

From the BRC Historian/ Black Powder Lodge Chairperson

I must say, the computer is a big help when you want to record or store something (Data). Then when you want to revisit or retrieve that data, a time in history or in the past you might say! All you do is name that site, click on it and wham! There it is up on the screen! So let's click on one of my stored documents. The place where I keep every shoot that I have ever put on!

Let's click on the year 2006 and see what comes up on the screen. CLICK - (WHAM!) Why, that's the very first Wisconsin Sergeant York Sanctioned Memorial Shoot that we held at the BRC and also when we started sending all the proceeds from the shoot to Clitis York in Pall Mall, Tennessee to help with the Sergeant York Historical Foundation.

Now! Let's go down to the basement to the big plastic tote and find the hard copies of the shoot results. I keep each month's shoot results in a big brown envelope. In the envelope is a copy of the flyers of the shoot I sent out, the receipts from the money I spent to put the shoot on, the money or proceeds we made from the shoots and the number of shooters that attended that shoot. I do this just in case my computer crashes. I started doing this way before computers so I just continued doing it that way.

So let's take a look at the results for the June shoot 2006. It looks like we had 14 shooters show up to shoot. We had \$80 worth of meat to shoot for, along with 25 gold dollars and the top prize of a pocket watch which was won by Paul M. Swanson of Rockford, IL. The reason I remember that is because he beat me by 20 thousand of an inch, I had younger eyes back then, and so did he!

According to my records, for the June 2006 shoot we sent \$211 to the York Foundation.

Now, let's forward to the year 2020, the year of the COVID 19 pandemic. The June 2020 Sergeant York shoot was cancelled. The Black Powder Lodge suspended all shoots. We used the suspended time to spruce up the lodge with new paint inside and to get COVID 19 guidelines in place.

The Black Powder Lodge started holding shoots again in July 2020, with our 3 day Buffalo Shoot. Then with the COVID 19 guidelines in place and with our new 60 yard range completed, we held the Wisconsin Sergeant York Memorial Shoot on October 24, 2020. We had a nice sunny day for the shoot. 9 shooters showed up to shoot for meat prizes, gold coins, and various other prizes. We sent \$252 to Deborah York for the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation in Pall Mall, Tennessee.

The following is a copy of the kind letter Deborah York sent to all the members of the Beloit Rifle Club thanking us.

Sincerely,

Limb Bacon - Harley Whitt, Historian,
Black Powder Lodge



November 20, 2020
Beloit Rifle Club Inc.
c/o Mr. Harley Whitt
1908 Forest Avenue
Beloit, WI 53511

Dear Harley and Friends at the Beloit Rifle Club,

I hope this letter finds you doing well and staying healthy. These are challenging times we find ourselves living in, but Sgt. York survived the pandemic of 1919 and we will also!

The Sgt. York Patriotic Foundation's purpose is to promote Education and Opportunity and honor our Veterans in the footsteps of Sgt. York's life work. We advance and perpetuate Peace through education and service to others, upholding the fundamental tenets of the Medal of Honor: Courage, Commitment, Sacrifice, Patriotism, Integrity and Citizenship.

We have managed to pivot and persevere during these challenging times.

Our Foundation provided virtual programming for all school age children in our county that encourages youth to emulate positive character traits to make their lives and community better. Our ultimate goal is to encourage learning from our past, so we inspire their futures.

We have moved several of our programs online and have continued to provide tours and live programming at Sgt. York's home place. We have expanded our living history portion of Sgt. York's farm to include Appalachian history and music as well as old-fashioned farming techniques and demonstrations.

American Values. Words to Live by. Ideals to guide us.