

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER 2021 3nd Edition

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



Whittington Castle 2021

ACWS is a Member of



Issue 201

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



Chairperson Helen Gibson



Secretary Linda Reed



Treasurer lan Morris



Health & Safety Dr. Frank Mair



Membership Claire Morris



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Events
Marie Mitchell



Marketing Roger Willison-Gray



Confederate Commander Glenn Gibson



Federal Commander Tim Davies

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Reports

I am so happy to have been to my first weekend away in Scotland, Duncarron was an amazing place that I hope we can all go to again sometime.



We have a few weekends coming up please look at the website. Thank you all for your patience and support over the last year and hopefully we will have a full calender of events for 2022. Can not wait to see you all x

Mrs Helen Gibson Chairperson ACWS

Hi Y'all,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well.



Well, it was fabulous to see so many faces I hadn't seen for a while at Whittington Castle and what a beautiful site! I unfortunately didn't get the chance to attend the last time we were there. A quaint little village with lovely welcoming locals. It was lovely to sit around the campfire again singing and laughing. I myself was a little

apprehensive about attending any events this year with the pandemic lurking but please be assured that the board have followed current guidelines from the HSE.

Myself and the girls feel totally confident in attending all events this year and we really hope to see you there.

You will find the notice for the AGM in this edition of the newsletter and unfortunately our Events Director "Marie" will be standing down from the position due to her personal circumstances. It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside her and I know that the rest of the board and membership will join me in thanking her for dedication and loveliness. Marie "THANKYOU".

This now leaves us with two empty positions, Powder Master and Events Director. If you are interested in either of the roles please do not hesitate in contacting myself or any of the board for more information.

Well, I guess that is enough ramblings from myself, please take good care of yourselves and I will no doubt see you in the middle of a field somewhere

Linda



It was wonderful to see everybody who a t t e n d e d Whittington Castle, and so good to be back on camp.

Our next event is Ibstock in Leicestershire, we'll get warning orders out as soon as possible.

Then on to Whitby and Epworth which we are currently arranging the contracts for, which should be good, it will be great to have some multiperiod events.

Then we can begin to try and arrange a full calendar of events for 2022.

Marie



ACWS Explosives Officer Needed

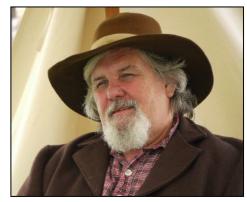
Kevin Holden will be leaving the position of Explosives Officer.

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.



NOTICE OF 2021 AGM



The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, (number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that its AGM will be held on Saturday 4th December 2021, starting at 1pm prompt via Zoom (virtually).

If you are a current member and have any nominations for posts of Directors or Army Commanders of the Society and/or you have any agenda items appropriate for the AGM, then put them in writing as soon as possible addressed to The Secretary, ACWS Ltd, PO Box 270, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE37 9BX. These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Friday 1st October 2021.

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

The current directors standing for re-election as at the date of this notice are:

" Secretary: Linda Reed

" Chairperson: Helen Gibson

" Treasurer: Ian Morris

" Membership: Claire Morris

" Webmaster: Mike Bussey

" Health & Safety: Frank Mair

" Communications: Stephen Griffin

" Marketing: Roger Willison-Gray

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

- " Federal Commander: Tim Davies
- " Confederate Commander: Glenn Gibson

Camille Marie Mitchell (Events) is standing down.

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

Please note, only current members of ACWS are entitled to vote at the AGM or to submit proxy forms. Members attending the virtual meeting are asked to have their membership cards to hand to help validation, online admission and voting if necessary.

For and behalf of the Board, Linda Reed Company Secretary and Director 3rd August 2021

NB: Electronic delivery of Agenda and voting slips. We will seek to send all the AGM pa-perwork to all those of you who have e-mail addresses electronically by that means (to cut down on printing and postages) and post only to those who currently have no e-mail address or who have specifically opted-out of e-voting. PLEASE NOTE, your Web-master has devised a secure way for you to deliver your Proxy Vote electronically.

However, you all need to make sure either Mike Bussey or Claire Morris have your correct, up-to-date e-mail address for this to happen. If you fail to do this then you will not get the AGM papers or proxy vote form.

Please make sure we have the right information by NO LATER than Sunday 26th September 2021.

ACWS Training Event at Whittington Castle



The ACWS travelled to Whittington Castle in Oswestry, Shropshire on 24th and 25th July 2021 for both a training event as well as the first official ACWS in 2 years. As forecast, the weather was nice and sunny throughout the weekend which made for a lovely weekend for all the re-enactors who attended as well as the public who were there in good numbers on both days.

There was a commendable ACWS turnout, particularly within the ongoing difficulties and restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic, with all 4 Confederate regiments being represented as well as the Union artillery crews. In addition, it was particularly pleasing to see a couple of new recruits attending and hopefully they will have enjoyed their

Civil War experience and come back regularly for more.

Whittington Castle is an excellent venue for a training event as it has both picturesque and magnificent ruins and is steeped in history with tales of bitter border warfare. romance and legend. Both the castle itself and the nearby and very welcoming public house, the White Lion are both reputed to be haunted and subject to regular spiritual occurrences which has attracted a lot of paranormal interest as well as regular ghost tours. The castle itself has 12 acres of ground and was initially a Norman home and then a 12th century castle. Significantly, the small rural community in North Shropshire, England acquired a 99 year lease to maintain the castle that sits in the centre of its village and as such it was the first of its kind to be managed in such a way.

In 2007, this local trust re-opened the castle to visitors after a restoration with the assistance of a £950k grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. As such, the castle itself is self funding and relies totally on the support of the public. Throughout the weekend there were also stalls, trade stands (discounts for re-enactors) as well as a nice tearoom which ensured everything and everyone was catered for.

The voluntary staff at the castle were particularly helpful and appreciative and the castle grounds themselves were immaculate. Unlike last time, there was ample space for camping with the Union camping at the entrance to welcome the public on

arrival and the Confederates camping in the lower fields. This made for excellent living history demonstrations which were well spread out.

The ACWS training event always provides an invaluable opportunity for everyone to prepare for the season ahead particularly after the long absences due to the Covid 19 pandemic and get all their licences, safety drills and equipment (particularly firearms) checked and approved. It is also an invaluable opportunity to make the new recruits welcome and settle into the required military routine.

The Confederate Infantry did various regimental drills throughout the weekend which included firing displays for the public and the Union Artillery did an absolutely cracking





job on renovating and getting their 4 artillery pieces ready for the coming season which was so important after their long absence in storage due to Covid. Personally, I cannot wait to see them in action again and I

understand they will be at the Whitby August Bank Holiday weekend.

They also regularly practised their artillery drill although not actually firing which the public thoroughly enjoyed. The Confederate Infantry practised their own drills and displays firing throughout both days and also did

a couple of scenarios which the public really enjoyed. Many thanks to Christian Sprakes for commentating to the public on these displays and enhancing their knowledge and enjoyment. The



public on both days there were commendable numbers and were clearly very knowledgeable War the Civil Although the event was mainly for both Confederate and Union Armies to prepare for the coming season, the ACWS was also contracted to put on additional living i s t 0 r y demonstrations and displays for the public on both days.

To the credit of the ACWS, both the Union and Confederate living history displays were very well received by the public and the interaction on both camps is to be really commended and this was echoed by the actual event organisers themselves. Due to the hot weather, the beer garden in the White Lion was particular popular with some specially sourced real ales and throughout the weekend, both armies campfires were surrounded by laughter, songs, music and merriment.

The Saturday night on the Confederate camp was a massive highlight for many with superb musicians from both the Union and Confederate armies getting together and playing for everyone. Overall, it was abundantly clear everyone was

delighted to be back on camp, renewing acquaintances and starting a new season after the long absence. This was a cracking and enjoyable training event and, as usual, the camaraderie and banter between both sets of re-enactors who attended was clearly evident. Long may it continue.

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

ACWS



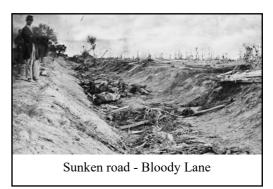


Goblins, Ghosts and Ghouls of the Civil War. Part 2

After reading about yet another recent ghost 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 of Gettysburg, Part 2 will be the Spirits of Sharpsburg, Part 3 will be Haunted Houses and Heinous Hospitals and Part 4 will be Frightening and Fiendish Forts.

Part 2 - The Spirits of Sharpsburg The bloodiest battle of the American Civil War took place on September 17, 1862, on Antietam Creek near the small town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. Four long hours of intense fighting took place on an old sunken road that separated two farms. A staggering 23,100 men wounded, killed or missing in action after the Union and Confederate Armies collided in the nearby cornfields, farmlands and Antietam Creek. When the Confederate Army reached the sunken road, which provided some protection at first, Confederate General Robert E. Lee ordered that the battle be held there. Soldiers hoth sides fired on

continuously as the Federals tried repeatedly to overtake the position. Finally, the Confederate soldiers were over run and bodies fell on top of bodies in the bloodied sunken road.



Today, we know it as Bloody Lane and if you ever have occasion to walk it you will indeed go back in time and be humbled by the experience. The tragic impressions of that day seem to linger. It seems that no matter how many visitors roam the old road on any given day, church-like remains auiet. According to eyewitnesses, Bloody Lane is haunted. Gunfire and the smell of gunpowder have been reported when no one is on the road or even nearby. One visitor to the battlefield saw several men in Confederate uniforms walking Bloody Lane. He thought they were re-enactors they totally until vanished

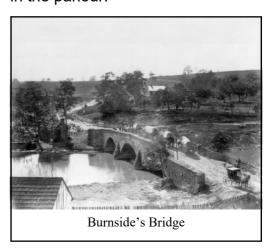
The most convincing of the reports is the one of some Baltimore schoolboys who walked Bloody Lane and heard singing out in the fields. They said it sounded like a chant or the Christmas song Deck the Halls. They heard a chant similar to Fa-la-la-la-la sound repeatedly.

The area was near the observation tower overlooking Bloody Lane where the Irish Brigade charged the Confederates with a battle cry in Gaelic, which sounded exactly like the Christmas carol. Both Union and Confederate ghosts have reportedly been seen placing and firing at each other with artillery on the actual battlefield itself. Even the U.S. Department of Transportation has officially and formally declared Bloody Lane to be haunted.

Another haunted area of Antietam is Burnside's Bridge, known then as the Rohrbach Bridge, where Union General Ambrose Burnside pushed the Confederates back after many defeated attempts. Many soldiers were buried quickly in and around the bridge in unmarked graves. Visitors at night have reported seeing balls of blue light moving around the sound of drum playing cadence as it fades into the night.

Perhaps the Battle of Antietam is not yet over for some restless spirits that haunt the vicinity. The Pry House

and the Piper House stand on the actual battlefield itself. Both are reported to be haunted. Stories ranging from footsteps heard on the stairs to apparitions of a woman thought to be the wife of one of the generals who died in the house. During the actual battle, the Piper House served as headquarters to Confederate General Longstreet and the barn was used as a field hospital. The house was directly in the heat of the battle and after the fighting ended, three dead soldiers were removed from under the piano in the parlour.



Their spirits still remain and haunt the property. The St. Paul Episcopal Church in Sharpsburg itself was used as a Confederate hospital after the battle. Reports tell of the screams of injured and dying Confederate soldiers still resonating and emanating from the building. Others report seeing flickering lights from the Church's tower. The wounded of the battle were taken into nearby Sharpsburg to the church and into people's homes to be cared for and many of them died there after surviving the horrendous battle.

were taken. Legend has it that the floorboards in the house are still stained with blood and cannot be removed even with sanding.

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

There is a house west of the town of Mt. Airy where some of the wounded



Louis Napoleon Nelson



By Sf46 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?cu rid=62763996

This is Nelson Winbush, the grandson of a black confederate veteran who rode with Forrest, and he is an advocate for historical accuracy and honesty when it comes to the telling and retelling of our Civil War heritage.

Winbush's grandfather, Louis Napoleon Nelson, was recruited as a slave by Nathan Bedford Forrest, but fought as a free man of color during the last 18 months of the war. He was a Private in the 7th Tennessee Cavalry under Forrest and fought at pivotal battles such as Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Bryce's Crossroads and Vicksburg.

At Shiloh, he served as a chaplain even though he couldn't read or write, which was a position never held by any "colored" Union soldier, and he consistently attended 39 United Confederate Veterans reunions

He attended his final reunion in 1934, and a Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter in West Tennessee is named in his honor. Nelson remembers sitting on his grandfather's knee listening to his Civil War stories until the age of five. Winbush, 83, was born in Ripley, Tenn., the son of Isaac and Ganelle Winbush.

He grew up in his grandfather's home, and left the ancestral residence in 1955 to take a job as a teacher in Kissimmee, Fla.

When his grandfather died, the casket was draped with the Confederate flag, and Winbush has since become a champion of the Confederate battle flag and its proper place in history.

He characterizes recent controversies over the display of the flag and the opposing sides of the debate as "just dumb."

Winbush still actively and proudly speaks about his ancestor's service

during the war and the lessons he learned sitting at his grandfather's knee.

"At Shiloh, my grandfather served as a chaplain even though he couldn't read or write," said Winbush, who bolstered his points with photos, letters and newspapers that used to belong to his grandfather. "I've never heard of a black Yankee holding such an office, so that makes him a little different."

Winbush said his grandfather, who also served as a forager and Cavalryman never had any qualms about fighting for the South.

He had plenty of chances to make a

break for freedom, but never did.

Winbush said Southern blacks and whites often lived together as extended families, adding slaves and slave owners were outraged when Union forces raided their homes. He said history books rarely make mention of this.

"When the master and his older sons went to war, who did he leave his families with?" asked Winbush, whose grandfather remained with his former owners 12 years after the hostilities ended. "It was with the slaves. Were his (family members) mistreated? Hell, no!

"They were protected."

According to W i n b u s h, thousands of blacks, some of them free, fought for the Confederacy.

In fact, field reports submitted by Union officers involved in Forrest's Murfreesboro raid reported a



multitude of black confederate soldiers riding into town with Forrest on that fateful day in 1862.

Nelson Winbush grandson of Confederate veteran Louis Napoleon Nelson.

Winbush has come under fire by various groups over the years for his controversial views.

The NAACP similar and organizations criticized have Winbush for his support of what they neo-Confederate believe are they think causes; he misunderstands the history of the South.

But Winbush contends those groups misunderstand the history of the South.

Winbush has said in the past that he would have fought by his grandfather's side in the 7th Tennessee Cavalry led by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forest.

"People ask why a black person would fight for the Confederacy. (It was) for the same damned reason a white Southerner did," he said.

Article from Facebook

Forgotten Civil War Road Discovered

Archaeologists surveying the iconic Fredericksburg Civil War National Park Cemetery in Northern Virginia have chanced upon a very surprising find namely a buried pathway from the 1800s. It would appear that researchers from the North East Archaeological Resources Programme uncovered the 19th century road as well as a brick lined culvert whilst working Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Military Park in July 2021.

using ground The was penetrating radar and magnetometer surveys to try and identify a suitable location for a newly proposed burial vault on the site. It is believed that the road, or large path, discovered may have been intended to lead to a large monument that formally was proposed but never installed during the early design phase of the cemetery itself. This newly discovered pathway wrapped itself around the site which was originally planned actual to house the

proposed monument itself. The memorial was clearly never completed and sediments eventually concealed the road.

During the Civil War, four major namely Fredericksburg, battles Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House took place in the area surrounding the cemetery. The earliest of these clashes, the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, ended in crushing Union defeat that massively strengthened the Confederate cause. The battle of Fredericksburg was one of the bloodiest confrontations during the American Civil War in Virginia.

In October of 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee reorganized his Army of Northern Virginia into two corps. After being promoted to Lieutenant General, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson took command of the second corps, leading them to a decisive victory at the Battle of Fredericksburg. At the battle, the Union Army crossed over the



Rappahannock River on a pontoon bridge. After they crossed, they were met with heavy opposition from Confederate soldiers who were in the hills to both the west and south of the area. The Fredericksburg National Cemetery was created in July 1865 by the American Congress in an effort to "honour the Federal soldiers who died on the battlefields or from disease in camp", according to the National Park Service. More than 15.000 Federal soldiers are laid to rest there, most of which died in the American Civil War and most are unknown, although there are about 100 20th century soldiers and a couple of spouses.

Although the Fredericksburg National Cemetery has not taken in a burial since the 1940s, officials are now looking for one more burial spot. According to the National Park Service, this new burial spot will house the remains of Union soldiers that were recently found in 2015 near the Rowe-Goolrick House,

which served as a Union Hospital during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

As such, it was vital to ensure that there were no unmarked burials or unidentified human remains prior to locating this new reinternment burial plot. The remains set to be reburied at the Virginia cemetery will now be the first soldiers or veterans interred at the site since 1949. Per the Park Service, burial plots are numbered consecutively rather than organized by state, unit or campaign. Most of the deceased in the cemetery are privates, as higher-ranking officers' remains were typically sent home to their families.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina. Sources: Mail Online 3/8/2021.



RIP Len Boardman aged 88



ACWS at Chester Le Street Steam and Vintage Fair, Chester Le Street. Durham

A small number of ACWS Confederates attended the Chester Le Street Steam and Vintage Fair at the Lambton Estate in Chester Le Street, County Durham on the weekend of 11th and 12th July 2021.

This was not an ACWS full or regimental event but rather an opportunity for a few volunteers to check out this first ever multi period event on the site and assess both the site and the situation for the future and the possibility of attending a bigger event next year.

Although it was only the 1st multi period event organised by the Lambton Estate, there were a large amount of different re-enactors present. Undoubtedly the largest was our friends the Northern World War 2 Association who had 7 different German regiments, a large Russian regiment and a large British Commando regiment.

Fortunately, they managed to expand the very small arena allocated following some delicate negotiations with the organisers due to health and safety issues but just managed to put on Eastern and Western front displays albeit in a very restricted capacity. There was also a colourful French Napoleonic Regiment present, the Lonestar

Western Town display and the Scottish Highlanders display. These all put on excellent displays in the slightly enlarged arena for the public and it was so pleasing that the ACWS galvanised and helped out our fellow Napoleonic re-enactors for the benefit of the public. Both days ended with a Grand Parade by all the re-enactors which again was well appreciated by those members of the public who remained at the end of the day.

Overall, there was only a very limited space allocated to the ACWS and the 4 A frames present filled the allotted area but nevertheless it was commendable to those who did voluntarily attend and put on an excellent living history display throughout the weekend which proved so popular with the large amount of public who attended.

This involved both drill and firing displays in the small arena on both days as well as an impromptu battle French **Napoleonic** with the Regiment present (no **British** Redcoats to fight) on the Sunday with the ACWS Confederates (No Union Bluecoats to fight) and our friends and ex ACWS members from the Lonestar Western Group portraying Spanish guerillas. This was a small but excellent and

enjoyable skirmish and scenario planned by both sets of re-enactors and really well liked by the public particularly due to the lack of planned events and displays occurring in the arena. It was so sad that we were not able to take the French "Eagle" as originally planned as the French Officer immediately locked it in his car for the whole weekend!

The Lambton Estate site itself is unbelievably picturesque and huge with lovely surrounding fields and meadows. As such, there is a vast amount of space available but sadly it was restricted in part to the reenactors being enclosed at one end due to the large amount of steam engines, stalls and caravans that literally covered the large site. Nevertheless, all the amenities were there including lots of food stalls and a beer tent with music during the evenings as well as sufficient portaloo's which were nearby and regularly cleaned.

In addition, we had loads of secure and ample parking just outside our boundary fence which made for a quick getaway for the Euro Final! As the site itself is unbelievably only a minute away from the A1 motorway junction, everyone got away in really good time. Overall, the public attended in huge numbers on both days and they clearly particularly

enjoyed all the new re-enactments that took place. However, there is clearly much work to be done as was provisionally mentioned and discussed with all the other reenactment groups for the future which should include a much larger area for the ACWS including both a separate authentic and family camp and a much larger arena for our battles/skirmish/firing displays.

There is plenty of space for this but if we do plan on going in the future, a site visit will be imperative as well as people going early to ensure no one takes our allocated space. As usual. I never mention names but many thanks must go the 2nd South and Carolina 24th Regiments who voluntarily helped out and did a superb job. Finally and personally, I do feel that this multi period event does have massive potential which the ACWS should try and be actively involved in for the future due to a lack of similar multi period events being planned in the UK.

There were other smaller reenactment groups who visited this site and are now planning to attend next year and those that did attend, particularly the Northern World War 2 Association, will be attending next year en masse due to the success and popularity of this event and are already planning to book very much larger authentic and family camping areas as well as massively expanding the fighting area.

Personal Reflections by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina Volunteers, ACWS

Whittington Castle first ACWS Event in 2021





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August 22 - IBSTOCK, LEICS

One day event at Ibstock Country Fair, Ibstock Show Ground, Pretoria Road, Ibstock, LE67 6LN.

Infantry only event

August 28-30 - WHITBY, N YORKSHIRE

Full Society event at Whitby War Weekend, Hawsker Lane next to Whitby Abbey, Whitby, YO22 4JR.

Infantry and Artillery.

September 25-26 - EPWORTH, LINCS

Full Society Event at Epworth Showground, Wroot Rd, Epworth,
Doncaster DN9 1EA

December 4 - ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 ACWS Annual General (Virtual Zoom) Meeting.
See page 5 inside