



17 Swan Street, Silby,
Loughborough, LE12 7NN

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2016 Winter Edition



IRISH BRIGADE, GETTYSBURG

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

Issue 179

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr Michael Smart, Chairman



Mrs Helen Needham, 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 Davies, Federal Commander



Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Commander

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Due to rising prices imposed by Royal Mail Services the cost of retaining the PO Box address has been discontinued this will make a saving of around £300 per annum.

Our mailing address as follows:-

**American Civil War Society Ltd
17 Swan Street
Sileby
Loughborough
LE12 7NN**

The first few of the following pages contains a copy of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, which was held in Gainsborough on 5th December 2015, so there will not be as much historical stuff this time.

THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE UNTIL YOU PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016

So send your fees to Claire Morris at the new address above, This season there are some events that will require you to show your membership card to gain entry to the event site, so be aware of those. You will be informed as details of events arise.

Thank you to those who have taken the trouble to send articles for inclusion in the newsletter. My apologies to you if they do not appear in this edition, but be assured that I will get round to them in the coming editions. Do not forget the photographs too. Over the years there have been some really great photos, which are fabulous to look back on and remember the goods times we had at events. So let's get those cameras out again this year and make some more memories.

**Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting of
The American Civil War Society Ltd
Held at the 6th Gainsborough Sea Scout HQ,
Love Lane, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire
DN21 2SGOn
Saturday 5th December 2015**

Present:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Directors: | Mr Mick Smart | : Chairman | : MS |
| | Mrs Helen Needham | : Secretary | : HN |
| | Mr Mike Bussey | : Webmaster | : MB |
| | Mrs Val Holt | : Communications | : VH |
| | Miss Claire Morris | : Membership | : CM |
| | Mr Ian Morris | : Treasurer | : IM |
| | Mr Peter Holt | : Events | : PH |
| | Mr Martin Cross | : Health & Safety | : MX |
| | Tim Davies | : US Army CO | : TD |
| | Glenn Gibson | : Confederate Army CO | :GG |

Society Officers

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------|
| Mrs D Davies | : Minutes Secretary | : DD |
| Mrs V Corbishley | : Events Assistant | :VC |

Together with members in the hall making a total of 45 members present.

The meeting started at 1.07 pm.

MS welcomed everybody to the 40th Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending.

1. Apologies were received from the following:
G Holman, J Enright.

2. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2014 AGM held at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club, 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham on Saturday 6th December 2014.
This was proposed by A Parrott and seconded by P Francis-Wemyss, and duly voted upon:

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------------|----|
| FOR | 28 | Proxy votes : FOR | 24 |
| AGAINST | 0 | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 2 | ABSTENTIONS | 4 |

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 2015 Season as published and issued to members in November 2015 in the AGM booklet.

3.1 Secretary : Mrs H Needham

HN had nothing to add to her report, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.2 Webmaster : Mr M Bussey

MB had nothing to add to his report and there were not questions from the floor.

3.3 Events : Mr P Holt

PH had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions from the floor.

3.4 Treasurer : Mr I Morris

IM had nothing further to add to his report except to say that there are no debts outstanding, either incoming or outgoing. There were no questions from the floor.

3.5 Membership : Miss C Morris

CM had nothing to add to her report and there were no questions from the floor.

3.5 Confederate Army : Mr G Gibson

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

3.6 Federal Army Commander : T Davies

TD had nothing to add to his published report, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.7 Communications : Mrs V Holt

VH had nothing to add to her report, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.8 Health & Safety : Mr M Cross

MX had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions from the floor.

3.9 Chairman : Mr M Smart

MS had nothing to add to his report, and there were no questions from the floor.

Motion to adopt the director's reports

This was proposed by P Clark and seconded by R Needham, and duly voted upon:

| | | | |
|------------|----|-----------------|----|
| FOR | 31 | Proxy votes FOR | 25 |
| AGAINST | 0 | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTION | 0 | ABSTENTION | 3 |

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 P Francis-Wemyss and seconded by V Corbishley and duly voted upon

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 28 | Proxy votes | FOR | 25 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | | ABSTENTIONS | 3 |

Motion duly approved.

2. Motion to Reappoint M S Twist & Co Ltd as Auditors and authorise Directors to settle their remuneration

IM confirmed that their charge is still very reasonable and commended the motion.

This motion was proposed by P Clark, and seconded by T Davies, and duly voted upon.

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 29 | Proxy votes | FOR | 25 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | | ABSTENTIONS | 3 |

Motion duly approved.

6.. Membership & Registration fees for the 2016 season

The proposal was put forward that Membership fees and Registration Fees remain at the same level as 2015.

This motion was proposed by P Francis-Wemyss, seconded by S Francis-Wemyss and duly voted upon

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 31 | Proxy votes | FOR | 25 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 1 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 3 | | ABSTENTIONS | 2 |

Motion duly approved.

7. Election of Board of Directors

MS explained how the secret ballot will work and voting took place.

There was a short break of 20 minutes for the ballot, after which HN thanked the counters. She then announced the outcome:

RESULTS:

VOTES IN THE ROOM

| | | FOR | AGAINST | ABST |
|------------|---------------|-----|---------|------|
| Chairman | Mr M Smart | 41 | 0 | 0 |
| Secretary | Mrs H Needham | 38 | 1 | 2 |
| Treasurer | Mr I Morris | 41 | 0 | 0 |
| Events | Mr P Holt | 39 | 2 | 0 |
| Membership | Miss C Morris | 41 | 0 | 0 |
| Comms | Mrs V Holt | 38 | 2 | 1 |
| Webmaster | Mr M Bussey | 38 | 0 | 0 |
| H&S | Mr M Cross | 36 | 1 | 4 |

PROXY VOTES

| | | FOR | AGAINST | ABST |
|------------|---------------|-----|---------|------|
| Chairman | Mr M Smart | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Secretary | Mrs H Needham | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Treasurer | Mr I Morris | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Events | Mr P Holt | 26 | 1 | 1 |
| Membership | Miss C Morris | 27 | 0 | 1 |
| Comms | Mrs V Holt | 25 | 1 | 2 |
| Webmaster | Mr M Bussey | 26 | 1 | 1 |
| H&S | Mr M Cross | 27 | 1 | 0 |

The above directors were thus re-elected for 2016 Season.

Re-election of Mr T Davies as Federal Commanding Officer

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 23 | Proxy votes | FOR | 10 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | | ABSTENTIONS | 0 |

Mr Tim Davies was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for 2016.

Re-election of Mr G Gibson as Confederate Commanding Officer

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 12 | Proxy votes | FOR | 13 |
| AGAINST | 2 | | AGAINST | 3 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1 | | ABSTENTIONS | 1 |

Mr Glenn Gibson was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for 2016.

8. Open Forum

MS opened up discussion to the floor.

- i) IM reported that a new and better insurance deal on the van had been acquired from NFU which gave a £600 saving over Aviva. There had also been a saving of £320 by closing the PO Box account. VC congratulated IM on making these savings.
Gemma Storer asked if we had received a meerkat as a result of changing insurers. IM stated that he had not used Compare The Market.com so a meerkat deal was not available to him!
- ii) Caz Davies asked if the Army Commanders can please organise a set time for band practice at each event so as not to interfere with the drummers' other duties. TD and GG confirmed that this was in hand for 2016.
- iii) Matthew Plumridge asked why the AGM notices had not been posted on the ACWS website this year as they always had been in previous years. MB apologised for not posting as much information on the website as usual, adding that it was entirely his mistake. But he also stated that AGM notices were duly published in the newsletter which is the legal obligation of the Society. MB again apologised, saying that he had simply forgotten to post it on the website this year.

- iv) James Reed had sent in a letter which MS read out. In it, he thanked the members of the drum corps for all their efforts this year. He stated that he aims to bring the drum corps and fifes together in 2016 and consolidate the success of the corps to date. He further stated that he wants to repair the Society drums – one of which is in a very bad condition. He summarised the approximate costs for restoration and also for protection of the drums for future. The Cooperman drum is worth £500, and will cost approximately £45 to restore. The Memorial drum is worth £700, with an estimated cost of £95 to repair, therefore making approximately £145 total for restoration. The Tenor drum needs some leather ears and he has found no source of supply at present. He also suggested purchasing cases for each drum to protect them for the future. MS confirmed that these costs will be met by the Society as requested and that there will be discussion at the January Board meeting as to how these repairs are to be made. James was asked to source the required materials as far as possible. Charles Elwood suggested contacting Christian Sprakes for leather etc. MS stated that he could manufacture and supply cases – James to furnish him with measurements accordingly. VC stated that the Tenor drum was presented to ACWS by Shiloh 15 years ago, therefore she feels passionately that these repairs should be carried out in memory of Derek Gregory.
- V) Linda Reed had also sent in a letter which was read out byHN. She expressed her thanks for all the cards, messages and support she received from members over the death of her mother Moira Birtwell.
- vi) Also mentioned was the Health & Safety issue which arose at an event this year involving a fuel fire incident. The suggestion was made that there should be a sand bucket at US and CS command points in future as well as a water bucket. Charles Elwood commented that he has seen people putting accelerants on the campfires, which should not be done. MS stated that this will be discussed

In greater depth at the January Board meeting. It was also recommended that there should be a fire frill held least once a year on camp. Charlotte Edensor commented that each unit's OC should already be monitoring their unit's safety at every event.

- vii) Regarding interaction with the public, a suggestion was made about providing colouring books for children to use and take home, as this was tried this year by one regiment and it went down really well. TD/VH commended any ideas like this – to just go ahead and do it as it is good for the Society's image overall.
- viii) Linda Reed mentioned a Society-wide entertaining and bonding suggestion to be called "I'm a Reenactor Get me Out of Here" to take place on the Saturday evening of each event throughout the season. There would be 1 challenge per event – either a team or individual challenge, Federal vs Confederate, involving memory / physical / skill etc. The winner would be pronounced King of the Field at the end of the season. She stated that there would be no cost to the Society but would be a good bonding exercise. Linda stated that she would be willing to take on the organisation required, and she was thanked by all present.
- ix) Linda also suggested that after the last battle of the season each regiment could bring something for a food table with Society music and entertainment provided by members, as a form of end of season celebration. TD stated that he is currently looking at the possibility of some sort of social evening after the AGM next year. To be discussed further at Board meetings and at the start of next season.
- x) Linda also proposed a vote of thanks to the Board and all volunteers for working so hard and making ACWS a success again.

Xi) P Francis-Wemyss asked if there is someone in control of camp layouts at each event. He complained that there had been no space on camp for 2nd SC at all events this season. GG stated that Spetchley was a surprise high turnout which he had not accounted for, and that space at Tatton is always very tight anyway. There had also been some confusion over 4th Texas, as the site organisers believed them – wrongly - to be part of ACWS, and were therefore sited in the wrong place. TD stated that the Federal army has a formal plan drawn up for each regiment according to the regulation book and according to space available on site. This layout is the same at every event and units know to double up if necessary. PFW stated that he had felt separated from the rest of the Confederate army all season, but GG replied that this had not been intentional. PFW recommended putting something in place e.g. appointing a Camp Coordinator. PH stated that he has a plan of where each army will go, but does not get involved in the detail of each regiment's requirements – it is up to Army Commanders to organise their own layout. S Francis-Wemyss suggested that PH send out a plan of the site to Army Commanders prior to each event to allow them to organise their army layout. Paul Edensor pointed out that regiments do not always bring the same amounts of people and tentage to every event so it is quite difficult to plan exactly. Jo Morris-Turner reiterated that Commanders never know who is going to turn up on the day and suggested asking members to confirm who is going to turn up. Linda Reed suggested that the Camp Coordinator should be the first person to arrive on camp and that they should take on the responsibility of organising the layout of streets as people arrive. Helen Gibson pointed out that the Confederate membership (happily) grown unexpectedly this year so GG has been dealing with it as best as possible, and will plan for a larger turnout next year.

The consensus in the room was that there should be no discussion on camp about siting each unit, and that what the Army Commander says goes. GG will draw up a plan and send it to regimental commanders before the first event and see how it goes at each event thereafter. PH reminded everyone that the weather may also mess up any original plans and changes may have to be made through no fault of anyone.

- xii) MX stated that he had attended the NAReS AGM last week as ACWS representative. He commended it as a good recognised organisation for keeping us up to date on legislation changes, e.g. changes in firearms laws. He gave the opinion that it is good for ACWS to be members of NAReS so that we know about these things, and have a voice, and be looked after by such an organisation. He stated that the Board has decided to remain members for 2016 and that it is in our best interests to remain so. MB further stated that there is now a legal definition of a reenactor courtesy of NAReS which allows us to buy arms and insurance etc. more easily. Also police forces look favourably on societies who are members of NAReS. Matthew Plumridge suggested having NAReS logo printed on ACWS membership cards to help members with purchases. CM agreed that this can be done, and will action for all new membership cards. It was also noted that the NAReS website is currently not operational, but will presumably be up and running again soon.

12. Events Announcements regarding events for 2016

PH announced the events so far:

A site for the training weekend is still not confirmed but MS is looking into Belvoir Castle as a possibility.

Tatton Old Hall have withdrawn ACWS from their programme next year due to several years of repeat visits. Their Sponsor

have stated that they want to try something different for 2016. It is possible that they may have us back in future years. PH emphasised that their decision is no reflection on ACWS; they have been very happy with our contributions over the years. They simply want to try something new. MB thanked members for the efforts put in by members in recent years.

PH is actively looking to fill that weekend and there is a possibility of an event at Belvoir Castle – MS and VC to pursue.

The possible riverside event for the May Bank Holiday has also not materialised.

June 11th-12th on land belonging to Hardwick Hall in Sedgefield County Durham CONFIRMED subject to contract.

This is a multi-period event, requiring Living History and small firing display. Participants will be mainly WWII but others will also be represented.

3rd July Market Bosworth CONFIRMED subject to contract

One-day event (Sunday only) but camping available Friday to Monday. Itinerary to be confirmed and details to be sent out.

9th-10th July Rempstone – UNCONFIRMED so far

13th-14th August Spetchley Park CONFIRMED subject to contract

PH reported that discussions are underway for several possibilities for the beginning of September but these remain unconfirmed until after their committee meetings in February.

Linda Reed asked about a return to Castle Bytham – PH to contact them to enquire.

Similarly for Stockport carnival, PH is unsure at present if this will go ahead. He is waiting to hear back from them; again it will depend on Council funding which will not be decided till April.

PH to pursue other suggestions which Linda had sent in to him.

PH appealed to all members to contact him with any suggestions and / or contacts for possible venues.

S Francis-Wemyss reported that she has a possible event at Ripley Castle for 2017. SFW to give PH the details after the meeting.

VC proposed a vote of thanks to PH for his hard work. All applauded.

MS announced that today is the Holt's 34th wedding anniversary and extended many congratulations from all.

13. Any Other Business

CM was asked if there had been any progress on getting together a team for the Eggheads TV show. She stated that she has advertised on Facebook but there has been no interest as yet.

MS announced that ACWS has been approached by a unit called 8th Texas Cavalry who wish to join the Society in 2016 as a cavalry unit and a dismounted infantry unit. Their representative, Rob Harbottle, was not able to attend today's meeting. He reported that GG has had serious concerns about their announcement on their website regarding rank structure and training and tactics. Rob was supposed to have a meeting with Matt Body but it got cancelled. GG is to contact Rob and meet up before Christmas to iron out any possible misunderstandings. MS recounted Matt Body's attendance at the October Board meeting and his concerns regarding riding skills. Linda Reed provided more background information stating that they have trained with Atkins Action Horses (our previous supplier) who are excellent, and a very reputable organisation.

Gemma Storer asked about the requirements for minimum numbers of new unit. MS explained that they would be absorbed by an existing unit until they have proved their performance, before they would be accepted as a new unit in their own right.

MB assured members that clarification is continuing behind the scenes, and commended them for their commitment to joining ACWS and that their training etc. is moving in the correct direction for the benefit of both. Charles Elwood reiterated the importance of gaining clarification before committing to membership. He also requested clarification of the current guest rules for 2016 as it had seemed unclear this year at times. It was confirmed that this would be on the agenda for the January Board meeting.

CM then drew the raffle.

MS thanked CM for her efforts with raffles all year which have raised £720.

DD was thanked for her service as Minutes Secretary for the last 10 years. MS asked if there were any volunteers to take over the role. Otherwise an advert will go out society-wide.

A letter had been received from J Filer tendering his resignation as Pyro Officer due to pressure of work, preventing him from being able to commit to events. Linda Reed recommended that there should be one Pyro expert from the Federal side and one from the Confederates. She suggested asking Brian Mitchell first but stated that she would be prepared to step in if necessary. There is still a need for a Federal representative. Ben St John asked where to get details of the City & Guilds course that Linda is attending, so that he can also attend.

Matthew Plumridge asked if there will be any difficulties in sourcing pyros without J Filer, and MB assured him that there would be no problem.

The next AGM meeting will take place on Saturday 3rd December 2016 at a venue to be confirmed.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.



Events Report

Here we are in a new year and looking forward to a new season. I have listed the events we have lined up so far. Most of them are new venues for us with a return to Rempstone which was a huge success last year and our old favourite Spetchley. I am still in discussions with a few more sponsors with a view to either this season or next, we will see how it goes.

Training Weekend, This has yet to be arranged. I am looking at a few options for this event and I am waiting for confirmation of dates available.

21st – 22nd May 2016 Moira Canal Festival, Moira Furnace Museum, Furnace Lane, Moira Leicestershire DE12 6AT.

Camping from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd May 2016. A small event living history with drill and firing display on each. As this is a Living History only event and there is limited space for camping (20-30 tents) it would be the perfect opportunity for those who live locally to 'day trip' and allow others who live farther afield to

camp. Confirmed subject to contract

11th – 12th June 2016 Sedgefield, Co Durham, this is a multi-period event on Saturday and Sunday, camping Friday 10th to Sunday

12th May 2016. This is the first year for this event, and they are hoping it will be on again in 2017, there will be a lot of small local groups attending. This is living history and a small firing demonstration, there is no skirmish. Confirmed full society event open to all members, Confirmed subject to contract.

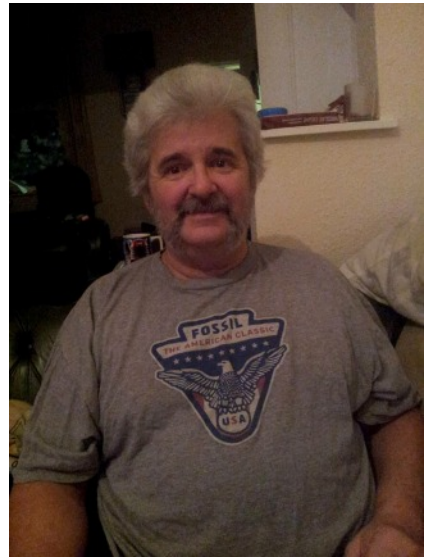
3rd July 2016 Market Bosworth, a 1 day event but with camping from Friday 1st July to Monday 4th July 2016. Living history with two short infantry only skirmishes. Full society event open to all members. Confirmed subject to contract.

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July 2016, Rempstone. This is their 60th Anniversary, camping Friday 8th July to Monday 11th July 2016. As things stand at present it will be a similar setup as last year, two skirmishes each day only this time with one cannon per side, final details to be discussed. Full society event open to all members, Confirmed subject to contract. all members, Confirmed subject to contract.

13th - 14th August 2016, Spetchley Park and Gardens Camping from Friday 12th to Monday 15th. Normal living history with a skirmish each day, I have spoken to Brian Bullock about the lack of space on the Confederate camp and extra space will be provided this year. Full society event open to all members. Confirmed subject to contract.

3rd - 4th September 2016. Shackerstone Festival There are very few details so far as their committee will not make a final decision on attendees until February 2016. However, there have been indications during contacts I have had with them that it may be a full infantry, artillery skirmishes with pyros. This is a possible event and as soon as I have any news you will be informed. There are one or two events this season which will require you to show your membership card before being allowed on site, so please make sure you are registered and do not lose your card as some of you encountered no end of problems last season and this causes delays not only to you but to the gate keepers and other participants.

Peter Holt Events Director



As many of you know I was recently hospitalised with a severe bout of pneumonia, and would like to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes, they were all greatly appreciated.

I am happy to report that I am now at home and recovering nicely, although I do not think I am quite up to doing battle with the boys in grey just yet..... but come the season!!!!

It is times like this when you find out who your friends are and I find I have a lot. A BIG THANK YOU to you all once again, and I am looking forward to seeing you all on the field soon.

Major Tim Davies

A GRAVE CONFEDERATE DISCOVERY

Imagine you and your partner are just about to go on holiday when a couple of strangers turn up at your door and tell you that your lawn is littered with lost graves which have lain undisturbed for many years. Well, that is exactly what Bick and Judy Gibson experienced who live in Castlewood, Virginia near the Mud Hole store section of Russell County near Bickley Mills. This is the story of a once immaculate lawn turning into a long lost important Civil War graveyard.

This incident occurred a couple of years back when, totally unexpectedly, 2 Civil War historians from Kentucky approached the couple and stated they believed that dead Confederate soldiers lay under their lawn. These Civil War buffs from Kentucky had used details and clues from a rare book entitled "Bluegrass Confederate: The Headquarters Diary of Edward O. Guerrant" (Louisiana State University Press.1999). These details would appear to have been closely cross referenced with official Confederate records which indicated a number of Confederate soldiers from Kentucky had died in the Castlewood, Virginia area. In

the diary, contained in "Bluegrass Confederate", it is clearly mentioned that Confederate soldiers from Kentucky were encamped close to the Mud Hole store for considerable periods during the Civil War. They used it to cross the Clinch river. It is estimated that approximately 800 Confederate soldiers camped in the vicinity of the 1863 home belonging to the Gibsons which had originally been built for their ancestors namely Dr. Samuel Wesley Gibson and his wife Harriet. Significantly, Dr Samuel Gibson's office still remains standing on the property and it is beneath the surrounding lawns that lie the graves of a number of Confederate soldiers as well as many others. Astonishingly, the 2 Kentucky historians located the approximate site of the individual graves near the Doctor's office by using diving rods (or dowsing rods) and subsequently placed Confederate memorial stones with their names and regiments on the supposed grave sites. They also located other grave sites but these were much larger and were indicative of family plots. These and other unmarked graves are supposedly littered all over the mountain area. So later, with a small ceremony, 6 Confederate memorials were placed where it was believed the bodies lay and these were marked with the 6 names

of Private Samuel Goode, Co D, 1st Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles, CSA; Private William Garnett, Co B, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA; Private Leroy White, Co B, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA; Private C.J Edrington, Co I, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA; Private Henry Green, Co B, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA and Private James Johnson, Co D, Diamond's 10th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA. These Civil War historians were determined, remembered Bick Gibson, "to honour Confederate dead and put stones where they are buried."

There has been a lot of subsequent talk about these Confederate gravesites located on the Gibson's property and the family recall sometime later being visited by man from Louisiana who wanted to visit the gravesites and told the family "You know you are not alone". On being asked what he meant by the family, he replied "There's a ghost of a soldier on the creek – watching. There are spirits or something on that hillside; a lost spirit. And, he's not found his way.....".

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Sources: Wikipedia, Herald Courier - Civil War dead all over Castlewood couple's property.

Last Confederate stronghold surrendered in 1946 (and it was in New York!)

The last surviving Confederate stronghold officially rejoined the United States in 1946 after the inhabitants officially wrote to the incumbent United States President, Harry Truman asking for permission to rejoin. This is the true story of a small town in upstate New York near Buffalo that seceded with the Confederate States and following the American Civil War still retained their seceded status for over 81 years until the end of the Second World War. This is the true story that very many people never knew about.

Town Line is a small town in Erie County, New York, 14 miles from Buffalo. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the inhabitants met in the local schoolhouse and after an intense and at times vociferous debate, voted 85 to 40 to secede from the Union and join the Confederate states by signing the articles of secession. This was due to many of the 125 qualified voters being reluctant to formally approve of a Civil War just because the overall public opinion

in the North was overwhelmingly for it. Apparently, 5 of the inhabitants subsequently left and joined the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia although another 20 left to fight for the Union. However, as the Civil War dragged on, their defiant stance and secession fervour cooled but even at the end of the Civil War they never formally and officially rejoined the Union.

Following the Second World War, it would appear that many of the returning World War 2 veterans were very concerned at leaving their country to fight but returning to find that they didn't actually have one. They clearly did not like it. As a direct result of this renewed patriotic fever, someone wrote to the President of the United States, Harry Truman at the time about their dilemma and he cheerfully replied stating "There are few controversies not susceptible to peaceful resolution if examined in tranquillity and calm rather than strife and turmoil. I suggest roast veal as a vehicle of peace. Why don't you run down the fattest calf in Erie County, barbeque it and serve it with fixin's in the old blacksmith shop where the ruckus started? Who can tell? The dissidents

might decide to resume citizenship".

Well, the citizens took President Harry Truman at his word and did just that. A fatted calf was chosen and subsequently barbecued in the blacksmiths shop (where the local schoolhouse used to be) on 24th January 1946 and the town's inhabitants, by 90 to 23, voted to formally return to the Union and suspend their Confederate allegiance. One of the prominent Town Line residents said at the time "If our former allies in Mississippi and Georgia feel the Civil War is over, so do we". This referred to Dade County, Georgia and Vicksburg, Mississippi both officially rejoining the United States in July 1945.

As such, the last Rebel town of the Civil War officially rejoined the Union and in a formal ceremony the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy was silently lowered and the Stars and Stripes of the United States was raised.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Source ; Wikipedia ; Discoveries : Civil War's Last Rebel Town finally rejoined the U.S – Genealogy Bank

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 by 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:

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

B. 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:

a. Would it have been fought?

B. 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.

CSS GEORGIA RESURFACES (2)

I wrote an article a while ago entitled “CSS Georgia Resurfaces” concerning plans to raise the CSS Georgia from the Savannah riverbed in order to allow access to the harbour for much bigger cargo ships. This is part of a \$703 million project to deepen the Savannah River. I can confirm that the process is now well underway and I thought people might be interested in an update on the current developments.

The CSS Georgia was a Confederate ironclad that was one of the first armoured warships. She had a 1,200 ton frame with 3 layers of timber. These were reinforced by 50 strips of railroad iron that were 24 foot long. She was scuttled by Confederate forces as Union General William Tecumseh Sherman arrived at Savannahs gates on his infamous “March to the Sea”. He took Savannah on December 21st 1864 and the CSS Georgia was scuttled on the same day to prevent it falling into Union hands. Although it was initially designed as an ironclad to defend the river channels below Savannah, it proved

totally inept in its task in handling the strong currents of the Savannah River due to its weak engines and poor manoeuvrability. As such, it was employed as a floating battery and situated in front of Old Fort Jackson. It never fired a shot in anger.

The salvaged artefacts from the armoured skeleton of the CSS Georgia are currently being raised in one 5 ton pieces every day. They have had to cut the armour into 24 chunks in order to raise them both safely and carefully. There is nothing left of the wooden hull as this has totally rotted away. The wreck was also seriously damaged by previous dredging which left massive scars through the wreck site. However, Navy divers started raising cannons, unexploded shells, the propeller, engine components and other artefacts in late Jun 2015 and are now involved in the very heavy and arduous task of raising the estimated 250,000 pounds of the warships armoured sidings. Navy Chief Warrant Officer Jason Potts is in charge of the project and says his crew are currently breaking down 3 very large segments of armoured siding into these manageable smaller chunks and raising them to the surface. However, due to the strong currents limiting the divers to 3 hours underwater per day as well as the poor visibility, it may take a month to raise all of this armoured siding. The outer

layer of the CSS Georgia would appear to be casemate made of both timber and railroad ties. These have been glued together over the years by the mud and silt from the river bed. The team responsible for the excavation have already raised over 1,500 artefacts from the wreck. This includes 145 shells and projectiles and 4 cannons. The first was a small cannon known as a “6 pounder” which was placed on the top of the deck and was used for repelling rowboats, small boats and possible Federal boarding parties. It fired case shot and shrapnel. The second was a larger Brooke rifle which would have been also used for target practice by the crew. The third was by far the biggest surprise as it was a 9 Inch Dahlgren which weighs in at more than 1,500 lbs heavier than the more common 8 Inch Dahlgren. This find is very significant as a November 1864 Confederate inventory of the CSS Georgia did not list such a formidable weapon. This large defensive weapon required a gun crew of 16 as well as a powder monkey. The fourth is currently being investigated. The team believe the vessel had up to 10 guns but some may have been recovered by General Sherman’s Union forces and 2 cannon were salvaged years ago and placed in nearby Old Fort Jackson. Divers have also

found condiment bottles, wine bottles, a deck light, cannon sights, musket trigger guards and numerous smaller items. One of the most significant finds were 6 pairs of leg irons or manacles. These were most probably used to confine and punish Confederate sailors who went AWOL and used in the boiler rooms to make them shovel coal into the boilers. It is well recorded that there were significant disciplinary issues due to the crew frequently getting drunk and rowdy. The CSS Georgia is still classified as a captured enemy vessel so all the remains and artefacts will be owned by the US Navy. All the artefacts are being sent to the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A and M University in College Station, Texas for careful cataloguing and preservation. It is hoped that this excavation will provide new insight into the Confederates industrial capability. There is no indication of the long term plans for these important Confederate artefacts but it is hoped a museum or organisation will be interested in the future in displaying such an eclectic array of important historical items. The Team overseeing the excavation are in no doubt that further significant finds will be made. I will keep you posted.

One of the most enduring mysteries of the CSS Georgia is that there is no actual existing known photograph or drawing of the vessel. However, several years ago, someone took a picture of an original grainy 1860s photograph of the vessel at a yard sale in Southern Georgia and it is hoped that the current publicity will now help locate this only known and extremely rare photograph.

Sources: CNN News; Fox News; Various Internet Sources; Wikipedia
Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

New Research uncovers extent of UK Arms smuggling to the Confederate States in the America Civil War

New investigations in Scotland have recently revealed the extent of the UK involvement in supplying the Confederate States with arms and ammunition throughout the American Civil War as well locating the main secret British Headquarters of the American Civil War Confederate transatlantic gun running operation. The investigations conclude that such assistance to the Confederacy may have prolonged the war for a further 2 years.

Other research conducted over the last decade has also revealed the

extraordinary extent to which a substantial part of Britain's business elite were working with impunity to help the Confederacy despite the fact that the UK was officially neutral throughout the Civil War. In total, some 200 vessels were purpose built or upgraded on Clydeside, Liverpool and London for the Confederate States and hundreds of thousand of guns (including heavy artillery) were manufactured in Birmingham, Newcastle and London for the Confederate armies. This entirely illegal but tacitly government approved pro Confederate gun running support is thought to have lengthened the Civil War by up to 2 years and therefore cost as many as 400,000 American lives.

The clandestine identification of the Confederacy's main secret gun running headquarters has been located at a still existing mansion in Bridge of Allan which is some 32 miles by railway from Clydeside and situated north of Sterling. This quiet and secluded mansion housed up to 10 Confederate agents throughout the Civil War until 1864. This remote, idyllic, secluded and rural base was deliberately chosen to avoid unwarranted and unnecessary attention particularly from Federal agents. The Confederate agents based there would regularly visit top

shipbuilding magnates in the locality as well as test and assess the capabilities and particularly the speed of potential blockade runners. Overall they contracted the building and upgrading in Clydeside of more than half of the 200 hundred vessels supplied to the Confederate States by the UK shipyards. In essence, all the arms, ammunition and supplies would be shipped on commercial vessels from the UK to the British Crown colonies of the Bahamas or Bermuda and then transferred to over 300 high speed gun running vessels which would attempt to break the Union blockades of the Southern ports. Overall, over 2/3rds of these high speed blockade vessels were built throughout the UK. Very sadly, none of these vessels survive above water today but there are many that rest beneath the waves. Around the British Islands there are important examples. The most famous is the Iona 2 which due to its importance and state of preservation has just become a designated English Heritage Trail protected site for underwater tourist exploration. Other Confederate blockade runners around the British Islands include the Iona 1, Lellia and Matilda. The Confederate agents in Bridge of Allan were eventually exposed in 1864 by a local

women's anti slavery group who reported them to Federal agents who in turn alerted the UK Government. They stated that the Confederate agents were easily identifiable by their wearing of "large wide rimmed hats and smoking large cigars!". Sounds familiar guys!

Dr Eric Graham, Maritime Historian at Edinburgh University, who conducted this new research by using new primary sources states by his findings that "It demonstrates that British neutrality was, in reality, a complete sham". There is also further new research currently being undertaken at Manchester University that is examining both the extent and the roles of Liverpool and London in gun running to the Confederacy. This research is particularly focussing on 6 pro Confederate blockade running sorting companies with their close ties to both pro Confederate sympathisers as well as pro Confederate MP's in Parliament.

Article by Stewart "Goober"
Douglas

Main Source : Dr Eric Graham, University of Edinburgh: "Clyde Built :The Blockade Runners of the American Civil War".

A GENTLE REMINDER

AFTER A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT
LAST SEASON (not caused by ACWS) YOU ARE REMINDED OF
THE H&S GUIDELINES BELOW.

SECTION 1. FIRE RISKS

**F. GAS BURNERS/GAS POWERED CAMPING STOVES
AND/OR PARAFFIN HEATERS OR PARAFFIN LAMPS WILL
ONLY BE LIT IN A TENT WHEN THE TENT IS ATTENDED
AND WILL NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED. SOLID FUEL
HEATING STOVES MUST HAVE A CHIMNEY AND BE SUPER-
VISED AND SAFE AT ALL TIMES. ADEQUATE VENTILATION
MUST ALWAYS BE PROVIDED FOR SUCH ITEMS.**

:

STOP PRESS

Since the Events report was written I have received
two more definite events.

25th - 26th June. Banbury Steam Fayre (STC)Smith's Field,
Milton Road, Bloxham, Banbury Oxfordshire, OX15 4HD
Some members may remember this site from an event we did with
SoSkan a few years ago. This is a full society event
open to all members. Further details to follow.

27th -28th August Tilston Wakes, Cheshire (STC)
Camping from Friday p.m. to Monday a.m.
Living History with arena displays by Infantry and Artillery.
Further details to follow.

Keep a look out on our Website & Facebook page for updates,
which are happening almost daily.

Peter Holt, Events Director



EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

21st – 22nd May 2016 Moira Canal Festival, Moira Furnace Museum, Furnace Lane, Moira Leicestershire DE12 6AT.(STC)

11th – 12th June 2016 Sedgefield, Co Durham, (STC)

25th - 26th June 2016 Banbury Steam Fayre (STC)

3rd July 2016 Market Bosworth,(STC)

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July 2016, Rempstone. (STC)

13th- 14th August 2016, Spetchley Park and Gardens (STC)

27th - 28th August 2016 Tilston Wakes, Cheshire (STC)

3rd - 4th September 2016 . Shackerstone Festival (Poss)

**A. G. M. 3rd December 2016
Venue to be arranged.**

Watch this space for future events