



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

## **2021 2nd Edition**

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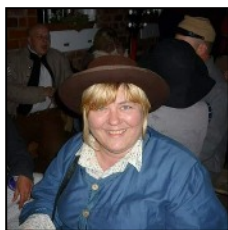


**Ingleton - 2013**

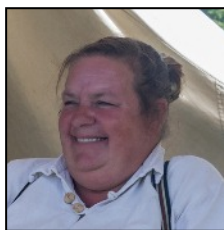
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# A.C.W.S. CONTACTS - Directors & Army Commanders



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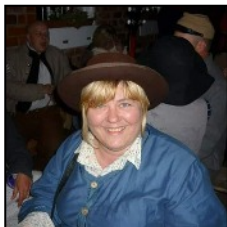
Confederate  
Commander  
Glenn Gibson



Federal  
Commander  
Tim Davies

## Reports

Hi all, the end is nigh and hopefully we will get together this year for a full acws event.



Please as a matter of urgency can someone put their names forward to be our powder officer.

I have missed you all and will be happy to see you all again soon. Thank you for your patience as I know we are eager to start up firing, camping and seeing our friends around a real fire.

If you are missing us we do have a virtual camp fire the next one I believe is in June pop onto zoom and see us. Keep healthy and fit and your powder dry.

Helen

Mrs Helen Gibson

Chairperson ACWS

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Hi y'all,

Hope you are all well and dusting off the cobwebs.

It seems we "might" be able to play out again! I



actually feel like a naughty school child that has been grounded by over reactive parents.

As you can imagine events have been booked and cancelled so many times over the past 18 months it has become a little bit of a yo-yo exercise and also very disheartening.

As some events have now been cancelled for this year Marie and myself have been working together to fill the later end of the season with some events for you all. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Marie for this tireless and sometimes tireless task.

As the events are of course subject to Government guidelines we really do not have anything set in stone but we are hopeful.

We still are in desperate need of a powder master, if you are interested please get in touch with myself or a member of the Board.

I would like to thank Frank our Health & Safety Director for helping the Society out with this issue.  
Note \*\*\*No powder No Bangs!\*\*\*

With powder in mind it brings me on to the subject of licenses. As we are borderline booking events, please make sure your

membership and check your licenses are in check and all up to date.

Huge thanks to ALL the board for their loyalty, work and advice which is 24/7 behind the scenes!

Keep your eyes peeled on the events page guys and gals as more information becomes available.

Yours

Linda (Company Secretary)

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Hi everyone

I hope you're keeping well, and hope to see you on camp before the summer is out!



Linda and I have been working on a number of events for 2021 and we hope to be able to have 4 events from July through September, plus a smaller regimental event and potentially a training weekend. Obviously these are subject to the status of C-19 at the time, and we will adhere to government regulations and put members health and safety first and foremost.

A number of the events that we had in line for 2020/21 have now been postponed until 2022, so we are hoping that 2022 will be a very full season.

I will be issuing an updated events calendar along with this report.

We hope that we will see all of you soon.

Events  
Marie Mitchell

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# CAMPFIRE

**Missing the campfire comradery  
it is also missing you**

**The next Campfire Zoom will be  
Friday 4th June at 19.30**

**See ACWS members Facebook page for the link**





## ACWS Explosives Officer Needed

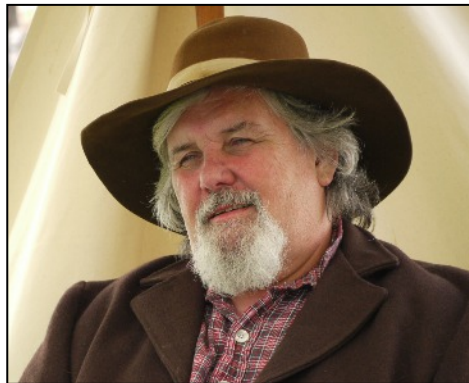
Kevin Holden will be leaving the position of Explosives Officer.

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 the season in order to learn all that the role requires.

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



## Goblins, Ghosts and Ghouls of the Civil War – Goobers Guide in 4 Parts

After reading about yet another recent ghostly visitation regarding the American Civil War, particularly during Halloween 2020, I thought I would compile Goobers Guide to the Goblins, Ghouls and Ghosts of the American Civil War.

Due to the plethora of such ghoulish sightings in numerous Civil War settings throughout the whole of the USA and not wanting to frighten or upset everyone in just 1 article, I will compile 4 parts.

Part 1 will be the Ghosts and Ghouls of Gettysburg, Part 2 will be the Spirits of Sharpsburg, Part 3 will be Haunted Houses and Heinous Hospitals and Part 4 will Frightening and Fiendish Forts.

This is Part 1.

**Part One** - The Ghosts of Gettysburg  
Recently, in both distressing and new spine-tingling footage that was shot in September 2020 at the Gettysburg Civil War battle site in Pennsylvania, a brand new video (even by 2020 standards) has emerged from a New Jersey man who has captured on footage what appears to be two human-like apparitions at the historic Pennsylvania battleground. Greg Yuelling, aged 46, told The U.S. Sun

that he and his family were visiting Gettysburg as tourists to soak up the Civil War landmarks. The Gettysburg battle site was the stage of a pivotal battle in July 1863 that turned the war decisively in favour of the Union. An estimated 46,000 to 51,000 casualties, along with about 5,000 horses, piled up over the course of the 3 gruelling days of bloodshed and carnage.

Greg Yuelling himself said he had heard stories about ghosts in Gettysburg but he did not believe any of it until he saw some himself while traveling with his family that night in September 2020. He said "We were driving along one night and we started hearing noises, I heard things to the left and my uncle heard things to the right, and there was a fog, but the fog was weird, it was only in one patch, not dispersed," Greg Yuelling told the tabloid. "Then we saw these shapes moving in the darkness. They were the size of humans, one of them ran right through the cannon. It was scary, it was crazy. My uncle got so scared he rolled up the window.'

The Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 was the largest battle in North America and as such has many ghost stories appertaining to numerous sites and locations on or

around the iconic battlefield. The interest of ghosts and Gettysburg remains to the present day. In recent times, people have claimed to have seen ghost soldiers and sometimes even ghost battles, in many places around Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. More than 7,500 soldiers died at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 and many were buried so quickly and without proper rites, many to be forgotten forever, so it's no wonder that spirits, ghouls and ghosts are said to roam throughout the town and the battlefield of Gettysburg.

Reports of phantom apparitions, bone-tingling cries of wounded soldiers, ghostly Civil War music, even the eerie sound of horse hoofs in places where horses fell victim (apparently horses can be ghosts, too) are common.

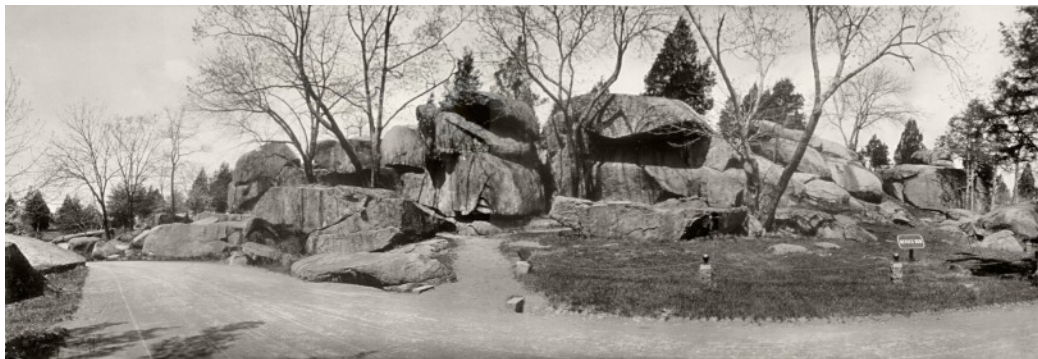
On the battlefield itself, Devil's Den, may be the Civil War's most haunted site. On the 2nd day of the battle, this craggy outcropping saw some of the Civil War's most vicious battles with numerous casualties. Thereby perhaps explaining the high number of ghosts that lurk in the area which all started shortly after the battle ended.

The Devil's Den is a rock formation that's believed to be the most paranormally active location on the entire Gettysburg battlefield. Some

reports say the site is named "Devil's Den" because it was rumoured that the Devil, taking the form of a massive snake, lived deep inside the rock formation. More than 2,000 men perished in the battle as they fought to take possession of the Devil's Den, and it's believed that the site is now home to several restless spirits.

Hunters who became lost in the boulder maze reported a soldier pointing out the way out to them. An unkempt, hippy-like man has also been seen, asking people if they need help. It is said he's a soldier from Texas, since Texas was a faraway outpost at the time and many soldiers from there often did not receive sufficient clothing and they lacked shoes. Another soldier appears, suffering from a gigantic chest wound. There's been 1 woman ghost sitting, who claims to have been grabbed by a soldier, as well as a ghost rider, who disappears into thin air.

The most commonly reported paranormal experience at the Devil's Den is that cameras inexplicably lose all battery power or short out when visitors try to take a picture. Many believe there is a spirit who dislikes photographs being taken at the site, and others claim that the spirit belongs to a Confederate soldier whose body was heartlessly



Devil's Den - Photo by Hlj (Hal Jespersen) at en.wikipedia - Library of Congress

staged in different positions around the battlefield by a Civil War photographer. Historians discovered that many of the photos taken around the Devil's Den were staged after seeing multiple pictures of the same soldier posed in various positions around the site.

As one of the Gettysburg Battlefield park rangers put it, "If there's a disgruntled spirit in Devil's Den that has animus toward photographers, it certainly would be this guy."

Little Round Top was also known as the "Valley of Death" and the "Slaughter Pen" because of how many men lay decomposing where they fell for months after the battle had ended. Little Round Top is thought to be one of the more paranormally active areas of the battlefield because of the intensity of the fighting that occurred there and the sheer number of men who fell in the heat of battle. At this strategic point in the battlefield area

of Gettysburg, it's rumoured that the spirit of George Washington appeared before Union soldiers twice-once to lead them in the right direction before the fighting started and a second time in the heat of battle to spur them onwards.

The division commander testified to the President's ghostly appearance, saying "We know not what mystic power may be possessed by those who are now bivouacking with the dead. I only know the effect, but I dare not explain or deny the cause. Who shall say that Washington was not among the number of those who aided the country that he founded..."

Cemeteries are by far the most active supernatural hotspots in Gettysburg. Gettysburg National Cemetery was erected as a Union/Federal burial place, while the bodies of Confederate dead were left to their impromptu graves until Southern veterans' societies were able to begin reburial procedures in



the 1870s, moving the soldiers' bodies to cemeteries across the South.

The violent, terrible manner of so many men's deaths combined with the long interim between death and a proper burial is thought to have made the cemetery a highly active paranormal location. You really can't have a terror-filled walkabout without visiting a cemetery or two.

The site of almost 4,000 Civil War graves, Gettysburg National Cemetery is one of the most paranormally active sites in the entire city. After the battle, thousands of soldiers' bodies lay decomposing across the farmlands of Gettysburg. Many soldiers had been buried where they fell on the battlefield, marked only by a wooden board. Rain and wind began uncovering remains across the city, and fearing the spread of disease, the residents of Gettysburg called for a proper cemetery to be created.

Reburial work began around four months later. The cemetery is also where Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address, and as he himself noted in the speech, "We cannot dedicate-we cannot consecrate-we cannot hallow-this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have

consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract."

The Sachs Covered Bridge on Water Works Road, Gettysburg is one of the most haunted spots in Gettysburg according to many sources. This area, however, is not accessible after dark unless on a tour. Soldiers have been spotted there and there are numerous photos of mists and orbs taken there. This scenic covered bridge is rumoured to be where three Confederate soldiers were hanged for attempting to desert during the Battle of Gettysburg. It is said to be guarded by the spirits of the rebel soldiers who were hanged there, and many people have reported a feeling of real uneasiness at the site. Others have witnessed full-body apparitions of a soldier pacing along the bridge's length.

Tillie Pierce House Inn at 301 Baltimore St. is said to be haunted by a ghost cat as well as multiple children. However, nothing to worry about as these are all friendly ghosts.

Like many private homes and estates in Gettysburg, the Hoffman Mansion was converted into a makeshift field hospital as the battle reached its grounds. It's thought that the spirits of Union soldiers still take up residence in the mansion, and

visitors to the site have reported hearing disembodied voices and seeing apparitions of soldiers

Used as a Confederate field hospital during the battle, the Daniel Lady Farm has retained astonishing evidence of its gruesome history throughout the decades. There are bloodstains from amputated limbs and even bloody fingerprints visible in the woodwork around the home, and in the barn area, one can find initials and other graffiti carved into the beams by Confederate soldiers.

Forensic testing proved the legitimacy of the bloodstains in the house, and cadaver dogs have confirmed the presence of graves around the farm. Both the house and the barn still show signs of structural damage attained during the battle, and many believe that the farm is the site of several hauntings. The upstairs area of the home is believed to be particularly active, and historical records tell us that when the Lady family returned to the farm after the battle, they discovered the body of a dead Confederate soldier still lying in one of the upstairs bedrooms.

The area around the Doubleday Inn, 104 Doubleday Ave is rife with paranormal activity. By the Doubleday Inn itself is an area known as Iverson's Pit, where a

brigade of North Carolinians were slaughtered. The pit is the location of the mass grave for the Tarheel soldiers and is a spot where ghosts are regularly seen today.

The Jenny Wade House occupies a unique place in Gettysburg's history. Jennie Wade was a 20-year-old seamstress living in Gettysburg around the time of the battle. Her sister had given birth just a few days before the fighting broke out, and Jennie came to stay at her sister's house-both because it was considered to be on the safer end of town, away from the fighting, and to help take care of the newborn baby.

Historical records tell us that on the morning of July 2, 1863, Jennie was downstairs making bread for the family when a stray Confederate bullet came through two separate doors and hit her in the back, piercing her heart and killing her. Her family wrapped her body in a quilt and carried her to the basement of the home where she lay until the fighting ceased. Poor Jennie was the only civilian to die in the entirety of the Battle of Gettysburg. Her family buried her temporarily in the front yard of the house before moving her to a cemetery almost half a year later, and then to another cemetery some years after that.

The sudden, violent manner of her death and the multiple disturbances to her grave are believed to have contributed to the hauntings at the Jennie Wade House, and many visitors to the site have reported being pushed, scratched, and pinched by an unseen force.

Many of the historic buildings around the city were used as emergency hospitals (something quite common) and morgues during the Battle of Gettysburg and Gettysburg College is no exception. Both Confederate and Union soldiers took up residence in the college's Pennsylvania Hall, transforming it into a makeshift hospital. Untold scores of men died from battle wounds, infection, and illnesses on the college's grounds, so it's no wonder the school has experienced subsequent haunting's and paranormal energies. Many students and professors have reported paranormal activity such as objects going missing or being moved, flickering lights, and sensing negative energies, but there have also been numerous reports of seeing full-bodied apparitions of soldiers around the college.

However, it's not only spirits of soldiers which are purported to wander Gettysburg College. The campus is also home to a spirit known as the "Blue Boy," an orphan

who froze to death one winter's night while seeking shelter at the college. Many students have reported seeing the face of the Blue Boy in the windows of one of the college's dorms on cold winter nights.

Originally known as the National Homestead at Gettysburg, The Gettysburg Children's Orphanage was one of many built across the country in response to the thousands of children who were orphaned by the Civil War. It was built with good intentions and had a promising start, but when the headmistress was replaced by a woman named Rosa J. Carmichael, things took a turn for the worst.

Rosa Carmichael devised horrific punishments for the children living at the orphanage, even going so far as to create a dungeon in the basement where she chained misbehaving children to the walls and kept them locked up for days without food or water. Worse still was "The Pit" a small, lightless crevice in the dungeon where children were forced to stay as punishment.

Many believe the orphanage is haunted by the spirits of children who died from disease and malnourishment, while others believe it is Rosa Carmichael herself who still haunts the grounds of the

Children's Orphanage. Regardless, the orphanage is without doubt one of the most chilling sites in all of Gettysburg.

In Gettysburg itself there are many buildings that are haunted. The Soldiers' Orphanage cellar in the Herr Tavern is said to be still so frightening that even psychics remain too afraid to enter the house due to its legend. It was built in 1815 but during the battle, it was used as the first Confederate hospital where amputations often resulted in limbs being thrown out through the window to be collected later, only for many of the soldiers to die afterward. As a result, 4 of the guest rooms are said to be haunted and the rooms are numbered so that there is no room 13.

In the historic Dobbin House, an old inn that existed during the Civil War, the ghost of a Confederate soldier is still said to stare forlornly out of one of the second-floor windows. At the Baladerry Inn, this former farmhouse served as a Union field hospital during the battle and it's said that ghosts of many soldiers who died still roam the grounds. In 1 house on Baltimore Street, the computer is reputedly still on and the TV still glows with the owner having fled some time ago due to being terrified by the Confederate spirits that haunt it.

Nearby to this house, at the famous Farnsworth Inn, the spirit of a little boy, Jeremy, who was injured in a horse-and-carriage accident during the Civil War and who, as he lay dying in the house, was reassured by the doctor that he was safe, is now seen contentedly playing marbles. Also upstairs in the attic of the Inn is the well known ghost of a young Confederate sniper who just turns round and stares at you from the window as he still refuses to leave his post. Nearby, in the middle of a field there is a large maple tree against which 6 wounded Union soldiers were propped up and died.

This is supposedly one of Gettysburg's hottest spots of paranormal activity and visit here after 11pm and you will find lots of people with cameras and all their specialist equipment looking for paranormal activity.

Article by Stewart "Goober"  
Douglas.

ACWS Picture Competition for Adults and Children. Please feel free to choose your favourite Gettysburg Ghost, Goblin or Ghoul and send your picture or drawing into a member of the ACWS Board. Winners will be announced at a later date and your picture published in the ACWS Newsletter.

## **Sunderland-born sailor awarded US military's highest honour**

The long lost stories of how a Sunderland-born sailor was awarded the US military's highest honour in the American Civil War and the Sunderland-born playwright forever linked with the assassination of US President Abraham Lincoln.

The Medal of Honour is the highest decoration in the US military, so how did a lad from Sunderland end up being awarded one?

Born in Sunderland, England on March 12, 1839, George H. Bell became a renowned sailor in the US Navy. George Bell began his maritime career aged 14 after his family moved to nearby Newcastle. He began his maritime career at the age of fourteen and over the next seven years sailed the Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Caribbean Sea, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean Sea. During the beginning of the American Civil War in 1861, he was docked at New York and enlisted in the United States Navy.

He joined the USS Santee and was quickly promoted to Coxswain due to his vast sailing experience. Within months, the USS Santee was tasked with destroying the Confederate ship Royal Yacht at Galveston Bay, Texas, on November 7, 1861. The ship was caught by surprise in the

early hours of the morning but the battle was still fierce and is said to have included close hand-to-hand combat. The USS Santee suffered one fatality and eventually secured victory after the Confederate ship Royal Yacht caught on fire.

Two years later on July 10th 1863, George Bell was awarded the Medal of Honour in recognition of his service in the United States Military and the conflict with the Royal Yacht in particular. He finished out his service and returned to the North East until he died on September 26th 1917 at the age of 78. He is buried in Newcastle upon Tyne.

George H. Bell's official Medal of Honour citation reads:

"He served as pilot of the U.S.S. Santee when that vessel was engaged in cutting out the rebel armed schooner Royal Yacht from Galveston Bay, 7 November 1861, and evinced more coolness, in passing the 4 forts and the rebel steamer General Rusk, than was ever before witnessed by his commanding officer. Although severely wounded in the encounter, he displayed extraordinary courage under the most painful and trying circumstances."





Bell wearing his Medal of Honor, circa

**Born** March 12, 1839  
Sunderland, England

**Died** September 26, 1917 (aged 78)

**Place of burial** Newcastle upon Tyne,  
England

**Allegiance** United States

**Service/branch** United States Navy

**Years of service** 1861 - 1865 or 1866

**Rank** Captain of the afterguard

**Unit** USS Santee

**Battles/wars** American Civil War

**Awards** Medal of Honor

**Tom Taylor** (19 October 1817 - 12 July 1880) was an English dramatist, critic, biographer, public servant and editor of Punch magazine.

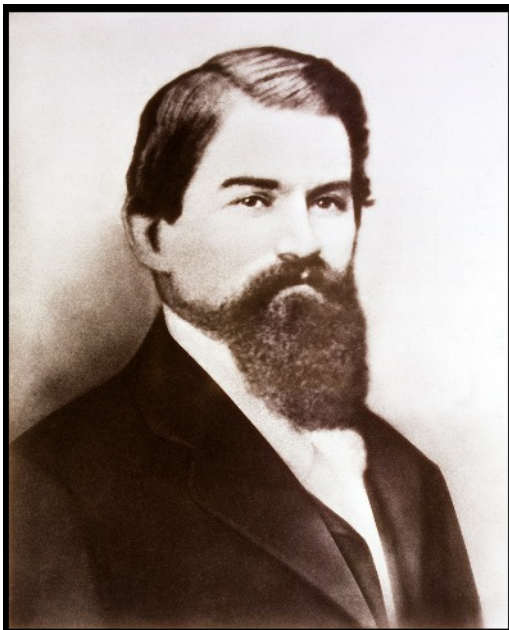
He was born into a newly wealthy family at Bishopwearmouth, a suburb of Sunderland, in North-East England.

He had a brief academic career, holding the professorship of English literature and language at University College, London in the 1840s, after which he practiced law and became a civil servant. At the same time, he became a journalist, most prominently as a contributor to, and eventually editor of Punch. In addition to these vocations, Taylor began a theatre career and became best known as a playwright, with up to 100 plays staged during his career.

Many were adaptations of French plays, but these and his original works cover a range from farce to melodrama. Most fell into neglect after Taylor's death, but Our American Cousin (1858), which achieved great success in the 19th century, still remains famous as it was the play that was being performed in the presence of US President Abraham Lincoln when he was assassinated in 1865 at Fords Theatre, Washington.



## Coca-Cola only exists due to a Confederate War Hero



Coca Cola was invented by John Stith Pemberton (the drink is named after the coca plant, not the inventor or company founder). John Pemberton became a doctor at the ripe old age of 19 in 1850. He was a successful surgeon and chemist in the 1850s but he signed up for frontline service when the American Civil War broke out. Initially, he served as a first lieutenant in the Third Cavalry Battalion of the Georgia State Guard which was at that time a component of the Confederate Army. Due to his bravery and loyal service, he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The iconic drink Coca-Cola only exists thanks to a wounded Confederate warrior from the American Civil War. It's a fun fact that you can never escape in the South and that is that Coca-Cola used to have cocaine in it. The Coca Cola brand is everywhere down in the South and every young teenager will always bring up the cocaine fact a couple of times a week for the first six months after they learn about it.

The fact that cocaine used to be offered in every town usually gets written off as an odd quirk of history but it turns out to be fact as the Confederate War hero had a very good reason to appreciate the coca plant.

However, in April 1865, during the very latter stages of the Civil War, he sustained a serious sabre wound to the chest as well as multiple gunshot wounds during the Battle of Columbus. At the end of the War, he soon became addicted to the morphine used to ease his considerable ongoing pain. John Pemberton would suffer for many years from the wounds he took near Columbus and he struggled against a morphine addiction thanks to all the painkillers he was given.

However, John Pemberton was not only a Confederate War hero, he was also a doctor, skilled chemist

and pharmacist and had a medical degree and soon after the Civil War, he began a quest to find a substitute for his ongoing problematic morphine addiction.

In 1885, at Pemberton's Eagle Drug and Chemical House, his drugstore in Columbus, Georgia, he registered Pemberton's French Wine Coca nerve tonic. John Pemberton's tonic may have been inspired by the formidable success of Vin Mariani, a French-Corsican coca wine, but his recipe additionally included the African kola nut, the beverage's source of caffeine. He had become aware of a new European product already popular in Italy and France which was wine infused with extracts from coca leaves.

It is worth noting that this was not technically cocaine in a drink. Coca leaves are a precursor to cocaine, but you have to use a solvent to extract cocaine sulfate from the leaves in order to get actual cocaine out. But John Pemberton's French Wine Coca did have anaesthetic effects like cocaine would. He sold the drink as a way to settle nerves, relieve pain and cure morphine addiction. This was exactly the same morphine addiction that he and many of his Civil War veteran friends had.

The jump from John Pemberton's French Wine Coca to Coca-Cola came when wine was threatened by alcohol prohibition in Atlanta and he decided to replace the sweetness from the wine with sweetness from sugar.

After a few more changes to refine the taste, the product was renamed Coca-Cola and released in 1886. Since then, Coca Cola has gone through a few formula changes including switching fresh coca leaves out for spent coca leaves which have had the cocaine sulfate extracted. So now all those Southern teenagers could not get high from Coca Cola anymore. John Pemberton never got rich off his invention.

He was still standing up the Coca-Cola Company under his son, Charles Pemberton when he died. The company passed into the hands of another investor and the Pemberton history and its Civil War origins were s o o n b r u s h e d aside.

Article by  
Stewart  
"Goober"  
Douglas.



# The Kinston Hangings

When researching your own regiment, it is amazing what you can come up with. Here is a mention of the 43rd North Carolina Regiment in an incident that still resonates and is still remembered to this very day long after the Civil War ended.

The invading Confederate force consisted of 5 brigades and moved by train into eastern North Carolina on a bitter cold January 1864. There were 13,000 infantry and cavalry troopers, artillery batteries and a specialist force of 100 marines for an amphibious assault. They were mainly Virginians but also included the 43rd North Carolina Regiment.

It was to be one of the most strange and paradoxical moments of the entire Civil War as in the conflict to come North Carolinians would be fighting on both sides with the end result being the mass hangings called "The Kinston Hangings". This is the story of one of the most controversial episodes of the American Civil War which would reverberate long after the War had actually ended.

The Confederate expedition was placed under the command of Major General George Pickett, a Virginian of the planter class, but the real commander was Major General

Robert F Hoke, a hard fighting North Carolinian. Aged 27, he is the youngest Major General in the Confederate Army and is the hero of Cold Harbour, the man whose stubborn rebel troops stopped General Grants Union advance in its tracks. He was rumoured to be General Robert E Lees successor should he ever succumb to illness or wounds. He himself had personally persuaded General Lee of the potential success of the expedition into North Carolina and Lee himself had proposed the expedition to Confederate President Jefferson Davis who approved of the plan.

In 1862, the Union had occupied the Eastern seaboard of North Carolina namely New Berne, Hatteras and Roanoke Island. Hoke had persuaded Lee that there were invaluable provisions and military supplies in New Berne and it is ripe for the taking. In addition, Hoke has heard rumours that the Union forces contain many Confederate deserters and he wants them captured.

The Confederate force arrives in Kinston which has a raucous boomtown feel thriving with war trade. It has factories manufacturing shoes, uniforms and hardtack. There is a large body of prostitutes

on Sugar Hill and cheap whisky is freely available all day long. The Confederate troops overwhelm the town but Hokes plan to then take nearby New Berne, whilst bold, is doomed from the start. His marines only capture a small Union gunboat in New Berne, his cavalry runs into stiff Federal opposition and retreats and his main Confederate body is forced back by the strong resistance in the Union forts and batteries around New Berne.

However, there is 1 success for the Confederates and that is the wholesale capture of Company F of the 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers (1 of 4 North Carolina Union Regiments) from a blockhouse 8 miles from New Berne. These men now find themselves at the mercy of Confederate General George Pickett a troubled, unstable hard drinking commander who has just led the largest command of his career to another grand and total failure particularly after his former failed charge at Gettysburg. He is furious and notoriously lacks 1 main quality which may save their lives namely his mercy.

After the failed attack on New Berne, Confederate General George Pickett withdraws his disorganised rebel forces back to Kinston with his 400 - 500 captured prisoners mainly from the 2nd North Carolina Union

Regiment in tow. In a clearing behind his tent, he interviews 2 prisoners in a furious mood after his defeat. He confronts the prisoners "What are you doing here? Where have you been?", "Damn you, I reckon you will hardly ever go back there again, you damned rascals; I'll have you shot, and all other damned rascals who desert".

The 2 men are then paraded the next day in front of General Hokes Confederate Brigade. He orders the brigade to form up in ranks and form a hollow square surrounding the scaffold. The prisoners heads are put in corn sacks and then hanged. They were not allowed to be killed by firing squad, the time honoured military method as hanging is for cowards and criminals not soldiers. Their "US" tunic buttons are then cut off for souvenirs. In the wake of the 2 hangings, desertions increase and 2 dozen men evaporate into Union lines.

On hearing of the 2 hangings, Union Major General John Peck, Union commander of the Department of North Carolina, is appalled and writes to Confederate General George Pickett through a truce pouch reminding him of President Lincoln's order that for every US soldier executed in a manner contrary to the articles of War, a Confederate captive will be



executed. General George Pickett responds that he has captured 450 Federal soldiers "And for every man you hang, I will hang 10 of the U.S Army". As such, the court martial doesn't miss a beat as a former Union Sergeant compiles a full roster naming all the former Confederates who had deserted and joined the 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers.

Following 2 immediate court martial's, another 18 men are quickly sentenced to death by General Pickett and he orders a larger scaffold to be erected in Kinston. Once completed, the first batch consists of 5 men and the second batch consists of 13 men. Of the first batch of 5 men, one makes a confession on behalf of all of the others stating "done wrong and regret it. And warn others not to follow our example".

The second batch of 13 men with rough corn sacks over their heads quickly follow with many of them having been baptised beforehand. There is no record of their last words except a general protest that they are not guilty. Once hung, they were cut down and stripped of all their blue uniforms. These were given to the "strange, cross eyed nameless man from Raleigh" who had demanded the garments as payment for performing the mass execution.

Morale amongst the large amount of Confederate troops who had to witness the spectacle fell to an all time low.

A captain of the 8th Georgia Cavalry remembered "it was an awful cold, bad day and the sight was an awful one to behold". Many more felt it disgusting and unnerving but few would be deserters dare not desert now. 6 more deserters are put on trial. 2 are sentenced and branded with a "D" and sent for hard labour. 1 is sentenced to hard labour on account of his "extreme youth, physical disability and mental imbecility". 1 is found not guilty as he was a member of the North Carolina Bridge Guard Company and not technically in the Army of the Confederacy. However, 2 more are sentenced to hanging. 1 was an illiterate conscript who twice tried to join the Confederate Army but was turned down because he was too physically deformed.

In all, General Pickett hung 22 North Carolina men. All had very short lived careers, none lasted more than 90 days and not one received the promised bounty of \$300. 31 remaining prisoners captured were sent to various Confederate prisons with 25 dying of disease and malnutrition within 2 months of the hangings.

The mass executions shocked the citizens of Kinston, many of whom had to witness the hangings. A few days after the 18 hangings, another set of hangings took place as well as the shootings of more Confederate deserters who had been rounded up but not gone over to the Federal forces. So many executions were taking place that a Confederate Officer would later write in disgust "Sherman had correctly said that war is hell, and it really looked it, with all those men being hung and shot, as if hell had broke loose in North Carolina".

Union General John Peck again appealed directly to General U.S. Grant who refused to intercede and retaliate by saying that "I would claim no right to retaliate for the punishment of deserters who had actually been mustered into the Confederate Army and afterwards deserted and joined ours". After the Civil War, Boards of Inquiry were heard with regards the hangings and whether they constituted a war crime and General Pickett alone was found guilty in 1866 but he had already fled to Montreal, Canada with his wife, Sally, their new baby and living under the name of Edwards.

He also had his distinctive long curly hair locks shaven off to further conceal his identity. However, General US Grant again intervenes

on his friends General Picketts behalf stating that no crime has been committed after paroles had been given at the end of the Civil War. As a result, General Pickett returns to Virginia but is snubbed by other former Confederate comrades particularly General Robert E Lee.

General Pickett turns to hard drinking and dies in 1875 of an abscess to the liver. His body is returned to the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond and his funeral is grand. However, the Richmond Dispatch delays printing any story about it until much later. It devotes itself to days of coverage of a brand new statue newly erected on Monument Avenue, Richmond to a much more beloved and successful Confederate General namely Thomas E "Stonewall" Jackson.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas  
Sources : The Kinston Hangings Part 1 and 2 - Philip Gerard, Wikipedia, Other Internet Sources and Union Soldiers hanged in North Carolina - Gerard Patterson.



# Covid 19 and the American Civil War

As the world anxiously pins its hopes on vaccines to halt the current Covid 19 coronavirus pandemic, scientists are now starting and beginning to learn from the first global scourge to be totally eradicated by vaccination.

This global scourge namely smallpox occurred during the American Civil War and this is the vital and important story of why and how we can and must learn from what occurred during the American Civil War in dealing with vaccines and pandemics.

Throughout the American Civil War (1861-1865), smallpox proved to be an horrendous scourge that ravaged both Union and Confederate troops. Smallpox was a deadly disease that killed approximately 30% of the people it infected. It killed lots of small children and it was also a horribly disfiguring and often blinding disease. As such, the compliance rate for receiving vaccines was extremely high with people desperately wanting vaccinating.

Along with quarantines and burning infected clothing and blankets, soldiers on both sides of the conflict were required to receive smallpox vaccinations to control the spread of the disease. In reality, this

vaccination requirement was often disregarded in the rush to conscript new soldiers, although it still undoubtedly helped curb deadly outbreaks and thereby led to the widespread smallpox vaccination of American soldiers during the Civil War and then civilians after the War ended.

These vaccinations were mainly crusts which were typically harvested from cowpox scabs from infected children, Civil War soldiers, even the cows themselves, and then sent to Civil War Army Surgeons to be administered to the troops. (Sadly, in one recorded instance, a crust was collected from a young woman of disrepute which was also infected with syphilis, thereby spreading the sexually transmitted disease to all the Civil War troops vaccinated with that material).

By the 1860s, when the American Civil War was convulsing the United States, vaccination practices had changed very little since the iconic discovery made by Edward Jenner in 1796. This British doctor observed then that milkmaids very rarely contracted smallpox. He suspected that the reason may be that prior infection to cowpox, a milder disease in the same virus family as smallpox, may actually be protecting



This undated painting by E. Board shows British physician Edward Jenner administering his first vaccination on eight-year-old James Phipps, on May 14, 1796.

the milkmaids. So, to test his theory, he scraped pus from milkmaids' sores into the skin of an 8-year-old boy and later safely exposing him to smallpox. This ushered in the age of vaccination. Unlike today, these vaccines were made not in labs or factories but instead were grown in a human chain of people exposed to related but milder cousins of smallpox.

A very recent study has just been conducted by Ana Duggan and a team of researchers from the McMaster University of Canada which they believe may help in the current fight against the Covid 19

pandemic. Ana Duggan and her colleagues recently gathered genetic material from 5 intact and original American Civil War vaccination kits to identify the viruses used for smallpox vaccinations at the time.

The team analysed the 5 kits which had amazingly been fully preserved as part of a Civil War museum collection that had been used by Doctors and Surgeons in the Philadelphia area during the Civil War itself. The 5 kits themselves contained lancets, tin boxes that held the scab material and small glass plates for mixing fluid that had

been collected from the blisters of infected people. Analysis revealed that all of the viruses contained were strains of the vaccinia virus which is the cause of cowpox. As such, it would appear that these early protective practices adopted in the Civil War of applying some infected pus or scabs against smallpox involved infecting people with related viruses to induce a much milder case of the disease, a process known as variolation. As such, this early work is now revealing how smallpox viruses used in those early vaccines slowly evolved within the larger family of the smallpox virus with a surprising variety of strains later developing.

The importance of this information was that the viral vaccines used in the Civil War which were effective at the time were also totally different to those eventually used to totally wipe out the smallpox epidemic 200 years

later in the 1980s. Smallpox was officially eradicated in 1980 after concerted global vaccination efforts.

Overall, the successful eradication of smallpox via vaccination shows the crucial importance that that practice has had within human history. Currently, as 23 initiatives around the world race toward clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccines, people long for a quick and fast solution. But researchers worry that the public expects a definitive and final vaccine far far sooner than it can safely be ready. One lesson gleaned from studying smallpox during the American Civil War is that the most successful and celebrated vaccination campaign ever in history fought a much more fierce and far more visible foe for over 200 years before its eventual triumph.

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







## Events 2021

**10/11 July Chester Le Street Steam and Vintage Fair** - Regimental 43rd NC - Limited attendance contact Goober for information - STC

**July/Aug Whittington Castle** - Possible Living History Event

**22nd August - Ibstock Country Fair** - Infantry only - camping available all weekend. Pencilled in/ STC

**28-30 August - Whitby War Weekend** - Infantry, artillery and self funded Cavalry - STC

**18/19 September - Marbury Merry Days** - STC

**25/26 September - Epworth Showground** - Infantry, artillery and self funded Cavalry - STC

## Possible/Postponed Events 2022

**April 2022 - No Man's Land**, Bodrhyddan Hall, Rhuddlan, Rhyl

**June/July 2022 - East Coast Showground**, Skegness

**25/26 June - Mid Fest**, Earls Barton

**23/24 July - Bedford River Festival**

**August 2022 - Pitchford History Festival**

**August 2022 - Spetchley, Worcester**