



17 Swan Street, Silby,
Loughborough, LE12 7NN

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2016 Summer Edition



FIFES & DRUMS AT MARKET BOSWORTH

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

Issue 181

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders

Mr Michael Smart, Chairman

Mrs Linda Reed, Secretary

Ian Morris, Treasurer

Mr Peter Holt, Events

Miss Claire Morris, Membership

Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety

Mrs Val Holt, Communications

Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster

Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander

Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Commander

Mrs Vivienne Corbishley Director Without Portfolio

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that it's AGM will be held on Saturday 3rd December 2016, starting at 1pm prompt at United Services Club, 136 Bridge Street, Gainsborough DN21 1LP.

If you are a current member and have any nominations for posts of Directors or Army Commanders of the Society and/or you have any agenda items appropriate for the AGM, then put them in writing as soon as possible addressed to The Secretary ACWS Ltd, 17 Swan Street, Sileby, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE12 7NN. These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Monday 3rd October 2016.

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

As at the date of this Notice, the current directors are standing for re-election as far as is now known. Helen Needham has recently resigned as Company Secretary and the Board of Directors has co-opted Linda Reed into that position with immediate effect.

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

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

Please note, only current members of ACWS are entitled to vote at the AGM or to submit proxy forms. Members who wish to attend the meeting are asked to bring their membership cards to the AGM to help validation, admission and/or voting if necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board,

Linda Reed
Company Secretary and Director
15th August 2016

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NB:Electronic delivery of Agenda and voting slips. We will seek to send all the AGM paperwork to all those of you who have e-mail addresses electronically by that means (to cut down on printing and postages) and post only to those who currently have no e-mail address or who have specifically opted-out of e-voting. PLEASE NOTE, your Webmaster has devised a secure way for you to deliver your Proxy Vote electronically. This will save everybody a lot of time & cost of postages. If you are coming to the AGM, you will NOT be voting electronically (or by post). However, you all need to make sure either Mike Bussey or Claire Morris have your correct, up-to-date e-mail address for this to happen. If you fail to do this then you will not get the AGM papers or proxy vote form, will you? Make sure we have the right information by NO LATER than Friday 30th September 2016.

Summary of Board Meeting

What happened at the ACWS Board Meeting on 6th August 2016

Present: - Mr Michael Smart - Chairman
Mrs Helen Needham- Secretary
Mr Ian Morris - Treasurer
Mr Martin Cross - H&S
Miss Claire Morris - Membership Secretary
Mr Peter Holt - Events
Mrs Val Holt - Communications
Mr Tim Davies - Union Commander

In attendance: -
Mrs Viv Corbishley - Events Assistant
Mrs Jennifer Clarke - Company Solicitor
Mr Phillip Clarke
Mr Peter Francis Wymss - Marketing Officer

Apologies: -
Apologies from Mrs Linda Reed, Mr Mike Bussey and Mr Glenn Gibson.
The meeting commenced at 12.11pm

The usual routine matters such as approving previous minutes and tracking action points from previous meetings were covered, but this note is intended to keep everybody informed about the important decisions taken.

The treasurer is hoping for a better financial outcome this season. The Membership report was encouraging with 28 new members so far this season and an improvement in followings on social media. The Secretary Helen Needham resigned her post due to family commitments. The board thanked her for her hard work and wished her well.

Health and Safety was discussed with regards to a complaint about pyrotechnics distances, after referring to "Safety Notes for Pyrotechnics Effect" Page 16 (8) it was decided that the pyrotechnics were in fact at a safe distance.

In response to the "Misjudgement" of range on firing Cannon at Rempstone the H&S Officer will re-train/re-educate ALL Artillery in shirt sleeve order to avoid discrimination at Spetchley.

The board voted that Vivienne Corbishley would be welcomed back onto the Board of Directors as a Director without portfolio to help with the International in 2017.

The 14th Brooklyn was discussed due to lack of numbers.

The Company Solicitor Mrs JE Clark was present and appraised the Board re letters of complaint and events surrounding the incident at Sedgefield involving Peter Francis-Wemyss and his public apology to a Members Meeting at Bloxham and the Chairman's acceptance of that apology. She explained the Rules regarding the Disciplinary Code and how you can not be "tried twice" for the same event or infringement. It was agreed that a "final written warning" be sent to Mr Francis-Wemyss regarding the Sedgefield incident to close matters and the Chairman explained this to him and in no uncertain terms also explained to him his position and how it must not happen again and how he must improve and behave in future.

Helen Needham resigned as both Secretary & Director. Linda Reed was co-opted up to next AGM as Secretary and Director and she has said she will stand for election at the next AGM for those positions. The Meeting concluded at 3.15pm

The Chairman's Statement

Dear Members,

I think it only right that you the members are kept up to date with matters resulting from recent events

Rempstone event.

As those of you who were at Rempstone know there was a safety issue on the field on the Sunday during the battle which resulted in a member being injured from a cannon blast, fortunately the member concerned wasn't serious hurt, but the fact that it happened lead to the board having an emergency meeting and deciding the following.

H & S director Mr. Martin Cross is now fully responsible for all matters artillery he will be doing all the training and unless he is happy, NOBODY will be allowed on the field.

Sedgefield event.

As many of you are aware there was an altercation on the Friday night (details of which I don't need to go into) which resulted in a member being suspended from events while the board made investigations into the incident. The member in question did give a written apology and did also apologize to the members at Bloxham. The board now make the following statement advised by the society's solicitors.

The member in question has had a final warning. If there are any other incidents then another disciplinary will be held and depending on the evidence the democratic process will sort it out fairly.

The member in question gave the society a written and verbal apology and that has been deemed accepted by the Majority of the members. The member concerned has also given me his personal word that there will be no more incidents EVER!!!

What I also don't want to see/hear about are other members trying to instigate/provoke reactions from said member, the board would not look kindly on this so don't do it!

So we now must move on and put this behind us for the good of the society as a whole.

EVENTS

This year has been a very difficult year behind the scenes of ACWS and the board of directors work extremely hard at getting events for you the members to attend and this year they have been very good at it, so please show your support and turn up if possible even if it's only for a living history/training event because these events can, and do lead to a bigger event in the future.

NEW SECRETARY

And finally (I hear you cry)

At the last board meeting Helen Needham our secretary announced that she has to stand down because of family health issues, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the board and you, the members, to thank Helen for all her hard work in the last two years and wish her and her family all the very best.

This, of course, left us without a secretary, your board of directors have co-opted Linda Reed to the job up to the AGM were she will stand for election with any other candidates.

We do however urgently need a Minutes Secretary if anyone would like to take on this role the board would be most grateful for the help. The job entails attending 4 board meetings and an AGM each year taking down and then sending out minutes of the meetings. Traveling expenses are paid for getting to and from meetings. If you fancy this job please come and talk to myself or another board member.

Anyway enough of my ramblings.

And remember it's your society only you can make it a success.

Yours as always

Mick Smart.

Thomas Hagues 1842-1924

A veteran of the American Civil War, Thomas Hagues, lived at "Nashville" in Low Street, Elston. The parish of Elston lies between the rivers Trent and Devon, with the village itself set amongst trees and farmland less than a mile from the A46. The historic market town of Newark is just five miles to the north. He was born at Little Carlton near Newark in 1842, he was orphaned at 6 years of age and raised by his paternal grandparents; he emigrated to America in 1860 at the age of 18 and set up home in Wisconsin to work as a farmer. Extracts from an interview with the Newark Advertiser: 2nd September 1914.

I was expecting to see an aged veteran, aged in years he certainly is, as his documents show but it was a well-set-up, sprightly man, apparently about 50 years old, who in response to our first query, modestly admitted that he had fought through the American Civil War. Picture a man, upright and lithesome, with keen piercing eyes, high cheek bones set off with dark whiskers, and determined chin, throwing forward a pointed bearded, with

only here and there a grey hair and you have more or less a mental picture of Corporal Thomas Hagues, of the 21st Wisconsin Regiment, and afterwards of the 46th Wisconsin. He looks like a man who even now has a keen eye, and would make a formidable shot in a trench against an advancing enemy. "I don't know," he said depreciatingly, "what I can tell you which would interest newspaper readers. It all happened so long ago, and it requires an effort of memory to recall the incidents in chronological order." He went to America in 1860, and resided in Wisconsin. He was there when the war broke out, and joined the Federals, or Northerners, under General Rosecrans and was afterwards under General Thomas's command in the army of the Cumberland. He was at Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, and Lookout Mountain, as well as the defence of Nashville when it was besieged by General Hood. As a reward for his services he now enjoys a substantial pension, his warrant being as follows:-



Thomas Hagues,

"It is certified that in conformity with the laws of the United States, Thomas Hagues, who was a private Co C, 46th Wisconsin Infantry, is entitled to a pension at the rate of 19 dollars per month from July 3rd., 1913, and 22 and a half dollars per month from 20th., 1914." The alteration is due to a new law passed in the United States for increasing pensions. His first pension was only 12 dollars per month. Mr Hagues first joined the 21st Wisconsin Regiment, and served for three years. President Lincoln made an appeal for more men and then Mr Hagues joined the 46th Wisconsin Regiment. Asked if, in the course of his campaigning, he had ever sustained any wounds, he replied, "Only a little one; nowt worth mentioning."

"You were only 18 and a new-comer" I said, "Had you a clear idea what you were fighting for?" "I had", he responded, emphatically, and forthwith launched into a spirited harangue on the subject of the Southerners' claims to secede from the Union. "I am speaking now as a politician." As to which was the tightest corner he was ever in during the campaign, Mr Hagues said there were a good many. He remembered that they were fighting round Stone River for seven days. They forded the river backwards and forwards on many occasions, some of them under fire, and in consequence they lost a large number of men. On one occasion they lost everything they owned at Chattanooga and they got nearly to their last biscuit before General Sherman relieved them. When they took Lookout Mountain by storm, they lost 4,000 in an hour on Missionary Ridge, getting through entanglements. In this connection he told a very remarkable story. He said that they went out against orders of General Grant, who said they had been so hammered at Chattanooga that the men

could not be got out of the trenches. When the men heard of it, they determined to go out and take the position. The Officers did not want them to go, but when they saw the determination of the men they went also, and the position was taken, but with great loss. He remembered that nearly all his clothing was torn out by the entanglements that he had to get through. After the war Thomas returned to England and the family home at Little Charlton. In 1886 he married an Elston girl Jane Matthews. He became a Policeman in Sheffield, Yorkshire. He spent his final years in the village of Elston in Nottinghamshire where he lived in a cottage he called 'Nashville'. He died in 1924 aged 81 and was buried next to his wife in Woodhouse cemetery in Sheffield.

Article by :Peter Holt 69th NYSV

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY

27th June 2016

Dear All,

AS you may be aware there was an incident on the Friday night in the Confederate camp at Sedgefield, over the weekend of the 11th and 12th June this year. I am extremely embarrassed to say I was involved in the incident, and for my part I wish to offer sincere and heartfelt apologies to the membership of the Society for any distress or this has caused.

I am not going to make excuses, but those of you that know me, know that I have been unwell for some time and was awaiting surgery at the time and on powerful painkillers, which I found to my cost do not mix with drink.

At Bloxham, I apologised to the assembled membership, but I here write to ensure that my apology is extended to the whole membership. I would like to assure you all that I will not be involved in any sort of similar incident again, and hope that you all agree that we can move on and put this in the past.

Yours Faithfully
Peter Francis-Wemyss

SEDFIELD



MARKET BOSWORTH



BLOXHAM



REMPSTONE





EVENTS REPORT

**Saturday 3rd and Sunday 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.

**24th and 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, as there are still one or two things to be ironed out.

AGM 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. via the web-site and FB. Now for news of events for 2017.

**6th and 7th May 2017 This will
be a full ACWS event in
preparation for the
International in September at
Kelham Hall & Country Park,
Kelham, Nottinghamshire,
NG23 5QX.** Camping from Friday 5th May 2017. Full Society Event; Confirmed (STC); More details to follow.

**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 are posted on the Facebook Page Remember The Alamo.

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, Notts, NG23 5QX. Full Society Event; Confirmed (STC). This event is being co-

ordinated by a sub-committee and details will be published on Facebook as they arise. We have had an invite back to Marbury. Cheshire, On 14th – 15th May 2017. This event has yet to be confirmed, and the dates have been published for Frontline Sedgefield as 17th & 18th June 2017. This is a possible event although as yet there are no further details. As always if there are any further events proposed or confirmed I will post on the Website and Facebook.

Peter Holt, Events Director

ACWS at Moira Canal Festival

The ACWS travelled to the Moira Canal Festival on the weekend of 21st and 22nd May 2016 and with the weather holding off and being particularly hot and sunny on the Sunday, proved to be a very popular and busy weekend. The Moira Canal Festival is held at the Moira Furnace Museum and Country Park. It is a firmly established and well run event with numerous activities happening throughout the whole weekend. This excellent and picturesque site is

built by the Earl of Moira in 1804. It is now a protected monument and this is attributed to not being an iron making blast furnace for long which resulted in it being relatively protected. This has now been fully restored and houses a fascinating museum of industrial and social history. In addition, the passing Ashby canal which was abandoned in the 1940's has also been partially restored and narrow boat trips on the "Joseph Wilkes" now prove popular with the public. Other permanent attractions on the site include the well preserved Lime Kilns, a Craft Village, a Playground and an interesting Woodland trail with various sculptures, aquatic plants and wildlife. The Festival Programme began on both days at 10.00am with the Union artillery piece loudly announcing the start of the Festival. Entertainers included a Red Arrows fly pass, a World War 2 Dakota memorial flight, Magicians, Jugglers, a large Morris Dancing troupe, an all day Music and Bar marquee, Boat and Canoe trips, a hands on farm experience with numerous animals, a duck race, a boat parade, numerous

food and trade stalls, classic cars and the ACWS as the headline act.

The ACWS were contracted to provide 2 displays during each day. Both the Union and Confederate Armies performed a full firing display in the mornings with additional support from the Union artillery. These loud demonstrations proved really popular with the public and Christian Sprakes, ACWS commentator kept the audience enthralled throughout. In the afternoons, the ACWS put on a small skirmish scenario in the Furnace arena. Obviously, this was limited due to the constricted space, short allotted time and the proximity of the large amount of public. Nevertheless, full credit must go to both armies as they fought safely at close range and the highlight for the public being the late arrival of the Union artillery on the embankment which blasted the Confederates from across the arena resulting in many rebel casualties being strewn along and behind the small wall that surrounded the arena. The public enjoyed the finale on both days so much that it had to be repeated to the

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.A Dangerous Mistaken Identity

On March 31 2016, an Arkansas man called Matt Bell went out excavating in the Danville area of Arkansas and stumbled across a time worn but apparently well preserved cannonball. A member of his excavation team who discovered the relic tossed the item around the team thinking it was totally harmless. Matt Bell then put it in the back of his pick up truck and took it back to his home in Hot Springs. He wanted to show his new discovery off to all his family and friends. It was scrubbed off in the kitchen and weighed in at 31.6 pounds.

Sometime later, Matt Bell took the cannonball to the Civil War Museum in Hot Springs to find out more details about the item. On presenting the item to the Museum Staff, it was quickly identified as a Confederate landmine which is thought to have weighed 32 pounds. These Confederate landmines had a pressure sensor fuse that breaks a glass inside, which begins a chemical reaction that starts a fire and blows it up. Staff stated that due its well

preserved condition, this meant it was still potentially very live and active and had the potential to cause massive damage and injury to anyone in the vicinity. Matt Bell was instructed to take the landmine home and inform the Police and Army bomb disposal unit immediately. The area around his house was subsequently evacuated and the rare Civil War relic was quickly taken away by the local Army Bomb Disposal Unit to the Garland County landfill and safely detonated with C4. However this is not the end of the story as although the device was extremely dangerous and had been safely exploded, its historical implications could have revealed so much more. Carl Drexler, Archaeologist with the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, heard about the discovery and hoped for a look at the rare device prior to its destruction because he says a Confederate landmine like this has never been found west of the Mississippi. "It would be a new chapter in civil war history, Arkansas history, and military history. It would really be a substantial find," said Drexler. Sadly, this story will never now be told.

“torpedoes,” as they were then known) were largely a Confederate weapon during the American Civil War. They were originally developed by Confederate General Gabriel J. Rains and these antipersonnel explosives were typically iron containers rigged with gun powder, a fuse and a brass detonation cap. General Rains first experimented with booby traps while leading troops against the Indians in Florida in 1840. His first use of them during the Civil War was when he ordered his Confederate troops to make some artillery shells so that they exploded by tripping a wire or being stepped on. These subterranean booby traps were used extensively in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign. Finally, on 4th May 1862, a Union horse rider was killed on a road leading to Yorktown by activating the first ever pressure operated landmine. Subsequently, and mainly due to their psychological fear impact, the Confederates buried thousands more around Richmond and in various parts of the Deep South. The Confederates mainly used them to defend fortifications. These

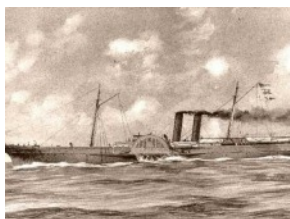
Confederate landmines are now regarded as very rare artefacts and apart from the current example found in Arkansas some others have also recently been recovered in Alabama.

While they certainly proved an intimidating method of psychological warfare, landmines were often viewed as an unethical form of combat. Union General George B. McClellan denounced them as “barbarous,” and Confederate General James Longstreet briefly banned their use. Perhaps their most vociferous critic was Union General William T. Sherman, who lost several troops to underground landmines during his famous March to the Sea. Decrying the use of mines as “not warfare, but murder,” Sherman reportedly forced his Confederate prisoners to march at the head of his column so that they might trigger any hidden “land torpedoes.”

Article by Stewart “Goober” Douglas, 43rd North Carolina.

Sources: KATV News 31/3/16; The American Civil War Project; Wikipedia.

Modern Greece – A Confederate Blockade Runner



Whilst researching my previous article on the recent discovery of a long lost Confederate blockade runner off the Cape Fear River as it tried to enter Wilmington, North Carolina, I discovered a historical reference with regards another Confederate blockade runner, the Modern Greece which was discovered in a similar location and circumstances in 1862. It is a fascinating story of the importance to the Confederacy of the blockade running trade as well as the significance of Wilmington, North Carolina in providing a vital lifeline to the Confederacy. In late 1864, Confederate General Robert E Lee famously stated “If Wilmington falls, I cannot maintain my army”.

The Modern Greece was a large iron cargo steamship built

by Richardson, Duck and Company in Thornaby (Stockton on Tees, UK) in 1859. She was 210 feet long, 29 feet wide and 753 gross registered tons. She was driven by a propeller screw but was also schooner rigged to fully maximise her speed. She was initially built for the Hull and Baltic timber trade. In 1862, she was purchased by Zachariah C. Pearson and Company with the sole purpose of smuggling supplies to the Confederate States and thereby make her owners and investors an enormous profit. Zachariah Pearson, who had also been the Mayor of Hull, felt the risks of getting caught by the US Navy along the Southern coastline was well worth the potential for massive profits being made. However, the Modern Greece had a 10 to 12 foot draft which made her only marginally suited for blockade running. Lighter drafts were usually required to navigate the shallow waters of the approaches to many Southern ports.

Nevertheless, the Modern Greece left Falmouth, UK bound for Wilmington, North Carolina in early 1862.

The ships cargo hold was packed with military arms, ammunition, artillery as well as hardware, cutlery and other vitally needed civilian products. She was camouflaged with a coating of slate grey paint on her hull to make her difficult to see from seaward against a backdrop of a sandy beach.

On June 27th 1862, as haze blanketed the pre dawn darkness along the Cape Fear coast, the USS Stars and Stripes was at her blockading station when her look out spotted a large steam propeller, schooner rigged vessel close inshore and heading straight for the Cape Fear river inlet above Fort Fisher. A few minutes later, the nearby USS Cambridge also spotted her. Following a shot across her bows, both USS blockading vessels immediately closed to intercept the unidentified vessel before she entered the river inlet and gain the protection of the guns of Fort Fisher. When the captain of the Modern Greece realized he was being stalked, he immediately raised the Union Jack to signify his neutrality and pressed full steam ahead to gain the safety of the Cape Fear river and the

protection of the rebel guns. The chase quickly ended when the Modern Greece ran hard aground just half a mile from Fort Fisher and both Union vessels quickly moved in for the kill. They planned to totally destroy or capture the Modern Greece and pulled up alongside her and opened heavy point blank broadsides on her. The British captain and crew of the Modern Greece abandoned ship and made it safely to shore in their lifeboats. However, soon after the Union ships commenced their bombardment, the Confederate guns of nearby Fort Fisher joined the fight. As well as firing at the Union warships, they also fired solid shots at the Modern Greece in an attempt to admit water to both sink her in order to prevent her being hauled off by the Union warships as well as prevent the large amount of gunpowder onboard exploding. After 3 hours, the well directed Confederate artillery fire forced the Union warships to suspend their attack and haul much further offshore and the Modern Greece settled into the sand. It was at this stage that Confederate Brigadier General S.G. French ordered Colonel

Collett Leventhorpe and his 11th North Carolina Regimental troops, who were stationed nearby at Camp Lowatt on Confederate Point only half a mile from the shipwreck, to start salvage operations. Within a short period, the Confederates landed a large quantity of arms yet a few of the rebel troops took the opportunity to pilfer some consumer goods for personal consumption or to sell on the black market including champagne, foodstuffs, wine and dry goods. After a week, Confederate Colonel Leventhorpe was replaced by Confederate Colonel Lamb, the newly appointed commander of Fort Fisher, who stepped up the salvage operations and utilised all the Confederate troops available in work groups including the garrison troops of Fort Fisher. The results of this extremely hazardous operation whilst still under fire from the offshore Union warships were staggering. They recovered over 2,000 tons of war material as well as civilian goods. This included 7,000 stands of British Enfield muskets, tens of thousands of Enfield minie rounds, 100 tons of gunpowder, bowie knives, lead and tin

ingots and numerous surgical kits. However, the most significant and priceless recovery for the Confederates was the recovery of 4 iconic British made Whitworth rifled artillery pieces with numerous cases of Whitworth rifled projectiles. The significant impact of this recovery was felt immediately when Colonel Lamb fixed them on to temporary wooden field carriages and fired at the Union warships thereby driving them from 2 ½ miles to over 5 miles further offshore which was nearly twice the previous distance. The British made Whitworth rifled cannon was the finest and most effective artillery piece in the world at the time and could fire well over twice the distance of any other cannon. All the civilian goods recovered were later sold at auction at the Wilmington docks to the public and included hardware, boots, shoes, blankets, shirts, bales of clothing material, felt hats, drugs, medicines, cognac brandy, champagne, wine and Scotch whisky.

After the Confederates had salvaged what they could, the wreck quickly settled and was

swallowed up by the sand. She rested undisturbed for over 100 years in her watery grave half a mile Northeast from Fort Fisher and under approximately 20 feet of water and 300 yards offshore. The Modern Greece was only the 3rd blockade running steamship to try and enter Wilmington and was the 1st one lost. But this was only the very beginning of blockade running. By the summer of 1863, Wilmington was the most important Confederate seaport receiving vital military and civilian supplies through the blockade. By late 1864, Wilmington was the most important city in the Confederacy.

In March 1962, a severe spring storm uncovered the wreck of the Modern Greece and the storm also shifted much of the sand from her hull and her cargo hold. Over the following 2 years, the US Navy and North Carolina maritime archaeologists salvaged more than 11,000 remaining artefacts which were housed in the first Underwater and Marine artefact conservation programme situated at the Fort Fisher Historic Site. These initially included 17 Enfield rifles, 3

Whitworth shells, a triangular bayonet, several sabre bayonets, lead shot, tin and steel sheet, wire, various military items and the ships anchor and capstans. Many more varied artefacts were later recovered. In January 2013, North Carolina erected a highway historical marker on Fort Fisher Boulevard to commemorate the wreck of the Modern Greece and blockade running during the American Civil War.

Article by Stewart "Goober"
Douglas, 43rd North Carolina.

Sources: Chris Fonvielles –
Faces of Fort Fisher 1861 –
1864; Ian Crooks - British
Blockade Running Ship –
Modern Greece;

ACWS AT SEDGEFIELD MULTI PERIOD EVENT

The ACWS travelled to the new Frontline Multi Period Event at Sedgefield, County Durham on 10,11,12 June 2016 just off the A1. This was the first multi period event of its type organised by local re-enactors in an effort to establish a regular such event in the North East of England. The event was held in the stunning surroundings of Hardwick Hall Country Park. Hardwick Hall itself is on the English Heritage Register and was built in the 1700's. The event lasted for 3 days as many re-enactors travelled up for the Friday to take part in the schools only living history displays. The event itself was mainly a living history event depicting soldiers throughout history as well as military vehicles of all ages. The groups attending included the Saxons, Vikings, Romans, Medieval Groups, American Civil War, 1st World War and 2nd World War. There were numerous stalls selling all things military and vintage, the Civil War Sutlers, a fun fair and plenty of places to eat and drink. There was also a massive marquee with live

entertainment on both Friday 10 June and Saturday 11 June with the brilliant Colin Bourdieu (alias George Formby!), the Doo Wop Dollies and the very popular Claire Louise 1940's singer with the 4 piece Swing Fever band. The pie and pea dance event on Friday was in aid of both Veterans at Ease and the Middleton St George Canadian Bomber Memorial fund.

Commendably, the marquee had 2 bars which allowed many of the re-enactors who were not attending the acts to use the cheaper one as well as listen to the music (although not see it!). To their credit, the ACWS made a winning bid for a large charity cake for the Veterans at Ease charity which they won with £42 and later demolished with relish!

The various military displays started at 10.00am over the weekend and sadly the ACWS were only contracted by the organisers to perform a firing display which they did on both days with their usual professionalism.

. Both the Union and Confederate Armies had good turnouts and special credit must go to the regulars who travelled their

regular long distances both blue and grey. Both armies independently performed their own routines and firing displays and these included the ever popular bayonet charges. Additionally, there was a regimental bayonet drill display and the ACWS band also did a drum and fife display.

An enjoyable highlight was the whole of the ACWS having an Inter Regimental Competition with all the 4 regiments of both armies present choosing a champion and having a fire off. This was deservedly won by Corporal Gareth Knight from the 1st Tennessee but very closely followed by the ACWS Chairman, Mick Smart from the USS Sharpshooters. Although only a firing display, it was really well received by the public and merely demonstrated how popular a skirmish or a battle would have been received. by the public and merely demonstrated how popular a skirmish or a battle would have been received. There was a very large battle arena which would have been brilliant to work within but this appeared to have been reserved throughout the whole weekend for the 2nd World War battle due to the

pyrotechnics required. Other displays included a Military Vehicle Parade, the firing of a 25lb field gun and a 2nd World War East and Western Front battle including an authentic 1944 T34 Russian tank.

Sadly, the rainy weather over Saturday night and Sunday morning put a dampener on the weekend proceedings and this was reflected by a corresponding poor turnout from the public with the World War 2 battle having to be cancelled on the Sunday. Hence, the ACWS and the other re-enacting groups filling in the programme to entertain the public at short notice as the weather significantly improved. Overall, this event was enjoyed by all those who attended and it really does have the potential of being an excellent multi period event which is the intention of the organisers who are themselves re-enactors. It is a very spacious site with both easy access from the A1 and 24 hour security. It is hoped that if we do return, the ACWS are able to perform a much larger skirmish or battle which would hopefully include the artillery and cavalry. Such a display would really enhance this

event. In addition, the ACWS turnout easily eclipsed all the other re-enactment groups and it was sad that our designated camping area was far too small, hidden totally behind trees and furthest away from the public thereby severely restricting all our own regimental living history/gun displays/tent lines/flag displays to the public. The ACWS next travel to the Bloxham Steam Fair, Banbury on 25th and 26th June 2016.
Article by Stewart "Goober"
Douglas, 43rd North Carolina

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to the additional delight and cheering of the Union troops! It is always important to also put on displays and a Living History impression to keep the public interested and involved. Both the Union and Confederate camps did this with the Union Army putting on a Civil War Medical display and involving the public in playing Horse-shoes. The Confederate Army did the ever popular Ask a Soldier Quiz which again involved over a 100 sheets being given out! As usual, the regular ACWS Drum and Fife Corps displays and practice sessions

were the most popular with the public and these continue to grow in depth and in strength. Nevertheless, the success and enjoyment by the vast majority of re-enactors with this event was the 2 superb Friday and Saturday evenings spent in the Music marquee. This was enhanced by the presence of many accomplished musicians from Wayfarers All who combine at this festival to produce music and have created an album of original folk and acoustic songs. To their credit, various ACWS musicians and the ACWS band joined in and Christian Sprakes with his violin was particularly tuneful and popular. A number of ACWS re-enactors also visited a nearby local pub during an early evening and were treated to an excellent impromptu charity session by an American Appalachian Folk Group along with a photo shoot. Despite this being a small scale ACWS event, this was an excellent weekend enjoyed by all with the camaraderie between the 2 armies continuing to develop. Onwards to Sedgefield for an event on the 11th and 12th June 2016.
by Stewart "Goober" Douglas



EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

6th and 7th May 2017

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

Marbury. Cheshire, On 14th – 15th May 2017. This event has yet to be confirmed,

Frontline Sedgefield as 17th & 18th June 2017.

There are no details as yet

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

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

3rd - 4th September 2016 . Shackerstone Festival

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

A. G. M. 3rd December 2016

**United Services Club, 136 Bridge Street, Gainsborough
DN21 1LP.**

See inside back cover for 2017 Events dates