



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

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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2014 Summer Edition



Castle Bytham 2014

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

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A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr Michael Smart, Chairman



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Events



Miss Claire Morris, Membership



Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety



Mrs Val Holt, Communications



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander



Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Commander



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Events Assistant

Summary of the Minutes of Board Meeting at Kegworth Saturday 29th March 2014

Present were Mick Smart Chairman, Ian Morris Treasurer, Philip Clark Secretary, Martin Cross H&S, Viv Corbishley Projects Assistant, Claire Morris Membership Secretary, Mike Bussey Webmaster, Glenn Gibson Confederate Army Commander, Peter Holt Projects, Val Holt Communications and Tim Davies Federal Army Commander.

In Attendance were Angela Cross, Andrew Parrott, Mike Corbishley and Debbie Davies (Minutes Secretary).

The meeting started at 12 noon.

The minutes of the previous meeting in January were approved and, regarding matters arising, Claire Morris advised she had sent out about 100 questionnaires so far, with more to go, to previous members enquiring why they left and if they would come back soon. She will report back once she has sufficient responses, correlated, to give us a conclusion. Discussions took place about gunpowder trailer repairs, artillery trailer repairs and other transport matters. Army Commanders are to discuss scenarios for the Tatton Skirmishes and advise Val Holt so that she can put them in the Warning Orders. Also an area allocated to the US Sharpshooters to be left empty for their scenario at Tatton. Arrangements for gunpowder licensing for the Ingleton event were discussed and Philip Clark has re-drafted the Rules and Byelaws for Chairman and Webmaster to consider – a matter arising from the AGM. In November 2015 a party of Americans are coming to Liverpool to re-enact the Surrender of the SS Shenandoah, and Guy Story has agreed to attend in the appropriate uniform.

Projects then duly reported, to include the arrangements for the Training Weekends, May at Tatton Old Hall, Castle Bytham in June, August at Spetchley Park and August at Ingleton (the Bank Holiday).

Chairman and Projects Assistant were to look at a possible site in central Leicestershire to replace the Hull event, and Mr Clark reported why the Society could not go to Cusworth Hall Nr Doncaster, because of 'local Government problems'. It was noted great efforts were being made to try and fill the 'July gap' in events, but it was noted that it was proving very difficult to get a properly sponsored event.

2015 is, however, looking good with negotiations taking place for a Wrexham site, a family festival in Leicestershire, Sewerby Hall Nr Bridlington and a couple of other Stately Homes as possibilities.

It was noted that a SoSkAn event at Caldicot Castle on the May Bank Holiday could have ACWS members in attendance, subject to SoSkAn requirements, and that Peter Holt would make the necessary arrangements.

Arrangements for the new driver of the van, and hand-over of the responsibility for getting the artillery trailer plus guns to events were further discussed. The Chairman asked about ACWS being on the books of professional events Companies and Mrs Corbishley advised that this is already done with several such Companies.

After lunch the Treasurer reported on the Seasons Events budget now that Hull and Hamilton have been cancelled (through no fault of ours). The 'numbers' do not look good, and financially ACWS will be having a lean year. It was hoped that membership renewals will increase sooner rather than later, thus helping to bolster the accounts.

Regarding percussion caps, Mr Bussey stated he can get them from Kranks, whilst Mr Clark will cover the supply at the Union Army Training Weekend. Mr Morris advised that he is getting the van sorted out, listings its contents, and progressing a full set of repairs and MOT now that it is currently located in Darwen.

Membership: Claire Morris reported that as at the date of the meeting 120 members had rejoined so far. She had prepared an exhibition display board which was put up for the meeting and everybody agreed it was a really impressive effort. She asked for more ideas for more marketing/advertising and she was advised just to keep on doing what she is doing at the moment, and all present thanked her and commended her for her great efforts.

Mr Bussey mentioned books that had been donated to the Society and that they would be sold at the blanket sale at Tatton. Chairman suggested that members could buy advertising space for their own businesses in the Newsletter and advertising to support the cost of the Newsletter would be encouraged (for current, very reasonable advertising rates, please apply to Val Holt).

Also discussed was e-votes and how to use e-mail addresses now. The proposal was made that those members with an e-mail address should vote

electronically by default if they were not coming to the AGM. This and the issues arising, were discussed. Claire Morris reported that often people do not tick the boxes on the membership forms to opt in or out of things. Therefore Mike Bussey suggested that the membership form should contain a tick box for electronic voting, like the Newsletter tick box, but to make it an opt-out box so that in default you get to e-vote (unless the box is ticked). This was agreed. It was also emphasised that proxy voting was perfectly secure, and handled with utmost confidence.

Philip Clark suggested members could volunteer to help history teachers in schools (a short article summarising the proposals appear elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Fundraising: Chairman suggested running a 50/50 raffle at signing in points. This was agreed as a good idea providing you can get an additional person at the signing-in points to do the necessary work. Glenn Gibson recommended 'football scratch cards' and also suggested a scenario during the day to 'sign up' children of the public for drill on the field for £1 per child. We can be seen to be doing more for the public and this ties in well with the Cadet Corps and Drum Corps. We could also approach businesses for sponsorship. Mr Clark suggested we need to reduce costs and save money, but the big problem with ACWS were the many fixed overheads, set against a shrinking income. Mike Bussey pointed out that half of our fixed costs are represented by the van and associated artillery costs. This is currently the same amount as when the Society membership was three times larger. Various points were discussed and further possibilities will be explored.

Any Other Business: Chairman reported that Paul Edensor and Kerry are getting married at Sewerby Hall next year and are happy to allow photographs to be taken for Society use. Various possible filming opportunities were discussed. Martin Cross requested that the Society observe the USA Memorial Day which is the 4th Monday of May. It was agreed there will a 'drum head service' ceremony at Tatton to commemorate it. Dismounted Cavalry were discussed. It was agreed they are permitted if there are no actual horses available for the event. It was agreed that current Cavalry members would be very welcome to attend any event even if horses were not available.

The next meeting would be on Saturday the 2nd August 2014 at Kegworth and the meeting finished at 3.45pm.

ACWS – NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that it's AGM will be held on Saturday 6th December 2014, starting at 1pm prompt at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club , 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9HY.

If you are a current member and have any nominations for posts of Directors or Army Commanders of the Society and/or you have any agenda items appropriate for the AGM, then put them in writing as soon as possible addressed to the Secretary ACWS, P O Box 52 Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ. These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Monday 6th October 2014.

Nominations for other than existing post holders have to be signed by the nominee and proposed by at least one other current member, who must also sign the nomination. The nominee may submit a short address for circulation to the membership to support their candidature.

As at the date of this Notice, the current directors are standing for re-election as far as is now known, except that your Board propose to abolish the post of Marketing Director (part of the work is currently carried out by The Membership Secretary Claire Morris) and de-select the Projects Assistant from the position of a Director. Viv Corbishley wishes to stand down as a Director, but has volunteered to remain as Pete Holt's Assistant but as an officer of the Society, not as a voting Director. These arrangements achieve the aim of reducing the size of your Board by two positions, in the interests of cutting costs and improving efficiency.

Please note your Board has decided to change the title " Projects" to " Events", and to establish a team that integrates Marketing & promotional work with securing and arranging events for our Society. Claire Morris will carry on with the Social Media aspects of "marketing" but we seek a new "Officer of the Society" to be Marketing Assistant. This person needs to have had experience in marketing and promotional work.

The current two Army Commanders are also standing for re-election as at the date of this notice.

Once relevant inputs have been received, the AGM Agenda can be put together and the appropriate documentation sent to you before the AGM.

Please note, only current members of ACWS are entitled to vote at the AGM or to submit proxy forms. Members who wish to attend the meeting are asked

to bring their membership cards to the AGM to help validation, admission and/or voting if necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board
Philip Clark
Company Secretary and Director

3rd August 2014

NB: Electronic delivery of Agenda and voting slips . We will seek to send all the AGM paperwork to all those of you who have e-mail addresses electronically by that means (to cut down on printing and postages) and post only to those who currently have no e-mail address or who have specifically opted-out of e-voting. PLEASE NOTE, your Webmaster has devised a secure way for you to deliver your Proxy Vote electronically . This will save everybody a lot of time & cost of postages. If you are coming to the AGM, you will NOT be voting electronically (or by post) . However, you all need to make sure either Mike Bussey or Claire Morris have your correct , up-to-date e-mail address for this to happen. If you fail to do this then you will not get the AGM papers or proxy vote form, will you? Make sure we have the right information by NO LATER than Friday 26th September 2014.

A POLITE NOTICE

I regret that it has become necessary to have to publish this reminder, **BUT** we have had at least two instances at two recent events where Members have been indiscreet, and relieved themselves in public in daylight hours in the open. There have been complaints. Apart from possible criminal liabilities for exposing yourself, and the public health aspects of such behaviour, this damages the good name of our Society and makes us appear to be ill-disciplined.

So, **PLEASE, NO MORE** of such behaviour. If you can not contain yourself and get to the toilets provided in time, you should organise a suitable container or portable toilet inside your own tent that you can use out of sight, with tent flaps closed, and then dispose of the contents down the toilet on your next visit. I am saddened that it has become necessary to have to utter this warning, but this misconduct has to **STOP**. Any more instances will mean our disciplinary code will have to be applied.

Michael Smart

ACWS at Castle Bytham

The American Civil War Society travelled to Castle Bytham on the weekend of 21 and 22 June 2014 and what was billed as a small Village fete turned out to be a marvellous big event attracting thousands of people with loads of attractions including the all day music festival and 2 excellent welcoming local Real Ale pubs. These were needed throughout due to the exceptionally hot and gorgeous weather. The ACWS was busy throughout and it was really pleasing to see the interaction with the public continuing on from our last Event at Tatton. The Ask a Civil War Soldier questionnaire for the kids proved to be as popular as ever and once again the organisers had to photocopy yet more copies as they ran out on the first day. As a new method of interacting with the public, the Confederate Army challenged all comers to a Tug of War which they lost 2-1 when everyone joined in and the successful kids drill continued on from Tatton with a number of regular sessions which proved very popular. All these activities allowed the public to gain a real insight into the life of a Civil War soldier and learn more about the uniforms, equipment, life, drill, campsite etc and also allows the public to ask questions and really engage with

the soldiers. The Sunday was the busiest day and started with an American Civil War Service at the old Castle Bytham Church. To their credit, both Union and Confederate Armies had an excellent turnout ensuring a full congregation and from a personal point of view I found the whole service quite moving and thought provoking. Vicar Sue had clearly put a lot of work and effort into researching the American Civil War and as result the whole Service contained many hymns, readings, letters, music and prayers directly from the Civil War. Being able to sing both Northern and Southern songs was an added bonus. Credit must also go to those ACWS members who took part in both the Service readings and music. There was only 1 battle as a finale to the weekend and the ACWS clearly did themselves proud. The battle contained artillery from both sides and the customary high standard pyrotechnic display from John Filer and his team. Particular highlights were the Confederates initially marching in column on the top of the hill and then deploying left and right in single file with bayonets fixed and gleaming, colours in the middle and firing a volley. One member of the public stated it was sight he would never forget and admire. The ambush by the 19th Indiana who had hidden behind a ditch awaiting the Confederate advance and then suddenly appearing and firing a point blank

volley into the rear right flank of the 1st Tennessee thereby decimating the whole unit was spectacular. Finally, both Armies playing the game by taking massive casualties at the end giving the public a very small insight into the mayhem and slaughter of Civil War battles. There were many other highlights of this excellent weekend but the sight of a World War Two Lancaster bomber (only 1 of 2 in the world still flying) slowly flying just over your head 3 times with Spitfires and Hurricanes also on display was awesome. As an added bonus, the whole Event was filmed by a professional photographer so hopefully there should be some excellent footage of this marvellous occasion.

Article by Stewart "Goober"
Douglas

Avoncroft Buildings Museum Nr Bromsgrove

The Union Army had an excellent Training Weekend at Avoncroft, and to try and fill in the lack of events this year, a whole Society weekend has now been booked at Avoncroft towards the end of September (see diary notes). For those of you who have not been to Avoncroft, you come off the M5 at Junction 4 and just go straight ahead at any junction you come to or roundabout and soon enough you will pick up signs (the brown ones) to Avoncroft.

Although the site feels when you are in it as though you are in the 'middle of nowhere', there is a large Morrison's Supermarket just about 10 minutes walk down the hill.

Avoncroft has a large number of different, variegated, historic buildings and structures scattered around it's grounds (an old Tudor farmhouse, a tin tabernacle, a pigeon loft, a chain works, a half timbered shop from Shrewsbury, now the Café, a blacksmiths forge, an old police goal block and a fantastic post windmill, amongst many other things) Really interesting to look at as you walk round the site. There is plenty of grass open space, two toilet blocks with flushing loos (!) and a separate field off the main car park for overflow car parking, where ACWS will put its vehicles.

On the Union Army Training Weekend Carl Smith, who is a volunteer at Avoncroft, got the windmill working. What a fantastic sight! On the Sunday we had a church service in the tin tabernacle, and welcomed the new little baby in the Sharpshooters to our congregation. Altogether a memorable weekend and I recommend Avoncroft to the whole Society. Just one thing – wood for fires is in short supply. You really need to bring your own and, of course, you need elevated fires.

Philip Clark

THE SOUTHERN BAZAAR FOR WOUNDED PRISONERS.

The Bazaar at St. George's Hall began well yesterday and so, according to the proverb, "Well begun is half done," the Southern Club may hope that the seal of success has been set upon their benevolent enterprise. If the next three days during which the bazaar continues open furnish anything like a proportionable contribution to the treasury the end result will be something very handsome - that "something" representing several thousand pounds sterling, which will go a long way to provide many little comforts and necessities for the sick and wounded men who have lost liberty in fighting for the Southern cause.

The fund, it may be stated, will be dispensed through the medium of Southern ladies resident in the North, who have received permission to visit and to assist their distressed and imprisoned countrymen. The total receipts yesterday were not far short of £3,000. At eight o'clock last evening the returns from the different stalls were as follows --- Virginia, £250; North Carolina, £300, South Carolina, £300; Georgia, £200; Florida, £100; Alabama, £250; Mississippi, £150; Louisiana, £220; Texas, £150; Arkansas, £100; Tennessee, £200; Kentucky, £150; Missouri, £80; total £2250. To Missouri, it should be stated, has been allocated the dining department in default of space for a separate stall. Besides the above amount, £275 was paid at the doors for admission, exclusive of £270 represented by season tickets. An additional £75 was obtained in half-guinea subscriptions towards a raffle for a pretty little Shetland pony, presented by a gentleman named Pate, and the net proceeds were something like £3170.

To the making up of this goodly sum a large number of fashionable visitors with well filled purses contributed. From the opening of the bazaar at noon till its close, about ten, the floor of the hall was for the most part thronged --- in fact, at times there was an almost inconvenient crush, notwithstanding that the pressure was relieved by a large number of the promenaders finding repose and refuge in the galleries. The crush was greatest about two o'clock, and the committee request that on the remaining days visitors will circulate through the galleries, and that they will move in a stream upon the right hand, so as to avoid the confusion and pressure to which erratic wanderings in a crowded assembly give rise. Among the visitors were His Worship the Mayor [Charles Mosley, Esq.] Lady Eardley, Mr. Mason, [Confederate Commissioner], Lord Warnccliffe, Lord Campbell, Sir Henry de Hoghton, Mr. J. Laird, [M.P. for Birkenhead], Mr. Aspinall Turner, [M.P. for Manchester], and Mr. Beresford Hope, who by the lectures which he delivered at various places

in Kent (where he has a large estate derived from Marshall Lord Beresford of Peninsular fame), was amongst the first to place the Southern cause before the English public in its true light.

When the hall was filled with ever-moving throng, the appearance, especially from the galleries, was exceedingly animated. The finishing touches of the upholsterer had given a completeness to the decorations which was wanting when we paid the hall a visit on Monday afternoon.

The lower part of the broad flight of steps leading from the great hall into the Crown Court had been converted into an elegant lounging place for ladies, flanked on each side by pretty foliaged plants. Higher up is an impromptu orchestra, within which a band of musicians under the direction of Mr. Streather, discoursed from time to time most eloquent music, including "God Save the Queen" as a mark of loyalty to the English throne, and the Southern national air, as a mark of sympathy for the Confederate States, whose colours were displayed overhead upon a large and handsome flag, the work of Lady de Hoghton. The effect of the mirror placed at this point was very beautiful. It reflected upon a miniature scale, the gay and bustling scene below --- a very kaleidoscope of shifting colours, in which the red, white and blue bars of the Southern colours were most prominent.

Nothing could be prettier than the appearance of the various stalls filled to overflowing, with handsome and costly furniture, except, perhaps, the dresses of the ladies in attendance at them, and it may be added, the ladies themselves. If the fair merchants had been Southerners, pleading the cause of sick and wounded brothers, husbands, and sweethearts, they could not have thrown their hearts more entirely into their work. Of course, with such an assembly as that of yesterday, the greater part of the purchases were made at the stalls, but a tremendous body of skirmishers light artillery, they might be called, having regard to the bright glances they shot around --- from time to time made incursions amongst the crowd, and seldom returned without some substantial booty.

They were distinguished by sashes either of red, or white, or blue, upon which was inscribed the name of the State on whose special behalf they were soliciting. Here was to be a fair Virginian offering State grown cigars at sixpence a piece and cheap at the price, there, was a Georgian maiden successfully seeking for subscriptions to a lottery for something or another, now we come across a Louisianian who is very anxious to dispose of some elegant trifle and so on through the whole list of the States, each having it's charming band of workers doing their best, and that best an effectual one to help forward the charitable cause they had espoused. Equally active and energetic were the gentlemen members of the committee whose distinctive badge was a silver buckle upon the

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TATTON OLD HALL 2014



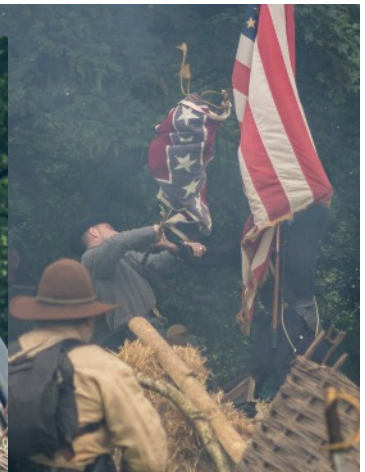
CASTLE BYTHAM



CASTLE BYTHAM



Tatton Old Hall 2014



left breast, with the motto, 'Aide toi, Dieu t'aidera,' up to the sentiment of which they have fully acted.

Mr. Spence, the hon. secretary, Mr. Stoess, Mr. Oldershaw, Mr. Forwood, Mr. Trappmann and other members of the executive showed an activity almost amounting to alacrity which only the heartiest enthusiasm for the project they have in hand would induce.

When the visitor has glanced along the stalls, to attempt anything like a minute examination of their contents would be a work of days --- has admired the taste with which they are set out, has expended sundry pounds in whatever may hit his fancy, has invested sundry shillings in raffles, and hazarded numberless sixpences for a plunge into the lucky bag, has taken a peep at the curiosity stand in the centre of the hall, looked at the little dress worn by General J. H. Morgan when he was a baby and other things there exhibited, has examined a large and beautifully furnished doll house in one corner of the hall, and taken a glance at a number of very handsome dolls in another corner --- when he has done all these things, let him then for a further two pence, repose to the tent of Mr. Frank Toole, of London, whose services, in order to give a humorous phase to the proceedings, the committee have very wisely engaged. He has extemporised an entertainment --- indeed the only comic seen at once intensely laughable and peculiar. Within a zig zag tent, placed against one of the partially glazed doors, he exhibit's a panorama of life in Liverpool, with decidedly novel and natural effects. Here, too, a real Southern mermaid gave spiritual manifestations of the most extraordinary kind, and equalled, if not surpassed, its knowledge of future events, the disembodied spirits who are said to come at the call of the Davenport Brothers. Keeping at present secrets secret, we can honestly vouch for the lifelike character of the panorama and the validity of the mermaid, the enjoyment created being testified by the roars of laughter which Mr. Toole's comments excited and the readiness with which his hands were filled with silver. All who yesterday witnessed this exhibition thoroughly entered into the spirit of the fun, whether his worship the Mayor, highborn ladies, or members of the committee. On the opposite side of the hall, a female Blondin and the famous painting bullfinch go through their performances before appreciative audiences. In the small concert hall the Queen's Operetta Company, under the able leadership of Mr. Henri Drayton, gave an admirable concert at half past twelve, and later on Mr. Drayton delighted an audience which ought to have been much larger and we hope will be today with a selection from his entertainment "Federals and Confederates," in which he introduced with great effect the "Eulogy on Stonewall Jackson," and other pieces inserted in yesterday's paper. There was also, in the musical way, a

piano forte performance by Master Willie Pape, a prodigy of musical talent, who has already had the honour of playing before royalty.

These entertainments were under the management of Messrs Draper and Son, of Bold street. In the course of the afternoon Mr. Best gave the visitors some idea of the powers of the great organ, upon which he played several pieces with his usual skill and ability.

There were several raffles during the day as explained yesterday, the arrangements made for collection with this part of the bazaar are of a character which almost preclude the possibility of mistake or dissatisfaction. A register of the winners is held, and yesterday they were as follows:

Stall	Article	Winning No.	Winners Name
Texas	Chair	8	Pickering
Texas	Vase with gold Flash	5	Mrs T B Forwood
Arkansas	Doll	9	Miss Shand
Texas	Cigar Case	7	Mr H Forwood
Texas	Cigar Case	84	Mr Fuhrkes
Texas	Stools	16	James Kuja
Texas	Cigar Box	15	Mr W Bennett
Texas	Turkish Tablecloth	11	Mr Jones
Texas	Hand Cream	3	Mr Tones
N. Carolina	Doll	10	Mrs Navise
Texas	Pair Footstools	2	A B Forwood
N Carolina	? Crowing Inca..]b47	106	Mr Harpin
Florida	Brush and Comb Base	9	Mrs Rogers
Alabama	Pipe	1	Mr Alexander
Alabama	Bon Bon Box	63	Miss Patterson
Texas	Musical Driver	5	Mr Besch
Texas	Urn Stand	12	Mrs ?
N Carolina	Green Workbox	2	Mrs Norris
N Carolina	Jewel Box	30	Solerie
Louisiana	Monchoir Case	4	Mr Hemster
Louisiana	Bon Bon Case	38	Mr Heskey
Texas	Doll	15	Mr Philips
Kentucky	Framed Needlework	1	Mr Ryley
S Carolina	Gold Watch	8	Mr Mason

The other general arrangements worked yesterday in a highly satisfactory manner the estimate to which the dining room was patronised proved the usefulness of this adjunct to the bazaar and the dispositions of Mr Bliss were put to a test which they withstood. Amongst minor matters may be mentioned, as well worthy of imitation at future bazaars, the system for the dispatch of parcels to all parts of the town at a moderate charge, which worked admirably. Inspector Carlisle and a staff of detectives were in attendance at the hall yesterday on the lookout for suspicious characters, but the precautions taken by the committee obviated any necessity for their active services. Lost articles will be returned on application to Mr Green the keeper of the hall.

At half past nine o'clock, Mr Toole as Master of the Ceremonies, having sounded a vigorous beating of a gong announced the times of closing of the bazaar for that day and its re-opening today at noon with many attractions.



The Events Team



20th - 21st September Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR. Camping from Friday to Monday. This is for Infantry and Artillery. Living History, drill and skirmish on both days. The Confederate Army will camp in the Windmill Field and the Union Army will camp outside the Merchant's House, which will be used as Union HQ. The Family Camp will be situated in the field to the left as you come through the main gate.

Tatton and Castle Bytham were both very successful events. The

organisers of Castle Bytham were very impressed with what we did and have expressed a wish to have us back again in the future. The following extract have been taken from email received from the Rev Susan Evans

'Thank you so much! I really enjoyed working with you and your folk and am so grateful for the help of the musicians and others. I enjoyed the battle too, and was amazed by the quality of Chris's commentary.... without notes! What a talented man he is! Everyone was so friendly – the congregation were delighted that so many of ACWS came along and sang so well too!

This is my last Midsummer Fair – my husband retires this year and we have to move and buy a house for the first time in our lives! It was

a lovely final Fair service to remember!'

The Events team endeavour throughout the year to find events for both the current season and the coming seasons because we know that many of you wish to book time off work on event weekends. Sadly, this is not possible to have all the dates to hand just when you have to book holidays with your employer, because many places we are invited to do not have their budgets in place until March or April.

Obtaining events is much like buying a house in England and Wales, until the contract is signed; it cannot be considered as yours. A situation arose with Hull this season when the sponsors, who had previously expressed a wish for us to attend and had accepted our application form, held a meeting and decided to concentrate the Veteran's Weekend around the WWI Centenary and informed us they no longer wished to hire ACWS we had accepted their word in good faith but as they had not signed the contract we had sent to them there was nothing we could do. In future, all dates will be advertised as 'subject to contract' until will have a signed contract which makes it binding on both sides. Let me say that Hull was an extreme case and most sponsors do sign contracts when asked As

soon as I have a date for an event I will publish it on the website and on social media.

I have two dates for 2015 which are 'subject to contract' at the present time.

24-25 May 2015 Sewerby Hall.

This event will involve Infantry and Cavalry in the skirmish scenarios, unfortunately, the artillery cannot be fired so close to the house, but the cannons will be present and used as set dressing, so the artillery will be required to attend.

**Sunday 2nd August 2015
Bursham Iron Works, LL14 4LL**

in the Clywedog Valley, 2 miles west of Wrexham, N Wales. This is one day event involving Infantry and Artillery. Camping from Saturday until Sunday evening. This event will be much like the one we did last season at Cheadle, which everyone who attended, greatly enjoyed. At the present time there are four possible events under discussion one of which is Tatton, but as yet none of these have a set date which I can publicise, as soon as I have any news you will be informed. Other leads are being followed up, if anything comes of these again details will be publicised on the website and social media as well as the newsletter.

Battle of Mobile Bay

With the fall of New Orleans in April 1862, Mobile, Alabama became the Confederacy's principal port in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Situated at the head of Mobile Bay, the city relied on a series of forts at the bay's mouth to provide protection from naval attack. The cornerstones of this defence were Forts Morgan) and Gaines which guarded the main channel in to the bay. While Fort Morgan was built upon a spit of land extending from the mainland, Fort Gaines was constructed to the west on Dauphin Island. Fort Powell guarded the western approaches. While the fortifications were substantial, they were flawed in that their guns did not protect against assault from the rear. Command of these defences was entrusted to Brigadier General Richard Page. To support the army, the Confederate Navy operated three side-wheel gunboats, *CSS Selma*, *CSS Morgan*, and *CSS Gaines* in the bay, as well as the new ironclad *CSS Tennessee* these naval forces were led by Admiral Franklin Buchanan. In addition, a torpedo (mine) field was laid on the eastern side of the channel to force attackers

closer to Fort Morgan. With operations against Vicksburg and Port Hudson concluded, Rear Admiral David G. Farragut began planning an attack on Mobile. While Farragut's believed his ships were capable of running past the forts, he required army cooperation for their capture. To this end, he was given 2,000 men under the command of Major General George G. Granger. As communication between the fleet and Granger's men ashore would be required, Farragut embarked a group of US Army signalmen. Farragut possessed fourteen wooden warships as well as four ironclads. Aware of the minefield, his plan called for the ironclads to pass close to Fort Morgan, while the wooden warships advanced to the outside using their armoured comrades as a screen. As a precaution, the wooden vessels were lashed together in pairs so if one were disabled, its partner could pull it to safety. Though the army was ready to launch the attack on August 3, Farragut hesitated as he wished to await the arrival of his fourth ironclad, *USS Tecumseh* which was en route from Pensacola. Believing that Farragut was going to attack, Granger began landing on Dauphin Island, but did not

assault Fort Gaines. On the morning of August 5, Farragut's fleet moved into position to attack with *Tecumseh* leading the ironclads and the screw sloop USS *Brooklyn* and the double-ender USS leading the wooden ships. Farragut's flagship, USS *Hartford* and its consort USS *Metacomet* were second in line. At 6:47 AM, *Tecumseh* opened the action by firing on Fort Morgan. Rushing towards the fort, the Union ships opened fire and the battle began in earnest. Passing Fort Morgan, Commander Tunis Craven led *Tecumseh* too far west and entered the minefield. Shortly thereafter, a mine detonated beneath the ironclad sinking it and claiming all but 21 of its 114-man crew. Captain James Alden of *Brooklyn*, confused by Craven's actions halted his ship and signalled Farragut for instructions. Lashed high in *Hartford's* rigging to get a better view of the battle, Farragut was unwilling to halt the fleet while under fire and ordered the flagship's captain, Percival Drayton, to press on by steering around *Brooklyn* despite the fact that this course led through the minefield. At this point, Farragut reputedly uttered some form of the famed order, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" Farragut's risk paid off and the entire fleet passed safely through the minefield. Having cleared the

forts, the Union ships engaged Buchanan's gunboats and CSS *Tennessee*. Cutting the lines tying it to *Hartford*, *Metacomet* quickly captured *Selma* while other Union ships badly damaged *Gaines* forcing its crew to beach it. Outnumbered and out-gunned, *Morgan* fled north to Mobile While Buchanan had hoped to ram several Union ships with *Tennessee*, he found that the ironclad was too slow for such tactics. Having eliminated the Confederate gunboats, Farragut focused his fleet on destroying *Tennessee*. Though unable to sink *Tennessee* the wooden Union ships succeeded in shooting away its smokestack and severing its rudder chains. As a result, Buchanan was unable to steer or raise sufficient boiler pressure when the ironclads USS *Manhattan*) and USS *Chickasaw* arrived on the scene. Pummeling the Confederate ship, they forced it to surrender after several of the crew were wounded. With the capture of *Tennessee*, the Union fleet controlled Mobile Bay. While Farragut's sailors eliminated Confederate resistance at sea, Granger's men easily captured Forts Gaines and Powell with gunfire support from Farragut's ships. Shifting across the bay, they conducted siege operations against Fort Morgan which fell on August 23. Farragut's losses during the battle numbered 150 killed and 170 wounded, while Buchanan's small squadron lost 12 dead and 19 wounded. Ashore, Granger's

casualties were minimal Confederate battle losses were minimal, though the garrisons at Forts Morgan and Gaines were captured. Though he lacked the manpower to capture Mobile, Farragut's presence in the bay closed the port to Confederate traffic. Coupled with Sherman's successful Atlanta Campaign, the victory at Mobile Bay helped assure the re-election of President Lincoln

“ Storage of gunpowder.”

Could you all help here, please, by saving any standard one pint plastic milk containers once they are empty, and bringing them to the next event you attend in a sack or bag of some kind ?

They need to be well washed-out and then thoroughly dried-out . Upend them on a radiator overnight when the heat is on usually works wonders !

They also MUST have fitting tops. Send them to the powder store with your unit's powder collecting person. The Powder Master needs these to distribute 500g rations of gunpowder at events. Often when empty they are not returned to him for re-fill. Also, the bottles do not last for ever, so a supply of fresh ones is always needed.

Thank you all for your help and co-operation”

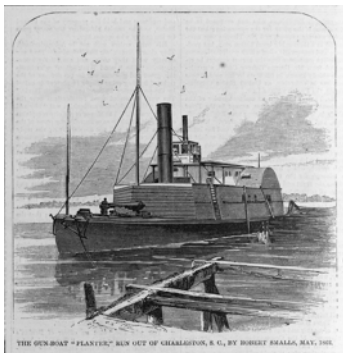
Thanks
Philip Clark

VACANCY FOR ORDNANCE OFFICER

There will be a vacancy for a Society Ordnance Officer from 2015.

The duty involves:- Obtaining relevant site licence(s), Ordering, Storing, and Distributing Black Powder to members who are in possession of appropriate licences, with all transactions being accurately recorded. For further information please contact:
acwsprojects@btinternet.com

Did you know that ACWS has a lending library? well it does! Sometime ago we were asked if we would like to have a large collection of books all pertaining to the Civil War. It is a very comprehensive collection and Tim and Caz Davies kindly volunteered to run it. They have listed all the titles and authors to a data base and hope to have this put on the website soon, in the meantime they will send out the list to you on request for you to make your choice of book and then bring it along to the next event, where you will sign it out and set a date for return just like the normal council run library.



CSS/USS Planter

Has one of the most famous American Civil War vessels that served both the North and the South been found? The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) suddenly announced on May 12 2014 that they have discovered a vessel that they believe to be the CSS/USS Planter off the South Carolina Coast. The vessel was lost at sea 14 years after the Civil War in rough seas as it attempted to tow a grounded schooner. The NOAA state the ship is buried beneath 12 feet of sand and was located by sonar. As such, it has not been positively identified but officials strongly believe it is the vessel. There are no plans to excavate the ship but the wreck site will be closely monitored.

The CSS Planter was a 149 foot sidewheel steamer built at Charleston, South Carolina in 1860 and was used by the Confederacy as an armed dispatch boat and transport attached to the Engineer Department at Charleston, under

Brigadier General Ripley, CSA. It was one of the fastest boats in Charleston harbour and could carry 1,500 bales of cotton.

However, late on May 13 1862, while her Confederate Captain, CJ Relyea, was absent on shore which was contrary to official Confederate Naval regulations, Robert Smalls, a slave who was the CSS Planters's wheelman, quietly took the ship from the wharf and with a Confederate flag blowing, steamed past five successive protecting Confederate forts. After donning the Captain's white Confederate Uniform and wearing his customary straw hat, he saluted the defenders with the customary blowing of the steam whistle. As soon as the steamer was out of range of the last Confederate guns, he hauled down the Confederate flag and handed the vessel over to the USS Onward which was part of the Union blockading force. On board the vessel were 15 other slaves, 7 crewmen, 5 women and 3 children. On May 30 1862, the United States Senate granted Robert Smalls and his crew one half of the value of the ship and her cargo as prize money estimated at \$9,000. However, the vessel and her cargo were worth far much more and the real value was nearer \$67,000. The ship was renamed the USS Planter and subsequently transferred to the Union Navy and served in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron through the summer of 1862. She was then transferred to the Union Army for service near Fort Pulaski, Georgia.

Robert Smalls himself served as a pilot for Union ships and was subsequently re-united with the USS Planter in December 1863 and during a cross fire off the South Carolina coastline between Confederate and Union forces and after refusing to surrender, he piloted the ship out of range of the Confederate guns. As a result, he was appointed Captain of the USS Planter and served throughout the rest of the Civil War. He was the first black man to command a United States ship. After the war, he served in the State Legislature and 5 years in Congress. The USS Planter was sold after the Civil War in 1866.

On May 25 1876, off Cape Romain (Northern Charleston County) on the South Carolina coast, the Planter attempted to save a grounded schooner by towing it. During the attempt, the Planter sprung a plank in the bow and started to take on water in the hold. The Captain decided to beach the steamer and repair the plank before escaping on the next high tide. However, stormy seas battered the Planter as the tide rose and she became too badly damaged to save. She was subsequently abandoned and presumed lost for ever.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Sources: America's Civil War (Sept 2014); Wikipedia; various Internet Sources; The Post and Courier, Robert Behre April 1 2014.

Malvern Hill
Henric County, Virginia
1st July 1862

By the morning of July 1st, McClellan had rallied his reunited army of 89,000 on the crest of Malvern Hill, approximately two miles north of the James River. Here, McClellan prepared to stave off Lee's reassembled army of 71,000 before beginning his retreat southeast along the James River to his new supply base at Harrison's Landing. Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps assumed a position along the western ridge of Malvern Hill, close to the Crew House. Along the eastern edge of the ridge sat elements of the Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth corps, under Edwin Sumner, Samuel Heintzelman, Darius Couch (filling in for Erasmus Keyes), and William Franklin, respectively. A total of 18,000 Union infantry occupied this position, reinforced by approximately 15,000 troops held in reserve behind the ridge. Henry Hunt, the Union Chief of Artillery, deployed approximately 37-40 pieces of artillery along the ridge, straddling Willis Church Road. That morning, General Lee gathered some of his generals near his headquarters on Willis Church Road to discuss

the possibility of a renewed assault. Frustrated by his army's failure on the previous day to trap and crush McClellan's army at Glendale, Lee was anxious to resume fighting on the 1st and deliver one last blow to the Federals before they could retreat to the James. Lee directed two "grand batteries" to be placed on either side of Carter's Mill Road to bombard and weaken the Federal guns along the Crew house ridge. Following the bombardment, Magruder and Jackson were to assault simultaneously on either side of Carter's Mill Road and Willis Church Road, with D.H. Hill's division of Jackson's command attacking from the point of woods, and Benjamin Huger driving at Porter's left flank along Malvern Cliffs. Lee directed Theophilus Holmes to guard his flank along the River Road, and advised Longstreet's and A.P. Hill's badly cut-up divisions to wait in reserve along the Long Bridge Road. However, Lee's official orders that morning were uncharacteristically vague and poorly communicated. Additionally, confusion with maps, terrain, and the local road network continued to plague the Confederates. General Magruder's forces arrived frustratingly late to the battlefield.

Ultimately, the two grand batteries failed to materialize, largely due to poor coordination among Lee's generals. Confusion over the exact signal for the infantry assault, faulty maps and topographical errors delayed the arrival of numerous Confederate units and resulted in a highly piecemeal advance of D.H. Hill's and Stonewall Jackson's divisions. The effect of the Federal guns on the advancing Confederate lines was murderous. Federals mowed down wave after wave of Confederates. Toward dusk, however, the perseverant Confederates came within 20-40 yards of the Federal line. Intense hand-to-hand combat ensued on the left of the Union flank. Reinforcements on either flank were called forward to help repulse the oncoming Confederates. By nightfall, Confederate generals finally cancelled the attack. D.H. Hill surveyed the carnage on the bloody field and remarked, disgustedly, "it was not war, it was murder." The battle had exacted nearly 8,000 casualties. The high casualties and lessons learned at Malvern Hill and the Seven Days battles raised both the military and political stakes of the war in profound ways.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM A.C.W.S
TO
LEIGH AND STUART WARDLEY
WHO WERE MARRIED ON
28th JULY 2014



CONGRATULATIONS FROM A.C.W.S
TO
ALISON AND DAN LAWRENCE
WHO WERE MARRIED ON
9TH AUGUST 2014

Phil & Jayne Olden

Will be attending the event at Avoncroft Museum, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR on the weekend of September 20th - 21st to sell off their remaining stock at **cost price**

This could be a good chance to purchase that much needed equipment

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Copy date for the Next Issue will be 24th September 2014 for the next issue

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

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

20th - 21st September

**Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings,
Bromsgrove, B60 4JR.**

Saturday 6th December 2014

starting at 1pm prompt

ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club,
64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9HY.**

EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

24-25 May 2015 Sewerby Hall.

**Church Lane, Sewerby, Bridlington,
East Riding of Yorkshire, YO15 1EA**

**Sunday 2nd August 2015 Bursham Iron
Works, LL14 4LL in the Clywedog Valley, 2
miles west of Wrexham, N Wales. These
dates are subject to contract.**

Watch this space for future events