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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

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40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Dear All,

This year is going to be a Fantastic year for Everyone past and present who has got the society to its 40th Glorious Year, such a proud and special moment for each and every one of the founders, Board of Directors, Army Commanders, NCOs', members past and present, guests and also not forgetting the beautiful people who have passed over, every single human being who has been a part has made it possible for each of us still to enjoy our hobby to which I myself am so grateful for as my life would have been so different (Almost normal). On that note I feel as though it would be disrespectful to everyone if we ALL didn't make the effort for the 40th Party, therefore I offered my help and we need your help too.....

If anyone has any spare scraps of red, white, or blue material (shirts, bed sheets etc) please bring it to the Sewerby event so decorations can be made for Avoncroft.

We need any pictures of Members who have passed on for a Memorial board

If anyone can play an instrument that they can play please get in touch

Regiments - I will be in touch with food lists for a "Faith Supper" "Jacobs Join"

Please bring something to put on a table for the Society Raffle (doesn't matter how small, everything helps)

If anyone knows of any previous members please invite them for the Saturday Evening (13th June 2015) there is limited family camping or local guest houses and hotels can be easily sought by looking on lastminute.com

If anyone has can offer any help has any skills that can be put to use or has any ideas please get in touch via email Linz32nd@aol.com, or Facebook

Love ya'll
Linda (Reed)
Pyrotechnics



The Project Report

The season began with a training weekend at Bruntingthorpe. This was a very good event spoiled only by the weather. It was such a shame that the wind became too strong to complete all that we had planned and that the camp broke up early on Sunday. The feedback from those who attended was very positive many said they liked the site and would go back again perhaps it will be possible to return there in the future.

May I remind you all to read your warning orders for events as sometimes things change after the newsletter has gone out.

Avoncroft Museum is the 13th and 14th 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.

This event will also be our 40th birthday party, so please read Linda Reed's open letter on page 3 for details. Linda has kindly volunteered to organise the celebrations so let's give her all the support we can.

Rempstone Steam & Country Show, Leicestershire is the

11th and 12th This is a new venue for ACWS and the show covers a large area with plenty going on, this includes a Beer Tent on Friday and Saturday Night as well as food stalls some will be open for breakfast.. Camping will be from Friday morning until Monday noon. Infantry and artillery will be in attendance with two short skirmishes in the main arena each day.

July 2015. Bersham Ironworks near Wrexham in

North Wales, Sunday 2nd 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. Although this is only a one day event it would be good if as many people as possible could attend, even if you just day trip. If you do intend to Day Trip would you still bring along an 'A' frame tent to put up to make a good camp.

Spetchley Park is the 15th and 16th of August 2015, camping from Friday 4pm to Monday noon. Living history both days with a skirmish each day with Infantry and Artillery. This will be run much the same as in previous years and Warning Orders will be issued when I get them..

Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire is the 5th and 6th 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

Oh Deer Me!

The National Park Service are to introduce sharpshooters on the Manassas Battlefield in Virginia and the Antietam and Monocacy Battlefields in Maryland over the next 5 years. The programme will cost \$1.8 million. The reason is supposedly that vegetation is being destroyed at an excessive and alarming rate. So why spend all this time and money? Well the answer is not to deter those who illegally trespass on the property at night , or those who illegally search for relics or those that go to sit and contemplate the sacrifices made by so many brave souls so long ago on those famous battlefields.

Well the reason is that the deer population has grown so rapidly at these National Parks where public hunting for deer is not permitted. Initially, the deer will be controlled by hunting but hopefully non lethal alternatives including reproductive controls may be used if they can be developed at a cost effective price. The \$1.8 million programme will reduce the deer populations that are currently as high as 230 animals per square mile down to 15 to 20 animals per square mile.

This tentative programme has been heavily criticised by both animal rights activists and by ordinary hunters who say they

could do the job both far better and far cheaper. A final decision has yet to be made. However, in 2013, a Judge rejected a lawsuit by an animal activist group in favour of the National Park Service over deploying sharpshooters in Washingtons Rock Creek which will reduce the deer population from 70 deer per square mile to 20 per square mile. It was ruled the culling would protect plant and animal habitat. So looks like the buck stops here so be careful when you plan a contemplative moonlight walk on these famous battlefields as you may get more than you bargained for!

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Source: Americas Civil War Jan 2015 Edition.

GENERAL LEE'S HEALTH AT GETTYSBURG

I've always wondered why things went disastrously wrong for Robert E Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia (ANV) at the battle of Gettysburg, admittedly he faced superior enemy numbers who were in a strong defensive position. General Longstreet an able staff officer told him from the onset of the battle, that they should disengage the enemy and look for better ground to suit their defensive strategy for the war.

Gen Lee was in good spirits after the victory at Chancellorsville (May 1863) ably assisted Gen Jackson (Stonewall). However, by the first two days of Gettysburg (1st – 2nd July 1863), his own doctor and Colonel Freemantle (Coldstream Guards British Army who was observing the Confederate army), noted that Gen Lee seemed restless and agitated and at other times sat quietly alone, only rarely sending out orders to his troops.

Could General Lee, have lost the battle of Gettysburg (1st-3rd July 1863), because of a bout of dysentery? On the evening of the 2 July, aides noted that General Lee appeared to be suffering from diarrhoea, as on several occasions he went to the rear of his quarters to relieve himself. He walked showing signs of weakness and in a lot of pain. Therefore could his concentration have been impaired and at times irrational?

Along with the above, take into consideration these two major occurrences:

Losing his most experienced right-hand man, General Jackson after the battle of Chancellorsville through pneumonia, after an arm was amputated.

The eyes and ears of the ANV, the cavalry, going AWOL after the

battle of Brandy station which went badly for General J E B Stuart his cavalry commander.

The Confederate Army fought with determination for three days at Gettysburg, But with an ill conceived (suicidal) charge on the final day, the cream of Gen Lee's army were decimated, although the brave southern boys fought on for nearly another two years.

My feelings are that if General Lee was fully fit during battle of Gettysburg:

Would it have been fought?

Fought, but in a different way?

But after all that's history!
A BIG IF.

Paul Draper

Pte 1st Tenn

Source - Gettysburg by Mark Aiden, Stackpole books.

Lincoln's \$5 Bill

The Things He Carried. After President Abraham Lincoln died, on April 15, 1865, his leather wallet was found to contain a \$5 Confederate bill, imprinted with the image of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Lincoln may have gotten the bill when he visited Petersburg and Richmond earlier in the month.



Portsmouth Grove Hospital Rhode Island

I had not considered that there would have been a hospital for wounded Civil War soldiers so far north, well away from the fighting, until I chanced upon a reference to it in a leaflet I picked up recently, further research brought me to discovering that Lovell General Hospital was a United States Army hospital in Portsmouth, Rhode Island which was active during the American Civil War from 1862 to 1865.

On May 19th 1862 the surgeon general of the U.S. Army authorized Governor of Rhode Island William Sprague IV to "provide suitable accommodations for wounded and sick soldiers". Sprague appointed a commission which selected Portsmouth Grove in the Melville section of the town of Portsmouth as the location for the hospital.

The first patients arrived on July 6th 1862. Over the course of the

war thousands patients were cared for by the hospital.

As a number of patients at the hospital were Union soldiers convicted by court martial and others were Confederate prisoners of war, it was necessary to have guards posted at the hospital. In the early months of the hospital's operation security was provided by units of the Rhode Island Militia - first by the Artillery Company of Newport and later by the First Light Infantry of Providence. In December 1862 a company of volunteers, called the Hospital Guards, was raised under the command of Captain Christopher Blanding. Soldiers who joined the company had to have disabilities or injuries which precluded them from front line service. The company remained at the hospital until it was closed and was mustered out of service on August 25th, 1865.

An early superintendent of the hospital was Katherine Prescott Wormeley, born in England the daughter of a Royal Navy admiral, she became a key organizer of the United States Sanitary Commission. Wormeley was inspired by the work of Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War and was highly successful in recruiting nurses to work at the hospital.

The hospital was named Lovell General Hospital after Joseph

Lovell, who served as the Surgeon General of the United States Army from 1818 to 1936. The hospital was also known as Portsmouth Grove Hospital.

The hospital was closed on August 25th, 1865. In time, all the buildings of the hospital were either dismantled or removed. There are no remains of the hospital.

During the course of the war, over 200 patients died at the hospital. Their remains were originally buried in a cemetery near the hospital but were removed to Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York in May 1868.

In the early 20th Century the hospital site became a coaling station for the Navy. Prior to World War II the Navy converted from coal to oil and the coaling station was converted accordingly.

The site of the hospital became a PT boat training base during World War II. John F. Kennedy was one of the hundreds of Navy officers to receive training there.

After the Navy greatly reduced its presence in Rhode Island in the 1970s, the site was converted for use by the boating industry. Major commercial enterprises there include Little Harbor Marine, the Bend Boat Basin and the Melville Grille restaurant. Several former America's Cup yachts are stored there during the winter.

Training Weekend at Bruntingthorpe

The American Civil War Society travelled to the International Living History Fair at Bruntingthorpe on the weekend of 11 and 12 April run and organised by Pike and Shot Events Ltd (PASTE). The International Living History Fair contained many excellent Sutlers and Trade stands from different periods and with a discount for all ACWS members gave an opportunity to browse. It was particularly nice to see the Civil War Sutlers from Dorset (only ones left in UK) present who did a brisk trade with various ACWS members. Co-incidentally PASTE also print and distribute the Skirmish Re-enactment Magazine and the ACWS had an excellent 8 page write up in this month's issue. It is hoped that the relationship between the 2 organisations will develop and eventually lead to future events. This was a training weekend organised for both the Union and Confederate Armies and was well attended by both which bodes well for the 2015 season. It was particularly pleasing to see new Confederate recruits from last year's Avoncroft Event turning up

as retention can be much harder than actual recruitment.

The site itself is spacious allowing for both Armies to train throughout the weekend with a busy daily drill schedule planned by both Major Tim Davies (US) and Major Glen Gibson (CSA). Equally importantly, the weekend allowed for NCOS and Officers to complete all the necessary Shotgun and Blackpowder Licence Inspections, Membership Checks and the required Health and Safety documentation which is needed for all firers. The Union artillery also gave a useful health and safety guidance for the Infantry with regard to battlefield scenarios.

As usual, the busy days were mixed with recreational nights. These included the start of the Horseshoe League which saw the Tennesseans beat a mixed Union team in the final. Unfortunately, the North Carolinian Tarheels, this year's firm favourites, were socialising at the time with the hosts of the event in the Real Ale bar which they had kindly arranged. There were also musical period highlights with an eclectic array of instruments around the campfires including accordians,

violins, washboards, spoons, drums and banjos being thoroughly enjoyed by all. Sadly, the strong winds present throughout the weekend eventually prevailed late on the Sunday afternoon and the ACWS had to cancel the final pyrotechnic display and skirmish arranged for the public. Nevertheless, this was an enjoyable weekend in a superb location with fine camaraderie and a fine start to the 2015 season.

The ACWS next travel to Sewerby, Bridlington on 23/24/25 May Bank Holiday weekend and the theme this season will be the "Road to Appomattox" marking the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War. This year, the Confederates will be manning the Orangery and guarding the house along with General Robert E Lee and his Officers in attendance. These historically important events and scenarios, if planned, re-enacted and organised sensitively and with due respect, should be both moving and emotional experiences for all those involved or interested in the American Civil War

Stewart (Goober) Douglas 43 NC

Susan Baker King Taylor 1848 - 1912



Born on the Grest Farm in Liberty County, Georgia, on August 6, 1848, Susie Baker King Taylor was raised as an enslaved person. Her mother was a domestic servant for the Grest family. At the age of 7, Baker and her brother were sent to live with their grandmother in Savannah. Even with the strict laws against formal education of African Americans, they both attended two secret schools taught by black women. Baker soon became a skilled reader and writer.

By 1860, having been taught everything these two black educators could offer, Baker befriended two white individuals, a girl and boy, who also offered to teach her lessons even though they knew it violated Georgia law

and custom.

The Civil War brought Baker her freedom but not immediately. On April 1, 1862, at age 14, Baker was sent back to the country to live with her mother around the time federal forces attacked nearby Fort Pulaski. When the fort was captured by the Union Army, Baker fled with her uncle's family and other African Americans to Union-occupied St. Simons Island where she claimed her freedom. Since most African Americans did not have an extensive education, word of Baker's knowledge and intelligence spread among the Army officers on the island.

Five days after her arrival, Baker was offered books and school supplies by Commodore Louis M. Goldsborough if she agreed to organize a school for the children on St. Simon's Island. Baker accepted the offer and became the first black teacher to openly instruct African American students in Georgia. By day she taught children and at night she instructed adults. Baker met and married her first husband, Edward King, a black non-commissioned officer in the Union Army, while teaching at St. Simon Island.

For the next three years, Susie Baker King travelled with her husband's regiment, working as a

laundress while teaching black Union soldiers how to read and write during their off-duty hours. She also served as a nurse, helping camp doctors care for injured soldiers.

In 1866, the Kings returned to Savannah, where she established a school for freed black children. In that same year, Edward King died in September only a few months after their first son was born.

By the early 1870s, she moved to Boston where she met her second husband, Russell Taylor. With nursing being a passion of hers, she soon joined and then became president of the Women's Relief Corps, which gave assistance to soldiers and hospitals

In 1890, after a trip to care for her dying son, she wrote her memoirs which she privately published them as a book in 1902 as *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33rd US Colored Troops*. Susie Baker King Taylor died in 1912 at the age of sixty-four in Boston.

Sources: Susie King Taylor, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006).

Come along and

Celebrate



Of the

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY

On

Saturday Night

13th June 2015

At

AVONCROFT

Please see Linda Reed's Letter on page 3

**WANTED!!
RAFFLE PRIZES**

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

Nice bottles of sipping liquor (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.

BRUNTINGHORPE



BRUNTINGHORPE



WANTED ONE CONFEDERATE INFANTRYMAN.

We have had a request from Thomas Atkinson, a professional photographer, he says

'I am a professional photographer and last year I completed a project which looked at the equipment carried by English/British soldiers through history.'

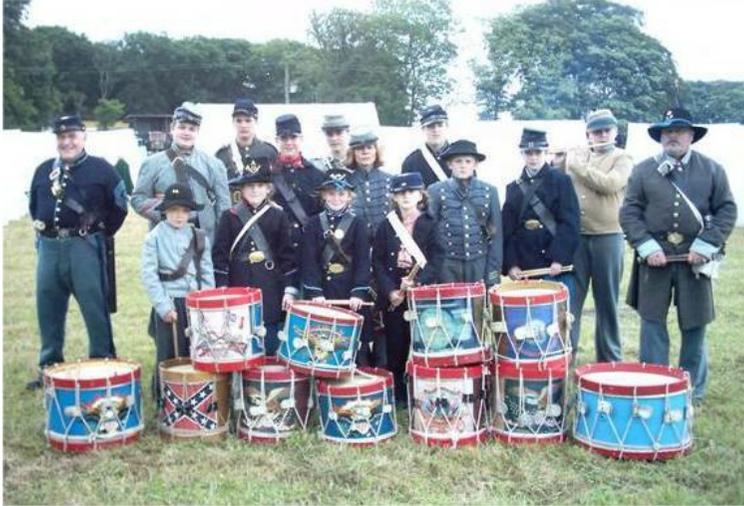
This year Thomas has been asked by the US Army to do something similar beginning with the American War of Independence ending up to date. He is being helped by the Pentagon, who are taking a great interest in this project , but their involvement is with the more up to date stuff. Thomas requires your help with regards to the American Civil War.

Recently I helped Thomas with what a Union soldier would have carried and found that he is very professional in his approach to the project and in all it takes about five hours and he is willing to pay your travelling expenses.

The photograph attached will give you some idea of the kind of thing he is looking for. If you are interested please contact me, Peter Holt, either via the webpage or via Val on FB for further details.



A.C.W.S. DRUM CORPS



Hands up those who remember when the drum corps had this many members?

Let's get back to those days.

Calling all those (adults as well as children) who would like to learn to play the drum or indeed the fife.

James Reed is our Drum Major and you can find him on the Confederate camp, so go along and have a chat and see what it is all about.

Sticks and learning pads will be provided for you to practice with.

Come on kids learn the drum and make some noise.

Abercromby Square



Recently Peter and I were invited to attend a day of lectures at the University of Liverpool, neither of us had visited the city before and did not know what to expect. It certainly was not Abercromby Square.

The square, which is now the property of the University of Liverpool, is built around a pleasant, well maintained garden where students were either reading, having a break between their studies or just socialising on a warm sunny day. Three sides of the square are made up of elegant Georgian/Victorian terraced houses which once housed the well-heeled, Surgeons, judges, bankers, ship owners and ambassadors. The fourth side once included St Catherine's church which was badly damaged in 1941 when the square was visited by some unruly Germans, although not demolished until the 1960's to build the modern but not unpleasant building which is the Sydney Jones Library.

What has all this to do with the American Civil War? I hear you ask. So let me enlighten you. Back in the 1860s Abercromby Square was a hot bed of the Confederacy. Number 19, which was the building we visited was built and owned by Charles Prioleau, was a rich merchant and trader and the



unofficial banker for the Confederacy in the UK. The house was built during the Civil War and this is heavily reflected in the interior design. Memories of South Carolina are evident. In the pediment over the central first floor window is the STAR symbol. At the lead of each of the columns of the front portico are eight stars. Inside, the ceiling of the vestibule is decorated with the state-tree of South Carolina, the cabbage palmetto tree, with a protective serpent curled around its base. Prioleau styled himself as a Southern gentleman, but his business was money, acting as the sole UK resident partner in Fraser Trenholm, a shipping and banking concern which funded and often

directed Confederate matters in Britain.

John Spence, who resided at number 10, was the unofficial propagandist for the Confederacy, writing two books which were widely read, explain why Britain should side with the southern states. Other notable Civil War occupants included Robert Preston, director of the engineering firm Fawcett Preston, who provided arms and munitions for both sides in the conflict, including the weaponry used in the blockade runner 'Alabama' built at Lairds. Alfred Chapman chief engineer at Fawcetts also lived on the square. Founders and directors of both Cunard and White Star lines lived on the square, and profited from dealing with both North and South. The family of the MP and future Prime Minister William Gladstone based themselves in three houses on the square. The Gladstone's businesses included vast plantations and had interests in both sugar and slaves despite his later anti-slavery stance, During the Civil War Gladstone MP spoke out in favour of recognising the Confederacy, much to the displeasure of the government, and the approval of his father, brother and Uncle.

After the Civil War, Charles Prioleau played host to Jefferson Davis, when he came to Britain in search of work. These days the residents



of this illustrious square are much more modest in their circumstances, being students

studying for degrees and doctorates in the once grandiose town houses of the rich, famous; not to mention the infamous.

Glow in the Dark

Glowing wounds. After the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, soldiers reported a peculiar phenomenon: glow-in-the-dark wounds. More than 16,000 soldiers from both armies were wounded during the battle, and neither Union nor Confederate medical personnel were prepared for the carnage. Soldiers lay in the mud for two rainy days, and many of them noticed that their wounds glowed in the dark. In fact, the injured whose wounds glowed seemed to heal better than the others. In 2001, two Maryland teenagers solved the mystery (and won a top prize at an international science fair). The wounded became hypothermic, and their lowered body temperatures made ideal conditions for a bioluminescent bacterium called *Photobacterium luminescens*, which inhibits pathogens.

Ongoing discoveries revealed in mystery of the Confederate submarine, The CSS Hunley . Part 2

This is an update on current work taking place by researchers and conservators working on the Confederate submarine, the CSS H.L. Hunley in North Charleston, South Carolina. Previously, as I stated in my first article, they uncovered 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 was vital new evidence as to its sinking 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.

Ongoing work is now concentrating on removing the hard concretion from the Hunley's outer casing and researchers are painstakingly chiseling away at the sand and shell deposits. They are using particularly small tools such as dental chisels and small hammers in their task. What is emerging is that the vessel was

clearly extremely better constructed that was previously thought. Despite its corrosion, the vessel has maintained its structural integrity and the builders of the vessel staggered the plates to strengthen the hold as well as carefully connected the rings that bound its 40 foot length. There is astonishment at the detail put in as the finishing as assessed as extremely high quality and all the rivets are perfectly flush.

Theories:

- 1) The Hunley was struck by chance and a shot broke the glass in one of the Hunley's portholes allowing water to cascade in as she dived after her attack on the Housatonic. Research to date has stated there is no evidence.
- 2) The Hunley was struck by another vessel or hit by bullets or shells. Research to date has indicated no such damage including holes at this stage.
- 3) The Hunley was swamped or plunged to the sea floor to avoid detection. Research has indicated that a latch on the conning tower was found to be improperly locked which has added to the mystery.

4) New research has found that the Hunley was only 20 feet away from her 135 pound torpedo when it exploded in the side of the Housatonic. The blast may have sent the Hunley to the bottom where the crew ran out of air. Research so far has indicted the vessel appears intact and that no separation of the wrought iron plates has been discovered which could have occurred being so near to the impact.

5) The Hunley's forward conning tower was compromised. Research has revealed that there is no evidence of any problems or issues with the forward conning tower.

In essence, the conservators have discovered nothing major but are slowly unveiling the secrets of the HL Hunley. They feel they are moving forward to finding new evidence. Work is focusing on removing the encrusted sediment and once complete will give a full understanding of its construction and as such its demise. The submarine is immersed every day after work by the conservators in a bath of toxic sodium hydroxide which helps loosen the concretion and sediment, remove salt and thereby stop any further

corrosion. Work has been completed on cleaning all of the exterior plates and work is now focusing on the cast iron components of the submarine. These include the dive planes, the conning towers and parts of the bow and stern. This will a long and complicated process as it is difficult to work on. Conservators are particularly excited about examining and exploring the connection between the torpedo spar and the actual hull. Work will begin on deconcretion of the interior in 3 months time and hopefully the entire process will be completed by the end of the year. With the slow chipping away of each piece of crust, the submarine is returning to its original appearance as painted in an 1863 painting by Conrad Wise Chapman. This is the only contemporary material available. No blueprints or design paperwork has ever been uncovered as the CSS HL Hunley was built in secrecy by the Confederacy in Mobile, Alabama.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas.

Sources: The Civil War Picket. Jan 15 2015.

Confederate Submarine Base Located.

A Shreveport historian and urban archaeologist named Marty Loschen believes he has solved a long forgotten Civil War mystery. What happened to 4 Confederate submersibles known to be in Shreveport, Louisiana during the last 2 years of the Civil War but whose whereabouts is still totally unknown. He recently announced that he believes he has found the remnants of a hand-propelled craft in the banks of a branch of Cross Bayou about half a mile west of where the Confederate Navy had a well established shipyard.

Cross Bayou's mouth on Red River was home to the leaky Ironclad the CSS Missouri and a fast picket namely the Webb. Several months ago, Marty Loschen and his brother were searching the Bayou's mouth when the water levels were particularly low. They spend much of their time exploring the more remote, forgotten and forbidding surrounding areas of Shreveport. They discovered there decades old rusted ironwork, metal strips and some oddly formed trees which were indicative that they had grown over something curved and long rotted or rusted away. He has in his possession an 1864 map of Shreveports defences which indicate that there were some small buildings where he discovered the

rusty artefacts. On his discovery he said "There is your sub base..... There's an island out there. My theory is if you're going to have a clandestine sub base, you've got to put it out there. Look, there are structures out there, near what I found. It has to be". He is waiting for a further period of low water to make further explorations. The artefacts are currently under 10 feet of water.

It is worth noting that this area has been explored before for the lost Confederate submarine fleet. Famed diver Ralph Wilbanks who found the CSS Hunley off Charleston, South Carolina in 1995 has visited Shreveport twice in the past 15 years searching for lost Confederate submarines. In addition, a team of diver researchers performed sonar and magnetometer in the area of Cross Bayou and found parts and remains of a Civil War gunboat called the Iron Duke.

However, these claims have been strongly disputed by history professor at Louisiana University and author, Gary Joiner who has been researching the Confederate submarines for over 3 decades. He states that the artefacts do not belong to the submarines as they were tube shaped like the CSS Hunley and did not incorporate metal straps as stiffening ribs which have been discovered. Gary Joiner has discovered substantial evidence that the lost Confederate submarines were built and

subsequently lost and undiscovered in the Shreveport area. Existing Confederate and Federal spies both reported in detail the submarines dimensions and appearances as well as plans to lay mines in the Red River to prevent a Union invasion that never came. In all 5 Confederate submarines were built. One was lost in transit from Shreveport to the Houston-Galveston area in Texas. This evidence is backed up by the late historians and authors Eric Brock and Katherine Brash Jeter who undertook considerable research into the Confederate Navy and discovered that a number of machinists and engineers who built the CSS Hunley were resident and working in Shreveport during the last year of the Civil War. Another interesting note is that after the Civil War, a youth recalled that he had been part of a human chain that deposited large amounts of Confederate material including saddles, rifles, munitions, swords, bayonets and other military items into Cross Bayou just before the Federal forces occupied Shreveport. Nothing has ever been recovered.

Gary Joiner believes the long lost 4 Confederate submarines built like the CSS Hunley (but with one rather than two turrets) lie somewhere in the Cross Bayou locality. He thinks that they will still be in good condition beneath the sandy mud which is an excellent preservative. He says the USS Cairo was

salvaged from the Yazoo river after 8 decades in pretty good condition. It is worth noting that other parts of Louisiana are not immune from Confederate submarine history and mythology. In 1878, dredgers were working on the Bayou St John and made a very strange discovery. They recovered a Confederate submarine probably built in 1862 which was 20 foot long, 3 feet wide, 6 feet deep, made of riveted iron and powered by a hand cranked propeller. Nothing else is known about the vessel. It is presumed it was scuttled by the Confederates in order to prevent it falling into Federal hands after the US capture of New Orleans. There is no period documentation and its original name and other details remain unknown. It was subsequently left on open display at the Spanish Fort amusement park as a curiosity. It was also filled with concrete in a misguided and questionable attempt at preservation. Fortunately, it has now found a new home and a better state of preservation at the Louisiana State Museum. The old concrete has now been removed as part of a major restoration project. Hopefully more history and information about all these Confederate submarines will emerge in the future.

Stewart "Goober" Douglas
Sources: John Andrew Prince, The (Shreveport) Times, Wikipedia, various Internet Sources and Atlas Obscura.

The Other Jefferson Davis.

Union General Jefferson Davis shared a name with the Confederate president, a circumstance that didn't cause as much confusion as might be expected—with one notable exception. During the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863, as darkness fell on Horseshoe Ridge, members of the 21st Ohio saw a swarm of men approaching but couldn't tell if they were friend or foe. Most assumed they were Union reinforcements, but a few feared they were Confederates. As the troops grew closer, one Union soldier called out, "What troops are you?" The collective reply was "Jeff Davis's troops." The Ohio soldiers relaxed, believing they meant the Union general. A few moments later, they were staring down the muzzles and bayonets of the 7th Florida. The Ohioans surrendered.

The Confederates won the battle.

Assassination Attempt in 1863

Late one August evening in 1863, after an exhausting day at the White House, Lincoln rode alone by horse to the Soldiers' Home, his family's summer residence. A private at the gate heard a shot ring out and, moments later, the horse galloped into the compound, with a bareheaded

Lincoln clinging to his steed. Lincoln explained that a gunshot had gone off at the foot of the hill, sending the horse galloping so fast it knocked his hat off. Two soldiers retrieved Lincoln's hat, which had a bullet hole right through it. The president asked the guards to keep the incident under wraps: He didn't want to worry his wife Mary.

Lincoln's Colonization

Both before and during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln pushed to send freed slaves abroad.

The policy, called colonization, had been supported by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay. In August 1862, Lincoln brought five black ministers to the White House and told them that slavery and the war had demonstrated that it would be "better for us both, therefore, to be separated." He wanted to send freed blacks to Central America, even calling for a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to pay for colonization. But prominent abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison were appalled by the idea. Lincoln never succeeded at gathering support for the policy, and after he signed the Emancipation Proclamation he never mentioned it publicly again.

The First Union Victory

The Battle of Philippi, fought June 3, 1861, in what is now West Virginia, is known as the "first land battle of the Civil War" or the "first inland battle of the Civil War." A minor affair that lasted less than 20 minutes and resulted in no fatalities, it would barely be a footnote of the American Civil War except that it marked the first inland clash between significant numbers of troops. It also was an important step on George B. McClellan's road to becoming commander of the Army of the Potomac, the largest Union army. Philippi, a town of less than 500, held little military significance. The real prize was Grafton, some 25 miles north. There, the Parkersburg-Grafton Railroad joined the Baltimore & Ohio, the only continuous east-west connector between the East Coast and the Ohio River and the states of the Old Northwest. General Robert E. Lee, commanding all military forces in Virginia, sent Mexican War veteran Col. George Porterfield to organize the troops mustering at Grafton and hold the rail lines. Lee underestimated the level of long-standing resentment in that part of Western Virginia toward the government in Richmond,

however, and Porterfield found only a handful of troops, with whatever weapons they had brought from home and little or no military training. He eventually received a few—very few—reinforcements from Shenandoah Valley and "about 1,000 rusty muskets," along with 1,500 percussion caps meant for shotguns. Unable to hold Grafton—primarily a Union town—he withdrew to secession-supporting Philippi.



At the governor's suggestion, Porterfield burned a few bridges to slow any movements against him from Wheeling in the state's northern panhandle. That provided Major General George B. McClellan, commanding the Department of the Ohio, the opportunity he had been waiting for. Both McClellan and Porterfield had been restrained by their superior officers pending Virginia's vote on seceding. With that issue now decided in favor of secession, McClellan sent infantry and artillery across the Ohio River to protect the lives and property of Union-loyal Virginians, most of

whom lived in the most northwestern counties.

One regiment of such Virginians had already formed at Wheeling, under Col. Benjamin Kelley, and another was being raised there. Using the railroads, Kelley and a portion of the troops sent by McClellan traveled to Grafton, where they were joined by Ohio and Indiana troops that arrived on trains from Parkersburg.

On the storm-swept night of June 2–3, Col. Ebenezer Dumont of Indiana led 1,400 men, along with two cannon of the Cleveland Light Artillery, southeast toward Philippi. From the northeast, Kelley led another 1,600 rain-soaked men. Dumont was to hold the Rebels in place with a demonstration from the west while Kelley intersected the Beverly Road and swept in from the southeast to bag the lot. The plan went awry when Kelley took a wrong turn and entered Philippi not far from where Dumont's men were.

Porterfield was well aware of his opponents' plan and had made preparations for his little army to move to Beverly higher in the mountains the next morning. By pushing on through the stormy night, Kelley and Dumont caught the Confederates sleeping. Some of the defenders made a brief stand while others took to their heels in the direction of Beverly,

giving the battle the derisive nickname "the Philippi Races."

An Indiana regiment of Dumont's command stormed across a covered bridge over the Tygart River into town about the time Kelley's men swept in from the east. Riding up the street in pursuit of the fleeing Confederates, Kelley was seriously wounded by a bullet in the chest, fired by one of Porterfield's men who had concealed himself. Kelley survived and rose to the rank of brigadier general, in command of the Department of West Virginia. Dumont would be likewise promoted but would cut his military career short after being elected to Congress the following year.

Though both sides claimed to have killed several of their opponents, there were no fatalities in the brief affair. One young Confederate, J. E. Hanger, was wounded by a cannonball and had to have his leg amputated by a Union surgeon. Returning home to the Shenandoah Valley, the former engineering student created the world's first realistic, flexible prosthesis and went on to found what is now Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics, still the largest such company in the world.

Porterfield was largely exonerated by a court-martial

inquiry but never held field command again. McClellan, who was not present at Philippi but was in charge of the department, won accolades. Another victory soon after at Rich Mountain propelled him into command of the Army of the Potomac after the Union embarrassment at the Battle of First Bull Run (Battle of First Manassas) in eastern Virginia on July 21.

The covered bridge that Dumont's troops crossed still stands, a memorial to "the first land battle of the Civil War."



Mama's Mutterings

Here we are at the beginning of another season. It seems to me that the winters grow longer and the summers shorter.

This year also sees ACWS in its 40th year. I have not re enacted that long (I only wish I had) but I have enjoyed every minute of it. The good weather and the bad weather. Our first trip to Avoncroft was a union training weekend which ended with snow on the ground. Who can forget Silloth in a force nine gale? I

admit to being a bit scared of the wind now. In fact I was less scared of Hurricane Sandy which I experienced first hand, than I was of Silloth. But enough about the weather, because we all know 2015 is going to be hot and sunny, starting with Sewerby. It has to be, two of our members are tying the knot there. ACWS wishes Paul and Kerry well in their life together.

Avoncroft is the venue for our celebrations and Linda Reed has kindly volunteered to organise it all. She has booked a band to play For us, but needs help with the food. This will be a Jacob's Join' supper. Please read Linda's open letter at the beginning of the newsletter for details.

If you have a memory you wish to share, or a funny story to tell, please send it to me for inclusion in the Birthday Special Newsletter later in the season. Photos are also welcome. I know these are precious things so copy them and send me the copy not the original. Better still scan and send it via email along with a caption of when, where and who or a little memory story to go with it. Come on you know you want to.

Val Holt

Editor.

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FIRST AID KITS & DRINKING WATER

Members please to remember to bring personal first aid kits with them to events, just as you would take on holiday. This should contain plasters, wipes, etc along with any medication you may need and any painkillers, medication for upset stomach if you've needed it in the past. The First Aiders are not allowed to give out any medication under any circumstances.

Also last season at a couple of events a few members had upset stomachs possibly from the water, so I would recommend that you boil water drawn from the taps onsite and take bottled water with you for putting in your canteens and for cold drinks.

So let's all be careful out there.

Ian Morris

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

**13th - 14th June Avoncroft Museum, Bromsrove,
Worcs B60 4JR**

**11th - 12th July Rempstone Steam & Country Fair
Lics LE12 6ST**

**2nd August Bersham Iron Works
Near Wrexham N Wales LL14 4HT**

**15th - 16th August Spetchley Park
Worcs WR 1RS**

**5th - 6th September Tatton Old Hall
Cheshire WA16 6QN**

Watch this space for future events