



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

## 2024 4th Edition

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Issue 214

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



**Chairman &  
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Commander**  
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**Health & Safety**  
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**Events**  
Catherine  
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**Communications**  
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**Confederate  
Commander**  
Glenn Gibson



**Federal  
Representative**  
Paul Kennelly

# Director's Reports

## Chairman's Report

This season, before it started, when it began and up to now has opened my eyes to the strengths, comradeship, passion, pains, sacrifices, the saddened news of parting members and ex members, watching the young members grow and so much more. I ask YOU, the membership, are we not family?

So many memories we hold dear to ourselves, but we must at all events continue to pass these around the camp fires, (with our water buckets remember) so that in the darkness of the night we may still feel and know our friends are with us, whether singing along badly or just laughing at us.

Have you all noticed the displays within our camps!. Wow. I've not personally had the time to see them all, but well done to all that have worked on them, to build them, research them and to produce the right setting, set up or general look. It started as I recall, just the medical team. Now, to name a few, we have individual members displaying kit, artillery displays, a sanitary and christian commission, ladies wear, topographical engineering and so much more! We may have a reduction in numbers but we have most certainly increased in display. The work alone in producing such a display is hard enough but then to man a display and talk to the public is even harder still. Well done to all, I can't thank you enough and also thank you to our friends from other societies who join us on their weekends.

Now for your well deserved break, but not before sorting and checking all of your kit! I know, "I'll leave it a bit, I'll do it soon, It's a long winter, plenty of time"... sound familiar? Here's an idea, how about sort it now or at the very best, sooner than later guys. Fix them tents, clean and oil them guns, brush down your uniform, check your boots and make that list of things you need.

Trust me, the new season will be among us before you know it, be ready.

Have a great Christmas and New Year. Hopefully Santa will bring you that new civil war item, I've asked for a new artillery van.

See you all soon,

Darren Paul  
(Chairman ACWS)



## Events Director's Report

Hi Everyone, Thank you for all your support and help during events this year. The weather was certainly kinder to us than last year, although unfortunately this didn't extend to Upton. This event will unfortunately not be running next year, but hopefully will come back in the future.

The Balloon Festivals love our displays and have already given me some dates for next year. They will be appearing on the website as soon as they are confirmed so please keep checking. Thank you for all pulling together to help each other get set up when access is more limited. These events absolutely raise our profile due to the high number of visitors and their sponsorship is crucial for us continuing to move forwards.

Some members have suggested future venues or events to me, which I am very grateful for. I have sent emails and hopefully will hear back ready for 2025. Please do keep suggesting venues you would like to visit and I will try to keep everyone updated with possible events as I can so everyone can plan holidays etc.

Finally, my usual nag, please do read and follow the warning orders for every event. There is always a reason why the arrival time is given so please respect the wishes of the organisers. If you have any queries, please always ask me.

Roll on next year,  
Best wishes,

Catherine Conyard  
Events Director



### Health and Safety Report

Dear Friends,

As the season draws to a close, I'm happy to report that there have been no major injuries or safety incidents this season SO FAR!

Many thanks to all for your responsible attitude and vigilance. If we are to keep up this record for our last event of the season, a somewhat unusual and short-notice evening bonfire event, Galan Gaeaf/Wickerman, where engagement with the public will be in the dark, then we will need this vigilance to continue.

Please check the Warning Orders carefully if you are going to attend the event, hoping to get to the end of the season with no major issues!

Regards

Frank Mair  
Health & Safety



### Confederate Commander's Report

Greeting to all my fellow Southern Army soldiers and families,

May I apologise first for my lack of communication over the year and the events that I have missed. This has been down to purely family and personal commitments over the past 12 months.

So, I will start by talking about the sad loss of friends within the Confederate forces this season.

At the time of you reading this article I will have attended the funeral of our own "General Lee", Denis Jarwick. I recruited Denis into the 43<sup>rd</sup> NC where he stayed a loyal member and even had a brief stint as Chairman of the Society.

We will all remember Denis for his portrayal of General Lee and how well he did it and looked, but also remember how he was around the camp, the poor pensioner who claimed always to have no money, his pipe smoking while relaxing in his chair, his immaculate set up inside his tent until one day the 43<sup>rd</sup> totally rearranged it, his dedication to the cause was apparent when at Tatton Park when the society wanted to do Appomattox, Denis was against it and only did it in the end as a personal favour to me. Did anyone notice that day he did his part then promptly disappeared.

We also lost John Dale 4<sup>th</sup> Tex & 43<sup>rd</sup> NC, an adopted "Mackem" (Sunderland fan) who settled in the North East with his partner, then wife Jill. Another person who got tagged with the "Mr Benn" persona, with his many outfits and many societies he was a part of. For those that were unaware, he had an equity card and did a lot of work as extras on TV shows as well as re-enacting and educating around the area.

He had been ill for a while and started the process of clearing some of his guns and belongings as he was finding it difficult to do certain things. Another sad aspect on John's death was the fact that his wife Jill died just a day after his funeral.



Who can forget the tenacious Ozzie from the 2<sup>nd</sup> SC, a small man in stature but the heart and personality of a mountain. Even over the 11 years as the Major, he would always call me his Sgt referring to the time I spent in "his" regiment. He would always try and work his ticket with me and have that devilish little smile on his face while doing so, but he always came and had a good chat afterwards. Who can remember his sales of small items at weekends and who still has some cigars from the last time we all saw him.

But its not just Confederates who have lost, our thoughts also go out to those Union friends who have departed the ranks.

All to sudden, all to soon and we will miss all of them. The lines on both sides are getting thinner.

So, moving on and the season we have just had and the potential events next year. Thank you to all those who attended and made all the weekends enjoyable and the skirmishes different. Thank you, Major Daz, for sitting down with me, discussing scenarios to ensure they look good for the public, your time and effort in planning these should be noted.

I know that this has been mentioned before and a lot of members do not like attending the balloon festivals, but these events are paying us a lot of money and the bread and butter to keep the society going. In fact, they are turning out to be great events, camped away from the main set up but we still get inundated with public where we have got some new recruits. Even though we tend to finish slightly later on the evenings on these, we still enjoy the camp fire and get to watch all the displays at our leisure.

Our Events Director Catherine is doing a difficult job and busy filling up next years events calendar and lets support the society on whenever she manages to get us into.

Congratulations must be given to Cpl Dave McDade 32<sup>nd</sup> Va on winning Confederate soldier of the year and commiserations to Pvt William Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> SC on missing out for the second year running by one vote. Could it be 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky for William in 2025.

There are too many thank you's to convey but to mention a couple.

Thanks must go to Sgt Maj Mike Bussey for his continued support, sorting the powder and stepping up in my absence. Also to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Andrew Farnsworth for also stepping up and helping in the running of the Confederate forces on weekends.

To all those who put on displays and engage with the public, thank you.

For taking on the Flag raising and lowering ceremonies, I thank you all.

SOSKAN for looking after us at Detling and supporting the ACWS.

All those who have been absence due to personal reasons or ill health, we look forward to seeing you back in the ranks and around the fire in the future.

For the final part of this report, I urge you all to read my report for the AGM for a major (excuse the pun) announcement from myself.

Your obedient servant,  
Major Glenn Gibson  
Commanding Officer  
Confederate Forces



## Federal Commander's Report

At the time you are able to read this, it is Season's Greetings my friends.

From the very start of the season, a big part of us was missing, the Federal camp was not the same. Personally, I really cannot thank all of you enough for your support throughout the entire season. How does someone take over from an individual who has undoubtedly made a mark within our Union camp. Well, with the massive help of you guys of course is the answer.

The season started as well as myself and Glenn knew best for us and the Society, with our own small Fredericksburg. We put together a brilliant show for the crowd and a fantastic arena skirmish that I'm sure we all enjoyed. A combination of Ben on pyros, the artillery via our very own 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Caz Davies, and the gallant attack by portraying the 118<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania.

It was proven once again that even with smaller numbers, that the Union members knew exactly what had to be achieved for successful event. Well done guys.

Throughout the season we have had so much happening, new displays popping up and working overtime with not just a Medical display but others now, to mention a few, Ladies wear, Sanitary and Christian Commission, Engineering and Soldiers Kit. Also active things happening within the camp such as Gambling, parade of a bad soldier, shaving etc. all help with our portrayal of living history.

Not forgetting the fact that the medical team, at the drop of a hat, can and will turn into the real deal if needed. Always great we have them to watch over us.

Jumping to the last event, if I may, working with the Confederate forces, Mike and myself found ourselves doing something that has not been in our arenas for a while, Horses! So much had to be sorted before the event, making sure the arena was big enough, organising a skirmish to involve our four legged friends and of course the insurance.

Throughout the season, I've been trying to build back up a good working staff team. It was all proven at the Upton event, especially when told by Paul Edensor "This Works", Thank you Paul.

Congratulations and thank you guys for stepping up to the challenges ahead.

Carl Smith as our new Captain (2IC) and Phil Golder as our new Sergeant Major for the Company.

In the coming new season we will, I'm sure, most certainly be ready to continue only going forward and having great events, whatever arena size, weather conditions, or numbers we have. Keep safe over the winter my friends and double check your kit for the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Darren Paul (Daz)

Federal Commander

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## Federal Representative's Report

We have had a storming season, in more ways than one. Fantastic events but wet weather. This does not weary us. As a team, we all pull together, wet, hot or dry and this past season, the Federal Battalion have stepped well up to the mark.

I have had no reports of problems. Everyone knows where to go and what to do.

Health and safety have been well observed and although we run things like an army should be run, we always have family time, when we all gather and enjoy good company.

The artillery, who are such an important part of what we do, have worked very hard, keeping the old battle wagon on the road and doing running repairs. They should be noted for their hard work.

The camp and special displays have been a great asset and have brought great joy, watching the interaction with the public.

Well done our "Federal Family"

Kindest Regards,

Paul Kennelly

Federal Representative



# ACWS at the Remember the Alamo Association Event 2024

On the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024, members of the ACWS attended the Remember the Alamo Association annual re-enactment that took place at High Ash Farm in Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire. The weather was extremely hot on both days which ensured a cracking attendance from re-enactors, photographers and particularly the public. Massive credit for this event must go again to the Event organiser and sponsor Lee Chapman of HP Events and Chappers Photography and also Martyn Clarke from the Remember the Alamo Association UK who has once again invested so much of his own time and money to ensure it would be the huge success it clearly was.

Many thanks also to the very generous farmer who let us use his vast fields which will always be governed by dates of the first hay cut. As such, there was a massive field with plenty of room for not only both the 2 Texian and Mexican encampments but also the many other re-enactment societies who attended. As such, this event has now developed into a super multi period event which will only get bigger and more popular if it continues to develop in such a manner. The event included various Napoleonic War Re-enactments including The 21eme Regiment de Ligne, Wellington's Artillery, Anglesey Hussars, Royal Horse Artillery and 95th (Sharp's). Also present was Company A, 24th Virginia Infantry, American Wild West by Spearfish Creek, Great War Re-enactment by Hull Rifles, La Columna and Lichfield Muzzle Loading Gun Club. There were also stalls, bouncy castle, slides, doughnuts, BBQ, ice cream and local displays and attractions. You could also enjoy coffee and cake from Cobwebs Coffee shop and visit the stalls onsite at High Ash Farm.

This Remember the Alamo Event 2024 was similar to last year in that the visiting paying public were allowed to attend on Sunday but on the Saturday a very select group of fee-paying photographers who had signed up for this particular event photography workshop had the run of the field and all the re-enactors present.

In return for 2 days of battling across this huge field, both the event organisers and all the re-enactors were determined and committed to working very closely together with the photographers who had provided the initial financial backing to make the event possible. To accommodate all the re-enactors, the public and the photographers, the weekend involved the re-enactment of the Battle of Refugio. The Battle of Refugio itself was fought from March 12–15, 1836, near Refugio, Texas.

Mexican General José Urrea and 1,500 Centralista soldiers fought against Amon B. King and his 28 American volunteers and Lieutenant Colonel William Ward and his approximately 120 Americans. The battle, a part of the Goliad campaign of the Texas Revolution, eventually resulted in a Mexican victory and splintered Texan resistance. The actual re-enactment of the battle was designed to replicate what actually took place in 1836 with the outnumbered Texians taking on much larger columns of Mexican infantry. On both days, these columns attacked up the hill on the re-enactment field itself and the sight of all the Mexican flags suddenly slowly appearing in front of massed ranks was an awesome sight for the waiting Texian line as well as the public.

On both days, the Mexican army massed for 3 specific assaults with a first heavy skirmish line as the Texian commander King withstood a larger but poor dismounted cavalry Mexican assault through swamp and mud. This was a brief encounter testing the Texian strength but costing a lot of casualties. The second push involved a Mexican flanking attack with the added intention of cutting off the Texians retreat across the nearby river. Finally, a final all out push in both a column on the Saturday and then a long line on the Sunday. Massed volleys from both sides took place and all credit to those who took hits particularly the advancing Mexican column which made for far more realistic and authentic scenarios.

The photographers themselves were allowed special but totally safe access to the re-enactment on the Saturday allowing for some really special footage being made. There were also 2 hard hitting and fast firing pieces of Mexican artillery including "The Volcano" which was the actual name of a Mexican artillery piece used during the War. Despite the logistical difficulties, the organisers once again managed to secure a sufficient amount of gunpowder in addition to a separate amount for the artillery which ensured the firepower remained awesome and continuous throughout the whole weekend. Well done to all those involved. There was also a superb Kids Drill with over 20 Texian kids being recruited from the public and both armed and drilled with wooden muskets. They not only attacked their parents but also took on various Mexican soldiers who had been languishing nearby playing cards and refused to leave the arena. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone taking part.

Overall, many excellent re-enactors from various different societies attended. These included both brand new Mexican and Texian re-enactors from all over the UK as well as those who attended the last 2 Remember the Alamo Events. Massive credit to both armies with the numbers far exceeding those of last year. The Texian and Tejano contingents looked superb with their authentic and individual living history displays and the massed Mexican battalion contingent was equally eye catching. Continuous military and civilian living history occurred throughout the weekend. Actual individual activities including playing Mexican Card games of the 1830's, how to load and fire a musket, learning about the different Texian and Mexican uniforms and clothing, learning about the flags flown by both sides and having a family photograph taken in period costumes. Finally, at the end, there was the Grand Parade of the Mexican and Texian re-enactors and other firing re-enactors culminating in the massed volley firing of muskets which was particularly well received by everyone. From a very personal perspective, one of the most

moving and emotional moments was for the 2 armies to remember those who were no longer with us and who had supported the Remember the Alamo Association from its new beginning. From an ACWS perspective, this included Union Colonel Tim Davis and Bandmaster John Fairfield. From a Tejano perspective, Charles Tabberer also made a smaller and very moving reading for a very closer Tejano friend, Dave Brazier known as Dave the Brummie.

Apart from the actual battles themselves, there were loads of other interests and activities taking place throughout the weekend all over the large field including a huge blanket sale on the Saturday. In addition, there were 4 very welcoming public houses with real ale beer gardens in the nearby vicinity as well as a contemporary Indian Restaurant called Infinitii in Abbots Bromley who were all very kind and welcoming to all the re-enactors. To end both days, both the Mexican and Texian Battalion camps and all the other societies had their own individual campfires with food and musicians playing and the renewed socialising, friendship and camaraderie between everyone taking part was a real highlight for many.

The Remember the Alamo Association is heavily dependent for its survival on other re-enactors from other societies so really excellent and continued support from the Napoleonic Association, SOSKAN and the ACWS was massively appreciated to ensure the ranks of both sides were massed, drilled, armed and ready to battle. More black powder firing events which involve the working and coming together of these 3 cracking associations inevitably result in really well attended and much larger battles and skirmishes. ACWS members themselves with Glenn Gibson in overall charge filled over half the Texian army with Bakers and the Tejano companies and many members also joined in the massed Mexican ranks.

Personal Reflections by Stewart "Gooper" Douglas, Bakers Company, Texian Army and ACWS.



# ALAMO







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# John Rushworth Memorial Trophy Photography Competition 2024

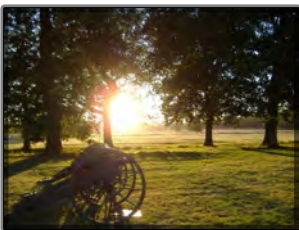
**Thank you for all of your submissions this year.**

**The Board of Directors has voted on First,  
Second and Third place.**

**It will be announced at the AGM in December  
who has been lucky enough to have their name  
engraved on the John Rushworth Memorial  
Trophys and be featured on both our Facebook  
page and in the Newsletter.**

**Good Luck Everyone who entered.**

**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)**

# ACWS at Bloxham 2024

The ACWS travelled to the Bloxham Steam Rally on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The gorgeous sunny weather particularly on the Saturday made for a cracking (but exhausting!) time had by all including both the re-enactors and the vast amount of public who attended. The Bloxham Steam Rally is on a huge site so there were plenty of exhibits and stalls. The ACWS had a fine camping site for plenty of A Frames and next to our very own car parking space and portaloos so these were both very handy! The Rally consisted of numerous Steam Engines, WW2 Military Vehicles, Tractors, Vintage/Classic Cars, regular Helicopter rides, Tank rides and a Falconry display. The site also included many different food stalls, a large fairground, numerous displays and attractions including a small Gin Bar and a very large Beer Tent.

The ACWS were contracted to do 2 drill and firing displays during the early morning slot of 11.00am on both days. These both went really well considering the early time slot and as usual there was a nice competitive edge between the 2 armies with their volleys. Both armies also drilled earlier in the mornings which they perfected in the arena much to the public's delight and enjoyment. Following our drill displays, the ACWS were also contracted to perform the ever popular Kids drills. These both went well despite the fact more kids could have become involved. Nevertheless, a particular highlight on Sunday was the involvement of Ted, an NHS representative in fancy dress who also took part in the charges. There were some really cracking photos taken after this and really well done to everyone in both blue and grey who helped out. Much credit for the success of these must go to Matthew Jennings, 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina, who took over as commentator and did a really fine job particularly with such a large crowd. Credit again to all the ACWS re-enactors participating in these due to the extremely hot weather. As usual, both camps performed their living history duties throughout the weekend and both camps looked awesome with all their superb flags.

The Union medical, army and dry foodstuffs displays as well as individual soldiers living history blanket displays on both camps were all excellent and attracted a lot of public. The Union also did a cracking Thief under arrest scenario around the arena on the Sunday which was brilliant. In addition, the ACWS band did regular music sessions and these also attracted a lot of public interest and are becoming really popular. Personally, the increased skill and variations in our individual musical talent and displays including banjos, drummers, guitarists bugles and fifes is really starting to captivate the public's interest. There was also the regular Ask a Soldier Quiz with background music provided and a Kids soldier photo shoot. Overall, the event organiser and the general public really loved our professionalism and friendliness which really bodes well for future events.

There are always highlights at every ACWS weekend and I will mention a few. I apologise if I miss any. There was a cracking surprise (ish!) party with refreshments for all at Abi's 30th birthday on the Union camp which was attended by both armies and a memorable occasion. There were superb and welcoming singalongs on both nights around both campfires and long may our camaraderie and friendship grow and develop.

For some partying spoon playing and dancing Confederates, there was Merryly Kiss (the Irish Cèilidh Folk band) on the Saturday night just outside the beer tent which got all the public up. The atmosphere was really friendly throughout the night and everyone returned to their campfires for a few after show drinks and to socialise with others who had kept the campfires burning. It was also particularly pleasing to meet and see some new recruits in both the Union and Confederate camps. Overall, a cracking weekend and well worth the travelling despite the ever ongoing trials and tribulations of the M1 car park!

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



# BLOXHAM





# DONCASTER



# ACWS at Doncaster 2024

The ACWS travelled to the Doncaster Hot Air Balloon Festival on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for a full living history and skirmish 2 day event on the Friday and Saturday. The Doncaster racecourse venue itself, when we all eventually found it, was huge with 2 arenas but the ACWS did have our own secure camping space with nearby water supply, re-enactment only parking spaces but only 3 forlorn and hard hit re-enactment portaloos. In addition, there was tight security throughout the whole weekend. As by the large numbers of public who attended, the Doncaster Balloon Festival was an extremely popular event and there were vast numbers of members of the public on site on both days. As the weather was lovely all weekend, many of the hot air balloons on site managed to get air born and some big ones did inflate and "bobbed" up every night. There were many food (but slightly expensive!) stalls, large bars, a giant funfair, international stunt shows, freestyle motorcycle display teams and excellent evening fireworks displays on both nights as well as our close neighbours, the Vikings.

The ACWS attended this full society event as living history and drill/firing displays on both days with a full skirmish on the Saturday. The skirmish itself involved our 3 superb and now being fully restored artillery pieces with both the 2 Union and 1 Confederate crew in fearsome and furious action. In addition, there was a commendable turnout from both ACWS Union and the Confederate infantry with the result that both camps looked particularly impressive with all their superb flags and authentic living history displays. This creditable turnout made for a really fine skirmish with the 3 artillery pieces

blasting away at each other coupled with some really excellent pyrotechnics. This was probably in front of one of the largest crowds this year so the appreciation from such a huge crowd was brilliant. On both days, both the Confederate and Union infantry did drill and firing sessions in the smaller (but still very large!) arena. These proved really popular with the public. However, what really excelled at this event was the 2 iconic Kids Drill displays. Primarily, these were probably the largest and most enthusiastic we have ever done with 3 long lines of kids involved. The fearsome melee that subsequently occurred when the parents and kids eventually clashed was awesome.

A real special thank you to both Callum Potts (Union) and Callum Fox (American Eagles) for playing charges and rally on their 2 bugles! It was their own idea and it really added something special to the occasion! Thanks so much for everyone who helped out with this. We should also never forget our brilliant ACWS commentator Christian Sprakes who really added his own personal enthusiasm and boundless energy to making these hugely popular kids sessions work so well.

Even though we only did 1 skirmish, this was an excellent skirmish and involved lots of movement, firing, casualties and explosions which the public thoroughly enjoyed and were absolutely amazed by. The skirmish started with the green jacketed 1<sup>st</sup> USS sharpshooters guarding a Union cannon in the middle of the arena.

They were suddenly overwhelmed by a long line of advancing and hard hitting Confederate infantry with their red battle flag flying high.

The Confederates managed to drive off the Union sharpshooters and a Confederate artillery crew took over, turned the cannon round and began firing on an advancing Union battle line which was well supported by 2 fast firing Union artillery crews. Slowly but surely, the larger Union infantry line coupled with twice the amount of artillery began to slowly push the rebel line back with casualties rising due to the sheer amount of volleys and double canister being unleashed.

The Union then began to both push and outflank the shrinking Confederate line and attack from 2 differing directions. The increase and accuracy of the Union battery fire then caused many huge explosions in the rebel line causing significant casualties with a fall back being necessary. As the Union advanced, more rebel casualties littered the battlefield with their tattered grey uniforms and the Union took the field. A cracking battle with loads of firing, volleys, black powder clouds, screaming and casualties. This was enjoyed by everyone and was nice and close to the public so they could really see, hear, smell and enjoy the spectacle.

For all the ACWS re-enactors, the living history days were manic and hectic on both days. As usual, there were superb and interactive displays on both camps with the Union Medical/Apothecary display, the USS Sharp Shooters display, the Union civil war artefact displays, the Union authentic cooking/utensil display, the Union Christian Commission, the Union Artillery loading display and the really excellent ACWS Union band music display.

On the Confederate camp, there was a campaign cooking display, the Ask a Soldier (over 100 given out!), Major Glenn Gibson`s kids authentic photo shoot, the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Chuck a

Luck dice gambling game, Steve Lords uniform/de-ac photo shoot, William Jennings superb authentic soldiers kit display and Trevor`s artillery/shot display with his superb chavel de fris.

There were also many other various individual drill and living history sessions including small impromptu music and dancing impressions. I do apologise if I have missed anything or anyone out but there was so much going on in both our superb camps.

Despite all these, there are always personal highlights and memories for me and these included Union Bellas (Bobs) Birthday Party with that smashing and tasty chocolate Drum Cake, the 2 superb musical nights on both evenings where both sides really got together with our absolutely superb and (some new) musicians which will be remembered by all for a very long time and the 2 successful ACWS raffles for the ACWS defibrillator (despite Steve Lord winning!).

Long may our ACWS friendship, professionalism and enthusiasm develop and grow. There is no question whatsoever that our living history and interaction with the public has become something very special.

Obviously, a real special thank you to Catherine for all her hard work in getting this event but also many special thanks to everyone else in the ACWS who helped out in many other different ways. Well done to everyone who turned up. Overall, the organisers must have been absolutely delighted with our numerous displays over the whole weekend and hopefully we can go back again to such a lovely and well organised popular event.

Personal Reflections by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Volunteers, ACWS.



# In Memoriam

## Denis Jarwick “General Lee”

Denis joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina and ACWS in late 1990's. His presence had an immediate impact as he was intelligent, knowledgeable, sensitive, serious and professional about the American Civil War. The 43<sup>rd</sup> was going to have to change. Significantly, Denis introduced authentic brogans as used in the Civil War rather than the blackened desert boots everyone thought was OK. This was quickly followed by the use of authentic hand made jeancloth uniforms, period accurate leather accoutrements as well as original 3 band Enfield muskets which massively improved our authentic Civil War impression.

Of course, Denis gave out jokes but he could also take them. On 1 occasion, the 43<sup>rd</sup> firstly changed his tent from front to back when he was away so when he returned he could not get in! On another occasion, we changed all his meticulous bedding and equipment inside his tent from side to the other! On both occasions, he looked his usual confused self but he took it all in his good stride.

Around the campfire, jokes were common. On one occasion, someone told the joke about 2 fish in a tank with one saying to the other “How do you drive this thing?” Denis failed to get the joke for over 3/4 weeks and this made everyone laugh even further every time we asked him around the campfire!

Enjoyed nothing more than smoking his pipe and enjoying the horseshoes competition between all the different Confederate Regiments. He also loved playing the banjo around the campfire and of course when he did a special memorable occasion for the Confederate Major Glenn Gibson. Nevertheless, with his funny penny pinching quips and “I am always poor”, Denis always thought of home sometime during the weekend and “Getting back to the current Mrs J and my credit card which she has!”.

Denis was of course the Chairman of the American Civil Society at one time. This

occurred when the Society was in need of a firm anchor and rudder. He volunteered and was extremely proud of this position and worked extremely hard and diligently with all the work required. He always admitted it was a very tough and challenging post with immense responsibility but he always gave his best.

Proudest moment at Sewerby Hall in Bridlington when as General Robert E Lee on Traveller, alongside Confederate Major Trevor Stephens, arrived on horseback in front of the main Hall to take the salute of the whole Confederate Army. He had previously trained long and hard to ride horses and this was a great personal achievement which gave him immense pride.

As General Lee, he was without doubt the best. Every time he attended, his presence gave the whole Confederate Army an immense lift and pride. His uniforms, equipment, flag display etc were all of course spot on and totally authentic and invariably attracted so much attention from the public. This authentic persona and presentation undoubtedly inspired many others who were always desperate to get a photo with him. He was immense at Tatton Hall when he made the iconic speech of Robert E Lee's General Order Number 9 when we re-enacted the Confederate Army surrendered at Appomattox. For Denis, although he personally found it quite difficult, this was a tremendously moving and emotional moment. And, as such, he was extremely popular throughout the army regardless of differences between regiments and he always made a special effort to help newcomers settle in.

There will never be anybody like Denis. He always went out of the way to make new members welcome. He will be so sadly and sorely missed by everyone fortunate to have met him and particularly all of us in the ACWS. He will always be remembered around our campfires.

# In Memoriam

## John Ewers

John Ewers was with the 118th Penn. Vol. Inf. Regt. from when we formed early in 2003 until recently, prior to then he was in the 20th Maine Inf. Regt. ACWS. John portrayed a Provost, whenever we left the tent lines, for drill or a skirmish, he would always stay behind to look after camp and then made a point of reporting to me on our return. A few years ago he was rewarded for his efforts and promoted to Corporal by the late Maj. Tim Davies. John never had a bad word to say about anyone, he was a kind man who will be sadly missed.

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## **Notices from the Board**

Two Safeguarding Officers have been appointed by the board, Joseph Reed and Melissa Huntley. These appointees will remain approachable by any and all members for any issues regarding Safeguarding with Children, Adults or vulnerable individuals within the Society.

On the Board of Directors there are Directors that are Representatives of both the Union and Confederate armies, these are always available to listen to any issues that members of either side have and to assist however they can and if required will raise the issue with the rest of the Board of Directors.



## “The View From My Awning”

Dear friends and time travellers, last time I told you I was seventy two. That was a digitus wrongus.

I am actually seventy six.

Does that matter? Well, some mornings I feel it, but others I just get on with my day.

I did say, last time, that I would tell you how I got into re-enactment.

My first unit in 1975, was Lyttletons Bi-Trace of Artillerie, of The Sealed Knot.

I was a year with them, then moved south and joined Moseby's Rangers, an independent Confederate unit who had a few Yankees, so that they had someone to kill.

So, for a while, I was a Johnny Reb. After a while, I went blue and eventually, the Union guys split and formed The Missouri Raiders. I am not sure where the name came from, but

we were active in 1976 ( American bi-centennial year) and 1977, Jubilee year, so there were oodles of carnivals and fetes on the go, who needed live action. We flourished.

I took command of the Confederate side and was made a Captain. I still am!

In 1979, the family moved up from Surrey to Coventry and it was there that formed my own independent unit, calling it The Iron Brigade and choosing the 24th Michigan as our regiment.

I will continue with this yarn next time, but until then, here is a gem of information for you.

The ACWS much loved Viv Corbishley, started out her re-enacting with the aforementioned Missouri Raiders, back in the 1970s. Have a restful winter.

Capt. Paul Kennelly

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## **EVENTS CALENDAR 2025**

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### April 26 - 27 AVONCROFT, WORCS

Living History Marketing event at International Living History Fair, Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove **B60 4JR.**

Further Details to Follow

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### June 20 - 21 WORCESTER BALLOON FESTIVAL

Full Society Event Worcester Racecourse

Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics

Skirmish/displays on FRIDAY and SATURDAY.

Worcester Racecourse, Grand Stand Road, Worcester **WR1 3EJ.**

Further Details to Follow.



## EVENTS CALENDAR 2025

### July 4 - 5 SWINDON BALLOON FESTIVAL

Full Society Event in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Infantry and Living History only. Skirmish/displays on FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

Further Details to Follow.

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### July 18 - 19 DONCASTER BALLOON FESTIVAL

Full Society Event at Town Field, Thorne Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN1 2JS.

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

Further details to follow

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### August 15 - 17 NORTHAMPTON BALLOON

Full Society Event at Northampton Balloon Festival, Northampton Racecourse, Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4LG.

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

ACWS Members entrance opposite Trinity Avenue on St. Georges Avenue (in between **NN2 6JA & NN2 6JF**)

Further details to follow.

