



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2020 1st Edition

ACWS Ltd PO Box 270 Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 9BX
www.acws.co.uk



ACWS is a Member of
N·A·Re·S

Issue 195

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



Chairperson
Mrs. Helen
Gibson



Secretary
Mrs. Linda Reed



Treasurer
Mr. Ian Morris



Health & Safety
Mr. Frank Mair



Membership
Miss Claire Morris



Webmaster
Mr. Mike Bussey



Communications
Mr. Stephen
Griffin



Marketing
Mr. Roger
Willison-Gray



Events
Mrs. Marie
Mitchell



Confederate
Commander
Mr. Glenn Gibson



Federal
Commander
Mr. Tim Davies

Communications Report



Welcome one and all to 2020. The year UK secedes from Europe-Ish, a bit Déjà vu.

Firstly may I welcome our new Chairperson Helen Gibson, our new Events Director Marie Mitchell and lastly our new Health and Safety Director Frank Mair.

ACWS has another full season ahead with 8 confirmed events and 2 possible's. See back pages.

***** Don't forget to join *****

I will need your help this year, as I wish to video all the creative things you guys get up to on camp, cooking, repairs, music, drill etc. These videos will then be put

online as instructional pieces for others and information for potential sponsors.

My first volunteer is Fun-guy Frank Mair, (stolen pun). Who will be instructing us on Fungi Foraging and the cooking of those found delicacies.

A common edible mushroom is the Chanterelle one of Franks favourites.

Further information can be found at the web site below.

<https://www.wildfooduk.com/mushroom-guide/chanterelle/>

We will be including links in future issues of the ACWS newsletter as most of you are now reading this in PDF format. Hopefully you will all find this convenient.



To wet your appetites here's some scrummy camp fire scones

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of The American Civil War Society Ltd

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of The American Civil War
Society Ltd

Held at Kegworth Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Kegworth, Derbyshire,
DE74 2FH

On Saturday 7th December 2019

PRESENT

Mike Bussey	Acting Chair/Webmaster	MB
Linda Reed	Secretary	LR
Claire Morris	Membership	CM
Martin Cross	Health & Safety	MC
Stephen Griffin	Communications	SG
Glenn Gibson	CS Commander	GG
Roger Willison-Gray	Marketing	RWG

SOCIETY OFFICERS

Kevin Holden	Explosives	KH
Brian Mitchell	Pyrotechnics	BM

Together with members in the hall making a total of 20 (1 arrived late).

The meeting commenced at 1.05pm

MB greeted and welcomed everyone to the 44th AGM of ACWS

1. Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Ian Morris, Sue Morris, Tim Davies, Mick Smart, Christian Sprakes, Jennifer Clark, Dan Lawrence, Alison Lawrence, Lesley Bussey, Kevin Mitchell, Viv Corbishley, Mike Corbishley and Angela Cross.

2. Motion to approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM

Held at The Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club, 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9HY on Saturday 1st December 2018.

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

For	13	Proxy votes were:	For	36
Against	0		Against	0
Abstentions	1		Abstentions	0

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

3. Motion to receive the reports of the Directors for the 2019 season

as published and issued to the membership in November 2019.

3.1 Secretary : Mrs Linda Reed

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

3.2 Webmaster : Mr Mike Bussey

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

3.3 Treasurer : Mr Ian Morris

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

3.4 Membership : Miss Claire Morris

CM added that the society now has a chip and pin device for receiving payments at events.

3.5 CS Commander : Mr Glenn Gibson

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

3.6 US Commander : Mr Tim Davies

TD was absent, and apologies had been received.

3.7 Communications : Mr Stephen Griffin

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

3.8 Health & Safety : Mr Martin Cross

MC expressed his thanks to all for their diligence on the field. He also offered his thanks to all those that have helped him and the artillery over the last few years.

MB thanked MC for all his hard work and presented him with thank you gifts.

3.9 Marketing : Mr Roger Willison-Gray

RWG apologised for his absence during the past year and thanked CM and SG for their marketing skills during his absence.

MB added we have produced new marketing material comprising of leaflets and banners for both US and CS camps.

3.10 Chairman : Mr Mick Smart

MS was absent and offered his sincere apologies.

Motion to receive the reports of the Directors for the 2019 season as published and issued to the membership in November 2019.

This was proposed by Leigh Wardley and seconded by Phil Clark, and duly voted upon.

For	15	Proxy votes were:	For	36
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	0

Motion duly approved.

4. Motion to receive the audited Accounts as published in November 2019.

This was proposed by Stuart Wardley, seconded by Martin Cross and duly voted upon.

For	15	Proxy votes were:	For	36
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	0

Motion duly approved.

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

This was proposed by Glenn Gibson, seconded by Claire Morris and duly voted upon.

For	15	Proxy votes were:	For	35
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	1

Motion duly approved.

6. Membership and Registration Fees for the 2020 Season.

For 2020, 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.

This was proposed by Phil Clark, seconded by Nicola Westland, and duly voted upon.

For	15	Proxy votes were:	For	35
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	1

Motion duly approved.

Tellers were introduced as Brian Mitchell (CS), Rich Kenny (US) and Phil Clark (Chief Teller).

There was a short break at 1.41pm for the secret ballot to take place at 1.45pm.

Tea, Coffee and fruit juice was available and a selection of sandwiches.

Meeting resumed at 2.15pm.

7. Election of Board of Directors

Secretary: Mrs Linda Reed

For	16	Proxy votes were:	For	33
Against	0		Against	1
Abstention	0		Abstention	2

Treasurer: Mr Ian Morris

For	16	Proxy votes were:	For	35
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	1

Membership: Miss Claire Morris

For	16	Proxy votes were:	For	35
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	1

Webmaster: Mr Mike Bussey

For	16	Proxy votes were:	For	35
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	1

Communications: Mr Stephen Griffin

For	16	Proxy votes were:	For	34
Against	0		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	2

Marketing: Mr Roger Willison-Gray

For	14	Proxy votes were:	For	29
Against	1		Against	2
Abstention	1		Abstention	5

The above Directors were thus re-elected for the 2020 season.

8. Election of Mrs Helen Gibson to the position of Chairperson and as a Director.

For	14	Proxy votes were:	For	26
Against	0		Against	8
Abstention	1		Abstention	2

(1 no vote)

Mrs Helen Gibson was therefore duly elected as Chairperson and a Director.

Mrs Helen Gibson therefore directed the meeting from here on as Chairperson.

9. Election for Events Director for the 2020 Season.

Abstentions	0
Abstentions by Proxy	8

Election of Mrs C Mitchell to the position of Events Director.

For	14	Proxy votes were:	For	18
Against	0		Against	0

Election of Miss E Hodgson to the position of Events Director.

For	2	Proxy votes were:	For	10
Against	0		Against	0

Mrs C Mitchell was therefore duly elected as Events Director for the 2020 season.

10. Re-election of Mr Tim Davies to the position of Federal Army Commander and as a Director by the members of the Federal Army.

For	4	Proxy votes were:	For	11
Against	1		Against	0
Abstention	0		Abstention	4

Mr Tim Davies was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for the 2020 season.

11. Re-election of Mr Glenn Gibson as Confederate Commander for the 2020 season by members of the Confederate forces.

For	9	Proxy votes were:	For	16
Against	0		Against	1
Abstention	0		Abstention	0

Mr Glenn Gibson was therefore duly re-elected as Confederate Commanding Officer for the 2020 season.

12. Events Announcements regarding the 2020 season.

MB noted the events we have so far are due to the hard work of MS and LR and thanks were given to both for their hard work.

March 28-29 WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE

Members camping from Friday afternoon to Sunday. Public will be in attendance to see Living History on Saturday and Sunday.

April 26 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE

Small Society Event at Morley Rugby Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, Leeds, LS27 0JJ. This is part of the towns St Georges weekend of activities with ACWS involved on the Sunday with Living History and the Parade from the Town Hall to the Family Fun Day at the Rugby Club. Event runs from 10.30am to 5pm Sunday, with setting up on the day from 8.30am Sunday.

Living History on SUNDAY only. Members camping is available overnight on Saturday from 5.30pm. Toilets, water, showers and a bar on site. All fires must be raised. Dogs welcome. No registration fee but members must still register for insurance purposes.

May 16-17 MARBURY, CHESHIRE

Full Society event at Marbury Merry Day, Hollins Lane, Marbury, Nr Whitchurch, Cheshire, SY13 4LN. Members camping available from Friday afternoon. Living History and skirmish on Saturday and Sunday with Infantry and Artillery.

June 6-7 SKEGNESS, LINCOLNSHIRE

Possible Event

June 13-14 EARLS BARTON, NORTHANTS

Full Society event. Multi period at East Midlands History Festival, Whites Nurseries, Clay Lane, Earls Barton, Northampton. Living History and skirmish on Saturday and Sunday with Infantry and Artillery. Members camping from Friday noon until Monday noon. Re-enactors market, beer tent with live music on the Saturday evening.

June 27 GAINSBOROUGH, LINCS

*****Note - THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED*****

July 4-5 SKEGNESS, LINCS

Full Society event at the East Coast Showground, Burgh Road, Skegness.

Living History and skirmish on Saturday and Sunday with Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry. Members camping available.

July 18-19 BEDFORD RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

Full Society event at the Bedford Riverside Festival, off Horne Lane, Bedford, Beds, MK40 1AS.

Living History and Firing Displays on both Saturday and Sunday.

August 15-16 SPETCHLEY, WORCS

Full society event at Spetchley Park Gardens, Spetchley, Worcester, WR5 1RS. Organised by Worcester Re-enactors.

Members camping from Friday afternoon to Monday morning, shared family camp.

Living History and Skirmish on Saturday and Sunday with Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry.

Sorry NO DOGS allowed at this event.

September 5-6 Murton Park, York

ACWS 45th Anniversary weekend. Full Society event at Murton Park, Yorkshire Museum of Farming, Murton Lane, Murton, York, YO19 5UF.

13. OPEN FORUM: Members questions, comments and suggestions.

Jen Holden asked who holds the FSPC forms. Jen was informed that these are held by the Health and Safety Director, and also each Regimental Commander. Phil Clark noted that the ethos of insurance companies is always to not pay out, so it is paramount we are fully up to date with FSPC's at all times.

Brian Mitchell asked about pyrotechnic courses. LR noted that Nares had now stopped the courses. CM asked if our Nares representative could ask for them to be reinstated. MB pointed out that we have six pages on pyrotechnics in our code of conduct.

2.45pm Break and Raffle

3pm Meeting resumed

CM noted that the raffle raised £52.00

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

LR read correspondence from Dave Proctor (Soskan). Soskan can offer an associate membership to ACWS for £10 and asks if we could do the same.

LR suggested it isn't something we could vote on now as this would need to be discussed further by the board and the membership.

Nicola Westland said the USSS have had very good feedback from the Bucktails when they have joined ACWS for events.

GG suggested this is a good idea and we need to help each other to further re-enacting in general.

MB noted that we are two separate societies that do work very differently and this is a good idea. However, it will require more investigation to make sure it can work.

RWG suggested this could work for other groups and not just Soskan.

Martin Cross proposed that the board look into this further in the first instance with Soskan and if that works, then look into it for other groups.

Proposed Martin Cross and seconded by Phil Clark.

For 18

Against 1

Abstention 1

GG asked whether the AGM could be further north in 2020.

Helen Gibson thanked everyone for everything they have done, especially Ben St John for driving ACWS transport. Stephen Griffin for continuing as minutes secretary and all Officers. RWG for Marketing and Horse Master, KH for being explosives officer, Brian Mitchell for Pyros and Jen and Leigh Holden for signing in on Confederate Camp.

Other thanks go to the Pyro team, horse suppliers, all officers and NCO's and anyone else who helped with the 2020 season.

LR noted the next AGM will be held on 5th December 2020 venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 3.44pm.

The Big Iron Man

Whilst reading yet another account of a poor French farmer being killed by unexploded 1st World War ordinance (supposedly every year since the 1st World War ended, 1 French/Belgium farmer have lost their lives), I wondered if there was a similar issue following the American Civil War. Here are some stories and findings about unexploded American Civil War ordinance which I hope readers will find interesting.

In February 2008, Sam White's hobby cost him his life. As he was restoring a Civil War cannonball which was on his driveway, the cannonball he was restoring suddenly exploded and killed him instantly. The explosion was still so powerful enough to send a large piece of shrapnel through the front porch of a house over a quarter of a mile away from White's home in the leafy Richmond suburb of Chester, Virginia. The death shook the close knit fraternity of relic collectors and raised renewed concerns about the real dangers of other Civil War munitions that still lie buried beneath old battlefields. However, explosive experts now believe that this fatal blast defied some extraordinary odds.

Sam White was an avid collector of Civil War relics and like many others

combed former battle grounds for Civil War artefacts using metal detectors, pickaxes, shovels and trowels. He was an expert in his field and had worked on over 1,600 shells for collectors and museums. On the day he died, he had 18 cannonballs on the driveway waiting to be restored. Local people had no safety concerns. However, experts have since revealed that he was working on a particularly potent shell namely a 9 inch 75 pound naval cannonball with a far more complex fuse system and many times more destructive than an equivalent infantry artillery shell.

Experts believe he was using a grinder attached to a drill to try and remove grit from the cannonball causing a shower of sparks. Because of the complex fuse design, it may have appeared that all the powder had already been removed mistakenly giving the impression that the ball was inert. In addition, this particular cannonball was designed to be waterproof because it was designed to skip over the water at 600 mph to strike the enemy ships waterlines. As such, this protection against water may have ensured it remained far more potent than an equivalent artillery shell. After his death, 2 dozen surrounding homes were evacuated for 2 days whilst the Police and



Union Artillery at Tilston 2019

Charleston managed to extricate a 200 pound shell from a cannon at Fort Johnson, the site of a Confederate artillery battery.

An employee at Fort Johnson subsequently drilled out any remaining

Explosive experts collected his extensive cannonball collection and detonated them all.

Of course, there have been other incidents. In late 1941 at Fort Macon, a serving American soldier in the 2nd World War placed 2 Civil War cannonballs in a fireplace of their living quarters to serve as decorative andirons.

1 cannonball was live and exploded in the room where there were soldiers from the 244th Coast Artillery. Very fortunately, no one was killed and this incident has always been remembered as the "last shot of the Civil War" because the 244th Coast Artillery originally served as the 9th New York National Guard and saw action during the Civil War. In addition, there was another similar incident in 1947 when 2 military cadets from the Citadel Military Academy in

gunpowder in an effort to try and make it safe. Afterwards, the 2 military cadets set about trying to knock out any remaining loose gun powder so they could arm and fire their own toy cannon. When a spark ignited the residual powder, both youngsters were blown out of the shed with 1 dying and the other receiving severe burns and losing a leg. A far more recent incident in 2006 involved an experienced shell restorer losing an eye and several fingers when a shell he was drilling in his garage in Dalton, Georgia exploded. The Sheriff's Department subsequently confiscated his entire collection of disarmed shells worth well over \$100,000 and destroyed them all. Such stories leave all those Civil War collectors with a real dilemma. Inform the Police and Explosive Authorities or Keep them. But there is now a 3rd way only known to a very few people. Seek

out someone who specializes in the disarming and preservation of live shells and cannonballs. He still remains anonymous and is only known as The Big Iron Man! This is his fascinating story.

The huge Civil War shell was most likely a Christmas present from the surrounding Yankees. As after midnight on the 25th December 1863, 5 full Union batteries commenced a yuletide rain of hellfire onto the streets of Charleston, South Carolina. The bombardment was so remorseless and so relentless that it was difficult at times to identify individual explosions. This particular mortar shell was a 100 pounder shaped like a vast bullet which was designed to fly nearly 5 miles at 900 feet per second out of a 6 inch rifled barrel of a 12,000 pound cannon. This huge parrott shell most likely left Morris Island on a high arc, screamed through the air, smashed through the roof of a carriage house in Tradd Street, Charleston and to all intents and purposes vanished from history forever. Until, over 155 years later, a young Charleston architect decided to renovate his 1774 built family home. To fit a new heating system, contractors had to initially lift the age old thick heart pine joists of the carriage floor in the property. Over 5 feet down, the contractors discovered a huge lump like piece of concrete. A few huge

blows with a sledge hammer had no impact at all.

On further analysis, it was revealed to be a huge shell. The contractor stated the architect could either call the Police and get it detonated or perhaps he could try and get it disarmed. Both himself and his family were desperate to preserve this iconic piece of Civil War history and decided to try and get it disarmed. But how?

In a city which endured a siege for over 18 months and received the impact of more than over 10,000 shells from Union artillery, the contractor knew full well that this would not be an isolated discovery or incident. He subsequently called on numerous Civil War relic traders to try and solve his client's 2 undesirable outcomes : 1) Having the Police and a Law Enforcement Unit take and destroy the old shell or 2) Keep it in the house knowing it might one day possibly blow his property and all inside to smithereens. Many of the Civil War relic Traders know all about these things and one name kept cropping up - The Big Iron Man.

Having eventually made contact, the contractor managed to visit the Big Iron Man. The Big Iron Man is a very reclusive character and comes out of the Virginia swamps, cool and

slow, with plenty of precision with a back beat narrow and hard to master. He wants to remain anonymous and does not want anyone knowing where he lives. You have to be in the know to find the elusive Big Iron Man. There are very few people like him who specialise in disarming and preserving Revolutionary and Civil War live shells and cannonballs. They are a very secretive and clandestine bunch as they do not want to give away their hunting spots and of course disarming live shells and cannonballs is both legally questionable as well as extremely dangerous.

There are about 10-12 of them who are all spread out below the Mason and Dixon line. Every week, he gets shells and cannonballs delivered to his secret address in the woods. He agrees to describe and shows the contractor how he does it. A Civil War mortar shell has just been delivered encrusted with a rime of dirt and rust. It was delivered in a deep sand built chest. The shell is cast iron, lead banded and filled with deadly marble sized balls and gunpowder. The Big Iron Man picks up the shell and states there is nothing dangerous about such shells unless you do something stupid and immediately hurls it into the air. Everyone immediately ducks and scatters but the Big Iron Man just

laughs as it lands with a thud. He states that it is a very big common misconception that gunpowder gets more dangerous with age. He gets hundreds brought in which have plough marks straight through them. It's the heat and sparks from drilling or cutting that can change the equation.

So, he gets to work by cleaning the shell and putting it in a homemade pit in the middle of the woods well away from prying eyes or any passer-by's and spacious enough to contain any flying shrapnel. He then bolts the shell to a stand and lowers into a very deep water filled pit beneath a fixed vertical drill. It is connected to a water jet and a drill press. Slowly, the drill bit spins very slowly as it bites into the shell under the water. Even though shells are usually safe to handle, it is the heat and possible sparks that pose the real danger. So the Big Iron Man always disarms very slowly and always under water. The deeper the drill bites into the shell the more heavily the sweat on the Big Iron Mans brow. Suddenly, he relaxes as he's broken through into the shell.

The water then neutralizes the powder inside and he'll now flush it out. Once the shell is totally empty, he takes the shell from its remote location back to his house where he puts it in a 50 gallon barrel where he

puts an electrode to its nose and adds sodium carbonate. This particular brand of alchemy is vital to anyone interested in preserving historical metal items. The Big Iron Man already has other numerous shells from 20 pound Hotchkiss shells to beach ball size 300 pounders in various stages of this electrolysis process.

He learnt it from a Florida preservationist who worked on the cannons at Fort Sumter to the hull of the Titanic. This process, lasting about 6 months, will remove all the rust creating molecules and eventually leave the shell fully preserved, safe, inert and back in a satisfactory condition. The Big Iron Man is immensely proud of his work and feels that blowing up Revolutionary and Civil War shells en-masse is like blowing up history. He fully admits that many of his huge shells are now worth thousands of dollars but is fed up with American history getting blown to bits. He believes that Charleston, South Carolina which was constantly bombarded for over 560 odd days is a particular hotbed as it still has thousands of shells littered underground, stuck in the surrounding swamplands or in the harbour.

They are frequently being found in the latter during dredging. The Big

Iron Man suddenly picks up and shows the contractor a recently discovered Confederate shell he was working on. He discovered inside numerous nails, nuts, bolts and odd pieces of iron explaining that as the Civil War ended, the Confederates could not afford ball bearings and started using anything metal they could as shrapnel. These shells he explains not only illustrate the advances in technology but also the differences in resources between the North and the South.

They are invaluable historically. Overall, the South is absolutely littered with battlefields. During the American Civil War, it is estimated that the Northern and Southern troops hurled an estimated 1.5 million shells and cannonballs at each other with as many as one in five being duds. Many of course still remain buried in the ground or in river bottoms. In fact, very recently, a huge 44 pound 8 inch mortar shell was recovered at the Petersburg National Battlefield Site and immediately removed to the city landfill for immediate detonation. It was black powder that provided the destructive force for cannonballs and artillery shells. The combination of sulphur, potassium nitrate and finely ground charcoal requires a high temperature - 572 degrees Fahrenheit - and friction to ignite. That is the danger.

The young Charleston architect is still today so delighted he found the Big Iron Man. The iconic huge 100 pound Parrott shell now sits perfectly safe and preserved on a huge mantle and is basically the centrepiece of his family's carriage house.

He states that when people come and visit him they always ask "Where did THAT come from?". He always replies with a grin "Right beneath your feet!". Nice one!

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas. Goobers Notes: I wrote an article with regards the historic discovery of 15 Civil War cannonballs in 2016

on Folly Beach, Charleston, South Carolina following Hurricane Matthew. They were all taken away and blown up. In addition, 2 cannonballs very recently discovered in 2019 after Hurricane Dorian in South Carolina were also blown up. Stop it, Preserve history safely and carefully and get in touch with the Big Iron Man I say!

Sources: Various articles in Wikipedia, the Internet, "The Shell Hunter" in Gun and Garden by Chris Dixon, 140 year old cannonball kills Civil War Fan - CBS News, North Carolina Miscellany.

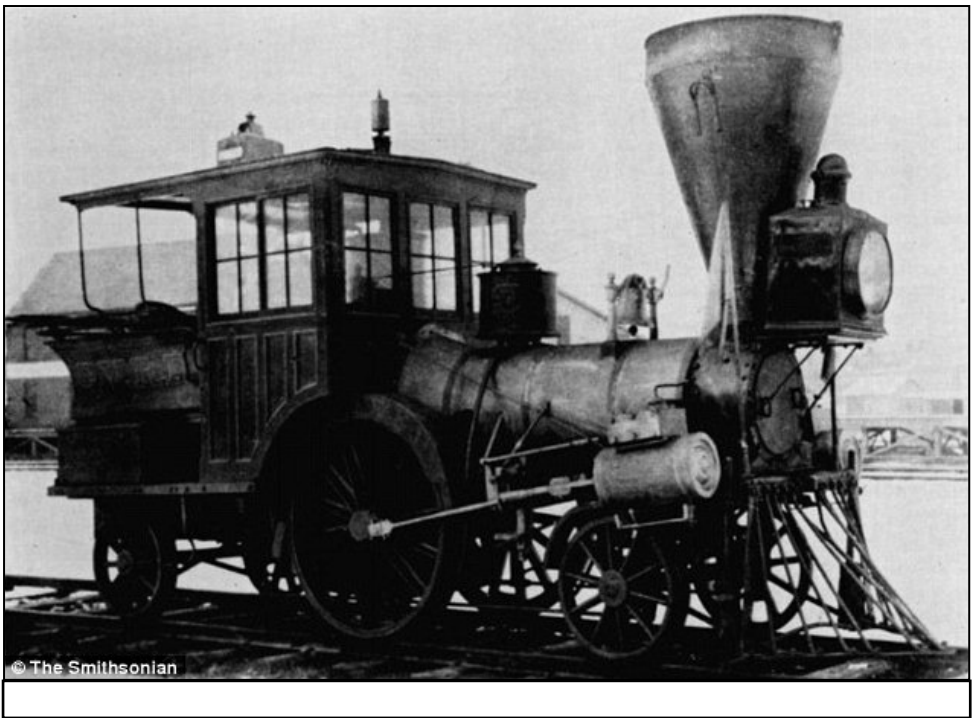
Civil War Trains found 5 miles off US coastline

In 2013, an underwater diver called Dan Lieb was swimming in the emerald coloured waters off Long Branch, New Jersey when he slowly swam towards the 2 huge "gloomy and spooky " hulking silhouettes. They were both standing upright and side by side over 90 foot down on the seabed. Although heavily encrusted with marine life, there was no mistaking these particular items. They were 2 Civil War era built trains but how on earth did they get to be lying on the seabed over 5 miles out to sea?

The 2 Civil War era trains had initially been located much earlier by Paul Hepler, the captain of a charter

boat in 1985, who had been mapping the ocean floor with a magnetometer when he unexpectedly came across the 2 large finds but they had not been inspected or visited. So when Dan Lieb swam out to see them for himself he quickly recognised the wheels and boilers of 2 identical locomotives now over 160 years old.

They even had their distinctive smoke stacks still standing. He said "It looked like they were steaming across the bottom in a race you could imagine them on tracks at a station with steam coming out of the valves, and people and luggage on



the platform." In trying to actually identify the 2 locomotives, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania was contacted for their expertise. Nick Zmijewski, collection manager of the railway archives, surmised that the 2 locomotives were of "a type that did not get saved for posterity..... they represent a locomotive whose glory days were fading when they were built.....this was the last gasp of that design before four driving wheels and four guide wheels became the standard..... it is a significant archaeological find".

So, to date, no-one actually knows how the 2 Civil War trains got there (although some scholars believe it

may have been during a storm whilst being transported from Boston to the Mid Atlantic). In addition, very little is actually known about them. No-one knows their actual design or numbers as no historical records exist for them (although they are of the general Planet Class 2-2-2 T Models which were already outdated when being actually made). Due to their extreme rarity, there are tentative plans to try and raise the 2 15 ton self contained leviathans and restore them.

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

Sources : Doubtful News, significant archaeological find Feb 2013.

Wordsearch

S	F	N	A	J	L	F	R	A	N	K	L	I	N	H	N	C
D	Q	T	E	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	H	T	U	O	S
A	D	J	L	E	T	Y	U	T	S	Z	E	O	W	R	I	H
F	G	D	S	X	K	J	F	I	J	D	H	J	I	Y	H	I
D	I	R	S	S	C	G	N	E	A	J	H	N	Y	T	S	L
N	P	I	U	U	G	G	H	T	X	C	T	N	E	R	Q	O
O	Y	A	S	B	S	E	A	A	T	H	K	L	S	F	A	H
M	Q	Y	L	D	S	M	T	M	A	N	A	S	S	A	S	G
H	A	L	V	C	B	K	U	T	A	Q	G	W	T	V	C	D
C	I	L	D	Y	E	G	C	J	Y	X	A	Q	P	J	K	H
I	O	I	V	T	W	H	Z	I	N	S	Q	E	O	O	L	K
R	Y	T	A	E	A	D	P	G	R	U	B	S	K	C	I	V
D	F	N	O	U	R	T	D	J	O	E	P	U	L	F	U	R
F	A	A	I	C	C	N	V	K	A	Q	D	L	R	J	K	E
H	B	H	E	T	D	F	H	F	Z	P	H	E	N	G	A	T
I	D	C	K	H	B	X	B	I	D	C	T	I	R	O	D	A
O	I	N	B	M	Z	T	T	E	L	I	I	U	B	F	C	R
P	E	L	L	I	V	S	R	O	L	L	E	C	N	A	H	C

1. South Mountain

2. Shiloh

3.Chancellorsville

4. Crater

5.Vicksburg
6. luka

7. Gettysburg

8. Malvern Hill

9. Chantilly

10. Antietam
11. Franklin

12. Fredericksburg

13. Manassas

14. Corinth

15. Richmond

The ACWS Civil War Battle Family Word Search (As advertised on TV!)

Believe it or not, but, the above are the names of 15 famous Civil War Battles! Some are far far easier to spot than others and some are well hidden! When you find any, put a line through the battle and the number of the battle on the first letter. So, all the best, good luck.

Answers in next issue

The ACWS Kids Civil War Word Search

A	W	R	B	N	N	I	P	O	L
Y	U	K	L	Q	E	T	S	H	J
T	H	J	U	R	A	V	C	V	A
E	D	F	E	D	E	R	A	L	S
P	I	F	T	H	E	B	Y	J	D
Q	D	S	E	T	G	R	E	Y	T
G	W	E	L	U	R	U	N	L	G
T	L	A	J	G	A	G	F	U	S
W	A	S	B	E	N	O	P	I	U
A	X	C	Z	D	T	H	R	Y	X

Union

- 1) What were Union soldiers also called? 8 letters
- 2) What colour was the Union soldiers uniform? 4 letters
- 3) Name a famous Union General? 5 letters

Confederate

- 4) What were Confederate soldiers also called? 6 letters
- 5) What colour was the Confederate soldiers uniform? 4 letters
- 6) Name a famous Confederate General? 3 letters

Find the 6 answers above, 3 are Union and 3 are Confederate. This has up down and diagonal answers

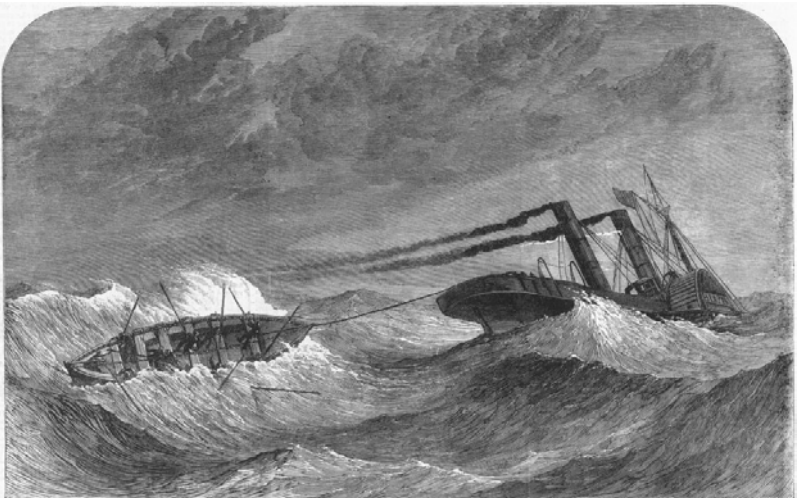
Confederate Blockade Runner Given Protected Status

On August 19th 2019, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England suddenly announced protection status on a ship lying in the middle of Liverpool Bay, England. This ship is in fact the PS Lelia which was a steamship built during the American Civil War for use as a purpose built Confederate blockade runner. She sank in Liverpool Bay on her maiden voyage in 1865 in an incident that caused a serious number of fatalities and whose loss is still remembered today. This article is about the history and subsequent loss of this vessel and particularly some of the unique features she possessed.

The PS Lelia was built by William C Miller and Company of Toxteth, Liverpool as one of a trio of blockade running sister ships ordered for the Confederacy. She was a 252 foot paddle steamship of 640 brt. Significantly her hull was built of steel and shell plating which

was an extremely unusual and expensive material at that time for shipbuilding.

The engines and other machinery were built by Fawcett Preston and Company and rated at 300 nhp. As such, it was a technically advanced and purpose built blockade runner as its design allowed greater cargo space and greater speed which were highly desirable characteristics for a blockade runner. The overall objective for the Confederacy was that these blockade runners would hopefully breach the Union blockade of Southern ports by both stealth and speed and carry cotton and tobacco out and desperately needed war supplies back in. Liverpool shipyards were always an obvious choice to build such ships due to her



PS Lelia

strong links forged through the cotton industry. It is worth mentioning that the iconic CSS Florida was also built at Millers shipyard in Liverpool.

On 14th January 1865, the PS Lelia left the River Mersey on her maiden voyage with a mainly Liverpool based crew as well as some prominent Confederate Naval Officers and was bound for Wilmington, North Carolina via Bermuda with the sole purpose of breaking the Union blockade. The PS Lelia was heavily laden and when she quickly hit bad weather off the coast of North Wales, huge waves knocked her anchors loose and through the deck thereby swamping her. She sank near the lightship Prince off the Great Orme.

2 lifeboats were able to leave the stricken ship but 1 capsized and only 12 survivors reached the safety of the lightship with the loss of 47 lives. The next day, the Liverpool No.1 Lifeboat went to the scene but itself was also swamped by huge waves with the loss of a further 7 lives out of its crew of 11.

The wreck of the PS Lelia was only recently discovered in the 1990's when a diver recovered a bell from the seabed inscribed "Lelia 1864". It lies 50 feet below the surface 10 miles north west of Hilbre Point,

Wirral. The existing remains include 1 of the paddle wheels, the engine and boiler rooms as well as less well preserved cargo and a steam winch. In addition, her hull lies buried at least 1.9 metres under the sand thereby potentially containing preserved cargo including British manufactured arms, munitions, related military machinery and structures. The wreck has just been added to the National Heritage List for England thereby giving it special underwater protection. Heritage Minister Rebecca Pow stated the site "helps us to preserve an important story about Britain's role in the American Civil War".

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina Sources: Wikipedia; Historic England - Paddle Steamer Lelia; BBC News 30 August 2019.

Goobers Notes :

The Lelai is now added to a group of ships that are linked to blockade running and now have protected status due to their historic importance.

The other 2 ships are the Iona 1 (shipwrecked in 1862 in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland) and the Iona 11 (shipwrecked in 1864 off Lundy Island).

Events Calendar 2020

March 28-29th WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE - CONFIRMED

Full Society Event at Whittington Castle, Whittington, Oswestry, SY11 4DF.
A chance to brush off the cobwebs. Members camping from Friday afternoon to Sunday. Public will be in attendance to see Living History on SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

April 26th MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE - CONFIRMED

Small Society Event at Morley Rugby Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, Leeds LS27 0JJ.

This is part of the town's St George's Weekend of activities with ACWS involved on the SUNDAY with Living History and in the parade at 11:30am from the Town Hall to the Family Fun Day at the Rugby Club.

Event runs from 10:30 to 17:00 Sunday, with setting up for the day from 08:30 Sunday. Living History on SUNDAY only.

Members camping available overnight Saturday from 17:30 to Sunday.

Toilets, water, showers and a bar on site. All fires off the ground. Dogs welcome. No registration fee, but members must still register for insurance purposes.

May 16-17 MARBURY, CHESHIRE - CONFIRMED

Full Society event at Marbury Merry Days, Hollins Lane, Marbury, nr Whitchurch, Cheshire, SY13 4LN.

Members camping available from Friday afternoon. Living History and skirmish on SATURDAY & SUNDAY with infantry & artillery.

June 6-7th SKEGNESS, LINCS - **POSSIBLE**

Small Society event at the East Coast Showground, Burgh Road, Skegness. Living History and firing display on SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

June 13-14th EARLS BARTON, NORTHANTS - CONFIRMED

Full Society event at the multi-period event East Midlands History Festival 2019, Whites Nurseries, Clay Lane, Earls Barton, Northampton.

Living History and skirmish on SATURDAY & SUNDAY with Infantry & Artillery.

Members' camping from Friday 12 noon until Monday 12 noon.

Re-enactors market, beer tent and live music on Saturday night.

June 27th GAINSBOROUGH, LINCS - Cancelled

The ACWS's participation in this event has been CANCELLED as they have decided to concentrate on the 75th Anniversary of the end of WW2.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2020 cont..

July 4-5th SKEGNESS, Lincs - CONFIRMED

Full Society event at the East Coast Showground, Burgh Road, Skegness. Living History and skirmish on SATURDAY & SUNDAY with Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry. Members' camping available.

July 18-19th BEDFORD RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL - CONFIRMED

Full Society event at the Bedford Riverside Festival, off Horne Lane, Bedford, Beds MK40 1AS. Living History and Firing Displays on SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

August 15-16th SPETCHLEY, WORCS - CONFIRMED

Full society event at M5 Multi-period event at Spetchley Park Gardens, Spetchley, Worcester, WR5 1RS, organised by the Worcester Re-enactors. Members camping from Friday afternoon to Monday morning, shared family camp. Unfortunately, there are NO DOGS ALLOWED at this event. Living History and Skirmish on SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

August 29-31st WHITBY, N YORKS - PROBABLE

Full Society August Bank Holiday Multi-Period Event at Whitby at War Through the Ages, Abbey Lane, Whitby, YO22 4JR. A three day, multi period, living history and battle re-enactment festival for all the family. Located adjacent to Whitby Abbey and within short walking distance from the town centre. Members camping from Friday. Infantry Living History and Skirmish on SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY.

September 5-6th MURTON PARK, YORK - CONFIRMED

ACWS 45th Anniversary Weekend. Full Society event at Murton Park Yorkshire Museum of Farming, Murton Lane, Murton, YORK, YO19 5UF
More details to follow.

December 5th ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 ACWS Annual General Meeting is to be held in December at a venue TBA

Other possible events for 2020

We are currently in discussion with several other possible event sites with details and dates to be confirmed.