

Editorial June 2014

Quite a lot has happened since the December 2013 Journal.

We saw the sale at Wallis & Wallis in Lewes of the David Smith collection of Zulu War artefacts, one of the finest in the country. After David's death the collection passed to his partner, Miss Roberta Welham. Meanwhile, many of his items had been displayed at Society events and talks but the Miss Welham eventually decided to part with the collection. The sale was well attended and bidding was fast and furious, with a number of bidders joining in by telephone and the internet. We know a number of pieces were sold via the internet to a collector in Canada. Other choice items went to a museum in South Africa.

Ian Knight has just returned from Zululand after leading two Holts tours of the Zulu War battlefields. By all accounts the tours were remarkable and fascinating, as one would expect from Ian.

Following on from Katie Stossell's letter in the journal, Katie has spent the last two years researching the most recent material that has surfaced relating to Rorke's Drift. As an Operating Theatre Sister for most of her working life, her interest was first and foremost related to research into the medical aspect of the war – which she did with her successful book *Sister Janet*. It is this interest which has spurred her on afresh to look at the subject of Rorke's Drift in greater detail. As with any aspiring author, the Society and the *Anglo Zulu War Research Society* have made their research available to Katie. The book is due for publication towards the end of the year.

Personally, I had a bitter experience earlier in the year when I sent a number of my own Zulu War medals to DNW for auction. I was astonished to learn that my Curling medal, previously owned by one of Curling's descendants, was a possible duplicate. The medal had been in my possession for twelve years and, over the years, had been examined and valued by various medal experts without any negative comment, including when I first acquired the medal. They and I, and Curling's descendant, all believed it was the original issue, which is now in doubt. I withdrew the medal from the auction pending further enquiries. In the case of this Curling medal, it is a genuine medal, issued to Curling, but the circumstances of the issue are, as yet, unknown. So, even when a medal comes from the awardee's own family, who genuinely believe the medal is original, care must still be exercised.

I hope you find the content of the Journal interesting. Contributions from members are always welcome.

Adrian Greaves
Editor.