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



**CUSWORTH HALL**

**2011**

**2011 Summer Edition**

**Issue 161**

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

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## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The first event of the season has now taken place at Tatton Park. The turnout of members was good and as far as I am aware was enjoyed by all (despite the rain on the Monday morning). The sponsor to whom I spoke to on the day was very pleased with our efforts and attendance and indicated that he would be pleased to invite the society again in the future. So my congratulations to you all.

However I feel that as Chairman it is my duty to raise concerns and apprehensions for the future of our society relating to postings on the Forum and Facebook in the recent few weeks. We live in a democratic society where we have the freedom to comment on issues we feel are of concern and relevant to our lives and indeed past-times and interests. However with this freedom to comment in either a positive/negative way comes responsibilities.

Comments which are derogatory concerning individual members of the society in whatever capacity they perform their roles in re-enactment or as elected members of the society is in my opinion deplorable - more so when these comments appear in print in the above forums. These

printed words often end up being seen - (and commented upon) in the public arena and serve no useful purpose other than to bring the ACWS into disrepute in addition to discouraging potential members and sponsors. In addition this 'petty bickering' which appears to be increasing on our own Forum only results in making those members who put much effort/enthusiasm into our chosen hobby coming to the conclusion, eventually, that they do not wish to be part of a society which is seen - rightly or wrongly to be all about politics and individual ego's.

Disagreements and misunderstandings occur in many areas of our lives and can usually be resolved in face to face meetings without resorting to acrimonious-and what can only be perceived as slanderous accusations - against either an individual, group or society. We are all responsible adults who have the ability to be mature, fair - minded and where situations dictate diplomatic.

There are many stalwart members of our society who have invested much time and effort - as well as personal finance - into their chosen hobby who regard the society as not just another re-enacting society but as a 'family'. Families work through their problems and concerns in hopefully a mature, non-confrontational, courteous way seeking solutions which are as far as possible acceptable to all parties. if

we do not call a halt to this – in many instances - ‘petty bickering’ we sow the seeds of our own destruction.

We are all members of this ‘family’ and come together as such to enjoy our weekend re-enactments in the spirit of comradeship and friendship, whether Blue or Gray. I am proud, as I know many of you are, to be a member of the ACWS. Can we not therefore, resolve to work together in the spirit of co-operation and mutual respect for the benefit of ourselves and the ACWS.

Denis Jarwick  
Chairman

## **Conscientious Objectors In The Civil War**

Members of several pacifist religious groups conflicted with Union and Confederate officials to defend their conscientious scruples against bearing arms. They tended to suffer most severely in the South, where manpower shortages, a martial spirit, and invading armies left little sympathy for men unwilling to fight. But under each of the opposing governments they sometimes endured violent persecution by civilians, brutal punishment by military authorities, and death by firing squad.

The membership of smaller sects such as Dunkards, Amanists, and Schwenkfelders varied between 800 and 1,200. The largest politically active sects, the Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Mennonites, counted well over 200,000 members in 1860; most lived in the North. Shaker and Quaker leaders

sought blanket exemptions for their draft-age men, but most cases throughout the war were resolved individually. Often draftees reported voluntarily to instruction camps, then either refused to serve in any military capacity or requested assignments in hospitals; others expressed willingness to support the war effort by furnishing supplies to the army. Lincoln accepted these alternatives and encouraged objectors to apply for exemptions, thus delaying any legislative attempt to address the problem until the draft became an issue in August 1863.

After passing the South's first Conscription act, 16 April 1862, which made no provision for pacifist exemptions, Confederate politicians were prodded into finding solutions acceptable to dissenting religious groups. Some states tried to deal with the problem locally: North Carolina accepted objectors for hospital duty or substitute work in salt mines. But the revised Confederate Exemption Act of Oct. 1862 included a national solution, exempting Quakers, Nazarenes, Mennonites, and Dunkards, provided they furnished substitutes or paid a \$500 exemption tax. Some pacifists objected to supplying either men or money to support the fighting, but most complied until the increasing scarcity of both made the alternatives nearly impossible. The difficulty of collecting the exemption fee finally forced the government to abandon the attempt.

The October act placed pursuit of conscientious objectors under army control, where pacifists found unexpected sympathy from military leaders who believed using force against them to be a wasted effort. Lt.

Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson recommended allowing pacifists to produce supplies or serve as Non Combatants.

Pacifists in combat-torn regions such as the Shenandoah Valley hid or fled with their families to escape being hunted by home guards. By war's end Kentucky Shakers at Pleasant Hill reported having fed at least 50,000 soldiers from both armies and estimated losses in supplies, stock, and buildings at \$1 00,000. Some Southern pacifists did enlist voluntarily for combat positions, among them a few Shakers and 6-20 Quakers; 2 companies of Moravian men from Forsyth City, N.C., were also mustered into the army in June 1861. Most were expelled from their sects during the war but were readmitted afterward.

Greater manpower resources and more tolerant attitudes in general eased the pressures on Northern pacifists. Congress objected to exempting specific religious sects for fear of missing the smaller ones, and a blanket exemption for all conscientious objectors would have invited abuse. Yet the compromise, providing a substitute or paying a \$300 commutation fee, violated the principles of men who considered either alternative a contribution to the bloodshed. The Militia Act of 1862 made no provision for conscientious objectors; though the Draft Act of 1863 did, it failed to define "conscientious objector," again resulting in a flood of individual petitions from draftees. In December 1863 Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton eased the situation by paroling all conscientious objectors held in custody and ordering no more to be called. 143

Quakers reportedly enlisted as Union soldiers, but the majority of their brethren and of all pacifists served in hospitals, cared for sick soldiers in their homes, or worked among the Contrabands. Finally, in Feb. 1864, Congress dealt with the question by ruling pacifists subject to the draft but assuring non combatant assignments to members of those religious groups whose articles of faith clearly expressed opposition to bearing arms. They were also given the option of paying \$300 for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers. Though neither government solved the problem of how to deal with conscientious objectors, officials for the first time debated the issue at the national level, offering the option of non combatant service which remained in effect through World War 1.

Source: "Historical Times Encyclopaedia of the Civil War"

## **FAMILY CAMP**

Would all the members who camp  
on the Family Camp,

**PLEASE** sign on with me  
at my caravan  
(it's the one with the grey and  
burgundy awning)

on **Friday** anytime  
afternoon or evening up to  
10.30pm.

Thank you.

Viv Corbishley

## **CHANGE OF VENUE**

**PLEASE NOTE: Because of unforeseen circumstances we have had to change the venue for the A.G.M. It will now take place on 3rd Dec 2011 at**

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

**64 New Road**

**Rubery**

**Birmingham**

**B45 9HY**

## **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.**

## Espionage in the Civil War

By the outbreak of the war, neither the Union nor the Confederacy had established a full-scale espionage system or a military intelligence network. The South, however, was already operating an embryonic spy ring out of Washington, D.C., set up late in 1860 or early in 1861 by Thomas Jordan. A former U.S. Army officer, now a Confederate colonel, Jordan foresaw the benefits of placing intelligence agents in the North's military and political nerve centre.

By summer 1861, Jordan had turned the ring over to his most trusted operative, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a local widow of Southern birth. Mrs. Greenhow's high station in Washington society enabled her to secure intelligence of great value to the Confederacy. Much of it reportedly



Rose O'Neal Greenhow

came from an infatuated Suitor, Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. Through a ring of couriers that included a woman named Bettie Duval, Greenhow smuggled information about the southward-marching army under Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell to Confederate troops in the vicinity of Virginia's Manassas

Junction. There it was received by Colonel Jordan, now chief of staff to the local commander, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. The intelligence helped turn First Bull Run into a Confederate victory.

Two other intelligence networks in the Federal capital, both of later vintage, were supervised by cavalrymen turned spies, Capt. Thomas N. Conrad and Pvt. J. Franklin Stringfellow. These amazingly resourceful operatives were connected with the Confederacy's first organized secret-service bureau, formed in 1862 as a part of the CSA Signal Corps. The head of the bureau, Maj. William Norris, eventually coordinated the activities of dozens of espionage and counterespionage agents who operated along the "Secret Line," an underground link between Richmond and the Washington-Baltimore region. In time, Norris and his assistant, Capt. Charles Cawood, sought to extend this network of intelligence outlets well above the Mason-Dixon Line--as far north as that great base of Confederate espionage operations, Canada. Arguably the most effective military intelligence establishment of the war, Norris's bureau directed all espionage activity along the Potomac River, supervised the passage of agents to and from enemy lines, and forwarded dispatches from the Confederate War and State departments to contacts abroad.

A second Confederate secret-service unit was organized early in 1864. A prototype commando outfit, it was attached to the Torpedo Bureau of Brig. Gen. Gabriel J. Rains, but was neither as large nor as well administered as Norris agency.

The Confederacy was also served by countless private operatives. Probably

the most celebrated civilian spy was Belle Boyd, who risked her life to bring intelligence to Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson during his Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862. Less heralded was James Harrison, an itinerant Richmond actor who late in 1863 rode to Gen. Robert E. Lee's Pennsylvania headquarters with word that the Army of the Potomac was about to enter the Keystone State in hot pursuit. The unexpected news permitted Lee to mass his scattered army prior to Gettysburg. Confederate spies in uniform (known



as "scouts" when wearing their own army's attire, and liable to summary execution if captured in enemy garb included the cavalry raiders of the "Gray Ghost," John S. Mosby. Others served the equally daring Turner Ashby and the Marylander Harry Gilmor. Among other soldier-spies were the young Kentuckian Jerome Clarke and Sam Davis, the Tennessee farm boy who died a hero's death after refusing to reveal to his Union captors the identity of his raiding leader.

Despite the triumphs of individual spies, most large-scale Confederate espionage efforts failed. Carefully planned but ultimately unsuccessful projects included the Oct. 1864 raid on St. Albans, Vt.; the attempt the following month to burn large sections of New York City; and the Northwest Conspiracy.



The Union waited till the shooting started to take steps toward creating an espionage establishment. Its first secret-service bureau was set up in mid-1861 by Allan Pinkerton, founder of the famous Chicago detective agency. While serving Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan in the Department of the Ohio during the war's first summer, Pinkerton, acting alone, penetrated the Confederacy as far as Jackson, Miss., before returning north with information on Southern war preparations. Following McClellan to Washington, Pinkerton almost single handedly broke up Greenhow's spy ring. As military intelligence experts, however, Pinkerton and his band of agents were out of their depth. In 1862, as secret-service chief for McClellan's Army of the Potomac, Pinkerton sent his employer outlandish estimates of enemy strength and dispositions, hindering rather than facilitating McClellan's operations.

The war's first double agent, Timothy Webster, regularly penetrated Southern lines, gathering intelligence in such diverse locales as Baltimore, Louisville, and Memphis, and infiltrating the militant Baltimore society of Confederate sympathizers known as the Knights of Liberty. Webster's services ended in Apr. 1862, however, when a combination of events led to his arrest and execution in Richmond.



## PROJECT DIRECTORS REPORT

What a brilliant turnout we had at Tatton Hall in May. The event was very successful except for one small incident which caused a complaint from the sponsor, apart from that they were very pleased with our performance. So pleased, in fact, that he has become a member of the society. Welcome to the ACWS Mick. Tatton Old Hall is a beautiful venue and I hope that we shall continue to be invited back for many a year.

As I write this, we have all just returned home from Cusworth Hall. The weather was beautiful, the venue is fantastic and we had an appreciative audience each day. But, where were you? Our attendance was very disappointing for a full society event. I do hope that it will improve for the rest of the season.

It was so nice to have the Cavalry at this event. They came at their own expense as the sponsor along with a lot more now; just don't have the resources to pay for horses, which is such a shame. A good weekend was had by all.

I would like to say a special big thank you to AJ and the Texans who have very generously offered to cover the cost of taking the Artillery to Spetchley. The reason for this is that they have realised that there are going to be very few people

attending this event due to the large amount of people going to Lanark. Unfortunately, the Worcester Re-enactors are only paying us £100 for the event, which won't even cover the cost of the powder for one Regiment.

The Events:-

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

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

This is a new venue for us, a Multi-period similar to Sheffield, in far better surroundings. It is a beautiful park and completely secure. The gates are locked at 8.00pm although there is a gate-keeper who will let you in and out if you have an urge to go to the Chippie, Pub or other such place.

There is a brilliant Café on site (right by our authentic camps) which serves hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks at extremely reasonable prices. They open at 7.00am for breakfast and are open throughout the day until late afternoon. The time of the battle each day is to be advised, we have also agreed to do drill in the camps. Camping is from Friday lunchtime until Monday. This is a **full society event**. Registration fee £6.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

**LANARK RACECOURSE,  
HYNDFORD ROAD (A73), LANARK  
ML11 9SZ.**

This event is Scotland's Festival of History and space is limited therefore anyone wishing to attend please contact Gary Holman U.S. Staff on 01204 432583 prior to attendance Living history and a possible firing through the ages display on Saturday and Sunday. Camping from Friday to Monday. Further details will be announced as they come through.. Registration fee £3

**August 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

So it's all change for this event now, thanks to the generosity of the Texans, the Artillery will now be attending and so will the Cavalry who have decided to treat it like a training weekend. The organiser has assured me that they have sorted out the teething problems they had last year, and that at least the loos will be more user friendly! The beer tent will be there again, I hope the staff are a bit nicer! Camping from Friday lunchtime until Monday. 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. **Family camp** in Norfolk Park Ave entrance not where it was last year. **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. Living History, drill and firing displays on Saturday & Sunday. Members camping available from Friday until Monday. **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 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. Members camping available from Friday afternoon until Monday morning. **Full society event.** Registration Fee £6

**October 1<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup>.THE CRICKET CLUB, SCATCHARD LANE, MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE LS27 0JJ**

This is a Carnival type event similar to Eynesham and I must stress that it is a **FULL SOCIETY EVENT, THE MORE THE MERRIER.** I still haven't got any further details except that it is camping from Friday lunchtime until Monday. Any updates will be on the Website. Registration fee £6.

Well folks, I'm off on my holiday now. See you at Hull.

Best regards,

Viv Corbishley  
Projects Director

**Civil War  
"Firsts"**

As the breeding ground for modern warfare, the Civil War has long been known for its "firsts." It has been credited with dozens like these:

A workable machine gun  
A steel ship  
A successful submarine  
A "snorkel" breathing device  
A wide-ranging corps of press correspondents in battle areas  
American conscription  
American bread lines  
American President assassinated  
Aerial reconnaissance  
Antiaircraft fire  
Army ambulance corps  
Blackouts and camouflage under aerial observation

Cigarette tax  
Commissioned American Army chaplains  
Department of justice (Confederate)  
Electrically exploded bombs and torpedoes  
Fixed ammunition  
Field trenches on a grand scale  
Flame throwers  
Hospital ships  
Ironclad navies  
Land-mine fields  
Legal voting for servicemen  
Long-range rifles for general use  
Medal of Honour  
Military telegraph  
Military railroads  
Naval torpedoes  
Negro U.S. Army Officer (Major M.R. Delany)  
Organized medical and nursing corps  
Photography of battle  
Railroad artillery  
Repeating rifles  
Revolving gun turrets  
The bugle call, "Taps"  
The Income tax (USA)  
The wigwag signal code in battle  
The periscope, for trench warfare  
Telescopic sights for rifles  
Tobacco tax  
U.S. Navy Admiral  
U.S. Secret Service  
Withholding tax  
Wire entanglements  
Wide-scale use of anaesthetics for wounded

Source: "The Civil War, Strange and Fascinating Facts" by Burke Davis

Continued from page 8

One Union spy who made notable contributions throughout the war was Elizabeth Van Lew, a long-time resident of the Confederate capital. "Crazy Bett," as the eccentric Unionist was known to her neighbours, ran the largest and most successful spy ring concentrated in any city. Her team of operatives included a freed slave whom she placed as a servant in the Confederate White House to eavesdrop on Pres. Jefferson Davis and his visitors.

An equally infamous Union espionage leader was Brig. Gen. Lafayette C. Baker, chief of War Department detectives. As the bullyboy of Sec. of War Edwin M. Stanton, he shadowed, apprehended, interrogated, and imprisoned a multitude of Washingtonians, many on the merest suspicion of disloyalty. Though personally brave, Baker was a ruthless, unsavoury character whose high-handed methods and unassailable power made him feared even by associates.

Union espionage work was advanced by dozens of lesser-known Northerners, in and out of uniform. Civilian spies and counterspies included, as in the South, numerous women - whose sex usually spared them the harsher consequences of their actions, if apprehended. One of the most resourceful was Sarah Emma Edmonds, who gained entrance to Confederate camps near Yorktown, Va., disguised as a black slave. Much less enterprising and successful was the actress Pauline Cushman, whose double-agent activities won her undeserved fame as the "Spy of the Cumberland." Male civilians who spied for the North included William A. Lloyd and his business associate, Thomas Boyd, who, as Southern transportation agents of long standing, were able to

roam, more or less freely, to Richmond, Savannah, Chattanooga, and New Orleans--Lloyd all the while carrying his espionage contract, signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Union spies in uniform were more numerous. Probably the most noted was Maj. Henry Young of Rhode Island, whose 58-man band of scouts served Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan during the wars final year. In the Appomattox Campaign, the scouts tapped enemy telegraph wires and misdirected supply trains critically needed by Lee's army. Another effective operative in uniform was Col. George H. Sharpe, who in 1864--65 ran the highly efficient military information bureau attached to Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters. One of the most publicized espionage operations was conducted by civilian agent James J. Andrews in an ambitious but failed attempt to sabotage Confederate rail lines.

Source: "Historical Times Encyclopaedia of the Civil War" Edited by Patricia L. Faust, Article by Edward G. Longacre

## **DRUMMERS WANTED**

Are there previous Drummers who have gone into the lines that can help me out at the event at Hull.

There will be a Drumhead Service on Sunday and as many drummers as possible are required.

Best regards,

Viv Corbishley

# TATTON OLD HALL



# TATTON OLD HALL



All Photographs courtesy of Kevin Wolf

# CUSHWORTH HALL



# CUSWORTH HALL



Photos by courtesy of Kevin Wolf

## The Vicksburg Mine

By

**Andrew Hickenlooper, Brevet  
Brigadier-General U.S.V.  
Chief Engineer of the  
Seventeenth Army Corps**



### The Siege of Vicksburg (May 18 - July 4, 1863)

After the failure of the general assault on May 22d, orders were issued to commence regular siege operations. General J. B. McPherson occupied the centre with the seventeenth Army Corps, covering the main Jackson road, on which the Confederates had constructed the most formidable redoubt on the entire line, and entrusted its defence to the 3d Louisiana, a veteran regiment. Because of its strength, commanding position, and heavy armament, this redoubt became the main objective point of the engineering operations of the seventeenth Army Corps.

It was approachable only over a broad, flat ridge, forming a comparatively level plateau, extending eastwardly from the fort for a distance of almost five hundred yards before descending into one of the numerous ravines or

depressions which extended in almost every conceivable direction over the ground lying between the contending armies. The Third Division, commanded by General Logan, occupied the position immediately in front of the fort, and upon these troops—more especially those of the brigade commanded by General M.D. Leggett, working under the direction of the chief engineer of the corps—was imposed the greater part of the labour.

The "pioneers" of the corps were at once sent to the cane-brakes, swamps, and lowlands in the rear to construct sap-rollers, gabions, and fascines, and details of 150 men for day and the same number for night duty were made for work on the main sap, which was commenced on the Jackson road at a point about 150 feet south-east of a large frame plantation house, known as the White House, which for some unexplained reason had been left standing by the enemy. Up to this point troops could be marched in comparative safety under cover of the intervening hills, supplemented by the construction of parapets at exposed points.



The line of the first section was selected during the night of the 23d under cover of an attack made upon

the enemy's pickets. Upon this line the workmen were placed at intervals of about five feet, each equipped with a gabion, pick, and shovel, with instructions to cover themselves securely and dig a connection through to the adjoining burrow before daylight. The day relief was engaged in deepening and widening the sap thus commenced, and on the following night the second section was laid out and occupied in the same manner.

On the 25th of May the Confederate commander sent in a flag of truce, for the purpose of tendering permission to bury the Federal dead who had fallen in front of their works during the heroic assault of the 22d, which was gladly accepted. This incident afforded the chief engineer a much needed opportunity of closely inspecting the ground to be passed over, of fixing the salient points in his mind, and of determining upon the general direction of the various sections of the sap. The highest point between the fort and the White House was selected as a spot upon which to locate a battery and "place at arms" (afterward known as Battery Hickenlooper), the guns of which rendered valuable service in covering the extensions of the sap beyond that point. Two 8-inch naval guns located in battery south-east of this point also rendered effective service in silencing the guns of the Confederate fort; thus leaving the Union soldiers exposed only to the

ever vigilant sharp-shooters of the enemy. Not even a hand could be safely raised above the parapets; and heavy rope shields, or aprons, were hung in front of the embrasures for the protection of the gunners while they were sighting their pieces. A favourite amusement of the soldiers was to place a cap on the end of a ramrod and to raise it just above the head-logs betting on the number of bullets which would pass through it within a given time.

The sap-roller, used to protect the workmen from an enfilading fire during the opening of each section of the sap, was a wicker casing five feet in diameter by ten feet in length compactly filled with cotton. The roller was several times found to be on fire, and on the night of June 9th it was totally consumed; but through what agency was, at the time, a great mystery. After the capitulation it was ascertained that cotton saturated with turpentine and placed in the hollow of a minnie ball had been fired from a musket into the packing of the roller. It was difficult for the sharp-shooters to reach the Confederates by direct firing, and the artillerymen found it



impossible to gauge their shells so as to cause the explosion immediately behind the Confederate parapets. To overcome this latter difficulty, when the sap reached the vicinity of the fort we caused " Coehorn mortars " to be made from short sections of gum-tree logs bored out and hooped with iron bands. These novel engines of warfare, being accurately charged with just sufficient powder to lift six or twelve pound shells over the parapet and drop them down immediately behind, proved exceedingly effective.

The general plan of conducting the work with flying-sap by night and deepening and widening by day was pushed forward with the utmost energy until June 22d, when the head of the sap reached the outer ditch surrounding the fort. A few days previous an order had been issued for all men in the corps having a practical knowledge of coal-mining to report to the chief engineer. Out of those reporting thirty six of the strongest and most experienced were selected and divided into two shifts for day and night duty, and each shift was divided into three reliefs. On the night of the 22d these men, properly equipped with drills, short-handled picks, shovels, etc., under the immediate command of Lieutenant Russell of the 7th Missouri and Sergeant Morris of the 32d Ohio commenced the , mining operations by driving a gallery, four feet in width by five feet in height, in at right

angles to the face of the parapet of the fort. Each relief worked an hour at a time, two picking, two shovelling, and two handing back the grain sacks filled with earth, which were deposited in the ditch until they could be carried back. The main gallery was carried in 45 feet, and then a smaller gallery extended in on the same line 15 feet, while from the end of the main gallery two others were run out on either side at angles of 45 degrees for a distance of 15 feet. The soil through which this gallery was driven was a reddish clay of remarkable tenacity, easily cut and requiring but little bracing. So rapidly was this work executed that on the morning of the 25th the miners commenced depositing the powder, 800 pounds at the extreme end of the main gallery and 700 pounds at the end of each of the lateral galleries, making a total of 2200 pounds.



From each of these deposits there were laid two strands of safety fuse,- obtained, as was the powder, from the navy,-this duplication being made to cover the possible contingency of one failing to burn

with the desired regularity and speed. These six strands were cut to exactly the same length, and having been carefully laid, the earth, which had been previously removed in grain-sacks, was carried back and deposited in the most compact manner possible, and well braced by heavy timbers, beyond the junction point of the three galleries. From this point out to the entrance it was more loosely packed in.

The Confederate garrison, surmising the object in view, were active in efforts to thwart the purpose of the Union forces by throwing hand-grenades and rolling shells with lighted fuses over their parapet down into the trench in front of the fort.

They also countermined in hopes of tapping the gallery. So near were they to the attainment of this object that during the last day the miners could distinctly hear the conversation and orders given in the counter-mine.

The powder was brought up in barrels and kept in the main sap at a safe distance from the enemy's hand-grenades and shells, and there opened and placed in grain-sacks, each one of which contained about 25 pounds. These were taken up on the backs of the miners, who made the run over the exposed ground during the intervals between the explosion of the enemy's shells

; and so well timed were these movements that, although it required nearly one hundred trips with the dangerous loads, all were landed in the mine without a single accident.

The commanding general having been advised on the day previous that the work would be completed before 3 P. M. of the 25th, general orders were issued directing each corps commander to order up the reserves and fully man the trenches, and immediately following the explosion to open with both artillery and musketry along the entire twelve miles of investing line; under cover of which the assaulting columns, composed of volunteers from the 31st and 45th Illinois, preceded by ten picked men from the pioneer corps under charge of the chief engineer, were to move forward and take possession of the fort. For an hour or two previous to the time of the explosion the scene from "Battery Hickenlooper," where General Grant and his subordinate commanders had taken their positions, was one of the most remarkable ever witnessed. As far as they could reach to the right and left, could be seen the long winding columns of blue moving to their assigned positions behind the besiegers' works.

Gradually as the hour of 3 approached the booming of artillery and incessant rattle of musketry, which had been going on day and

night for thirty days, suddenly subsided, and a deathlike and oppressive stillness pervaded the whole command. Every eye was riveted upon that huge redoubt standing high above the adjoining works. At the appointed moment it appeared as though the whole fort and connecting outworks commenced an upward movement, gradually breaking into fragments and growing less bulky in appearance, until it looked like an immense fountain of finely pulverized earth, mingled with flashes of fire and clouds of smoke, through which could occasionally be caught a glimpse of some dark objects,-men, gun-carriages, shelters, etc. Fire along the entire line instantly opened with great fury, and amidst the din and roar of 150 cannon and the rattle of 50,000 muskets the charging column moved forward to the assault. But little difficulty was experienced in entering the crater, but the moment the assaulting forces attempted to mount the artificial parapet, which had been formed by the falling debris about midway across the fort, completely commanded by the Confederate artillery and infantry in the rear, they were met by a withering fire so severe that to show a head above the crest was certain death. Two lines were formed on the slope of this parapet, the front line raising their muskets over their heads and firing at random over the crest while the rear rank were engaged in reloading. But soon the

Confederates began throwing short-fused shells over the parapet, which, rolling down into the crater crowded with the soldiers of the assaulting column, caused the most fearful destruction of life ever witnessed under like circumstances. The groans of the dying and shrieks of the wounded became fearful, but bravely they stood to their work until the engineers constructed a casemate out of the heavy timbers found in the crater, and upon which the earth was thrown until it was of sufficient depth to resist the destructive effects of the exploding shells. As soon as this work was completed, and a parapet was thrown up across the crater on a line with the face of the casemate, the troops were withdrawn to the new line beyond the range of exploding shells

The crater being secured, again the miners were set at work running a new gallery under the left wing of the fort. This mine was exploded on the 1st of July, leaving the fort a total wreck.

In the meantime the main sap had been widened sufficiently to admit of the convenient movement of troops in "column of fours" during the contemplated assault, the necessity for which was happily avoided by the surrender on the following day.

**Source: Battles and Leaders of the Civil War**

## **BRITAIN'S INVOLVEMENT**

### **IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

Do you ever get asked by the public why re enact something that Britain was not involved in? Well here's two snippets of information about two men from the same town, Hull, who were directly connected with the conflict in quite different ways.

#### **George Townley Fullam**



Master's Mate aboard the CSS Alabama, **George Townley Fullam** was born on March 21, 1841, at Kingston-upon-Hull, in England. He joined the CS Navy at the age of 21, and signed aboard the Alabama on July 29, 1862. After the war, joined the merchant marine and commanded the steamer Marlborough, which was lost with all hands, at or near the Bay of Biscay, in November or December, 1879. Fullam left a journal of his service aboard the Alabama which was later published as The Journal Of George Townley Fullam edited by Charles G. Summersell



The above portrait hangs in the Guildhall in Hull.

Pearson park lies about 1 mile (1.5km) northwest of the city centre and was the first public park to be opened in Hull. The land for the park was provided in 1860 by Zachariah Charles Pearson (1821-91) to mark his first term as mayor of Hull. He shrewdly retained c.12 acres (5 Ha) of land surrounding the park to build villa residences. Two years later his shrewdness failed him when he bought on credit a large fleet of ships and attempted to run arms through the Federal blockade during the American Civil War (1861-65). The venture failed and all his vessels were captured. Financially ruined, Pearson resigned half way through his second term as mayor and spent the last 29 years of his life in obscurity, living in a modest terraced house in a quiet corner of the park which bore his name.

## Lightening Strikes

Five re-enactors were injured by lightning early Sunday morning at a campsite near Gettysburg and taken to area hospitals, and two people remained under observation for burns. The lightning struck at 2:45 a.m., during the 148th anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, hosted by the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee at the Yingling Farm in Freedom Township. The five re-enactors were participating in “Carpenter’s Battery,” a Confederate re-enactment group. No individuals were struck by lightning, but they were burned by electric shock-waves from the tent. All five individuals were taken to area hospitals. “We were very pleased that we were able to locate, treat and transport those injured in this unfortunate incident so quickly and that the injuries and damages were not more serious,” said Gettysburg Anniversary Committee organizer Randy Phiel. “While injuries from a lightning strike are certainly rare, this incident proved that our staff and our community partners were up to the task,” concluded Phiel, noting that “our thoughts and prayers are with the injured and their families.” No other injuries were reported, and re-enactment staff conducted “primary and secondary” searches of the entire site, after the storm. Damage was limited to a few small event tents. Gettysburg Anniversary Committee spokeswoman Andrea DiMartino

pointed out that EMT staffers are on the site 24 hours a day, over the course of the event. The three-day re-enactment drew about 20,000 spectators to the area, and featured 1,500 Union and Confederate re-enactors. Despite the lightning incident, all re-enactment activities continued Sunday as planned, on the final day of the event. The overnight storm resulted in four inches of rain being dumped upon the farmland, according to event organizers.

### The Congressional Medal of Honour

The first military decoration formally authorized by the American government to be worn as a badge of honour, the Medal of Honour was created by an act of Congress in December 1861. Senator James W Grimes of Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Naval Committee, proposed that a medal of honour, similar to the Victoria Cross of England and the Iron Cross of Germany, be given to naval personnel for acts of bravery in action. His bill was passed by both Houses of Congress and approved by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. It established a Medal of Honour for enlisted men of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Two months later, Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts

introduced a Senate resolution extending eligibility for the medal to enlisted men of the U.S. Army and making eligibility retroactive to the beginning of the war. On March 3, 1863, army officers were made eligible through another act of Congress; naval and marine officers were not included until 1915.

According to the act establishing the army medal, the award was to be given to those members of the armed forces who "shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier like qualities." Because of the act's vague wording and because the United States gave no other medal to its armed services, the Medal of Honour was awarded liberally during the Civil War to about 1,200 men. The first to receive medals were the six survivors of Andrew's Raid.

In 1916, Congress considerably tightened the rules for eligibility, requiring that a serviceman come into actual contact with an enemy and perform bravely at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty. Congress also created a board of five retired generals to review all previous award recipients for eligibility and found that about 911-most of them Civil War veterans did not meet the new standards and thus struck them from the list.

Source: "The Civil War Society's Encyclopedia of the Civil War."

## CAMPFIRE COOKING



### FUNNEL CAKES

This recipe was given to me by a dear friend and ex Confederate reenactor in the US

3 eggs  
2 cups milk  
1/4 cup sugar  
3 1/2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp salt  
2 tsp baking powder

Preheat oil in an skillet until smoking. Leave room between the oil and the top of the pan to allow room for batter to be added. Beat eggs, add milk and sugar. Beat well. In a separate bowl, sift flour, salt and baking powder. Add to egg and milk mixture. Beat until batter is smooth. Batter should be thin enough to flow through the opening of your funnel. If needed, add a little more milk.

Put your finger over the bottom of the funnel and pour batter in top. Drizzle batter in hot oil making criss crosses and swirls. (I use a measuring cup with a thin spout to do this, easier for those of us less coordinated!). Let brown on bottom and then carefully flip it over with tongs to brown on the other side. Serve warm with molasses, jelly or sprinkle with powdered sugar.

## New York City Draft Riots (July 11-13, 1863)



"The nation is at this time in a state of Revolution, North, South, East, and West," wrote the Washington Times during the often violent protests that occurred after Abraham Lincoln issued the March 3, 1863, Enrolment Act of Conscription.

Although demonstrations took place in many Northern cities, the riots that broke out in New York City were both the most violent and the most publicized.

With a large and powerful Democratic Party operating in the city, a dramatic show of dissent had been long in the making. The state's popular governor, Democrat Horatio Seymour, openly despised Lincoln and his policies. In addition, the Enrolment Act shocked a population already tired of the two-year-old war.

By the time the names of the first draftees were drawn in New York City on July 11, reports about the carnage of Gettysburg had been published in city papers. Lincoln's call for 300,000 more young men to fight a seemingly endless war

frightened even those who supported the Union cause. Moreover, the Enrolment Act contained several exemptions, including the payment of a "commutation fee" that allowed wealthier and more influential citizens to buy their way out of service.

Perhaps no group was more resentful of these inequities than the Irish immigrants populating the slums of north-eastern cities. Poor and more than a little prejudiced against blacks-with whom they were both unfamiliar and forced to compete for the lowest-paying jobs-the Irish in New York objected to fighting on their behalf.

On Sunday, July 12, the names of the draftees drawn the day before by the Provost Marshall were published in newspapers. Within hours, groups of irate citizens, many of them Irish immigrants, banded together across the city. Eventually numbering some 50,000 people, the mob terrorized neighbourhoods on the East Side of New York for three days looting scores of stores. Blacks were the targets of most attacks on citizens; several lynchings and beatings occurred. In addition, a black church and orphanage were burned to the ground.

All in all, the mob caused more than \$1.5 million of damage. The number killed or wounded during the riot is unknown, but estimates range from two dozen to nearly

100. Eventually, Lincoln deployed combat troops from the Federal Army of the Potomac to restore order; they remained encamped around the city for several weeks. In the end, the draft raised only about 150,000 troops throughout the North, about three-quarters of them substitutes, amounting to just one-fifth of the total Union force.

Source: The Civil War Society's "Encyclopaedia of the Civil War"

## **Farewell to Former Members**

It is sad when I have to report the passing of a member of the society. This issue sees the passing of two stalwart members in recent weeks.

Myles Jagers (1930-2011)

It is with great regret that we have to inform you of the passing of a former member of the Society. Myles Jagers, 2nd US Artillery, died peacefully at 6 a.m. Monday 20th June at the Glen Royal Nursing Home, Wellingborough. Myles last turned out in 2005 before ill health overtook him, although he has been out to see us at a couple of events since. One of the members of Battery B for some years he will be sadly missed. His funeral was held at Tuesday 28th June at The Edgar Newman Chapel Kettering Crematorium.

## **In Memoriam Len "Smokey" Foxall**

It is my sad duty to inform you of the untimely death on 23rd May 2011 of former member Len Foxall ("Smokey"), former drummer of the 14th Brooklyn. Smokey's Funeral was on the 3rd of June at Frankby Cemetry. The coffin was drawn by a horse drawn carriage. Smokey was buried in his uniform . The Service was followed by The "wake"was held at the Sacred Heart in Moreton

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## **WELCOME BABY**

Now we have some happier news.

Pvt Owen Paul (69thNYSV) and his partner Hayley have had a beautiful 8 pound baby girl, called Lola, on 13th July 2011.

We look forward to seeing photos of our newest recruit very soon.

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## **FIRST AID KITS**

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

Ian Morris

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

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

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## **EVENTS CALENDAR 2011 AT A GLANCE**

**July 30-31st - HULL, EAST YORKSHIRE HU8 8JU**

**August 13th - SHILDON FUN DAY**

**August 20-21st - SPETCHLEY MULTI-PERIOD WR5 1RS**

**August 20th – 21st LANARK RACECOURSE, LANARK ML11  
9SZ.**

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

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

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

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

**December 3rd - ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club  
Birmingham B45 9HY**