



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

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

### **2015 Winter Edition**



### **Manassas Battlefield**

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

**N·A·Re·S**

**Issue 174**

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

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

## **Directors & Army Commanders**



Mr Michael Smart, Chairman



Mrs Helen Needham, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Projects



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

# ***Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of***

## ***The American Civil War Society Ltd***

***Held at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British  
Legion Club,***

***64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham***

***On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014***

**Present:**

**Directors:** Mr Mick Smart : Chairman : MS  
Mr Mike Bussey : Webmaster/  
Acting Secretary : MB  
Mrs Val Holt : Communications : VH  
Miss Claire Morris : Membership : CM  
Mr Ian Morris : Treasurer : IM  
Mr Peter Holt : Projects : PH  
Mrs Vivienne Corbishley : Assistant Projects : VC  
Mr Martin Cross : Health & Safety : MX  
Mr Tim Davies : Federal Army Commander : TD  
Mr Glenn Gibson : Confederate Army Commander : GG

**Society Officers:** Mr Mike Corbishley : Explosives Officer: MC  
Mrs D Davies : Minutes Secretary : DD

Together with members in the hall making a total of 36 members present.  
The meeting started at 1.07 pm.

MS welcomed everybody to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending.

1. Apologies were received from the following:  
Philip & Jennifer Clark, Peter & Sharon Francis-Wemyss, Helen Gibson.
2. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2013 AGM held at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club, 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013.  
This was proposed by MS and seconded by MB, and duly voted upon:

FOR	33	Proxy votes were:	FOR	22
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

This motion was duly approved, and the minutes signed by MS as Chairman.

3. Motion to receive the Reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2014 Season as published and issued to members in November 2014 in the AGM booklet.

### 3.1 Acting Secretary : Mr M Bussey

MB reported on PC's stroke and progress so far and explained that there was no candidate for the post of Secretary as PC suffered his stroke after the paperwork was already in for the AGM. Therefore MB has volunteered to act as Secretary for now.

MB then read out the salient points from the Secretary's submitted report, composed by Philip and typed by Jennifer:

- i) The application in practice of the new disciplinary code worked well when it was applied.
- ii) We are still using Cranmore Print, Macclesfield, for our newsletter etc as they are quick, cost effective, and user friendly to small print runs. New distribution arrangements are in place since Philip had his stroke.

- iii) The Board is working well and I am very pleased with our new Chairman, Michael Smart, who is a wise businessman and a good leader. Mike Bussey as acting secretary is superb, but overworked and the Board need to find a new Secretary soonest.

MB commended PC's points to the members and on behalf of everybody wished him a full and speedy recovery.

MB then went on to report that due to lack of members the Board had previously decided to retire the Non Coms, Signals and Civilian units. All affected members have been informed and invited to join another unit. None of these units had more than 2 members.

MB informed members of the current government proposal for increasing firearms and shotgun licence fees. It was noted that there had been no change to fees since 2001, and that the price needs to cover the cost of producing licences. Prices will rise from £50 for new applications to £88 for firearms, and £79.50 for shotguns. Renewal prices will also rise. MB expressed the opinion that the price rise is likely to come in to force next year and will probably rise every year thereafter.

MB reported on the new Explosives legislation introduced in October 2014, but stated that this seemed to be more about the safety & security of manufacturing fireworks, etc. and therefore probably would not affect us too much on a practical level. J Filer agreed and added that by 2017 EU have stated that it will become more regulated as far as manufacture of explosives is concerned, in that there will only be specific producers permitted to sell. He stated that in his opinion it is likely that black powder costs will rise as well.

MB apologised for the absence of reports from the Chair and Federal CO in the AGM paperwork. There have been some problems with the internet which has caused some difficulties

with communications in recent weeks. He had brought paper copies for viewing.

He stated that the Board will look to co-opt someone into the Secretary position at their next meeting in January as it is a legal requirement to have a Company Secretary in place.

### 3.2 Projects/Events: Mr P Holt

PH thanked both armies for their hard work this year, citing the Confederates' kids drill and the Union's horseshoe game as particular highlights. These initiatives seem to have really paid off both in terms of drawing in the public and increasing members' enjoyment of the season.

MS agreed and singled out Avoncroft as a huge success.

### 3.3 Treasurer: Mr I Morris

IM had nothing to add to his published report. He did state that losing a couple of events last year has affected the accounts but hopefully next year will be better.

### 3.4 Membership: Miss C Morris

CM stated that numbers were down again and encouraged members to invite friends, family and colleagues and really try to persuade them to come to events.

She reported that she intends to hold raffles and other fund-raising activities at events throughout the year and asked for everyone's support. Next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACWS and it is planned to mark this with some event unspecified as yet. All fund raised throughout the year will contribute to this event. She announced that the first raffle is today and tickets are on sale through the afternoon. The draw will take place at the end of the meeting.

CM reported that she has been promoting ACWS on various social media sites, and now has hundreds of followers. She encouraged people to suggest new ideas to get the ACWS

name out there.

John Filer asked if there had been any positive outcomes as a result of social media advertising. CM confirmed that there have been a couple of new members, some feedback from potential sponsors and several new contacts made. She is also beginning to advertise ACWS cannons for hire for events.

Andy Parrott asked for clarification on the rule about guesting if you're an ex-member. MB explained that a lapsed member can guest once but emphasised that there is flexibility on this to try to encourage them to re-join. Situations will be dealt with on an individual basis, whilst ensuring that this flexibility is not open to abuse.

GG commended that individuals in this position should submit a letter to the Board to ask for clarification on their individual circumstances.

### 3.5 Confederate Army Commander: Mr G Gibson

GG had nothing to add to published report and there were no questions from the floor.

### 3.6 Federal Army Commander: Mr T Davies

TD had nothing to add to his published report, except to announce that the Graham Forbes trophy had been awarded to 118<sup>th</sup> Penn. TD also thanked Daz Paul and Gary Holman for their help this season. He also stated that it had been a pleasure being up against GG again!

### 3.7 Communications: Mrs V Holt

VH had nothing to add to her report, except to request that all members should ensure that their correct email address is on record with CM in order to ensure that everyone receives warning orders etc.

### 3.8 Health & Safety: Mr M Cross

MX added to his published report, appealing to all units to

ensure that FSPCs are carried out. The Society is required to prove that we work to our code of conduct and FSPCs provide the evidence. He reported that there are still some lacking from certain units.

John Ewers asked about the rule of alcohol consumption on battle day. As provost guard he stated that he will report any drinking after midnight on the Union camp. He feels it is a very important issue.

GG countered this by citing potential ambiguity about the midnight curfew, eg. the difference between someone who has been drinking for hours up till midnight, and someone who has arrived at camp late and has one drink only around midnight.

MB agreed with this ambiguity but emphasised the need to ensure members are safe. He stated that this would be discussed further at the next Board Meeting to come up with a common sense decision.

John Filer suggested that the assessment and decision should be up to the individual's unit commander as to whether they can participate in the battle.

TD agreed that unit commanders should enforce the rule, but went on to state that he has only had 2 occasions to disallow participation in 32 years of re-enacting.

MS commended a common sense approach by unit commanders.

Daz asked about the Provost's authority to confront the individual or whether he should in fact refer to his unit commander. MS confirmed that the chain of command must be used.

### 3.9 Chairman: Mr M Smart

MS had nothing to add to his report. He commended everyone's contribution this year, stating that we had all done well, encouraged everyone to keep it up, and that next



year is looking good so far. He reminded everyone that it's your society and encouraged everyone to attend events.

Motion to adopt the director's reports

This was proposed by MS and seconded by A Parrott, and duly voted upon:

FOR	36	Proxy votes were FOR	22
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTION	1

Motion duly approved.

4. Motion to receive the Audited Accounts

IM confirmed that he was satisfied with the audited accounts and commended the motion to receive them.

This motion was proposed by MS and seconded by MX and duly voted upon:

FOR	35	Proxy votes were FOR	22
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1	ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion duly approved.

5. Motion to Reappoint M S Twist & Co Ltd as Auditors

IM confirmed that their charge is still very reasonable.

This motion was proposed by MS, and seconded by John Filer, and duly voted upon.

FOR	35	Proxy votes were FOR	22
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion duly approved.

6. Membership & Registration Fees for the 2015 season

The proposal was put forward that Membership Fees and Registration Fees remain at the same level as 2014.

This motion was proposed by TD, seconded Dave Parkin and duly voted upon

FOR	35	Proxy votes were FOR	19
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	2
ABSTENTIONS	1	ABSTENTIONS	2.

Motion duly approved.

Caz Davies suggested offering free membership as a raffle prize. CM agreed that this could be considered.

7. Change the name of Projects Team to Events Team.

MB explained that the Board are trying to streamline and rationalise jobs on the Board. The name “Events” seems more clear than “Projects”.

The motion was therefore put forward to rename the Projects Director to Events Director and Projects Team to Events Team.

This motion was proposed by MX, and seconded by TD, and duly voted upon.

FOR	36	Proxy votes FOR	22
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTIONS	1

Therefore the motion was approved.

8. Retirement of post of Marketing Director to Marketing Officer

MB explained that no-one had come forward to be considered for the role of Marketing Director, and the Board had decided that they can in fact manage without a director for this role. It is therefore proposed to change the role to an Officer of the

Society rather than a Director of the Board. The Marketing role is considered to be more linked to securing events, leaving advertising awareness through social media to CM.

The motion was proposed by TD, seconded by MB and duly voted upon.

FOR	36	Proxy votes	FOR	20
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	2
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

9. Retirement of Assistant Projects Director post to Assistant Events Officer

MB explained that VC used to be Projects Director then became Assistant Projects Officer but was co-opted onto the Board because of her experience. VC has now requested to retire from the Board, but will still continue in the Assistant Projects role (now known as Assistant Events Officer.)

MB further clarified that because historically this post has been voted on annually at the AGM, it therefore needs the membership to vote on whether to retire this Director post.

The motion was proposed by MX, seconded by VH and duly voted upon.

FOR	36	Proxy votes	FOR	21
AGAINST	0		AGANST	1
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

10. Election of Board of Directors

MB explained how this secret ballot will work and voting took place.

There was a short break of 20 minutes for the ballot, after which MB thanked the counters.

He then announced the outcome:

RESULTS:

VOTES IN THE ROOM

		FOR	AGAINST	ABST
Chair	Mr M Smart	36	0	0
Treasurer	Mr I D Morris	36	0	0
Events	Mr P Holt	36	0	0
Membership	Miss C Morris	36	0	0
Communications	Mrs V Holt	36	0	0
Webmaster	Mr M Bussey	36	0	0
H&S	Mr M Cross	33	1	2

PROXY VOTES

		FOR	AGAINST	ABST
Chair	Mr M Smart	22	1	0
Treasurer	Mr I D Morris	22	1	0
Events	Mr P Holt	23	0	0
Membership	Miss C Morris	23	0	0
Communications	Mrs V Holt	22	0	1
Webmaster	Mr M Bussey	23	0	0
H&S	Mr M Cross	20	0	3

The above directors were thus re-elected for 2015 Season.

Re-election of Mr T Davies as Federal Commanding Officer

FOR	26	Proxy votes	FOR	8
AGAINST	1		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	0

Mr Tim Davies was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for 2015.



1975 - 2015

40

GLORIOUS YEARS

OF

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

RE ENACTMENT

**Come along and  
Celebrate**



**Of the  
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY  
On  
Saturday Night  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
At  
AVONCROFT**

# **WANTED!!**

## **RAFFLE PRIZES**

**This coming season, as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations, we will be holding a raffle at every event and would be grateful for any donations for prizes.**

**E.g. Nice bottles of sipping liquer (for the guys) or boxes of chocolates (for the ladies) would be very acceptable.**

**Tickets will be sold on both army camps and on Family Camp.**

**Claire Morris, Membership Secretary/Marketing will be in charge of prizes or leave them with any ACWS Board member.**

## Another New Recruit



ACWS gives a warm cuddly welcome to Grace Edith Rose Wilson, who was born to Ed and Lyndsey Wilson (19<sup>th</sup> Ind) on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 weighing in at 5lbs 15oz..

## HELP NEEDED!!

Last season ACWS purchased a board to display posters and photographs of events etc. As this is our 40<sup>th</sup> year the Board of Directors would like YOUR help in creating a display of the past 40 Glorious Years. Do you have any photographs taken in the early years of ACWS? If so we would like to borrow them for the display. Better still send them to me via email then they can be printed out and you keep the photograph. If you have to send the photo, please send a stamped addressed envelope with your photo and it will be returned to you.

It would also be good if you can tell us who is in the photo, when and where it was taken and if there is a story to go with it so much the better. I am sure that we can make a really good and interesting display for the public to see and to relive old memories and recall old comrades past and present.

The board is usually displayed in the 69<sup>th</sup> NY large awning and everyone is welcome anytime to view it.

Val Holt  
Communications Director  
Email: [editor@acws.co.uk](mailto:editor@acws.co.uk)



## Re-election of Mr G Gibson as Federal Commanding Officer

FOR	5	Proxy votes	FOR	13
AGAINST	1		AGAINST	1
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

Mr Glenn Gibson was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for 2015.

### 10a. Presentations

MS thanked VC for her 27 years' service on the Board.

MS also thanked MC for his service as Powder Officer of the Society, cannons etc. and presented him with a gift.

He also expressed his thanks for PC's service and wished him a speedy recovery and return to events.

MB announced that Gary Holman has been appointed to take over from MC as Powder Officer.

### 11. Open Forum

MS opened up discussion to the floor.

- i) John Ewers proposed a vote of thanks to the Board and thanked the membership for their efforts to keep the Society going. He went on to express the opinion that the current economic recession(s) has made things difficult for the Society, and asked Board to contact SOSKAN to discuss a possible merger of the two organisations. He acknowledged that politics has historically kept us apart in the past but, in his opinion, we can't afford that any more.

PH replied that SOSKAN are currently having problems getting members to take up Committee posts at the moment and their Committee is therefore in disarray. Historically ACWS has invited SOSKAN to attend events, or work together, and they have always let us down. Furthermore, SOSKAN has rarely offered many

return invitations. He affirmed that the offer to work together has always been on the table, but the inevitable issue of geographical locations of their events and our events. The two societies have had many meetings in the past but nothing solid has ever come of any of them.

Dave Parkin requested clarification on the word “merger” used by John Ewers. He also stated that ACWS members are proud of the society and most members would not wish to be associated with SOSKAN. He further stated that no “green jackets” or Brooklyns are permitted in SOSKAN; they solely portray July 1863 so all uniforms have to be correct for that period. Therefore he felt sure that if the two societies were to merge, then all the members of USSS would leave.

John Filer made the point that in the past when we have invited them to events we supplied them with powder and bent over backwards for them, but this was never reciprocated and ACWS members were asked to pay to attend and take their own powder with them.

Dave Parkin stated that because of where he lives, he could easily attend SOSKAN events as they are closer and he would incur cheaper travel, but he prefers to go to ACWS events because the members are nicer, friendlier, more family oriented and operate more safely.

VC concurred with all these points and stated that SOSKAN and ACWS will never be able to sustain a good working relationship because it has always proved very one sided in the past. In her long experience on the Board, ACWS have been trying for years to work alongside them, but in the end it has proved better to do what works. She also expressed the opinion that this country is big enough for two societies.

John Ewers commended a need for compromise, and asked whether consideration should be given under this

New economic situation – to at least look at the possibility?

GG pointed out that even if both Board/Committee may manage to agree on a course of action, the evidence at previous events has shown that the lads on the ground were unfriendly and reluctant to work together.

Denis Jarwick stated that he could understand John Ewers' point of view, but there always has been a reluctance to intermingle even though we are all re-enacting the same thing. He concurred that even though the Boards might agree, the majority of members of both societies would be against it, and inevitably problems would arise – even just in coming up with a new name. In his opinion amalgamation would not work, and in any case all societies go through peaks and troughs – maybe things will improve for both societies soon.

GG cited the example of the Napoleonics who are members of one association but with separate sub-units, and suggested that we could perhaps consider a similar structure for ACW re-enacting?

TD stated that in his opinion he would rather not join the two societies together. We can work well together on odd occasions and he does not want to risk losing the USSS from ACWS as he considers them to be one of the best regiments in the society.

MB summarised the opinions expressed: a merger requires two like-minded bodies to come together. The consensus of opinion is that it would not work with ACWS and SOSKAN. However the Board is always open minded to the possibility of achieving good collaboration and we will keep talking. Once SOSKAN's new committee is in place, the ACWS Board will approach them to talk and see what's on table. The Board will consider inviting them to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations if practicable.

MS further added that, as Chair, he would always be happy to communicate with their Committee. He would have no problem

With joint events but he is not in favour of joining together formally.

Daz Paul stated that in his experience it is apparent that SOSKAN members don't have respect for their Committee the way our members view the ACWS Board. He also questioned the need to try to boost our numbers, stating that quality may actually be better than quantity.

ii) D Parkin – On behalf of Charlotte thanks to all well wishers on Facebook on the birth of her 2 daughters in November.

## 12. Events Announcements regarding events for 2015

PH announced the events so far:

### **April 11-12 Bruntingthorpe, Leics.**

Joint training weekend for both armies. Instead of just the usual Bruntingthorpe Fair this year there will be the Napoleonics and other re-enactors also there. This event will be a good show piece for the society. Living history all weekend and open to the public on Sunday. Although there is supposedly no firing, PH agreed to investigate the possibility of some sort of small firing opportunity, especially for new members. We have also been given the opportunity for some free publicity - a 3000 word article with pictures in Skirmish for no charge.

### **May 24-25 Sewerby Hall.**

Paul Edensor's wedding will take place on Saturday. Open to the public on Sunday and Monday. Artillery can attend but cannons will be used for set dressing only – they will not be firing. We have access to the Orangery this year but not the other rooms. Confederates will have the house this year.

### **July 11-12 Rempstone Steam & Country Show, Leics.**

PH reported that negotiations are still ongoing for this event. It is not confirmed but looking promising.

### **August 2 Bersham Heritage Centre, Wrexham, North Wales.**

This is a one day event on the Sunday, with camping from

Saturday. Artillery will be doing a firing display during the day but will not take part in the skirmish as arena is too small.

### **September 5-6 Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire**

Same format as 2014

PH reported that he is currently talking to **Hull** for the last weekend in July, but won't know for sure till April when their new budgets are released.

### **Avoncroft Museum.**

It is hoped that the successful event in 2014 can be repeated. Discussions are under way, but the date is not yet finalised.

### **July 4 Market Bosworth, Leics**

There is a possibility of a small event, but this is still under negotiation – unconfirmed.

### **August 15-16 Spetchley Park**

Same format as usual.

PH also stated that he has some enquiries in with various Councils but they are unlikely to commit to anything till budgets are released in April.

PH emphasised the importance of reading the warning orders sent out before each event as they contain all the details that members need to know.

It should be noted that all events are subject to contract. The website will be updated as dates or arrangements are confirmed.

MB reported that 22<sup>nd</sup> Foot have now decided to go independent from ACWS and are therefore no longer a unit within ACWS, so there is no need for members to know about their events really. As a result they will not be included as an agenda item in future.

MX reported that he and CM are working on potentially securing a purely artillery event, through advertising the cannons for hire for private events. He invited anyone interested in being an artilleryman for the weekend to come along – they would be made very welcome. MX stated that he is keen to make every effort to ensure that the guns earn their keep in the society.

### 13. Any Other Business

The next AGM meeting will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Gainsborough Services Club in Lincs. This change of venue is to introduce variety, change of location, and it is significantly cheaper to hire for the whole day.

CM then drew the raffle.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 3.30pm.



## **MAMA'S MUTTERINGS**

Well folks that is the business side done for another year and I apologise now for the lack of historical items but these things must be published for those of you who cannot make it to the AGM. and space is at a premium.

We are on the brink of another season and this season is ACWS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. We are looking to make one of the events planned a really good celebration

worthy of the society. ACWS has come along way since it's beginnings back in 1975 and has seen some good times and some bad times and even some horrendous times, and yet we have weathered all the storms. Let us make this 2015 season a great one and one we can look back on with great memories of times spent with good friends round blazing campfires. We can only hope and pray that Mother Nature looks kindly on our events. Especially wherever we choose to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and Sewerby where I believe we have an actual wedding, but whatever the weather let's make it happen.



## **EVENTS REPORT**

This is a recap of the dates given at the AGM and exact times for arrival and departure for camping will be given in the warning orders along with any specific details pertaining to that event.

2015's events start with the joint training weekend on the **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015** camping from Thursday evening from 5.00pm leave site on Sunday night by 7.00pm. At The International Living History Fair, Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground in Leicestershire, run by PASTE. On both day's safety training and drill practices for infantry, artillery and some cavalry, on Sunday living history as well, because camps will be open to the public

**Sewerby Hall is the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015** the second May Bank Holiday weekend, camping from Friday 4pm to Tuesday noon, the wedding is on the Saturday. Living history on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, infantry and cavalry will be taking part in the skirmishes and as usual the artillery will be there but are unable to fire. The house is under Confederate control, but only

the Orangey can be used this time.

**Avoncroft Museum is the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015**, camping from Friday 4pm to Monday noon. As last year living history both days with two short skirmishes both days infantry and artillery BUT no ground charges will be used and number of cannon rounds will be reduced because of noise complaints made to the museum by local residents. The skirmishes this year will be in the windmill field also where one of the armies will be camping.

**Rempstone Steam & Country Show, Leicestershire is the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015.** We have been verbally confirmed as attending and I am arranging a site visit to discuss the programme and arrangements for camping.

**Bersham Ironworks near Wrexham in North Wales, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015.** "History Alive" organised by Wrexham Museum. It is with camping from the Saturday 2pm leaving site Sunday after event. They want living history and a skirmish infantry only and a couple of cannon to give a firing display only.

**Spetchley Park is the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2015**, camping from Friday 4pm to Monday noon. Living history both days with a skirmish each day with Infantry and Artillery.

**Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015**, camping from Friday 4pm to Monday am. As last year living history both days with 2 skirmishes each day with infantry and artillery.

Viv and I are continuing to try and get events and are starting to look at next year.

Peter Holt

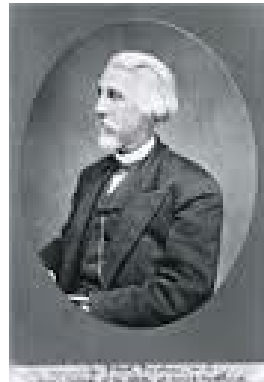
Events Director

## **The Man who bankrolled the Confederacy**

In 2009, a history lecturer called Tom Sebrell from Queen Mary, University of London and a group of his students literally stumbled over a broken headstone in an overgrown part of the Kensal Green Cemetery in London. Armed with only secateurs and a map of the old burial records, they had re-discovered one of the almost forgotten stories of the American Civil War. They had unearthed the mortal remains of the man who masterminded Confederate support in the United Kingdom which involved the highest ranks of both the British and Confederate Governments in terms of both politics, finance and society. His name was Charles Kuhn Prioleau.

Charles Kuhn Prioleau was a cotton merchant born in

Charleston, South Carolina. He lived in Liverpool, UK throughout the American Civil War. He was the manager and partner at Fraser Trenholm and Company, 10 Abercromby Square, Liverpool and became the mastermind of Confederate interests in the UK. During the Civil War, he also became a naturalised British citizen so he could be of better use to the Confederacy and as a consequence of his pivotal role the whole banking of the Confederacy in Europe operated from Liverpool



### **Charles Kuhn Prioleau**

At the outbreak of the Civil War, almost 60% of the South's cotton was coming through Liverpool to feed the Lancashire cotton mills. His war efforts therefore began as an attempt to save his business when the cotton trade, crucial to the Southern States and the Lancashire cotton mill owners, collapsed. His invaluable contribution to the Confederate



cause grew by purchasing and transporting supplies, weapons, ammunition and other ancillary goods all so desperately required by the Confederacy. He was also involved in buying, equipping and crewing warships as well as blockade runners. Prior to the siege of Fort Sumter, Charles Prioleau personally arranged for a Blakely rifled cannon to be sent to Charleston. Over the years, it was rumoured that this cannon fired the first shot of the American Civil War but this is credibly disputed as the first shots were known to have been fired from shore batteries. Through agents, he acquired 3 of the most notorious privateers of the American Civil War namely the CSS Alabama and CSS Florida both built on Merseyside and the CSS Shenandoah, built on Tyneside. The CSS Alabama, with mainly a British crew, caused such havoc that the British Government later paid the US Government over £3.3 million known as the "Alabama Claim".

Charles Prioleau married a local girl, Mary Elizabeth Wright, in 1860 at Walton Church, Liverpool who was acknowledged as the "Belle of the City" at the time. She organised several bazaars including the "Great Southern Bazaar" in the iconic St George's Hall, Liverpool, with all the proceeds to go Southern wounded. She raised a total of £20,000 pounds which was a massive amount at the time.

Following the American Civil War,

Charles Prioleau set up business in London, UK. This was due to the defeat of the Confederacy and the imminent bankruptcy of his firm in Liverpool by impending compensation claims from the US Government. He took with him some old records and many personal letters but business records, accounts, ledgers, cash books and contracts were all believed to have been hastily destroyed. The surviving personal material he took with him including letters, telegrams, cheque book stubs, vessel specifications, correspondence re small arms, bills, receipts, legal documents, codebooks and personal letterbooks however is now recognised as being of great historical importance and it has been published on microfilm as Civil War and Confederacy : The Business Records of Fraser, Trenholm and Company of Liverpool and Charleston, South Carolina, 1860 – 1877 by Adam Matthew Publications, 8 Oxford Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1AP.

After working for Fraser, Trenholm and Co in London for a time, he simply disappeared. No-one knew where he went. He had descendants in England, Africa and the United States but no-one knew where he lived in later life and was subsequently buried. However, Tom Sebrell and his team had a

lead and he was recently re-discovered in the Kensal Green Cemetery in London. He has some illustrious neighbours in the Cemetery including Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Lady Byron, (the poet's wife), the novelist Anthony Trollope and WH Smith (Newsagent's fame). During the Civil War, he lived at 2 houses in Liverpool namely 19 Abercrombie Square which is still standing with its multitude of painted Southern murals, emblems as well as South Carolinian devices including Bonnie Blue Flags, Gasden Palmetto Trees, Crescents, Stars and Magnolia leaves and portraits of both himself and his wife. This magnificently preserved building is now owned by the University of Liverpool. He also lived at the famous Allerton Hall, Liverpool.

Article by Stewart "Goober"  
Douglas  
Goobers Notes:

1) Provisional Invitations and Guided Tours were being prepared for American Tourists from Virginia and South Carolina to follow the Civil War/Confederate History trails in Liverpool which include the buildings mentioned as well as other Civil War sites in London.

2) The American Civil War formally ended in Liverpool on 6 November 1865 when the CSS Shenandoah surrendered to British Forces and

the last Confederate Flag was lowered.

Sources: The Guardian Newspaper (UK) 10/8/2009. Maeve Kennedy – Grave found of man who bankrolled the Confederacy.

UK War Heritage : Charles K Prioleau – Lost for the Cause by Jerry Williams

## **LAST NEWSLETTER**

This is to inform you that this will be the very last newsletter you will receive until you have paid your 2015 membership fees.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the website and you can pay by PAYPAL if you desire it is easy.

The membership fees have been kept at last years prices and there are more events this year and new places to go to re enact.

**GO ON YOU KNOW  
YOU WANT TO !!!!**



## **A.C.W.S. LENDING LIBRARY**

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.

All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: - Val Holt Editor

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Copy date for the Next Issue will be 15th April 2015 for the next issue  
All advertisement & editorial copy should be sent by the above date

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## EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

**11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> April Training Weekend**  
**Bruntingthorpe, Leics LE17 5QS**

**24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May Sewerby Hall Bridlington,**  
**E. Yorks YO15 1EA**

**13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June Avoncroft Museum, Bromsrove,**  
**Worcs B60 4JR**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> July Rempstone Steam & Country Fair**  
**Leics LE12 6ST**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August Bersham Iron Works**  
**Near Wrexham N Wales LL14 4HT**

**15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August Spetchley Park**  
**Worcs WR 1RS**

**5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> September Tatton Old Hall**  
**Cheshire WA16 6QN**

**Watch this space for future events**