



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2022 1st Edition

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



Whitby 2021

ACWS is a Member of
N·A·Re·S

Issue 203

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



Chairperson
Helen Gibson



Secretary
Linda Reed



Treasurer
Ian Morris



Health & Safety
Dr. Frank Mair



Membership
Claire Morris



Webmaster/
Explosives Officer
Mike Bussey



Communications
Stephen Griffin

Newsletter Contact Details
editor@acws.co.uk

Events
Vacancy to be
filled



Marketing
Roger Willison-
Gray



Confederate
Commander
Glenn Gibson



Federal
Commander
Tim Davies

Reports

Hi All

Hope you have all had a good break and enjoyed your Christmas.



Thank you to Linda for picking up the events role as well as secretary but she will not be able to do this forever we still need this position to be filled.

Hopefully we will have a few more events this year as I know you are all eager to resume x

All of the board new and old have been brilliant throughout this difficult time and a pat on the back now and again makes all of us feel valued.

Please renew your membership ASAP as then we have a greater knowledge of attendances.

Thank you to all of you for your communication on FB.

A big welcome to our new minutes secretary, Sandra Anderson (43rd NC)

See you all very soon.

Mrs Helen Gibson

Chairperson ACWS

Hey y'all,

Happy New Year!!!



I truly hope this newsletter finds both yourselves and your families well. Welcome to your first newsletter of the year and welcome to all the new and old members who have rejoined.

If you haven't rejoined already please bear in mind this will be your last newsletter until you renew your membership.

It looks like finally everything is returning back to normal after covid, I am so glad to see the back of it to be fair. The 2022 season is looking good considering, we did miss out on an appearance at Chalke Valley but we will be there in 2023 all being well.

I have currently taken on the load of Events, however we really do need someone to come on board and help with mainly the admin for events, communicating with clients and attending board meetings which are now virtual. If you are interested please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other board member for a chat.

I am sure you will all welcome and thank Sandra Anderson (43rd) as our new Minutes Secretary and thank Claire Morris for stepping in short term, as you know this position has been empty for quite a few years.

We also need to thank Mike Bussey for stepping into Explosives Officer position and thank Frank Mair for stepping in short term last season.

If anyone has any first aid qualifications and would like to help out at events when needed please could you contact us, then we can pass you on to our Medical Team.

Enough rambling now from myself!

See y'all soon

Linda

Company Secretary (ACWS)

Dr. Frank Mair

Health & Safety
Director's Report
for 2021.



I must start by apologising for the fact that I missed the deadline to get this report in for the November Newsletter, so people won't have had much time to respond to any substantive issues within it. The

good news is: There is nothing much to report!

I have this year had to draft a COVID policy for risk minimization during re-enacting, but by the time the season got going, most of the regulations had been relaxed, so the more restrictive points of the policy (such as roping off of camping areas, no touching of artifacts, no sharing of bottles/flasks) were not policed or enforced. As we wait to see what Omnicron can do, we may yet have to return to this issue, but at this point, we can hope that robust take up of boosters will see us right to a more normal season next year.

I and the rest of the committee are currently reviewing all of the Codes of Practise that set out how we safely do what we do. I have started with the Artillery Code, last updated in 2013. An incident with Union cannon at Epworth made this necessary. In summary, an artillery round split while ramming, so was ejected. A later successfully fired round caused the ejected powder to flare off. Superficial burns were minimised by rapid action from those present, treating the casualty with water from canteens. This serves as a useful reminder as to why all NCOs of all units need to be sure to check that every combatant has a full canteen. Another point to be raised was that officers and NCOs

need to use their whistles. In the new season, we need to do a fire drill for fire in the lines, and also a casualty during battle drill.

As to the Code of Practise, a section has been added, stipulating that any unspent powder must be wetted, and a fire bucket for this purpose has been added to the list of things the Artillery crew must carry on to the field. This is also good advice for any infantry who have to pour out a round, or otherwise have a spillage of unspent powder: Save what you can, and liberally wet what is left on the ground: the water will make it impossible for the powder to flare (short-term protection), but it will also dissolve away most of the potassium nitrate (saltpetre), so that even once the water has dried, the powder residue will not present a flaring hazard. The new Code of Conduct will be mounted on the ACWS website when it has had the approval of the Artillery commanders and the Board of Directors.

I also added to our risk assessment that borax solution (or other proprietary fire retardant treatment) should be applied to cotton dresses to suppress flammability, especially if dresses are worn round a fire. There have been incidents with dresses catching fire in Napoleonic camps. Aside from Black Powder, and the

cavalry, the camp fires are probably the biggest risks on our camps.

I will conclude by reminding you all that our health and safety is the duty and responsibility of us all: If you see something that you think could/should be done in a safer way, let us know.

Best wishes for a restful and very happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year when it comes. Here's hoping it's going to be better than the last two.

Frank

Mike Bussey

As the new ACWS Explosives Officer I am conducting an audit of ACWS assets in this area.



I have emailed Acquire & Keep holders who I believe to have ACWS Boxes and Powder to verify the details. If you are in possession of ACWS Boxes and / or powder and have not received or responded to my email, could you please let me know the ACWS box number(s) and or amount of powder in your keeping. In addition, can I ask that anyone with empty ACWS bottles brings them along to the next event so that they can be re-used when we next purchase a bulk order.

**Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of
The American Civil War Society Ltd
Held virtually on Zoom on Saturday 4th December 2021**

PRESENT

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

The annual general meeting commenced at 1pm.

HG welcomes members to the AGM, and informs everyone the meeting is being recorded for administration purposes.

1 An explanation of voting via Zoom

RWG explains “chat” function for asking questions, members asked to mute microphones. For proposing and seconding motions the “raised hand” function can be used to show whom is proposing and seconding motions. For voting a question will be read out by the Chairperson, and a poll will be sent to members onscreen for “For the motion”, “Against the motion”, and “Abstain the motion”. Once all have voted the poll will close, the votes will be counted, and then passed to the Secretary to count with postal and proxy votes.

MB asked for onscreen sample vote as a tester.

RWG instructs anyone who cannot vote on the onscreen poll, to message RWG privately in the chat function and he will add their votes to the tally.

2 Apologies for absence

LR confirms the following apologies for absence:- Ivan Purkiss, Neil Rodgers, Steven Brooks, Lesley Bussey.

TD confirms there are 5 ACWS members in his front room struggling to log on to Zoom app for voting. **MB** suggest they come onto audio and confirm they are ok to have **TD** vote on their behalf. **TD** says they will try & get online.

3 To approve the Minutes of the 2020 AGM

HG asks for proposed, and seconded. Frank Mair proposes, Mike Bussey seconds.

Zoom votes –	13x for,	1x against,	0x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	11x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Total votes -	34x for,	1x against,	0x abstain.

HG confirms the minutes of the last AGM are duly approved, and instructs the Secretary **LR** to sign the minutes.

4 To receive the reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2021 season as annexed

1 Secretary LR adds – Apologies for the clerical error of a breach of GDPR that the members' email addresses were sent out as CC not BCC on the email out regarding the AGM invites. If any member wishes to raise this issue please contact the Secretary.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Secretary, no questions from membership.

2 Webmaster MB adds – Explains issues with website this year, first being when website service provider upgraded our website to a new format, and got our domain address wrong, took the company 5 days to sort this issue. Second issue was regarding secure site status, again for about 5 days website was down. Also the AGM voting papers had to be

redirected to a personal email on the board to ensure they came through correctly.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Webmaster, no questions from membership.

3 Events Director MM – not currently at the meeting, will join later.

4 Treasurer IM adds – confirms that the documents are now back from the accountant, and the accountant agrees with the Treasurer's figures. **IM** confirms he does not believe we will receive a tax rebate from HMRC, even though we have made a loss this year.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Treasurer, no questions from membership.

5 Membership Secretary CM - confirms there is nothing to add to report.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Membership Secretary, no questions from membership.

6 US Commander TD - confirms there is nothing to add to report.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Union Commander, no questions from membership.

7 Communications Director SG - confirms there is nothing to add to report.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Communications Director, no questions from membership.

8 CS Commander GG - confirms there is nothing to add to report.

HG asks if members have any questions for the Confederate Commander, no questions from membership.

9 Health & Safety Director – apologises for not handing in a report on time, and gives the following report to the membership at the meeting:-

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I will conclude by reminding you all that our health and safety is the duty and responsibility of us all:

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HG asks if members have any questions for the Health & Safety Director, no questions from membership.

10 Marketing Director RWG – HG confirms there is nothing from the Marketing Director to add to report.

11 Chairperson HG - confirms there is nothing to add to report.

HG asks for proposed, and seconded for the AGM reports. Caz Davies proposes, Ian Morris seconds.

Zoom votes –	16x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	11x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Total votes -	37x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.

5 To receive the audited Accounts

HG asks for proposed, and seconded to receive the audited accounts. Caz Davies proposes, Andrew Farnsworth seconds.

Zoom votes –	16x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	10x for,	0x against,	1x abstain.
Total votes -	36x for,	0x against,	1x abstain.

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

HG asks for proposed, and seconded to reappoint the accountants. Mike Bussey proposes, Linda Davies seconds.

Zoom votes –	16x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	10x for,	0x against,	1x abstain.
Total votes -	36x for,	0x against,	1x abstain.

7 Membership & Registration Fees for the 2022 Season

The Board recommends that the membership and registration fees remain on the same level but reserve the right to adjust registration fees as per ACWS Bye-Laws B.9.

HG asks for proposed, and seconded to motion to keep membership and registration fees the same. Andrew Farnsworth proposes, Andrew Parrott seconds.

Zoom votes –	16x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	11x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Total votes -	37x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.

8 Election of Board of Directors

The following Directors are standing for re-election for the 2022 Season unopposed:-

Chairperson – Helen Gibson

Zoom votes –	15x for,	0x against,	1x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	9x for,	1x against,	1x abstain.
Total votes -	34x for,	1x against,	2x abstain.

Helen Gibson is re-elected as Chairperson for 2022.

Secretary – Linda Reed

Zoom votes –	17x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Postal votes –	10x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
E-proxy votes –	11x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.
Total votes –	38x for,	0x against,	0x abstain.

Linda Reed is re-elected as Secretary for 2022.

Treasurer – Ian Morris

Zoom votes – 16x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Postal votes – 10x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
E-proxy votes – 11x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Total votes – 37x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.

Ian Morris is re-elected as Treasurer for 2022.

Membership Secretary – Claire Morris

Zoom votes – 16x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Postal votes – 10x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
E-proxy votes – 11x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Total votes – 37x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.

Claire Morris is re-elected as Membership Secretary for 2022.

Communications Director – Stephen Griffin

Zoom votes – 16x for, 1x against, 0x abstain.
Postal votes – 10x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
E-proxy votes – 11x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Total votes – 37x for, 1x against, 0x abstain.

Stephen Griffin is re-elected as Communications Director for 2022.

Health & Safety Director – Frank Mair

Zoom votes – 11x for, 0x against, 6x abstain.
Postal votes – 9x for, 0x against, 1x abstain.
E-proxy votes – 11x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Total votes – 31x for, 0x against, 7x abstain.

Frank Mair is re-elected as Health & Safety Director for 2022.

Webmaster – Mike Bussey

Zoom votes – 17x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Postal votes – 10x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
E-proxy votes – 11x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.
Total votes – 38x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.

Mike Bussey is re-elected as Webmaster for 2022.

Marketing Director – Roger Willison-Gray

Zoom votes – 16x for, 0x against, 2x abstain.
Postal votes – 9x for, 0x against, 1x abstain.
E-proxy votes – 9x for, 1x against, 1x abstain.

Total votes – 34x for, 1x against, 4x abstain.

Roger Willison-Gray is re-elected as Marketing Director for 2022.

MM joins meeting at 2pm.

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

By members of the Union Army.

Zoom votes – 9x for, 1x against, 0x abstain.

Postal votes – 3x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.

E-proxy votes – 6x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.

Total votes – 18x for, 1x against, 0x abstain.

Tim Davies is re-elected as Union Commander for 2022.

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

By members of the Confederate Army.

Zoom votes – 7x for, 1x against, 1x abstain.

Postal votes – 5x for, 0x against, 0x abstain.

E-proxy votes – 3x for, 0x against, 1x abstain.

Total votes – 15x for, 1x against, 2x abstain.

Glenn Gibson is re-elected as Confederate Commander for 2022.

Andrew Parrott asks who do Bi-Partisans vote for? **LR** confirms that bi-partisan members do not vote for either Union or Confederate commanders.

****AGM break 14:06 – 14:15. Meeting re-commences at 14:15.**

11 Events Update

HG confirms the following events are possible, probable, confirmed for 2022:-

2-3rd April 2022 – Whittington *POSSIBLE* we are hoping for this date. **LR** to correspond with Whittington to confirm.

End April 2022 – Bodrhyddan Hall (No Man's Land) multi period *POSSIBLE*

Sunday 24th April 2022 – Morley *CONFIRMED*.

May 2022 – Marbury Merry Days *PROBABLE*. **MM** states that the Marbury Committee are meeting this week, so we should know in next couple of weeks.

11-12th June 2022 – County Durham *POSSIBLE*.

June/July 2022 – Skegness *POSSIBLE*.

25-26th June 2022 – Mid-Fest, Earls Barton multi period *POSSIBLE*.

23rd-24th July 2022 – Bedford River Festival *POSSIBLE*.

30th – 31st July 2022 – Heckington Show *POSSIBLE*.

6-7th August 2022 – Pitchford History Festival *POSSIBLE*.

Mid August 2022 – Worcester Reenactors multi-period *POSSIBLE*

End August 2022 - Ibstock Country Fair *POSSIBLE*.

End August 2022 - Whitby At War Weekend *POSSIBLE*.

IM states that some organisers might be waiting to see how Covid goes at the beginning of 2022 before committing to events.

Dr Geoffrey West states he hopes Covid will be more under control in 2022, and UK has a drug to fight Omicron variant coming into use next month.

FM states that Duncannon could be seen as a possible for 2022 as they were very pleased with the showing of 43rd in 2021, and would like more to attend in 2022. **FM** to contact organisers.

12 Events Director & Minutes Secretary

HG makes an appeal for members to apply for the Events Director and Minutes Secretary positions that are currently vacant on the board. Events Director will get a lot of help from current board members, particularly from **LR**. Other board members and appointed persons can do site visits as well to help with work load.

MB states that Linda Reed, Stephen Griffin and Claire Morris have been doing the Minutes Secretary role, but it is too much for them to do as well as being a Director. Minutes Secretary is an “Officer” of the Society, not a Director role.

LR states that if someone can take the Events Role, then she can do minutes.

Dr Geoffery West offers to help if society is desperate, but he has a lot of foreign travel in 2022, so not sure how much he can commit to. **MB** asks him to contact board regarding availability.

13 Open Forum

Andrew Parrott asks what are everyone’s thoughts on the artillery units becoming Bi-Partisan?

HG asks are the artillery thinking about going Bi-Partisan?

LR states that the members of Union & Confederates would have to discuss it amongst themselves.

Andrew Parrott states it was just a question.

Martin Cross states this has been mentioned many times before but was muted as members at the time were die-hard Union, and die-hard Confederates, but attitudes may change in the future.

HG says it would have to be discussed with the board.

GG says that Confederate artillery were just getting back on their feet before Covid started, and will try to re-build again & possibly get current non-combatants to help fill the artillery ranks.

MB states that people could individually change sides/units that weekend to add to artillery ranks.

Martin Cross states that people might be bothered about losing their unit artillery, and would not want to change full time, and the decision must lie with the artillery units themselves.

GG states that re-enactment changes and we might have to adapt.

Andrew Farnsworth suggests training up infantry members to man artillery pieces for the weekend.

MB states that units can take it in turns over the weekend to man guns so that that same infantry units are not depleted all the time.

GG thinks we'll have to wait until each weekend to decide levels of artillery, as then we will know attendance.

FM states we can use the training weekend to train people up on artillery. The more who are trained up on cannon the better, as its more flexibility.

GG also suggests people who cannot currently go on the field running about due to injury / fitness might be willing to go on cannon if given the option.

RWG states that The Cavalry have often been trained up on the cannon so they have something to do if there are no horses at the event.

Andrew Parrott stated that the VRC when they first started were artillery support, and covered them on the battlefield. **MB** asked if there were any regular attendees of VRC at the moment.

LR suggests it would be good to offer it to all, as its another skill.

HG asks if there are any further questions.

14 Any Other Business

HG asks if there are any further questions.

HG confirms that we are still members of NARES.

IM ask if anyone is going to the NARES AGM for 2022. **FM** confirmed he went to meeting in 2020. NARES have not contacted **HG**, **LR**, or **FM**.

FM to confirm with LR. **MB** believes that they are normally in November.

HG thanks members for attending and voting at the AGM.

HG thanks Marie Mitchell for her work as Events Director & wishes her replacement well.

HG thanks Board of Directors for work over the year.

HG hopes we all have a good season in 2022.

HG confirms the date of the next AGM is Saturday 3rd December 2022, venue to be confirmed.

LR thanks Marie Mitchell for her work as Events Director.

LR thanks Board of Directors.

Marie Mitchell says thanks for being able to work with the Board over the last couple of years, but can no longer commit fully to the role, but will help out where she can.

AGM ended at 14:44.



Goblins, Ghosts and Ghouls of the Civil War.

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 articles. 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 3 - Haunted Houses and Heinous Hospitals

Part 3

A Civil War battle did not need to be a major engagement to have ghosts associated with it. The Battle of Kolb Farm, Marietta, Georgia in June 1864 is long well known for its significant paranormal activity. Almost as soon as the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain ended in June 1864, people began reporting stories of ghostly soldiers on the battlefield and hearing the sounds of gunshots and cannon fire. Sometimes visitors whiffed the metallic smell of blood and death. One father and his son driving through the battlefield park were confronted by a uniformed man

on his horse and realised he was a ghost. The father slammed on his brakes as the apparition approached them, getting so close the pair could see his Union uniform and his sabre, before he vanished through a fence across the road. In one housing development built on the battlefield, the ghosts of soldiers have visited in the darkness of night, while one mischievous ghost moved into one house, making his presence known by slamming doors and dropping coins on the floor. It's said the owners have come to terms with their friendly ghostly presence. It is also believed a ghostly apparition still haunts a farmhouse on the actual battlefield itself.

The Beauregard-Keyes House in New Orleans is said to be haunted by the ghost of Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard and an entire Confederate regiment of ghost soldiers reenacting the Battle of Shiloh. This was General Beauregard's worst defeat and a battle that took place 415 miles away in southwest Tennessee. Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard only resided for two years in this French Quarter house named Keyes House after his second wife, Caroline, died. Nevertheless, the general's ghost has been spotted wandering its rooms in full-dress uniform. Fallen



Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard

Confederate soldiers who fought alongside him at the Battle of Shiloh are also said to haunt the rooms. One guest even reported having a full conversation with one Confederate soldier at a garden party, only to later learn that no one matching his description was in attendance. The eerie sounds of orchestra music and dancing feet are also heard, said to be the echoes of a grand ball that Caroline had planned but was never to be. General Beauregard had gone off to fight at Fort Sumter and she died of subsequent illness, never to be reunited with her love again.

St. Peters Catholic Church in Harpers Ferry, which served as a hospital during the Civil War, is reportedly haunted by at least one soldier. The young man, a Catholic, was brought to be treated at the

hospital, but since his wounds weren't as serious as some of the others, he was made to wait outside for help. He was comforted by being brought to a Catholic church. But his wounds were more severe than people had thought, and he died as he was being carried into the Church. His last words were "Thank God, I'm saved." These days, some visitors to the church say they see a glowing aura at the church's entrance. Some even report hearing his final words. Some say you can still see Father Michael Costello, of St. Peters Catholic Church, pray for his town on a hill near the church. Costello witnessed the events at the raid on Harpers Ferry.

The Marshall House in Savannah may appear every bit the genteel southern hotel, with its Greek Revival architecture, cast-iron balcony, and elegantly appointed rooms. But it is one of the most haunted houses in the South. During the Civil War, the Marshall House served as a Union hospital. As we know, medicine in those days could be rather gruesome, with plenty of limbs having to be amputated.

Sure enough, construction workers renovating the hotel in the 1990s found a grisly stash of amputated limbs beneath the floorboards. That explains some of the eerie sightings

of ghosts wandering hallways and foyers-perhaps in search of their missing limbs? A ghost of a Union soldier, who is missing an arm, roams up and down the hotel's hallways. He asks, "Has anyone seen my arm?" Ghostly children have made their presence known as well-by biting people, laughing, and running down the halls. Some guests have reported waking to an apparition pressing their hand against their forehead, as if taking their temperature. There are also reports of a ghost cat, as well as the spirit of Uncle Remus author Joel Chandler Harris, who sometimes can be heard tapping on his typewriter. The Eliza Thompson House on Savannah's quintessential Civil War boulevard - Jones Street - also has its share of sightings. Tales tell of Confederate soldiers in an upstairs window and a young girl wearing a white dress in the hallway. There is the Old Candler Hospital which served as a P.O.W. Camp for Union soldiers serving time. Under the Old Candler Oak is an area used by both armies for encampments and drills. Photos captured images of ghost soldiers in and around the deserted hospital, morgue and haunted grounds.

The Exchange Hotel Civil War Medical Museum in Gordonsville, Virginia. Just from its title, one can see the variation in its history. From

1860 to 1862, it served travellers in desperate need of a warm meal and a good night's sleep. However, from 1862 until the end of the Civil War, it became the Gordonsville Receiving Hospital and was where Union and Confederate soldiers were treated for battle wounds or perished because of them. Within just one year, over "23,000 sick and wounded" were brought to its doors. By the end of the Civil War, its total number of patients reached more than 70,000. Around 700 of these men would not be saved and had to "be buried on its surrounding grounds." All the pain and agony experienced by these soldiers taken to the hospital made it prime breeding ground for unhappy spirits. There are "80 recorded incidents" of ghost activity in this hotel. Strange occurrences, such as doors closing on their own and eerie orbs appearing suddenly in rooms, have led many employees to now totally avoid night shifts at the museum. In its hotel days, guests also



The Exchange Hotel Civil War Medical Museum in Gordonsville

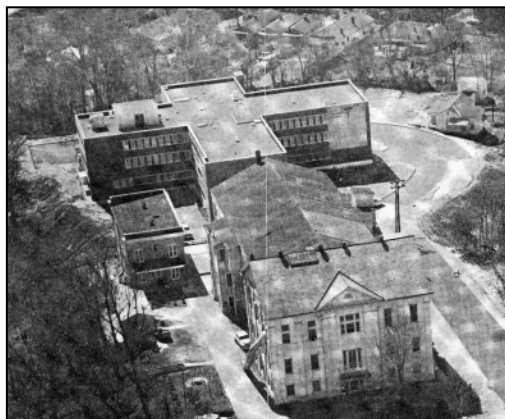
experienced spooky phenomena.

They've awoken to screams and moans (perhaps of soldiers, enduring painful amputations in operation rooms), for instance. Others would encounter nurses, garbed in black, wandering the halls. Today, one of the hotel's most famous spirits is known as Anna, a slave and close friend of Margaret Crank, the second wife of one of the hotel's early owners. Frequent sightings of Anna in the museum's dependency, known as the Summer Kitchen, have made it a favorite for ghost hunters.

In addition, one woman had an especially frightful run-in with one of the museum's most virulent hostile spirits, Major Quartermaster Richards. According to local lore, Richards' wife had been cheating on him with a surgeon. Upon discovering this betrayal, the Major took the poor woman into the woods, murdered her, then hung himself. Before taking his own life, he vowed to "hold her spirit hostage there for eternity."

Vicksburg Kuhn Memorial State Hospital lurks in an overgrown area between downtown Vicksburg and the Vicksburg National Military Park. The broken-down building looks well built, but in recent years it has stood empty and remains haunted. The building was built in 1832 after a smallpox outbreak. The hospital was

used during the Civil War, and in 1878, 16 doctors and 6 Catholic Sisters of Mercy died of Yellow Fever during the epidemic that swept the area at the time. The state took over the hospital in 1871.



Vicksburg Kuhn Memorial State Hospital

One wing served to house Confederate veterans and the University of Mississippi once held medical school classes there. At one point, the fourth floor served as a minimum security prison. Recently, paranormal activity has been recorded on numerous occasions. The hospital halls are dark and frankly look like something from a horror movie, which is why a local paranormal activity group has filmed there. During the shooting of that film, when the evil clown that is the main antagonist shows up on screen, cameras caught a disembodied voice that said, "Oh, my God." The hallways have their own noises. One investigation

caught the voice of a little girl saying, "Want to come play with me?" on a recording. In addition, there are frequent responses from a K-2 meter, which is said to light up when there are spirits present.

Hammond General Hospital at Point Lookout was identified and leased by the U.S. Government as it needed a hospital to house casualties of the Northern armies. It was built and received its first Union Army patients on August 17, 1862. Early in 1863, the authorities ordered a small number of Confederate prisoners confined to the hospital grounds, most being Southern Marylanders accused of helping the Confederacy.

Not long after the Battle of Gettysburg, the U.S. Government expanded the hospital's grounds and built a prison camp for Confederate soldiers. The Point Lookout hospital site was close to the battlefields yet isolated enough to make any rebel escapes difficult.

The site later became officially known as Camp Hoffman, a rebel camp capable of holding 10,000 prisoners of war. As the Civil War progressed, additional prisoners were assigned to Camp Hoffman. By September 1863, 4,000 Confederates were being held at the camp. By December, the number

had more than doubled to 9,000. By the following June, less than one year after the camp was created, more than 20,000 prisoners crowded the camp.

Point Lookout was used mainly for enlisted Confederate soldiers with most Confederate officers being sent to Fort Delaware. During the prison's operation, filth prevailed and wells became contaminated. Men literally froze to death in Sibley tents -- rudimentary structures offering little protection from the elements -- with but one blanket apiece and very little wood. With money scarce and boredom plentiful, the prisoners learned to occupy themselves making trinkets and many other useful articles out of various materials that were subsequently used for bartering purposes. At the end of the Civil War in April 1865, Federal officials began transferring the Confederates south; by late June the last prisoners were gone.

In just under two years, out of 52,264 Confederates imprisoned at Point Lookout, between 3,000 and 8,000 men died. Over the decades, there have been numerous reports of paranormal experiences within Point Lookout State Park, but none more so than in the lighthouse itself. To this day, it remains the only Chesapeake Bay lighthouse to have earned such esteemed paranormal

scrutiny. Over 24 successfully recorded different voices have been recorded in the building, both male and female voices singing and talking, often using quite colourful language. One comment, "Fire if they get too close to you," was thought to reference the great number of Confederate soldiers imprisoned nearby. A female voice, recorded on the tower staircase and believed to be that of Ann Davis, wife of the first keeper, spoke of "my home."

Yet another voice said, "Let us not take objection to what they are doing." Lighthouse visitors have experienced very chilly air in parts of the building, along with a rotten smell emanating from one particular room. Oddly, as soon as it was made public that the smell was from the tormented spirits of people held there against their will -- those falsely accused of spying or having Confederate sympathies -- the smell disappeared.

In addition to unusual sounds and smells, many spectral visions have also been reported, such as that of Ann Davis, standing at the top of the stairs in a white blouse and long blue skirt. Several unexplained images have also appeared in photographs, the most well known being that of "The Ghost of Point Lookout," taken during a séance in the lighthouse in

the late 70s. In the photograph, Laura Berg, a former lighthouse resident, stands in the centre holding a candle. To her left, the foggy form of a man in soldier garb - weapon, sash, one leg casually crossed over the other - appears to be leaning into the wall. Interestingly, this image was not noticed by those attending the séance; it was seen only later, in the photo.

The Old City Hotel, Savannah, Georgia now Moon River Brewery, formerly served as a Confederate and Union hospital during the Civil War years. Many soldiers went in as patients and never came back out. Considered one of Savannah's most haunted locations, the Moon River Brewing Company has played many roles before becoming the beer house and restaurant it is today. The building began as a hotel in 1821, then served as a hospital for yellow fever victims during the Civil War. Needless to say, the building saw a lot of deaths during that time and many believe some of that macabre energy still lingers. Many of the restaurant's guests have reported seeing a woman in period clothing staring down from the top of the staircase; other sightings include a taunting spirit named "Toby" in the basement, and a spirit named "Mrs. Johnson" upstairs.

By Stuart (Goober) Douglas

How a US Civil War Surgeon became one of Broadmoor's most notorious patients

Perhaps one of the most famous psychiatric hospitals in the world, Broadmoor was first created as a mid-19th century psychiatric asylum, briefly served as a prisoner of war camp in the mid 20th century, and is now still a high-security psychiatric hospital. Many of its inmates are sent there via the criminal justice system, leading to it often being misdescribed as a prison.

As a result, it has been home to some of Britain's most notorious criminals, including an assortment of serial or spree killers who were deemed, during their trials, to be suffering from mental illnesses. Local residents had Broadmoor's alarm system tested once a week for decades, which was designed to alert the nearby towns should anyone escape: the shadow of Broadmoor still looms large. Inmates at Broadmoor include Peter Sutcliffe (the Yorkshire Ripper), Graham Young (The Teacup Poisoner) and Ronnie Kray. However, there was also another infamous inmate who served during the American Civil War. This is the amazing story of William Chester Minor.

William Chester Minor, also known as W. C. Minor, was born on June 22, 1834 and died on March 26,

1920, was an American Army surgeon, psychiatric hospital patient and lexicographical researcher. After serving in the Union Army during the American Civil War, he moved to England. Affected by paranoid delusions, he was committed to a London psychiatric hospital from 1872 to 1910 after he shot a man whom he believed to have broken into his room. Whilst incarcerated, Minor became an important contributor to the Oxford English Dictionary and became one of the project's most effective volunteers. Responding to protests about Minor's treatment in 1910, Winston Churchill, then serving as Home Secretary, ordered Minor's deportation to the United States. He was hospitalised and treated in Connecticut, where he died in 1920.

William Chester Minor graduated in 1863 with a medical degree and a specialisation in comparative anatomy. After a brief stint at Knight General Hospital in New Haven, he enlisted in the Union Army during the American Civil War. He was commissioned by the Union Army as a surgeon and also may have served at the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864 which was notable for the terrible casualties and human carnage suffered by both

sides. There is an unverified story of Minor also being given the task of punishing an Irish soldier in the Union Army by branding him on the face with a D for "deserter" and that this incident later played a role in Minor's psychiatric delusions. However, American Civil War historians currently disagree as to whether the Union Army actually used branding as a punishment for desertion.

After the end of the American Civil War, Minor saw duty in New York City. He was strongly attracted to the red-light district of the city and devoted much of his off-duty time to consorting with prostitutes. By 1867, his behaviour had so deteriorated and had come to the attention of the Union Army that he was transferred to a remote post in the Florida Panhandle. By 1868, his condition had so progressed to the point that he was admitted to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a lunatic asylum (as mental hospitals were then called) in Washington, D.C. After 18 months, he showed no improvement.

In 1871, William Minor went to London for a change of pace in order to try to help his mental condition. In 1872 he was living in Tenison Street, Lambeth, where once again he took up a dissolute life. On February 17, 1872 and haunted by his paranoia, he fatally shot a man named George Merrett, whom Minor wrongly

believed to have broken into his room. Merrett had in fact been on his way to work to support his family of 6 children, himself, and his pregnant wife, Eliza.

After a pre-trial period spent in London's Horsemonger Lane Gaol, Minor was found not guilty by reason of insanity and incarcerated at the asylum in Broadmoor in the village of Crowthorne, Berkshire. As he had his US Army pension and was judged not dangerous, he was given rather comfortable quarters and was able to buy and read books.

Whilst at Broadmoor, it was probably through his correspondence with the London Bookseller's that he heard of the call for volunteers for what was to become the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). He devoted most of the remainder of his life to that work. He became one of the project's most effective volunteers, reading through his large personal library of antiquarian books and compiling quotations that illustrated the way particular words were used.

He was often visited by the widow of the man he had killed and she provided him with further books. The compilers of the dictionary published lists of words for which they wanted examples of usage. Minor provided these with increasing ease as the lists grew. It was many years before

the OED's editor, James Murray, learned of Minor's history and visited him in January 1891. In 1899, Murray paid compliment to Minor's enormous contributions to the dictionary, stating, "we could easily illustrate the last four centuries from his quotations alone".

William Minor's condition continued to deteriorated and in 1902, due to delusions that he was being abducted nightly from his rooms and conveyed to places as far away as Istanbul and forced to commit sexual assaults on children, he cut off his own penis (autopenectomy) using a knife he had employed in his work on the dictionary. His health continued to deteriorate and, after James Murray campaigned on his behalf, Minor was released in 1910 on the orders of the then Home Secretary, 35 year-old Winston Churchill.

He was deported back to the United States and resided at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. There, he was formally diagnosed with schizophrenia. He died in 1920 in Hartford, Connecticut, after being moved in 1919 to the Retreat for the Elderly Insane there. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, Connecticut, alongside members of his family.

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

Goobers notes : In August 2016, it was announced that Farhad Safinia was to direct an adaptation, called The Professor and the Madman, starring Mel Gibson as Murray and Sean Penn as Minor. The film was released in May 2019.

Sources : Wikipedia, History Hit by Sara Roller



Best food is cooked on an open fire

Join us for the weekend



Has French Gold bound for the Confederacy been found?

According to legend, Napoleon Bonaparte III was desperate to assist the South during the American Civil War. The production of cotton made the Confederacy's success of prime importance to the French leader. Therefore, in an effort to assist the South clandestinely and without provoking any Union backlash, he ordered 5 chests of gold in 1863, now worth an approximate \$400 million, to be brought overland through Canada and then loaded onto a schooner to Escanaba on Lake Michigan before being moved South. The French Government at the time was very worried about the Union blockade and felt that this longer route through Canada was much safer and would attract much less attention.

On arrival, the French gold was supposedly loaded aboard a schooner headed down the Wisconsin coast to another port, where it was to be carried overland again to the Mississippi and then south into the heart of the Confederacy. However, just off Poverty Island, a dot of land in northern Lake Michigan near Escanaba, French-Canadian brigands attacked the treasure ship and sank it. Before it went down and in a desperate effort not to lose the treasure, the crew chained the

chests together and tossed them overboard in relatively shallow water. Nothing was ever heard of the 5 missing chests until in the early 1920s, a freighter ran aground on Poverty Island on Lake Michigan. While tug boats dragged the ship off the rocks, the tug boats' anchors snagged some 5 wooden boxes and the chains that held them together. However, as the wooden boxes were brought to the surface, the chests broke free and returned to the watery depths. Later, a lighthouse keeper's son, Carly Jessen, watched men on a salvage boat searching for something in the water off Poverty Island and the young man bet that it had something to do with the gold.

Suddenly, a storm descended on them, almost as if to deny them the treasure. In the storm, the salvage boat was lost. Over the decades, others have ventured into the waters and searched forlornly for the sunken treasure. However, very recently some wooden crates have now been identified in the murky depths and their location pinpointed but due to the poor weather, recovery has been impossible.

Recently, a man named Bennett, aged 47, owner of a diving school and a shop in suburban Wauwatosa, spent 2 years in the 1970s searching

the Caribbean for a fortune, working with Mel Fisher, who recently struck a motherlode off Florida in the 350-year-old wreck of the Nuestra Senora de Atocha. But despite his sojourn in the Caribbean with Fisher, Bennett's obsession since 1968 has been the legend that promises \$5 million in gold - worth perhaps \$400 million today - in Lake Michigan. Unlike Fisher, who was able to research old Spanish records and cargo lists, Bennett does not know the name of the vessel he's seeking. He knows of no record here or in France of its passage or mission.

However, he totally believes the story. He says "That's the thing about legends. If they live a century, they're usually true," he said, adding that he has received tantalising hints that the yarn has some truth to it. Apart from the story of the freighter, Bennett also discovered that a Chicago man named Frank Pea spent three summers in the late 1930s and early 1940s exploring the depths around Poverty Island with a ship named the St. Lawrence and a diving bell.

Bennett himself who estimates he has spent close to \$100,000 in the search since 1968, is now remodeling a fiberglass, electrically powered submarine. When finished in late August 2022, it will take two scuba divers as deep as 80 feet. And

while the Poverty Island ship may be more legend than fact, Bennett notes there are records on thousands of ships that have sunk in the storm-tossed Great Lakes. Many carried cargos like lumber, grain and iron ore. But some carried enough valuables - gold coin for payrolls and passengers' jewels held in ships' safes - to make a finder rich. "It's like being the first man to climb a mountain" he said. "It's an individual achievement. How can you challenge a man's mettle any better than on an operation like this".

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



ACWS Events Calendar 2022

April 2-3 WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE

POSSIBLE

Possible Preparation Weekend Living History event at Whittington Castle, Whittington, Oswestry, SY11 4DF.

April 23-24 BODRHYDDAN HALL, NORTH WALES

POSSIBLE

Possible multi-period 'No Mans Land' event at Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth Rd, Rhuddlan, Rhyl LL18 5SB.

Further details to follow.

April 24 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE

CONFIRMED

Confirmed one day event at Morley Rugby Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, Leeds LS27 0JJ. This is part of the town's St George's Day Weekend of activities with ACWS involved on the SUNDAY with Living History and in the parade from the Town Hall to the Family Fun Day at the Rugby Club.

Living History on SUNDAY.

Further details to follow.

May 14-15 MARBURY, CHESHIRE

CONFIRMED

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

Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics

Further details to follow.

July 9-10 TBC

POSSIBLE

Possible event. Choice of venue to be confirmed.

Further details to follow.

July 23-24 BEDFORD RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

POSSIBLE

Possible event at the Bedford Riverside Festival, Bedford, Beds MK40 1AS.

Further details to follow.

July 30-31 EPWORTH, LINCS

POSSIBLE

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

Further details to follow.

August 27-29 WHITBY, N YORKSHIRE

CONFIRMED

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

Infantry and Artillery. No ACWS Cavalry in attendance.

Further details to follow.

September 10-11 TBC

POSSIBLE

Possible end of season event at a venue To Be Decided

Further details to follow.

December 3 ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 ACWS Annual General Meeting (Virtual or In-Person - TBC)

The Possible events for 2022

We are currently in discussion with these possible event sites with a view to confirming where possible.



Whitby 2021

ACWS Events 2022

When viewing from PDF please click the star to go to the map on the Internet.



Events

- ★ April 2-3 WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE
- ★ April 23-24 BODRHYDDAN HALL, NORTH WALES
- ★ April 24 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE
- ★ May 14-15 MARBURY, CHESHIRE
- ★ July 23-24 BEDFORD RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL
- ★ July 30-31 EPWORTH, Lincs
- ★ August 27-29 WHITBY, N YORKSHIRE

