

The Black Pear Bulletin

The Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society

Issue No. 10 ~ Christmas / New Year Special 2014



THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

Time and Tide wait for no man. How true. There was little time to reflect upon the successes of September as planning for the next tranche of events was already well underway. Sadly, there has been no response to my appeal for a Social Secretary, but I am still hopeful some brave soul will volunteer. With a very hectic programme of events it has meant there has been less time to spend pulling together a Black Pear Bulletin. The Executive Committee has decided that with a bang up to date website, a monthly BPB is no longer necessary, and accordingly, from now on there will be editions in the Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. For all the latest news check out the website.

CHARITABLE STATUS

I am delighted to say that there are now ten trustees "signed-up", though we shall be looking to recruit more in due course. The application procedure is progressing well and Vaughan Wiltshire, who has taken the lead (thankfully!) tells me that he is hoping to hear some positive news any day now.

THANK YOU, TONY

Our good friend Tony Spicer, author of a superb book on the battle and member of the Battlefields Trust kindly agreed to write a new piece on the 1651 campaign and battle for the website. The story is told in such a way to make it accessible to the casual reader or academic. A brilliant piece, Tony, thank you. Don't forget, keep up with all the news on the Society website www.thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk



Bab, humbug! Merry Christmas Edition!

NEWARK

The new National Civil War Centre will be opening in Newark in the Spring of next year. I am very keen that Worcester, and of course more generally interest in the Civil War, benefits from this exciting new development. With this in mind, and following consultation with Museums Worcestershire, I arranged a meeting at the Commandery on 20th October under the auspices of the Battle of Worcester Society, with two key officials from Newark. The day proved to be a highly useful exercise as matters as diverse as building development, grants, loaned exhibits and marketing strategies were discussed. I shall keep in regular contact with Newark as the Commandery undergoes its own transformation. A visit to Newark for members is proposed next year.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Friday 10th April 2015 - The Presidents Monument Campaign Launch

We will be hosting the official launch of the Presidents Monument Campaign to raise funds for the magnificent statue of the two Presidents for Fort Royal Hill. All society members will be invited to the launch as will society patrons and VIPs. There will be a champagne reception and then a paying bar. We will be making presentations and hearing from our friends from across the pond. Please do put the date in your diaries. The more support we get the more likely we are to enjoy our success sooner.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT AND PATRON TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

As many members of the society will know I travelled to the USA in late October with the purpose of forging links and contacts with relevant societies, individuals, groups, and stake holders in historical preservation. It was clear from day one that this trip was not meant to be a 'money making' exercise but an exploratory visit to assess interest and potential for the Presidents Monument. The visit was nothing short of incredible and we have certainly forged some strong links. I have reported below on a couple of key visits and the Chairman and I will be discussing a plan of action to galvanise the steps that have already been taken. I look forward to bringing you more news of links and projects over the coming months.



The first thing on my agenda was to have the experience of the typical tourist in Boston and I chose to go it alone. I started by looking at what locals recommend I do and whilst at the Parish Café and Bar (a most excellent place for sandwiches) I asked one of the servers what would they recommend. The very first thing on her list was **The Freedom Trail**. There were a number of other things on the list including a tour round a couple of breweries as well as a trip to Salem, which at the time of year I visited was guaranteed to be great fun, but I thought I would start with the **Freedom Trail**. I had heard about it but never researched it. To Google! The Freedom Trail has its own web presence, which is very well put together and incredibly informative. A quick look at the website shows that you can undertake the tour on your own or book a guided tour. They have downloadable resources and maps as well as links to the official sites along the way. The information provided is so clear and effective that you could almost do the tour from your computer. Our American friends make a very big 'song and dance' about this particular part of Boston's culture and the fact that I spoke to 4 'locals' that would put this at the top of their to-do list is very encouraging. There are a number of parallels to be drawn with the Battle of Worcester Trail in Worcester City but looking at the way in which the Freedom Trail is approached there is no doubt that the Battle of Worcester Trail could use a bit of a re-vamp. Something for the society and the Battle of Worcester Partnership to look at. One of the key successes is that Boston's Freedom Trail is everywhere. You cannot pick up a map (free or purchased) without seeing the red line coursing through the city routes. The city even went as far as installing a red brick line throughout Boston so that tourists can undertake the trail with no difficulty whatsoever. No confusing maps, no way of getting lost and at every stop on the trail a fantastic information board that details what happened where you stand.



The Red Brick Road



One of the stops along the trail - Faneuil Hall



The logo of the trail that appears at every site.

Due to still being on GMT I started out on the Freedom Trail pretty early, which gave me a superb look of an awakening Boston. Just a little tip for you if you ever visit, never try and get a morning drink from a Starbucks between the hours of 7am – 9am. Every single one I walked by had a queue outside the door! I digress. The Freedom Trail is a fantastic way to see parts of Boston on foot. Each ‘stop-off’ point is independently run but each place is more than willing to be a part of it. I’m sure that some of it is down to a sense of patriotism but most of it will be down to the boost in business it gives the local shops and enterprises. Along the way I began to spot the same tourists taking the trail at their own speed. Many of them were American who understandably have a vested interest in their heritage. Early on in my journey I met up with a charming Canadian couple who politely ignored the fact that I asked them if they were American and I got talking to them about what had brought them to Boston. "A cruise" was the unexpected answer (one doesn't normally associate Boston as being a prime cruise destination) but the heritage of Boston had clearly captured their imagination. They were only in the city for a day but they were keen to look at as much as possible. I had two specific questions for them.

1. What do they enjoy seeing most on excursions such as this?
2. How much money would they normally spend on a day out similar to this?

The answer to the second question was somewhere in the region of \$150 - \$250 (about £92 - £154) which would include lunch etc... The answer to the second question was even more encouraging. They want to see monuments! Monuments, plaques and memorials. It didn't really matter to them what they were built for but they saw monuments as a way of learning and engaging with the city and its culture. This goes some way to explain why Boston is littered with plaques and monuments to almost everything. The city is unapologetic about it and as a tourist it was fascinating.

I took time to go into some of the trail points and introduce myself to unsuspecting museum staff. Whatever the museum, the staff were always welcoming, engaging and incredibly passionate about their heritage and were only too happy to answer questions. In the Faneuil Hall I spoke with a National Park Ranger about the heritage of the building and he explained to me that one of the reasons it is so impeccably preserved and cared for is that it is still used for the purpose it was built. "What's the point in preserving heritage when you can't engage with it?" The hall really was exceptionally beautiful and you could sense the national pride that came from all the Americans who walked through the doors. One of my other stop off points was at the Bostonian Society's Old State House, which is also by the site of the Boston Massacre. I spoke with a tour guide there about the various types of visitors they get. When we started speaking about British visitors she pointed out that with one or two exceptions most people from the UK are not aware of things such as the Boston Massacre or this period in history. She also noted that technically the history up to the Declaration of Independence is British History. She's right...it is as much a part of our heritage as it is theirs. She was amazed when I informed her those subjects such as the English Civil Wars, the end of the Divine Right of Kings and how our country's form of governance came to be were not taught on the national curriculum or in what the American's call social and political studies. Americans are inherently passionate about their beginnings because it's taught in schools. A good lesson for us to learn. The English Civil Wars and particularly the Battle of Worcester should be on the national curriculum for all children in the UK. Not for just a couple of weeks but a detailed look at how our country's governance came into existence. It should be taught not only as part of our history but as part of our citizenship.

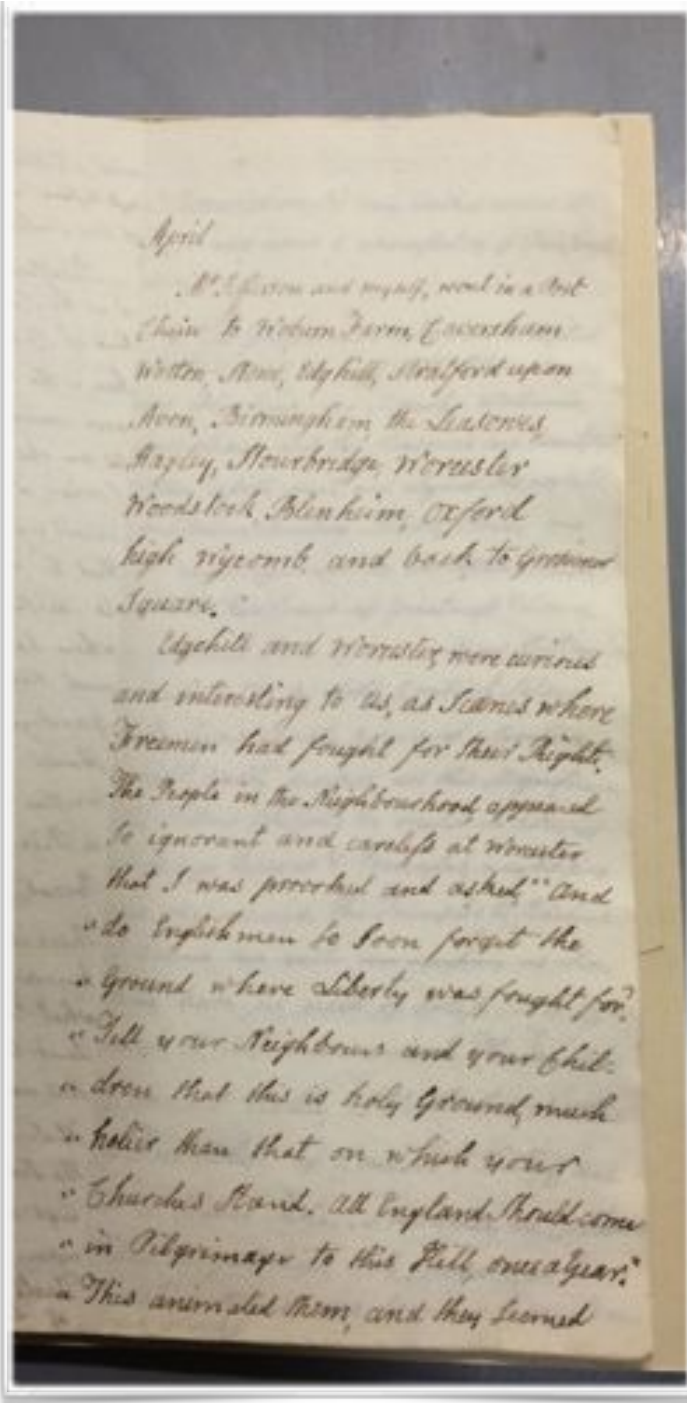
I was then fortunate enough to be able to visit the **Massachusetts Historical Society** at their simply stunning premises on Boylston Street in Boston. The society is based in what could be described as an artistic epicentre with the Berklee Music College and the Boston Conservatory located nearby. Literally hundreds of music students swarmed the area with every alternative look you can think of making me stand out like a sore thumb in my blazer and tie. All of that was soon forgotten however when I entered the impressive and well appointed Massachusetts Historical Society building. I was there to have lunch with Dennis Fiori (President of the Society) and Peter Drummey (Librarian). The two were utterly charming and listened to the story of the links between Worcester UK and the United States of America with relish. Both were incredibly interested in the Presidents Monument project and thought that given the undeniable links and our proximity to Stratford-upon-Avon the interest to American tourists would be huge. The chance to stand where their forefathers stood is something that American tourists would jump at. Certainly Mr. Fiori and Mr. Drummey thought so. Peter Drummey had very kindly organised for me to look at certain documents housed within the library. I was shown incredible 19th Century American documents that detailed Cromwell as a revered figure in history and a man who was to be honoured and admired by



Mr. Drummey, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Fiori

our American cousins (which will of course be a delight to our Chairman). This is in stark contrast with documents of the same period produced in the UK which usually referred to Cromwell as a 'rebellious tyrant' or other such insult.

I was then taken through a large number of security measures into the archive rooms where I was shown some of the most incredible documents I've ever had the privilege of seeing. Peter knew his audience and had provided a truly unique experience for me. I was shown the original diary entry of John Adams with the famous quote that has been the basis of my work with the Battle of Worcester Society and I'm not ashamed to say that I found the experience quite emotional. Peter also showed me original manuscript drafts from Thomas Jefferson's and John Adams' versions of the Declaration of Independence. The manuscript drafts were subtly different from the finished article and missing a scathing paragraph of Adams' regarding slavery but a remarkable thing to have been able to look at. Other treasures included a look at Jefferson's notes from the same trip in 1786. On behalf of the BoWS Society I was able to present Mr. Fiori and Mr. Drummey with a maquette of the Presidents Monument as well as BoWS ties and lapel badges, which they graciously accepted. This meeting was hugely encouraging and I believe that the groundwork has been laid for future links between the BoWS and MHS. In the meantime, if anyone finds themselves in the Boston area then please do pay a visit to the MHS. It is a fabulous jewel in America's crown of heritage preservation.



The famous diary entry.

I then met with Ms. Susie Kitchens (British Consul General in Boston) and Brian Le May (President and Executive Director of the Bostonian Society) and both meetings were incredibly productive.

I spoke with Ms. Kitchens regarding the Consulate's work and potential for international tourism and trade given Worcester's incredible links with the USA. She gave me sound contacts on both side of the pond and was very enthusiastic about the Presidents Monument Project. She was delighted to be presented with the maquette of the monument and I look forward to keeping her up-to-date with the project's progress.

The Longfellow Bridge in Boston was closed which made my journey around the city a little more difficult than I had anticipated so I decided to take the rest of my journey on foot. I have to say that seeing Boston on foot is far better than taking a taxi so it wasn't too much of an inconvenience.

My next meeting was with Brian Le May whose museum I had the privilege of walking round earlier on in the week. Meeting with Brian was incredibly useful and he gave me a huge amount of advice on how to really connect people with heritage. We spoke about the importance of connecting to popular culture and engaging with as many different demographics as possible. He offered some good suggestions of how the society can push forward and we were able to find some common grounds for supporting each other. A very productive meeting indeed.

On Friday I made the journey to Worcester MA and it was my first time on an American train. It was on time, reasonably priced and everyone got a seat...how different things are across the pond. As wonderful as Boston is and as much as I enjoyed my time in Boston the city itself is very similar to other international cities such as London, New York, Paris etc... When you get into Worcester MA you really start to see America. Massachusetts is approximately 75% woodland and at this time of year leaves are turning and the landscape is just beautiful. When I arrived in Worcester I was due

immediately at City Hall for a meeting with the straight talking Mayor Joe Petty. He was fascinated by what we were trying to achieve and was delighted to receive the gift of the The Presidents Monument Maquette, which was given on behalf of Worcester City UK and the Battle of Worcester Society.

My trip was complemented by other impromptu visits to places such as All Saints Church an amazing church at the centre of the community in Worcester. They showed me the fabulous late 19th century stone work that was sent over as a gift from Worcester Cathedral when All Saints was rebuilt. I was treated to a tour of rural MA which was simply stunning and then of industrial Worcester which both fascinated and entertained myself and Lord Faulkner.

The trip is one that should be seen as the ground work for a more formal relationship between the various organisations and what we are trying to achieve. There is an appetite for the The Presidents Monument but we have to get our ducks in a row with regards to strategy and what one may term 'value added' activities and attractions. Now more than ever is the time to ensure we have the support of the general public as well as local and national politicians, and the 'great and the good'.



Ms. Kitchens & Mr. Humphrey



A good old all American Amtrack Train!



Mr. Humphrey & Mayor Joseph Petty

THE PRESIDENTS MAQUETTE

During his visit to the USA our President presented and number of maquettes to people and organisations. These maquettes have been created by Kenneth Potts who has agreed to allow the sale of these miniatures to members of the public.

Each one would be an incredible addition to any art lover or history enthusiast's collection and proceeds go towards helping the BoWS in its work. If you would like to purchase one of these for the incredible price of £99 then please contact the Chairman on chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk

CIVIL WAR NIGHTS AT THE COMMANDERY

SEASON 2 - SPRING /SUMMER 2015

The next season of Battle of Worcester Society talks are taking shape. The following evenings are already firmly booked:

DR. ANDREW HOPPER - TUNRCOATS AND RENEGADOES THURSDAY 30th APRIL

Successful author and a leading Civil War academic. Certain to be a fascinating evening.

BEN HUMPHREY FRSA - WORCESTER: CITY OF LIBERTY TUESDAY 12th MAY

President of the Society, Ben Humphrey will present a version of his successful lecture delivered in 2014 in the USA.

KATHERINE CLEMENTS - THE CRIMSON RIBBON WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE

Prize-winning fiction author, Katherine will set out the background to her book and her interest in the Civil War. In partnership with Worcester Litfest.

CHRIS BRYANT MP - PARLIAMENT IN THE CIVIL WAR THURSDAY 18th JUNE

Author of the best-selling two volume "Parliament – A Biography".

Dates to be agreed:

PROFESSOR DIANE PURKISS – A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

GEOFFREY ROBERTSON QC – THE REGICIDES

Keep up to date with all the latest news on the Society website www.thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk

WEBSITE

It is hoped that the website will become the main point of information with regards to Civil War information and to that end we have already begun to upload various articles from experts, commentators and enthusiasts. If there are articles you would like us to include please do let one of the BPB Editorial Team know.



www.thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk - Connecting the world with our message.

OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE!

The society has joined the season of goodwill (much against Cromwell's judgement) and has installed a Christmas Tree at Worcester Cathedral as part of the wonderful exhibition in aid of the Daisy Chain Benevolent Fund. Please do go along and see the exhibition and the superb trees on display.



Chairman of Vice, Richard Shaw adding the finishing touches.



Richard Shaw and Brian Bullock (Bearded Parliamentarian) and the BoWS Tree

CONTRIBUTORS

The Black Pear Bulletin is the regular newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society and we are proud to say that its circulation is constantly growing. We are always looking for contributors to add to the bulletin's diversity so if there is an article you would like to write or even a letter you think deserves consideration then we would love to hear from you. Please contact chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk

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Please contact the Chairman for further information

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY TEAM

His Grace The Duke of Hamilton ~ Lord Faulkner of Worcester
Lord Selkirk of Douglas ~ Sir Tam Dalyell Bt. ~ The Hon. Lady Rosalind Morrison
Mr. Henry Berkeley ~ Ms. Diane Rappaport

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