th</sup>. – 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**TATTON OLD HALL, TATTON PARK, KNUTSFORD, CHESHIRE WA16 6QN.**

Please do not arrive before 2.30pm on the Friday as they have a school party in until then. Saturday is a free day. Sunday and Monday Living History and battles 2.30pm. For anyone who has not been here before, it is a beautiful site in the huge grounds of the Tatton Park mansion and well worth going. Camping is available until Monday 1.00pm. **Full society event.** Registration fee £6

**July 1<sup>st</sup>. – 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**CUSWORTH HALL, CUSWORTH LANE, DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE DN5 7TU**

Another visit to this wonderful site, where a visit round the house is a must. Arrival anytime after 1.00pm on the Friday. Living history 10.10 – 5.00 Saturday and Sunday with the battles both days at 2.30pm. My thanks to Christian Sprakes for persuading the management to have us back again, with the regimental event in May as a taster of things to come. The Cavalry are joining us for the weekend albeit at their own expense. Camping available until Monday. **Full society event.** Registration fee £6

**July 29<sup>th</sup>. – 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**HULL VETERANS WEEKEND, EAST PARK, HOLDERNESS ROAD, HULL HU8 8JU**

This is a new venture for us, a Multi period event similar to Sheffield. Camping from Friday lunchtime until Monday. Living history Saturday and Sunday. Battles both days at a time to be advised. The sponsor has heard some good reports about us so lets show them what we can do. My thanks go to Goober and Denis for passing this lead on to me. **Full society event.** Registration fee £6

**August 19<sup>th</sup>. – 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**SPETCHLEY PARK AND GARDENS, SPETCHLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE WR5 1RS**

We had quite a reasonable turnout at this event last year and it would be nice if you could support it again this year. This is an event put on by re-enactors for re-enactors. They tell me that they have ironed out the problems that they had last year. Unfortunately this time it is **INFANTRY ONLY** due to the fact that they are only paying us a miniscule fee which is not enough to cover the cost of the Blackpowder for cannons. Sorry Artillery, I did try. Camping from Friday lunchtime until Monday midday. **Regrettably NO DOGS. Full society event.** Registration fee £6

**August 26 – 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**NORFOLK PARK, NORFOLK PARK ROAD, SHEFFIELD S2 2RU**

This event is organised by Howard Giles of EventPlan Limited on behalf of Sheffield City Council. Arrival time Friday afternoon until Tuesday morning. Normal arrangements for this event. Living history and battles Sunday and Monday. Times to be confirmed. **Full**

**society event** but unfortunately, due to budget cuts there will not be any horses this year. Registration fee £6

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>. – 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**ETRURIA INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM, STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE ST4 7AF**

This former Bone Mill will be 'getting up steam' over that weekend when they set their impressive steam engine away. This beautiful canal side site will accommodate approximately 24 tents each side and room for family camping. Members camping available from Friday until Monday. Living History, drill and possibly firing displays on Saturday & Sunday. **Full society event** Members Registration Fee £6.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>. – 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**WATERFALLS FIELD, INGLETON, NORTH YORKSHIRE LA6 3EP**

Small event to finish the year with in stunning surroundings on the edge of the Yorkshire moors This is predominantly Living History with drill and firing displays. There is room for 50 'A' frames, some plastic tents and caravans/motor homes. There is a café on site with flushing loos accessible. **Full society event.** Members camping available from Friday afternoon until Monday morning. Registration Fee £6.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>. – 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**THE CRICKET CLUB, SCATCHARD LANE, MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE LS27 0JJ**

I don't have all the details for this event at the time of going to press as I haven't been able to tie up all the loose ends due to having had my gall bladder removed and have had quite a few weeks recuperation. However, it is a

Carnival type event similar to Eynesham and I must stress that this is **A FULL SOCIETY EVENT, THE MORE THE MERRIER.** Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter and on the Website. Registration fee £6

### **REGIMENTAL AND SMALL EVENTS**

Please note that these are invitation only events.

**May 14 – 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**CUSWORTH HALL, CUSWORTH LANE, DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE DN5 7TU**

This is Living history only and the contacts are Christian Sprakes U.S. Staff and Martin Cross U.S. Artillery. No firing. Registration fee £3

**August 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**SHILDON FAMILY FUN DAY, HACKWORTH PARK, SHILDON, COUNTY DURHAM**

This event is being run by Shildon Town Council and is a taster for a possible full society event for next year. This is a one day event from 11.00am until 3pm. It will be Living history only and only requires a few volunteers. For further information please see Glenn Gibson 32<sup>nd</sup>. Virginia. Registration fee £3

**August 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**LANARK RACECOURSE, LANARK, LANARKSHIRE, SCOTLAND**

This event is being organised by Lanark Medieval Society and is limited to no more than 25 people as there is no room for anymore. Living history and a **possible** firing through the ages display on Saturday and Sunday. No battle. Further details will be

announced as they come through. Contact Gary Holman U.S. Staff. Registration fee £3

That just about finalises it for now. I hope you all thoroughly enjoy this season. I will pass on any further relevant information as soon as I receive it at events and on the Website. Warning orders will be published before all events with all relevant information. If you have any queries or anything at all you wish to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to come and find me in my caravan. I don't bite!

To all those of you who camp on the Family Camp, could you please come and sign on with me on Friday anytime, afternoon or evening. Thank- you

See you at Tatton Old Hall.

Best regards,

Viv Corbishley  
PROJECTS DIRECTOR

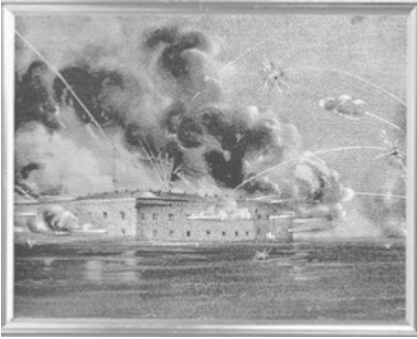
## **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

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

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

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

## The Battle Of Fort Sumter



During the winter of 1860-61, the citizens of Charleston, South Carolina, were so sure that no war would follow their recent move to secede from the United States of America that the fiery editor of the *Charleston Mercury* supposedly vowed to eat the bodies of all who might be slain as a result. Not to be outdone, former U.S. Senator James Chesnut, Jr., promised to drink any blood spilled. After all, it was said, "a lady's thimble, will hold all the blood that will be shed." Perhaps the most visible reminder to Charlestonians of the U.S. government's dominion over them was in their harbour, where atop the lonely bulk of Fort Sumter the Stars and Stripes still flew.

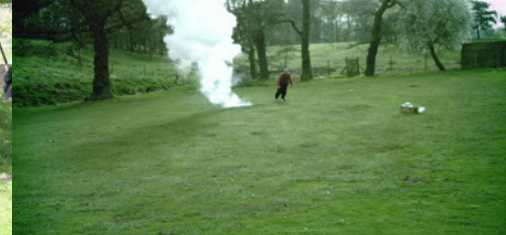
The November election of the notably antislavery Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States had so angered seven slave-owning states that they had chosen to secede and form their own union. Roughly five months later, on April 12, 1861, decades of high-flown oratory were reduced to a struggle for that pile of brick and mortar.

Fort Sumter was only one in a series of imposing masonry fortresses, decades in the building, which studded the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from Maine to Texas. The nation's single biggest public expenditure and traditionally its first lines of defence, these symbols of sovereignty once carried an aura of impregnability—from without, if not from within. During the four months leading up to Lincoln's Inauguration, the seceding states, one after another, seized federal forts, arsenals, and customs houses within their borders. There was little to oppose the breakaway forces, a caretaker and a guard or two comprising many of the garrisons. Most of the 16,000 or so regular Army soldiers had been posted to the western frontier to protect settlers against the perceived threat from Native Americans.

On March 4, 1861, Lincoln was inaugurated, promising the seceding states that he would use force only "to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places" belonging to the federal government. The stage was set for the inevitable showdown.

By the end of March, only four Southern forts were still under federal control. Two of them, Forts Taylor and Jefferson, were remote way stations in the Florida Keys. They would remain in government hands, useful as prisons and coaling stations throughout the four years of the coming Civil War. The other two federal forts, however, became pawns in a game of war or peace. The Civil War might as easily have erupted at Fort Pickens, outside Pensacola, Florida, as at Fort Sumter. Seen as easier to defend than smaller bastions

# Federal Training Weekend Tatton Old Hall



# Federal Training Weekend Tatton Old Hal



Thanks go to Martin Cross and  
Claire Morris for these excellent  
photos



# Confederate Training Weekend Murton Park



Thanks go to Kevin Wolf for his magnificent photographs taken at Murton Park

nearby, both forts had been hastily garrisoned early in the secession crisis. Though the plight of both garrisons remained in the public eye, Fort Pickens stood to the outside of Pensacola Bay, while Fort Sumter was positioned in the middle of Charleston Harbour, surrounded by hostile batteries. Sumter, therefore, became a symbol of contested sovereignty. Neither the new President nor the new Confederacy could afford to lose face by surrendering the Charleston fort. The only question was who would shoot first? In early January the South Carolinians had actually done so, turning away the *Star of the West*, a federal supply ship, with gunfire. But those were more or less warning shots that kicked up plumes of spray but caused no damage.

As March turned to April, Lincoln, having dispatched another relief fleet to supply the beleaguered and increasingly hungry garrison, was willing to shoot his way through if need be. Lincoln soon thought better of it, however, instead informing the rebellious Southerners that the fleet would carry only supplies into Sumter. The warships would remain outside the harbour. Should the Confederates choose to fire on this "mission of humanity," as Lincoln called the supply run, they would then become the aggressor. The Confederate government, knowing that its claims to sovereignty depended on no "foreign" power occupying any of its coastal forts, decided to act before the relief expedition arrived. Confederate leaders, therefore, ordered Charleston's chief military officer, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, a flamboyant Louisiana Creole, to demand Fort

Sumter's surrender. Should that be refused, he was to open fire on the stronghold. James Chesnut, Jr., the former U.S. senator who'd pledged to drink the blood of casualties, was one of two emissaries who delivered the ultimatum to an ashen-faced Anderson at 3:25 a.m. on April 12, 1861. An hour later a signalling shot curved high in the sky and burst directly over the fort. A cacophonous barrage erupted, as 43 guns and mortars opened up on Sumter. The pyrotechnic uproar had soon summoned all Charleston to the rooftops, where the citizens spent a sleepless night, watching the arcs of mortar shells. They spent the following day deafened by the din, peering through the smoke. According to Union accounts, the noise was indescribable within the Fort Sumter's brick gun enclosures, but Anderson's men gamely returned fire, discharging about a thousand rounds as opposed to the almost four thousand shells that smashed into their walls or dropped into their courtyard. Fires were devouring the barracks and edging dangerously close to the powder magazine by the time the white flag came fluttering up Sumter's flagstaff, some 34 hours after the bombardment had begun. The opening gunfire of the Civil War—the first shots exchanged in anger between the United States and the Confederate States—then fell silent. As the smoke cleared the toll of battle was taken, and it amounted to one mule. Not a single person had been killed (though one man soon died in an accidental explosion). The South had indeed won the contest over that symbol of sovereignty without spilling enough blood to fill a

thimble - Or had it? By firing first, the Confederates had allowed Lincoln to claim the high ground. On April 15, some 75,000 Union loyalists volunteered to help "repossess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union." The Northern states fell in behind Lincoln, while Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee duly tumbled into the Confederacy, but the Battle of Fort Sumter was a call to arms for both sides. The great convulsion had come at last, releasing stresses accumulated over generations of sectional strife. "We were waiting and listening as for a bolt from the sky," wrote the ex-slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, and the "cry now is for war, vigorous war, war to the bitter end. ... " Huge, flag-waving crowds gathered in cities and towns across the country, flushed with a kind of mass hysteria, a contagious abandon, an almost suicidal zeal. "It is a war of purification," claimed Virginia's Governor Henry Wise, "You want war, blood, fire, to purify you." Hundreds of thousands of young militiamen, parading by torchlight to the dazzle of fireworks and the music of bands, soon marched into the crucible. Many of them would never return, for the war that was ignited that April night would eventually cost nearly 620,000 men their lives—2 percent of the United States' population at the time, and nearly as many as those killed in all the country's other wars combined.

The shooting was practically over by April 14, 1865, when—four years to the day after the Stars and Stripes had been lowered in defeat—the U.S. flag again rose over the rubble of Fort

Sumter. But one more bullet found its victim that night. While watching a play in Washington, D.C.'s Ford's Theatre,

## **Little Blue River Westport State 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.

## THE LADIES PAGE

Here we are at the start of another season. Time to sort out the re-enacting clothes and check that all the buttons and hooks and eyes are there and more importantly that they fit. How many times have you had a favourite dress 'shrink in storage'? More to the point how many times have the kids grown out of their clothes? Time to think 'How to dress them.?' Do we do it right? Boys are much easier to dress than girls. Pants, shirt and a waistcoat. They don't have to be dressed in military style either, unless they are musicians. Woollen pants with braces are great because they are hardwearing. They should wear a waistcoat, because it was considered that they were undressed without one. Also may I suggest a cap or hat of some sort as protection against the sun. (Hopefully we'll have some this year). A good strong pair of leather shoes or boots is also essential or they could run barefoot if the weather and site allows it. Back in the days of the Civil War girls would not have worn trousers at all. Until the age of 13 years old girls wore dresses which came to just about mid calf with bloomers to the ankle,

definitely no hooped petticoats. Even Middle Class girls did not wear hoops, although they may have worn lots of petticoats. Dresses should be made out of natural fibres sure as cotton or linen, again these are hardwearing. The shorter skirts are better than long ones anyhow for children because they are less likely to trip over them. I expect that is why they wore them like that back then too.

Girls' hair was worn long, for the most part, parted in the middle and braided and tied with ribbons or curled and tied up in ribbons. Once a girl reached the age of 13, the hair went up and the hemline dropped. This was the age when most girls went out to work in mills, factories or more likely into 'Service'. Again I would advocate a hat or bonnet for the same reason as the boys. Girls wore boots too because they were hardwearing, but a 'Mary Jane' style shoe may be worn, or again depending on the site and weather bare feet would be acceptable.

One more word on children's welfare. SUNSCREEN. The Victorians may not have had it, but Health and Safety, no matter what the weather we should all be slapping the sunscreen. None of us want to go home with faces like smacked bums, worse still no one wants skin cancer, so slap it on all exposed skin.

**Did you know** that the average American in the 1860's could not afford to paint his house, and a painted house was a sign of affluence? In order to keep up appearances, they used cedar clapboards.



## Mama's Mutterings

Here's my bit again, with just a few reminders for the season. We all

hope it's going to be a fine, dry, warm and sunny season, so let's not forget the sun cream, drink plenty of water or juice, and don't forget the first aid kit. Containing plasters and pain killers along with the antihistamines and insect bite creams.

For those of you who are new to re enacting, there is no better way to learn than to watch and listen to more experienced re enactors, and for those who have been re enacting for a long time, don't get too complacent. Look for ways you can improve your impression.

Please remember no mixing up modern and nineteenth century cloths and ladies remember if you are portraying a soldier, NO MAKEUP of any kind. There are folk out there who think you should not be on the field anyhow, so don't give them any ammunition to play with, or spoil it for those who do take it seriously enough to discard their femininity for a while. Having said no makeup that does not mean sunscreen or screening lip balm. Everyone should be slapping that on, whether you are male or female adult or child. If you have very long hair, tuck it into your kepi or tuck it down inside your jacket Don't forget to put crisps into a bowl or on a plate to eat. Don't eat them out of the packet. Same with juice or other drinks. Use your cup or mucket.

Let's have a lovely safe and happy Season. It has to be said that going

from virtually nothing at the beginning of the New Year to all the events we have now has been a lot of hard work for Viv Corbishley. So a big thank you to her and wish her better health and hope she is recovering from her operation in time to enjoy the fruits of her labours.

Enough of me now and see you all at the first event.

Val Holt

Editor

## **GRENADE A LITTLE KNOWN WEAPON.**

It was akin to shooting fish in a barrel. The Hoosiers of the 45th Illinois were pinned down in a crater that June 25, 1862, the result of a Union mine used in an attempt to blow up a section of the Rebel works at Vicksburg. The Federal attack had faltered in the reeking pit, and the Confederates had taken the opportunity to hurl ad hoc hand grenades, modified artillery shells, down up the helpless Yankees. A Union officer reported that "the enemy...with their hand-grenades render it difficult for our working parties to remain in the crater at all. The wounds inflicted by those missiles are frightful."

While artillery shells were pressed into service during that incident, there were several varieties of Civil War grenades made specifically for their purpose. Some had an almost cartoonish appearance, with fins for aerodynamics and plungers for

detonating. Others looked like deadly bocce balls. But though the grenades used by the Blue and the Gray were far from perfect—some were as dangerous to the thrower as they were to the intended target—a variety of improvised and purpose-built grenades were hurled and used in combat in numerous battles.

Grenades had been used in battle for hundreds of years before the Civil War, and were well known to the military men of the 1860s. In his 1861 *Military Dictionary*, Colonel Henry Lee Scott described a grenade as "small shell about 2-inches in diameter, which, being set on fire by means of a short fuse and cast among the enemy's troops causes great damage by its explosion." For troops attacking fortifications, Scott recommended the use of "blindages," a French term for armoured shields, as protection from grenades.

Colonel Scott suggested that forts be amply supplied with grenades, and the weapons often were staples of garrison armament. At Fort Sumter hand grenades were distributed at critical points during the 1861 siege, including the room over the gateway, to use against a storming party. Captain John G. Foster reported that he had made "complete arrangements for using shells and grenades over the parapet." The Confederate bombardment exploded some of the grenade piles.

By 1862, grenades were being used in land warfare. In May, the commander of the 37th Ohio Infantry claimed his men were attacked by Confederates armed with grenades, and Colonel George H. Gordon of the 2nd

Massachusetts Infantry reported that grenades thrown by civilians from houses in Winchester, Va., killed and wounded his soldiers as they retreated through the town that same month. In April Confederate Brig. Gen. Daniel H. Hill requested that a supply of grenades be sent to his men defending the Virginia Peninsula.

Hand grenades were frequently used during the summer of 1863 at the twin sieges of Port Hudson and Vicksburg. Following the 1862 capture of New Orleans, Rebels fortified Port Hudson, situated atop an 80-foot bluff on a bend in the Mississippi River and surrounded by deep ravines, in a desperate attempt to keep the river open between northern Louisiana and Vicksburg as an avenue to the trans-Mississippi Confederacy. In May 1863, Maj. Gen. General Nathaniel Banks' army of more than 30,000 men moved north from New Orleans to attack Port Hudson, which, although well fortified, was garrisoned by only around 6,800 Confederates under Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner. Banks' goal was to overrun Port Hudson and proceed up the river to join forces with Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's force besieging Vicksburg. On May 27, Banks launched an all-out assault on the miles of earthworks surrounding Port Hudson. It failed miserably.

In preparation for a second attack, Banks ordered 500 hand grenades from Admiral David G. Farragut, requesting that they "be accompanied, if you please, by an officer who can explain to our men their proper management." The U.S. Navy seems to have been the place to go for grenades on the Mississippi, because

ships were routinely issued a generous supply to repel potential boarders. In April 1862, Colonel Charles Ellett requested nine cases of "parapet hand-grenades, such as would be most convenient for throwing over a bulwark, to clear the bows of the steamer in case of boarding" for his fleet of ramming ships. In February 1863, Acting Rear Adm. David D. Porter advised one of his captains to "keep your pilot-house well supplied with hand-grenades, &c., in case the enemy should get on your upper decks."

The naval grenades were issued to Banks' troops in time for his next attack, which took place on June 14. Special ad hoc grenadier units were created, including one of five companies from the 4th Massachusetts and 110th New York Infantry and another of 100 men from the 28th Connecticut Infantry. The grenadiers were ordered to sling their muskets, closely follow the skirmish line up to the enemy parapets, toss their grenades and continue the fight as skirmishers.

Banks' second attack proved to be another disaster, and Port Hudson would hold out until the fall of Vicksburg made the post untenable. During the second ill-fated Yankee attack, most of the grenadiers did not get close enough to the enemy to use their hand grenades. Those who did had some of their grenades thrown back at them. That fact, along with the special training requested by Banks, suggests they may have been issued the hand grenades invented in 1861 by William F. Ketchum. Ketchum's grenade featured a cast iron cylinder

filled with gunpowder and tapered on both ends, with one end fitted with a plunger and percussion cap to facilitate detonation on impact. A dowel with four pasteboard arrow like vanes was inserted in the opposite end to aid with the grenade's flight. Sometimes Ketchum grenades would not strike a hard enough object to detonate, allowing them to be tossed back.

At Vicksburg the hand grenade shoe was initially on the other foot, and Confederate defenders used them to repel General Grant's attempt to take the town by storm on May 22. According to Confederate Maj. Gen. John H. Forney, "hand grenades were used at each point with good effect" against the Union attack. The "grenades" the Rebels used, however, were not purpose-built hand grenades like those the Union Navy supplied to their forces at Port Hudson, but 6- and 12-pound artillery rounds with short fuses that were tossed or rolled onto the attackers. Colonel Ashbell Smith of the 2nd Texas Infantry reported that "to clear the outside ditch, spherical case were used as hand-grenades," and these were the most common Vicksburg Rebel grenades, although one source states that the Confederates also used glass bottle grenades like those employed by the Russians in the Crimean War.

As the Vicksburg siege developed and Union forces pushed their trenches and saps forward and dug mines under the city's defences, the Rebel use of artillery shells as improvised grenades increased. The men of the 55th Illinois countered the enemy tactic of rolling grenades over the

parapet by blocking them with a board held up by bayonets at the edge of the Union trench. It worked, and only one shell hurt any of those in the ditch, bursting against one soldier and killing him.

The Confederates soon improved their grenade techniques, however, organizing artillerymen whose guns were disabled or otherwise unusable into a specialized "hand-grenade and thunder-barrel corps." The grenadiers proved very effective in repelling Union forays.

In an attempt to counter these tactics, the Federals created their own grenadier corps, initially turning to the Navy for genuine hand grenades that were supposedly more portable and easier to pitch than artillery shells. One report, however, cited that "naval hand-grenades...from their peculiar form could not be thrown any considerable distance."

The statement, coupled with the source of the grenades, indicates that the naval grenades in question were probably Ketchums, especially since the unexploded remains of some have been found by archaeologists and relic hunters in the Vicksburg lines. Despite problems with those weapons, designated Yankee grenadiers, including Private William Lazarus of the 1st U.S. Infantry, assumed the job of bomb tossing. It was dangerous work, and Lazarus was killed after throwing only 20 grenades.

Confederate grenades were no more able to save Vicksburg than Yankee ones were able to capture Port Hudson, and the city capitulated on July 4, 1863. Improvised shell-grenades, however, continued to be

widely used in other defensive situations by Rebel troops throughout the war, including at Chattanooga and during the Atlanta campaign and the siege of Mobile and, along with turpentine "fireballs" in the Confederate defence of Morris Island and Fort Sumter in 1863. Federals rolled grenades on Southerners trapped in a ditch outside Knoxville's Fort Sanders in November 1863.

Aside from the naval grenades used by Union troops along the Mississippi, primary source references to specific purpose-built hand grenades are relatively rare. One intriguing November 1864 intelligence report on the Rebel defence of the ruins of Fort Sumter relates that Confederates stationed there were issued "hand-grenades of the improved pattern" when on night guard duty. These grenades were most likely some of the 1,100 grenades shipped to Charleston from Augusta Arsenal in the fourth quarter of 1863. The body of the "improved pattern" grenade was a Ketchum like double tapered cylinder fitted with a "sensitive tube" percussion-type detonator. Like the Ketchum, it was attached to a "guide stick" fitted with paper fins wrapped in protective cloth that was removed immediately before throwing. The Augusta Arsenal made almost 13,000 of these grenades during the last 11/2 years of the conflict.

It may have been these "improved" grenades that Rebel artillery chief Brig. Gen. William N. Pendleton speculated on using in an offensive mode at Petersburg in June 1864. According to Pendleton, "hand-grenades might do important service

in driving off the enemy as we approach his breast-works." He went on to ask: Have we any made? If so, of what pattern, weight, &c., and how are they put up for transportation? If none are on hand would it not be well to have some prepared very soon?" Yankees were apparently using grenades in the Richmond-Petersburg lines as well, and a month later Rebel Brig. Gen. Archibald Gracie reported that "the enemy attempted to throw hand-grenades...which fell fifteen yards short."

In addition to the traditional lit fuse, Ketchum-style and improvised shell hand grenades, several other types of Union grenades were designed during the war, although they seem to have been used little, if at all. One was the Hanes "Excelsior" grenade, an 1862 invention of Kentuckian W. W. Hanes. The Excelsior was composed of two spheres, one set inside the other. The operator armed the grenade by unscrewing the exterior sphere, exposing the gunpowder filled nipple studded interior one, capping the nipples, and reassembling the weapon. A cushion between the nipples and exterior sphere was supposed to prevent the Hanes grenade from detonating unless it was forcibly thrown against a hard object, but the inherent danger of handling it seems to have limited its actual military use.

Some Hanes grenades apparently got into civilian hands, however, since a device that appears to have been an Excelsior grenade was mentioned during a September 1864 treason trial in Indianapolis of alleged Southern-sympathizing saboteurs of the Knights

of the Golden Circle. According to a witness, one of the participants in the failed conspiracy "unscrewed the hand grenade and showed me the nipples on the inner shell." The grenade was supposed to be used in conjunction with "Greek fire," a highly flammable liquid mixture, to destroy government property.

The Adams grenade, an advanced and innovative time-fuse device developed by John S. Adams in January 1865, was also patented. It was similar in design to those the French were experimenting with at the time and a true precursor of the modern hand grenade. The Adams was spherical in shape and armed when a strap looped around the thrower's wrist set off a friction primer that ignited a five-second fuse as the grenade left his hand. There is little information available on the extent to which Adams grenades were actually used, but some apparently made it to the field.

A trusted example was discovered by Colin Dreyden, an 11-year-old boy playing in a crawl space under an old house in Beaufort, S.C., in May 2007. The grenade, which weighed 6 pounds, was removed by U.S. Marine Corps demolition experts, who hoped to disarm and restore it for subsequent display. It proved to be inert, preventing the possibility of a Civil War hand grenade claiming one last casualty.

### **A Little Known Fact**

Surgeons never washed their hands after an operation, because all of the blood was assumed to be the same.

# **2011 EVENTS PROGRAM**

## **May 14-15th - CUSWORTH HALL DN5 7TU**

Regimental Event (by invitation only) Battery B will be hosting this Regimental Event. Small contingents from several units have been invited. (US Staff, 1st US Sharpshooters, 19th Indiana & 18th Virginia). Members Camping from Friday 5 PM. Members should contact Martin Cross or your Commanding Officer for further details. Members Registration Fee £3.

The Museum is located 2 miles north of Doncaster, off the A638 Doncaster to Wakefield Road. It is signposted from the A1 and A638.

## **May 29-30th – TATTON OLD HALL, WA16 6QN**

Full Society Event Members camping available from Friday until Monday. Members Registration Fee £6. Living History on Saturday. Living History, Firing Displays and Battles Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday.

## **July 2-3rd - CUSWORTH HALL DN5 7TU**

Full Society Event. The Museum is located 2 miles north of Doncaster, off the A638 Doncaster to Wakefield Road. It is signposted from the A1 and A638.

No more details available at this time.

## **July 30/31st - HULL, EAST YORKSHIRE**

Full Society Event. Hull Veterans Weekend, East Park, Holderness Road, Hull, West Yorkshire. Living History, drill displays and battle on Saturday & Sunday.

## **August 13th - SHILDON FUN DAY**

ACWS Promotional Event at Shildon Town Council's Fun Day in Hackworth Park, Shildon, Co. Durham, from 11am to 3pm. Members should contact Glenn Gibson (32nd VA) for further details.

## **August 20-21st - SPETCHLEY WR5 1RS,**

Full Society Event. Members camping available Friday through Monday. Fire pits MUST be dug even for raised fires to sit in.

Members Registration Fee £6. There are no funds available for Artillery or Cavalry, so INFANTRY ONLY EVENT. Unfortunately, there are NO DOGS ALLOWED at this event. Living History and Battles on Saturday & Sunday.

## **August 28-29th - SHEFFIELD, South Yorks S2 2RU**

Full Society Event August Bank Holiday, Sheffield City Council with Eventplan staging Multi-Period displays again as part of the Sheffield Fayre. Members camping available from Friday after 3 p.m. until Tuesday a.m. Members Registration Fee £6. Displays on Sunday and Monday.

## **September 3rd-4th - ETRURIA INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM ST4 7AF**

Full Society Event Etruria Industrial Museum Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7AF. Will accommodate 24 tents each side and room for family camping. Members camping available from Friday until Monday.

Living History, drill and possibly firing displays on Saturday & Sunday. Members Registration Fee £6.

## **September 17-18th - INGLETON, North Yorks LA6 3EP.**

Full Society Event This is predominantly Living History with drill and firing displays. There is room for 50 'A' frames, some plastic tents and 4-5 caravans/motor homes. Members camping available from Friday afternoon until Monday morning. Member's Registration Fee £6.

## **October 1-2 - MORLEY, West Yorks , LS27 0JJ.**

Full Society event at The Cricket Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, West Yorkshire, LS27 0JJ. Living History and Battles on Saturday & Sunday.

## **December 3rd - ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Full Society Event The ACWS Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Nautical Club, 5-6 Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham, B15 1ET, on Saturday 3rd December 2011 starting at 1 pm. Close to New Street and Snow Hill railway stations, plus local train station Five Ways. Ample parking

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