



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

## 2019 1st Edition

ACWS Ltd PO Box 270 Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 9BX



Moirs 2018

ACWS is a Member of

N·A·Re·S

Issue 191

## RIP Noel Cooney



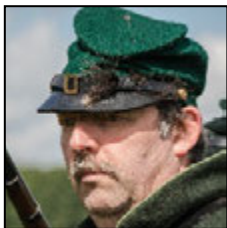
Noel Cooney, a member of the ACWS since the early 1990s tragically died on Thursday 27th September 2018, at the age of 78, at his home in Darwen, Lancashire.

Noel had formed the 69th New York in 1995, with family & friends, including the late Dave Vaun. He was commanding officer for a number of years, and went on to form the 88th New York, and the 8th Ohio. Laterly Noel had been in the US Staff, creating a 50th New York Engineers impression. As a long standing member, he had also completed a stint on the Board of Directors as the Health & Safety Director.

Our first thoughts are with his wife Pat, and daughter Frances Baker & family.

RIP

## A.C.W.S. CONTACTS - Directors & Army Commanders



Chairman  
Mr. Michael  
Smart



Secretary  
Mrs. Linda Reed



Treasurer  
Mr. Ian Morris



Health & Safety  
Mr. Martin Cross



Membership  
Miss Claire Morris



Webmaster  
Mr. Mike Bussey



Communications  
Mr. Stephen  
Griffin



Confederate  
Commander  
Mr. Glenn Gibson



Federal  
Commander  
Mr. Tim Davies

# Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members.

As I am sure you are all aware our Society has been in dispute with Kelham Hall for non-payment of their outstanding bill from the International in 2017. In fact after many letters & E-mails and telephone calls the Board of Directors were left with no option but to start court proceedings against Kelham Hall to recoup the outstanding monies owed.



court date of the 7th January 2019 was arranged when our case would be heard in Sunderland. On the 3rd of January 2019 Kelham Hall contacted the Society asking if we would be willing to settle out of court and after much negotiating back and forth (and taking advice from our legal team) I as Chairman (in consultation with the Secretary and the Treasurer, in accordance with the scheme of delegation) accepted their final offer and the money has been paid into ACWS funds.

The amount we settled for covered the whole of the outstanding bill from the event in 2017 and a contribution towards the costs incurred in starting the court proceedings. I am advised that claims such as ours often settle at the last minute, just before the court hearing, which is what happened here. I am told we did a really good deal in spite of Kelham's delaying tactics.

I have to take this opportunity to say that without the hard work of your Secretary Linda and our legal team Jennifer and Philip who held our hands and kept us on a positive track, we would Not be in the happy position we are today. So many many thanks to them and everybody else who has been involved. We can now put this behind us and move on into 2019.

Yours as always,  
Michael Smart  
Chairman  
7th January 2019



Greetings to  
all Southern  
F o r c e s ,  
L a d i e s ,  
Gentlemen  
& children.

everyone does to get away for our weekends, but I ask you all to join straight away as your membership helps keep the Society running until sponsorship money starts coming in.

I understand that most people will be unable to attend all weekends but lets all look at the events and try our damned hardest to support as many as we all can, but I know it can be difficult.

Welcome to 2019 and thank you all again for putting your trust in letting me be your commander for another season

Firstly, I would first like to welcome you all to a brand new season, hopefully eventful battles, weekends away and look forward to seeing you all again.

Due to the fact that the Society does not have a official Events Director members of the board have set up a small team located in various parts of the country to help find suitable events. If any Confederate has the time and willing to help please let me know. But as you can see the events calendar for this year is filling up quick with our Training Weekend starting at Whittington Castle at the end of March and we are awaiting confirmation on others. Also, the Alamo does not now clash with an ACWS event.

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

At the training weekend am having a Confederate Forces meeting where I hope to change the structure within the Confederate camp and rank structure of which I would have discussed with all regimental Sgts by then. Sgt. Martyn Clarke of 2nd SC is our camp co-coordinator and will mark our site out when he arrives, so please go to him for where to pitch your tents on arrival.

With all your help I believe we should push a little more on the flag raising and lowering ceremony as I understand that people now look to the flag as a point in the day to become authentic and when to stand down.

During the coming season I hope 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. But if it is after stand down maybe a beer.

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

Your Obedient Servant

Major Glenn Gibson

Commanding Officer

Confederate Forces - ACWS

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Greetings All.

Hope you have all had an amazing winter, Christmas and New Year. The new season is almost upon us with some new venues and some that we have been to before.

Starting as ever with the training weekend this is a perfect opportunity to blow some cobwebs away and complete our FSPC's for the season ahead.

2019 is starting to look to be a busy season this year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone, don't forget to get your membership forms in. Again this year we need to ensure we are maintaining Authenticity during the working day. Lets keep our living

history displays going and the interaction with the public.

During the first event we will be holding an

Officer and NCO's meeting, so if anyone has anything to bring please pass on to your officers to bring to the table for you. No idea is a silly idea all input is welcome.

Not long now get those beers on ice see you soon

Major Davies



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Just a quick word from your new Communications Director

Please send any articles or ideas for new articles you may want to me at [editor@acws.co.uk](mailto:editor@acws.co.uk)

I shall try to take even more photos than ever and if you wish me to photograph your regiment, then please let me know.

Above all have fun and don't take life too serious.



# Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of The

## American Civil War Society Ltd

Held at

The Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion,  
6 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9HY

On Saturday 1st December 2018

### PRESENT

|                    |                |    |
|--------------------|----------------|----|
| Mr Michael Smart   | Chairman       | MS |
| Mrs Linda Reed     | Secretary      | LR |
| Mr Ian Morris      | Treasurer      | IM |
| Mr Mike Bussey     | Webmaster      | MB |
| Mr Peter Holt      | Events         | PH |
| Mrs Val Holt       | Communications | VH |
| Mr Glenn Gibson    | CS Commander   | GG |
| Mrs Viv Corbishley | No Portfolio   | VC |

### SOCIETY OFFICERS

|                        |                           |     |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Mr Stephen Griffin     | Minutes Secretary         | SG  |
| Mr Kevin               | Holden Explosives Officer | KH  |
| Mr Roger Willison-Gray | Marketing/Horsemaster     | RWG |

Together with members in the room making a total of 29 present of which 5 had already voted by proxy (1 late arrival).

MS welcomed everyone to the 2018 AGM, thanked them for attending and pointed out where all the facilities were in the building.

The meeting commenced at 1.09 pm

### 1. Apologies for absence

Tim Davies, Mike Corbishley, Claire Morris, Martin Cross, Peter Gray, Martin Robinson, Brian & Marie Mitchell and Angela Cross.

### 2. To approve the Minutes of the 2017 AGM

Held at the White Hart Hotel, 49 Lord Street, Gainsborough, DN21 2DD on Saturday 2nd December 2017 as published in the next following edition of the ACWS Newsletter.

This was proposed by Helen Gibson, seconded by Phil Clark and duly voted upon.

|             |    |                  |    |
|-------------|----|------------------|----|
| For         | 23 | Proxy votes: For | 25 |
| Against     | 0  | Against          | 0  |
| Abstentions | 0  | Abstentions      | 4  |

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

### **3. To receive the reports of the Directors & Officers for the 2018 season as annexed**

#### **3.1 Secretary: Mrs Linda Reed**

LR received accounts and monies from the previous Drum Major and passed these over to IM. There were no questions from the floor.

#### **3.2 Webmaster: Mr Mike Bussey**

MB reported there had been no big changes to the website during the year but some small changes had been made to modernise it. Pictures need to be added for this year. Members were asked whether they had any questions and there were no questions from the floor.

#### **3.3 Events: Mr Peter Holt**

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

(late arrival of 1 member)

#### **3.4 Treasurer: Mr Ian Morris**

IM added that the Santander account was finally closed, and there were no questions from the floor.

#### **3.5 Membership: Miss Claire Morris**

CM was absent and sent her sincere apologies.

#### **3.6 CS Commander: Mr Glenn Gibson**

GG had nothing to add to his report, and no questions were asked from the floor.



3.7 US Commander: Mr Tim Davies  
TD produced no report and sent apologies for being absent.

3.8 Communications: Mrs Val Holt  
VH had nothing to add to her report published, and no questions were asked from the floor.

3.9 Health and Safety: Mr Martin Cross  
MC was absent, and apologies had been sent.

3.10 Chairman: Mr Michael Smart  
MS had nothing to add to his report, and there were no questions from the floor.

The Motion to receive the reports of the Directors for the 2018 season and issued to members in November 2018 was proposed by Roger Willison-Gray, and seconded by Glenn Gibson.

|             |    |              |             |    |
|-------------|----|--------------|-------------|----|
| FOR         | 24 | Proxy votes: | FOR         | 26 |
| AGAINST     | 0  |              | AGAINST     | 0  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0  |              | ABSTENTIONS | 3  |

Motion duly approved

**4. To receive the audited accounts**

As published in November 2018. IM advised the meeting of adjustments and observations from our accountants.

Proposed by Phil Clark, and seconded by Roger Willison-Gray.

|             |    |              |             |    |
|-------------|----|--------------|-------------|----|
| FOR         | 23 | Proxy votes: | FOR         | 26 |
| AGAINST     | 0  |              | AGAINST     | 0  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1  |              | ABSTENTIONS | 3  |

Motion duly approved.

**5. To re-appoint Bright Partnership Chartered Accountants as Auditors of the Company & to authorise the Directors to settle their remuneration.**

IM did state to the floor that M. S. Twist & Co had retired and transferred all accounts to Bright Partnership.

Proposed by Peter Holt, and seconded by Ian Morris

|             |    |                  |    |
|-------------|----|------------------|----|
| FOR         | 23 | Proxy votes: FOR | 26 |
| AGAINST     | 0  | AGAINST          | 0  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1  | ABSTENTIONS      | 3  |

The motion was duly approved.

## **6. Membership & Registration Fees for the 2019 Season.**

For 2019, the Board of Directors recommend that the membership and registration fees remain on the same level but reserve the right to adjust registration fees as per ACWS Bye-Law B.9.

Proposed by Leigh Wardley, and seconded by Helen Gibson.

|             |    |                  |    |
|-------------|----|------------------|----|
| FOR         | 24 | Proxy votes: FOR | 25 |
| AGAINST     | 0  | AGAINST          | 0  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0  | ABSTENTIONS      | 4  |

The motion was duly approved.

## **7. Election of Board of Directors.**

The following Directors stood for re-election for the 2019 Season unopposed

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chairman        | Mr Michael Smart   |
| Secretary       | Mrs Linda Reed     |
| Treasurer       | Mr Ian Morris      |
| Membership      | Miss Claire Morris |
| Health & Safety | Mr Martin Cross    |
| Webmaster       | Mr Mike Bussey     |

Mr Peter Holt (Events) and Mrs Val Holt (Communications) did not stand for re-election of their posts they have held for some time. Mrs Viv Corbishley (International 2017/No Portfolio) stood down, as this post has been retired.

Both Mr Stephen Griffin (Communications) and Mr Roger Willison-Gray (Marketing) had been proposed and seconded and agreed to stand for those positions. No other candidates have been proposed.

The Chairman thanked and handed gifts of appreciation to VH, PH and VC on behalf of the Board and the membership for many years of service to the Company.

The tellers were introduced as Phil Clark (Chief Teller), Leigh Wardley (CS Teller), and Andrew Parrot (US TELLER).  
Phil Clark explained how the secret ballot works, and there was short break for the ballot.

BREAK 1.34 pm (Raffle Tickets were sold)  
Meeting commenced 2.01 pm

Election of Board of Directors (continued)  
The results of the voting for the Board of Directors were as follows:

|                 |               | PRESENT |    |    | PROXY |    |    |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|----|----|-------|----|----|
|                 |               | FOR     | AG | AB | FOR   | AG | AB |
| CHAIRMAN        | Michael Smart | 24      | 0  | 0  | 28    | 0  | 1  |
| SECRETARY       | Linda Reed    | 24      | 0  | 0  | 24    | 3  | 2  |
| TREASURER       | Ian Morris    | 24      | 0  | 0  | 28    | 0  | 1  |
| MEMBERSHIP      | Claire Morris | 24      | 0  | 0  | 28    | 0  | 1  |
| HEALTH & SAFETY | Martin Cross  | 21      | 1  | 2  | 21    | 3  | 5  |
| WEBMASTER       | Mike Bussey   | 24      | 0  | 0  | 28    | 0  | 1  |

**8. Election of Mr S Griffin to the position of Communications and as a Director.**

|             |    |                  |    |
|-------------|----|------------------|----|
| FOR         | 24 | Proxy Votes: FOR | 29 |
| AGAINST     | 0  | AGAINST          | 0  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0  | ABSTENTIONS      | 0  |

Mr Stephen Griffin was therefore duly elected as Communications Director.  
**9. Election of Mr R Willison-Gray to the reinstated position of Marketing and as a Director.**

|             |    |                  |    |
|-------------|----|------------------|----|
| FOR         | 23 | Proxy votes: FOR | 27 |
| AGAINST     | 0  | AGAINST          | 0  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1  | ABSTENTIONS      | 2  |

Mr Roger Willison-Gray was therefore elected and now holds the position of Marketing Director.

#### **10.Election of Mr T Davies to the position of Federal Army Commander and as a Director by members of the Federal Army.**

|             |    |                  |   |
|-------------|----|------------------|---|
| FOR         | 12 | Proxy votes: FOR | 9 |
| AGAINST     | 2  | AGAINST          | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0  | ABSTENTIONS      | 1 |

Mr Tim Davies was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for the 2019 season.

#### **11.Election of Mr G Gibson to the position of Confederate Army Commander and as a Director by the members of the Confederate forces.**

|             |   |                  |    |
|-------------|---|------------------|----|
| FOR         | 8 | Proxy votes: FOR | 14 |
| AGAINST     | 0 | AGAINST          | 1  |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | ABSTENTIONS      | 1  |

Mr Glenn Gibson was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for the 2019 season.

#### **12.OPEN FORUM Members question time, comments and suggestions**

LR thanked Phil Clark, Leigh Wardley and Andrew Parrot for being tellers for todays voting.

Leigh Wardley asked whether anyone had come forward for the Events Director position.

MS replied, telling Leigh that as no one had come forward the contingency plan was for MS and LR share the position.

GG noted there was talk of having an events team from around the country and stated that he is sure that members are full of knowledge within the society to cover local enquiries and we just lack the Director.

RWG stated that the job really requires three people. One finding events, the second to attend meetings and to monitor contract signing and the third to organise site layout.

GG told the meeting that Martyn Clarke has offered to be Confederate site organiser.

PH offered to be Federal site organiser but will still need someone to inform him of where the camps will be.

VC pointed out that events such as stately homes no longer pay for events, instead they rent out the space and we would basically have to fund our own events. Other problems we face are single day setups.

GG stated that we need to make the membership aware of the situation and we all need to step up to help out.

LR suggested a checklist for what the job entails. PH offered to produce a list and send to LR.

GG noted that we will be competing against WW2 75th Anniversary events. RWG suggested we could still have local events, even if there is not enough space for the whole society by invitation only.

GG noted that at Culzean 2018 the local powder officer pointed out we always need a site license and we need to check that such a license exists.

LR stated the site license needs to be applied for 6 months in advance.

KH noted it is probably best to apply for the site license at the point the event is booked.

Andrew Parrot asked what the age restriction is for driving the Company van.

IM replied stating that you have to be aged 25 or over, a member and have the correct towing license. If you have taken your test after 1995 you would have to pass the towing test.

### **13. Events announcements regarding the 2019 season.**

PH stated that there are two definite events for the 2019 season, namely Spetchley (August 10-11) and Tilston Wakes (August 24-25).

Other possible events are Ibstock (August 18th) and Tatton park.

GG stated the Alamo event may be on in 2019, but no details at present.

MS added that Shackerstone and Rempstone are possibilities and we have a place at Market Bosworth if we are struggling for a training event.

LR added that she has been contacted by Lonestar re-enactment group for an event in Skegness (July 5-7), for an end of civil war going into western period event.

The raffle was drawn.

#### **14. To transact ANY OTHER BUSINESS of an Annual General Meeting.**

LR stated as a company we now have a GDPR policy available online. Recently we had a previous member contact us and asked for all their data to be removed. MB and CM worked many hours removing what they could as after checking with the police we are required by law to keep relevant details for 6 years.

LR reported that we now have a court date for the Kelham case, and MS, RWG and LR will be attending Sunderland County Court on the 7th January 2019 at 10am.

LR thanked the Board and members for the flowers and cards for her ill health and apologised for being behind with the society's clerical work.

LR thanked Jen and Phil Clarke for all their help and guidance over the past 6 months.

Griff for being minutes secretary during 2018, Ben St John for driving the company van.

All officers and NCO's of the society, RWG for his horse master duties, KH for being explosives officer, Jen and Leigh for clerical duties on confederate camp, our horse suppliers, anyone else who has helped in any role and the whole of the Board of Directors.

LR stated it was so sad to see Viv, Pete and Val leave as Directors.

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 7th December 2019. Venue to be arranged.

SG thanked LR for her dedication and all her hard work and told her she was gratefully appreciated.

MS was happy to see more people attend the AGM than last year and the surroundings were a great improvement.

MS wished everyone a very Merry and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

"See you all on the field next year"

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.47 pm**



## Confederate Submarines (other than the CSS Hunley) in the American Civil War

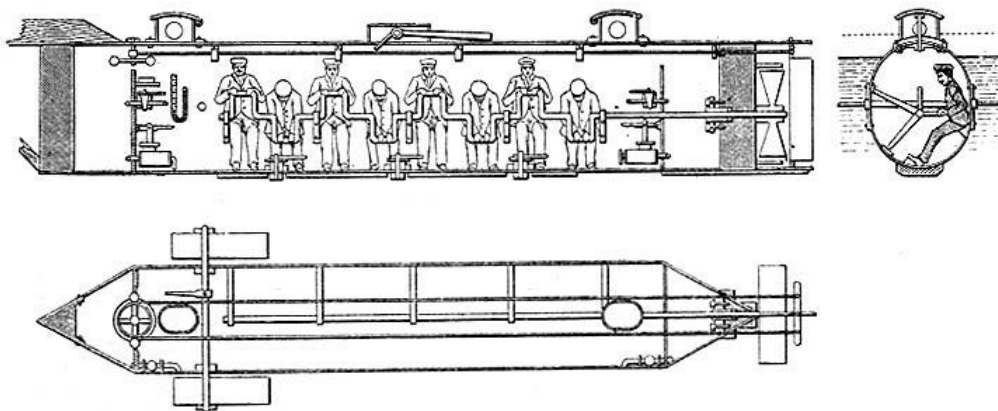


Fig. 175 à 177. — Le *David de Hunley* reconstitué d'après les dessins de M. William-A. Alexander (1863).

The emergence of undersea warfare during the American Civil War is not limited to the exploits of the iconic Confederate submarine, the CSS Hunley. Despite her unique claim to fame as the first submarine to engage with and sink an enemy vessel, other submersibles from both sides had taken part in combat patrols 2 years previously. Indeed, another Confederate submarine may rightly be credited with the destruction of a Union warship in Mobile Bay.

There is clear evidence that over 20 vessels of this type served in both the Confederate and Union navies during the course of the war. Many, indeed, had features not utilized or perfected until the 20th century including airtight compartments,

electric motors, air purification systems and periscopes. As such, this article will focus on all the other Confederate submarines other than the CSS Hunley which fought in the Civil War and are frequently overlooked.

Before examining the role of Confederate submarines in the American Civil War, it is particularly important to take into account 3 significant factors of why they differed from those constructed in the North. Firstly, Confederate submarines did not operate under the aegis of the Confederate Navy.

They were ordered, constructed and remained under the control of the Confederate Secret Service and Intelligence Services. They were

mainly privately sponsored and made in great secrecy. As such, very few records were made at the time and those that survived were systematically destroyed before ever being allowed to fall into Union hands. At the end of the Civil War, many Southerners were also very concerned at Union reprisals over their use of submarines. Secondly, submarine warfare was considered almost illegal by the North. Union reports frequently referred to Confederate submarines as "Infernal machines". This is important as at the end of the War, the North also deliberately and intentionally destroyed all records appertaining to them. Very few records or witness testimonies now exist. Finally, Confederate submarines were designed to have a very different role to that of a Federal submarine. The Southern coastline was confronted by a large and extensive Federal blockade and the emphasis was on offensive capabilities to break this blockade. As such, nearly all Confederate submarines incorporated offensive weaponry such as spar torpedoes, floating explosives or time bombs to be screwed into an enemy's hull. For the Union, submarines were perceived as having a far more passive role by clearing mines, underwater obstacles and landing small reconnaissance teams ashore.

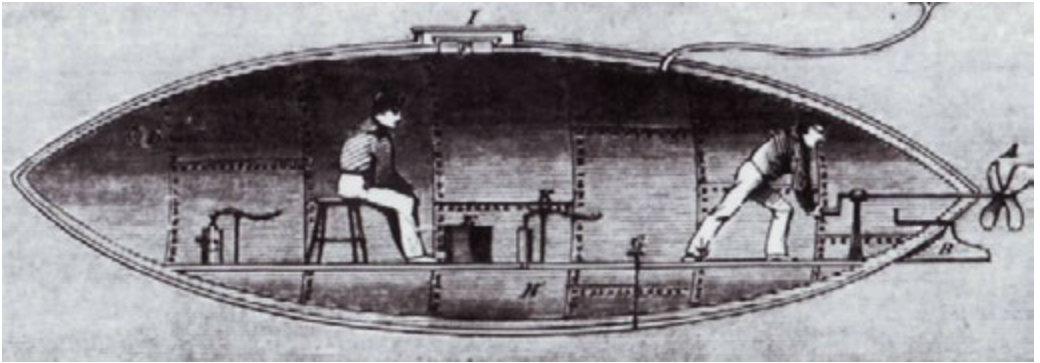
In May 1861, the Confederate Government authorised citizens to operate armed vessels as privateers and as an incentive offered for every Federal ship destroyed a bounty of 20% of the value of the warship. This was soon amended to 50% for enemy warships destroyed by any new "machine, engine or method". This attracted many entrepreneurs and engineers and as early as the summer of 1861, the Confederates had designed and tested a new submarine design. This was an unnamed submersible boat which may possibly lay claim to the first underwater combat mission of the Civil War.

This new submarine design was developed by a Southern underwater explosives engineer called William Cheeney. As unbelievable as it sounds, it was specifically designed to be manually powered by only 2 men (although the CSS Hunley required 8 men to move at an even sluggish pace). No records, designs or pictures currently exist of this boat but a receipt for a 46" propeller for it from the Richmond Tredegar Ironworks does still exist.

A Union spy called Mrs E.H Baker witnessed the trials of the "Cheeney" submersible on the James River in Richmond in September 1861 and recorded its success in detailed

reports to her Union spy masters. From her reports, the Confederate submersible had a green flotation collar supporting an air hose from the vessel that even extended as she moved under the water. Mrs Baker saw the submersible approach a large target barge in the river and it seemed to stop. According to plan, a 3rd member of

On reporting her findings to Washington, the US Naval Authorities immediately devised and rigged many of her vessels with anti submarine nets. Nevertheless, such was the success of these trails, that in October 1861 the Confederates decided to transport this remarkable "Cheeney" submarine to Sewall's Point to attack the Union fleet and



"Cheeney" submarine

the crew who was a qualified diver exited the boat underwater using a hose supplying breathing air from the submersible and planted a charge on the target barge. Once this was completed, the submersible backed off and a few minutes later a massive explosion lifted the barge clean out of the water and it quickly sank. Mrs Baker then visited the Tredegar Iron works in Richmond where she saw another similar Confederate submersible very nearly fully complete.

pinpointed the USS Minnesota as a suitable target.

Unfortunately as the Confederate submarine approached the USS Minnesota she became trapped and entangled in the newly installed anti submarine net and only just escaped capture. She was eventually beached and later transported back to Richmond. Shortly afterwards, she was again sent on a mission to destroy Union shipping but on this second occasion, Federal lookouts spotted her approach and cut the float which held the hose supplying

air to the crew. No further mention of this Confederate submersible or her sister ship seen being built at the Tredegar Ironworks exists.

Throughout 1861, there are other credible witness accounts of other Confederate submersibles being built and tested throughout the South. An unnamed Confederate submarine of 20 feet length was sighted off New Orleans and 2 other vessels were seen respectively in Mobile and Savannah. One of these latter vessels was reported as being lost in sea trials in January 1862.

1862 saw the launch of the Confederate submarine, The Pioneer 1. She was developed by the Confederate engineers, McClintock and Baxter with their close partner, Horace Hunley. This vessel is very significant as she was the first Confederate submarine to be granted a letter of marque by the Confederate Government. The Pioneer 1 was 34 foot long with a 3 man team and powered by a hand cranked propeller. She was first successfully tested in the Mississippi river in February 1862. She was then moved to Lake Pontchartrain for further trials where she successfully sunk a barge with a towed torpedo. However, before she could be used in combat she was quickly scuttled by the Confederates the following month as the Union forces rapidly

advanced on New Orleans. She was later recovered by the Union forces, studied and then sold for scrap at a public auction after the War in 1868.

As New Orleans fell to Union forces, the Confederate engineering team moved to Mobile where they constructed another submersible, The Pioneer 2 from an old 25 foot iron boiler. This boat was also known as the American Diver and had a crew of 5 men (4 men to turn the propeller crank and 1 to steer). The boat was a much bigger and better submarine than the Pioneer 1 being 36 foot long, 4 feet high and 3 feet across with a 30" propeller.

The team had by now recognised the limitations of manual power and experimented with both electrical and steam engines. However, the local engines proved to be understrength to propel the boat and were temporarily discarded. The boat was supported by the Confederate Army and successfully tested in January 1863. In February 1863, she made an unsuccessful attempt at attacking a Union blockade vessel due to the strong currents and had to cut away her spar torpedo. On a second attempt shortly afterwards, she sank in a storm just outside the entrance to Mobile Bay. She was not recovered and still lays undiscovered under the continuously moving shifting sands.

It is recorded that as well as the Pioneer 2, several other Confederate submersibles were operationally active in Mobile Bay at the same time. The 3rd Confederate submersible built by the team at Mobile was the CSS Hunley which had a crew of 8 to cope better with the strong currents and conditions. She went on to achieve ever lasting fame as the first submersible ever to sink an enemy warship.

1863 saw both sides set up official commissions to deal with underwater warfare. In the Confederacy, the Singer Submarine Corps was founded. The Singer Corps was already responsible for the bulk of torpedoes used by the Confederate Navy.

In April 1863, the Triton Company was also founded in Richmond and immediately began construction on a submarine with an external diver compartment. Although not a new Confederate innovation, the Triton Company used 2 air hoses for the diver with one supplying air and the other carrying exhaled air back to the submarine. Such a device would totally eliminate any tell tale signs or trails of bubbles that could warn ships on the surface. It is believed that this boat may have then transported to Charleston and seen some sort of active service.

Throughout the closing months of 1864 and the early months of 1865, the Confederates increased their submarine activity. Surviving records indicate that the Tredegar Ironworks assisted in building a Confederate submarine in Wilmington. In addition, another Confederate submarine of 69 feet in length was supposedly active in Mobile Bay along with 3 or 4 others which were all privately built. February 1864 saw the attack by the CSS Hunley on the USS Housatonic. At the same time, John P. Halligan designed another Confederate submarine which was built in Selma, Alabama and was also way ahead of its time.

This was called The Saint Patrick and had 2 means of propulsion. A steam engine for surface running to its operational area and then traditional manpower once it began its offensive operations. This foreshadowed the later diesel/electric motor combinations of the 20th century. The Saint Patrick was regarded by the Confederates as an extremely formidable weapon as clearly evidenced in a letter sent by Catesby Jones, the Commandant of the Confederate Naval Gun Foundry and Ordnance Works, Selma to Major General Maury, CS Army 16 June 1864. This letter read "This boat will be launched in a few days.

It combines a number of ingenious contrivances which if experiments show that they will answer the purposes expected will render the boat very formidable.

It is propelled by steam (the engine is very compact) though under water by hand. There are also arrangements for raising and descending at will, for attaching the torpedo to the bottom of vessels etc. Its first field of operations will be off Mobile Bay and I hope you may soon have evidence of its successes". A report by a Union spy dated 20 November 1864 also highlighted the concerns of such a remarkable vessel. It reads At Selma, Alabama, has just been built a torpedo boat. Length, about 30 feet. Has water tight compartments, can be sunk or raised as desired, is propelled by a very small engine and will just stow in 5 (7) men.

It has some arrangement of machinery that times the explosions of torpedoes, to enable the operators to retire at a safe distance. The boat proves to be a good sailor on the river and has gone to Mobile to make last preparations for trying its efficacy on Federal vessels. Was built and is commanded by Halligan. What I have stated you can rely on as strictly true, as to the danger to be anticipated from the boat, you can judge better than I".

With such Confederate hopes alongside Federal fears, The Saint Patrick under the command of Confederate Lieutenant Walker was quickly prepared for offensive operations and, on the dark night of 27 January 1865, she slipped her moorings and headed silently towards the blockading Union fleet in Mobile Bay. She took time to get into position and between 1.00 am and 2.00 am on the 28 January slowly surfaced and headed towards her intended victim, the gunboat USS Octorara from the stern. However, she was spotted as she approached her target and the alarm was raised.

Both vessels then collided as the Saint Patrick rammed her enemy and small arms fire was exchanged before the Saint Patrick disappeared into the darkness and returned safely to Mobile. Confederate Lieutenant Walker attributed the failure of the attack due to a malfunction of the spar torpedo. After this unsuccessful attack on the USS Octorara in Mobile Bay, the Saint Patrick was then actively involved in supplying much needed supplies to Spanish Fort in April 1865 in Mobile Bay whilst under siege by running under the Union blockading forces. It is presumed she was soon scuttled afterwards as the Civil War ended.



On 5th August 1864, one of the most mysterious Confederate submarine attacks of the Civil War occurred. During the battle of Mobile Bay, it has always been supposed that the USS Tecumseh veered out of the Union line of battle and strayed into a Confederate minefield and quickly sank after striking a Hartford mine with only a handful of survivors. However, no other Confederate mines worked that day as it was later discovered that the detonations of the percussion caps could not ignite the waterlogged black powder in the actual mines themselves.

In addition, shortly after the USS Tecumseh sank, 3 Confederate sailors were pulled from the bay including a Confederate Captain Pierce who claimed he had planted a torpedo on an unidentified Union warship. He stated that he was the commander of the CSS Captain Pierce and that the boiler on his submarine exploded immediately after he had planted the torpedo. Many of his crew were killed and only he and a small number of the crew survived. He was of the opinion that he had planted the torpedo on the Union ship that had picked him up and as such had failed to detonate. However, it is now felt that he may have actually planted the torpedo on the USS Tecumseh rather than it being sunk by a floating Hartford mine. In addition, a sunken

vessel has recently been discovered buried next to the wreck of the USS Tecumseh. Is this the Confederate submarine, the Captain Pierce?

In the final act of the Civil War, Union naval forces were sent up the Red River to Shreveport to demand the surrender of the CSS Missouri and all the submarines belonging to the Confederate Singer Submarine Corps. By the time the Union forces arrived, all the Confederate vessels had been hidden and scuttled. Surviving correspondence also reveals that there were at least 5 Confederate submarines under construction near Huston that were described as very similar in size, construction and armament as the CSS Hunley but none were completed before the eventual surrender of the Confederacy.

In 1878 whilst dredging the Bayou St John at its intersection with Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, a fully complete sunken Confederate submarine was discovered. It is presumed it was scuttled there to prevent it falling into Union hands after the fall of New Orleans in 1862. No records whatsoever have been found and its name, builder and details all remain unknown. The only specifics are its ¼ inch riveted sheets, its 20 foot length, its 3 foot width, its 6 foot depth and its hand cranked propeller. For over 100

years, it was presumed to be the Pioneer 1 but recent research has now revealed it was a totally different Confederate vessel. Over the years, this vessel suffered significant neglect, vandalism and very bad handling. Fortunately, it is now being carefully studied and conserved in the University of Louisiana.

The Confederacy also built approximately 20 CSS David's. These were semi submersible steam powered torpedo boats of approximate 50 foot in length and all armed with a spar torpedo. The longest was 160 foot in length. They were designed to operate very low in the water and be hard to see in the dark when they would operate. Although very interesting vessels, they were not designed as true submarines.

Overall, there is clear evidence that more than 20 operational submarines fought for both the North and the South during the American Civil War. Many of these were private ventures and most never made it into action. Nevertheless, this should not detract from the immense bravery of both the crews and the inventors of whom many paid with their lives to strike a blow against their enemies. There were many innovations made during the Civil War that would not be seen for many decades afterwards. These

included airlocks, periscopes, compressed ballast tanks, electric motors, torpedoes and air purification systems. Quite rightly, the CSS Hunley was a totally remarkable and impressive iconic boat as was the "first " US submarine, the Holland but we should also never forget the sacrifices of others involved in this most dangerous and hazardous of underwater operations.

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

Sources : Internet, Wikipedia, Submarines in the Civil War by Chuck Veit, Civil War Submarines by Devin Poore -New York Times 27/1/15, Submarines in the Civil War by Lt. Caroline Johnson, USN

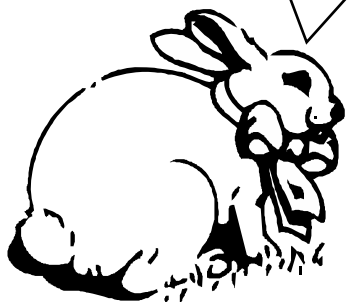


# Easter Competition Time

We start 2019 with a competition for years 14 and under

Overleaf is a colouring page, you can even colour this page if you wish.

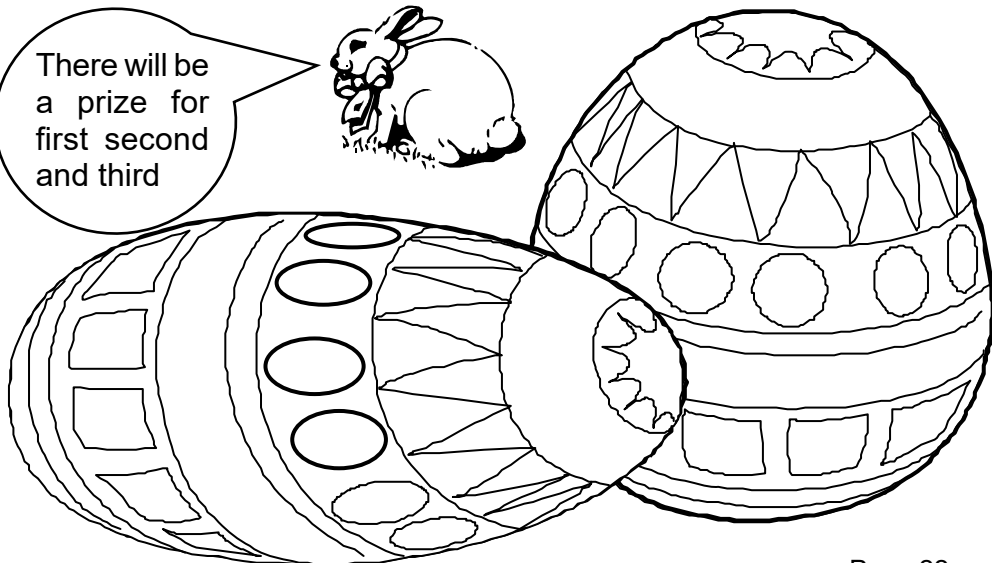
Complete your name and regiment below, then once you have finished colouring in the picture hand it to any board member.



Name.....

Regiment.....

There will be  
a prize for  
first second  
and third




# Colouring Competition





# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



*History Alive*







## EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

**March 30-31 - WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE, SY11 4DF**

**\*\*CONFIRMED\*\***

Season Preparation Event at Whittington Castle, Whittington, Oswestry, SY11 4DF.

**May 25-27 - WATFORD, HERTS, WD4 8RS ++POSSIBLE++**

Full Society event as guests of SoSkAn at Great Westwood Equestrian Park, Old House Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8RS.

**June 8-9 - SKEGNESS, LINCS, PE24 4UF ++POSSIBLE++**

**August 10-11 - SPETCHLEY, WORCS, WR5 1RS \*\*CONFIRMED\*\***

Full society event at M5 Multi-period event at Spetchley Park Gardens

**August 18 - IBSTOCK, LEICS, LE67 6LN \*\*CONFIRMED\*\***

Full Society one day event at Ibstock Country Show, Ibstock Show

**August 24-25 - TILSTON, CHESHIRE, SY14 7HB \*\*CONFIRMED\*\***

Full Society event at Tilston Wakes Country Fair The Playing Field, Church Road, Tilston, Malpass, Cheshire, SY14 7HB

Note the event is only on SATURDAY & SUNDAY of this Bank Holiday.

**Aug 31 - Sep 1 - SHACKERSTONE, LEICS, CV13 6NB ++STRONG POSSIBLE++**

Full Society event at the Shackerstone Family Festival, Barton Lane, Shackerstone, Leics, CV13 6NE.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2019 ACWS Annual General Meeting is to be held at a venue To Be Advised

Other possible events for 2019