



# *The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER*

## 2024 1st Edition

ACWS Ltd - PO Box 270 - Washington - Tyne & Wear - NE37 9BX  
[www.acws.co.uk](http://www.acws.co.uk)



“Brothers in Arms”

Photograph courtesy of Pvt Bill Brown  
September 2022

ACWS is a Member of

N·A·Re·S

Issue 211

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



**Chairman &  
Federal  
Commander**  
Darren Paul



**Secretary**  
Linda Reed



**Treasurer**  
Ian Morris



**Health & Safety**  
Frank Mair



**Membership**  
Claire Morris



**Webmaster**  
Mike Bussey



**Events**  
Catherine  
Conyard



**Communications**  
Joseph Reed



**Confederate  
Commander**  
Glenn Gibson

**Newsletter  
Contact Details**  
[editor@acws.co.uk](mailto:editor@acws.co.uk)

# Director's Reports

## Chairman's Report

Hi Everyone, So it's 2024 and that means a new season is due to start. It's been a tough winter and we are not out of it just yet.

We have all had some sad times these past months and years, but we must look forward to the future with a positive mind as I'm sure our friends and loved ones would want us to.

I'm now your new Chairman and my place on the board is only here because of you, the membership. You know who I am, I am sure, if not, I'm sure we will meet soon enough and please, please feel free to come and meet me on camp. This also applies to all of our board members, they are all approachable and ready to help you with their wealth of experience within ACW re-enactment.



See you all soon  
Darren Paul  
Chairman - ACWS

## Secretary's Report

Hey y'all,

I hope you all had a blast celebrating Christmas and New Year with your families and a very "Happy New Year" to you all.

The end of 2023 was most sombre with the passing of Colonel Tim Davies.

As always, the ACWS family pulled together to support and help by collecting £1030 in donations from our membership and another £162.25 with the raffle at Tim's wake. All monies have now been passed over to the Davies family who are extremely grateful and thank you all.

Sincere condolences are further extended to Major Trevor Stevens' family on Trevor's recent passing.

I would like you all to join me in welcoming Daz Paul on to the board as Chairman and into his Federal position as Major.

Over the winter the ACWS continues to be the well oiled machine it always has been!

As always I would like to thank all the board and society officers for everything they do.

On a medical note, we made a decision as a board to replace our old broken defibrillator with a brand new award winning one which can be used for both children and adults alike. The one we chose is an iPad CU-SP1 and is widely used by the NHS Ambulance Service. We did purchase this through HeartBeat Brighthouse to whom we are extremely grateful. Hopefully we will never need it!

As you will all know defibs are an expensive piece of equipment and for this reason we will be fundraising all season to help pay for the purchase.

It is that time of year again when it is time to check your licences! Dust off the cobwebs and start checking your kit!

Not long now until our prep weekend at Murton, see y'all then.

Take Care y'all  
Linda Reed  
Secretary - ACWS



## Events Director's Report

Hi Everyone,

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Murton Park, York for our pre-season preparation event on April 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup>. I will be keeping an eye on the state of the field, in particular the entrance, and keep you all updated. Let's hope for a much drier March!

I am also looking ahead to plan the events at Avoncroft and Morley, so please let me know which you are hoping to attend if you have not already done so.

Morley, Leeds is a lovely one day event, for which the Society is being paid. Camping will definitely be available from the Saturday, but I have asked for the Friday too. It is a multi-period, with Living History, a parade into Morley centre and back, followed by an arena slot with artillery. Other attractions include some food stalls and modern rides in a separate area.

Avoncroft International Living History Fayre will be fundamentally an advertising event, camped in the orchard with potentially limited space depending upon how many wish to attend. There would be a short drill display on each day with minimal firing.

Last year it was unfortunately a very wet weekend, so access to the site was difficult, and vehicles could not get on the grass to unload. There were also some difficulties with re-enactor parking so some had quite a walk to the site. This will hopefully improve this year if the weather is kinder. It is a multi-period event, with some traders and stalls, and set amongst some lovely historic buildings. A few SoSkAn members may also attend and we share the orchard camping area, along with combining for displays.

If you ever have any questions or potential sites for events, please get in touch.

Best Wishes

Catherine Conyard

Events - ACWS



## Confederate Commander's Report

Hello to all fellow Southern soldiers and Belles.

We ended last year with the sad loss of my opposite counterpart in the Union Army Colonel Tim Davies, and I had the honour as a Confederate to carry him in and out of the church and at the crematorium. It was a very sombre day celebrating his life alongside his family and the exceptional turn out of ACWS members both blue & Gray

However, this year started with the news of another great loss from the ACWS family when we heard that one of the great past Confederate Major's had passed. Major Trevor Stevens was greatly liked and respected by both sides, with his soft tones, and his belief in those under his command.

This one quality he showed me which allowed me to grow within the society and army as a whole. I will be forever grateful for his guidance and support he showed everyone in the past and will be greatly missed.

We must not forget about the others we have lost last year, and our thoughts are with all the families during their difficult times.

But as a society we must move onward and forward and the season is slowly filling up, but please remember some organisations do not get their budgets till April and that's when they try and book, so be prepared for new additions as Catherine our Events Director is working hard to secure venues that would not be detrimental to our finances.

Our first event is the preparation weekend at Murton in April, and I will be arriving early Saturday morning as it is my wife Helen's birthday on the Friday. Also, the Hull event I will be day tripping on the Sunday as I will be at a family get together for my Mam's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the Saturday. If Upton is confirmed in September, then it be likely I will miss that one again due to being on holiday. I have also taken on a part time role as a Parish Clerk at a local authority, on top of my full-time job, which now takes up some of my spare evenings. So, you can see it is going to be a difficult year for me with family & work commitments so at Murton I would like to hold an Officers and senior NCO meeting to discuss my plans and thoughts for the coming seasons.

It is also that time of year to ensure all FSPC's are up to date and as always will allocate time for these at Murton to be completed.

On behalf of the Confederate Forces of the ACWS can I congratulate Daz Paul on his promotion to Major and command of the Union Forces. (albeit it not in the circumstances we all imagined). Both Daz and I have come through the ranks together and know each others abilities and styles and look forward to working with him on scenarios etc.

So, its time to get the cobwebs cleared, rust removed, stitching done, tents waterproofed and repaired to prepare for what I'm sure will be another fantastic season.

Push on and improve everyone.



Your obedient servant  
Major Glenn Gibson  
Confederate C.O. - ACWS

### Communications' Report

Hi Everyone,

I can't wait for another great season with you all, hopefully I'll be able to make it to a few more events this year now that I'm back from Cyprus.

Myself and the board would love to see some participation in the John Rushworth photography competition this year so please send in your photos.

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.



Kind Regards to All  
Joseph Reed  
Communications Director

## Powder Boxes for sale

**The Society has for sale a small number of surplus Black Powder wooden storage boxes with 9 compartments containing empty 500g plastic bottles.**

**The boxes and bottles conform to the 2014 Explosives Regulations for keeping and storage of Black Powder.**

**Price to members is £50 each including 9 bottles, but you'll need to provide your own secure padlock.**

**All moneys raised to go into Society funds.**

**Note the bottles are the "square" ones ACWS use, not the round ones used by most gunsmiths today which are usually too tall for our boxes.**

**Also Note Henry Kranks are selling new boxes for almost £150 each**

**Contact Mike Bussey if you are interested by email at [webmaster@acws.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@acws.co.uk) or P.M. on Facebook.**

**Any box purchased will be brought to an ACWS event to hand over.**

# Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting

## The American Civil War Society Ltd.

Held virtually on Zoom on Saturday 2nd December 2023 (1PM)

### ACWS BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs Helen Gibson	Chairperson	<b>HG</b>
Mrs Linda Reed	Secretary	<b>LR</b>
Mr Ian Morris	Treasurer	<b>IM</b>
Mr Mike Bussey	Webmaster	<b>MB</b>
Miss Claire Morris	Membership Secretary	<b>CM</b>
Ms Catherine Conyard	Events	<b>CC</b>
Dr Frank Mair	Health & Safety	<b>FM</b>
Mr Joseph Reed	Communications	<b>JR</b>
Mr Glenn Gibson	CS Commander	<b>GG</b>
Mr Darren Paul	Chairperson 2024	<b>DP</b>

### The meeting commenced at approx. 13:00

**HG** offers deep condolences to the families of members who have passed away this year. She asks everyone present to respect a minute's silence in their memory.

### The meeting recommenced at 13:02

#### 1. AN EXPLANATION OF VOTING VIA ZOOM

**MB** explains how the voting will run during the meeting and reminds everyone not to vote if they have already done so via post or email.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Mr Brian Mitchell, Mrs Marie Mitchell, Miss Cerys Reed,

Mrs Angela Cross, Mr Phil Golder, Mr Rian Birtwell

#### 3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM

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

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = **15**, Postal Votes = **3**, E-proxy Votes = **14**. **TOTAL = 32 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 vote.**

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

## **4. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICES FOR THE 2023 SEASON AS PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER:-**

### **4.1 SECRETARY – MRS L REED**

**LR** adds her heartfelt sympathy for the family of Major Tim Davies, the Federal Army Commander, on behalf of the Board and all members of the Society. **LR** explains that in the absence of an Officer their duties can be undertaken by their immediate subordinate, under the Society Rules and Guidelines E7. As Darren Paul is 2<sup>nd</sup> in command, he will take over as Federal Army Commander until further notice. **LR** adds there will be a celebration of life for Major Tim Davies on the 21 December 2023 and further information will be shared after the AGM. **LR** explains that the AGM had to continue as planned due to ACWS being a Limited Company.

### **4.2 WEBMASTER – MR M BUSSEY**

**MB** states he has nothing to add to his AGM report and there were no questions asked by anyone present.

### **4.3 EVENTS – MS C CONYARD**

**CC** states she has nothing to add to her AGM report and there were no questions asked by anyone present.

### **4.4 TREASURER – MR I MORRIS**

**IM** explains that he is waiting for the final accounts from the accountant.

**LR** asks if he expects the final accounts to be very different from the draft?

**IM** says he doesn't expect any major change.

### **4.5 MEMBERSHIP – MISS C MORRIS**

**CM** states she has nothing to add to her AGM report and there were no questions asked by anyone present.

### **4.6 CS COMMANDER – MR G GIBSON**

**GG** offers condolences to the family of Major Tim Davies on behalf of the Confederate Army. He has nothing to add to his report and there were no questions from anyone present.

### **4.7 FEDERAL COMMANDER**

No report available.

### **4.8 COMMUNICATIONS – MR J REED**

**JR** states he has nothing to add to his AGM report and there were no questions asked by anyone present.

### **4.9 HEALTH & SAFETY – DR F MAIR**

**FM** states he has nothing to add to his AGM report and there were no questions asked by anyone present.

### **4.10 CHAIRPERSON – MRS H GIBSON**

**HG** confirms she is stepping down from her post as Chairperson and Director of ACWS. **LR** thanks **HG** for her service on behalf of the Board and the members of the Society.

## **Motion to approve the ACWS Board of Directors reports:-**

Proposed by **Glenn Gibson**, seconded by **Joseph Reed**.

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = **16**, Postal Votes = **9**, E-proxy Votes = **15**. **TOTAL = 40 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 **Frank Mair**, seconded by **Catherine Conyard**.

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = **16**, Postal Votes = **9**, E-proxy Votes = **14**. **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 = **1**. **TOTAL = 1 vote.**

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

### **Motion to re-appoint the accountants:-**

Proposed by **Ian Morris**, seconded by **Claire Morris**.

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = **14**, Postal Votes = **9**, E-proxy Votes = **14**. **TOTAL = 37 votes.**

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

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

## **7. MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION FEES FOR 2023 SEASON**

### **Motion to increase membership fees by £5 for each category, effective from the 1st February 2024, as follows:-**

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| - Individual Membership          | - From £25 to £30 |
| - Couple or Single Parent Family | - From £35 to £40 |
| - Family Membership              | - From £45 to £50 |

The registration fee would remain on the same level as 2023 but the Board reserve the right to adjust the registration fee as per ACWS Bye-law B.9.

**LR** explains that the membership fee has not increased for 11 years but the increased costs, for example of gunpowder which has doubled, led the Board to recommend the increase.

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

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = **12**, Postal Votes = **9**, E-proxy Votes = **12**. **TOTAL = 33 votes.**

**AGAINST:-** Zoom Votes = **1**, Postal Votes = **0**, E-proxy Votes = **3**. **TOTAL = 4 votes.**

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

## **8. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

### **SECRETARY**

**To re-elect Mrs Linda Reed as Secretary:-**

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 15, Postal Votes = 8, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 38 votes.**

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

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

**Mrs Linda Reed** is duly re-elected as Secretary.

### **TREASURER**

**To re-elect Mr Ian Morris as Treasurer:-**

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 16, Postal Votes = 9, E-proxy Votes = 14. **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 = 1. **TOTAL = 1 vote.**

**Mr Ian Morris** is duly re-elected as Treasurer.

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

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

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 17, Postal Votes = 9, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 41 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.**

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

### **WEBMASTER**

**To re-elect Mr Mike Bussey as Webmaster:-**

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 17, Postal Votes = 9, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 41 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.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **To re-elect Mr Joseph Reed as Communications:-**

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 17, Postal Votes = 9, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 41 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 Joseph Reed** is duly re-elected as Communications Director.

## **EVENTS**

### **To re-elect Ms Catherine Conyard as Events director:-**

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 17, Postal Votes = 9, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 41 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 re-elected as Events Director.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

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

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 11, Postal Votes = 6, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 32 votes.**

**AGAINST:-** Zoom Votes = 6, Postal Votes = 3, E-proxy Votes = 0. **TOTAL = 9 votes.**

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

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

## **9. ELECTION OF MR DARREN PAUL (DP) TO POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON**

### **To elect Mr Darren Paul as Chairperson as no other applications were received:-**

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 16, Postal Votes = 9, E-proxy Votes = 15. **TOTAL = 40 votes.**

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

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

**Mr Darren Paul** is duly elected as Chairperson.

**DP takes over as Chair of the meeting.**

## 10. UNION ARMY COMMANDER

LR confirms this agenda item was removed and Darren Paul will be the Federal Army Commander until further notice.

## 11. CONFEDERATE ARMY COMMANDER

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

**FOR:-** Zoom Votes = 6, Postal Votes = 6, E-proxy Votes = 6. **TOTAL = 18 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.**

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

**The AGM was paused from 13:56 to 14:08**

## 13. EVENTS UPDATE

CC gives details of the **confirmed** events for 2024:-

13/14 April	Murton Park training event
20/21 April	Avoncroft Museum
21 April	Morley St George's Day Parade
11/12 May	Marbury Merry Days
25/26 May	East Park, Hull

CC acknowledges that Avoncroft and Morley clash, but the Board agree that this is acceptable as numbers for Avoncroft will be limited, as they were in 2023 and the Morley event may be more attractive to members who live in the North.

CC gives details of the events that are not yet confirmed. These are:

19/20 July	Doncaster Racecourse
24/26 Aug	Whitby
7/8 September	Moira Furnace
Sept date TBC	Upton upon Severn

CC states she has been contacted by a member of Soskan who portrays Abraham Lincoln. He is willing to attend ACWS events given sufficient notice.

**Andrew Parrot** asks if camping at Murton Park will be in tents? **CC** says she believes so as its unlike that there will be sufficient huts available, and she believes there is another event in the Viking Village.

**DP** asks whether Soskan have been invited to Avoncroft Museum. **CC** says they have, and she is working with their event organiser. **DP** asks if the Museum made any comment about the state of the ground after the last event? **CC** says no, as they recognise the damage was due to the weather.

## 15. OPEN FORUM

**Martin Cross** says he is a member of the Monuments for UK Veterans of the American Civil War. So far, they have rededicated 4 graves, but these have been around London and the South of the UK. However, there is a Samuel Lander-Hough of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry in a grave in Derby. A headstone has been ordered and there will be a rededication service in 2024. Martin asks the ACWS to support this event. **LR** asks for details to be shared with **CC** once known. **MB** says Gina, the founder member of the Group, is a member of ACWS. **CM** says that American dignitaries attend these events, so it is a good opportunity to promote ACWS.

**Matthew Jennings** asks if the registration fee will increase? **LR** says the Board discussed this at length and agreed not to increase the registration fee. Given the increase in the cost of gun powder this will be kept under review, but the Board aim to keep the registration fee as low as possible.

**Matthew Jennings** asks if there is a task force in place to consider ways to recruit new members? **DP** says that in the past it has been left to each Regiment to recruit new members but recognised that numbers have dwindled and that there is a lot of competition for members from other re-enactment groups. He makes the point that **CM** has worked hard to find new recruits and acknowledges how difficult it has been to get the numbers up. He points to the recruitment stand that Paul Kennelly hosts at each event as a more recent activity.

**CM** says that many things have been done to promote the Society, for example, leaflets and posters have been sent to hundreds of colleges and universities, posters are displayed in libraries and visitor centres, recruitment stands have been set up at war gaming and trade events and social media is actively used to promote the Society. **CM** acknowledges the increase competition from other re-enactment groups due to the increased interest in other historical periods such as the Vikings. Most new members come via existing members or at events so members need to continue to put on a good show and interactive with the public to generate interest. Historically our membership has grown when we have re-enacted at large events such as Kirby Hall and this is why the balloon festival events are important as they provide an opportunity to showcase the Society to hundreds of people.

**FM** adds there are no bad ideas for recruiting so members are encouraged to share ideas. **MB** says that **CM** is aware of which regiments need new members and, for example, has directed anyone who expresses an interest to the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina to boost their numbers. **Matthew** says that every member should be considered as a recruiter, but some will be more successful than others. He says it may be a good idea to consider having a small working group to consider what's worked well in the past and explore new opportunities. **DP** says that are no bad ideas and this will be worth discussing with the Board. **CM** says that if anyone is hosting a local event or knows of opportunities to promote the Society, she can provide leaflets and information. Members also need to inform the Treasurer and Events Co-ordinator so that they are covered by the ACWS insurance.

## 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

No AOB has been proposed and nothing was raised.

**DP** thanks everyone for attending and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**The meeting ended at 14.46.**

### **DATES OF FUTURE AGM**

The next ACWS Ltd AGM will be on

Saturday 7th December 2024 - 13:00 Prompt - Venue or Media Platform to be confirmed.

# John Rushworth Memorial Trophy Photography Competition 2024

Unfortunately we didn't receive any submissions for the 2023 season  
However we still hope that members will be interested in competing.

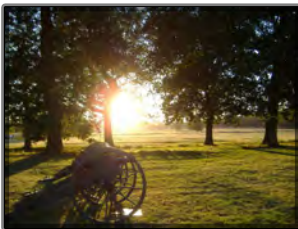
## The rules are as follows

1. The photograph must be taken at an event this season, by a member of the Society.
2. Any member wishing to enter the competition can enter any number of separate entries.
3. "Amusing" photographs can also be entered for consideration.
4. Non members or members of the public cannot be included in the photograph.

Entries for the competition must be sent to the company secretary  
and clearly labelled as an entry.

The Board of Directors will vote anonymously for the winner, second  
and third place before the last day of October.

Here are a couple of examples of some previous winning photos



**Stanford Hall 2006**  
**Lorraine Mitchell**  
**(4th TX)**



**Sheffield 2008**  
**Alison Brown**  
**(43rd NC)**



**Tatton Park 2009**  
**Alison Brown**  
**(43rd NC)**

**Good Luck and Have Fun**  
**We look forward to seeing**  
**your fabulous pictures.**

## The Cotton Famine Road

The Cotton Famine Road in Rochdale has an historical link with the town's industrial past. At the top of Rooley Moor Road, is the historic Victorian stone road, widely known as the 'Cotton Famine Road', which is a monument to the fascinating story of Rochdale cotton workers siding with the Union cause during the American Civil War.

This was despite a Union blockade of Confederate ports causing a shortage of cotton supplies coming to Rochdale that caused the 'cotton famine' which starved thousands of men and women of their livelihoods. As a result, the lack of work in the nearby cotton mills in 1862 and 1863 meant locals were instead handed work building roads by the government. The "Cotton Famine Road" was one of the most famous. As background to the "Cotton Famine Road" which was constructed during the American Civil War, Lancashire was the leading producer of finished cotton goods in the world with Rochdale itself having numerous cotton factories providing the beating heart of a thriving local economy. Local campaigners did not complain, they organised, successful lobbying for the 1863 Public Works Act allowing Rochdale's civic leaders to borrow money at a very low interest rate. This funded vital civic improvements, including to Catley Lane, which the important Pennine route for transporting goods was then called. Today the road's official name is Rooley Moor Road, part of a popular walking route to Bacup.

However, for many it will always be the 'Cotton Famine Road', a timeless and poignant local landmark to the international struggle to abolish the Atlantic slave trade. It is a poignant reminder of the harsh times cotton workers endured during the 19th century cotton famine. The famous road is also unique in linking the American Civil War to wider social changes throughout the borough and beyond, led by the famous Rochdale Pioneers movement.

The road and surrounding moor are worth a visit for many reasons. It provides a vivid reminder of Rochdale's proud past but, as one of the highest roads in England, it also offers stunning views over the Pennines

and beyond. Indeed the upper section of the road is visible from many miles away and is a prominent part of the north Manchester/Lancashire/West Yorkshire landscape.

The actual construction of the "Cotton Famine Road" is fascinating in its own right.

It consists of stone setts which were hewn by hammer and chisel from local quarries. The approximate length of these sections, from Ding Quarry entrance to Catley Lane Head, is 1,950 yards, the number of stone setts across the road varies from 12 along the narrow sections to 24 at Catley Lane Head. Presuming an average number of stone setts per row of 16 and rows per yard of 10.5 gives a total number of 327,600 stone setts.

This excludes the volume of the stone edgings and drainage channels. As such, given the poor of Rochdale laid about a third of a million stone setts into the fabric of Rooley Moor by hand, the "Cotton Famine Road" must be worthy of preservation. At an altitude of over 1500 feet, this historic feature may also lay claim to being one of the highest roads in England. Enjoyed by walkers, runners, ornithologists and cyclists, this iconic moorland route also forms part of the Pennine Bridleway allowing safe access for horse riders on the Mary Townley Loop. The upper section is visible from many miles away (often called the 'yellow brick road')

and is a prominent part of the North Manchester / Lancashire / West Yorkshire landscape. Many people who see, use or walk the road still do not appreciate its American Civil War history or significance and an underlying objective is to improve this overall awareness. "The Cotton Famine Road" is of both National and International importance as it is unique in linking the American Civil War to social changes in our own country at a time when the Rochdale Pioneer Movement influenced social thinking throughout the UK.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas,  
43<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Volunteers



“Ham” had moved with his parents as a teenager to Texas. He later leveraged his father’s political standing in the Texan government to get a spot as a brigadier general of Texas Militia in a 10-county area along the coast. In March 1862, he was elevated to the same rank in the Confederate Army. In the early stages of the 1864 Red River Campaign, Bee and a large cavalry force were sent to fight in Louisiana. Generals Richard Taylor and Edmund Kirby Smith met at Bee’s campfire the night after the Confederate victory at Mansfield, La., on April 8.

The next day, Bee was injured leading a charge at Pleasant Hill. Although Bee was generally complimented for his personal bravery, he apparently lacked a capacity for military leadership.

His ultimate failure came on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864, when he pulled his men out of position at Monett’s Ferry, allowing the Federals to escape unchallenged to Alexandria, La. Taylor soon dismissed him from service. According to one subordinate, Bee was “*the poorest excuse for a Gen that I ever saw.*”

Article by Stewart “Goober” Douglas,  
43<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Volunteers Page 14

## The Famous Confederate Bee Brothers.

One gave Stonewall Jackson his nickname.

One was dubbed “*the poorest excuse for a Gen that I ever saw.*”

When one hears the name of a Civil War general named Bee, the first reaction for most is the Confederate commander from South Carolina who shouted to his men at the First Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861:

*“Look men, there stands Jackson like a stone wall. Rally behind the Virginians!”*

That Bee was Barnard Elliott Bee Jr., who would be mortally wounded on Henry Hill shortly after uttering that immortal cheer. But many people don’t know that Barnard Bee had a younger brother who also served in the Confederate Army during the war, Brigadier General Hamilton P. Bee.

The background of the advertisement is a collage of historical items. At the top, there are several American flags, including the 13-star Betsy Ross flag and the 48-star flag. Below the flags, there is a display of various items: a brass eagle figurine, a glass lantern, a wooden box labeled 'NEW BOOK', a white mug, a wooden bowl, and a book titled 'HARRIS WEEKLY'. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent circular area in the center.

# Civil War Sutler

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# **BLANKET SALE!**

**Bring all your unwanted goods**

**MURTON PARK  
PREPARATION WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY**

**13TH APRIL 2024**

**18:00**

**Our annual Society blanket sale!**

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

## EAT YOUR VEGETABLES!

### ***Eat your vegetables.***

Parents use the phrase today in a desperate effort to get their children to eat something besides ice cream or french fries. During the American Civil War, though, such a request could literally be lifesaving. Disease was responsible for more than two-thirds of all Civil War deaths. Diarrhoea and dysentery were the most common reported diseases during the conflict, with more than 1.6 million cases in the Union Army alone. All told, that led to roughly 50,000 deaths on both sides. So, why did American Civil War soldiers have so much diarrhoea? Chronic diarrhoea was often a sign of malnutrition or critical vitamin deficiencies. In having to deal with it, Civil War doctors and surgeons typically associated diarrhoea with scurvy — a disease caused by vitamin C deficiency but one that also was widely acknowledged to be treatable with fresh produce. But why was this such a common problem during the war? A soldier's regular diet generally did not include fresh fruits or vegetables, consisting instead largely of salted meat (often pork), beans, coffee, and hardtack. Although there were a few variations in diet for soldiers in both armies (Confederates, for example, typically had cornbread instead of hardtack), the basic nutritional value was the same: poor.

The government had few viable ways of getting vegetables (and the important vitamins that came with them) into a soldier's diet. As such, desiccated vegetables became an important tool in the arsenal of nutrition. So eat your veggies. It's the law. In order to combat scurvy among those serving on the frontier before the Civil War, Congress passed a law providing for the creation of canned, compressed, and mixed vegetables: called "desiccated." The rations of desiccated vegetables supposedly contained string beans, turnips, carrots, beets and onions that had been compressed into one-inch-by-one-foot rectangular bricks. Because of the dreadful taste, soldiers would often refused to eat them.

It was not long before the troops branded the creation "desecrated vegetables." Nevertheless, these were indeed vegetables in the cans. Soldiers, however, were instructed to prepare them in a soup that would take one to three hours to prepare, which likely diminished the health benefits. Not only were many vitamins boiled out of the vegetables, but the lengthy preparation time also made it hopelessly impractical to prepare while an army was on the move.

Foraging (even when it was not allowed) was an important, if sporadic, means for soldiers to access fresh fruits and vegetables. It was not uncommon for soldiers to seek out fruits or vegetables as they passed or camped by local farms. In at least one recorded instance, Confederate General Robert E. Lee actively encouraged his men to forage the surrounding countryside in the weeks leading up to a campaign so they would be in peak health.

### ***An apple a day.***

Civil War medical personnel were well aware how critical fruits and vegetables were for healthy armies, particularly, as mentioned earlier, in cases of scurvy. The fruit-and-vegetable option to treat diarrhoea was less common but doctors frequently went that route if cases lingered for extended periods. In 1863, Union surgeon Joseph Woodward concluded in a study on camp diseases that Civil War surgeons, though often stereotyped as ill-informed butchers, could form fairly sophisticated hypotheses based on data they collected. Woodward's understanding of chronic diarrhoea and its causes during the Civil War was strikingly accurate. Lack of fresh produce usually hindered fulfilment of recommended dietary treatments. To increase that supply, the federal government often relied on the aid of private organisations like the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

### ***Send him an onion.***

Thankfully civilians appreciated the benefits of eating healthy. Getting vegetables to the front lines was as important as medicine and bandages, according to the Sanitary Commission, which occasionally held fundraisers to pay for shipping those essential vegetables. One campaign slogan perfectly captured the sentiment: "Don't send your sweetheart a love letter. Send him an onion." Shipping vegetables to the troops became an important task for the Sanitary Commission. A lack of potatoes and onions nearly produced a health epidemic for Ulysses Grant's army in the 1862-63 Vicksburg Campaign. Upon hearing this, Mary Livermore of the Western Sanitary Commission (a separate but related entity) resolved to marshal their resources to alleviate the dire shortage. Once they accumulated the necessary vegetables, they had to find a way to get them to the front since the roads were in such poor condition. Eventually, Livermore convinced Grant to provide boats to ship the produce if the women of aid societies would make sure the boats were manned.

# Father's Day

Did you know that we would never have a Fathers Day if not for the American Civil War. Just think you would never have had to give your Dad socks with crocs, drilling and grilling tools and bright new clean underwear!. All things devoted to Fathers Day all came about in the United States when a lone woman was seeking to honour her American Civil War Veteran father who had single handedly raised her and her 5 younger brothers alongside his other children from an earlier previous marriage. This is the amazing story of Fathers Day.

William Smart was a Confederate Soldier at the start of the Civil War before he switched sides to the Union. Although he was born in Arkansas in 1842, official records show that he enlisted as a Union soldier there in 1863. That was regarded as very odd as Arkansas was a Confederate state. However, following further research of the Smart family history, during Father's Day Centennial Celebration in 2010, it was revealed that William Smart had, in fact, fought for both sides during the American Civil War. It was discovered that William Smart had in fact enlisted in the Confederate States Army early during the Civil War and drove a supply wagon for Confederate troops. However, at the Battle of Pea Ridge, a decisive Union victory in Arkansas in 1862, he was captured by Union troops. Rather than languish in an Union Prisoner of War camp, he opted to join the Northern forces for the rest of the Civil War. Following the Civil War, he was forced to raise all his children alone after his wife died in childbirth. She recalls he was "both father and mother to me and my brothers and sisters. I remember everything about him". As an indication that William Smart was both a Confederate soldier before he became a Federal soldier, Sonora Smart became both a member of both the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of Union Veterans.

In 1909, Sonara Smart was sitting in a pew with her father, William Smart, listening to a Mothers Day sermon when the total inequity of the celebration struck her like a lightening strike. As such, in 1910, Sonora Smart

brought a petition before the Spokane Ministerial Alliance where she lived to recognize the courage and devotion of all fathers like William on June 5, her fathers birthday. The local clergy liked the idea so much of a special Father's Day service but could not pull something together so quickly. So they settled for June 19, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June. On that first Father's Day in 1910, church sermons across Spokane were specifically dedicated to dear old dad, red and white roses were passed out in honour of living and deceased fathers, the Mayor of Spokane and Governor of Washington issued proclamations and Sonora Smart had just found her true calling.

Sonara Smart would then subsequently spend the better part of 60 years pushing for official recognition of Father's Day. But she never let go of her determination to give fathers like hers the recognition they deserved. That first Father's Day celebration in Spokane might have remained a local tradition if not for the perseverance of Sonora Smart Dodd. Following the 1910 Father's Day observance, William Jennings Bryan, one of the most famous US politicians of the time, sent Sonora a congratulatory letter, which sparked a rush of national media attention on Sonora and Spokane.

It was not until 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson signed a Presidential Proclamation in the name of Father's Day. Then, it was not until 1972 that President Richard Nixon signed a Congressional resolution declaring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June to be a permanent National Observance Day. So we Civil War re-enactors above all have no excuse or reason whatsoever to forget the spirit of Fathers Day!



Articles by Stewart "Goober" Douglas,  
43<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina, ACWS

# **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 or the Secretary for clarification.

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## **From the Medical Team**

Members please remember to bring personal first aid kits with you to events, just as you would take on holiday. 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. 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) or Mr Stewart Hayllar and let either of them 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.

Don't forget, the medical tent is always occupied by a society medic and is easily identified by a yellow flag with a green "H" (Hospital). If you wish to know who your army medics are, feel free to ask your army commanders.

## Confederates executed after the Civil War

I have always presumed that the only Confederate executed after the Civil War was Captain Henry Wirz, the Commandant at Andersonville POW camp in Georgia. However, I have just read that there was 1 other namely Samuel "Champ" Ferguson who was a notorious Confederate guerrilla during the American Civil War. He claimed to have killed over 100 Union soldiers and pro-Union civilians. He was arrested, tried and executed for war crimes by the U.S. military after the war. This is his story.

Samuel "Champ" Ferguson was born in Clinton County, Kentucky, on the Tennessee border, the oldest of 10 children. This area was known as the Kentucky Highlands and had more families who were yeomen farmers and generally owned few slaves. Like his father, Ferguson became a farmer but also earned a reputation for violence even before the start of the American Civil War.

Early in the Civil War, West Tennessee, openly supported the Confederacy and East Tennessee, a mostly mountainous region, opposed secession from the Union. Although occupied by the Union, Ferguson organised a Confederate guerrilla company in the state and began attacking any civilians that he believed supported the Union. Though he was considered, in official military correspondence, a Confederate "Captain" with a "company" of men, he was usually not formally attached to the Confederate Army and conducted his own operations independently.

Many local vendettas were subsequently prosecuted in occupied Tennessee under the guise of war. However, his men did also cooperate with Confederate military units led by Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan and Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler when they were in the area and some evidence indicates that Morgan commissioned Ferguson as a captain of partisan rangers. Nevertheless, Ferguson's men were seldom subject to military discipline and often violated the normal rules of war.

As the War progressed, stories circulated about Ferguson's alleged sadism, including tales that he occasionally decapitated his Union prisoners and rolled their heads down hillsides. He was also said to be willing to kill elderly and bedridden men. In fact, he was once arrested by the Confederate authorities and charged with murdering a Confederate Government official and was imprisoned for 2 months in Wytheville, Virginia.

However, the charges could not be proved so he was eventually released. A notorious incident of the Civil War was Ferguson and his guerrilla band's involvement in killing wounded Union men and prisoners after the Battle of Saltville.

The victims were members of the all-black 5th United States Coloured Cavalry as well as their white officers. Ferguson and his men were charged with murdering the wounded in their hospital beds. Only the arrival of Thomas' Legion of Cherokee Indians and Highlanders (aka 69<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment) had prevented the complete slaughter of the Union prisoners.

As soon as Ferguson learned that regular Confederate troops had arrived, he left with his men. One specific murder with which he was later charged was that of a Lieutenant Smith, shot by Ferguson in the Emory & Henry Confederate Hospital after the Saltville battle. For this crime, the Confederate Army later jailed Ferguson in February 1865. He was released a few months later.

At the Civil War's end, Ferguson disbanded his men and returned home to his farm. However, as soon as the Union troops learned of his return, they arrested him and took him to Nashville, where he was tried by a Military Court for 53 murders. Ferguson's trial attracted National attention and soon became a major media event.

One of Ferguson's main adversaries on the Union side was David "Tinker Dave" Beatty, who testified against him. Just as Ferguson had led a guerrilla band against any real or presumed Unionists, Beatty led a guerrilla band against any real or presumed confederates. Both did their best to ambush and kill the other.

Ferguson acknowledged that his band had killed many of the victims named and said he had killed over 100 men himself. He insisted this conduct was simply part of his duty as a soldier. The defence, led by Judge Jo Conn Guild, maintained that Ferguson was a Captain in the Confederate Army and should be paroled as such. The prosecution, led by Judge Advocate A. C. Blackman, claimed that, as a guerrilla and outlaw, he acted outside the bounds of the Confederate army and he was charged with 53 counts of murder.

On October 10, 1865, Ferguson was found guilty and sentenced to hang. He made a statement in response to the verdict:

*"I am yet and will die a Rebel ... I killed a good many men, of course, but I never killed a man who I did not know was seeking my life. ... I had always heard that the Federals would not take me prisoner, but would shoot me down wherever they found me. That is what made me kill more than I otherwise would have done. I repeat that I die a Rebel out and out, and my last request is that my body be removed to White County, Tennessee, and be buried in good Rebel soil."*

After his execution, Ferguson's statements to the Nashville Dispatch were published. The New York Times classified his letter as a confession. He admitted to killing at least 10 people. Ferguson claimed 9 of the men were killed in self-defence.

He believed that 1 was committing murders and robbing private houses. Ferguson also stated that he had been convicted of the murders of several men who were killed by other members of his group. He denied some of the charges, including the killing of 12 soldiers at Saltville, and said that many of the men he was accused of killing had died in battle or been killed by bands other than his own.

Ferguson felt that his trial had been neither just nor fair. Knowing that he would be sentenced to death, he questioned the reliability of all but 2 of the witnesses.

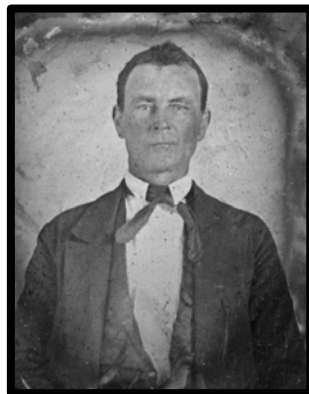
Afterwards, Ferguson was buried in a comb grave in the France Cemetery, North of Sparta, White County, Tennessee.

However, there also exists a very interesting "Afterword" in a later produced Ferguson biography. "I thought I'd found Champ back in 1941 when my father and I went looking for him in that old graveyard on the Calfkiller River. Maybe I was wrong. According to a story I read in the Cookeville Herald-Citizen, there was in fact a conspiracy between Champ and the Union military. The theory is that the Union military felt that Champ should not be hanged because many others as guilty as he had been paroled. The story is that the military enclosed the under-section of the scaffold and that a ring of soldiers completely encircled it. When the hangman cut the rope and Champ dropped through the trap door, they quickly untied the loose knot and placed Champ in the casket alive.

The casket was then placed on a waiting wagon which Champ's wife and daughter drove out of town. When they were out of Nashville, Champ climbed out of the casket and the 3 rode all the way to Indian Territory in Oklahoma, where they took new names and took up farming and ranching for a living."

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina, ACWS

Sources : Wikipedia, Champ Ferguson-Tennessee Encyclopedia, Historynet.





### April 13-14 MURTON PARK, NORTH YORKS

ACWS Preparation Weekend. Living History Event.  
Infantry & Artillery, Further details to follow.  
Yorkshire Museum of Farming, Murton Lane,  
Murton, YORK, **YO19 5UF**

[CONFIRMED](#)

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### April 20-21 AVONCROFT, WORCS

Living History at International Living History Fair.  
Infantry firing display on SATURDAY and SUNDAY.  
Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath,  
Bromsgrove, **B60 4JR**.  
*Limited camping space - need to book in advance.*  
*Day trippers welcomed.*

[CONFIRMED](#)

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### April 21 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE

Small Event for the town's St George's Day weekend.  
Arena Display, Parade & Living History  
Morley Rugby Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, Leeds **LS27 0JJ**.

[CONFIRMED](#)

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### May 11-12 MARBURY, CHESHIRE

Full society even at Marbury Merry Days.  
Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics. Battle on SATURDAY  
Hollins Lane, Marbury, near Whitchurch, Cheshire, **SY13 4LN**.

[CONFIRMED](#)

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### May 25-26 HULL, EAST YORKSHIRE

Full society event.  
East Park, Holderness Road, Hull, **HU8 8JU**.

[CONFIRMED](#)

**July 19-20 DONCASTER BALLOON FESTIVAL**

**CONFIRMED**

Pyrotechnics, Artillery, Infantry and Living History.  
Skirmish/displays on FRIDAY and SATURDAY.

Town Field, Thorne Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire **DN1 2JS**.

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**August 16-18 NORTHAMPTON BALLOON FESTIVAL**

**CONFIRMED**

Full society event.

Infantry, Artillery, Pyrotechnics & Living History

Northampton Racecourse, Kettering Road, N'hampton, **NN1 4LG**.

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**August 24-26 DETLING, KENT**

**CONFIRMED**

Full society event. (Guests of SoSkAn)

Infantry ONLY & Living History

Military Odessey, Kent Showground, Detling, Kent, **ME14 3JF**.

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**Other possible events for 2024**

We are in discussion other possible event sites and will update the website when appropriate.

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**December 7 ACWS AGM**

The 2024 ACWS Annual General (Virtual Zoom)  
Meeting starting at 1 pm prompt.

