



17 Swan Street, Silby,
Loughborough, LE12 7NN

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2016 Spring Edition



RUGGLES BATTERY AT SHILOH

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

Issue 180

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

Dear Members.

Here we are at the beginning of another season and a busy one it's going to be with 8 events already booked and more in the pipeline. Many thanks to our events team whose hard work over the winter has paid dividends.

Our first event is the weekend at Avoncroft a beautiful setting for our training weekend, so please attend, if possible, it's a good opportunity to blow the cobwebs out before the season starts in earnest.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the 8th Texas Cavalry to our ranks and wish Rob and his guys/gals all the best for the coming season. I am sure they will be made most welcome by the guys/gals in grey.

I will be at Avoncroft on the Saturday in modern dress and will no doubt come around and speak to as many of you as I can. If you have any questions or suggestions about ACWS (please keep them clean) I will make note and do what I can to help.

Please, may I remind all of you who use open camp fires that NO accelerant (petrol, paraffin, meth's, bbq fuel etc) should be used when lighting fires, fire lighters are permitted.

This year's raffle, which is being run by Claire Morris and her helpers, is in aid of new batteries for our de-fib machine; so please give them all the support you can either by donating prizes or buying tickets for this worthy cause.

Well enough of my ramblings for now, see you on the field, and remember it's your society, only you can make it a success.

Mick. Smart
Chairman

SIGNIFICANT CIVIL WAR SHIPWRECK FIND

The well preserved shipwreck of a large iron hulled Civil War era steamer has just been found in the Atlantic Ocean off the North Carolina coast near the seaside town of Oak Island. It was unexpectedly discovered on 27 February 2016 during a routine sonar survey. This discovery, after being hidden for over 150 years, is regarded as an extremely important and significant as it is the first Civil War era vessel discovered in this locality in decades. In addition, it is in very good condition. "A new runner is a really big deal" says Billy Ray Morris, Deputy State Archaeologist-Underwater and Director of the Underwater Archaeology Branch of North Carolina, "the state of the preservation on this wreck is among the best we have had. You can see from the sonar image that the whole of the lower hull is there". The actual site of this particular wreck is 27 miles downstream from Wilmington near Fort Caswell at the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

The vessel has not yet been positively identified and is therefore believed to be one of three blockade runners which were used to penetrate the wall of Union naval vessels blocking the important port of Wilmington, North Carolina in the American Civil War which was providing a life line to the Confederacy. The goal of the Union blockade was to keep supplies from reaching the Confederacy through one of its most important ports as well as to prevent the export of cotton and other marketable goods by the Southern States. These blockade runners were some of the most fast and sophisticated vessels of the day and as well as carrying invaluable military supplies, arms and ammunition for the Confederate Armies but also carried luxury goods such as wines, Paris fashion accessories, perfumes and books which all sold well at the receiving Southern docks. Blockade running was both an extremely lucrative but very risky business.

Researchers from the research vessel, the Atlantic Surveyor will now try to actually positively identify the vessel having fully recorded the complete hull of

identify the vessel having fully recorded the complete hull of the shipwreck. It is well documented that three Confederate blockade runners are known to have been lost in this locality according to the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. These are the Agnes E. Fry; Spunkie and Georgianna McCaw. Dive crews will now approach the wreck site and closely record and analyse the remains using documents obtained from the United Kingdom where all the three blockade runners were built. This will determine which vessel it actually is. The reason why this particular wreck site is so well preserved is that the sand dune patterns have covered and protected the vessel from wearing down and being damaged over the past decades. These dune patterns have now shifted thereby fully exposing the wreck site. Being covered in sand can significantly protect the integrity and conditions of ship wrecks. Historical, cartographic and archaeological resources have been examined for the past 2 years to better understand the maritime components of the

Fort Fisher campaign and the blockade of Wilmington. Fortifications protected both entrances to the Cape Fear River from the Atlantic and were critical in keeping open a lifeline to the Confederacy until Fort Fisher fell to Union forces in January 2015. The fall of Fort Fisher led to the loss of Wilmington and a critical railroad line which hastened the end of the Confederacy. Over all, it is estimated that there are 27 known Civil War ship wrecks in the Cape Fear area thereby making it one of the richest collections anywhere in the world. Initial indications are that it may be the Agnes E. Fry purely due to its size which is approximately 225 feet long and the actual area in which it was located. If so, it will be regarded as a fascinating and critically important Civil War historical find. The Agnes E. Fry was built on the River Clyde in Scotland and was originally called the "Fox" during her construction. She was a 559 ton sidewheeler and was built by Caird and Company at Greenock and launched in 1864. She was a large vessel, 237 feet long by 23 feet in beam with a depth of hold of 13 feet.

The Agnes E. Fry was commanded by Confederate Navy Lieutenant Joseph Fry and it was later named after his wife. Before becoming her commander, he joined the Confederate Navy in February 1861 and commanded the CSS Ivy at New Orleans and fought at the battle at the Head of the Passes on October 1861. He was captured while commanding Confederate batteries at St Charles, Arkansas in June 1862. After his exchange, he was appointed to "special service" by the Confederate Government serving as commander of the government owed Eugenie. In the spring of 1864, Captain Fry was stationed at St Thomas in Bermuda as a government agent for the Confederate Navy. After this posting, he was sent to Scotland to bring out a brand new state of the art blockade runner being built on the River Clyde, which, in honour of her future commanders wife, was to be re-named the Agnes E. Fry. Overall, during her brief career as a Confederate blockade runner, she made 2 successful runs into Wilmington, the first from Nassau in late September

1864, and the second from Bermuda in November 1864. These 2 successful runs paid for the ship outright. She had made 4 previous attempts to break the blockade but was thwarted by the patrolling Union ships and was only saved by the nautical skills and navigational ability of her commander. Eventually, she was run aground on her third attempted entry to Wilmington by her pilot on December 27 1864 near Fort Caswell to prevent it falling into Union hands. At the end of the Civil War, Captain Joseph Fry was commanding the CSS Morgan as part of the Mobile squadron bottled up at the north end of Mobile Bay. He surrendered on May 4th 1865 and was paroled 6 days later.

Article by Stewart "Goober"

Douglas, 43rd North Carolina

Goobers footnote

Some years after the Civil War, Captain Joseph Fry was still pursuing a similarly dangerous occupation by smuggling arms, men, supplies and ammunition to Cuban insurgents trying to overthrow the Spanish colonial government in Cuba. In 1873, he took command of the Virginia (a previous

Confederate Civil War blockade runner surrendered at the end of the war) and was intercepted by the Spanish gunboat Tornado. Captain Joseph Fry and his crew were taken to Santiago where they were immediately tried for piracy. They were all convicted and quickly executed before their corpses were beheaded and the bodies trampled by cavalry horses. This drumhead trial and brutal execution caused uproar in both Europe and the United States and would form the basis for lingering tension between the United States and Spain over Cuba for the next 25 years eventually culminating in the Spanish War of 1898.

Sources : Adam Wagner, Starnewsonline, 7/3/16; ABC News 7/3/16; Phil Gast, CNN, 7/3/16; Wikipedia; Andy Hall, Dead Confederates A Tale of Two Runners 8/3/16.

OLD CORNBREAD

If anything helped settle this nation, it was cornmeal. Made into cornpone, ask cakes, hoe , jonny (or journey) cakes corn dodgers, corn muffins or hush-puppies, this native grain got us through some hard times.

While the Yankees struggled with their hardtack, the Rebels were making do with cornbread or hoe cakes.

1/4 cups yellow cornmeal
1/4 cup flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking powder
1 1/4 cups buttermilk
1/2 tsp soda
2 eggs
2 tbsp melted lard
Combine cornmeal, flour, salt and baking powder; mix well. Combine buttermilk and soda in a small bowl; beat until foamy. Add to cornmeal mixture. Beat in eggs; stir in lard. Pour into a greased hot skillet. Bake in Oven (450) for 20 minutes or until lightly browned on top.

Notes

450 is Gas Mark 8
1 cup of flour is 4oz
1 cup of fat is 4oz
1 cup of buttermilk is 8 fl oz
Linda Reed

I might be a Yankee Gal but I can vouch for cornbread, it's delicious and it travels and keeps well for a couple of days in a tightly lidded tin so you can bake it at home and bring it to camp. Ed.



“The Home Guard”

White Mountain Rangers

From a Stereograph, photo shows a group of women kneeling and standing in formation, holding long pointed sticks or spears, forming a unit of “home guards”. No definitive location for this photo, or id for the women found.

Date [1861?] Photographer Gardner, Alexander

Women during the civil war organized over one thousand soldiers’ aid societies, rolled bandages for use in hospitals and raised millions of dollars to aid injured troops. With the

exception of those in Pennsylvania and the border states, women of the Union knew little about enemy invasions and military displacement. With a smaller percentage (less than 50%) of eligible northern men serving in the Union army, compared to 75% of eligible men in the Confederate army, many northern women felt the war’s effect indirectly.



Greetings to all Southern Forces, Ladies, Gentlemen & children.

By the time you read this the season will probably have started. I would first like to welcome you all to a brand new season and hopefully eventful battles and weekends away and look forward to seeing you all again. It seems to have been a long close season due to the training weekend being late, but that was no fault of anyone.

I know that you all have been working hard during the close season recruiting and getting all your kit in order and I appreciate what everyone does to get away for our weekends.

Also, a big welcome to the 8th Texas who have joined the Society and I must admit that it wasn't the easiest transition for them coming in. The 8th Texas are quite a new and unique addition to our forces as they are primarily a mounted cavalry unit so come under the cavalry setup, however, when their horses are not present they will be fighting as infantry and slotted into existed units and taken under "their wing". So lets all help and make them feel at home and experience the fun that we all have been enjoying over the last few years on and off the field.

It seems that we have quite a variety of events this year and so I will be looking on scenarios with the Union on a weekend by weekend basis depending on the lay out and numbers.

How can we top the emotion of portraying Appomattox at Tatton Old Hall last year WOW.

Hopefully, by the upcoming Board meeting on the 9th April 16, the Society will endorse and support the Battle of the Alamo in June 2017 at Weston Park. The reason for this is that as the appointed Alamo Garrison Commander by the organisers, I have requested that all the ACWS Confederates be with me in the Alamo as Texans, apart from the Tennessee ladies and gentlemen who will of course be portraying themselves.

I will work tirelessly to make the season go smoothly and enjoyable for everyone and if anyone would like to discuss any ideas please come and see me and we will have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

So let's all have another good year of re-enacting and long live the Southern Cause.

Yours Faithfully
Major Glenn Gibson
Commanding Officer
Confederate Forces – ACWS



Events Report

Sat 7th and Sun 8th May 2016 Training Weekend at Avoncroft

Camping as usual Friday/Monday we CAN NOT use the house to sleep in. We can get on site on Friday after 4pm. All firing MUST only take place on the Windmill Field, there will be NO FIRING on Saturday afternoon between 13:30 and 16:00 as there is a Wedding Ceremony taking place. There were complaints from the wedding guests after our 40th party that the noise was too loud. We will be holding our usual Blanket Sale at around 17:00 the exact location will depend upon the weather conditions.

Sat 21st and Sun 22nd May 2016, Moira Canal Festival, Moira Furnace Museum, in NW Leics.

Camping from Friday 20th to Monday 23rd May 2016, family camp and parking are in an adjoining field. A small event living history with drill and two firing displays, infantry and

small cannon on each day (very small display area), they have asked if we can fire the cannon at 10.00 each day Public on site from 10.00 am to 17:30 each day. As this is a mainly Living History event and there is a 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 further afield to camp.

Sat 11th and Sun 12th June 2016, Sedgfield, Co Durham,

This is a multi-period event on Saturday. 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 Living History and a small firing demonstration, there is no skirmish. Confirmed full society event open to all members. Details are not yet confirmed and will be posted later.

Sat 25th and Sun 26th June 2016 Banbury Steam Society, Banbury, Oxfordshire,

Camping from Friday 24th to Monday 27th June 2016. Full society event with living history and a 25 minute skirmish using small cannon and infantry plus pyros

from plates each day, Confirmed full society event open to all members, Details are not yet confirmed and will be posted later.

Sun 3rd July 2016, Market Bosworth, A 1 day event, public on site from 09.00 to 17:30. Camping from Friday 1st July to Monday 4th July 2016. For those arriving on Friday; there will be hound racing to watch. Saturday is a free day and you could explore the area, Bosworth Battle Field only 4 miles away. Living history with two short infantry and small cannon skirmishes, provisional times 11.00 and 14:00. Confirmed full society event open to all members,

Sat 9th and Sun 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 plus pyros from plate. Confirmed full society event open to all members, Details are not yet confirmed and will be posted later.

Sat 13th and Sun 14th August 2016, Spetchley Park and Gardens. Camping from Friday 12th to Monday 15th. Normal living history with a skirmish each day using cannon, number still to be determined, I have spoken to Brian Bullock about the lack of space on the Confederate camp and extra space will be provided this year. Confirmed full society event open to all members. Timings are not yet confirmed and will be posted later.

Sat 27th and Sun 28th August 2016, Tilston Wakes, Tilston Cheshire, This is the August Bank holiday weekend but event is NOT on Monday. Camping is from Friday 26th to Monday 29th August 2016. Living history with a parade through the village late on Saturday afternoon followed by an artillery (using small cannon) and infantry firing display, Sunday Public on site from 12.00 to 18:00, three slots – firing display as Saturday; Kids Drill; short infantry skirmish about 15 minutes. Beer tent with music on Saturday evening, Sunday evening Ox roasting. Confirmed full society event open to all members,

Final timings are not yet confirmed and will be posted later.

Sat 3rd and Sun 4th September 2016, Shackerstone Festival, Congerstone, Leicestershire

Camping from Friday 2nd to Monday 5th September 2016. Public on site from 10:00 to 17:30. Family camping will be in with other participants to the event. Living history with two skirmishes per day to include infantry, 2 cannon per side with pyros on plates and cavalry. The cavalry will also do an arena display of their own each day, There will be a beer tent all weekend and on an evening it is for participants on. Wrist bands will be issued and MUST be worn in the evening to get into the beer tent. Confirmed full society event open to all members. Times are not yet confirmed and will be posted later.

Sat 24th and Sun 25th September 2016 at Kelham Hall & Country Park, Main Road, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX.

This is near Newark-on- Trent.

Camping from Friday 23rd September 2016. Full Society

Event; Confirmed (STC); More details to follow.

AGM Saturday 3rd December 2016,

It is to be held in Gainsborough again this year the exact venue still to be arranged, details will be updated a.s.a.p.

After speaking to Chris Greenaway the Chairman of Soskan, an invitation has been placed in both society newsletters and on our Facebook page to attend each other's events by prior arrangement only as an individual or as a group representing a regiment. It has been made clear that attending these events will include a guest fee but powder will be provided by the host society.

Now for news of events in the pipeline for 2017.

6th and 7th May 2017 Joint ACWS Training Weekend, at Kelham Hall & Country Park, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX.

Camping from Friday 5th May 2017. Full Society Event; Confirmed (STC); More details to follow. Confirmed subject to contract.

Progress of the Derek Gregory Drum

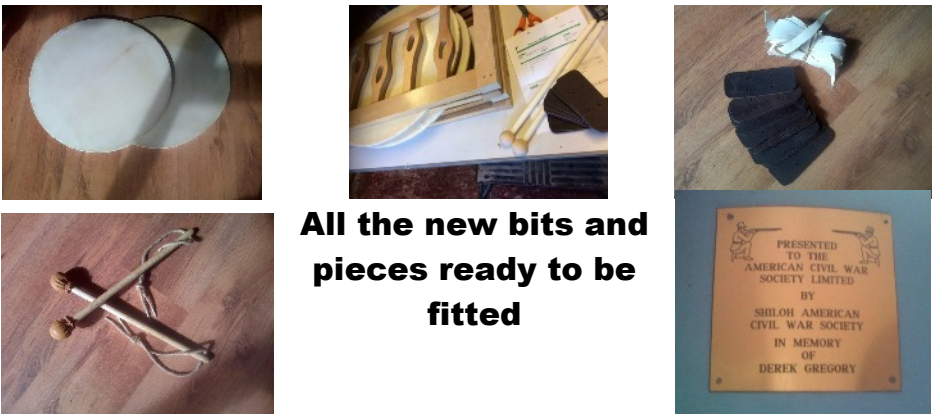


This is how James Reed received the drum.



Hours of sanding had to be done to remove all the old paintwork.

Old paint removed and drum varnished with American White Oak



All the new bits and pieces ready to be fitted

A Cautionary Tale

A few weeks ago I was told by a re enactor friend in the USA about an incident which took place at an event which she attended last year. This illustrates why it is important to wear the correct type of fabric for the period. A lady was cooking by the fire and was distracted for a moment when her skirt caught the flames and her dress began to burn. Fortunately, someone who was close by, threw her to the ground and rolled her on the damp turf while someone else grabbed a fire bucket and emptied it over her. She did not sustain any burns as she was wearing bloomers and several petticoats and the dress, all were made of either cotton or wool which did not melt or flare as synthetics would. The one thing she did say afterwards that in future she will not be wearing a hooped petticoat when working around the fire. My friend told me the petticoat was a very small hoop, just to give her dress some shape. I think there is a message for us all there.

BE CAREFUL around the fire and wear the right clothing.

As the Chairman, Mick Smart said in the remarks on page 3:

‘Please, may I remind all of you who use open camp fires that NO accelerant (petrol, paraffin, meth's, bbq fuel etc) should be used when lighting fires, fire lighters are permitted.’

This reminder was sparked by an incident at the Scottish event last year. It did not involve any of our members other than they were close by and without some quick thinking things could have got out of hand when someone could not get the fire going and thought that throwing petrol on it would be a good idea. The fuel caught light and travelled up the stream being poured engulfing the can which was then dropped on the ground.

DON'T DO IT! IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK

BLANKET SALE !!

7th MAY 2016

**OUR START OF SEASON
CHANCE TO SELL UNWANTED KIT
SO YOU CAN BUY MORE
WILL TAKE PLACE AT
AVONCROFT
ON SATURDAY AT 17:00
EXACT PLACE WILL BE
DECIDED ACCORDING TO THE
WEATHER.**

24th and 25th June 2017, MFest 300. The Battle Of The Alamo at Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal, Telford, TF11 8LE.

Camping from Friday 23rd June 2017. These dates are confirmed. This is not an ACWS run event; members of the ACWS have been invited to attend this re-enactment by the Masonic Lodge as part of the 300 Year Anniversary Celebration of the Grand Lodge of England. This is only a small part of what is to be a huge weekend of entertainment and celebration. Glenn Gibson will be in command of the Texan force in the Alamo which will consist mainly of ACWS Confederates. Tim Davies will command a Mexican Regiment made up of mainly Union soldier. There will only be ACWS members in this regiment. Other re-enactors from different societies have been invited to attend. Further details to follow.

27th and 28th August 2017, Ripley Castle, Ripley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3AY. A Full Society Event, Provisional at present. Details to follow.

23rd and 24th September 2017, Kelham Hall & Country Park, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX. Full Society Event; Confirmed (STC). Details to follow.

The Tale of the Ramrod

The following was found in an article printed in a Gettysburg newspaper in August 1878.

Last Sunday, as a party of the Grand Army of the Republic boys were visiting a portion of the battlefield, near the spot where the gallant Gen J F Reynolds fell, one of the boys said he remembered while he was in the hottest of the fight, and loading his rifle, his ramrod became fast in his gun so he could not extract it; so putting on a cap, he 'let sliver' at a rebel. Being close to him, he was certain the rod went through him. Just beyond the rebel stood a tree, which he thought he could find, if still standing. So the boys proposed to go with him and look. After searching a short time, he discovered a tree, and the identical ramrod deeply embedded in its body. It is somewhat of a miraculous circumstance.

Leicestershire and the American Civil War

As we are going to be in Leicestershire for a few of our events this season I thought that I would see if the county had any links to the Civil War and this is what I found out and you may find it interesting.

The Village of Earl Shilton, Trade and the Civil War in America

In 1861 the Civil War had broken out in America, and Earl Shilton was hard hit by the fact that the Northern States blockaded the ports of the Southern States, so that cotton could not be exported. Something akin to famine prevailed in Earl Shilton as the chief trade of the area was frame-work knitting. Frames could be found in nearly every house. During these devastating times the Baptist minister, the Rev. Parkinson, had to resign through lack of funds, and the Rev. Freesdon said, "That a church which could not support its minister, and a pastorate that had commenced with so many signs of blessing, ended through a

war raging on the other side of the Atlantic".

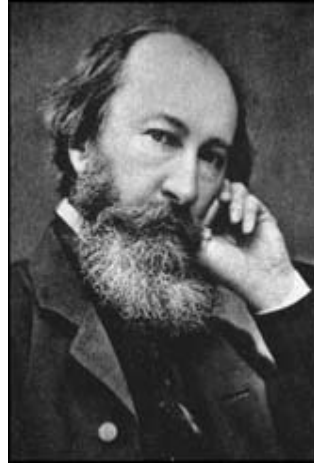
The Elmesthorpe Road was commenced during these dark days as Relief Work. Many of the workers received no more than bread and meat for their hard labours. At this time over 1,200 people were out of employment. The work was sponsored by the Right Hon. the Earl of Lovelace and his daughter, the Lady Anne Noel, and carried out in 1862-3. They also forwarded £800 to the unemployed cotton workers to work worsted instead of cotton. The depression seemed to continue for many years, and the figures given by the Hinckley District Relief Committee in July, 1864, make interesting reading. Subscriptions raised in Earl Shilton parish were to the amount of £161 1s. 4d, while the destitute poor received from that fund £992 10s. 4d, in addition 195 barrels of flour, 30 sides of bacon, 100 tons of coal and left-off clothing were distributed by this fund in the district.

Union Soldiers From Leicestershire

HARDY WILFORD, born 1842 in Beeby, Leicestershire. He

emigrated to Wisconsin and enlisted in the Army where he was involved in the siege of Vicksburg. He died 26 Oct 1863 in Hospital of disease at Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas and was buried in the Little Rock National Cemetery. Hardy Wilford Military Service Record, National Archives Form 86, No. 1303603, Pvt. Wisconsin 28th Infantry, Co. E. the 28th Wisconsin Infantry was involved in various activities north of Vicksburg, Helena and St. Charles, Arkansas and McNutt, Mississippi) in 1863.

DEMETRIUS GLENN was born in Sproxtton, Near Melton Mowbray, Leic. England in about 1832. When he was about 20 years old he decided to go to America and embarked on a ship named Albert Gallatin in Liverpool, England and arrived in New York on Date: 27 Mar 1852. He enlisted in: Batavia, NY State in Company D New York's 14th Infantry Regt. on 17 May 1861 and was mustered out on 22 May 1863 at Utica, NY. He survived the war, married and raised a family in New York State.



PETER ALFRED TAYLOR

Son of Peter Taylor and Catherine Courtauld, was born in 1819. His father had invested money in George Courtauld & Co, when his cousin, George Courtauld, was short of capital in 1817. The following year, George left for America and Samuel Courtauld joined Taylor in expanding the business. Over the next few years Courtauld & Taylor purchased steam-engines and power-looms for its mills in Braintree, Halstead and Bocking. Taylor, like his father, was a Unitarian, who favoured social reform.

P.A. Taylor was elected unopposed as a Radical Liberal MP for Leicester in 1862, to

replace John Biggs, and represented Leicester until his retirement in 1884. Taylor's election sealed a political alliance in Leicester between the working and middle classes in the town which lasted until the election of Ramsey MacDonald in 1906. He was an advocate of universal suffrage and a republican, opposing public money being spent on the royalty.

During the American civil war, he supported the Northern cause and the emancipation of Negroes. His wife, Clementia Taylor, was also active in the movement and for many years was treasurer of the London National Society for Women's Suffrage. Taylor presented three petitions for women's suffrage, in 1866, 1868 and 1869 and publicly endorsed the women's suffrage campaign. After his retirement from Parliament in 1884, Peter Alfred Taylor moved to Hove where he died in 1891. Throughout his life Taylor gave generously to humanitarian causes and this is reflected in the small amount of money that he left to his family in his will.



**Garnet Wolseley,
1st Viscount Wolseley**

Field Marshal Garnet Joseph Wolseley, 1st Viscount Wolseley KP, GCB, OM, GCMG, VD, PC (4 June 1833 – 25 March 1913) was an Anglo-Irish officer in the British Army. He served in Burma, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, China, Canada and widely throughout Africa—including his Ashanti campaign (1873–1874) and the Nile Expedition against Mahdist Sudan in 1884–85. Wolesley served as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces from 1895 to 1900. His reputation for efficiency led to the late 19th century English phrase "everything's all Sir Garnet", meaning "all is in order."

In November 1861, Wolseley was one of the special service

officers sent to Canada in connection with the Trent incident.

In 1862, shortly after the Battle of Antietam, Wolseley took leave from his military duties and went to investigate the American Civil War. He befriended Southern sympathizers in Maryland, who found him passage into Virginia with a blockade runner across the Potomac River. There he met with the Generals Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet and Stonewall Jackson. He also provided an analysis on Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The New Orleans Picayune (10 April 1892) published Wolseley's ten-page portrayal of Forrest, which condensed much of what was written about him by biographers of the time. This work appeared in the Journal of the Southern Historical Society in the same year, and is commonly cited today. Wolseley addressed Forrest's role at the Battle of Fort Pillow near Memphis, Tennessee in April, 1864 in which black USCT troops and white officers were alleged by some to have been slaughtered after Fort Pillow had been conquered.

Wolseley wrote, "I do not think that the fact that one-half of the small garrison of a place taken by assault was either killed or wounded evinced any very unusual bloodthirstiness on the part of the assailants." Wolseley returned to Canada where he became a brevet colonel on 5 June 1865 and Assistant Quartermaster General in Canada with effect from the same date. He was actively employed the following year in the defence of Canada from Fenian raids launched from the United States.



Hobart Pasha Blockade Runner

Even the keenest student of the American Civil War may be forgiven for being unaware that one of the greatest of the blockade-runner captains in that conflict lies buried on a Turkish hillside overlooking the Bosphorus.

Augustus Charles Hobart, known to his Victorian contemporaries as Hobart Pasha, was born on 1 April 1822 at Walton-on-the-Wolds, Leicestershire, the third son of the Reverend Augustus Edward Hobart, Rector of St. Mary's Church and younger brother of the fifth Earl of Buckingham. As a boy he was sent to Dr. Mayo's famous school at Cheam, Surrey. He proved a most unpromising student, however, and in 1835, shortly before his thirteenth birthday, he abandoned his studies and joined HMS Rover at Devonport as a midshipman. A man of Hobart's character was never likely to be satisfied with a quiet life ashore on half pay, and the Civil War in America had thus come at a providential time for him. Together with two or three other post-captains, then, he applied for command of a blockade-runner, adopting the pseudonym "Captain Roberts". A desire for adventure was undoubtedly a key factor in this, and Hobart must also have been aware of the great profits to be made from blockade running. On the other hand, it seems clear that his sympathies were with the

South; he refers to himself and a colleague as "stanch Southerners in our opinions", while according to *The Times* the war "provided him with the opportunity of showing his sympathy with the Confederate cause." Seven of the thirty-one chapters of Hobart's autobiography deal with his blockade-running adventures. These were reprinted, virtually unchanged, from the account which he published, as "Captain Roberts", in 1867, entitled 'Never Caught'. In contrast to the rest of his autobiographical writing, this was apparently judged by American authorities as "substantially accurate."

The summer of 1863 thus found him in command of the blockade-runner *Don*, in which he was to enjoy a number of successful runs into Wilmington. On 7 August that year, in a dispatch to the US Secretary of State, William H. Seward, the US Vice-Consul in Bermuda noted the arrival of "steamer *Don* from London with merchandize for merchants here, and also for rebel agents." According to Hobart, this included "one thousand pairs of stays five hundred boxes of Cackle's pills, and a quantity of

toothbrushes" which he had brought out on his own account; the rest of the vessel's cargo consisted of "blankets, shoes, Manchester goods of all sorts, and some mysterious cases marked "hardware," about which no one asked any questions, but which the military authorities took possession of."The following January, the US Consul, Charles Maxwell Allen, reported that "Steamer Don, Capt. Roberts, from Wilmington with 561 bales cotton, came in on the 14th. instant, screw boat 233 tons." According to his own account, Hobart made a total of six round trips in and out of Wilmington in the Don, before handing her over to his First Officer, Fred Cory, and returning to England; she was captured on 4 March, 1864, by the USS Pequot while attempting the run into Wilmington from Nassau. In an interview in January, 1893, with The New York Times, Captain Grosvenor Porter, formerly of the Confederate blockade-runner Phantom, claimed to have met Hobart in London after the war and to have been told by him that he had temporarily retired from blockade-running at this stage

because his identity had been discovered.' This seems probable, since on 13 July, 1864, Allen, announcing to Seward the recent arrival at Bermuda of the Falcon, one of Alexander Collie's steamers, continued "She is commanded by a person who was formerly master of the Don, who then went by the name of Roberts. He is said to be an English naval officer, son of some nobleman, is an intimate friend of Governor Ord. If captured will try to pass himself off as a deck hand." As Allen's intelligence was unusually extremely accurate, this, incidentally, further disproves the theory, still often repeated as fact today, that Hobart commanded the blockade-runner Condor, which left the Clyde on 16 August, 1864. It was, in fact, under the command of another Royal Navy officer, Captain (later Vice-Admiral) W. N. W. Hewett, VC, whose nom de guerre was Samuel Ridge, that the Condor, having reached the safety of the guns of Fort Fisher on her first run from Halifax, ran aground on 1 October, 1864, apparently while trying to avoid the wreckage of the blockade runner Night Hawk. In the

shadowy world of the blockade running captains, though, identities were frequently confused. Hobart himself tells us that he "could not rest long in England... got the command of a new and very fast paddle-wheel vessel, and went out again." This vessel, he says, was "one of four built by R. and G., of Glasgow." This must refer to the Falcon, one of five, rather than four, vessels built on the Clyde for Alexander Collie by Randolph, Elder & Company.' Hobart tells us that he "made one successful round trip in the new vessel", landing 1140 bales of cotton at Bermuda, but that yellow fever broke out among the crew just as he was starting out again and he had to return to Halifax. Stricken with fever himself, he decided to give up blockade-running for good. In fact, the Falcon appears to have made two successful runs into Wilmington from Halifax and Nassau. Exactly how many times Hobart ran the blockade is unclear. The subtitle of *Never Caught* refers to "twelve successful trips", while others have claimed for him as many as eighteen. What is certain, however, is that he was both one of the most

successful and one of the most daring of all the blockade running captains. In the New York Times interview referred to above, Captain Porter is quoted as saying that "Hobart's ship, the Don, took tremendous risks - greater, in fact, than was ever taken by any ship in the course of the war commanded by an Englishman," and that the Don "would run into a whole fleet of war ships apparently for the mere fun of it, and, what was more, usually get through in safety."

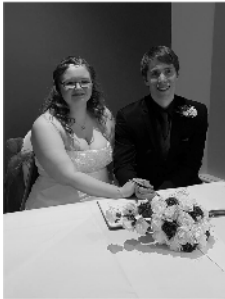
Finally, Hobart is not entirely forgotten in the village of his birth. Walton-on-the Wolds is a pretty village just over four miles from Loughborough. St. Mary's Church, where Hobart's father was Rector, is on a slight hill just south of the centre of the village, with the rectory, Hobart's childhood home, next to it. Although the rectory is now a private house, the right-of-way from the centre of the village up to the church goes right through the former rectory garden and passes within a few yards of the house. The Church itself is normally locked, but an enquiry at the bar of the Anchor, the welcoming pub in the centre of the village, quickly produces

a key. There is a large memorial to Hobart's mother, Mary, on the north wall of the chancel, while back in the Anchor a modest wooden frame near the bar contains a brief synopsis of the life of a British naval officer who found his greatest fame as the master of a blockade-runner and as an Ottoman admiral.

There you have some of the stories of the men from the county of Leicestershire who, whether for adventure or to fight for a cause they thought worthy, whatever their purpose we honour their memory.

Peter Holt 69th NY & Events Director

Congratulations



Two members of the 1st US Sharpshooters, Charlotte Edensor and Liam Ramsey tied the knot on 19th March 2016. ACWS send them All Good Wishes for their future together.

The Horse

He has carried men in many a war, and in peace. He never questions what he is about to do, for he has been our servant for so long. Horses have died in their unrecorded millions in the service of their country, from the first cavalry and artillery. Where in the world can a person find nobility without pride, friendship, without envy or beauty without vanity? Here, where grace is laced with muscle and strength by gentleness confined. He serves without servility, he has fought without enmity. There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent, nothing so quick, and nothing more patient. This most noble beast is the most beautiful, the swiftest and of the highest courage if domesticated animals. His long mane and tail adorn and beautify him. He is of fiery temperament, but good tempered, obedient, docile and well mannered.

This article first appeared in 1993 and submitted by Alan Carter
1st Virginia Artillery.

Artillery Horse

Scores, hundreds of horses are wandering around, gathering into herds and into twos and threes, lost exhausted, bony but still alive where they have been able to wrench themselves free from a team whose other horses have been killed. Some, like our horse, are still, in harness, or dragging a shaft with them, and there are wounded horses.

The undecorated unarmed heroes of the battle who for a hundred or two hundred miles have hauled this artillery, now are dead or drowning in the swamp.

“Look back at our struggle for freedom. Trace our present day’s strength to its source, and you’ll find that man’s pathway to glory is strewn with the bones of horses”

Alexander Solzhenitsyn. 1864.

This article first appeared in 1993 and submitted by Alan Carter

1st Virginia Artillery.

Quiz

1. In what year did an American president send a fleet of warships to Charleston against the rebels?
2. In what year was the first iron clad boat launched, and destroyed by the enemy?
3. What book did Abraham Lincoln say “made this great war”?
4. In what year did a famous fighter named Tecumseh die?
5. Who sank the world’s first combat submarine?
6. Did the confederacy use legally enlisted black slaves as soldiers?
7. When did the ‘father of the United States’ die?
8. Give the original translations of the names Shiloh and Chickamauga
9. In 1864 the union and the confederacy were both trying to get England and France to assist them. Who had the largest navy?
10. What is the distance between Washington and Richmond?

Answered on next page.

Answers to the Quiz on the previous page

1. 1832
2. 1814
3. Uncle Tom's Cabin
4. 1813
5. The Confederates
6. Yes
7. 14/12.1799
8. Place of Peace and
River of Death
9. The Union
10. 120 miles

Some Things Never Change

I was looking through some old editions of the newsletters I was given recently and came across the following article first published in April 1993.

"You may have seen a report on TV from Alabama and Georgia where efforts were being made to ban the display of the confederate battle flag and remove it from the state flag. I am happy to report that Georgia's Governor has withdrawn his bill to remove the Confederate Battle Flag from the Georgia State Flag, and cancelled the referendum on

the flag issue. Public sentiment in Georgia (70% to 80% against changing the flag) has forced the Governor to surrender. But many feel the fight is only over for the time being. Those who claim the flag represents slavery and racism are convinced they are correct and they will return to this issue. The threat is still ongoing in Montgomery, the capital of Alabama.

Here the Confederate Battle Flag used to fly above the state capitol building, below the Stars and Stripes and the Alabama State Flag. During restoration work, the flags were taken down and politically correct lobby have succeeded, so far, in keeping the battle flag down. It appears the war continues today."

Does that bring back memories of the furore of last summer? All that seems to have died down now possibly due to the up and coming Presidential election.... And who knows what that outcome may bring?



EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

6th and 7th May 2017

Joint ACWS Training Weekend, at Kelham Hall & Country Park, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX. Camping from Friday 5th May 2017. Full Society Event; details to follow. Confirmed (STC).

24th and 25th June 2017, MFest 300. The Battle Of The Alamo at Weston Park, Weston-under- Lizard, Nr Shifnal, Telford, TF11 8LE.

Camping from Friday 23rd June 2017, This is not an ACWS run event; members of the ACWS have been invited to attend this re-enactment by the Masonic Lodge as part of the 300 Year Anniversary Celebration of the Grand Lodge of England. This is only a small part of what is to be a huge weekend of entertainment and celebration. Glenn Gibson will be commanding the Texan force in the Alamo which will consist mainly of ACWS Confederates. Tim Davies will command a Mexican Regiment made up of mainly Union soldiers, there will only be ACWS members in this regiment. Other re-enactors from different societies have been invited to attend. Further details to follow. Confirmed (STC).

27th and 28th August 2017, Ripley Castle, Ripley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3AY.

A Full Society Event, Provisional at present. Details to follow. Probable.

23rd and 24th September 2017, Kelham Hall & Country Park, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX. Full Society Event; Confirmed (STC). Details to follow. Confirmed (STC).



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)

New Event for 2016;

**24th and 25th September 2016 at Kelham Hall & Country Park,
Main Road, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX.**

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

See inside back cover for 2017 Events dates