



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2024 2nd Edition

ACWS Ltd - PO Box 270 - Washington - Tyne & Wear - NE37 9BX
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Photograph courtesy of Pat Patrick
Avoncroft 2024

ACWS is a Member of
N·A·Re·S

Issue 212

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



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Federal
Commander**
Darren Paul



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Linda Reed



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Events
Catherine
Conyard



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**Confederate
Commander**
Glenn Gibson



**Union
Representative**
Paul Kennelly

Director's Reports

Chairman's Report

Murton, tick... Avoncroft, tick... both I must say because of you, the members, have made two great weekends, thank you. So far, the help from everybody in my new roles has been amazing, I can't thank you enough.

What I'm seeing and hearing for the first couple of weekends is that the enthusiasm, work and amount of time and effort is brilliant. We used the crowd at Avoncroft (we did tell them) to watch a couple of new ideas that we put together with SoSkAn (probably done before) of displays within an arena without a skirmish.

Thank you so much for the displays and competition of the fastest "shelter half erection", the crowd loved it, this could end up being a serious challenge maybe, I can foresee another potential trophy.

Also, we had a go of using a Bugler and his calls to instruct the company to do movements, with a little more work on coordination and us memorising what the calls sound like and mean, it will lead to being a more authentic method of relaying orders.

Thank you so much to everyone for the donations and football cards, every penny will be used towards our new Defibrillator and artillery van.

Federal Commander's Report

Great start to the season, kicked off at a fantastic little place "Murton Park", I believe we were lucky with the weather and had a great weekend was had by all. Brilliant start to our training doing FSPC's, well done to all who worked to achieve the results we needed.

A real shame that Morley was cancelled and some of you missed out what doing what you love most. Admittedly, myself and the "Avoncroft Team" had a cracking time, as the weather was fair to us, we had that big shiny thing in the sky.

Saturday's arena displays consisted of gentlemen from the south doing drill, the 1st USSS doing a skirmish drill display and our good friends the bucktails joining our union boys in company and musket drill before both armies firing some cracking volleys.

Sundays arena display, well what can I say, well done all... had a few ideas and gave it a go, we even told the crowd that we'd never done it before. So, started with drill done by all, then called upon four Union and four Confederate to partake in a race to erect a shelter half with two guys sleeping and two to stand guard. The crowd loved the mishaps, guys trying to find the hidden sticks and tents falling down. Next, Callum wished to do something in the arena too, so we had a trial go at bugle calls for movement, which wasn't too bad, just need some fine tuning. (No not you Callum.)

So, onto the next event, Marbury... "notice" to all union boys marching to Marbury, (Fredericksburg) please bring your greatcoats, even if they don't fit, if you don't mind lending it to a mate. Myself and Major Gibson are to attempt our own version of Marye Heights. Already our ladies are working hard to make your scarves. Also as we will all be temporarily portraying the 118th Pennsylvania, we intend to dish out envelopes containing the name of a soldier who was in that exact regiment at the Battle of Fredericksburg, it will also state what happened to him.

More on Marbury to follow.

Until we meet in the field.

Regards,
Major D B Paul
Chairman &
Federal Commander



Events Director's Report

Hi Everyone,

It was lovely to see those who were at Murton. The weather was kind and it was lovely to be back round a fire and under canvas.

As I am writing this, the weather seems to have been kind for those able to attend Avoncroft Living History Fair too. It is such a shame that Morley could not go ahead, but the weather is beyond anyone's control and safety is of course the main priority. Hopefully you are aware of a new event in June – Bloxham Steam and Country Fair. We have been here a few times now so it is great to be welcomed back again. There will be evening entertainment and beer tent so we can hopefully enjoy the delights of Jason.

I will keep everyone updated with any event developments via the Members Page, so please do keep checking, in particular in the run up to an event. I am also happy for you to private message me with any questions – as long as those questions are not answered on the Warning Orders of course!

Which leads to my normal request to please, please read the Warning Orders completely, as they will contain essential timings, such as vehicle movement on site. This is for the safety of everyone. See you all at Marbury!

Kindest Regards,
Catherine Conyard
Events Director, ACWS



Health & Safety Director's Report

Dear Friends,

2 things H&S-related:

Thing 1: FSPCs are up for renewal this year. Thanks to those who got this done at Murton. Everyone else: Please make sure you get it done at the first event you attend. NCO's: make sure you have the forms to hand if possible. I will carry some spares if you forget. Please forward copies to me, so a record can be kept.

Thing 2: US camp had a fire drill at Murton. Thanks all for their co-operation. But learning from this is: We need to re-prioritise all NCO's and staff wearing *and using* whistles. Whistles should be blown whenever one is heard, thus spreading the warning throughout camp. One hard-of-hearing member reported not hearing the whistles. We shall, therefore, have another drill at some point this season, hoping for a louder chorus of whistles joining the first one blown. I have the permission of our Union commander, Daz Paul, to point out that he was among the miscreants who misplaced their whistles. So, as soon as you arrive on Friday night, please remember to get those whistles round your neck.

Thanks all, stay safe!

Frank Mair

H&S Director, ACWS



ACWS at Murton Park 2024

The ACWS travelled to Yorkshire Farming Museum on 13th and 14th April 2024 for both a training event as well as the first official ACWS event in 2024. As forecast, the weather was sunny but windy but got better throughout the weekend. Despite the persistent rain over the last 3-4 months, we managed to park all the cars safely and securely on the site and we were able to get away easily on the Sunday afternoon. There was a commendable ACWS turnout from both armies and it was pleasing to see some new recruits attending and hopefully they will have enjoyed their Civil War experience and come back regularly for more particularly with the excellent array of events lined up for this year.

Yorkshire Farming Museum is an excellent venue for an ACWS training event as it has both picturesque with a superb living history Viking Village and Roman Fort. It is located in Murton Park near York in England. It is housed on a grass field site of approximately 14 acres and is the only museum in the district specifically dedicated to the subject of farming. The museum has built up a large collection of artefacts that illustrate the history of farm mechanisation. The collection also contains domestic items and other documentary material relating to the social structure of rural life in the area. Events are held throughout the year relating to rural and farming themes. There is also a children's play area and a cafe. The site is also home to the last surviving stretch of the Derwent Valley Light Railway, part of whose archive is also in the museum's collection. The museum shares the site with the Danelaw Centre for Living History. Living history facilities include a mock Roman fort called Brigantium, which is a disguised outdoor classroom designed to cater for up to 65 children at a time.

There are also buildings dedicated to the Tudor and Viking ages, including a Dark Age village and how they farmed the land centuries ago. As usual, all the voluntary staff at the museum were very helpful and appreciative and the grounds themselves were immaculate although still very boggy in places. There was ample space for camping in the lower fields within very close proximity to toilet amenities and the café. Special thanks to Catherine Conyard and Dave McDade for getting access to this venue particularly with the appalling wet weather in the prior 4 months.

The first ACWS training event always provides an invaluable opportunity for everyone to prepare for the season ahead particularly after the long holiday absence and get all their licences, safety drills and equipment (particularly firearms) checked, approved and logged on to the ACWS books as well as complete all the necessary ACWS Health and Safety firing requirements. The training event is also an invaluable opportunity to make the new recruits who came welcome and settle into the required military routine. Both the Confederate and Union Infantry did 2 various drill and firing displays both days throughout the weekend for the public.

As always, many thanks must go to Christian Sprakes for commentating to the public on all these displays and enhancing their knowledge and enjoyment. The public on both days were clearly very knowledgeable of the Civil War. To the credit of the ACWS, both the Union and Confederate living history displays were very well received by the public and the interaction on both camps is to be really commended and this was echoed by the actual event organisers themselves.

Pleasing to see on the Confederate camp was a new and superb wooden chevaux de fries made by Trevor (CS Artillery) which was a wooden spiked anti cavalry device which was commonly used throughout the Civil War particularly in a defensive capacity. 2-3 more of these alongside our 4 superb artillery pieces would be awesome particularly in flat field scenarios.

Due to this being the first event of the season, other issues had to be addressed. On the Saturday, the ACWS held a full Society Meeting with everyone present and highlighting the superb events lined up for this season with special thanks to Catherine Conyard for all her hard work on our behalf in getting these as well as introducing all the members of the Board. Emphasis was again placed on everyone reading and complying with the Warning Orders issued before every event and highlighting the real need for financial prudence due to the recent and significant escalation in the cost of powder.

Following discussions between Confederate Major Glenn Gibson and Union Chairman/Major Daz Paul, these events will now have exciting and accurate historical depictions of Civil War battles. These will start with the Battle of Fredericksburg December 1862 and specifically the brave Union assault on *Marye's Heights* which hovers over the Sunken Road behind a stone wall and then the brave depiction of the Angel of *Marye's Heights* namely Sergeant Richard Kirkland (2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry) noted by both sides for his bravery and the story of his humanitarian actions comforting both the dying and wounded Union soldiers in front of the stone wall. This will be portrayed at the Marbury Merry Days Event. There was also an emotional and moving musical tribute to both Union Colonel Tim Davis and Confederate Major Trevor Stephens by Catherine and Christian.

Other significant issues included the purchase of a society defibrillator (football cards will help with the purchase and well done to Freya (US) and JD (CS) for winning the first 2 cards). There was also a decision by the Society to attend the Upton upon Severn event run by the Worcester Reenactors on the 21st and 22nd September 2024.

Congratulations also went to Sergeant Andy Farnsworth for winning the Roger Zwarycz Confederate soldier of the year trophy for the 2023 season as well as for the second time. And another big well done to Private William Jennings for coming in second place, losing out by only one vote! The Union Army will be awarding a similar award next year. Finally, there was also a formal presentation for all those members with an excellent 100% record for last season. Well done to all those dedicated members.

On the Saturday night, there was a large blanket sale in the Viking Village Long Hall which proved fruitful for all the new re-enactors who picked up loads of clothing at excellent prices as well as loads of amounts of Civil War books available for a small donation. On both nights, both camps had lovely nice fires and both were accompanied by our many and varied singers and musicians. Catherine and Christian on the Union camp and John and Matthew on the Confederate camp. Everyone also intermingled and it was abundantly clear everyone was happy to be back on camp and drinking and socialising with our old and new friends. The Confederate camp also had Major Glenn Gibson's customary cheese and cracker night as well. The 2024 ACWS Events calendar is now completely full so please support and encourage others to attend as its gearing up to be another really cracking memorable season.

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

MURTON PARK



ACWS - 100% Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Bussey, Mike	1st Tennessee	1st Sergeant
Mair, Frank	19th Indiana	Corporal
Conyard, Catherine	19th Indiana	Private
Farnsworth, Andrew	32nd Virginia	Sergeant
McDade, Dave	32nd Virginia	Private
Douglas, Stewart (Goober)	43rd North Carolina	Sergeant
Morris, Claire	69th New York	1st Sergeant
Thomas, Trevor	Rockbridge Artillery	Private

The ACWS Board of Directors would like to say a huge to those members listed above who attended all events in 2023.

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

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.

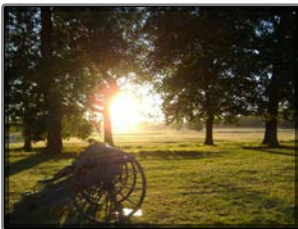
The rules are as follows

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.



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Appomattox

At Appomattox the sun climbed behind the clouds. It was noon. Exhaustion unstrung them, without relaxing them. They had strength left for nothing but wretched sorrow. Men who could march and fight no longer could still weep. Tears were jewel-bright on sun burnt hairy faces. Hours wore themselves slowly away. From overhead the sun slid halfway down its course to the western horizon.

Then, from wherever he had ridden to the tragedy he must bring upon them all, Robert E. Lee came back in their sight, the gray man on the gray horse. Faithful scarecrows surged toward him from right to left. They pressed close to him, touching his coat, his boots, the skirts of his saddle, the flanks and withers of Traveller. Lee, the cosmically self-contained, had tears in his eyes. When he spoke his voice shook:

"Men, we have fought the war together - I have done the best for you that I could do -" A hubbub of cries drowned out his words. "General! We'll fight 'em yet!" It was all they had to offer him. Not to win, not to rout Grant's mighty encircling hundred thousand; only to fight once more, one last time, for Robert E. Lee, and die fighting. "General, say the word, and we'll go in and fight 'em yet!" But Lee did not say the word. His heart was too full to say anything more. He rode on, and they let him go, and watched from a distance as he slowly dismounted under a tree.

Sent in by Sam Hindle
SoSkAn

(Taken from accounts of Sim Whitaker and Johnny Beavans of Company D, 43rd N.C.)



American Civil War Refrigerators

Having just returned from yet another very hot, sunny and humid Civil War reenactment at Worcester Balloon Festival where I certainly made the most out of my ice cold cooler bag, I was just wondering whether American Civil War soldiers also enjoyed the possible practice of an ice cold beer without having access to all the modern conveniences we enjoy!

So as I sat and pondered whether refrigerators did exist during the Civil War, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that refrigerators did actually exist during the American Civil War and therefore Civil War soldiers may well have enjoyed a cold tipple or 2 !

An initial experiment with artificial refrigeration by Scottish professor William Cullen had taken place in 1748. Between 1801 and 1805, a forward-thinking American named Oliver Evans had drawn some plans for one of his own but it was not until the 1830s that Massachusetts native Jacob Perkins reviewed Evans' image and actually built an actual working model of a refrigerator.

Although it didn't plug in anywhere, it was fairly successful for a significant period of time. In addition, during the Civil War, most passenger trains were in fact equipped with refrigeration cars to haul food and other perishables. This was the first time refrigerators were used in public transportation.

Advertising for the refrigerators also appeared in newspapers on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line, with clever refrigerator salesmen — just like today — throwing around words such as the "Polar Refrigerator."

Examples of this incredible new device would be used from Virginia to Georgia and even westward throughout the American Civil War. Official Civil War records also provide interesting examples of how refrigerators were used during the War.

From the June 1862 Richmond Virginia Newspaper, a refrigerator advert was published which requested residents to "Send them to Chimborazo Hospital.

This immense establishment, now containing nearly 4,000, including more than 300 wounded, is greatly in want of refrigerators of large size; so that the small amount of ice which we have may be economically dispensed, and do as much good as possible. Will not our citizens who can make no use of their refrigerators, let Dr. McCaw, on 5th street, know that they are willing to offer them for the use of the soldiers! Also, as many champagne baskets as possible".

Who needed baking powder or spices to mask crude smells or tastes?

Historically, it would appear that ice boxes first appeared in English and American homes shortly after the ice trade developed early in the nineteenth century. These were wooden boxes insulated with sawdust, cork, or even seaweed and lined with tin, zinc or another non corroding metal which allowed common folk unable to afford their own ice-house to store food in the kitchen.

Ice would be delivered once or twice a week or a consumer could pick up a block of ice from an ice-house or a distribution point. In order for natural ice to reach customers in the 1860s, it had to be cut out of ponds, lakes, and rivers and transported to the customers. The ice was kept cold by insulating it with straw and sawdust and stored in warehouses until it was time to be used. People cut ice from lakes using hand saws.

Eventually they started using horse drawn machinery to cut ice, but it was still hard and dangerous work.

Shockingly, only 10% of the ice that was harvested ever made it to the customer, the rest simply melted en route. In the 1800s, people began harvesting ice in huge blocks cut from lakes and ponds in New England then shipping it all over the world by barge or railroad. By the 1860s, access to ice transformed the way meat and produce were stored and transported in the United States.

Civil War refrigerators were constructed with 2 compartments separated by a wedge formed of corrugated zinc. This was where "all the moisture is condensed and passed off. The ice is placed at the top, and the water filtered and drawn off at the bottom from a plated faucet.

It is an advantage to have separate compartments, as delicate fruits, butter, milk, &c, can be kept where they will not contract any unpleasant flavour from meats or other provisions."

These wooden boxes were actually termed refrigerators at the time of the Civil War. During the Civil War, delivery of Northern ice to the South was suspended and many in the South turned to artificial means to manufacture "mechanical ice."

After the end of the Civil War, artificial ice manufacturers increasingly competed with "natural ice." Finally, warm winters in 1889 and 1890 decimated the natural ice business and stimulated expansion of mechanical ice-houses.

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



Italian influences in the Civil War

No better place to start than Giuseppe Garibaldi.

In April 1861, the renowned Italian guerrilla fighter was living in semi-exile on the island of Caprera, just off the coast of Sardinia.

So admired was Garibaldi in America, however, that a titillating proposal was floated to have him join the Union Army as a major general, a proposal Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward did consider in earnest after the Union defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run that July.

A decade earlier, Garibaldi lived on Staten Island for a period, and he continued to regard himself as an honorary American.

He would decline through diplomatic channels the prestigious offer of a generalship. Unabashedly abolitionist, he deemed Lincoln's early-war stance on slavery not strong enough for his liking. But he also felt it was reasonable he'd be named "supreme" commander of the Union Army—a proposition quickly rebuffed by Lincoln and his advisers.

From the beginning of the war, Garibaldi's popularity was evident on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. In Louisiana, a group known as the Garibaldi Legion of New Orleans, comprised of the Crescent City's transplanted Italian residents, was formed.

The unit's initial recruiting call went out on January 19, 1861 (a week before Louisiana voted to leave the Union), and within four days, 170 men had volunteered.

Two months later, the group marched through the city streets resplendent in their red jackets, gray Zouave pants, and dark blue hats adorned with feathers the colors of Italy's flag.

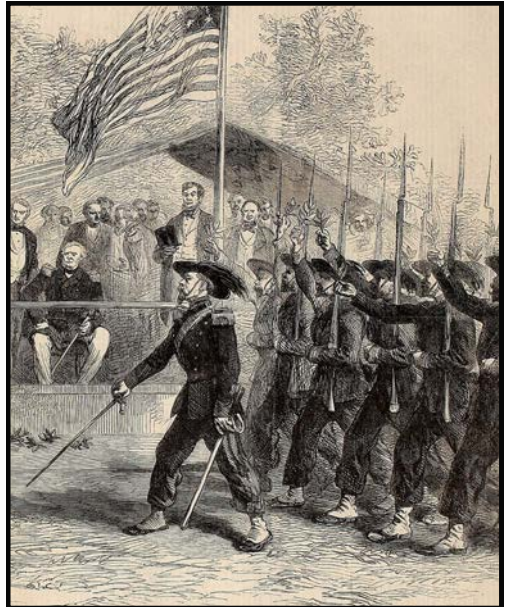
In the North, meanwhile, the 39th New York Infantry formed and was dubbed the "Garibaldi Guard." While a good portion of its members were Italian, the regiment included immigrants from Germany, Switzerland, Spain, France, Portugal, and Hungary.

The famed "Guard" saw critical action at several battles during the war, particularly the First Battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness.

The New Yorkers spent time early in the war in the defences of Washington, D.C., and at one point marched proudly past the White House in a parade as Lincoln, members of his Cabinet, and ageing General Winfield Scott watched from a reviewing stand.

No doubt the effort to secure Garibaldi's services crossed the president's mind that day.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd 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.

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.



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**.

May 25-26 HULL, EAST YORKSHIRE

Full society event.
Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics. Battles on SATURDAY &
SUNDAY.
East Park, Holderness Road, Hull, **HU8 8JU**.

June 29-30 BLOXHAM, OXFORDSHIRE

Bloxham Steam and Country Fair
Full society event.
Living History, Firing Displays, Kids Drill.
Smiths Field, Milton Road, Bloxham, Banbury, **OX15 4HD**.

July 19-20 DONCASTER BALLOON FESTIVAL

Pyrotechnics, Artillery, Infantry and Living History.
Skirmish/displays on FRIDAY and SATURDAY.
Town Field, Thorne Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire **DN1 2JS**.

August 16-18 NORTHAMPTON BALLOON FESTIVAL

Full society event.
Infantry, Artillery, Pyrotechnics & Living History
Northampton Racecourse, Kettering Road, N'hampton, **NN1 4LG**.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

PAGE TWO

August 24-26 DETLING, KENT

Full society event. (Guests of SoSkAn)

Infantry ONLY & Living History

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

September 21-22 UPTON UPON SEVERN, WORCS

Full society event.

Living History & Infantry skirmish with guest Cavalry on
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Fish Fields, Upton upon Severn, **WR8 0PB**.

Other possible events for 2024

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

December 7 ACWS AGM

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

