



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2021 4th Edition

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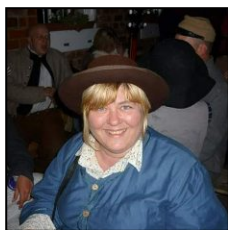


Ibstock 2021

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



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Reports

I am looking forward to a new season. I hope to see you all around camp.



Just a reminder, if anyone needs advice or has any ideas on improvements to our Society your opinion is always valued and your Board of Directors will listen and discuss.

Thankyou all for supporting our Society.

Helen Gibson

Chairperson ACWS

Hi y'all,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.



It was a very short season this year but a lovely one, the events were lovely and the weather was kind to us too, I for one will carry some fantastic memories from 2021 with you all and our guests as we move into 2022 and I would like to thank you all for those.

Sadly as we move into 2022 Marie our Events Director will be leaving

due to personal commitments at home. I have thanked Marie personally for all her hard work from all of us and it really has been a pleasure working alongside her. This means we now have a vacancy on the Board of Directors! If you are interested in the position please don't hesitate to give any of the board members a message or a call for further information.

A Minutes Secretary is also another job role available. I have previously taken minutes for the past few years when we have had board meetings and at the AGM too. As my personal circumstances have changed on an enormous scale I was finding this extremely difficult. Claire (Membership) kindly offered to relieve some pressure and take the role on until we found somebody who would like to do this. "Massive Thanks to Claire".

Most of our meeting are now virtual on Zoom now, so there isn't any travelling and you would be guided on how to carry out the role. Again.... If you're interested.... Get in touch with us.

The AGM will be held via Zoom again and can be accessed by laptop or a mobile phone, it really is easy to use, I hope I see you there.

I know lots of you really aren't interested in the AGM etc but it really is important that the board get input from the members.

Remember "It's YOUR Society"!

Thank you to our clients, my fellow board members, members and guests for supporting the ACWS during 2021 and here's wishing each and every one of you and your families the most amazing Christmas and sending you all blessings for a very healthy and prosperous 2022.

See y'all soon

Linda Reed

Company Secretary

ACWS



Thank you everybody for your support over my decision to stand down as Events Director, as Linda mentioned in her

last report. Many things have happened, or changed, for everybody, but also for me personally in the last 2 years, and I don't feel that I can give the role the attention that it needs presently, but I will always be on hand to help if needed.

Although we have only had a small number of events this year, the return to our hobby has been much needed for many, and these events have been a great success for re-enactors, public and organisers alike. So thank you all for embracing being back in the field, giving some wonderful displays and shows, and basically being lovely human beings enjoying each others company again.

Things are looking promising for next year. I will bring together all the information that I have on potential/penciled in events for 2022, and contact information that has been collated, and pass this forward to the committee for whoever shall take on the mantle!

Thank you again, and here's hoping for a wonderful year of events in 2022.



To all members of the Confederate Forces.

After a strange year, it was a wonderful feeling to get around a campfire and to talk to old and indeed new friends.

With a short season, I would like to thank all those who attended the events this year, it was also quite

understandable with Covid still around and the other current crises occurring why members chose to wait before coming away on both sides.

It was great to see good times around the campfire once again and attracting members from other societies joining us, it is quite a unique set up we have.

There were some impressive sights this year from the Confederate Forces. Whitby talking to the public about food, kit and weapons, flags, ask a soldier, kids drill and much more, left a lot of us drained but was very enjoyable.

Epworth there was a large infantry turn out and a Confederate Artillery piece on the field.

I would like to thank you all for supporting the Confederacy, new members, old members and our guests from Soskan and 24th Virginia.

I hope to see you all next year.

Your Obedient Servant
Major Glenn Gibson
Commander of Confederate Forces
ACWS



Greetings All,

Well that was a short but sweet season! It really was good to get out and blow the cobwebs, we had some cracking evenings around the campfire both on the Union camp and the Confederate camp. I must thank them for the cheese and biscuits will have to return the favour next season.

Next season is looking like being a busy one, let's hope the little bugs stay away from everybody.

I just need to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year, will probably see some of you at the AGM.

Keep your beer cold and your powder dry.

Major Tim Davies
US Commander
ACWS



Marketing Directors Report

the marketing team) and I would be pleased to have your input.

Well at last life is beginning to return to some normality, but I think it will be some time before we get back to life before the pandemic. We have done very little marketing over the last 18 months and our promotional material is now quite dated. If there any budding designers out there or if you have any contribution you can make to the online or offline marketing effort both Claire Morris (who runs our social media and is a member of

We are planning to have new and updated marketing materials completed for the AGM so we can start a more active campaign in the new year. We have already got a good number of events planned for next year so my focus will be to support those events and to look to 2023

I have not been able to attend events this year but hope to see you all next season

Roger Willison-Gray

NOTICE

ACWS has 2 vacancies

1. **Minutes Secretary** - This involves recording the minutes of our 4 board meetings and AGM. These meetings are recorded on audio recorder to make writing the minutes easier, so doesn't require fast typing skills. Recently with using Zoom we also record a video.
2. **Events Director** - This will involve booking events, liasing with event organisers both on and off site. Initial contact would be by email or phone and will require travel.

This would suit an outgoing individual or team. A perfect job if you are retired and enjoy travel.

*** Full training will be given for both positions ***

ACWS at Duncarron Medieval Village

On the 19th and 20th June 2021, the 43rd North Carolina Regiment (American Civil War Society) travelled to the authentic medieval village of Duncarron which languishes in the picturesque and beautiful valley of Carron Valley in Central Scotland and lies at the head of the long and narrow Carron Valley reservoir.



The medieval village itself is designed to be a lifelike and full scale authentic recreation of a Scottish fortress and early fortified village from the 12th Century and has been under painstaking, back

breaking and continuing development for many years by an extremely dedicated team of experts, workers and volunteers (including the Territorial Army and a Young Offender Rehabilitation Scheme at times) all overseen by the Clanranald Trust. The medieval village itself is specifically designed to be typical of the Scottish Clan Chief's residence throughout the earlier part of the last millennium.

Historically, these village settlements were based around a 'Bailey' (the Clan Chief's home and Clan meeting hall), which was usually built on or beside a 'Motte' (a natural manmade mound). The level of fortification surrounding the Bailey and any other associated buildings depended upon various aspects including the wealth and size of the Clan itself, the fort's location and the strength of other local Clans or nearby aggressor forces.

The whole of the village is protected by a huge and impressive wooden palisade which was made by hand with parts which you can walk up. Significantly, there is large scale ongoing work to expand and develop the whole project including the prospect of a jousting arena which bodes well for an exciting foreseeable future particularly in terms of a wider scope for further

re-enacting, living history, campaign scenarios and larger skirmish and battle opportunities.



The Duncarron medieval village is now used as both a wide ranging educational site for school groups to learn about history as well as develop their own skill sets as well as to provide an authentic film set for various films and TV series. In addition, within the village itself, there are some really impressive and awe inspiring props including Rosie, a huge life size battering ram, used in the movie Robin Hood and very kindly donated to the fort by the lead actor Russell Crowe. Coincidentally, he is also fully supportive and active



of the Duncarron project itself and a recent tower in the fortress has been named after him. In addition, there is also a vast trebuchet catapult used in the movie The Outlaw King. Other series that have continually used the village as a filming location include Norsemen and Outlander and there are other filming projects in the pipeline.



The Forces in the Field or Travellers in Time Event, which was the first large scale multi period event that took place at the Duncarron medieval village, was on the weekend of the 19th and 20th June 2021. There was a massive array of activities and events for both the public and other re-enactors to enjoy all over the weekend including some fine specialist traders and stall stands.

The programme of activities included amongst others the full contact Medieval Combat, the Combat International fight school demonstration doing their highly informative choreographed clashes, the ever popular storytelling, wood cutting, pottery making, the Bastogne Airborne display, the blacksmith (who very kindly fixed our bent tent pegs!), the weapons



1st Tennessee and the 32nd Virginia who also attended and made up for a fine attendance. As such, both the Union and Confederate armies were well represented.

This was not a full event and there is currently not enough space for a skirmish or battle so we took part in the various firing displays arranged throughout the day as well as the firing through the ages display involving everyone with black powder weapons. These were really well received and appreciated by all the other re-enactors as well as the large amount of public who attended on both days. Highlights were the popular Union soldier versus the Confederate soldier in a 3 minute competition with some various dubious tactics now being used by both parties to gain the early upper hand as well as the final dedication by the Confederate Major of the ACWS to all those who have lost their lives in war and the Covid 19 epidemic which was also well received and respected by the public.

display including the superb but very loud and popular 16th century firing display, Axe/knife throwing, Archery, "The Special Forces out in the Field", Roman living history, a Shiltron demonstration, Pants to Pauldrons, a colourful Jacobite and Redcoat talk and firing display and various Russian, German, American and British World War 2 living history displays in the surrounding pine woods. These were all excellent, well presented and a massive credit to the re-enactors who attended and organised them.

For the American Civil War, this was a regimental event organised by the 43rd North Carolina for the American Civil War Society (ACWS). As usual, the event is open to everyone in the ACWS so always a real special thanks to those members of the 19th Indiana, the

In addition to the firing displays, the ACWS put on an excellent living history display with all our flags, manned the main gate for welcoming the public and also put on full kit for a roving campaign impression in the surrounding pine woods and scrublands which the

public also enjoyed seeing. There is a lot of scope for developing this campaign and immersive impression here in the future provided you can handle the midges or they are not around!

Particular personal highlights of the event included the camaraderie between all the various re-enactors and particularly seeing over 7 different re-enactor groups all sitting comfortably and drinking around a roaring fire in the vast Viking fire pit in the middle of the village, the opportunity to spend time and learn from other re-enacting groups and displays and the lovely various backdrops for which to use to enhance your own particular living history display. From such a fine inaugural start, this first event will now hopefully grow and develop into

a much larger and more varied multi period event and thereby attract more re-enactors, larger battle and skirmish displays and thereby provide the public with a fulfilling, interesting and informative historical experience.

I never mention any personal names in my articles but everyone must agree that huge credit for the success of this first multi period event must go to the organisers and management team of Duncarron medieval village who made everyone so very welcome and worked so tirelessly throughout. Thank you.

A personal reflection by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina Volunteers, ACWS.



ACWS at Ibstock



The ACWS attended the Ibstock Country Fair on the weekend of 21st and 22nd August 2021. Although a 1 day event, it was an important event in terms of ensuring a balancing of the books so it was nice to see that both armies had satisfactory and relatively equal attendances. It was also nice to see everyone renewing acquaintances and the camaraderie coming back after the long enforced absences.

The public were also there in large numbers and massive credit must go to all the ACWS members who put on fine living history displays throughout the weekend with the public clearly showing a lot of appreciative interest and knowledge

about the Civil War. Despite the awesome thunder and lightning storms on the Saturday night and a sudden rain shower as everyone was supposedly packing away their dry tents for Whitby, the weather was fine and satisfactory all weekend particularly on the Sunday.

The Ibstock Country Fair is held in the rolling countryside in the Heart of the National Forest. It was first held in 1996 and has grown ever since with an approximate public attendance of 10,000. There were numerous events, displays and stands throughout the large arena and the main attractions were the Seaforth Highlanders Pipe Band, the Falconry displays, the Gun Dog and



Sheep display, the parade of the Steam Engines and Vintage Tractors (who I followed home for some distance!), the large Craft Tent, the Whippet and Lurcher show and my personal favourite the Ferret display show which the ACWS followed as the main event. One of the highlights for everyone was the Battle of Britain Memorial Spitfire Fly past.

Although a 1 day event, the ACWS were contracted to put on 2 displays during the Sunday as well as living history displays. With regards the 2 displays, the armies first put on a fine firing display and then had a firing shoot off contest which the Union both marginally and questionably won. This was really well received by the public and as usual Christian Sprakes, the ACWS commentator, was superb in commentary and got the public really

going with everyone cheering both armies on.

The ACWS then put on a skirmish in the relatively small arena. Again, this short and fierce encounter was really well received by the large amount of public with both sides commendably taking casualties before the Confederates eventually took the field. A really enjoyable skirmish, particularly with the green jacketed USS Sharp Shooters back on the field, but it could have been a little longer for the public as everyone was so keen to get their muskets firing again including a new Confederate recruit who managed to mistakenly shoot a Union Medic whilst Christian was explaining how Civil War Medics helped both sides! The living history displays included the Union Medical display which had a lot of public interest as well as the new Confederate Chaplaincy display. Both camps were well laid out allowing the public to chat with all the re-enactors.



Sadly, there was no beer tent or music night on the Saturday night which is the usual occurrence at this long standing annual event so both armies had their regular camp fires for their evening entertainment. Everyone clearly enjoyed themselves and were delighted to be renewing their acquaintances and looking forward to future events.

The Confederates were very fortunate to have the excellent 32nd Virginia musician John Bamber singing who really held everyone both Union and Confederate spell bound as they enjoyed Confederate Major Gibson's cheese and cracker soiree. As usual, there are always unexpected highlights at every ACWS Event and for me personally the excellent attendance of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment with 3 brand new recruits who all slotted in

perfectly and adapted to everything and everyone was such a nice sight to see. Massive credit to previous Sergeant Martyn Clarke and current Sergeant Rob Jamieson of the 2nd South Carolina for the hard work they have personally put in to ensure this iconic and long standing ACWS Confederate regiment would not only not disappear but grow into something much bigger and better.

Overall, the high standard displayed by all the ACWS re-enactors who attended at this event was recognised by the organisers who were absolutely delighted. Hopefully, we can go back much bigger and much better.

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



ACWS at the Whitby War Weekend



The ACWS travelled to the much anticipated multi period Whitby War Weekend on the August 28th , 29th and 30th and although the weather in typically bank holiday fashion was not the best throughout, it did not spoil the overall enjoyment of all the ACWS members who attended.

A few dedicated and keen ACWS members turned up early on the Wednesday and left on the Tuesday to maximise the bank holiday weekend experience! Much to our credit, the ACWS had a really fine attendance with both Union and Confederate army numbers well up on previous events. In addition, the first appearance of the 4 Union artillery pieces primed and ready for action was a fine welcoming sight to behold. The ACWS had an excellent camping spot nearest the iconic Whitby Abbey so the picturesque backdrop could not have been better

and all the tents in their long lines made for an impressive sight for both the public and all the other re-enactors. The area was also just a 15 minute walk from the thriving town centre and harbour.

The Whitby War Weekend was the first planned multi period event organised by Outdoor Events and there were numerous groups in attendance. Apart from the ACWS, there was also the Northern World War 2 Association, the American Civil War Cavalry, Lonestar, Vanguard, Napoleonic, American War of Independence, World War 1, the Spanish Civil War and the Romans. Additional displays were the Archery, Axe Throwing, Sword Fighting and the Ride in a Tank Experience.

The huge site itself was dominated by the large main arena and a small

arena so there was plenty of action and numerous displays ongoing in both arenas throughout the weekend. Apart from the numerous traders and stalls, there was also a massive beer tent and an outdoor music stage which both had musical turns on throughout the weekend. The Whitby Abbey site itself just outside the main site was separately occupied by a large Viking force which really made this separate site a superb visit which was free to visit by all the other re-enactors in the main site.

The ACWS was contracted to put on living history displays throughout the weekend and 2 main battles on the Sunday and Monday. However, due to the massive crowd on the Saturday which was also due in part to the gorgeous sunny weather, the ACWS agreed to put on an additional full Union artillery display and a Confederate infantry display in the main arena as well as both armies doing individual drill and living history displays throughout the day. In the main arena, the Union

artillery did an excellent display with all 4 cannon being fired and manned by all the Union re-enactors much to their credit and the Confederate Army having excellent infantry numbers did mixed volley firing.

Both these firing displays went down really well and climaxed with the Confederate Army marching uphill towards the 4 Union cannon and being slowly obliterated by vividly demonstrating the various impact of various Civil War shells leaving scores of rebel dead strewn all over the battlefield.

On the Sunday, the Union infantry were supported by 2 Union cannon on the field as well as having 2 trenches at the top of the main arena. The battle started with the 2 main bodies of infantry having a stand up slug fest in the middle of the arena before the Union infantry eventually broke and retreated to the shelter of their 2 trenches and their 2 Union cannon.





However, the Confederate infantry in larger numbers began probing and flanking from both sides in 3-4 splintering formations and eventually took the Union position after both sides suffered heavy casualties and following some close up fighting. The sight of the blue Union slain strewn all over their trenches with the taking of the small number of prisoners was a particularly touching experience for the public.

On the Monday, the slightly depleted Confederate Army tried the same thing again with their bright red battle flag raised but the Union had now protected their 2 cannon with larger flanking groups of Union Infantry. The Confederate Army made 3 attempts at taking the heights but were beaten back on all occasions losing troops all the time during the failed attempts. Only a very small number of rebels left the battlefield alive with the whole field eventually being covered with rebel grey bodies. This final spectacle ending

the whole event portrayed vividly the real horrors of war. The ACWS performed well on all these 3 days and the public commented on it.

There are always highlights and people deserving of special mention during every ACWS event and there were numerous ones at this event. I will try and mention as many as possible and sincere regrets if I miss anyone or anything out. First and foremost, massive credit to particularly both the Northern World War 2 Association and the ACWS as well as all the other re-enactment groups who all held a 2 minutes





silence for all our re-enacting friends and comrades lost during the Covid pandemic. We also performed a mass volley and a minutes silence to Paul Hilditch, the NWW 2 founder and commentator as well as an ex 43rd North Carolina (ACWS) member who will always be sadly missed by us all.

It was so nice to see both his son Adam and daughter Camille as well at the event. Huge thanks to Christian Sprakes, who took over the commentating of the whole event at short notice. His knowledge of history and commentating style was so well appreciated by all the other re-enactors and the huge public present. The World War 2 re-enactments particularly benefited from his presence and commentary. Other memorable highlights for the ACWS included one of the best ever Kids Drills weekends which involved loads of kids marching around, charging their parents and above all attacking the Union camp, charging

through the Union camp and even bringing back Union prisoners!

Massive credit to Union Major Tim Davies, the Union artillery crew and the Union camp for spontaneously reacting to this unexpected youthful rebel surprise from Confederate Major Glenn Gibson! Feedback from the kids and parents was so good that some deliberately came back the second day and started queuing for more despite the blustery conditions!

As usual, the ACWS social nights also involved some highlights with the big Sunday night dance in the beer tent, musical highlights around the campfires with Christian Sprakes and John Bamber as well as a WW1 violinist and flutist who came over and joined in as well. The sudden appearance of our friends from the Viking mead stall who came over and provided free samples of mead for those around the campfires added to the occasion! However, the one personal impression that came over was the superb living history displays on both camps that was so impressive over the whole weekend.

Every single ACWS member appeared to contribute on both camps. There were Civil War medical, artillery, musical, weapons, arms/ammunition, cooking/food, living history and campaign/shelter

half displays. Even the Ask a Soldier Quiz sheet and the sugar on a stick prizes ran out due to the massive interest! The flag displays on both camps was also awesome and it was nice to see the Union Regimental and Confederate States flags flying alongside our main flags. Other additional highlights on the Confederate lines included Dave Redding (43rd North Carolina) unexpectedly receiving his State Badge and Buttons for his long term service to the regiment in front of the whole Confederate Army whilst thinking he was about to be disciplined for a wrong turn in drill by Major Gibson! And also Major Glenn Gibson's cheese and cracker party which was enjoyed by both Union and Confederate re-enactors alike. The camaraderie is certainly coming back. Personally, I really hope we can do more social events like this together, particularly at the end of the year, as we all start to get back to normal.

Overall, this was another memorable ACWS Bank Holiday event. The Event organisers were very pleased with our whole attitude and especially our mixing with the public. As such,

hopefully we can go back again next year but even bigger and better. To those ACWS members who attended but who nevertheless also enjoy the other finer aspects of life other than the American Civil War, there were also these very nearby options below which were enjoyed by us all!

1) History - There is the iconic Whitby Abbey which was a 7th-century Christian monastery that later became a Benedictine abbey. The abbey church was situated overlooking the North Sea on the East Cliff above Whitby in North Yorkshire, England and became a centre of the medieval Northumbrian kingdom. The abbey and its possessions were confiscated by the crown under Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries between 1536 and 1545. Since that time, the ruins of the abbey have continued to be used by sailors as a landmark at the headland. Since the 20th century, the substantial ruins of



the church have been declared a Grade I Listed building and are in the care of English Heritage. (3-4 minutes walk from camp).

2) Food - Whitby Fish and Chips/Pie, Mash and Peas respectively from Robertsons, Trenchers and Abbey and the Humble Pie and Mash 16th Century shoppe. All award winning. (5, 10 and 15 minutes walk from camp)

3) Ales - Whitby Brewery. When the Microbrewery started back in 2013, they brought back local, craft brewing back to Whitby. Beers include award winning ales including Abbey Blonde, Jet Black, IPA and Smugglers Gold.(3 minutes from camp and my personal daily favourite!)

4) Sport - Walk up the historic 199 steps from the harbour to the ACWS camp and abbey! Don't forget to count as you go and look out for the roman numerals on your way. These iconic 199 steps were made famous by being mentioned in Bram Stoker's Dracula. Dating back to around

1340 when they were wooden and believed to have been used to test the faith of followers of Christianity. It is a long walk up but it is worth it in the end for the fabulous views from the ACWS camp at the top. (Confederate 10 minutes - Union 30 minutes from camp).

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



ACWS at Epworth

On the weekend of 25th and 26th September 2021, the ACWS travelled to the large multi period event at Epworth, North Lincolnshire. The weather was fine all weekend making it a popular show for both the re-enactors and the public that attended. This multi period event was not well publicised so sadly the public numbers were lower than expected.

The Event was called A Walk Through The Ages and there were many other re-enactment groups on this huge and lovely site including the Northern World War 2 Association with a large number of WW2 military vehicles from the 2nd Armoured Division re-enactors, the Vikings, the Greeks/Persians/Immortals (who were clearly mortal in the beer tent on the Saturday!), the East India Company, the Ravenwolf Viking Group, the Spanish Civil War, Lonestar and other small re-enacting groups including the Medieval Archers.

There were also traders including yet again our favourite traders the Mead Stall from Duncarron Medieval Fort who still enjoy coming around our campfire late into the night at every event we go to and providing us with free samples of their delicious mead!

As usual at these multi period events, there is a lot of entertainment provided and this was certainly no exception. Our friends Jump, Jive and Swing were the live highlight on the Saturday in the beer tent and as usual everyone had a cracking time.

There was also the 2nd World War singer Marina Mae on the Friday night who is also very popular but clearly had not experienced Civil War re-enactors in various stages of dress and undress invading the stage before although we have serenaded her previously at Whitby! Both nights were enjoyed by all the re-enactors dancing and singing together.

There were 2 arenas at the Epworth showground and the ACWS was contracted to put on living history displays all day as well as 2 skirmishes midday. Once again, it was pleasing to see the 4 cannon present which always make for a great loud show. Both camps had their improving living history displays with the Union having both an additional music and medical display.

Both Confederate and Union Armies also did drill displays on both days around the whole showground which were well received by the public

present. On the Saturday, the ACWS performed in the smaller of the 2 arenas and engaged in a large Confederate Infantry attack on the 2 Union cannon who were supported by Union Infantry and the 2nd USS sharpshooters.

This was a Confederate victory with the sheer amount of rebel numbers overwhelming the Union forces. On the Sunday, the ACWS performed in the huge main arena with 2 Union cannon at the top of the hill with supporting Union Infantry and 2 large companies of Confederate Infantry having to march all the way up through continuous artillery fire.

The Confederates also fielded an artillery crew for the first time this season and really well done to all those volunteers involved! They were excellent. The Confederates had such good Infantry numbers on the Sunday that they were able to field 2 full double ranked companies and then proceeded to march in echelon and overlapping with each other with cracking volley displays.

The public really enjoyed this as it took place right in front of the long public line and even our excellent commentator Christian Sparkes was visibly impressed with the volleys. The Confederates got close to the Union cannon before being thoroughly decimated in the final

attack. Massive credit for both sides taking casualties over both days. I was particularly impressed by a whole Confederate company being wiped out at the end from close range by a well time Union artillery shot resulting in the whole of the huge battlefield being littered with the carnage of the grey rebel dead. Many of the public remarked afterwards how awesome this looked.

The Confederates had their final Major Glenn Gibson's Cheese and Cracker party of the season which have proved to be very popular as an opportunity for everyone to get around the campfire, mingle and listen to some excellent campfire music.

It was so pleasing to see the camaraderie between both armies now massively improving so my personal favourite highlight included this superb musical get together around the Confederate campfire with Christian Sprakes (US), Catherine Conyard (US), John Bamber (CS) and Mike Crump/Ron Harding (CS) all taking it in turns to sing.

It was also so pleasing to see other invited re-enactors from other societies not only joining in but stating how much they appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The musical and social reputation of the ACWS was certainly enhanced before we moved later on into the raucous night of the nearby beer tent.

From a Confederate perspective, it was nice to have an artillery crew for the first time this season. Really well done to those Confederate volunteers. In addition, it was nice to see Sergeant Mike Bussey and the 1st Tennessee back with fine numbers thereby ensuring all 4 Confederate Regiments were represented and all 4 state flags were, for the first time this season, unveiled and present during the regular morning popular main flag raising display.

From a Union perspective, another fine turnout but the Union artillery must get a special mention. They were superb and put such a lot of hard work in moving the artillery pieces around the vast arena which the Confederates later found out the hard way for the first time! Also, well done to the Union Army for marching around to the NWW2 lines and congratulating the ACWS ex chairman, Nick Richards on his birthday. He was very moved by the unexpected gesture.

Overall, this was an excellent weekend to finish the 2021 season and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone

who attended. There was a cracking attendance from both armies with new and enthusiastic recruits clearly visible on both sides.

If these numbers continue to grow like this and we get everyone back together in 2022 after the problems with Covid, work, family and pre booked holiday commitments, the future clearly looks extremely bright for the ACWS. So looking forward to seeing everyone next season.

I understand we have some potentially cracking events lined up in 2022 so get those dates in your diaries asap! In addition, save some wood as fed up of paying £5 per small bag at these events!

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



Whitby War Weekend





The following events were cancelled in 2020/2021 and have been penciled-in for 2022:

April - No Man's Land

May 14/15 - Marbury Merry Days

June/July - East Coast Showground Skegness

July 23/24 - Bedford River Festival

August - Pitchford History Festival

August - Worcester Living History Show

**December 4th 2021 - ACWS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held virtually