



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

HD6 1JQ, England

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2012 Winter Edition



SEWERBY HALL 2008

Issue 163

Website :- www.acws.co.uk

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr Denis Jarwick, Chairman



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Projects



Miss Claire Morris, Membership



Mr Roger Willison-Gray, Marketing



Mr Tony Radcliffe, Health & Safety



Mrs Val Holt, Communications



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander

Mr Kevin Holden Confederate Representative



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Projects Assistant



Mr Bill Brown, Confederate Commander

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of The American Civil War Society Ltd

Held at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club,
64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham
On Saturday 3rd December 2011

Present:

Directors: Mr Philip Clark : Secretary : PC
Mr Denis Jarwick : Chairman : DJ
Mrs Val Holt : Communications : VH
Miss Claire Morris : Membership : CM
Mr Ian Morris : Treasurer : IM
Mr Roger Willison-Gray : Marketing : RWG
Mrs Vivienne Corbishley : Projects : VC
Mr Kevin Holden : Confederate Army Rep : KH
Mr Tony Radcliffe : Health & Safety Rep : TR
Mr Mike Bussey : Webmaster : MB

Society Officers: Mr Mike Corbishley : Explosives Officer : MC
Mr Martin Cross : Assistant H&S Officer : MC

In attendance: Mrs Debbie Davies : Minutes Secretary : DD

Together with members in the hall making a total of 35 members present

The meeting started at 1.00 pm.

1. DJ welcomed everybody to the 36th Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending.
2. Apologies were received from the following:
J Clark, T Davies, C Sprakes, G Preston, D Blackmore, G Willison-Gray, K Filer, R Yarker, A & C Parrott, K Baker, C Elwood.
3. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2010 AGM held at the Nautical Club, Birmingham on Saturday 4th December 2010.
This was proposed by M Cross and seconded by D Parkin, and duly voted upon:

FOR	all present	Proxy votes were: FOR	50
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTIONS	1

This motion was duly approved, and the minutes signed by DJ.

4. Motion to receive the Reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2011 Season as published and issued to members in November 2011.

- 4.1 Secretary : Mr P Clark

In addition to his report PC made the following points:

He first commended the new Chair, DJ, on his efforts this year. It was rather “ in at the deep end “. Generally , Society Members have very little idea of the hard work done by Society officers behind the scenes and the big challenges your Board faces and the decisions it has to make .

PC described the differing attitudes of Police authorities around the country with regards to events involving the use of powder and pyrotechnics and what had to be done to deal with this issue. He advised everyone to watch their back and ensure everything is correct and in place when organising any event. NAReS has been quite active in the issues around gun licencing. Authorities are seeking to combine shotgun, firearms and powder licences into one quicker, simpler Certificate but the price is likely to go up substantially – details still unknown as yet. Objections are ongoing from 6 police forces regarding the RCA document : they don’t want to deal with them , but neither does H&SE !

PC emphasised the need for recruiting into the Society. We have to BUILD FROM HERE .

PC reported that Howard Giles had made an excellent speech at the NAReS AGM about where re-enacting might go from here. PC requested that VH publish his full speech in the next newsletter because it was so good and commended these words of wisdom to all.

PC explained that VC is stepping down as Projects Director and PH will take over the role at this AGM. He commended PH for volunteering. He had been “ trainee “ for the post this year .

He further explained that at next year’s AGM, TR plans to step down as H&S Director, and that M Cross is understudying that role, subject of course to a vote and to other nominations coming forward. He commented that it was difficult to get people to come forward to fill the posts .

PC then invited questions from the floor:

A Henson (1st Maryland) – re Firearms licences – he stated that he has been told a house alarm may now be a requirement (Manchester authority). A Cross stated that it is the same in Nottingham. J Filer stated that an alarm is not necessary to possess weapons. PC summarised that it varies from authority to authority and members should take advice from their own local police authority. Metropolitan areas usually wanted

more security than did country forces. One muzzle-loading BP “shotgun” ought not to attract such requirements, but having rifled firearms might.

4.2 Projects : Mrs V Corbishley

VC thanked the Board for their continued support this year. She also thanked MC. She went on to confirm her support and assistance to PH in the coming months but said she was glad to be finally retiring after 20 years in the role, and stepping back to Projects Assistant.

4.3 Treasurer : Mr I Morris

IM apologised for the small printing of the accounts in the paperwork, and distributed larger size copies of the accounts to the meeting. He stated that the only alteration to be noted was £500 depreciation which would therefore reduce the final profit figure accordingly.

MB emphasised the hard work done by Board to make a profit this year, and he thanked the Board for successfully reducing the costs so much so as to put the Society back on a level financial footing.

M Cross questioned the increase in website costs. MB explained that the new deal is actually much better value because it runs over 5 years and provides a better service.

4.4 Membership : Miss C Morris

CM apologised for her down-beat report but emphasised the desperate need for recruitment throughout the Society.

MB suggested emailing ex-members with list of events for this year to try to encourage them to return.

IM commended the Projects Team on securing so many events already at this stage in the year.

4.5 Marketing : Mr R Willison-Gray

RWG reported that the Facebook site has proved very successful.

G Gibson stated that he tends to be put off by the “on this day...” spot.

RWG noted that not many people contribute to the forum.

A Cross stated that she finds the Twitter links off-putting, however RWG stated that Twitter had been stopped about 6 months ago.

RWG expressed concern about where people are communicating. Others outside the society are using the forum, but not many members are.

RWG reported that D Blackmore (Cavalry) is helping to get events, M Summers (Cavalry) is currently working on art & design work, and plans are underway to create more of a portal on the website to assist interested people in contacting us and finding out more.

He also stated that he now has a volunteer to run a marketing tent next year, and commended this to all as a good place to display leaflets and recruiting materials. The marketing tent will start at Sewerby.

4.6 Confederate Army Representative : Mr K Holden

KH reported that there was nothing to be added to his report as published.

4.7 Federal Army C.O. : Mr G Holman (on behalf of T Davies)

GH stated that there were no additions to TD’s report, except to thank everyone who attended this year and TD hopes to see the same or better turn-out next year.

4.8 Communications : Mrs V Holt

VH had nothing to add to her published report.

4.9 Health & Safety : Mr T Radcliffe

TR had nothing to add to his published report.

J Filer asked TR to confirm that the new H&S procedures will be incorporated for the use of explosives. TR agreed that these would indeed be carried out at first main event, and went on to suggest that this represented a good opportunity to hold a “Colours” type meeting at that point as there is something to be shared. D Parkin pointed out that this is in line with what had been agreed when Colours was “disbanded”. There is always the option to have a Society meeting when there is something important to say to everyone.

VC announced that it is planned that at Sewerby on Saturday evening there will be a barbecue and “get-together” to ensure that all members get to know Board members , and also to provide an opportunity for members to come up with ideas, comments and gripes in an informal setting. RWG suggested that we need more opportunities to communicate, eg baseball match, horseshoe tournaments etc and a bit of a competition element. The “ bun and a beer” meeting for all at Sewerby was to be paid for by contributions from the Directors.

4.10 Chairman : Mr D Jarwick

DJ stated that he now realises how big a task being Chair entails. He expressed his thanks to the Board for their help and support this year, and also from the members. He thanked VC for her sterling service as Projects director and commended PH and VC on their good work to secure so many events. He emphasised the real need to attract more members and that a long list of good events is the first way to do that.

Motion to adopt the directors’ reports

This was proposed by H Davies and seconded by S Hayllar, and duly voted upon:

FOR	31	Proxy votes were	FOR	50
AGAINST	2		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion duly approved.

5. Motion to receive the Audited Accounts

This motion was proposed by A Jensen and seconded by A Radcliffe and duly voted upon:

FOR	32	Proxy votes were FOR	49
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	2	ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion duly approved.

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

This motion was proposed by VC, and seconded by CM.

FOR	33	Proxy votes were FOR	50
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1	ABSTENTIONS	1

IM added that on surveying alternatives, the cheapest quote he could find was over £2,000, whereas Mr Carty's fees are still only £195 + VAT. NAReS also use him, and he is very helpful and obliging and works well in our favour.

Motion duly approved.

7. Membership & Registration fees for the 2012 season

J Filer expressed thanks to the Board for keeping the fees the same.

A Jensen suggested offering a discount to new members if they join for a second year, eg half price in second year. RWG agreed that it is a good idea and he will take it to the next Board meeting to reach some kind of agreement on how to implement it.

DJ recommended waiting for 2 years' successful profitable years before giving something back in the form of incentives like this. He stated that he would rather have some more money behind us first.

VC pointed out the cost of running a very old vehicle for the transport of cannon which will need to be replaced at some point. There are also storage costs to consider which are increasing all the time. She emphasised the need to save for future possible expenses.

H Davies suggested that the Board should be looking at possibilities for van replacement now, as it is better to shop around over a period of time rather than in an emergency. MB confirmed that they are already looking around and putting out feelers for a replacement. The Society simply didn't have enough funds this year but as our reserves are now building they can look purposefully. He also stated that they need to look at all options including hire rather than purchase.

H Gibson asked about the apparently quite low Sutlers' fees item in the accounts. VC and MB explained that Phil & Jayne Olden and Tennessee Stitchers only attended 2 events this year, and that outside sutlers have not been attending. MB also stated that at some events the payment goes to the event organiser, not to ACWS.

S Hayllar asked whether any money had been received from WW2 group after the incident at Sheffield. IM confirmed that none had been received. H Davies stated that he saw no need for any payment as there was very little cost involved, and irrelevant anyway – help was provided because it was needed. KH agreed with this sentiment.

This motion as presented by the Board was proposed by PC and seconded by DD.

FOR	all present	Proxy votes were	FOR	50
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion duly approved.

8. Election of Board of Directors

MB clarified that PH's move to Projects Director is included in this vote. This motion was proposed by A Jensen and seconded by J Filer, and duly voted upon:

FOR	17	Proxy votes were	FOR	48
AGAINST	1		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	2		ABSTENTIONS	3

Motion approved.

Pete Holt then took his place as Projects Director of the Board of Directors. DJ presented VC with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her work over the last 20 years. PC & MB pointed out that VC will remain as a Director on the Board firstly as assistant to PH, but also because she needs to be a Director when signing contracts. VC added that she has a genuine interest in ensuring that the Society continues to go from strength to strength.

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

This was proposed by GHolman, seconded by M Cross and duly voted upon by Federal members only:

FOR	17	Proxy votes were	FOR	25
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	3		ABSTENTIONS	0

Motion approved.

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

This motion was proposed by A Henson, seconded by H Gibson and duly voted upon by Confederate members only:

FOR	7	Proxy votes were	FOR	19
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	3

Mr Bill Brown was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for 2012.

The meeting broke at 2.15pm for 10 minutes.

11. Open Forum

Questions, comments and suggestions were invited from the floor.

A Jensen suggested that, in future, if there is a full Society event organised for a weekend, there should not be any other events booked for the same weekend because we do not have enough members to field one event never mind two or three. For example, at Spetchley only 5 Confederates attended and he felt that this was at least in part due to Lanark and Ipswich events being on the same weekend. MB stated that the Spetchley sponsors had backed out of paying the agreed fees and the Lanark event came up with a significant fee attached, so they became 2 smaller events instead of one full society event. (VC stated that she was misled when negotiating the Spetchley fees). Others confirmed that turn-outs were poor at Lanark and Ipswich as well on both the Federal and Confederate sides at Spetchley. PC stated that in fact this showed that ACWS can spread if there are small events at different ends of the country. D Parkin agreed that although it's not ideal to split up, in his opinion it worked well. There are things we can do with small numbers. It also gives members a good option for distance to travel. G Gibson stated that most attendees at Lanark were from Scotland and the north east of England, and it is a good idea to have options. DJ stated that he made the decision to go to Lanark because it is closer to home and also because there hasn't been any events in Scotland before. He saw it as a chance to promote the society in a new area, and also to show support for B Brown who travels anywhere. Carl Smith asked if Spetchley will be on next year, and VC confirmed that it is on offer. J Olden stated that the no dogs rule does put members off attending. AJ reiterated that it was advertised as a full society event, and advised the Board to be aware of changing plans after publishing. MB stated that in his opinion Spetchley was scaled down in advance of it taking place and was actually bolstered by holding Lanark as an option. KH also pointed out that if the fee offered had been as low as it ended up ACWS would never have taken it on in the first place, but at the time there were no events booked.

D Parkin suggested that Spetchley should be organised as a regimental event and that way members would not be disappointed by a "poor full society event".

J Filer asked if the Board agreed with event organisers in advance what ACWS were going to supply. VC stated that she had advised Spetchley organisers that there would be no artillery and it would be a low attendance event. PC observed that about 25 were at Lanark and 6 at Ipswich, so WHERE were the other 350 Members who could have come to Spetchley? !

As there seemed no clear answer for why people did not attend Spetchley, A Cross suggested that Army Commanders should survey their members to find out why people didn't attend. MB suggested that possible reasons would be: cost, holidays, and that there were 3 events in row.

M Cross expressed his thanks to the Texans for their help at Spetchley. He also stated that actual fees received, along with registration fees at both Spetchley and Lanark –

and also at Ipswich with the 22nd – all added together actually did well for the Society. MB further reported that all the sponsors were very happy with what was supplied by ACWS. P Edensor concurred that it seems better to get 3 sets of fees instead of one low paying event.

MB addressed the advertising of events, and talked about re-badging events not as regimental or full society events but as small events open to all members. Regimentals should be by invite only, others open to all. RWG further clarified that when events are organised and run by a regiment – regimental event – the fee goes to that regiment not to the Society, and full responsibility for the event (incl legal H&S) falls to the regimental commander. Society services are available as support only. S Hayllar suggested using the terms major, mini and regimentals, and also living history categories.

In summary, MB stated that members generally want to do events, costs and calendars permitting, but they need to make a decision at some point on priorities.

PC referred to Howard Giles' report which stated that events for large national Societies are more likely to become regional rather than national. Those who live in the north attend the event close to them and so on and so forth, and there are likely to be fewer national full society events for the bigger Societies – for economic reasons.

RWG brought up the current method of voting at the AGM for the Board en block. He conceded that it is not an ideal method, but is good for expediency. The Board itself has no problem with changing the method of voting, but wanted to know what the members think. PC stated that it is often very difficult to do any other way as there are usually no volunteers to stand against existing Directors. He also raised the question of what would happen if an existing Director was voted off the Board, ie this would leave the post vacant, which is not good for the Society. VC pointed out that every year there are votes cast against and abstentions on this motion and wondered if this would change if people could vote individually? RWG stated his concern that members feel they don't have the chance to voice their opinion or make changes.

CM commented that this does not address the problem of reaching all the membership – most members don't vote now, and they probably still wouldn't vote under an alternative system.

H Gibson questioned how members are able to give a vote of no confidence against one board member when they have to vote en block. A Cross suggested giving a new system of voting for individuals a try and see if it works. M Cross pointed out that members are given the chance to vote, either at the AGM in person or by proxy, so if they choose not to do either, then they must accept the vote of those who do.

RWG expressed his concern about how to ensure that those people feel that the Board is serving them properly. He stated that he feels that he is aware of a general feeling of dissatisfaction amongst members against the Board.

D Parkin suggested giving the attending members the opportunity to choose whether to vote individually or en block – PC pointed out that the practicalities of proxy paperwork would have to be carefully addressed for those who are unable to attend the AGM. It could of course be done , but in reality was this really an issue – just look at the voting pattern shown above . Only a very small number voted against or abstained.

M Crump noted that the result of today's vote and this year's proxies show that there can't be much dissent as there have been hardly any abstentions or votes against any of the motions.

All present agreed that it appears that many members are voting with their feet and leaving, which is not good for the Society; or else are stuck in a rut and therefore rather complacent and inclined towards apathy.

RWG asked whether it would be worth having a satisfaction survey once a year with basic key performance standards, which could be collected at the AGM?? M Cross questioned whether anyone would complete it? H Gibson recommended rather than calling it a survey, there might be a better response if it was a "compliments, comments and complaints" form, which could be available all year round at events.

CM expressed the opinion that if there is a problem, people should go and talk to the person with whom they have the problem and try to resolve it. MB reported that the Board had been discussing holding a surgery-type session at events. H Gibson didn't think people would be keen to do it in person but might be prepared to write it down. G Gibson stated that members should be using the army command structure to deal with comments, problems, etc and then they can be dealt with appropriately to the situation.

D Parkin stated that the previously mentioned barbecue idea may work to break down barriers and be a good start to better communication.

It was agreed that members should be given the option of voting for the Board individually at the AGM. This would require a secret ballot if any post was in contention. PC to look at the paperwork that would be required for this and for proxy voting.

PC also to prepare a "compliments, comments and complaints" form for use at events, to be collected in for Board discussion. He agreed that this could provide very useful feedback.

A Radcliffe suggested that there should be forms and a collecting box at each signing-in point to maintain anonymity and make it less intimidating for people to express their opinions.

12. Projects Announcements regarding events for 2012

PH expressed his thanks to VC for her guidance over the last 12 months, and his gratitude that she is happy to be the telephone holder at events so that he can continue to take part on the field and re-enact.

25th February 2012 – Worcester Guild Hall CONFIRMED
Volunteers required.

31st March – 1st April – Confederate Training Weekend, Murton Park
CONFIRMED
Arrival after 3.30pm Friday. Camping till Sunday afternoon.

14th – 15th April – Federal Training weekend CONFIRMED
Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Cheshire

Arrive after 3pm Friday. Camping till Monday.

5th – 7th May - Sewerby Hall CONFIRMED

Camping from Friday to Tuesday. Cannon (but no firing), infantry and cavalry
On Saturday there is a wedding in the Orangerie. Cavalry to provide escort. Infantry
to provide guard of honour.
Union have the house this year. Medical display in the Orangerie Sunday and
Monday.

16th – 17th June – Morley Nr Leeds CONFIRMED

Camping Friday to Monday.

24th June - Kiplin Hall, North Yorkshire

One day event – drill and living history. No cannon.
PH is trying to arrange for camping on Saturday night. If so, cavalry may attend.
Hoping to use this as a small promotional event with a view to a full event for 2013.

7th – 8th July Tatton Park, Cheshire CONFIRMED

Arrival after 3pm Friday. Camping till Monday.

28th – 29th July – Hull CONFIRMED

Artillery, infantry and cavalry.
Camping Friday to Sunday. Discussion of details of camp layout ongoing.

18th – 19th August – Lanark CONFIRMED

No details available till February. G Holman trying to extend camping to allow
people to make a week's holiday.

18th – 19th August – Spetchley Park CONFIRMED

No details as yet.

15th – 16th September – Ingleton CONFIRMED

Camping Friday to Monday. Discussion of details of camp layout ongoing.
No cannon.

8th – 9th September - Crieff, Perthshire Under discussion

One-off event commemorating 2 brothers – 1 from the North and 1 from the South.
Members of 79th NY regiment are coming from USA. There will be a drumhead
service and parade, presentation of colours and plaque to the town from Oregon.
Living History only.
Camping Friday to Monday.
PH is asking the sponsors for extra money in order to give a petrol subsidy to
members attending.

SPETCHLEY PARK





Many thanks to Kevin Wolf for these splendid photos taken at Spetchley Park

LANARK SCOTLAND 2011



LANARK SCOTLAND 2011



Many thanks to Griff for these photos taken at Lanark. Let's hope we have many more in 2012.

PH to enquire about cavalry attending provided their costs are covered.

PH stated that the Norfolk Park, Sheffield event is unlikely to be on at the August bank holiday. He certainly has no information at this moment, but is still trying to secure an event for the bank holiday weekend.

There is currently no event in place for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend as there is a lot of uncertainty amongst sponsors because of the extra bank holiday for the Queen's jubilee, but PH still trying.

19th Foot events (MB)

MB reported that the visit to Ukraine this year had been a great success.

21st – 22nd April Wrest Park

14th -15th July Kelmarsh – KH is organising volunteers for Boer impression. MB reported that Cossacks are no longer required.

18th – 19th August – SS Great Britain, (or Tintersfield) - to be confirmed

22nd Cheshire (TR)

TR read out the following statement from the 22nd Chair, Ed Wilson:

Dear friends and members,

2011 was a busy and successful year for the 22nd Regiment of Foot.

We should like to extend grateful thanks to the Board for providing support, encouragement and invaluable advice for our endeavours.

Also to our members for their continued support and hard work. Whether events were large or small, everyone has worked their buckled shoes off and the high levels of authenticity and professionalism have not gone unnoticed by our grateful sponsors.

We look forward to building on this success in 2012 and continuing collaboration with other 18th and 19th century units for the greater good of our wonderful hobby.

Events:

January (date to be confirmed) Regency Ball, Rochdale

18th – 19th February – Murton Park

Meanee Day weekend

March (date to confirmed) Birkenhead Town Hall

One-day promotional event

21st – 22nd April – Wrest Park

12th – 13th May – Rough Close, Coventry

May (date to be confirmed) Helmshore Mill

June (date to be confirmed) Gatley Festival

One-day living history event

30th June – 1st July – American Museum, Bath

Living History 4th July weekend

14th – 15th July – Kelmarsh Festival of History

August (date to be confirmed) Ipswich Maritime Festival

6th – 7th October – Rough Close

Any unconfirmed dates will be negotiated with PH to fit in around ACWS events as far as possible.

All noted that there are several events on one weekend again in 2012, but all of them represent income to the Society and should therefore supported by all members.

TR and MB emphasised that anyone interested in these regiments should approach them for information. All newcomers welcome.

13. Any Other Business

J Filer expressed his thanks to the Board and especially to PC for the training and help he gave to the pyrotechnics team.

M Cross announced a sum of £99.15 raised by USCC for Help for Heroes in 2011. Another pound was donated at the meeting , to take the figure over £100 !

RWG announced that the Cavalry now have a new commander - Dave Blackmore – and as a result the unit is becoming more disciplined and attracting more members. They are also aiming towards setting up a more authentic camp at events. They are probably changing horse supplier and will have access to driving horses and period vehicles.

Gary Holman announced that the winners of the Graham Forbes Trophy 2011 were the Medical Team and presented it to H Davies (S Hayllar had left the meeting earlier) with great appreciation from everyone.

The date for the next AGM was set for Saturday 8th December 2012 at Rubery once again.

PC pointed out that the Worcester Reenactors' "Time Travellers Ball" is on the same weekend, so members may wish to attend both.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 4.10 pm.



PROJECTS REPORT

I start this new season as Projects Director, but I must pay tribute to Viv Corbishley, who has worked tirelessly for the past 20 odd years in the position in securing events for the society, and is still doing so. Viv has decided it is time to slow down and to take a step back from the job. I hope that it is not too big a step Viv as your expertise is still required.

It is fair to say that the following dates for 2012 are largely down to Viv's work over the last year. There are one or two not yet included as yet as we are still in negotiation and no details available at the moment.

25th February Worcester Guild Hall

This a promotional event. If you are interested, please contact Carl Smith, 1st USSS by e mail

31st March – 1st April Murton Park York.

This is the Confederate Training Weekend with camping from Friday to Sunday. The organisers request that you do not arrive before 4pm on Friday.

14th – 15th April Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire

This is the Federal Brigade Camp of Instruction. Camping is from Friday to Monday. Please do not arrive before 3pm on Friday by request of the organisers.

5th – 7th May Sewerby Hall, N Yorks

Although this is a full society event regrettably we are not allowed to fire the cannons, because of the animals in the little zoo attached to the Hall, but the cannon will be taken to the event. The cavalry will be in action at this event.

There is a wedding at the Hall on Saturday and we have been asked to provide a 'Guard of Honour' for the bride and groom on arrival and departure.

Camping is from Friday from 2pm to Tuesday noon.

16th – 17th June Morley, Leeds, W Yorks

This is a full society event near the Cricket Club in Scratcherd Lane with an Infantry and artillery battle scenario with no cavalry taking part, but ALL members are welcome. Camping will be from Friday to Monday.

24th June Kiplin Hall, near Richmond, N Yorks

This event is a one day only event this year with the possibility for a bigger event next year. All members are invited to attend, but because of the proximity of the house to the battlefield we cannot use the cannons, so it will be Living History with drill and firing displays. I am negotiating with the curator regarding the length of time we can camp and will publish the outcome when it is agreed. The Hall has recently had a lovely new toilet block built close to where we camp..

7th – 8th July Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire

We have all been here to this lovely site with its nice loos before and know the layout what is expected of us so there is nothing more to be said except 'See you there'. The camping will be from Friday after 3pm please in case they have a school party booked for that day. Camping available until noon on Monday.

28th – 29th July Veterans Weekend, East Park, Hull

Those who attended this multi period event last year will tell you that is a splendid event. The venue is in a beautiful park setting with plenty of security. This full society event with infantry, artillery and cavalry taking part. Camping from Friday to Monday (if toilet facilities are available for Sunday night). The family camp will be in a different place from last year.

18th – 19th August Lanark Scotland

This event is open to all who wish to attend and is a multi period event with a beer tent on Saturday night. Those who attended this event last year enjoyed every moment of this very fast moving event. ACWS only did Living History and drill displays last time, and as yet we do not know what is required this time as the organisers are not having their first meeting until February.

8th – 9th September Crieff Scotland

This event is still in negotiation, but would be a very prestigious event to do as a contingent of 79th NY Highlanders from Oregon USA will be coming over to present colours to the town of Crieff to commemorate two brothers from there who went to the US and fought in the Civil War. One joined the 79th NY Highlanders and fought for the north, the other joined with the 1st South Carolinas and fought for the south.

There will be Living History and drill displays with possible firing displays on Saturday. On Sunday we would be expected to take part in a parade culminating in a Drumhead Ceremony where the colours will be presented. This event is being supported by the authorities on both sides of the Atlantic, including Crieff's MP and Oregon's senior US Senator.

I am at present in talks with the organisers for funding which would enable the cavalry to attend and because of the distance to travel and the closeness of other events around that date, it may be possible to give participants some assistance toward travel expenses. I will keep you informed.

15th – 16th September Ingleton, N Yorks

Again many of us have been here before and have enjoyed themselves despite the weather. ACWS are always made very welcome by villagers and visitors alike. Again it is unfortunate that we are not allowed to use the cannons, because of the proximity of the houses to our field.

8th December Annual General Meeting, Birmingham

This will be held at Rubery and Rednal Royal British Legion Club, beginning at 1pm.

That's it for now folks, but the Projects Team are still working hard looking for more events for this season and making a start on next year's events. If you know of somewhere that would like us to 'inform and educate' then let either Viv or myself know and we will look into the possibilities.

Just a word about re enactment days. I do not carry my mobile phone when I am in uniform, so if you wish to contact me, you will have to find me in person on the 69th New York lines or contact Viv, who has agreed to have her phone at the ready on family camp.

Peter Holt and Viv Corbishley
The Projects Team

Capture of New Orleans

Early in the Civil War, Union General-in-Chief Winfield Scott devised the "Anaconda Plan" for defeating the Confederacy. A hero of the Mexican-American War, Scott called for the blockade of the Southern coast as well as the capture of the Mississippi River. This latter move was designed to split the Confederacy in two and prevent

supplies from moving east and west. The first step to securing the Mississippi was the capture of New Orleans. The Confederacy's largest city and busiest port, New Orleans was defended by two large forts, Jackson and St. Philip, situated on the river below the city.



The task of taking the city fell to the US Navy and Flag Officer

David G. Farragut. A long-serving officer and commander of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, Farragut established his base of operations at Ship Island off the coast of Mississippi. Assessing the Confederate defences, Farragut initially planned to reduce the forts with mortar fire before advancing his fleet up the river. Rendezvousing at Head of Passes on April 8, 1862, Farragut's ships moved up the river towards the forts. Arriving, Farragut was confronted by Forts Jackson and St. Philip, as well as a chain barricade and four smaller batteries. The Confederate defences were commanded by Major General Mansfield Lovell who had his headquarters in New Orleans. Immediate command of the forts fell to Brigadier General Johnson K. Duncan. Supporting the static defences were the River Defence Fleet consisting of 10 gunboats, as well as the ironclads CSS Louisiana and CSS Manassas. The former, while a powerful ship, was not complete and was used as a floating battery during the battle. Though sceptical about the plan,

Farragut advanced his mortar boats on April 18, under the command of Commander David D. Porter. Firing non-stop for five days and nights, the mortars pounded the forts, but were unable to completely disable their batteries. As the shells rained down, sailors from USS Itasca and USS Pinola rowed forward and opened a gap in the chain barricade. On April 23, Farragut, impatient with the bombardment's results, began planning to run his fleet past the forts. Ordering his captains to drape their vessels in chain, iron plate, and other protective materials, Farragut divided the fleet into three sections for the coming action.

At 2:00 AM on April 24, the Union fleet began moving upstream, with the first division coming under fire an hour and fifteen minutes later. Racing ahead, the first division was soon clear of the forts, however Farragut's second division encountered more difficulty. As his flagship, USS Hartford cleared the forts; it was forced to turn to avoid a Confederate fire raft and ran aground. Seeing the Union ship in trouble, the Confederates redirected the fire raft towards Hartford causing a fire to break out on the vessel. Moving quickly, the crew extinguished the flames and was able to back the ship out of the mud.

Above the forts, the Union ships encountered the River Defence Fleet and CSS Manassas. While the gunboats were easily dealt with, Manassas attempted to ram USS Pensacola, but missed. Moving downstream, it was accidentally fired upon by the forts before moving to strike USS Brooklyn. Ramming the Union ship, Manassas failed to strike a

fatal blow as it hit Brooklyn's full coal bunkers. By the time the fighting ended, Manassas was downstream of the Union fleet and unable to make enough speed against the current to ram effectively. As a result, its captain ran it aground where it was destroyed by Union gun fire.

Having successfully cleared the forts with minimal losses, Farragut began steaming upstream to New Orleans. Arriving off the city on April 25, he immediately demanded its surrender. Sending a force ashore, Farragut was told by the mayor that only Gen. Lovell could surrender the city. This was countered when Lovell informed the mayor that he was retreating and that the city was not his to surrender. After four days of this, Farragut ordered his men to hoist the US flag over the customs house and city hall. During this time, the garrisons of the Forts Jackson and St. Philip, now cut off from the city, surrendered. On May 1, Union troops under Major General Benjamin Butler arrived to take official custody of the city.

The battle to capture New Orleans cost Farragut a mere 37 killed and 149 wounded. Though he was initially unable to get all of his fleet past the forts, he succeeded in getting 13 ships upstream which enabled him to capture the Confederacy's greatest port and centre of trade. For Lovell, the fighting along the river cost him around 782 killed and wounded, as well as approximately 6,000 captured. The loss of the city effectively ended Lovell's career. After the fall of New Orleans, Farragut was able to take control of much of the lower Mississippi and succeeded in capturing Baton Rouge and Natchez.



MAMA'S MUTTERINGS

Let me start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. And hope we all have a really good season in 2012.

As you can see by the events on the calendar, the Project Team have been working very hard on your behalf to bring you some great events this year. It has taken a lot of effort to find events over the last couple of years as they came up against the 'credit crunch' Britain celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and hosts the Olympic Games during the season this year and this has brought its own problems. Lack of funds has restricted the type of events councils etc can afford for the Jubilee weekend, with the extra day's holiday at the end of May and this has posed a problem in securing an event for then, but Projects are still working on it and if an event can be found you will be informed, so keep looking on the website.

For the last few years ACWS has been asked to take part in the Sheffield Fayre event in Norfolk Park, Sheffield. As yet there is no news of this event going ahead this year, because Sheffield Council are cutting back on funding for public entertainment.

Unfortunately, times have also changed for the society, we can no longer afford to self fund events in the way we did in the past, or to 'slip in' something the sponsor did not ask for.

Today we must have a new mind set and price everything out. Gone too,

are the days of turning up, pitching your tent, set you chair outside and sit back and smoke your pipe before trotting off to the battlefield with your musket and blasting away for 45 mins, then packing up and go home saying you have a good weekend. Today's sponsors want wall to wall entertainment.... Living History with lots of scenarios in camp and drill displays from first thing until the last person has left in the evening.

Ian Morris, as Treasurer, has the unenviable task of pricing everything out from insurance cover to estimating the amount and cost of black powder required for the event. The Projects Team has to negotiate the price of the event with the sponsor and they have to consider whether it is viable to run the event or not. The cost is not the only consideration to be taken into account. This year alone Project had to make a couple of decisions regarding whether events could go ahead, because builders and architects advised curators that firing cannon in close proximity to the building could cause damage to antique window glass and vets had great concern about the trauma which could be caused to animals on the estate. So the events had to be scaled down. Other places are run as charities on a shoestring and can't afford to have all aspects of what we do. The Board is then faced with the decision of do we turn it down and deprive everyone or do we do something smaller? After all everyone can attend an event. Just because the sponsor cannot afford the cavalry

Continued on page 26 column 2

OBITUARY



MARK PATRICKSON

Gone to that great big re-enactment in the sky!

Mark died of a heart attack on Monday the 14th November 2011 aged 50. He had not been working, due to illness, for a long time but initially in his career he was in car sales and then insurance (he loved claims handling). Mark was a fellow re-enactor in ACWS, and both he and Geraldine (they were married in 1985) joined in 1989, having watched an ACWS event at Tatton Park. Mark initially joined 13th Alabama with Joe Brierley whilst Geraldine joined 2nd Wisconsin and then moved to 19th Indiana at the Eastnor Castle event.

Mark moved to the Pyrotechnics Team and wore both uniforms for that purpose, but his heart was always really with the Confederates, and he always preferred to wear the grey.

Lt. Phil Berry of 19 Ind was reversing his new sports car out of the garage, and unfortunately scraped a wing on the wall. He rang up his insurance company, and because it was a new

policy it went through to a claims handler, who asked him all the questions necessary and then said 'well, Mr Berry, that sounds fine and I understand what happened and I will approve the claim so don't worry. All you have to worry about is having the mickey taken out of you in the 19th Indiana magazine Swamp Hog Gazette' Phil Berry was somewhat startled. 'Hi Phil, it's me Mark Patrickson'. Mark always had a very good sense of humour, and enjoyed having a good laugh. He was always interested in firearms, especially from the Civil War period, and he and Geraldine travelled so often to the USA on holiday, and re-enacting, that they once got pulled over by US Immigration, on suspicion that they were up to something, because they visited so often! Mark 'found his home' in the Pyro Team, and Geraldine remembers that she (driving) and Mark and Paul Schofield were driving back from a C&W night out, and the boys were messing around in the back of the car and suddenly the car completely filled up with smoke and she couldn't see out. Luckily Geraldine managed to get the window open quickly and her head out, to see the road ahead, with 'the boys' screaming with laughter. Geraldine says she didn't know what they had done between them but it was a bit scary at the time, and you always have to be on the look out when the Pyro Team are playing around with blackpowder!

One of his best 'performances' was at the first Weston Park International when we were doing first Bull Run. A mock-up of the Henry House had been constructed in the middle of the battlefield, with a white painted picket

fence around it. Hidden inside were the Pyro Team with all the wires radiating to the ground charges scattered across the battlefield. The event starts and Mark is looking through the spy hole and directing Phil Caswell to flick the switches, to simulate artillery fire landing on the battlefield. Mark says to Phil 'quick quick number eleven'. That duly goes 'BANG'. Then Mark says 'quick quick ,number thirty two, and immediately number forty one'. They duly go off. Then he says 'quick quick number seventeen'. So Phil says 'what are you doing?' and Mark replies 'chasing that French officer around the battlefield.....'.

At the end of the Battle, when the Henry House was duly blown up, he stuck a "For Sale" sign up on the fence!

We shall always remember Mark for his flair and sense of humour, and for his many enthusiasms. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Geraldine, and we will always remember Mark, especially when we sit around the fire drinking beer and telling jokes, or when trying to avoid the ground charges when crossing a battlefield.

Philip Clark

My Memories of Mark Patrickson

It is with the deepest sadness I receive news of the death of Mark Patrickson during the night of 14/15 November. Mark and I have been the best of friends since I joined the Society in 1990. He was the Best Man at my marriage to Rosemary

in 1999.

We had what most people would regard as a "weird" relationship, based almost entirely on public insult, he calling me "BUG" (Big Ugly Gordon), and me calling him "FUD" (Fat, Ugly and Dumb). Outside of that, we both enjoyed re-enacting with some gusto, adding in our love of "Loony Tunes" by doing our impressions of Elmer Fudd, Bugs Bunny, Yosemite Sam, et al.

We also had a shared love of Second World War music, doing tap dance routines to "The Siegfried Line" and "The Maginot Line". On one well-witnessed occasion at Scarborough Castle, we were doing our "Maginot Line" routine, when we were espied by a member of the public, who asked: "What do they do?". She was informed that Mark was in charge of all the pyrotechnic charges, and I was in charge of the line of artillery along the parapet. "Oh, my God!", cried said lady, last seen disappearing down the exit ramp (at speed).

In later years, since Rosemary and I emigrated to the US in 2003, we have been "plagued" by many visits from Mark and Geraldine. The first house we bought over here was visited, and when they arrived at our door, Mark considered that we lived "beyond the Boonies". Then we moved to PA, and he considered we had moved even further than "beyond the Boonies". We were expecting another visit to our new home in Ohio. This he would

probably consider to be in an area that considered the Boonies to be uptown!

We have been in irregular contact ever since we moved here. One or other of us would always call at Thanksgiving and Christmas, amongst other times when one or other of us was in need of a long chat. To say I consider his passing the equivalent to losing a brother would be an understatement. We are closer than brothers - we are best friends.

I can't really grasp what Geraldine must be going through at the moment. I have spent all day trying, and failing, to suppress my tears, but managing to remember the laughs we had along the way, Dear Mark, you have gone to a better place, where all the pain and suffering is gone. Say "Hi" to your mum and dad from us.

Gordon and Rosemary Clifford

and/or the artillery does not mean that members of the cavalry or the artillery can not attend the event. All members are welcome at all full society events.

The news on fuel is not the best either. It does not look like there will be any reduction in prices anytime soon and this may make you think about which events you can go to. Please do try to attend as many as possible. Enough of my moans for now, just give a thought now and then to those who work behind the scenes so you can enjoy the occasional weekend away from the 'Rat Race'.

I must also apologise for the lack of articles and pictures in this addition, but this issue is what I always think of as 'The Business Edition'. The Minutes of the A.G.M. has to be included here, this restricts me in publishing articles. One the subject of articles If you have something you want to share please send it to me, preferably by email, but snail mail is still acceptable. I look forward to receiving them.

See you all at the first event.

DRIVER WANTED

Driver wanted to transport Ordnance Trailer to and from events.

The Society will pay all fuel costs and if necessary, provide a tow bar.

The trailer will normally be required on site by the Thursday prior to the event.

**For more information please contact:
Mike - 01832 734674**

TENNESSEE STITCHERS

**LADIES', MEN'S, CHILDREN'S
CLOTHING AND ACCESSESORIES**

**DERAN BEATTIE
AND LESLEY BUSSEY**

E MAIL:

TENNSTITCH@HOTMAIL.COM




West Point
Albion Small Arms
NEW WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESS



RFD 1951 West Midlands

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

Proprietors: Phil & Jayne Olden
21 Edgewood Road
Rednal
Birmingham
B45 8SB. UK
Tel: 0121 453 7016
Mob: 07974956401
Email: westpointasa@gmail.com
www.westpointalbionsmallarms.co.uk



All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: - Val Holt Editor
E-mail address Editor@acws.co.uk or send to
PO Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ
Web Site: - <http://www.acws.co.uk>

Copy date for the Next Issue will be 31st March 2012 for the next issue

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

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALL ARTICLES

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



EVENTS CALENDAR 2012

**February 18th - WORCESTER GUILD HALL
Promotional Event**

**March 31st - April 1st - CONFEDERATE TRAINING
WEEKEND C.S. Battalion**

**April 14-15th - FEDERAL CAMP OF INSTRUCTION
U.S. Brigade**

May 6-7th - SEWERBY HALL Full Society Event

June 16-17th - MORLEY, West Yorks Full Society Event

June 24th - KIPLIN HALL, North Yorks Small Event

July 7-8th - TATTON, Cheshire Full Society Event

July 28-29th - EAST PARK, HULL Full Society Event

August 18-19th - LANARK, SCOTLAND Small Event

**September 15-16th - INGLETON, North Yorks
Full Society Event**

December 8th - ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING