



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2021 1st Edition

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



Tilston 2019

ACWS is a Member of
N·A·Re·S

Issue 199

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



Chairperson
Helen Gibson



Secretary
Linda Reed



Treasurer
Ian Morris



Health & Safety
Dr. Frank Mair



Membership
Claire Morris



Webmaster
Mike Bussey



Communications
Stephen Griffin



Marketing
Roger Willison-Gray



Events
Marie Mitchell



Confederate
Commander
Glenn Gibson



Federal
Commander
Tim Davies

Secretaries Report

Hey y'all



Happy New Year!

A huge warm welcome to our new members who have joined. Will be great to put faces to names soon!

New Year..... New Membership! A gentle reminder to check your licence for expiry and make sure your membership and details are up to date.

It is really difficult writing a report when there isn't much to report on!

Last year was a very difficult year for all re-enactors, let's hope that this year restrictions start to lift a little.

We have now gone digital and we have held our board meetings and our first virtual AGM online. These have all proved successful and we will be using this platform in the future.

I would like to welcome Dr Frank Mair to the board as our Health and Safety representative. Frank has a wealth of knowledge and experience for this post and has settled in well from when we first

co-opted him on to the board in January 2020.

When can we have another event I hear you scream?

Well, I for one person cannot wait until our re-enactment family is back together but unfortunately all we can do is follow government guidelines.

We can have a "Virtual Campfire"! I do believe this is in the planning stages and will be available very soon for those wishing to attend.

I guess that is enough of my ramblings for now. I hope you enjoy the newsletter, if you have any ideas or suggestions please don't hesitate to give Griff a shout.

Please be assured your Board of Directors are still working tirelessly behind the scenes and I would like to thank each and everyone of them for their dedication, commitment and support.

Y'all take care, stay safe and keep in touch with each other now ya hear!

See y'all soon

Linda

AGENDA, REPORTS & ACCOUNTS FOR THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY LIMITED

The Annual General Meeting of the Company was held on Saturday 5th December 2020 starting at 1pm prompt virtually via Zoom.

Start at 13.06

Present

Mrs Helen Gibson	Chairperson	HG
Mrs Linda Reed	Secretary	LR
Mr Mike Bussey	Webmaster	MB
Mrs Camille Mitchell	Events	MM
Mr Ian Morris	Treasurer	IM
Miss Claire Morris	Membership	CM
Mr Glenn Gibson	CS Commander	GG
Mr Tim Davies	US Commander	TD
Mr Stephen Griffin	Communications	SG
Dr Frank Mair	Health & Safety	FM
Mr. Roger Willison-Gray	Marketing	RWG

1. An explanation of voting via Zoom

RWG gave an explanation of how to vote via Zoom and let members take part in a practice.

2. Apologies for absence

Ivan Purkiss

Brian Mitchell

Viv & Mike Corbishley

Angela Cross

3. To approve the Minutes of the 2019 AGM held at Kegworth Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Kegworth, Derbyshire, DE74 2FH on Saturday 7th December 2019, as published in the next following edition of the ACWS newsletter.

Proposed Stephen Griffin Seconded Andrew Parrot

For 13 Against 0 Abstention 1

Proxy 32 0 3

Duly carried

4. To receive the reports of the Directors & Officers for the 2020 season as annexed: -

1. Secretary: Mrs L Reed

2. Webmaster: Mr M Bussey

MB added that it has been a difficult year and he now prints the newsletter on behalf of the society.

3. Events: Mrs C Mitchell

4. Treasurer: Mr I Morris (accounts annexed)

5. Membership: Miss C Morris

6. CS Commander: Mr G Gibson

GG wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and added that it is important to keep in touch.

7. US Commander: Mr T Davies

TD wished everyone a Happy Christmas and he will see us all in 2021.

8. Communications: Mr S Griffin

9. Health & Safety: Dr F Mair

10. Marketing: Mr R Willison-Gray

11. Chairperson Mrs H Gibson

HG added that it had been a very quiet year.

Proposed Tim Davies Seconded Christian Sprakes

For	16	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	31		0		4

Duly carried

5. To receive the audited Accounts

Final Profit & Loss Account & Balance Sheet as annexed for Financial Year ended 30th September 2020. Treasurer will advise the meeting of any adjustments/observations from our Accountants.

IM added that interest had been added as received from HMRC

Proposed Glenn Gibson Seconded Ian Morris

For	15	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	30		0		5

Duly carried

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

Proposed Mike Bussey Seconded Claire Morris

For	17	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	31		0		4

Duly carried

7. Membership & Registration Fees for the 2020 Season.

As the Board of Directors had made the decision for a 12 month extension to the 2020 membership due to Cov-Id-19, the 2021 membership and registration fees will remain on the same level but we shall reserve the right to adjust registration fees as per ACWS Bye-Law 8.9.

Proposed Stephen Griffin Seconded Claire Morris

For	18	Against	0	Abstention	0
Proxy	34		0		1

Duly carried

FM joined and apologised

8. Election of Board of Directors

The following Directors are standing for re-election for the 2020 Season unopposed: -

Secretary Mrs L Reed

For	17	Against	0	Abstention	0
Proxy	33		0		2

Re-elected by clear majority

Treasurer Mr I Morris

For	18	Against	0	Abstention	0
Proxy	33		0		2

Re-elected by clear majority

Events Mrs C Mitchell

For	18	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	31		0		1

Re-elected by clear majority

Membership Miss C Morris

For	18	Against	0	Abstention	0
Proxy	34		0		1

Re-elected by clear majority

Communications Mr S Griffin

For	17	Against	1	Abstention	1
Proxy	34		0		1

Re-elected by clear majority

LR explained that the Board of Directors had co-opted FM on to the board at the beginning of the 2020 season so the vote was for FM to be elected on to the board by the membership.

FM added that he was a chemistry lecturer and he has experience with risk assessments and being compliant within the law.

Health & Safety Dr F Mair

For	17	Against	1	Abstention	0
Proxy	34		0		1

Elected by a clear majority

Webmaster Mr M Bussey

For	17	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	34		0		1

Re-elected by clear majority

Marketing Mr R Willison-Gray

For	15	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	32		1		2

Re-elected by clear majority

Chairperson Mrs H Gibson

For	18	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	29		1		5

Re-elected by clear majority

9. Election of Mr T Davies to the position of Federal Army Commander & as a Director

by the members of the Federal Army.

For	5	Against	0	Abstention	1
Proxy	17		0		1

Re-elected by clear majority

10. Election of Mr G Gibson to the position of Confederate Army Commander & as a Director

by the members of the Confederate Army

For	7	Against	0	Abstention	0
Proxy	15		0		0

Re-elected by clear majority

Short break at 14.06

Recommended at 14.12

11. Events update regarding the 2021 Season

MM thanked everyone for re-electing her into the Events position in what has been a challenging year.

11 events to date between March and August 2021, but not all are on the website as some are prospective events.

MM added that unfortunately herself and the rest of the board have had to make some difficult and unpopular decisions during the 2020 season due to cov-id, rest assured these decisions were made within guidelines of the government and to protect the membership and the society as a whole.

MM reassured the membership that she will keep in touch via the website, members page on Facebook and the newsletter regarding events. The legal team will be consulted regarding the possibility of a cov-id clause within the present contract.

MB shared the screen off the ACWS website to show the up to date events for 2021.

A new member asked What if as a new member he couldn't attend all events?

MM reassured the new member that nobody is required to attend every event as people have personal commitments. The events over a season are quite widespread and hopefully something nearby for everyone in the hope that most of the membership could attend some if not all events.

The new member stated he would attend what events he could as he has work commitments and was just clarifying there was no contracted commitment. MM was thanked for answering his question.

12. OPEN FORUM: Members question time, comments and suggestions.

A member asked a question regarding deactivated weapons.

FM stated that there is nothing anyone outside government can do and the ACWS is a member of NARES. This is an organisation that represents the interests of all re-enactors to government, and it is they that are the best source of guidance on these issues.

LR stated that this was more than likely a rumour on the re-enacting front and NARES have not raised a concern at present.

Another question asked by the same member was about what preparations have the board put in place for the effective management of negative behaviour in the current climate in the UK and how can we protect our hobby against unwanted attention and protect the membership accordingly.

There was a long discussion and several board members gave their input.

The advice from the board of directors was not to engage with any altercation, conduct yourself accordingly and withdraw yourself from the situation and direct the subject to our nominated representative. RWG is our nominated board member and he has experience in this sector.

Any interaction could easily be taken out of context like it has been with other re-enactment groups portraying a different period of history. A suggestion was to just comment you yourself are an actor and do not have the answer and then direct to the designated board member.

We need to make sure we are factual and dispel myths. RWG will be working with MM in the future.

A member had a concern about attendance figures.

LR commented that we have a very positive relationship with Soskan and other smaller independent groups and we do reach out when we have an event to cater for them.

Christian Sprakes asked whether anyone would like to have a go at narrating as he can't always make every event.

MB did acknowledge that Martyn Clarke had stepped in a couple of times and it was very much appreciated. RWG has offered to narrate if there is an event in which he attends and no cavalry are present.

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

HG stated that the Powder Master appeal is still ongoing. If anyone would like more information please contact Kevin Holden or a board member.

Another member asked about lowering the profile of the battle flag being displayed at events.

MB stated that education is a good way forward.

GG noted that if a client has a concern our Events Director will offer reassurance and can adapt the contract accordingly to suit.

RWG thanked CM for her work in raising the society's digital profile and explained how we are moving forward digitally.

Martin Cross tendered his resignation from Lead of Artillery and has spoken with TD regarding a non combatant role on US Staff. Martin also thanked and congratulated FM on his new position as Health & Safety director.

Sincere thanks were given to the board and all the membership for their kind messages, cards and gifts during his recent surgery.

The board thanked Martin and wished him well.

HG thanked the board for their dedication and support, hoping everyone will stay safe and have a lovely Christmas. She added that hopefully we can enjoy our hobby and our way of life again soon.

Thanks was offered to everyone who voted either via post, electronically or Zoom.

LR added thanks personally to all the board and members for their input and stated "We've gone Digital".

LR stated the next AGM will be held on Saturday 4th December 2021 at a location to be confirmed.

Meeting ended 15.08pm



ACWS Explosives Officer Needed

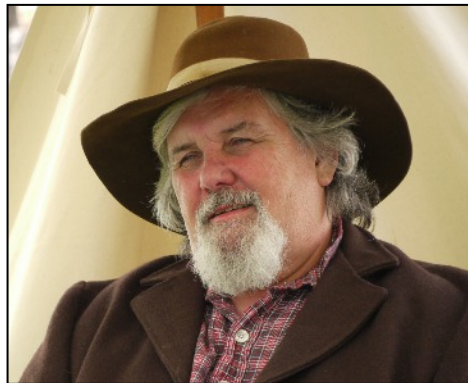
Kevin Holden will be leaving the position of Explosives Officer in 2020.

Would you like a role in the ACWS as Explosive Officer. See what the role entails below.

You would be responsible for acquiring black powder and breaking this down into 500g containers. Powder will be handed at specific events and you will be required to maintain records of how much you hand out and who to.

All licences must be checked on a regular basis of all society members and records updated as new licences are acquired.

You may need to setup a powder store on site and all equipment is stored in secured trailer, which can be towed to an event that requires it. ACWS will pay for your Explosives Licence as a new licence will be required for this position.



If you don't have a tow bar, ACWS will pay for one to be fitted to your car, but please note. If ACWS do pay for this we ask you to remain as Explosives Officer for a minimum of 2 years.

You won't be left on your own as you can shadow Kevin during 2021 in order to learn all that the role requires.

Please contact a member of the board if you wish to apply for this role.



The secrets of a Confederate Blockade Runner and how a long lost Confederate Perfume has just got a second life after 150 years

On the 6th September 1864, the iron built side wheel steamship, the Mary Celestia, slammed into the reef off the Gibbs lighthouse on Bermudas southern shore. It sank in just 8 minutes. The skeleton of the wreck still lies there today, 57 feet below, and is now one of the "top ten" diving attractions for all the holidaymaker's that swarm around the crystal clear, blue, warm and shimmering coral waters off Bermudas coastline.

However, it also remains a vitally significant historical and archaeological site due to its connection with one of the most hazardous aspects of American Civil War Naval history - blockade running. The site has been investigated on numerous occasions and the only remnants discovered were a handful of empty bottles which have been placed in the Bermuda National Trust Museum for the occasional visitor under the islands custodian of historic wrecks namely Philippe Max Rouja. This is the amazing story of the Mary Celestia and what happened afterwards to some of the small but precious artefacts recovered.

The Mary Celestia was a Confederate blockade runner. It was

built, as many Confederate ships were, in Liverpool, England. It was designed by William C Miller and Sons and launched in February 1864. It registered 207 tons which is correspondent with the amount of cargo it was allowed to transport. It departed the Liverpool docks in April 1864 following installation of its boilers and engines and arrived in Bermuda in May 1864.

On arrival, it immediately began its life as a Confederate blockade runner and commenced the first of 4 known trips to Wilmington, North Carolina. It is estimated that it may well have made as many as 8 clandestine trips but no definitive records exist. The ship was commissioned by William and James Crenshaw of Richmond, Virginia to serve their business interests in the UK and Bermuda.

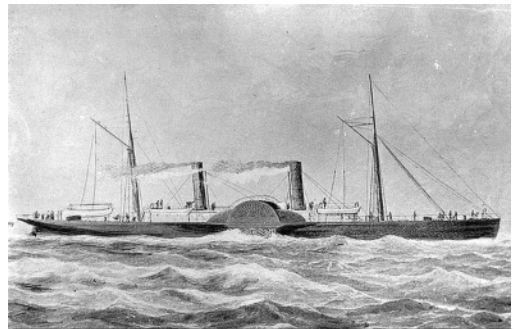
The Confederate blockade runner was the Southern response to the Unions blockade of all the Confederate ports on the Eastern Coast. The Union blockade strategy was known as the "Anaconda Plan" which involved some 500 Union ships patrolling the 12 major ports and approximately 3,500 miles of Confederate coastline. It was an

attempt to economically starve and strangle the Confederacy by preventing exports such as cotton and tobacco to Europe as well as the import of vitally needed military and food supplies. Great Britain played a pivotal role in the development of the blockade running business as it maintained huge investments in the South and were recipients of many exported goods, particularly cotton. To protect these lucrative interests, British investors had engineered steamships that were longer, narrower and much faster than the conventional steamers of the Union blockading fleet.

By May 1864, the war situation was becoming critical for the South and the Confederate Congress needed cargoes that would help to reverse the tide of the war. As such, they passed a law banning non essential items operated by government owned runners and demanded goods such as uniforms, boots, medicine, weapons and ammunition be imported rather than high value luxury products (eg perfumes, ladies clothes and wines) that made much larger profits.

It was during this time and within this background that the brief yet dramatic career of the Mary Celestia took place. On one occasion, she was chased by a Union Navy blockader but managed to avoid

capture by throwing 100 bales of cotton (value \$100,000) overboard and the engineer overriding the safety valves to obtain a speed of 17 knots which left the US Navy blockader in its wake. On another occasion, the ships crew was riddled with yellow fever with the North Carolina pilot being particularly ill. However, he managed to stay at his post and navigate the ship past the dangerous approaches to Wilmington, North Carolina and into the safety of Cape Fear river before immediately collapsing and dying.



Mary Celestia

The Mary Celestia final voyage occurred when it departed from Bermuda with a Confederate government mandated cargo of canned beef and general merchandise (which was actually ammunition and Enfield Rifles) for Wilmington. As it began its journey, it steamed along the southern shore of the island with the intention of dropping off the owner and pilot near Gibbs Point Lighthouse where they both lived.

However, as they approached the shore, the pilot still in control shouted in response to a warning of rocks ahead by the chief mate that he knew the reefs and rocks as well as his own house and promptly struck the reef. All the crew abandoned ship and it sank in several minutes. The Mary Celestia had only been afloat for 4 months. Skin divers salvaged much of the cargo at the time and it remained relatively undisturbed for 150 years.

However, on 22 August 2009, Hurricane Bill passed 80 miles off Bermuda with its 75 miles per hour winds. The result was tons of sand being washed off the wreck of the Mary Celestia in particular revealing for the first time the very front section of the bow known as the forepeak including the well preserved remains of the boatswain's locker. Following careful investigation, a number of artefacts and a crate were revealed. These included a number of intact sealed bottles of wine, 2 small glass bottles sealed with glass stoppers containing rare perfumes from Piesse and Lubin, Bond Street, London, (now defunct) and another perfume bottle containing Florida Water (citrus cologne) from Murray and Lindman, New York.

Although this firm has now re-located to New Jersey, the original 1808 formula for Florida Water

(citrus cologne), enjoyed by Southerners in 1864, is still available today. A nice and refreshing aftershave! In addition, various pairs of handmade leather shoes were also found. However, what is so remarkable is what actually happened to the 2 remaining bottles of "Piesse and Lubin London". Save for some mineral deposits that had formed on them, the 2 bottles appeared to be intact. One still contained a small air bubble inside, which otherwise would have been forced out by seawater. Etched clearly on the glass were the names "Piesse and Lubin London."

As a result of his findings, custodian Philippe Max Rouja brought the bottles to Isabelle Ramsay-Brackstone, the owner of a local boutique perfume store called Lili Bermuda. Ramsay-Brackstone immediately knew they were an extremely rare find. "In the 1800s, London was a center of the perfume industry and Piesse and Lubin was the name of a prominent perfume house on Bond Street," she says. "It was a perfume that Queen Victoria would have worn." Ramsay-Brackstone, who also forges her own scents, was inspired and wondered if she could recreate these subtle fragrances 150 years later.

According to Bermuda's law, all artifacts recovered from the sea become property of the government, joining the collection at the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute. However, Ramsay-Brackstone obtained permission to temporarily keep the bottles as she pursued her recreation. She took her finds to New Jersey, where her friend and fellow perfumer Jean Claude Delville worked for Drom Fragrances.

After carefully scraping the mineral deposits off the bottles and opening them, Ramsay-Brackstone and Jean Claude Delville savored the scents. One bottle gave off a whiff of a rotten smell. Sadly and unfortunately, some seawater had seeped in and spoiled the fragrance. But the other specimen survived intact after 150 years underwater. According to the duo, it smelled of orange, bergamot and grapefruit with a faint aroma of flowers and sandalwood. (Think Chanel's Coco Noir). There were also some musky "animal notes," such as civet or ambergris, which were derived from animal glands in the 19th century. Unlike most modern fragrances that differentiate scents into "female" (floral or fruity notes) and "male" (woody notes), the old perfume contained both. At the time of the Civil War, perfumers didn't yet make gender distinctions. In addition, having examined the

annals of perfume fragrances, many of Puisse scent records were lost,

So Ramsay-Brackstone and Delville resorted to their own olfactory senses. After a lot of sniffing and guessing, the duo settled on a few key ingredients, including orange flower, roses, sandalwood, and vanilla. "We used the chromatograph and my nose to do the reconstitution," says Delville, adding that he and Ramsay-Blackstone tried very hard to achieve the perfume's exact aroma. "We didn't want to recreate just a modern version of the fragrance. We wanted to stay true to the original scent."

To complicate matters further, the two perfumers also had to find modern alternatives to civet and ambergris which are animal-sourced ingredients that would be considered unethical today. "Ambergris comes from sperm whales," says Ramsay-Brackstone. "It's something they spit out like cats do with their fur balls, so it floats in the ocean until it washes out on the beach." Therefore, it can sometimes be found naturally and without any harm caused to the animal, but even so, it can't make a reliable and consistent ingredient. "In the old days people would gather it and use it, but in 2020 no one does it," Ramsay-Blackstone adds.

In lieu of those controversial ingredients, the pair turned to man-made musk molecules, which today are engineered in labs safely and reliably. "I found a very specific synthetic musk called exaltone," says Delville. "It gives the final polish and beauty to the scent."

Beyond finding modern-day alternatives to 19th-century scents, the team also had to use different solvents. Those used by Piesse 150 years ago were skin irritants, but back then, that was of little concern since people in the 1800s didn't wear perfume on their skin. They splashed it on their capes and scarves to protect themselves from the stench of London's filthy streets, Ramsay-Brackstone says.

Once they settled on the ingredients, the two perfumers still had to figure out their exact proportions by trial and error. That took about 110 iterations and many months, Delville recalls. He kept mixing the ingredients in different amounts and letting them age for several weeks, after which he would send promising samples to Ramsay-Blackstone, who had since returned home to Bermuda.

Finally, when they got close to what they presumed was the original formula, Delville flew to Bermuda. The local scents naturally present in

the air-sea, salt, and sand-and even the altitude can affect how a smell is perceived, he explains. "You have to do the final touches at the location where you will launch your fragrance," he says. "We both agreed on what needed to be done-we had to increase the level of orange flower and sandalwood."

The two perfumers named their creation Mary Celestia as they believed that the bottle was originally intended as a gift, and she wanted to honor that long-gone relationship. "Perfume, even 150 years ago, was meant to be an intimate gift between two people who had profound feelings for each other," she adds.

Ramsay-Brackstone issued a limited edition of the restored scent in September 2014-a century and a half after the ship's demise. That run included 1,864 bottles, a reference to the year the ship sank. She donated some of the proceeds to the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, also known as PADI, an organization that teaches young Bermudians how to dive, an important skill at on the island. "This perfume waited for 150 years to be worn," Ramsay-Brackstone says. "We were really excited to bring it to the people."

But that's not just what happened with this particular revival. The

fragrance was multifaceted, and consumers responded enthusiastically to its electric array of aromatic components. The limited edition quickly ran out and customers wanted more, a lot more. So they had to make more. Today, in 2020 Mary Celestia is sold at Lili Bermuda and online for \$130. It also comes in a travel size pack at \$35. In addition, the makers felt that as the perfume aged it became richer, akin to a good wine. "The older it gets, the more of its personality comes out," says Delville, who since started his own company, The Society of Scent. "What Piesse did a century and a half ago was magic, which we are enjoying today. "This perfume waited for 150 years to be worn," Ramsay-Brackstone says. "We were really excited to bring it to the people."

This extraordinary contraband was clearly someone's personal hidden stash. It was subject to both immediate confiscation by both the Union and Confederate Authorities. Although not a substantial hoard, it was clearly hidden from the owners and captain and would have fetched a very handsome profit in Wilmington. Or, perhaps, a very nice present for family members. Sometimes, even now in 2020, personal stories are emerging that provide intimate insights that never see the light of day in comparison to

the big names and events that took place during the American Civil War.

So if your curious about how Queen Victoria smelt or some Southern Belle from Charleston get yourself a bottle of Mary Celestia. However, if you fancy a more authentic and pungent rebel aroma go and join The Liberty Rifles round their campfire!



A bottle and the packaging for the new perfume in the Lili Bermuda boutique.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas.

Footnote: The success of the Union Naval blockade played a major role in the eventual victory over the Confederacy. By the end of the War, the Union Navy had captured more than 1,100 Confederate blockade runners and had destroyed or run aground another 355 Vessels.

3 bodies found at the Alamo

Archaeologists have just discovered 3 bodies at the historic site of the Alamo Mission in San Antonio, Texas. The Alamo is the site of one of the most famous battles in American history in which nearly 200 Texian defenders including Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett held out for 13 days before they were killed in March 1836 in a battle with overwhelming Mexican forces numbering nearly 2,000 during the war for Texas independence from Mexico. Although most of the defenders were killed, "Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry and the siege led to Texas becoming part of the United States in 1846. The site in San Antonio was first established as a Spanish mission in 1744. This is the amazing story of the recent discovery from this most historic site.

The state of Texas and the city of San Antonio are currently in the early stages of a \$450 million plan to redevelop the historic site. As such, experts were working around the Alamo church and the site's Long Barrack to install moisture monitoring equipment and locate the foundations of the 300 year old structures when they made the startling discoveries. "The remains encountered appear to be indicative of a teenage or young adult, infant and large adult" explained the Texas General Land Office and the Alamo

Mission Archaeological Advisory Committee. "Upon discovery of the remains, the long established human remains protocol was activated, the on site tribal monitor was notified and excavation of the particular site was halted". Due to respect for the deceased, no pictures of the remains will be released. The 3 bodies were found in the nave and what is also known as the Monks Burial Room inside the Alamo Church. Both the Alamo Church and the Long Barrack are the only 2 remaining structures that survived the siege in 1836 and still remain almost intact.

However, the discovery of the 3 human graves in the church of the Alamo in San Antonio has reignited a dispute over the Native American presence at the historic site. There are some Native American Groups who believe that the redevelopment plan does not take into enough account the historic importance of the Alamo site before the actual siege of 1836. They state that it was an early Christian Centre and a burial ground for Native American converts. This ongoing dispute has led to legal action in the past but this has now been considerably exacerbated by this recent discovery of the 3 bodies which they believe may be Native American. They believe that the full extent of the

Alamo burial ground should first be investigated and that memorials at the site should emphasise its 150 years of history before 1836. Remains have also found at the Alamo site in 1989 and 1995 according to the Texas General Land Office.

Built in the 18th century, the Alamo was a Spanish mission known as the Mission San Antonio de Valero and was built by Franciscan Padres for the education of local Native Americans after their conversion to Roman Catholicism. As such, the site was subsequently used as a burial ground for up to 1,300 people mainly from indigenous groups who had converted to Christianity.

Another most recent find in 2016 was the astonishing discovery of the tip of a Mexican sword which many archaeologists believe could have been used during the famous 1836 battle. The historic artefact is believed to be from a sword issued to a non-commissioned officer in the Mexican infantry and dated about 1835 according to archaeologists. It was found on the South Wall so could have been used either in the famous battle for the Alamo in 1836 or in construction along the South Wall in 1835. If it wasn't used during construction and actually is from the Battle of the Alamo, it would have likely been used by one of the

hundred or so soldiers under the command of Juan Morales and José Minon, two Mexican colonels who stormed the South Wall. This is where Alamo defender Jim Bowie was killed. The sword tip was subsequently identified as a French manufactured briquet.

In 1835, Mexican General Martin Perfecto de Cos and Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea had tried to fortify the Alamo Mission's South Wall against attack. In December of the same year, Texian forces led by Stephen F. Austin captured the mission after a lengthy siege. Mexican forces eventually retook the Alamo in the 1836 battle. A similar sword tip was found in the excavation of the Main Plaza in 2007, where Mexican troops dug an entrenchment in December 1835. Other archaeological discoveries include the recovery of more than 300 artefacts near the Alamo's West Wall, including imported European ceramics, such as a button made from animal bone, fragments from a tooth brush and square nails.

It is widely believed by historians that all the human remains from the 1836 battle were burnt.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas
Sources : Live Science Dec 2019 by Tom Metcalfe: Various Internet Sources: Foxnews 17/3/20 by James Rogers.



ACWS Roll of Honour

Dedicated to those we have lost during 2020



John Butler



Brian Mycock



Gary Lakin



Paul Hilditch



Pete Smith

Rachel Smith



Gone but not forgotten
We shall remember them



EVENTS CALENDAR 2021

All events are still dependant on Covid and no contracts have been signed. Whittington, No Man's Land, Bedford and Pitchford below are now cancelled

Whittington Castle 27/28 March 2021 Castle Street, Whittington, Shropshire, SY11 4DF	No Man's Land 17/18 April 2021 Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth Rd, Rhuddlan, Rhyl LL18 5SB
Morley 25 April 2021 Morley, Leeds, LS27 0JJ	Marbury Merry Days May 2021 Hollins Lane, Marbury, nr Whitchurch, Cheshire, SY13 4LN
Skegness Showground July 2021 East Coast Showground, Burgh Road, Skegness	Rempstone Steam and Country Show 10/11 July 2021 Leicestershire LE12 6ST
Bedford River Festival 17/18 July 2021 The Embankment, Bedford MK40 1RW.	Pitchford History Festival 7/8 August 2021 Pitchford Estate, Shropshire.
Worcester Living History Show August 2021 Worcester	