



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2023 1st Edition

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



Whitby 2022

“General Robert E Lee’s Inspection”

Courtesy of Stephen Griffin
(43rd North Carolina)

ACWS is a Member of

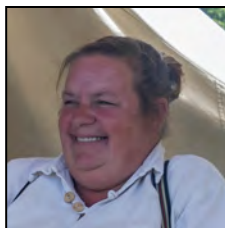
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Issue 207

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS - Board of Directors



Chairperson
Helen Gibson



Secretary
Linda Reed



Treasurer
Ian Morris



Health & Safety
Dr. Frank Mair



Membership
Claire Morris



Webmaster
Mike Bussey



Communications
Joseph Reed

Newsletter Contact Details

<https://acws.co.uk/contact-Communications>



Events
Catherine
Conyard



Minutes Secretary
Position Available
*Please contact
Secretary if interested*



**Confederate
Commander**
Glenn Gibson



**Federal
Commander**
Tim Davies

Director's Reports

Hi All, the new season is upon us. We have paid all of our annual costs and we are still going strong.

I would like to see as many people as possible at our events this year, some we are getting a good income from.

Most of all I miss you all and can't wait for us all to be together again.

As always thanks to the board for your constant support.

See you soon,

Helen

Chairperson, ACWS



Hey y'all,

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well and you all had a good Christmas.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our two new directors, Joseph Reed has now taken over "Communications" and Catherine Conyard has now officially joined us on the board as "Events".

I would like to give a huge warm welcome to ALL new members to our wonderful society (Now in our 48th year) and myself along with everyone else hopes you have as much fun creating happy memories as we all do.

This is the last newsletter you will receive if you haven't already joined for the 2023 season until you pay your membership. Please also remember if you are needing your membership urgently for licensing purposes, please include a note to state as such, bearing in mind that there is approximately a 3-4 week turn around from posting to receiving your membership card. It is also a good time to check your licences for expiry!

Out of season myself and Catherine have been very busy filling the calendar up with some lovely events. Some new and some old ones in there too! We are now in a very lucky position to say our calendar is now

closed for the 2023 season and we are now taking bookings for 2024.

As the cost of living has gone up, so has percussion caps, black powder, fuel and everything else it seems! However, we have kept our costs at minimum to our members for another year, there will be regimental and society fundraisers every weekend this year so please help support them.

We are hoping in the next couple of years to replace the society van as the one we have seems to be stacking up repairs the older it gets!

A battery of cannon (4) has been in for repair over the winter and will be ready for Whittington and has also been privately hired for a "21 gun salute" for the upcoming coronation of King Charles.

A very difficult decision has been made with consultation with the remaining members of the cavalry that the regiment should be "mothballed" due to lack of interest. I can however assure you that this does not mean we will not have cavalry at events as we will and the remaining members will merge within the ranks, we do have a possibility of 3 events involving cavalry this year.

Your board continue to work extremely hard behind the scenes in every capacity and I as always thank them for literally everything they do and of course yourselves too! We all make the society what it is.

Finally I would like to thank SoSkAn, 24th Virginia and the American Eagles for their continued friendship.

I am so looking forward to break free from this "cabin fever" over the winter period and to be back around the campfire with you all.

See y'all soon

Regards, Linda

Secretary, ACWS



Hi Everyone,

I hope you're all looking forward to another great season of Events – camping, campfires, hanging up with friends.... and gunpowder!

Many details are still to be finalised, so please keep checking the website for confirmations, events under discussion and further details. Warning Orders will be sent out two weeks before every event with final arrival times etc.

Whittington Castle – 1st/2nd April.

We are back at this lovely site for our first event of the year. A great chance to catch up with everyone and blow away those cobwebs. Camping details will be in the Warning Orders.

Avoncroft Museum – 15th/16th April.

This is a small-scale event, with very limited camping, but with the possibility of future growth. It will be used as a marketing and promotional event for the Society and there will be Living History and a small drill display. Potential future clients will be visiting over the weekend, so a range of great public interaction activities would be fabulous. We are camping in the orchard and are alongside SoSkAn.

Glenn and Tim will be communicating with their Sergeants soon to ask for names of interested attendees, which at the moment we will unfortunately need to limit to ten Confederate and ten Union A Frames. SoSkAn are offering the same numbers to their members. It may well be that more members can attend if SoSkAn do not have the numbers as many of their members are based in the south. There is room for a combined Officers row along the hedge from both societies. Once I know the names of interested members I will confirm attendance with people as soon as possible, alongside generating a reserve list if more space becomes available.

It would be great if we could have as wide a range of regiments represented as possible for both sides. Day trippers are very welcome, and anyone using shelter halves

would also not be included in the numbers. I have booked some space in the modern area for Camper Vans, but these and any modern tents need to be booked in with me for space.

Morley – 23rd April

We have managed to secure funding this year to involve the Artillery, which is great. I am still waiting to hear if we can extend camping from the Friday, but currently camping is only from Saturday, ready for a Parade March and Arena Display on the Sunday as part of St. George's Day local activities.

Worcester Balloon Fiesta – 12th/13th May

Boston Big Weekend – 10th/11th June

Staffordshire Balloon Fiesta – 15th July

Northampton Balloon Fiesta – 18th/19th/20th August

These will be exciting events with Pyrotechnics, Artillery, Infantry and Living History. I am awaiting further information and confirmation of arrival and departure times, however we will only be having Arena Displays on the Saturday (Worcester and Staffordshire), with the event finishing that night. Followed by a gentle pack up and head home on the Sunday.

The organiser of all the Balloon Fiestas is aware that people will be arriving throughout the day and evening on Fridays due to work commitments and we will remove cars as soon as possible once set up.

Whitby – 26th/27th/28th August

This is always a really popular event as part of the Whitby War Weekend. Further details to follow.

Upton Upon Severn – 16th/17th September

This event is being run by the Worcestershire Re-enactors (who ran the very popular Spetchley Park events). This is a new venue so the event is scaled down this year but with plans to develop in the future. Invited Societies are limited, but hopefully in future years we will be able to extend the invite to our affiliated societies/regiments.

There will be ACWS cavalry in attendance from the Worcestershire Cavalry Group. They train regularly near Worcester and are keen for any local interested Infantry to join them for training experience – please let me know if you're interested. There are another two events currently under discussion, that may involve cavalry. I will let everyone know via the website as soon as I know more.

We are now looking ahead for venues in 2024, so please feel free to suggest any venues you would like me to consider.

See you at Whittington!

Catherine

Events Director, ACWS



To my fellow Southerners,

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and that the cost of living crisis is not affecting you all too badly.

Well, the new season is almost upon us and it looks like a very full and eventful year ahead. The Balloon festivals are high paying events and those who did the tester weekend last year will tell you what cracking events these can be. It's great to get new events in new locations and obviously great to go back to some old favourites.

Try and get to Whittington for the preparation weekend and let's get the camp, equipment and kit up to scratch and start with a good laugh/ get together.

Let's all welcome Sgt Andy Farnsworth as the new regimental commander of the 32nd Virginia after 1st Sgt Andy Booth took the hard decision to stand down. I wish them both well in their future endeavours.

But let's also welcome the new and returning members into the fold and Confederate camp family and let's not forget those whom we have lost recently.

When I mentioned last year, to stop us going stagnant, we must try new things and change things about, it was pleasing to see that starting to happen, but as always we all should be open to new ideas, more engagement with the public (be prepared to defend the hobby and flag though) and improvement of our overall impression.

I have a few ideas of my own but welcome anyone coming to discuss theirs with me.

It's going to be great to get away on the weekends and around that special area - the camp fire -- and yes I will still be bringing my cheese and crackers away for the Saturday evening which anyone, Gray or Blue is welcome to contribute towards.

So let's blow off them cobwebs, clean our kit, spruce up our uniforms and get ready to seeing all your comrades for fun, laughter, camp life, drill, skirmishes, more fun & laughter and most of all memories.

Looking forward to seeing each and every one of you this season.

Your obedient servant

Major Glenn Gibson

Army Commander

CS Forces, ACWS



Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting

The American Civil War Society Ltd.

Held virtually on Zoom on Saturday 3rd December 2022 (1PM)

ACWS BOARD MEMBERS 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 Secretary	CM
Ms Catherine Conyard	Events	CC
Dr Frank Mair	Health & Safety	FM
Mr Stephen Griffin	Communications	SG
Mr Roger Willison-Gray	Marketing	RWG
Mr Timothy Davies	US Commander	TD
Mr Glenn Gibson	CS Commander	GG
Mr Joseph Reed	Communications 2023	JR

The meeting commenced at approx. 1:07pm

1. AN EXPLANATION OF VOTING VIA ZOOM

RWG gives a simplified explanation to Members present at the AGM of how the voting will run during the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Paul Edensor, Darren Paul, Phil Golder.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM

Proposed by **Mike Bussey**, seconded by **Ian Morris**.

FOR:- Zoom Votes = **12**, Postal Votes = **6**, E-proxy Votes = **17**. **TOTAL = 35 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **1**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 1 votes.**

This motion was passed and the Company Secretary **LR** signs the minutes.

LR states that due to the Royal Mail postal strikes at the end of November she picked up the last post on the morning of 03/12/2022 before the AGM, but the last date on the post was marked 26/11/2022, so it is entirely possible that some of the members postal votes did not get through to us on time.

4. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICES FOR THE 2022 SEASON AS ANNEXED:-

4.1 SECRETARY – MRS L REED

LR states she has nothing to add to her AGM report.

4.2 WEBMASTER – MR M BUSSEY

MB states he has nothing to add to his AGM report.

4.3 EVENTS – MS C CONYARD

CC states she has nothing to add to her AGM report.

4.4 TREASURER – MR I MORRIS

IM states that the accountant has applied the figure of £205 depreciation to the Society's assets, and as we made a loss in 2022 we do not have to pay Corporation Tax.

4.5 MEMBERSHIP – MISS C MORRIS

CM states she has nothing to add to her AGM report.

4.6 CS COMMANDER – MR G GIBSON

GG states he has nothing to add to his AGM report.

4.7 US COMMANDER – MR T DAVIES

TD states that he will update members with Gary Holman's funeral details as soon as they are known.

4.8 COMMUNICATIONS – MR S GRIFFIN

SG states he has nothing to add to his AGM report.

4.9 HEALTH & SAFETY – DR F MAIR

FM states he has nothing to add to his AGM report.

4.10 MARKETING – MR R WILLISON-GRAY

RWG apologises for the mix up with the AGM date emails.

4.11 CHAIRPERSON – MRS GIBSON

HG states she has nothing to add to her AGM report.

Motion to approve the ACWS Board of Directors reports:-

Proposed by **Joseph Reed**, seconded by **Andrew Parrot**.

FOR:- Zoom Votes = **13**, Postal Votes = **7**, E-proxy Votes = **17**. **TOTAL = 37 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

5. TO RECEIVE THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve the audited accounts:-

Proposed by **Ian Morris**, seconded by **Frank Mair**.

FOR:- Zoom Votes = **14**, Postal Votes = **7**, E-proxy Votes = **16**. **TOTAL = 37 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **1**. **TOTAL = 1 votes.**

6. TO RE-APPOINT BRIGHT PARTNERSHIP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AS AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY

Motion to re-appoint the accountants:-

Proposed by **Mike Bussey**, seconded by **Claire Morris**.

FOR:- Zoom Votes = **14**, Postal Votes = **7**, E-proxy Votes = **16**. **TOTAL = 37 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **1**. **TOTAL = 1 votes.**

7. MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION FEES FOR 2023 SEASON

Motion to keep membership fees and registration fees the same for the 2023 season:-

Proposed by **Caroline Davies**, seconded by **Claire Morris**.

FOR:- Zoom Votes = **13**, Postal Votes = **7**, E-proxy Votes = **17**. **TOTAL = 37 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = **0**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **0**. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

8. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following Directors are standing unopposed for the following positions:-

CHAIRPERSON

To re-elect Mrs Helen Gibson as Chairperson:-

FOR:-	Zoom Votes = 11,	Postal Votes = 7,	E-proxy Votes = 12.	<u>TOTAL = 30 votes.</u>
AGAINST:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 4.	<u>TOTAL = 4 votes.</u>
ABSTAIN:-	Zoom Votes = 3,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 3 votes.</u>

Mrs Helen Gibson is duly re-elected as Chairperson.

SECRETARY

To re-elect Mrs Linda Reed as Secretary:-

FOR:-	Zoom Votes = 14,	Postal Votes = 6,	E-proxy Votes = 17.	<u>TOTAL = 37 votes.</u>
AGAINST:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 1,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 1 votes.</u>
ABSTAIN:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 0 votes.</u>

Mrs Linda Reed is duly re-elected as Secretary.

TREASURER

To re-elect Mr Ian Morris as Treasurer:-

FOR:-	Zoom Votes = 14,	Postal Votes = 7,	E-proxy Votes = 17.	<u>TOTAL = 38 votes.</u>
AGAINST:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 0 votes.</u>
ABSTAIN:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 0 votes.</u>

Mr Ian Morris is duly re-elected as Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

To re-elect Miss Claire Morris as Membership Secretary:-

FOR:-	Zoom Votes = 14,	Postal Votes = 7,	E-proxy Votes = 17.	<u>TOTAL = 38 votes.</u>
AGAINST:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 0 votes.</u>
ABSTAIN:-	Zoom Votes = 0,	Postal Votes = 0,	E-proxy Votes = 0.	<u>TOTAL = 0 votes.</u>

Miss Claire Morris is duly re-elected as Membership Secretary.

HEALTH & SAFETY

To re-elect Dr Frank Mair as Health & Safety:-

FOR:- Zoom Votes = 7, Postal Votes = 4, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 26 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = 4, Postal Votes = 3, E-proxy Votes = 1. **TOTAL = 8 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = 2, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 1. **TOTAL = 3 votes.**

Dr Frank Mair is duly re-elected as Health & Safety director.

WEBMASTER

To re-elect Mr Mike Bussey as Webmaster:-

FOR:- Zoom Votes = 15, Postal Votes = 7, E-proxy Votes = 17. **TOTAL = 39 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

Mr Mike Bussey is duly re-elected as Webmaster.

9. ELECTION OF MS CATHERINE CONYARD TO THE POSITION OF EVENTS DIRECTOR & AS A

DIRECTOR

To elect Ms Catherine Conyard as Events director after being co-opted on to the board

during the 2022 season:-

FOR:- Zoom Votes = 15, Postal Votes = 7, E-proxy Votes = 17. **TOTAL = 39 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

Ms Catherine Conyard is duly elected as Events Director.

10. ELECTION OF MR J REED TO THE POSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR & AS A

DIRECTOR

To elect Mr Joseph Reed as Communications after no other applications being received:-

FOR:- Zoom Votes = 13, Postal Votes = 7, E-proxy Votes = 16. **TOTAL = 36 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = 2, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 1. **TOTAL = 3 votes.**

Mr Joseph Reed is duly elected as Communications Director.

11. ELECTION OF MR T DAVIES TO THE POSITION OF FEDERAL ARMY COMMANDER & AS A DIRECTOR

To re-elect Mr Timothy Davies as Union Army Commander (only Union Army members are permitted to vote):-

FOR:- Zoom Votes = 9, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 10. **TOTAL = 19 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = 1, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 1 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 2. **TOTAL = 2 votes.**

Mr Timothy Davies is duly re-elected as Union Army Commander.

12. ELECTION OF MR G GIBSON TO THE POSITION OF CONFEDERATE ARMY COMMANDER & AS A DIRECTOR

To re-elect Mr Glenn Gibson as Confederate Army Commander (only Confederate Army members are permitted to vote):-

FOR:- Zoom Votes = 5, Postal Votes = 5, E-proxy Votes = 5. **TOTAL = 15 votes.**

AGAINST:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

ABSTAIN:- Zoom Votes = 0, Postal Votes = 0, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 0 votes.**

Mr Glenn Gibson is duly re-elected as Confederate Army Commander.

The position of Marketing Director is being retired.

13. EVENTS UPDATE

CC gives the following events update:-

APRIL 2023

1st - 2nd April – Whittington Castle ***CONFIRMED***.

15 - 16th April – International Living History Fair – Avoncroft ***POSSIBLE***.

This might be a small event due to lack of space, **CC** waiting for confirmation.

23rd April – Morley ***PROBABLE***

MAY 2023

12th - 13th May (Friday & Saturday) – Worcester Balloon Fiesta ***CONFIRMED***.

JUNE 2023

10th - 11th June – Boston Big Weekend ***CONFIRMED***.

JULY 2023

14th - 15th July (Friday & Saturday) – Worcester Balloon Fiesta *CONFIRMED*.

AUGUST 2023

18th - 20th August (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) – Northampton Balloon Fiesta *CONFIRMED*.

26th - 28th August – Whitby *CONFIRMED*.

CAVALRY UPDATE

CC has been talking with Justin & Julie Allman regarding having cavalry at events. The Allmans now have their own group, Worcestershire Cavalry, who are a multi-period group. They regularly train, have their own insurance, and participate in various historical periods. They would like to affiliate to ACWS Ltd so they can attend our events when we would like cavalry to attend (as and when it is appropriate). This option is much cheaper than ACWS members hiring horses as most of the members of Worcestershire Cavalry are owner riders, and can bring their own horses.

RWG states that to attend they would need their own equine insurance.

14. MINUTES SECRETARY

HG states that we would like someone to volunteer for the post of Minutes Secretary.

CM states that she does not mind continuing in the role.

JR states that we should be looking to get younger people doing roles within ACWS.

15. OPEN FORUM

IM states that since the financial year end we have had to get cannon repairs done, which has cost £467. They also need a yearly service. Currently the cannons and the cannon trailer are with Mick Smart for repair (boards on the trailer, and the cannon trails).

RWG states that The Cavalry as a unit own equipment including 2x guidons and approx. 20x persons uniforms. All of this kit has been loaned to the Allmans to kit people out if they attend as cavalry with ACWS.

JR asks if the Allmans are aware that the guidons are actually ACWS property, **RWG** confirms they are aware.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Caroline Davies states that **Ben St John** should be mentioned to say thanks for driving the van and trailer everywhere required.

JR states that he will put it in the newsletter.

CM proposes a vote of thanks to **Ben St John**.

LR says thank you to the artillery, and to the medics.

LR says thank you to retiring **Roger Willison-Gray (Marketing)**, and **Stephen Griffin (Communications)** for their years of hard work on the board of ACWS.

Andrew Parrot believes that the ACWS artillery van does not have the power to get up large hills, and we really should be looking at getting a new van.

IM confirms we are already looking into this and looking for a different towing vehicle, we will need the details of the trailer when it is fully loaded so we can get suggestions from mechanic friends for a suitable replacement.

IM states that the vehicle needs to be powerful enough to pull the trailer, and large enough to store equipment and drivers gear.

RWG suggests looking at 2nd hand suitable towing cars, as they could be cheaper than buying a van.

Caroline Davies states they will get the van & trailer weighed at a weighbridge.

LR states that during Covid we were struggling financially, but we are now budgeting to ensure a profit so we can look into purchasing a different vehicle.

TD states that the max gross weight fully loaded is 2600kg on the plate on the trailer.

HG offers the following thanks to:-

Ben St John – Driving the ACWS van and trailer.

Roger Willison-Gray – Marketing Director.

Stephen Griffin – Communications Director.

HG welcomes **Catherine Conyard** and **Joseph Reed** to the Board.

HG thanks the rest of the Board.

HG asks for all members to get back in touch with old friends to encourage them to return to ACWS in 2023.

HG wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, and hopes to see all in 2023.

LR thanks everyone for attending the ACWS 2023 Zoom AGM, and thanks the members and board members for their support, and wishes all a good Christmas.

Meeting ended at approx. 2:44pm.

DATES OF FUTURE AGM

The next ACWS Ltd AGM will be on Saturday 2nd December 2023.

Rare toothbrush discovered in Confederate POW Latrine.

Sometimes American Civil War archaeology can speak as eloquently as the words of a diary or letter in expressing a prisoner-of-war's craving for the comforts of home. Take the case of a Confederate Officer's elaborately handcrafted toothbrush which has recently been discovered in a former latrine at Johnson's Island, Ohio.

Overall, toothbrushes were rare in the Civil War and the dental health of Americans in the Civil War era was particularly poor. This was attributed to the increased use of refined sugar in foods and a greater consumption of fresh, rather than salted meats.

One of the most important body parts for a Civil War soldier was his teeth. A soldier needed most, if not all, of their teeth to not only tear cartridges for his gun but also to receive nutrients through the proper mastication and digestion of food.

However, dental hygiene was not a priority for soldiers of the Civil War. They entered the war without dental surgeons and did not supply toothbrushes to its troops.

So what did the soldiers do to clean their teeth?

Without a toothbrush, they would have used whatever was handy including rags, a finger, some salt, leaves and probably a "chewing stick."

A chewing stick has been used for tooth brushing for many centuries and continues to this day in some parts of the world. A green twig from a tree or bush would be broken off and the soldier would chew until the fibres became soft and spread.

Mass production of toothbrushes didn't occur in the US until 1885. So, examples of toothbrushes are very rare in the Civil War.

In late 1861, the Union chose Johnson's Island, Ohio, along the western shore of Lake Erie, as the site of a POW camp for captured Confederate Officers. From April

1862 to September 1865, more than 10,000 Confederate Officers and Confederate Soldiers passed through the camp's housing units, mess hall, latrines, and hospital.

The Confederate prisoners held at Johnson's Island endured extremely harsh winters, severe food and fuel shortages and rampant disease. As many as 300 never made it out alive. They, and those who survived, left behind a wealth of archaeological material which is proving invaluable to Civil War historians and Civil War archaeologists alike.

Along with physical discomforts and deprivations, the Confederate POWs experienced anguish over the well-being of their families and concern for their own futures. Keeping or restoring routines of daily life, establishing a sense of normalcy in the face of the unknown--is an important way to cope with stressful situations.

So naturally the Confederate POWs clung to any personal objects they were allowed to keep: a photograph, a harmonica, a pocket watch and perhaps an elaborate toothbrush.

Every feature of the newly discovered toothbrush had been made by hand. The handle has been delicately carved to the drilling of no fewer than 88 holes for the boar bristles, which were secured to the base of the toothbrush with linen thread. The handle was bone and probably from a cow femur and the bristles were probably from a boar.



Although the brushing of teeth was not common during the mid-nineteenth century, elite members of society typically used toothbrushes. Such a fine and rare example reflects the high status of the Confederate Officer who owned it. Found in a latrine, it was probably dropped by accident or fell out of a pocket rather than being deliberately discarded.

Its discovery reminds us how POWs strove to maintain regular activities and pre-war standards of living even under, and perhaps in reaction to, the harsh and severe conditions of a Civil War prison camp.

Sources: David Bush, Heidelberg College, Excavation Director, Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot. Archaeology Magazine - Volume 61, Shannon Bremer-Hygiene and the Civil War

The last widow of the American Civil War dies, 81 years after her husband

The last widow of the American Civil War died in December 2020, 157 years after the conflict ended. Helen Viola Jackson died at a nursing home in Missouri at the age of 101.

Helen Viola Jackson married James Bolin in 1936 when he was 93 and she was just 17 years of age, according to a statement recently released by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

"Her father had volunteered her to stop by his house each day and assist him with chores as she headed home from school," the statement from Commander-in-Chief Brian Pierson stated, "Bolin did not believe in accepting charity and, after a period of time, asked Helen for her hand in marriage in order to provide for her future by leaving her his Union pension."

She accepted his marriage proposal and he noted the marriage in his own personal Bible.

James Bolin died in 1939 and Helen Jackson never remarried although she never applied for the pension. She insisted on retaining her maiden name and despite being married to James Bolin, kept living on her family farm.

She kept the marriage a secret so as not to harm her reputation. Their marriage, according to Helen Jackson, was based on convenience and "respect," noting her husband "really cared for me [and] wanted me to have a future."

The couple were living in Missouri at the time, with Helen Jackson struggling to survive during the Great Depression.

James Bolin, who had fought for the Union during the Civil War, wanted to help and promised to leave Helen Jackson his pension when he passed.

When he did pass in 1939, Helen Jackson later stated to a Civil War historian that "All a woman had in 1939 was her reputation. I didn't want them all to think that I was a young woman who had married an old man to take advantage of him."

She never revealed the marriage until 2017.

James Bolin served as a Private in the 14th Missouri Cavalry during the US Civil War, on the Union side. This Union militia unit was mostly involved in skirmishes and battles in Arkansas until it was disbanded in 1863. He was 21 years old when the Civil war ended.



At the age of 101, Helen Jackson The last widow of a Civil War veteran Passed away in December 2020.

Sources: Nick Pearson, 9 News, 6th January 2021.

The Grey Ghosts Lost Confederate Gold

In the woods of Fairfax County, Virginia, a vast Civil War treasure of valuables, jewellery and gold is said to have been hidden by one of the Civil War's most famous cavalrymen namely John S. Mosby. Worth some \$350,000 at the time it was buried, it would now be valued at more than \$6 million today. Many people are still actively searching for it.

The amazing tale begins with the infamous Confederate Partisan Ranger named John S. Mosby, known as the "Grey Ghost" for his lightning-quick raids and ability to elude Union Army pursuers. John S. Mosby joined the Confederate Army as a private at the outbreak of the Civil War, first serving in the Washington Mounted Rifles.

In April 1862, the Confederate Congress passed the Partisan Rangers Act which provided that "such partisans rangers, after being regularly received into service, shall be entitled to the same pay, rations and quarters during their term of service, and be subject to the same regulations, as other soldiers".

By the end of the year, he had proved himself a solid scout. In January 1863, Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart, with the approval of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, authorised Mosby to form and take command of the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry, which officially operated as a unit of the Army of Northern Virginia.

However, the men (1,900 of whom served from January 1863 through to April 1865) lived outside the norms of regular army cavalrymen. This included sharing in the disposition of spoils of war, having no camp duties and living among the civilian population.

This guerrilla style fighting unit would gain notoriety during the Civil War for the level of stealth and speed in which they operated and Mosby welcomed the attention, making him famous within the ranks of the Southern army.

Over time, the vast majority of his men were new recruits, never having served in the Confederate Army previously. This small cavalry unit was unleashed in central Virginia and immediately began tormenting Union positions.

Rather than meeting their enemies in open battle, Mosby's unit would often slip behind Union lines under cover of darkness and capture soldiers and supplies. A true guerrilla force, Mosby and his men were known for carrying out blistering attacks on Union outfits and destroying rail lines and bridges before scattering into the woods and blending with the civilian population.

On March 9, 1863, Mosby conducted a daring raid far inside Union lines near the Fairfax County Courthouse. At 2:00 a.m. on a dark and rainy night, Mosby and 29 men suddenly appeared in the town of Fairfax Court House, Virginia, ten miles behind the Union lines.

Though thousands of Union troops were in the surrounding camps and many in the town, the Rangers stealthily slipped past numerous outposts and pickets, cutting telegraph lines along the way.



"Mosby's Rangers" Photo taken roughly June 1862

As the Rangers quietly captured the Union guards, Mosby made his way to the bedroom of Union General Edwin H. Stoughton, where the officer was sleeping. Mosby awakened Stoughton with a slap on his backside and informed him that he was now a prisoner. When Stoughton was dressed, Mosby escorted him out to the street, where the Rangers had gathered 32 other surprised prisoners and 58 horses.

According to legend, it wasn't only men and horses that Mosby had obtained during the nocturnal raid but also some \$350,000 worth of gold, silver, jewellery and many other family heirlooms, that Union troops had stolen from Southern homes. One and one-half hours after arriving at Fairfax Court House, the Rangers, never having fired a shot, rode out of town with their prisoners, horses, and treasure.

On the way back, Mosby's scouts warned him of a large detachment of Union soldiers nearby. In case of a battle, Mosby and a trusted sergeant left the trail as the rest of the detachment moved on. They then buried the large sack of treasure between two large pine trees, which Mosby marked with an X.

Then, using a roundabout route to confuse any pursuers, Mosby and his men made it safely back to Confederate territory. As the treasure was slowing them down, and Mosby didn't want to lose it to not only the Union side, but his own superiors who would take their own cut, he decided to take his most trusted Sergeant and all the treasure and head into the woods while the rest of his unit moved on.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee said of the heist: "Hurrah for Mosby! I wish I had a hundred like him!" On the other hand, when President Abraham Lincoln heard of the raid, he expressed more concern for the loss of the horses than for his general, stating: "I can make brigadier generals, but I can't make horses."

Mosby was formally promoted to Captain two days later, on March 15, 1863, and to Major on March 26, 1863. Mosby continued to operate with impunity in north-central Virginia until the Civil War's end when the region became known as "Mosby's Confederacy."

When General Robert E. Lee surrendered in 1865, Mosby disbanded his unit and returned to civilian life. In a startling move, Mosby joined Abraham Lincoln's Republican party and served in Ulysses S. Grant's presidential administration as the United States consul to Hong Kong and in the U.S. Department of Justice.

John S. Mosby died from complications during throat surgery on May 30th, 1916 in Washington D.C. and is buried at the Warrenton Cemetery in Warrenton, Virginia.



Is Mosby's gold and treasure still there? If it was taken during the raid, it is probable. Looting the enemy was not only accepted during the Civil War, it was highly encouraged, if not only to rob the enemy of resources but actively encouraged and also for massive personal gain.

Due to the size of the area its no wonder it has not been found yet but if anyone is interested in having a go to try and find it people studying the case think it is located somewhere between Reston, just outside the Centre of Washington and Route 522. Good luck.

Long Lost Iconic Civil War Soldiers Grave Revealed.

A descendant of a 19th Century US Civil War veteran is trying to find the owner of his grave (3,400 miles (5,450km) away) so a Civil War headstone can be installed by the Sons of Union Civil War Veterans Association and a formal dedication can take place.

The gravestone will be emplaced free of charge by the United States Government as a fitting tribute to a fallen American Soldier. The grave belongs to Benton Harte Zerbe, who served in the 3rd New Jersey Cavalry, and is buried in Section 3c Grave 70 at Westoe Cemetery in South Shields.

However, of significant interest to American Civil War Historians is that Benton Harte Zerbe enlisted in the Confederate Army at the beginning of the Civil War and fought in a number of engagements in the infamous hard hitting Louisiana Tigers who were widely regarded as one of the toughest regiments on either side in the American Civil War. This is the amazing story of Benton Harte Zerbe, his astonishing Civil War service and his long lost Civil War grave.

Benton Harte Zerbe's great-great-grandnephew is Charles Bogino who lives in the US and is now currently campaigning to get his ancestor's grave marked with a formal Civil War headstone. However, there are current difficulties as the grave is believed to be owned by ancestors of Benton Zerbe's in-laws. As such, Charles Bogino is now actively urging South Shields residents to help him find any descendants of Alexander and Mary Scott.

Benton Harte Zerbe was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, United States in 1841 where he received his early education in the public schools.

His father had initially planned for him to join the legal profession but he disliked the need to study hard and before the age of

14 years of age, he had run away from home and shipped from New York on a sailing vessel as ship masters apprentice bound for the East Indies.

Amazingly, he was shipwrecked several times and was once, with several seafaring companions, cast on a desert island in the South Seas, where they were compelled to remain for several months until they were, at length, picked up by a passing vessel.

Benton Zerbe continued with his sea faring career on various different vessels on the trading lines and he sailed all over the world. He later recalled the most thrilling of experiences including meeting with aborigines, in distant parts, and encountering the severest hardships in the monsoons and tropical storms of the equatorial and South Sea regions.

He remembers being given up, many times, as dead by his friends. After about 7 years of this rigorous sea faring life, he decided to settle down in New Orleans, Louisiana to which port he had last sailed, to and from, in a fruit and cotton trading vessel, from Jamaica. He then engaged in a shipping branch of the above trading line and began prospering.

However, it was at this successful stage of his life, that the American Civil War broke out in 1861. At the outset of the American Civil War, Benton Harte Zerbe enlisted into the Confederate Army and belonged to the infamous and hard hitting "Louisiana Tigers."

The Louisiana Tigers were a volunteer company originating from New Orleans and led by Confederate Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat.

They were mainly foreign born, particularly Irish Americans, recruited from the docks and wharves of the city. They were fearless and hard hitting shock troops and initially trained in light and heavy infantry tactics at Camp Moore, Louisiana.

After their military training, they would drink, play cards or fight each other. A Southern reporter stated that the Tigers were “mostly wharf rats from New Orleans and Major Wheat is the only man who can do anything with them.

They were constantly fighting with each other, always ready to fight and it made little difference to them who they fought”. Not surprisingly, they became quickly and actively engaged at the outset of the Civil War and achieved numerous battle honours.

The Tigers anchored the Confederate left flank Matthews Hill at the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861 allowing reinforcements to arrive and achieve the first major Confederate victory of the Civil War.

The Tigers then took part in Confederate General Thomas Stonewall Jackson's successful Valley campaign of 1862 and they were always the first regiment thrown into battle achieving Confederate victories at Front Royal, Winchester and Port Republic.

However, the Tigers greatest moment took place at the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862 when they repeatedly repulsed numerous frontal Union assaults with both rocks and stones when all their ammunition had run out thereby resulting in a Confederate victory.

During the 1863 Gettysburg campaign, the Tigers achieved more fame through their assault on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg by storming East Cemetery Hill and taking Union artillery pieces before having to withdraw.

However, it was during the Gettysburg campaign in July 1863, that Benton Zerbe, realizing he was close to his childhood Pennsylvania home, deserted from the Confederate Army and surrendered to Union forces.

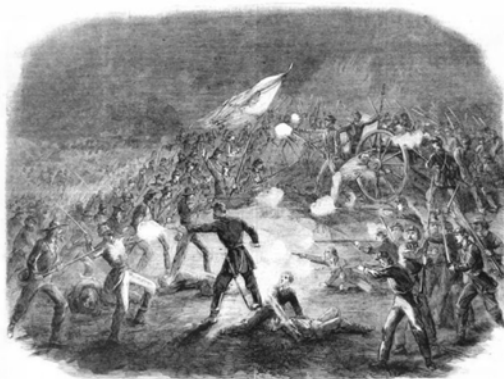
He was subsequently imprisoned at the Union POW camp at Fort Mifflin on the River Delaware with other Confederate POWs.

Once his unwillingness to be a Confederate was verified and he took the oath of allegiance to the Union and the United States, he was allowed to enlist with his brother Marion in the 3rd New Jersey Cavalry.

It was not uncommon for soldiers to change sides during the War as over 5,600 Confederate POWs enlisted in the US Army and an equal number of Union POWs enlisted in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

They were commonly known as “Galvanised Yankees”. Nevertheless, as a result, Benton Zerbe quickly became actively involved, with others including his brother, in the raising and equipping of the 3rd New Jersey Regiment of Cavalry, Union Army.

U.S Records indicate he achieved rapid promotion from Private to First Lieutenant within 16 months and was later made a Captain of one of the companies, with which he served until the close of the Civil War in April 1865.



The 3rd New Jersey Cavalry Regiment was organised at Camp Bayard in Trenton, New Jersey and mustered in beginning December 2, 1863 under the command of Colonel Andrew J. Morrison. The men of 3rd New Jersey Regiment were known as the "New Jersey Butterflies" owing to their Blue capes with Red lining.

The Butterflies were issued with a unique Austrian inspired uniform comprising a navy blue dolman with yellow chest braid, a peak-less forage cap, and a short hooded cloak with red lining. Officers wore pelisses (jacket with a fur trim) over their uniforms, and busbies were used for ceremonial occasions. In addition to being armed with a sabre and a pair of Remington New Model Army revolvers, each trooper was issued with a repeating Spencer carbine.



The regiment was attached to Cavalry, IX Corps, Army of the Potomac, to May 1864. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac and Middle Military Division, to June 1865. Defences of Washington, D.C., to August 1865.

The 3rd New Jersey Cavalry mustered out August 1, 1865 at Washington, D.C.

In addition, they were classed and designed as a "Hussars" regiment and more significantly they were the only one to serve with the Union Army of The Potomac.

The 3rd New Jersey Regiment were actively involved throughout Union General U.S Grants 1864 Overland Campaign against Confederate General Robert E Lee and fought at some of the Civil Wars most sanguine and costliest battles including the Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbour, the Crater and Petersburg.

They also later fought as the Civil War came to an end at the Union victories at the Third Battle of Winchester, Cedar Creek and Saylor's Creek before ending with the Appomattox campaign in 1865 and the eventual surrendering of the Confederate Army of Virginia.

During its Civil War Service, the 3rd New Jersey Cavalry lost a total of 157 men. 3 officers and 47 enlisted men were killed or mortally wounded and 2 officers and 105 enlisted men died of disease.

With the end of the American Civil War in 1865, Benton Zerbe became a foreign sales agent for the Armstrong and Whitney Firearms and War Supplies Company of New York and sailed at once for Europe.

Already an accomplished linguist through his extensive previous foreign travels and coming into contact with the military heads of the different European governments, in pursuance of the business with which he was connected, it soon became second nature with him to study the countries he visited.

Deciding to settle in the United Kingdom, Benton Harte Zerbe married Miss Jeanette Scott of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, England in 1868 who he met earlier in London whilst on business.

The couple settled in South Shields and had 2 children namely Harold Zerbe and Ethel Zerbe. The former became an electrical engineer in the Royal Navy. Records indicate that they were both unmarried.

Benton Harte Zerbe and his wife then ran the Eureka Hotel in South Shields before he sadly died prematurely in 1880 at the early age of 39 with tuberculosis.

His early demise was formally announced in the South Shield Gazette.

His great-great-grandnephew Charles Bogino said: "When I look at his story and how he wound up in South Shields it just seems sad - this guy died aged 39 of tuberculosis, the same month his daughter was born, leaving his wife a widow with two children.

In any time and any place that's a sad story." Charles Bogino found his Civil War ancestor's grave through the organisation Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, with the help and assistance of New York Police detective Bill Stump.

Together, they found the grave through the UK General Register Office. Bill Stump, also a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, said Benton Zerbe had been in the "odd" position of fighting for both sides during the American Civil War. "He fought for the Confederacy until he was taken prisoner," he said. "And then fought for the Union and saw heavy fighting".

The 2 men now want to reinstate a commemorative headstone paid for by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. However, to be able to do so, they need to speak to the owner of the grave plot for permission.

Charles Bogino added: "I hope if we are ever able to have a dedication ceremony it will be emotional and I'll feel like we've accomplished something to honour the memory of these brave - really brave - soldiers." Ann Clouston, chair of the Friends of Westoe Cemetery, said she believed any commemorative headstone might have been removed in the past for safety reasons.

Fay Cunningham, secretary of the group, said in its day the grave would have been "quite grand" and it looked like there had been wrought iron railings around it. "I do believe at one point an American consul did come and lay a wreath on the grave," she said. "It has been important and I think it will be important to us again."

Sources : Caroline Briggs, BBC News, Zerbe Family Tree Biography, Wikipedia and various Internet sources



The Grave-site of Cpt Benton Harte Zerbe
Section 3c, Grave 70, Westoe Cemetery,
South Shields

Articles on pages 13 - 20
By Sgt Stewart "Goober"
Douglas, 43rd NC



Thanks Goober
Regards, The Editor

CS Sharpshooter Pvt W McGowan

Pvt William "Bill" McGowan, of the 36th Virginia Infantry, was a good shot. At the battle of Fort Donnelson, Bill saw a Yankee's head peering above a tree stump roughly 400 yards to his front. He took aim and fired. The Yankee remained level with where he aimed. Bill reloaded and fired again, then a third time, then a fourth and then a fifth, all with the same result. Turning to his brother, he said "Charlie, do you see that Yankee behind that stump?. I have fired five shots at his head and cannot make him remove it!. Why don't you give him a shot?." Shortly after, the line was advanced and Bill made for the tree stump. The Yankee did not move. As he arrived at the stump, there were a total of 5 clean hits to the Yankee's head!

The Most Famous Family of The Civil War



Perhaps one of the strangest stories to come out of the Civil War, concerns the Welmer McLean family. At the outbreak of the war, the McLean family lived in Manassas, Virginia.

At The First Battle of Bull Run, the McLean farm and surrounding area was the site of a number of skirmishes and troop movements.

Due to fears for the safety of his family, Mr McLean felt that it was time to make a move. The move was made to a quiet area in Virginia called Appomattox Court House.

As fate would have it, Appomattox Court House was to be the scene of the official end of the American Civil War, just as Manassas has been the beginning, and the McLean family had taken their place in history.

On April 9th 1865, General Robert E Lee, and General Ulysses S Grant, met in the parlour of the McLean family home to discuss the terms of surrender, and begin the process of healing wounds and creating a united country once again.

The Fist Fight That Stopped A Battle!

During the Battle of the Wilderness, In the middle of the bloody conflict, a cavalryman with the 33rd Virginia Infantry Regiment noted a peculiar moment that caused both sides to lay down their weapons: a fist fight between two soldiers.

In a gully near the middle of Saunders Field (the one being slammed by artillery and hails of bullets), an unnamed Union soldier found himself hiding from the advancing army of the enemy.

He tried his best to stay quiet and calm, hoping to avoid capture. In a bizarre moment, a Confederate soldier jumped into the same gully. For a few moments, each man ignored the other, concentrating instead on the death and destruction outside their hiding spots. A few quips here, a slight insult there and soon the two men were bickering with each other. After a short amount of time, the two men decided to step outside of their hiding spots, in the middle of the battle mind you, to settle their differences with a fist fight.

Also, because it's 1864 and both men were gentlemen, they decided that the loser would become a prisoner of war to the opposing army. The two soldiers stepped into a full blown Call of Duty scene and started throwing hay-makers like Chuck and Tito. Right in the middle of the battlefield.

Soldiers on both sides stopped firing their rifles. Troops even moved in closer to get a better view of the Civil War pugilistic side show.

There's no official word on how long the fight lasted, only that "Johnny Reb soon had the Yankee down." The Union soldier, true to his word, surrendered. They both returned to the gully, fighting resumed, and the man was taken back to Confederate lines.



WAR OF RIGHTS

We teamed up with Campfire Games in July 2022 to record a vast library of black power weapon sounds for their game development of "War of Rights". Campfire Games is a reasonably new company to the industry but have already managed to create one of the most historically accurate and authentic First Person American Civil War games to date.

<https://warofrights.com/>



They have used the ACWS for sound recording previously while attending one of our events a few years ago, from which they recorded our "Rebel Yell" and "Yankee Huzzah" to be used in the game.

The recording session was attended by our fabulous and hardworking artillery crew and a few members of the Society. They provided the recording team with a wide variety of weapons including rifles, cannons and pistols. At least 40 unique cannon shots and at least 120 different rifle and pistol shots were recorded throughout the session.

War of Rights is a first person online multiplayer game featuring massive 300-400 player battles with a focus on historical authenticity, team play and immersion. It is set during the perilous days of the American Civil War, in the Maryland Campaign of September, 1862.

Huge thanks to the Artillery and members of the Society that attended as we now have more of an exposure within the gaming community. I personally, as I think many other members will, think that this can only be a positive move forward for the Society by appealing to the younger generation and attempting to recruit more.



**Articles on pages 20 - 22 by
Pvt Joe Reed (ACWS Cavalry)**



(In Game Screenshot)

A Quick Note From Your New Communications Director

I think we can all agree that I have some big shoes to fill following both Val and Griff as Communications, but I will try my best in this role for as long as you guys and gals want me.

Please feel free to send any and all interesting stories or facts about the Civil War for the Newsletter to

editor@acws.co.uk

Any ideas you may have for the improvement of the newsletter are always welcome.

Regards, Joe Reed
Communications Director

From the Medical Team

Members please remember to bring personal first aid kits with you to events, just as you would take on holiday. This should contain plasters, wipes, etc. Along with any medication you may need for any existing condition you may have.

You must let the medical team know of any existing conditions or allergies that you think may affect you and keep us updated on personal location of any medication that may assist us i.e. epi-pens. However, the First Aiders are not allowed to give out any medication under any circumstances this includes but is not limited to pain killers and anti-allergen medications.

Please also remember to stay hydrated at all times and notify any First Aider if you're suffering with any symptoms of dehydration.

Also anyone in the Society that has any medical qualifications, please feel free to contact our Chief Medical Officer (Mr Ian Morris) and let him know, help is always appreciated.

If an ambulance is needed or has already been called for an injury or emergency please let one of the medical team know, as this will allow us to take observations and do a full handover with the NHS paramedics.

ACWS - 100% Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Conyard, Catherine	19th INDIANA	Private
Douglas, Stewart	43rd NORTH CAROLINA	Sergeant
McDade, Dave	32nd VIRGINIA	Private
Murray, Jason	2nd SOUTH CAROLINA	Private

The ACWS Board of Directors would like to say a huge thank you to those members listed above who have attended all events in 2022.

You are a credit to our Society and congratulations to you all.

BLANKET SALE!

Bring all your unwanted goods

Whittington Castle

**1st April 2023
18:00**

Our annual Society blanket sale!

**Great opportunity to de-clutter and
for new recruits to get cheap kit!**

Roll of Honour Our Good Friends

Rev. Ron Moseley
1st Tennessee
08/05/2022



Pvt David Parrott
19th Indiana
20/07/2022



Pvt Anthony Butler
"Hobbit"
1st Tennessee
19/12/2022



Capt. Gary Holman
U.S. Staff
27/11/2022



Mrs Sharon Lord
1st Tennessee
23/11/2022



*The Board of Directors, and all members we are sure,
look forward to sharing all of the fantastic memories of
these amazing people around the campfire.*

Roll of Honour Our Beloved Companions

Lily Keenan
1st Tennessee
28/09/2022



Rayne Edensor
1st U.S.S
04/08/2022



Jess Booth
32nd Virginia
23/08/2021



Nelle Booth
32nd Virginia
09/02/2023



We all recognise how hard it is to lose a friend within our hobby, whether they're Human or Canine, heartfelt sympathies are sent to all.

The Great Confederate Snowball Fight

I've had this Civil War running around in my head for way over 50 years now and apart from the characters, campaigns and battles, one of the things that has always held a fascination for me is how the ordinary soldier coped with weeks and months of dreary camp life, endless drill, marching and training punctuated now again whilst on campaign by moments of abject terror.

We all know about the summer operations once the roads had dried out and armies were able to move but what about winter camps when conditions got so bad, especially in Virginia, that it was impossible to do anything and troops were confined to camp for weeks, sometimes months on end.

The winter of 1862/63 was particularly harsh, even for Virginia, and by the end of January the snow in the Rappahannock Valley, where the bulk of the Army of Northern Virginia was in winter quarters, lay two feet thick on the ground with drifts of over seven feet in places. Early morning on the 29th soldiers from the 1st and 4th Texas started to pelt their fellow rebels from the 5th Texas with snowballs. The men from the 5th quickly succumbed to the attack and joined their fellow Texans for an assault on their neighbours from Arkansas.

Hit by surprise the volunteers from Arkansas soon surrendered and joined forces with the Texans in a forced march of over a mile for a surprise attack on the Georgia Brigade. Alerted to this by the melee down the road, and holding

the high ground, the Georgians pelted the attackers with snowballs and the assault was repulsed.

Things now started to snowball (pardon the pun) and the two sides formed up together to attack the division of General Lafayette McClaws. With flags flying, bugles blaring and urged on by their officers and NCO's and formed into battle lines there were now almost 10,000 men tossing snowballs at each in what became known as "The Great Snowball Fight of 63"

Thankfully there were no serious casualties but like so many things that start off as a bit of fun to brighten up an otherwise dreary existence the people in charge weren't pleased and General Longstreet soon banned any more snowball fighting in the Confederate Army.

The coming spring and summer saw the wanton slaughter continue at infamous places such as Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and for Longstreet's men Chickamauga and Knoxville. It is sobering to reflect that many of the young men that took part in the great snowball fight 160 years ago would not survive the coming campaigns to repeat the fun in the winter of 1864.

Source: wearethemighty.com



Article on page 27 by Dave Proctor (SoSkAn)

Special Thanks for the 2022 season to...

Ben St John for driving the Society van and towing the cannon to and from events, while also assisting in the maintenance of both throughout.

Roger Willison-Gray for Marketing, GDPR, Cavalry Commander, Zoom meetings and all the other roles that he has taken or fulfilled over the many years, who has now retired from the Board and re-enacting.

Steven Griffin for his excellent job editing the newsletter and distributing Warning Orders from 2019 till 2022.

Catherine Conyard for stepping up and taking on the momentous task as Events Director.

Claire Morris for her never ending work as Membership Secretary and also standing in for minutes secretary.

Linda Reed for the stressful job as Secretary while also standing in as events director for the last 3 years.

Christian Sprakes for his tireless hard work with battle commentary and wealth of knowledge.

Another thanks to the Artillery Team for being guardians of the Society guns, constant maintenance and upkeep is vital to keeping them working.

The Medical Team for their hard work in the 2022 season, keeping us all hydrated and safe during a particularly hot summer.

Viv & Mike Corbishley who have now retired from the ACWS after a long, long time as members.

Jennifer Clark for her legal advice, long term membership and support, who has now retired.

All of the varied musicians on camp that keep us entertained around the camp and campfire.
(you know who you all are)

Both army commanders, all NCO's and all of the board for their consistent professionalism and dedication to their various roles.

And of course all of the members that have supported and helped the Society this past year.

Courtesy of Mark Lamb at Dark
Inventions



Did You Know?

Regiments are able to host their own fundraisers to raise money for various items to aid in the Regiment's authenticity, impression or general well being.

These fundraisers can include but are not limited to, general donations, raffles, "golden tickets" and football cards.

All requests to host a fundraiser at any event **MUST** be passed through the Secretary.

If multiple bids are put forward for fundraisers from several regiments, the ACWS Board of Directors will arrange for regiments to host these at particular events to prevent any from overlapping each other and allow everyone to have their "fair share".

Any questions regarding Regimental Fundraisers can be directed to either Army Commander for clarification.

Southern Tea Cake Cookies

Recipe

- 1) In a medium bowl whisk flour, salt, baking soda, and nutmeg together.
- 2) In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar
- 3) Turn mixer to low and add egg and vanilla. Add flour mixture little by little to the creamed sugar mixture.
- 4) Refrigerate dough for 30 minutes.
- 5) Preheat oven to 325°. Using a small ice cream scoop, melon baller, or two spoons, measure out 12 1-tablespoon portions of dough. Roll each one into a ball using your hands.
- 6) Place 1 1/2" apart on lined or greased baking sheet. Flatten each cookie very slightly with the bottom of a cup or mug.
- 7) Bake for 10 minutes or until edges of cookies are just beginning to brown.

Ingredients

1 1/2 cup <i>all-purpose flour</i>	1 stick <i>unsalted butter</i> (4 ounces or 113 grams)
1/4 tsp salt	
1/4 tsp <i>baking soda</i>	3/4 cup <i>sugar</i> 1 large egg
1/4 tsp <i>nutmeg</i>	2 tsp <i>vanilla extract</i>

History

Enslaved peoples during the 18th and 19th centuries would have served these cookies to the guests of the plantation owners. But when slavery ended the tradition for these cookies continued. Using what they had on hand, the cookies have a simple ingredient list. During the 19th century these cookies were often made with flour, lard, molasses, and a little nutmeg or vanilla and that's it.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

PAGE ONE

April 1-2 WHITTINGTON, SHROPSHIRE

CONFIRMED

ACWS Preparation Weekend. Living History Event.
Infantry & Artillery, Further details to follow.
Whittington Castle, Whittington, Oswestry, SY11 4DF.

April 15-16 AVONCROFT MUSEUM, WORCS

CONFIRMED

International Living History Fair.
Infantry Only, Living History & Small Drill/Firing display.
Very limited camping space. Further details to follow.
Avoncroft Museum, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

April 23 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE

CONFIRMED

Living History & Firing Display. Infantry & Artillery.
Parade & Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Morley Rugby Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, LS27 0JJ.

May 12-13 WORCESTER BALLOON FIESTA

CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Worcester Racecourse, Grand Stand Road, Worcester, WR1 3EJ.

June 3-4 HULL, EAST YORKSHIRE

POSSIBLE

Possible event currently awaiting details.
Further details to follow.

June 10-11 BOSTON BIG WEEKEND, LINCS

CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 6PH



EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

PAGE TWO

July 15-16 STAFFORDSHIRE BALLOON FIESTA

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Uttoxeter Racecourse, Wood Lane, Uttoxeter, ST14 8BD.

CONFIRMED

July 22-23 HUDDERSFIELD, WEST YORKS

Possible event currently awaiting details.
Further details to follow.

POSSIBLE

August 18-20 NORTHAMPTON BALLOON FIESTA

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics. Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Northampton Racecourse, Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4LG.

CONFIRMED

August 26-28 WHITBY WAR WEEKEND

Full Society Event. Infantry & Artillery. Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Hawsker Lane next to Whitby Abbey, Whitby, YO22 4JR.

CONFIRMED

September 16-17 UPTON, WEST MIDLANDS

Full Society Event. (ACWS Members Only)
Possible event currently awaiting confirmation.
Further details to follow.

CONFIRMED

December 2 ACWS AGM

The 2023 ACWS Annual General Meeting
(held in-person or virtual) - **To Be Confirmed.**

