



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2022 3rd Edition

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



Seaham Banquet from private Jason Murray 2nd S Carolina

ACWS is a Member of
N·A·Re·S

Issue 205

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



Chairperson
Helen Gibson



Secretary
Linda Reed



Treasurer
Ian Morris



Health & Safety
Dr. Frank Mair



Membership
Claire Morris



Webmaster
Mike Bussey



Communications
Stephen Griffin



Marketing
Roger Willison-Gray



Events
Catherine
Conyard



Confederate
Commander
Glenn Gibson



Federal
Commander
Tim Davies

Reports

Hey Y'all,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we come to the end of the 2022 season.



It has been a good season with a mixture of events that I hope you have all enjoyed. As you receive this we will have probably already had a good long weekend at Whitby!

As you all know since the AGM we have had a position on the board for Events. I am pleased to say that the board have co-opted Catherine Conyard into the position and would like to thank her for taking up the challenge!

As 2022 draws to a close, lots of changes ensue.....

Sad news that Griff will be leaving the board as Communications! I am sure you will all join me in thanking him for everything he has done and continues to do for the ACWS.

It is also sad news that Roger Willison-Gray is retiring from re-enactment and the board. As you all know Roger has been a member for many years and will be missed by us all! Thank you so much Roger

for your friendship and everything you have done over the years. We all do wish you the very best in your retirement.

See y'all soon

Linda
Secretary (ACWS)

Hi all

It's nearly the end of our season and lots of thank you's for everyone who has supported the events.



Its been fantastic seeing you all, Linda and Claire juggling two roles on the board and Mike for taking over as powder officer and the rest of the board for everything you do.

With me recently having Covid I urge everyone to stay safe and hope to see you at our last few events.

Love to all

Mrs Helen Gibson
Chairperson acws

NOTICE OF 2022 AGM

The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, (number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that it's AGM will be held on Saturday 3rd December 2022, 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 Thursday 6th October 2022.

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:

- Chairperson: Helen Gibson
- Secretary: Linda Reed
- Treasurer: Ian Morris
- Membership: Claire Morris
- Webmaster: Mike Bussey
- Health & Safety: Frank Mair

Mr Stephen Griffin (Communications) is not standing for re-election

Mr Roger Willison-Gray (Marketing) is not standing for re-election, this post is being retired therefore no nominations are being sought for this position.

Catherine Conyard will be standing for election for the post of Events Director after being co-opted into the position during the 2022 season.

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

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

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 on behalf of the Board of Directors,

Linda Reed

Company Secretary and Director

22nd August 2022

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 cor-rect, 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 25th September 2022.

Remembering Reverend Ron



I wish to thank all the members of ACWS who wrote such kind tributes to my late husband Ron Moseley. You all knew him as Reverend Ron. Mike Bussey kindly forwarded the Facebook tributes and these have now been printed for our family and friends to read, and to keep in the family archives.

We were surprised and pleased to see so many of you at Ron's funeral service. He truly loved his role as Rev. Ron and he tried to attend every battle. We have camped with you the length and breadth of Britain, in castles, museums, parks, in the grounds of stately homes, forts, mills, racecourses, show grounds, farmers fields and villages whose names we have never heard of

before. I also remember Ron, some years ago, going to Germany with the ACWS.

In the end it was old age and frailty that made his attendance impossible. When his eyesight failed I would read the magazine to him so he could keep up with what you were all doing.

Good Luck and best wishes to all of you. Remember Ron in your reminiscences around the camp fires and long may the ACWS continue.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Moseley

ACWS at Seaham



On 11th and 12th June 2022, the ACWS attended the very windy Armed Forces Day festival in the picturesque seaside town of Seaham, County Durham on the North East coast. This was the annual ACWS charitable event with the proceeds going to local charities including SAAFA and the local community centre.

Although the ACWS was the largest re-enactment group present with both infantry and artillery, there were other groups present including the Vikings with both Nidhoggr and the Amber Othala Viking groups, Napoleonic 94th Regiment of Foot, Warriors of the Wilderness, Royal Navy between 1769-1790, Rosa Mundi 15th century (a living history and re-enactment society portraying

life, skills and crafts from the late 15th Century), the Roman Tungrians, the Time Travelling Tea Tent and the British East India Company.

It was also so pleasing to see our favourite tippie tasters there namely the Nidhoggr Mead Company who the ACWS have seen before at Duncarron, Whitby and Epworth. Long may they continue to join our evening camp fires with their mead sampling tasting kits! Sadly, the strong wind persisted throughout the whole weekend thereby causing damage to quite a few of our tents. Nevertheless, the show went on and the ACWS put on by far the most impressive displays and everyone as usual enjoyed themselves.

Seaham is a small seaside coastal town on the North East coast and was infamous for its coal mining past but is now a modern thriving harbour town with beautiful beaches being reclaimed and its heritage coastal walks. It boasts famous landmarks including Seaham Hall, "Tommy" and St Mary, the Virgin Church.

Seaham Hall, which has just been voted "Best Small Hotel in the UK 2022", was built in the 1790s by Sir Ralph Milbanke, the 6th Baronet. In 1815 the poet Lord Byron married Anne Isabella Milbanke at Seaham Hall. The fruit of their marriage was Ada Lovelace, the mathematician and pioneer of computing. Following the death of the 6th Marquess in 1915, his son the 7th Marquess put the hall at the disposal of the authorities to use as a hospital during the Great War and it

subsequently continued in use as a general hospital before closing in 1978. Since the 1980s and 1990s, the iconic building has been redeveloped as a hotel, a nursing home and finally a popular luxury 5 star hotel and spa which it still is today. At the entrance of the Hall itself is the beautiful water feature named 'Charybdis'.

"Tommy" is a statue of a First World War soldier by artist Ray Lonsdale, displayed close to the Seaham War Memorial, on Terrace Green by the seafront in Seaham. The corten steel statue weighs 1.2 tonnes (1.2 long tons; 1.3 short tons) and is 9 feet 5 inches (2.87 m) tall, with a rusty red patina. It depicts a First World War soldier, wearing boots, puttees, greatcoat and tin hat, sitting on an ammunition box, with downcast eyes, holding the barrel of





his grounded rifle in his right hand. It is officially named 1101 referring to the first minute of peace as the armistice came into force at 11am on 11 November 1918, but is more popularly known as "Tommy" referring to the archetype private soldier Tommy Atkins.

It was displayed temporarily in Seaham from May 2014, but became a permanent fixture after a committee of local residents raised £102,000 needed to buy it. The piece was handed over on 4 August 2014, the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The statue was then relocated onto a paved platform in 2015, under which was buried a time capsule containing donated items, including a letter from Ray Lonsdale, a T-shirt,

children's artworks, war remembrances, and a Victory Medal. The word Tommy can also refer to any other statue representing a First World War soldier, usually made of bronze, steel or concrete. It remains a very popular and poignant iconic memorial.

St Mary, The Virgin Church is one of the 20 oldest churches in the United Kingdom. This beautiful and picturesque old Anglo Saxon Church can be dated back to the 7th century and is based to the North of the town.

Over the weekend, the ACWS was contracted to put on living history displays, firing displays and various drill displays as well as the artillery

formally opening and closing the Armed Forces Day festival itself. There was a commendable Union and Confederate Infantry presence as well as the Union Artillery crew. On both days, the Union and Confederate Infantry did individual drill displays in the mornings as well as firing displays.

As the main event on both days, the Union and Confederate Infantry started off doing drill and firing displays in the main arena before deciding to face each other, develop a skirmish scenario and start firing at each other and taking casualties. Both the re-enactors loved this different take and so did the public.

On the Sunday, both sides took such heavy casualties it was difficult to determine who won as no one was left standing! As usual, Christian Sparkes kept the public informed

particularly on the Sunday with the bigger crowd. In addition, there was also a black powder Firing through the Ages competition and well done to Ashley (Confederate), Tom (Union) and Paul (USS Sharpshooter) for taking part. Due to a good public turnout on the Sunday, the ACWS also did the Kids Drill which everyone thoroughly enjoyed particularly the kids and their parents with their numerous charges.

This is becoming a very popular part of our display. Massive credit to everyone in the ACWS who attended this worthy Armed Forces charitable event and the feedback from the organisers, public and other re-enactors was very positive.

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



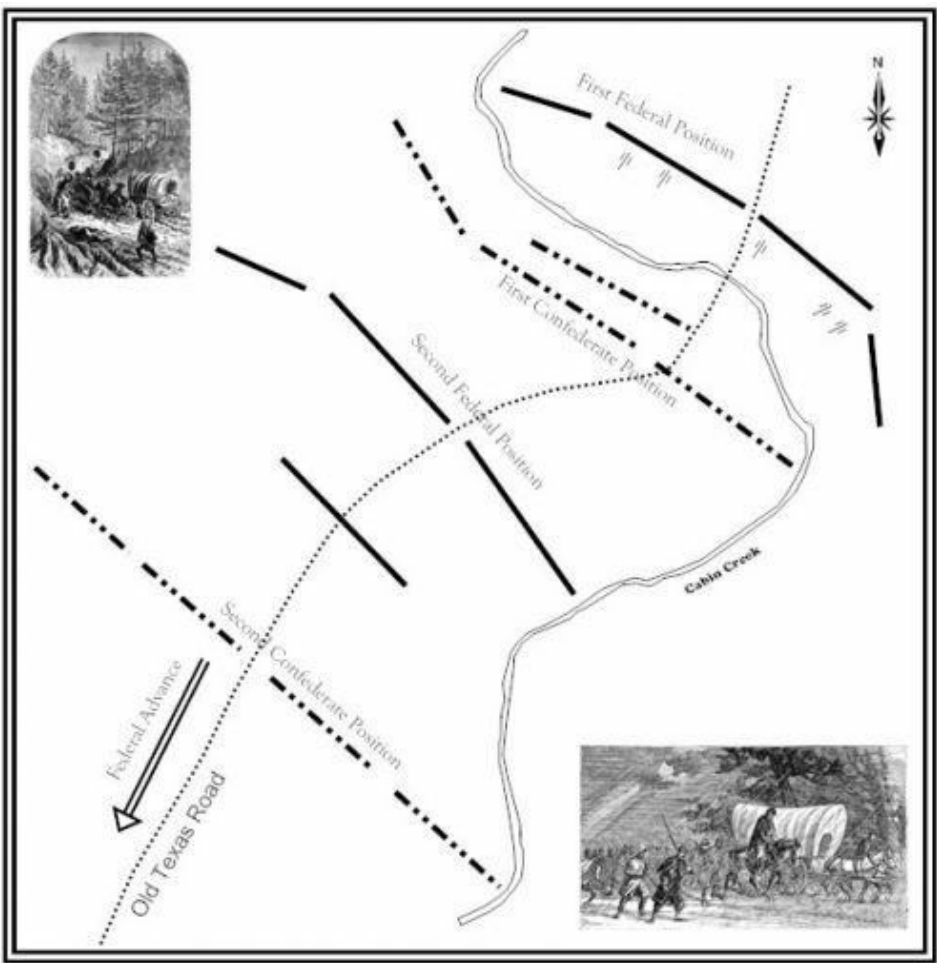
The Second Battle of Cabin Creek

The Second Battle of Cabin Creek was part of a plan conceived by Confederate Brigadier General Stand Watie (who had been promoted from Colonel after the First Battle of Cabin Creek despite the Confederate loss). The plan was to have a Confederate force attack central Kansas from Indian Territory thereby raiding both Union Army facilities and encouraging Indian tribes in Western Kansas to join in an attack on the eastern part of the state.

Stand Watie presented the plan to his superior namely Confederate General S. B. Maxey on February 5, 1864. General Maxey fully approved the plan on the condition that the attack would start by October 1 1864, to coincide with an attack on Missouri already planned by Confederate General Sterling Price. On September 19, 1864, Stand Watie and the Confederates won the Second Battle of Cabin Creek, capturing 740 mules, 130 wagons, and more than \$1.5 million in supplies, for which they received commendations from President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Congress. This is the amazing story of the often historically overlooked but outstanding Confederate victory at the Second Battle of Cabin Creek.

Confederate Brigadier Generals Richard Montgomery Gano and Stand Watie met at Camp Pike in the Choctaw Nation on 13 September 1864 to make provisional plans for the planned Confederate expedition deep into Oklahoma to both disrupt Union supply lines and encourage more Native American recruits to enlist in the Confederate Army.

Confederate Brigadier General Richard Gano, commanding several Texas Confederate units, had agreed to join Stand Watie as co-leader of the campaign. Stand Watie, however, knew that most of the Texans hated all the Indians, including their allies, and resented his personal promotion in the Confederate Army. According to 1 account, "Colonel Charles DeMorse of the 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment refused to serve under him." Stand Watie, therefore, deferred to Richards Gano as commander of the overall Confederate expedition. Both Generals Gano and General Maxey officially commended Stand Watie for this act of solidarity. Moreover, Richard Gano had more seniority as a Confederate general than did Stand Watie. However, Stand Watie would continue to individually command the Confederate Indian Brigade,



composed of about 800 men. Richard Gano's brigade comprised Texas cavalry and Texas artillery units containing about 1,200 men.

The Confederates had specifically planned and targeted a Union wagon train that left Fort Scott on 12 September 1864. It carried Union supplies and provisions intended for Native Americans who had fled their homes and camped near Fort Gibson. It was led by Union Major

Henry Hopkins. The 300 wagon train was escorted by 80 soldiers of the 2nd Kansas Cavalry, 50 men from the 6th Kansas Cavalry and 130 men of the 14th Kansas Cavalry.

In addition, a group of 100 pro-Union Cherokees joined the train at Baxter Springs, Kansas, but half were left at the Neosho River junction to guard the rear. The escort was to be increased by 170 Union Cherokees of the 2nd Indian Regiment, based

at Cabin Creek, and 140 Cherokees of the 3rd Indian Regiment en route from Fort Gibson.

After the Union supply train had set out, Union Major Hopkins received a message to move the train to Cabin Creek as fast as possible and await further orders. The message also said that Union Major John A. Foreman, 6 companies of men and 2 howitzers were en route as a relief force. The Union supply train arrived at Cabin Creek station during the afternoon of September 18th 1864. However, 2 days earlier, on 16 September, as the Confederate column were waiting for the Union supply train, the Confederates happened to encounter a detachment of black Union soldiers conducting hay-making operations at Flat Rock, near the confluence of Flat Rock Creek and the Grand River, about 5 miles northeast of present-day Wagoner, Oklahoma and 15 miles northwest of Fort Gibson.

Union Captain E. A. Barker leading a small group of the 2nd Kansas Cavalry and a detachment from the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, who were guarding the hay making operation, were soon surrounded and attacked from all sides by the Confederate force. In desperation, Union Captain Barker ordered his men with horses to attempt a

breakout. Only 15 of the 65 men who attempted to break out reached Fort Gibson. The Union troops lost all their hay-making equipment, several 100 tons of hay and over 100 casualties.

The Second Battle of Cabin Creek itself began 3 days later at 1:00am on September 19 1864. The Confederate assault began at night with the Texan advance covering the left flank and the Confederate Indian Brigade on the right flank. After the Union troops began to return fire, the Confederate artillery consisting of Captain Howell's 6 gun battery opened fire at close range with rounds of canister, grapeshot, Parrott shells, spherical case shot and solid shot.

The Parrott shells were fired from 2 invaluable rifled guns that made up part of the Confederate artillery. The impact was both devastating and demoralising for the Union defenders. Around the Cabin Creek stockade itself where the Union defenders had formed and now sheltered, the Confederates now formed a battle line consisting of the 29th, 30th and 31st Texas Cavalry, the 1st and 2nd Cherokee regiments, the 1st and 2nd Creek regiments, and the Seminole Battalion.

Sunrise revealed the Union positions. Confederate General Richard Gano then moved part of his artillery to his right flank, so that the Union wagon train would be caught in a lethal crossfire. The 2 Confederate Cherokee regiments then moved across the creek to capture the wagons that had escaped in the darkness. The Texans, led by General Richard Gano himself, attacked the Union flank, driving it back until the Union defenders were scattered in the wooded bottoms along the creek. This intense musket and artillery rebel barrage caused the frightened mules to panic and run. Many dragged their wagons with them and some mules were so terrified that they fell off the bluff and into Cabin Creek itself. The Union teamsters managed to cut many of the mules from their traces.

Men also jumped on the mules and rode across the ford to safer ground. By 9.00am on September 19, the Confederates finally controlled the field and 202 salvaged Union wagons, 5 ambulances, 40 artillery horses (which were quickly acquired by Captain Howells battery) and 1,253 mules were put in line for the trip back down South. The Union forces had been totally routed.

The Confederates then examined their amazing spoils which included

foodstuffs, provisions, firearms, ammunition, sutlers luxury goods, government supplies, numerous brand new uniforms which the Confederates gleefully exchanged with their own rags, a trunk full of "Union Greenbacks" for the Union paymaster at Fort Gibson and all the personal correspondence of Union Major Hopkins. Federal Major Hopkins himself managed to escape to Fort Gibson, hoping to meet Major Foreman's Union relief force on the way and recapture the train. Failing to find the relief force itself, he continued to Fort Gibson bearing the news of the Union disaster but questions have always remained as to his military conduct on the day of the disaster.

Following their success, the Confederate column was attacked by Union Colonel James M. Williams's 2nd Brigade, which was marching from Fort Gibson to relieve the besieged train. Fooling the Federal commander into thinking the train was being parked for the evening, at nightfall Confederate General Richard Gano ordered his men to light campfires and repeatedly drive an empty wagon across rocky ground on a small rock ridge giving the watching Union the impression that they were corralling the wagons for the night and going to camp the night there.

However, under the cover of darkness, he ordered all the wagons quietly rolled off in a northwest direction and thereby escaping with all captured Union supplies and wagons intact.

The Confederate force, led by Generals Stand Watie and Richard Gano, successfully captured a Federal wagon train of wagons, mules, commissary supplies and other needed items worth approximately \$1.5 million. Specifically, the invaluable booty included 1,253 mules and 202 wagons. Overall, it is estimated that there were between 195 to 260 tons of Union supplies captured. Both Confederate Generals Stand Watie and Richard Gano and their respective Confederate troops were officially recognised and commended for their success by both Confederate President Jefferson Davis and both houses of the Confederate Congress.

It stated "Resolved by the congress of the Confederate States of America, that the thanks of congress are due, and hereby tendered, to General Stand Watie, Colonel Gano, and the officers and men under the command for the daring and skill exhibited in the capture of over two hundred and fifty loaded wagons from the enemy, in the Cherokee Nation, on the nineteenth day of

September, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and for their brilliant and successful services in the Indian Territory".

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

Goobers Notes and further reading:

1) The First Battle of Cabin Creek took place on July 1 through July 2, 1863, in Mayes County, Oklahoma during the American Civil War. The Confederate forces under Colonel Stand Watie attempted to ambush a Union supply convoy led by Colonel James Monroe Williams. Williams was alerted to the attack and, despite the waters of the creek being swelled by rain, made a successful attack upon the entrenched Confederate position and forced them to flee. The raid by a Confederate Army detachment on a Union Army supply train bound for Fort Gibson in July 1863 failed to stop the Union detachment, which enabled the Union to succeed in winning the Battle of Honey Springs later that month. The battle was the first in which African American troops fought side-by-side with their white comrades.

2) Although not a strategic victory, the Second Battle of Cabin Creek was the last major battle of the

American Civil War in Indian Territory. It raised morale among the Confederates and allowed Confederate General Stand Watie to campaign until June 23, 1865, thereby making him the last Confederate General to surrender. Confederate General Stand Watie was planning yet another raid deep into Union territory when news of

General Robert E Lees surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia reached Indian territory.

3) Further recommended reading - The Second Battle of Cabin Creek - a Brilliant Victory - by Steven Warren

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

ACWS at Epworth

On the weekend of 30th and 31st July 2022, the ACWS travelled to the multi period event at Epworth, North Lincolnshire. Sadly, the weather was mixed all weekend making for a low public attendance. However, due to the previous long spell of extremely hot weather, it was agreed prior to the event by all that no fires were allowed. As such, many took small camping gas stoves and during the night both Union and Confederates sat around their lantern fires.

Sadly, and like last year, this multi period event was not well publicised so again 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, the Spanish

Civil War, Lonestar and other small re-enacting groups including the Medieval Archers.

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

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. The ACWS have now become the dancing highlight of the re-enacting world and so it was really nice to see both Confederate and Union re-enactors all dressed up and dancing together with all our other re-enactor friends. Sadly, our close friends, Jump, Jive and Swing may not be playing live

again next year but I do know that there are plans in place to replace one of the singers. I will keep you all fully informed.

For the weekend and due to not getting paid, the ACWS were very limited in what they could do so decided to put on a small firing and drill infantry display in the main arena and living history displays all day. Sadly, there were no cannon present like last year due to this lack of funds. The cannon were certainly missed by all the re-enactors as well as the public.

However, we were not getting paid for this event so quite rightly we must restrict our use of powder. As usual, 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 additional drill displays including skirmish drill on both days around the whole showground which were well received by the small amount of public present. On both days, the Union and Confederate infantry did their excellent drill and firing displays in the main arena which were well received by the public watching.

Particularly impressive was the last main volley by the

whole society. However, both the public and re-enactors missed doing the skirmish which had been so excellent last year. Both Union and Confederates had commendable numbers and it was also nice to see some new recruits on both sides. Well done to our ACWS commentator, Christian Sprakes who, as always, helped out with all the other re-enactment groups.

Overall, another enjoyable ACWS weekend and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended despite the mixed weather, the shortage of funds and the lack of public. If we do go back next year hopefully all these 3 issues will be fully resolved.

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



ACWS at Chester Le Street Steam and Vintage Fair

A commendable number of ACWS Union and Confederates attended the Chester Le Street Steam and Vintage Fair at the Lambton Estate in Chester Le Street, County Durham on the weekend of 9th and 10th July 2022. This was a 43rd North Carolina Regimental Event and not a full ACWS Event. Nevertheless, this was the 2nd time that the Lambton Estate has organised a multi period event and as such there were a large amount of different re-enactors present including our friends the Northern World War 2 Association, a colourful French Napoleonic Regiment, the Roman Tungrians, the Lonestar Western Town display, the Vikings and undoubtedly our ACWS favourite, the Duncarron Mead Company.

These all put on excellent displays in the much enlarged arena from last year for the public. Due to the absolutely gorgeous hot weather, there was a very large public attendance on both days. However, many re-enactors did suffer in the scorching heat and the ACWS were fortunate to be camping next to a large shady wooded area which they made the most of !

Due to an increase in space, the 43rd North Carolina managed to



secure a much larger and wider camping space from last year and thereby managed to create a mainly Confederate and Union A Frame camp of over 25 A frames which looked particularly impressive on the tree line and was by far the best and most authentic camp on the multi period site.

The 43rd North Carolina also agreed to perform a small skirmish on both days in the arena and managed to secure the invaluable assistance of the Lonestar Western group who provided not only a number of re-enactors to act as Union teamsters but also 2 very impressive authentic wagons to add to the scenario.

The first scenario was the First Battle of Cabin Creek (Union victory) in July 1863 which involved Union forces attacking Confederates who were waiting in ambush and driving them off and the Second Battle of Cabin Creek (Confederate victory)



Both these re-enactments were absolutely superb displays with the Confederates emerging through the woods with their tattered and bullet ridden Texas flag, through the tent lines and into the main arena where the 2 superb wagons were located and well guarded by the excellent ACWS Union infantry and the Union Lonestar teamsters.

which occurred in September 1864 and involved the capture of over 300 Union wagons by a Confederate force comprised of both Texan and Cherokee Regiments. With regards our re-enactment of these iconic Civil War battles, on the first day, the Union managed to fight off 2 determined Confederate skirmish attacks as well as a main rebel assault which despite trying to flank the Union position and the 2 Union supply wagons managed to fight off the Confederates who had to pull back in order to fight another day.

Again, massive credit to the Union re-enactors, both ACWS and Lonestar, who took casualties and the sight of blue bodies strewn over and draped all around the 2 wagons was brilliant. Personally, I thought Christian bugling the reb attacks and fall backs was a superb new facet to our re-enactments and really added to the scenarios.

Massive credit to the Confederates who took massive hits. On the second day, the Confederates deployed in skirmish formation and were again beaten back twice before launching 3 main battle line assaults. 2 were beaten back before the 3rd assault took the valuable Union supply wagons with the Confederates delighted to find boxes laden with hardtack.

Both these displays were thoroughly enjoyed by all the re-enactors who took part as well as the many public who came to watch. In addition, the 43rd North Carolina also put on an excellent living history display throughout the weekend which also proved popular with the large





amount of public who attended including the 2nd South Carolina authentic cooking display by Jason, the North Carolina Civil War Gun display by Denis and Glenn and the "Ask a Soldier" quiz by Martyn.

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 and thanks to negotiations prior to the event itself, the 43rd North Carolina were therefore able to secure a much larger and more appropriate camping space as well as a much larger arena for their skirmishes.

This proved invaluable due to the excellent ACWS attendance. Like last year, all the amenities were there including lots of food stalls and a beer tent with 70's music during Friday evening as well as sufficient portaloos which were nearby and regularly cleaned. Sadly, a new band booked for Saturday night failed to turn up and our good friends Jump, Jive and Swing who were initially booked and supposed to play on the night were only allowed to play during the daytime! In addition, we had loads of secure and ample parking just outside our boundary fence which made for a quick getaway for those needing to get home. 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. Highlights of the event were the superb skirmishes on both days involving the capture and looting of the 2 authentic Union wagons with the participation of the Lonestar Western re-enactors, the cracking 70's party night in the beer tent on Friday night and the Generals Uniform display on the Saturday night at the Cheese and Cracker Party on our tent lines.

Many thanks to Mark who took control of the Reb forces, many

thanks to Frank for taking control of the Union forces, Mike for carrying the flag and doing the all important powder duties and Lonestar for taking part and kindly bringing and lending us their 2 authentic chuck wagons.

However, mainly, many many thanks to everyone in ACWS who supported this 43rd regimental event and really contributed individually. We were by far the best re-enactment group present and our reputation and prestige took a further step forward.

Personal Reflections by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North



ACWS at Uttoxeter

The ACWS travelled to the Staffordshire Balloon Fiesta on the 15th and 16th July 2022 for a small living history event at Uttoxeter Racecourse.

The venue it itself was excellent for the ACWS as we had our camping space with own invaluable water supply, parking spaces and portaloos. In addition, there was excellent security throughout the whole weekend.

Due the extremely hot weather, we also took a lot of awnings which were vitally needed due to the sheer heat and sun. The Staffordshire Balloon Festival is an extremely popular event and there were huge numbers of members of the public on site all day and until 11.00pm.

The Fiesta included loads of Hot Air Balloons, Live Arena Entertainment with cover bands including a Ska/Reggae band, Sting/Police, Blondie, Duran Duran and everyone's favourite Queen (Freddie Mercury was really good for a change!), a giant funfair, Circus acts and workshops, excellent Fireworks displays, the famous Hot Air Balloon Night Glow show, Birds of Prey, very loud and expensive Monster Truck rides and loads of food and drink stalls.



Of course, the ACWS also had their usual sing along by the campfires and John Bamber (CS musician) entertained the Confederate camp alongside our Union guests.

The ACWS attended this small event as a living history display in the hope that in the future we can secure some much larger paying events. As such, there was a commendable turnout from both the Union and the Confederates.

The 4 Union cannon were present and although there was no firing allowed, the public and kids loved all the cannons that were on display as well as the Union artillery crews putting them through their paces. In addition, there were excellent displays on both camps during the day including the Union Medical display by our invaluable camp medic who worked all day, a Union music display, the Confederate

campaign cooking display, Major Glenn Gibson's kids authentic photo shoot as well as other various individual drill and living history sessions.

The Confederate infantry also marched around the whole arena which proved really popular with the public. Massive credit to all the ACWS members who interacted so well with the huge amount of interested public on both days and nights which was particularly taxing and exhausting due to the extremely hot weather.

Although it was a small living history event, everyone in the ACWS had a

really enjoyable weekend. The feedback from both the event organiser and the public was also excellent and due to this I can now confirm that the organiser now wants us back for next year. Well done everyone who attended as this is a cracking site and not to be missed next year.

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

Photos courtesy of Peter Gray 32nd Virginia



Civil War Ordnance Discovered

Be careful when you go on the very popular Civil War hiking trails as a 158-year-old piece of unexploded ordnance was discovered just 10 inches underground during an archaeological survey at the site of a key Civil War battle in Georgia. The survey was conducted prior to the creation of a new Civil War hiking trail through Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, where Union and Confederate forces clashed between June 19 and July 2, 1864.

The 10-pound cylindrical projectile has a curved nose and is of a type mainly used by the Union Army. Named a Parrott shell after Captain Robert Parker Parrott, who invented the cannon from which it was fired, the ordnance was much more accurate and deadly than traditional round cannon shot. The shell was designed to explode upon impact, but its percussion fuse apparently failed to ignite. According to Civil War archaeologists, the shell was probably fired by a Union battery commanded by Capt. Francis DeGress of the 1st Illinois Light Artillery.

This artillery unit included four Parrott cannons, a rifled artillery weapon invented by Capt. Robert Parker Parrott of the U.S. Army in 1860. Unlike round cannonballs, Parrott projectiles are shaped more like

modern artillery shells, with a long body and conical front piece. The shells featured explosive charges with paper fuses that burned at specific rates for different ranges. Because of the rifled barrels, Parrott cannons could fire shells much farther and with far greater accuracy than smoothbore cannons.

Nevertheless, the shell is believed to still be very much alive and may well be slated for a controlled detonation. In addition to the Parrott shell, the team discovered buttons and buckles from Civil War-era uniforms.

The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain witnessed some of the bloodiest fighting of the Atlanta Campaign, as Union troops under General William Tecumseh Sherman swept across the South. Although Sherman was dealt a tactical defeat at Kennesaw Mountain, suffering 3,000 casualties, his progress was unimpeded and he took the strategic Confederate city of Atlanta two months later.

Very interestingly, the local Police department's post about counter charging the shell has sparked a very lively and controversial online debate over whether technicians could instead try to preserve the

iconic weapon for archaeological and future historical purposes and ensure it goes into a museum rather than blowing it to smithereens. Civil War collectors, historians and munitions experts are all saying detonating the artifact to neutralize it will unnecessarily obliterate an important piece of Civil War history particularly in this case the Battle for Atlanta. It is advised that live shells of this nature are easily defused and rendered totally safe by soaking them in water.

Experts state that Civil War-era explosives are typically safe to handle, as the shells contain black powder, which is very unlikely to ignite once wet. There are numerous antique explosives experts who can render it harmless and have made many thousands of such similar shells totally safe.

However, according to the local Police department, controlled detonation is the only way to ensure the weapon is harmless. The Police stated that “The bomb squad stated that they would love nothing more than to preserve this piece of history.

But there is no way to safely render it without counter charging it,” wrote the Police Department in a comment on its Facebook post. “This charge is very small and will perforate the case. Unfortunately, even a small amount of live explosives can set the whole shell off.”

Article by Stewart “Goober” Douglas, 43rd North Carolina Volunteers



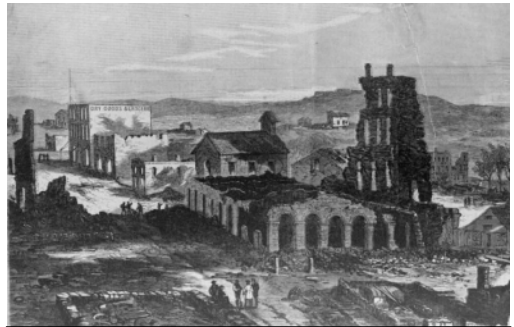
The Burnt District

Sometime between 4 and 5 o'clock on the morning of August 21, 1863, a sandy-haired Confederate officer, William Clarke Quantrill, led 450 heavily armed men through the streets of Lawrence, Kansas, an abolitionist stronghold. Quantrill and his raiders headed straight for the centre of town, with revolvers and rifles in hand.

They roused all males capable of carrying a gun and shot them in the streets. As the women wept and pleaded, Quantrill's men plundered homes, forced merchants to open safes, and set fire to Lawrence's finest houses and buildings. 4 hours later, they rode out of town, their horses festooned with fine silk dresses and other loot. Some 150 men and boys lay dead.

The commanding officer of Union forces in the region, General Thomas Ewing, Jr., received the news at his Kansas City, Missouri, headquarters. He immediately resolved to fight fire with fire. To deprive Quantrill's guerrillas of food and shelter, Ewing (the foster brother of General William Tecumseh Sherman, who brought this widespread scorched-earth warfare to Georgia a year later) ordered the mass deportation of all Confederate sympathizers from the

better part of four Missouri counties along the Kansas border. Then he selected a detachment of troops, many of them from Kansas, to carry it out. Burning for revenge, the men interpreted General Order No. 11 as a scorched-earth policy. They expelled under threat of death both Union and Confederate supporters alike from the region, shot all male resisters, and reportedly burned all the houses, the shops and the farm buildings to the ground.



Destruction of the city of Lawrence

When the soldiers were finished, Bates County, the epicentre of this wholesale and widespread violence, had become, in the words of one local historian, "a tenantless wilderness...the haunt of wolves, dogs, and an occasional outlaw seeking refuge."

The story of how the Union Army reduced nearly 2,500 square miles of Missouri--a Union state--to a wasteland known simply as "the

burnt district" has been largely forgotten by Civil War historians. Few of the 20,000 people who were forcibly deported left written accounts of their experiences, but a new archaeological project in Missouri is uncovering this long-lost history. Over the past three years, a team led by Ann Raab, a PhD student at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, has excavated two major sites in Bates County where buildings were obliterated during the expulsion. Amassing both archaeological and historical evidence, Raab is now analysing the detritus of war--from scorched ceramics to charred building foundations--and documenting for the first time the tragic consequences of General Order No. 11.

For the residents of Bates County, Raab's work is now focusing public attention on one of the darkest chapters of their past. "When a place is completely destroyed and all the farms and towns burned, all you are left with are the stories," says Peggy Buhr of the Bates County Historical Society and Museum in Butler, Missouri. "And eventually the stories become folklore, a little like fishing stories.

What Ann's project is doing is verifying our history." To this very day, Bates County is regarded as 1

of the most deprived in the state due to the ongoing legacy of this widespread destruction in 1863.

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

Sources;

- 1) Heather Pringle in ARCHAEOLOGY Magazine.
- 2) The Burnt District was immortalised by Missouri artist and Union officer, George Caleb Bingham in his iconic painting "Martial Law (or Order No.11) which underscored the Orders brutal execution and helped fuel the notoriety that followed Ewing in his post Civil War political career.





EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

December 3 ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Details on pages 3 and 4

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

April 1-2 WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE

CONFIRMED

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

Infantry and Artillery only. Further details to follow.

[Google Maps](#)

April 15-16 TO BE ADVISED

POSSIBLE

Possible event currently under discussion. Further details to follow.

April 23 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE

POSSIBLE

Possible 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.

Scatcherd Grove vehicle entrance

[Google Maps](#)