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

### **2013 Spring Edition**



**Belle Grove, Cedar Creek**

**Issue 168**

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

# **A.C.W.S. CONTACTS**

## **Directors & Army Commanders**



Mr David Blackmore, Chairman



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Projects



Miss Claire Morris, Membership



Mr Roger Willison-Gray, Marketing



Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety



Mrs Val Holt, Communications



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander



Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Rep



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Projects Assistant



Mr Bill Brown, Confederate Commander

## **New evidence uncovered in mystery of the Confederate submarine, The CSS Hunley**

It has been reported that researchers working on the Confederate submarine, the CSS H.L. Hunley in North Charleston, South Carolina have uncovered startling new evidence that the submarine was only 20 feet away when it ignited its torpedo that sank the Union warship, the USS Housatonic off South Carolina in 1864. This is vital new evidence as it has always been presumed that the submarine was much further away when it sank and that the Confederate crew ran out of air before they could return to the shore.

This new evidence is based on brand new archaeological evidence discovered by conservator Paul Mardikian in January 2013 who whilst working on crusted material at the end of the spar has found evidence of a copper sleeve. The spar was the iron pole in front of the hand cranked submarine that held the torpedo. This recently identified copper sleeve is in exact keeping with a preserved diagram of a Hunley torpedo that a Union General acquired after the Civil War and is currently housed in the National Archives in Washington. "The sleeve is an indication the torpedo was attached to the end of the spar"

said Paul Mardikian and the rest of the 16 foot spar shows a deformity in keeping with it being bent during an explosion. This new evidence means that the crew being so close to the explosion could easily have been rendered unconscious and knocked out and concussed by the sheer force of the explosion. As such, they could have died before waking due to lack of oxygen. It is worth noting that all the crew were found in their designated positions when the submarine was recovered. There was no evidence of abandoning ship.

Lt Gov. Glenn McConnell, a member of the South Carolina Hunley Commission said "I think the focus now goes down to the seconds and minutes around the attack on the Housatonic. Did the crew get knocked out? Did some of them get knocked out? Did it cause rivets to come loose and the water rush into the hull?"

The final answers will come later this year when the conservators start removing encrustations from the outer hull of the H.L. Hunley and determine what actual impact the explosion would have had on the submarine. A computer simulation of the attack will also take place based on this new information and small models could also be used to recreate the attack.

Maria Jacobsen, the senior archaeologist on the Hunley project,

## **WANTED - ADULT TO COMMAND NEW CADET COMPANY**

said of the new discovery that the torpedo was actually attached to the spar as “not only extremely unexpected, its extremely critical. What we know now is the weapons system exploded at the end of the spar. That is very, very significant”. She added that it has long been thought that the material at the end of the spar was part of some sort of device to release the torpedo rather than part of the torpedo itself.

The CSS H.L. Hunley was built in Mobile, Alabama and deployed off Charleston in an attempt to break the Union blockade during the American Civil War. It was the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship. It sank during the successful attack and all its crew were lost. It weighed 7.2 short tons and was 40 feet long. She was powered by a hand cranked propeller and her speed was 4 knots. She was crewed by 7 enlisted men and an officer. She lost 21 seaman in 3 sinkings during her short career. It was finally found in 1995 and raised in 2000 and brought to a laboratory in North Charleston where it is currently undergoing conservation.

Article by Stewart “Goober” Douglas.

Sources: “Experts find new Evidence in submarine mystery” by Bruce Smith, Associated Press – Jan 2013.

At a recent meeting The Board of Directors agreed to pursue the establishment within the Society of a Bi-Partisan Cadet Company. The purpose of this Company is to provide suitable activities for the younger members of the Society, to encourage the recruitment of families and to encourage the Cadets in due course to take their places as fully trained members of the appropriate unit.

Accordingly the Board is seeking a suitably qualified person to undertake the role of Commandant of the Society’s Cadet Company. A discussion paper outlining some ideas is available from the Secretary. The Commandant would, however, be required to develop all aspects of the Company with the approval of the Board.

Experience of working with children / young adults in some form would be an advantage (e.g. teacher, youth worker, scout/guide leader or the like) and Post Holder would have to have or get a CRB check.

If you are interested in the above position or would like further information please contact the Secretary Philip Clark.

## **What happened at the ACWS Board Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

### **Present:**

Dr David Blackmore	DB : Chairman
Mr Ian Morris	IM : Treasurer
Mr Philip Clark	PC : Secretary
Mr Timothy Davies	TD : Union Army C.O.
Mr Glenn Gibson	GG: Confederate Army Rep
Mr Roger Willison-Gray	RWG: Marketing
Mr Martin Cross	MC: H&S
Mrs Viv Corbishley	VC : Projects Assistant

### **Apologies:**

Mrs Val Holt	VH : Communications
Mr Peter Holt	PH : Projects
Miss Claire Morris	CM: Membership
Mr Mike Bussey	MB: Webmaster

The usual routine matters such as approving previous minutes and tracking action points from previous meetings were covered, but this note is intended to keep everybody informed about the important decisions taken. Firstly, having carried out exhaustive research, your Board decided to replace the existing LDV 'R' reg artillery van with a newer model. The existing one was on it's last legs, and a very cost effective replacement was identified and has been purchased.

This was the first meeting with our new Chairman David Blackmore in charge, and he stressed his intention to take ACWS forward, and to fulfil the aims and objectives he set out at the AGM (see AGM minutes in last Newsletter).

With great regret the Board noted that the June Crieff event had been cancelled by the organisers, which leaves a hole in both our programme and our finances. Units are encouraged to help Projects find replacement events and/or organise their own regimental events (but always co-ordinating these with Projects). The events list (as shown at the back of this magazine) was discussed and various administrative matters including deployment of artillery, and lack of events where our Cavalry are hired, was noted. Our Treasurer produced his usual financial summary sheets for the years financial projections arising from this list of events.

Army strengths were also discussed, and the need for regiments to continue recruiting very actively. It was noted that some members had left because of adverse comments made on the Forum, and there was a fine line between 'fair comment' and scurrilous and objectionable remarks, which upset people. The Board was concerned about the slow re-join rate so far this year, and agreed membership forms would be sent out to those who take the Newsletter by post with the next Newsletter (which will be the last 2012 members receive until they rejoin ie the previous edition , already distributed) whilst Mike Bussey would send the forms again electronically to the rest of the members.

Martin Cross is re-drafting the artillery section of the Code of Conduct for the Society and Philip Clark is updating the rest of the Code of Conduct, a work in progress. Roger Willison-Gray updated the Board on the sales of canvass tents that we have from the Boy's Brigade and he expressed a need for a different approach to how ACWS sells itself. He thought ACWS could change its product completely, do lots of 'regimentals' at £500 a time – the sort of money a local Stately Home or Parks Department manager could afford without getting permission from 'head office' (and promote, say artillery displays or whatever). Moving away from selling a large battle re-enactment may be necessary because we are finding they are too costly for sponsors to afford. Alternatively ACWS could become a 'Member Society', where we only put on events for ourselves (instead of finding sponsors and charging a fee for a public display). That would mean we would have to raise lots of money by other means e.g. selling scratch cards or whatever, to pay the costs of us 'doing our own thing'. He also thought that the use of the website to attract new members and new sponsors would be a better way of progressing, but to do that he needed the help of a graphic designer (any volunteers, please?).

The possibility of changing the Annual General Meeting date and the Financial Year arrangements were discussed, but for practical reasons, the template of our meetings and financial year was thought best to remain substantially as it is. Thus, the AGM gets to look at the picture at the end of a complete re-enacting year and its finances, as a package. The Annual Dance after the AGM had been abandoned in the past because of lack of support, but perhaps the AGM would be more attractive if there was a party after it either at the Royal British Legion Rubery, or in a local, friendly pub. Rather than going all the way to the AGM, and straight home afterwards, why not have a few drinks and a social with friends, and something to eat after the AGM, stop over if necessary in a

local B&B, and go home on the Sunday having had a 'good night out' on the Saturday after the AGM!

Disciplinary matters were discussed, and a code would be produced to go into our bye-laws, subject to AGM vote.

Finally the Chairman's Forward Plan was debated. Philip Clark commented that administrative matters such as when the AGM might be held or the number of Directors on the Board were not key issues (given that the Directors work as a co-ordinated team and do all the work required) and that such issues were 're-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic' compared to the essentials which are –

- Getting good paying events
- Finding new/different locations for events
- Improving recruitment

The meeting found favour with this view of life and the almost impossibility in the current financial climate of finding large, paying events giving an income of c.£4,000 where all the Society's assets and abilities can be used including big artillery and cavalry displays. Lets go for lots of small, low-key living history events and/or, alternatively, turn the Board into a money-making machine only rather than be the organisers of everything. Roger Willison-Gray thought there was some merit in co-operating with quality Country and Western re-enactors as their market might benefit from our collaboration. Angela Cross suggested contacting Schools who are doing the Victorian Age in history, and providing the School with talks/living history backups. Roger suggested ACWS could create an information pack appropriate to key stage 2 for Schools. It was good to have a forward looking plan, and ambitions, but as ever the challenge was to attain them. Working parties were agreed to look at future objectives and funding and also, separately, to review the management of the Society. David Blackmore listed a three-strand strategy going forward:

- 1) carry on what we are currently doing via the Projects team
- 2) ask regiments to seek small money-making events AND hunt for full scale Society events ( marketing at Regimental level )
- 3) work up money-making schemes/activities as suggested by Roger, so that we can pay for our own events

The meeting started at 12 noon and finished at 4pm.

## **Gettysburg 'Witness' Tree**

This 285-year-old large white oak tree is often called a "witness tree," as it has observed nearly 300 years of history from its spot on a small ridge behind what is now the Peebles Festival Shopping Centre on Route 30 in Straban Township.

The tree's life was threatened in 2000 when developers planned to demolish it for the shopping centre. But the township convinced the developers to push the buildings forward to avoid damaging the tree's roots and save the historic piece of nature. Now, the tree is fighting for its life again.

Last fall, Jim Paddock, former Straban township landscape consultant and landscape architect, was enjoying lunch at the white oak when he noticed a crack near the top of the tree's base. "The extra weight of the tree's long branches are likely to blame," he said. Paddock worried that weather - harsh winds or heavy snow - could damage the tree even further, or Amid modern-day clothing stores and fast-food restaurants just outside of Gettysburg stands kill it. Workers from the Cumberland Valley Tree Service were voluntarily giving the oak structural help by placing rods in the tree to relieve the stress of the branches. Without the rods, it would be pos-

sible for the tree to split down the middle during heavy winds, Joe Breighner, a local botanist, said. The workers also removed dead cells, tissue and other rotting material from the inside of tree and placed cabling near the base to help push the tree together. "As long as we can hold it together, it should be fine," Paddock said. The tree is in great shape despite the split in the middle on the base and continues to grow, he added. He was hired in 2000 as the township's landscape consultant to go over the plans of the shopping centre. But he didn't notice the tree at first. He studied the land and the developer's drawings, but thought the area was wilderness. Then, one day when he was driving on Route 30 to go to Harrisburg, he noticed the tree - one of the oldest white oaks in Pennsylvania. The tree began growing in approximately 1728, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. It served as a property line so it's unclear who owns it, Paddock said. However, the tree does sit on private property, he added. The tree is unique, given the conditions, Paddock said. No one has trimmed the branches of the tree or spread fertilizer on the roots. The tree has survived in the natural habit - from wilderness to industry - as the years have passed. The tree's birth dates back to America's virgin forests, before the

first settlers began cultivating the land. The genetics of the white oak are pure, which is a rare find, said Breighner. But the exact history of the tree is unknown.

During the pre-Revolutionary War period, Paddock believes the tree overlooked a road that allowed travel from York to Gettysburg and continued through the gap and mountains of present-day Adams County. In the 1700s, the Route 30 area was in Lancaster County, and Gettysburg was known as the Marsh Creek Settlement, Paddock said. The oak stood long before the Battle of Gettysburg that took place just miles down the road. Roy Thomas, a former Straban Township supervisor, imagines soldiers used the tree's description - a large oak tree on the ridge - as a navigation tool to find Camp Letterman, a hospital that was stationed in the area of Route 30. "Nothing was here," Thomas said, pointing to the busy shops and roadway ahead. "It's part of history." Thomas was a township supervisor during the 2000s and fought to save the tree's life alongside Paddock. Thomas visits the tree at least once a year, searching for acorns in hopes of growing more white oaks like the one that has stood firmly in the ground for 285 years. He hasn't found an acorn.....Yet.

The proposed extension of Camp Letterman Drive will most likely not impact the white oak, according to



Straban Township Chairwoman Sharon Hamm. The township's Board of Supervisors recently approved a traffic study to test potential impacts of extending Camp Letterman Drive from Sheetz all the way down to Hunterstown Road. "To best of my knowledge the tree, would be not be impacted by the extension," Hamm said. "We would do whatever we could to do to try to protect the tree." The township is in the preliminary stages of planning the extension and is still accepting public input.

## Did You Know?



General Ulysses S. Grant never visited Richmond. The closest he ever came was during the battle of Fort Harrison, eight miles south of the city.



Dear Members of ACWS,

I have now been your Chairman for about four months, during which time there have been two Board meetings. I have seriously wondered why I bothered. I stood for election because the society is in decline and I thought, in the absence of any other volunteers, that I might be able to do something about it. What I did not take into account was the existing Board of Directors. There are some good people on it; Pete Holt in particular is doing his level best to provide the society with the events it would like. There is, however, a dominant section of the Board which has an entrenched opposition to change, or even to considering change. I have no doubt that, should the society collapse, the paperwork will be found to be in perfect order.

At the last meeting the Board voted to affirm that the current number of Directors is what is needed. This did not follow any consultation on the matter and there was no considered discussion of options. This was a decision based solely on a statement by the Secretary justifying the status quo. It also ignores the fact that, at a time when the membership is in decline, the number of Directors

has been increased from ten to twelve by co-opting members and without the approval of those new posts at an AGM. Furthermore, those co-opted were retiring Directors. Similarly the Board voted that it was not necessary to carry out the review of the management of the society that is part of the Forward Plan, but rather that it was enough simply to keep it under on-going review, which means nothing will happen. I admit that I did not oppose these actions; I see little point in getting into a fight that I am going to lose.

In January I raised with the Board my concern that the society was vulnerable because of its reliance on one individual for organising the provision of black powder. My call to address this issue was ignored. Now, due to unavoidable circumstances, we may not have a Powder Officer for the second half of the season. There is a similar, potentially disastrous situation where the society's guns are concerned. The current arrangement is reliant entirely upon one member, to whom, like our powder officer, all our thanks are due. It is, however, an unwieldy and expensive arrangement and as a result of changing transport regulations it is also becoming harder, if not impossible to sustain. Yet my

suggestions that the way the guns are managed should be reviewed and changed were met with a wall of patronising obstruction. The need for that review is now in the Forward Plan, but still nothing is being done. Frankly, why does the society need to own eight guns? Why do the guns that go to events have to be transported in such a way that you get four or none? Look at the accounts; why are we spending a small fortune every year on running the guns this way?

In short, the Board of Directors, as it is currently made up, will not save the society from decline. Fortunately there is optimistic news coming from the two armies. I was very, very heartened by the positive attitude and support for what I am trying to do that I found when I attended the two training weekends. It was a real pleasure to watch the Confederates practicing their skirmishing and to share Friday night's socialising with them. Similarly, I was impressed by the commitment to drill shown by the Federals and thoroughly enjoyed the many conversations around various fires. This gives me grounds for considerable optimism; after all, it is the members that are the society, not the Board of Directors. It is your society, the Directors are simply elected to run it on your behalf, you are the

masters, the Directors are your servants. If you don't like what they are doing you can change your Directors. The future lies in your hands and I am confident that it is in safe hands.



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

April 2013

It has been an interesting few months since the AGM. Our new Chairman is certainly testing and asking hard questions. He has cleverly changed your Board's procedures: we now all report in advance in writing. This works well and it speeds up the meetings very well. Also, we now summarise the Board meetings and publish in the Newsletter. In this one is the report on the January meeting. The April meeting will be reported in the Summer Newsletter. This is an improvement in communications. We are all working hard together to sort out problems and get good events. I know we are all volunteers, and do this because we enjoy ACW re-enacting, but a lot of hard work goes into getting things done. Take this Newsletter: there are all the contributors, then Val Holt puts it together as Editor (who masterminds the operation) and gets it sorted and it goes electronically to Ian Morris for him to check & prepare it for our printer

in the electronic format he wants. Then it goes to Mike Bussey for him to send out, using his data base (aided and abetted by Claire Morris with on-going Membership information), to those who get it by e-mail. We have found a very user friendly and CHEAP printer in Macclesfield who prints up the copies that have to go by snail-mail: when done, I go and collect them, stick on the envelopes the address labels Mike Bussey has produced and get them in the post. A typical example of teamwork from your Board.

It was interesting going through the exercise of analysing what sort of replacement van we should get when the old LDV finally gave up the ghost. It's certainly right that we need to prove each case & test the financial rigour of each decision. The Forward Plan envisages securing well paying events at new and exciting locations which will be attractive to all of our Members at which to re-enact. Projects and the Chairman are working hard at this for next year & beyond, and already have some interesting leads. Again, it is all about teamwork.

However, we have to have a programme and make enough money to cover Society expenses, and the smaller events are often very good fun & quality re-enacting. I have also been involved in the administrative arrangements for getting a couple of "Regimentals"

sorted out, which is interesting. If a unit feels its members can afford to come to more events than the Society lay on, in these straightened financial times, then by all means look for the gaps in the programme and GO FOR IT! Need any help & advice? Then feel free to ask the Projects Team for guidance. I'll help, too, if you want. Pete Holt & myself have sorted out with Mike Corbishley the gunpowder licensing issues & provision arrangements for the rest of the season after the Tatton event. The real problem is getting the gunpowder distribution trailer to an event and set up in advance, so the local Police can approve the arrangements and then we can get on with issuing etc. That might mean it has to be all set up on either the Thursday or Friday before an event. More of us might be retired and able to spend time doing this, but to those of you who think it's all done by magic, or the fairies do it, please wake up and smell the coffee! It is damn hard work for some folks to get YOUR events set up and get you the all important gunpowder. After the recent Boston bombings, it will inevitably be subject to greater security and control.

Whilst we would all like big events with Cavalry, Artillery and pyros, we do not want to bankrupt ourselves by paying for things we cannot afford. Getting money out of sponsors is getting "very

challenging” these days. If you have ambitions to do anything bigger than small events, then we need to GROW the Society. That means MORE recruits into EVERY unit & branch-of-service. Claire Morris is working hard with others in developing Social Media activity & in raising our marketing profile. Whatever YOU can do to get new recruits in & support them, please DO IT. Each unit leader should also contact last year’s members & make sure they sign-up & come along this year. Also, please encourage former members back to the fold. It’s YOUR Society. The fairies won’t make those calls or drum-up business!

Martin Cross & Lee Fairlee & Co. are looking into artillery matters. How can we use the guns more flexibly & have them available to hire out (with our crews) for other fund-raising purposes? Of course, any member of the Society with one of the older type of driving licence & who is over 25 can drive our van : getting your local police force to allow you to store a cannon(s) in a sensible & practical way is the challenge (if the artillery is to be stored in different ways from now)! Fortunately, they are held on shotgun licences, not FACs. Martin is looking into these things & will report back.

Well, we have had our training week-ends and the first major event is at Marbury, so see you all there. Please make an effort to be

there. I am told it is a nice site & there is a good battlefield area.

One other thing. At the last Board Meeting, I reported back about when we hold our AGM & the size of your Board of Directors (this is only a legal term because we are a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee: think of it as your management Committee really). For practical & democratic reasons it was decided that the AGM had to be after the season has closed and before the start of the next one – to report on the year’s financial outcome with figures checked & verified by an accountant & to advise on next year’s events & settle membership fees . To get the books closed, the accountant to do his job & to send out the AGM papers giving you all the required notice, means, in practice, the earliest time is the last week-end in November & I suppose the AGM could be held as late as January next, but the practical truth of the matter is that all the Board stand for re-election each AGM. So it is better to deal with that democratic process before the end of the year, so the elected Board can go forward to organise the next year with the authority of the AGM vote. I note that the last AGM had no contested posts & by huge majorities all the Board now working on your behalf was duly individually elected.

Also at the last Board meeting in April, as instructed, I put forward a

Paper on the size & composition of the Board, which currently has 12 voting members on it. Because of the way the Society is constituted, each Army HAS to have a voting representative on the Board, which is the central decision making body, answerable to the AGM. Thus you need a Chairman, Treasurer, Projects, Secretary & H&S Directors , plus one for each Army , a total of 7. What about the other 5? After some debate, it was felt that if you had a portfolio & were doing the work, then you ought to be a voting Board Member. After all, it's not as though we just work in our exclusive job“ bubble”: look at the example of how we produce the Newsletter in practice. The same applies, for example, when dealing with, say, the inter-action between Marketing, Projects & Communications, all working towards the same goal. Would you want to do all the work involved in being, say, Webmaster or Membership Secretary and not have a chance to have your say & represent your portfolio, at the meetings of the management committee?

Also the Board felt it would like as broad a set of views as possible & everybody's interests & specialisms to be represented. Reducing the size of the Board to a very small group would not follow the democratic traditions of ACWS where, over the years, we have

evolved a refined proxy voting structure at AGMs, so everybody gets a chance to have their say & vote for individuals who represent, or seek to represent, their portfolio. Personally, I have always thought that recruiting & member retention, running good, fun events safely and not making a mess of the finances are the key issues here, not “management theories” or spending too much time on irrelevant distractions. So, onward with the Forward Plan & good quality high standard re-enactors doing superb re-enactments. I look forward to seeing you all “in the field”.

Your Secretary  
Philip Clark

## WOULD IT WORK?

As a member of the elite Mitchell Thunderbolts, Pvt. John Gilleland had an idea he was sure would bring a quick end to the war .....

### **double-barrelled cannon.**

Fired simultaneously, its barrels would eject a pair of balls connected with a chain in order to 'mow down the Yankees as a scythe through wheat.'

Legend has it that in its sole test firing, balls whizzed around in erratic fashion and killed three Thunderbolts.

Perhaps not. Ed.

# THE FEDERAL TRAINING WEEKEND AT AVONCROFT



Photographs by  
Courtesy of  
Kevin Wolf

# THE FEDERAL TRAINING WEEKEND AT AVONCROFT



Photographs by  
Courtesy of  
Kevin Wolf

# THE CONFEDERATES TRAINING AT TATTON OLD HALL



Photographs by Courtesy of  
Stephen Griffin

# THE CONFEDERATES TRAINING AT TATTON OLD HALL



Photographs by  
Courtesy of  
Stephen Griffin



## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT APRIL 2013**

Dear Friends

Now that we are up and running for 2013, I thought it was time to update you on membership so far this year. At the time of writing we currently we have 185 rejoins, including 18 new members, which increases weekly. Please encourage your mates who haven't already rejoined to send their forms into the PO Box as soon as possible so we can ensure everyone's records and contact details are as up to date as possible. Membership forms can be easily downloaded from our ACWS website at [www.acws.co.uk](http://www.acws.co.uk) As well as the Board working really hard at finding new events, and marketing the society, we have also embarked on a recruitment campaign to tap into new areas looking for new members. We are currently having some exciting artwork approved by a legal team which is then going to be made into a vinyl banner which will be put up outside the event venue, and then used widely on the internet to publicise we are trying to recruit. This current campaign is going to specifically target such groups as students, teenagers – 30 year olds, gamers/wargamers. When you see the new artwork you will know we are trying our

best to find new sources for recruits, and thinking outside the box, rather than pursuing the traditional lines of recruitment. Later this year further campaigns will focus on family groups who like the outdoors etc.

One of the best forms of recruitment is current members recruiting family members and friends. It would be great if we could all chat to our friends and family and encourage them to join the society with our own passion and enthusiasm. If we all love our society, and want it to thrive and grow we need to recruit more members, and your board will be doing its utmost to make this happen.

See you at the next event.  
Best Wishes

Claire Morris

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In Missouri, Gen. Nathaniel Lyon called a regiment of volunteers in his 'Iowa Greyhounds' as a token of admiration for their long legs. Early in the war, they set a record probably not matched even by those whom Stonewall Jackson dubbed his 'foot cavalry'. During one twenty four hour period the Iowa Greyhounds marched a little more than forty eight mile.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to let you know that financially the Society is in a very stable position, this is despite us having purchased a newer and better van, which is insured for any member over 25 with a clean license to drive, for the transportation of 4 of our cannons, which along with the other 4 cannons are the Society's largest fixed assets.

As we are coming up to the start of the new season with, at the moment 7 events in total, with your projects team on the lookout for more events by sending out lots of letters & leaflets, I know, I've just paid the postage bill.

With hopefully the only major expenditure to pay out for the rest of the season being for the gunpowder, by the year end we should be in a good financial position for the future.

There was some talk at the AGM on the possibility of bringing the date of the AGM forward, unfortunately this, except for perhaps a week, would not be possible. As our financial year end is at the end of September, which logically is the end of the re-enactment season, due to the time needed by the accountants to audit the books and prepare the final accounts.

It has been pointed out to me that we legally don't need to present the accounts to the members at the

AGM and that the Board Members can approve them. I think that this is a bad idea and I would not be happy to sign off, along with the Secretary, the final accounts without having the approval of the membership.

On another matter, as you will see from the advert, (see page 30) we are still on the lookout for a volunteer to bring the powder trailer to events, the society will cover your fuel costs to the event and if necessary we would also pay for a towbar to be fitted to your car. If you are interested please contact Mike Corbishley or any board member.

So let's have a good season and hope that the weather is yet again kind to us

Ian Morris



## PROJECT'S REPORT

I am pleased to be able to report that I have just confirmed another event for this Season. It will be a one day event, but you can camp overnight on Saturday in readiness for the event on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, but more of that later. The season gets under way properly at Marbury in Cheshire.



This is a new venture for us to be invited here to an event which has been running for over thirty years,

and I hope the weather will be kind to us to enjoy it.

It has been extremely difficult to obtain events this year on two counts, first, the economic situation, places are having to make cuts in expenditure and the first thing to go is leisure and entertainment. The second s last year's weather. Many events had to be cancelled because of rain and floods, thus not making the money to finance this year's events, so big spectacular s like ours have had to be put on the back burner for this year. This is evident in the cancelling of two events this year because the funding was not available. Hopefully these two events will go ahead next year.

Now for a recap of the events for this season, including the new event just in.

### **11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> May Marbury,nr**

#### **Nantwich**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Camping from Friday noon – Monday noon.

Infantry & artillery Living History, Drill Display and Skirmish each day.

### **15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> June Crieff,**

#### **Perthshire**

**cancelled due to lack of funding**

### **6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July Tatton Old Hall**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Camping Friday afternoon (time to be arranged – to Monday Noon)

Infantry & Artillery Living History, Drill Display and Skirmish each day.

**PLEASE NOTE** This time the camps are being switched i.e.

Federals near the barn and Confederates by the house  
American car show same weekend.

### **27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July Hull**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Camping from Friday – Monday..(times to be arranged)

Infantry, artillery with a possibility of cavalry (depending on funding)

Living History and arena display/skirmish each day. Sunday will include a Drumhead Service.

#### **NEW EVENT**

### **4<sup>th</sup> August CHEADLE near**

#### **Stoke on Trent**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Camping from Saturday Noon.

Infantry, Living History, drill and firing displays and skirmish.

Two options on one weekend gives members a choice, and also brings in 2 fees.

### **17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August Hamilton,**

#### **Scottish Festival of History**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Living History event. Infantry. Further details when received.

### **17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August Spetchley Park**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Camping from Friday – Monday  
Infantry & artillery. Living History, drill and firing displays and skirmish.

Definitely no dogs allowed – applicable to public and traders as well as re-enactors.

### **14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September Ingleton**

#### **CONFIRMED**

Camping from Friday – Monday (times to be arranged)

Infantry, artillery Living History, drill and firing displays and skirmish each day.

Do not forget to read your warning orders issued to you before each event, as these contain information on times and local information such as the nearest supermarket or takeaway Hope to see you on the field very soon.

Peter Holt and Viv Corbishley.

## Battle of Cold Harbour May 31 to June 12, 1864



**Background:** Pressing on with his Overland Campaign after confrontations at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and North Anna, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant again moved around Confederate General Robert E. Lee's right in an effort to capture Richmond. Crossing the Pamunkey River, Grant's men

fought skirmishes at Haw's Shop, Totopotomoy Creek, and Old Church. Pushing his cavalry forward towards the crossroads at Old Cold Harbour, Grant also ordered Major General William "Baldy" Smith's XVIII Corps to move from Bermuda Hundred to join the main army. Recently reinforced, Lee anticipated Grant's designs on Old Cold Harbour and dispatched cavalry under Brigadier Generals Matthew Butler and Fitzhugh Lee to the scene. Arriving they encountered elements of Major General Philip H. Sheridan's cavalry corps. As the two forces skirmished on May 31, Lee sent Major General Robert Hoke's division as well as Major General Richard Anderson's First Corps to Old Cold Harbour. Around 4:00 PM, Union cavalry under Brigadier General Alfred Torbert and David Gregg succeeded in driving the Confederates from the crossroads.

**Early Fighting:** As the Confederate infantry began arrive late in the day, Sheridan, concerned about his advanced position, withdrew back towards Old Church. Wishing to exploit the advantage *gained* at Old Cold Harbour, Grant ordered Major General Horatio Wright's crossroads at all costs. Moving back to Old Cold Harbour around 1:00 AM on June 1, Sheridan's horsemen were able to reoccupy their old position as the



### UNION TRENCHES

Confederates had failed to notice their early withdrawal.

In an effort to re-take the crossroads, Lee ordered Anderson and Hoke to attack the Union lines early on June 1. Anderson failed to relay this order to Hoke and the resulting attack consisted only of First Corps troops. Moving forward, troops from Kershaw's Brigade led the assault and were met with savage fire from Brigadier General Wesley Merritt's entrenched cavalry. Using seven-shot Spencer carbines, Merritt's men quickly beat back the Confederates. Around 9:00 AM, the lead elements of Wright's corps began arriving on the field and moved into the cavalry's lines.

**Union Movements:** Though Grant had wished IV Corps to attack immediately, it was exhausted from marching most of the night and Wright elected to delay until Smith's men arrived. Reaching Old Cold Harbour in early afternoon, XVIII Corps began entrenching on Wright's right as the cavalry retired

east. Around 6:30 PM, with minimal scouting of the Confederate lines, both corps moved to the attack. Storming forward over unfamiliar ground they were met by heavy fire from Anderson and Hoke's men. Though a gap in the Confederate line was found, it was quickly closed by Anderson and the Union troops were forced to retire to their lines

While the assault had failed, Grant's chief subordinate, Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, believed an attack the next day could be successful if enough force was brought against the Confederate line. To achieve this, Major General Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps was shifted from Totopotomoy and placed on Wright's left. Once Hancock was in position, Meade intended to move forward with three corps before Lee could prepare substantial defences. Arriving early on June 2, II Corp was tired from their march and Grant agreed to delay the attack until 5:00 PM to allow them to rest.

**Regrettable Assaults:** The assault was again delayed that afternoon until 4:30 AM on June 3. In planning for the attack, both Grant and Meade failed to issue specific instructions for the assault's target and trusted their corps commanders to reconnoitre the ground on their own. Though unhappy at the lack of direction from above, the Union corps

commanders failed to take the initiative by scouting their lines of advance. For those in the ranks who had survived frontal assaults at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, a degree of fatalism took hold and many pinned paper containing their name to their uniforms to aid in identifying their body.

While Union forces delayed on June 2, Lee's engineers and troops were busy constructing an elaborate system of fortifications containing pre-ranged artillery, converging fields of fire, and various obstacles. To support the assault, Major General Ambrose Burnside's IX Corps and Major General Warren's V Corps were formed at the north end of the field with orders to attack Lieutenant General Jubal Early's corps on Lee's left.

Moving forward through the early morning fog, XVIII, VI, and II Corps quickly encountered heavy fire from the Confederate lines. Attacking, Smith's men were channelled into two ravines where they were cut down in large numbers halting their advance. In the centre, Wright's men, still bloodied from June 1, were quickly pinned down and made little effort to renew the attack. The only success came on Hancock's front where troops from Major General Francis Barlow's division succeeded in breaking through the Confederate lines. Recognizing the danger, the breach was quickly sealed by the

Confederates who then proceeded to throw back the Union attackers. In the north, Burnside launched a sizable attack on Early, but halted to regroup after mistakenly thinking he had shattered the enemy lines. As the assault was failing, Grant and Meade pressed their commanders to push forward with little success. By 12:30 PM, Grant conceded that the assault had failed and Union troops began digging in until they could withdraw under the cover of darkness.



### **Aftermath of the Battle of Cold Harbour:**

In the fighting, Grant's army had sustained 1,844 killed, 9,077 wounded, and 1,816 captured/missing. For Lee, the losses were a relatively light 83 killed, 3,380 wounded, and 1,132 captured/missing. Lee's final major victory, Cold Harbour led to an increase in anti-war sentiment in the North and criticisms of Grant's leadership. With the failure of the assault, Grant remained in place at Cold Harbour until June 12 when he moved the army away and succeeded in crossing the James

River. Of the battle, Grant stated in his memoirs:” I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbour was ever made. I might say the same thing of the assault of the 22d of May, 1863, at Vicksburg. At Cold Harbour no advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained.”

## **Morgan's raiders defeated at Buffington Island**

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raid into Union-held territory is dealt a serious blow when a large part of his force is captured as they try to escape across the Ohio River at Buffington Island, Ohio. Cut off from the south, Morgan fled north with the remnants of his command and was captured a week later at Salineville, Ohio.

This was the last and most daring of Morgan's four raids into Union-held territory. The main purpose of the raid was to take pressure off of Chattanooga, Tennessee, by drawing Union troops away from the army of General William Rosecrans. It began on July 2 at Burkesville, Kentucky, and continued into Indiana. Morgan departed with more than 2,400 troopers, but he split his force on two occasions, and suffered many

casualties in skirmishes with Federal detachments.

Morgan and his forces rode east into Ohio and feigned an advance toward a panicked Cincinnati, but bypassed the city and continued eastward to Pomeroy, Ohio. His men were worn down by the long days in the saddle, and the Yankee pursuit finally caught up at Buffington Island, just outside of Pomeroy. While Morgan made plans to cross the swollen Ohio River, Federal gunboats guarded the fords and Union cavalry attacked the Confederates. In a short time, Morgan lost 800 men, nearly all of who were captured.

Morgan escaped with 400 of his men, and fled north in search of a more suitable place to cross the river—which they never found. Morgan surrendered on July 26.

## **The Mule Brigade**

Many officers had favourite horses, yet the mule was to Civil War units what the jeep became in the era of mechanised warfare. They pulled the armies from one battlefield to another, and were used in one of the strangest raids. For seventeen days, Col. Abel D Streight led men mounted on 800 mules through the hills of northern Alabama. Although his 'Mule Brigade' went down in defeat before horse riding cavalrymen of Nathan B Forrest.

For those of you who like a good read. I received this communication about this new book.

Hello, American history enthusiast,

My mother recently edited and published a book entitled "Shouts and Whispers" . This painstaking work is a transcription of letters from her great grandfather to his wife as he served in the Union army during the American Civil War.

The soldier, D.D. Priest, was in the Vermont 2nd Company I from Bull Run in 1861 through Spotsylvania where he was wounded in 1864. This book is a must read for the Civil War buff and just a good, effortless read in general. This man intended for the letters to be saved and makes many references to people, places, and things during the war that make it come alive. There are eighty letters.

My mother, Nancy D. Wilson has an M.A. English from the College of St. Rose. The letters were handed down from her mother and she still is in possession of the originals. Those interested in "primary source" material will not be disappointed. Nancy is a native Vermonter and graduate of U.V.M. class of '59. Her motive for publishing was not profit, however, there is a cost of publication. The book is available on Amazon for a reasonable price of \$20.00. Upcoming sesquicentennial celebrations can make this the perfect gift also! ISBN-13 URL 978-1475041040 Princeton, Harvard, The University of Vermont, and Syracuse University have ordered theirs. Whatever method you use to acquire new material can be accommodated ( including Baker & Taylor ). Will ship direct as well. Contact me: Charles Wilson Phone 518.648.0324 cedarriv@frontiernet.net or my mother: Nancy Wilson 518.793.9472 nwilson@nycap.rr.com

Thank you,

Charles R. Wilson

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Indian Lake  
12842

## **IT IS TRUE**

Transportation magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt prized each of his ships. But as a patriotic gesture, he agreed to sell a 1,700 ton vessel that bore his name to the Federal government at his own price. He asked for and received exactly one dollar.

### **Confederate Regimental Mascots**

Many Regiments from both the North and the South kept or adopted animals during the American Civil War which took on semi official roles as regimental mascots. These included cats, dogs, horses, squirrels, raccoons, badgers, eagles, wild cats and hens. The Union Army had the most regimental mascots and undoubtedly the most famous was Old Abe, the bald eagle of Co. C of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment, Union Army, who participated in 37 battles and skirmishes. As such, this article will look at Confederate regimental mascots which are much less common and known.

The 3rd Tennessee had a gamecock named "Jake". He was originally obtained with the thought of dinner but having been placed with other chickens was recognised as such a fighter that his life was spared. Soon afterwards, Jake became involved with other rivals from other companies and became a renowned prize fighter. Other Confederate regiments heard about his reputation and Jake took on all

comers as his fame spread. Jake followed the regiment throughout the War and was at the siege of Vicksburg and lived in the trenches with the 3rd Tennessee. He would screech and shriek at the incoming Federal shells. When the 3rd Tennessee was captured, he accompanied the regiment to Camp Douglas Prison. When the Confederate troops entered the prison, the Union troops jeered at them and Jake responded with a loud screech that the captured Rebel troops quickly took up with a rebel yell. At the end of the War when the 3rd Tennessee was mustered out, Jake went with them back to Tennessee. He died shortly afterwards and was buried in a casket with a well attended funeral.

The 43rd Mississippi had a camel named "Old Douglas". As a result, the regiment subsequently became known as the "Camel Regiment." Old Douglas was used for transportation purposes and carried the Officers personal camp belongings. He was relatively well behaved and rarely got into trouble. However, he would not be restrained and tended to wander and graze but always in sight of his regiment. He became very friendly towards horses in his own company but would not socialise with others. However, he could be cantankerous and he occasionally spooked other horses in wagon trains and on one occasion during

a forced march before the battle of Corinth caused a stampede injuring several men. Afterwards, he was banished from being inside the camp perimeter. Old Douglas was killed in action by a minie ball at the siege of Vicksburg by Union Sharpshooters whilst carrying supplies between Vicksburg and the left wing of Confederate General Pemberton's Army on the Graveyard Road near the 3rd Louisiana Redan. His skeleton was recovered by Union troops and his bones were used for finger rings and other ornaments for relic and souvenir hunters from the North. When his bones ran out, unscrupulous Yankee sutlers used cow bones in the pretence it was Old Douglas. Old Douglas has his own marker in the battlefield cemetery at Vicksburg.

The 2nd Kentucky, of the famous Orphan Brigade, had a mascot called "Frank". Frank the dog always accompanied his Rebel comrades into battle and carried his own small haversack around his neck which contained his rations. When the regiment was captured at Fort Donelson in Tennessee, he spent 6 months in prison at Indiana's Camp Morton and on exchange for Union prisoners followed the regiment out. He spent a further 2 years with the 2nd Kentucky before going missing. He was presumed killed in action.

The Richmond Howitzers had a mascot called "Stonewall Jackson".

He was a particularly intelligent Jack Russell Terrier with a smooth white coat and black spots and proved to be a very fast learner. He would participate in roll call and attending with a pipe between his teeth would stand to attention when his name was called and remain rigid until roll call was over. He appeared to relish battle and as the cannons thundered would leap up and down yelping and barking. He was placed in an empty ammo box for shelter when under incoming fire. He learnt many tricks and as a result was coveted by many other regiments throughout the Army of Northern Virginia. He was subject to a number of kidnapping attempts. Unfortunately, one was successful involving Louisiana troops and he was never seen again. The Richmond Howitzers also possessed a big black crow. When the crow died it was so loved by its artillerymen that it was given a sombre military funeral including a salute from the guns of the Honour Guard. The ceremony was presided over by the Regimental Chaplain and eulogised in both English and Latin.

The 2nd Maryland had a black Labrador retriever named "Grace" that was killed in action on Culp's Hill, Pardee's Field, Gettysburg. She was found wandering amongst the Confederate dead on 3 legs and badly scarred with bullet wounds having taken part in the earlier rebel charge. Before she died she was

seen licking a rebel casualty perhaps her master. The rebels suffered 50% casualties. On observing her looking totally bewildered amongst all the dead and human carnage from both sides, Union General Kane ordered her a proper burial alongside her regiments fallen Confederate soldiers. He said "She was the only Christian minded being on either side"

Finally, Confederate General Robert E Lee had a pet barnyard chicken called "Nellie" in the camp so he could have a fresh egg every day during the invasion of Pennsylvania. It nested under his cot whilst on campaign and the General never failed to leave his tent flap open for her. After Gettysburg, Nellie went missing but General Lee was not content until his aides eventually found her happily perched in the Confederate Headquarters wagon before they retreated.

During the preparation of this article, I came across a few miscellaneous Confederate mascots that may be of interest. A Confederate drummer owned a squirrel that danced to his masters drum. An Arkansas Cavalry outfit had a wild cat. After the battle of West Liberty, Kentucky, a Union report listed the captured as " 34 Prisoners, 52 Horses, 10 Mules and 1 Large Bear". Undoubtedly a tame Confederate regimental mascot that was estimated to weigh over 3

hundred pounds. General JEB Stuarts 1st Virginia Cavalry had an enormous Raccoon that was so bad tempered it had to be fastened to a wheel of a captured Union gun. Confederate General TRR Cobb had a pet rooster who would crow on his command. A Louisiana regiment had a pelican and the 3rd Louisiana had a donkey who would constantly try to enter the regimental commanders tent and sleep with him.

The last known battlefield Confederate mascot mortality was "Charlie" of the Georgia Troop Artillery that was killed in action at the Battle of Cumberland Church on April 7 1865. 2 days after General Robert E Lee surrendered.

Finally, there was only one authentic photo ever taken of a Confederate mascot. This was of "Tinker" who served on a Confederate Blockade Runner.

Article by Stewart "Old Goober " Douglas

References Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Wikipedia, Internet Sources, Webb Garrisons Civil War Curiosities 1 and 2 and Company Mascots by Robert Niepert

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The deck of USS Fanny was the site of the first recorded aerial reconnaissance on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1861

## **Clothes Make The Man**

The Rev Henry Turner, pastor of the all black Israel Beth congregation in Washington DC put aside his clerical garb in order to recruit a regiment. As Chaplin, he kept the only record of its activities.

Marching through North Carolina, they came to a sizable stream, at the edge of a town. They took off their clothes and waded across.

According to Turner, Dozens of white women, in their finest attire, hurried to watch the first naked blacked they had ever seen.

## **Highly Symbolic Black**

Joseph O Shelby of Lexington Kentucky, declined the offer of a captain's commission in the Union army. Instead he chose fight for states rights and for preservation of laws that kept blacks in slavery. Wearing a conspicuous black plume in his hat, the Kentucky cavalryman fought in every major campaign in Missouri and Arkansas.

Tennessee born Ben McCulloch commissioned a tailor to make him a 'fighting suit' of black velvet. He was a leader of southern fighting men who favoured a black flag policy under which all captured Yankees who had fought alongside blacks would be shot on the spot.

### **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:**

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

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## **EVENTS CALENDAR 2013**

**11-12 May Marbury Merridays  
Marbury Cheshire  
Confirmed**

**8-9 June Tatton Old Hall  
Confirmed**

**15-16 June Crieff, Scotland  
Cancelled due to lack of funding**

**27-28 July Hull Veterans Day  
Confirmed**

### **NEW EVENT**

**4<sup>th</sup> August Cheadle near Stoke on Trent  
Confirmed**

**17-18 August Scottish Festival of History  
Hamilton Scotland.  
Confirmed**

**17-18 August Spetchly Park  
Worcester Re enactors  
Confirmed**

**14-15 Sept Ingleton  
North Yorks  
Confirmed**