



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2026 2nd Edition

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



Photograph courtesy of
Mr William Jennings
Military Odyssey (Detling) 2025

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Issue 220

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



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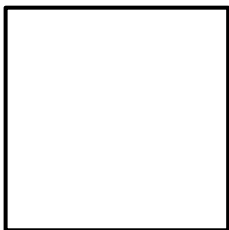
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**Confederate
Commander**
Glenn Gibson



**Federal
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POSITION OPEN
APPLY WITH
SECRETARY

Director's Reports

Event's Director Report

Hi Everyone,

I hope you have all had a lovely rest and are raring to go. Our first event at No Man's Land on 11th and 12th April is a lovely multi-period event that has grown from strength to strength over the years. We have blown away the cobwebs and started making another year of fantastic memories.

Fort Paull on 18th and 19th April is a great site being brought back to life by the current owners. We have the site to ourselves on the Saturday so plenty of photos opportunities.

At Avoncroft on 23rd, 24th, and 25th May we will be back on the Windmill Field. It is a beautiful area and hopefully we will be well attended with visitors.

On June 6th we have a new site – Wentworth House. A one-day event just for the first year, with possibly Balloons, so an easy set up on the Friday, packing up and heading home by noon on the Sunday.

Leicester Balloon Festival is another new site, alongside the other Balloon Festivals at Swindon, Doncaster and Northampton. These events are crucial to the running of our Society and achieving our goal for a new van. With so many visitors,

it also raises our profile in the wider world, so please attend if you can.

I am in negotiation with Carlton Towers, but we may be looking ahead for 2027 as we have quite a busy calendar already.

I am continuing to look out for new venues, so please do let me know of anywhere you would like me to contact. I send out a lot of emails but it is hard to get a foot in the door.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Catherine

Editor's Note

Hi all,

It's not often that I write anything in the newsletter myself, however, I would like to apologise to the members for my tardiness with the releasing of newsletters this year, many things all piled up at once that prevented me from fulfilling my duty as the editor of your newsletter.

Things should be calming down now which will give me more time to dedicate to completing these and sending them out.

The 2nd and 3rd 2026 editions will be very close together as the 2nd edition is very late.

Regards, Joe

Confederate CO Report

To my fellow Southern Forces,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Firstly, may I apologise for the lack of communication and reports over the last year which is purely down to myself. I got promoted to the Town clerk position at my Local Authority last May and it has been absolutely hectic and severely limited my time and sometimes attendance at some of last year's events.

As everyone should be aware by now this is my final year as Confederate Army Commander and I will not be putting myself forward for re-election at this year's 2026 AGM for this position. It's my time to step down and let someone else take the lead. However, the Confederate Forces have a couple of good people ready to step up and take the reigns and my first duty is to announce their promotions within the ranks which will form the new command structure hopefully for the future.

Congratulations to Captain Andrew Farnsworth and 1st lieutenant Steven Brooks on their promotions, who will still be part of their respective regiments for this coming season. They will both take control sometime through the year to cover me as I have a slight medical issue

that sometimes affects my mobility and the likelihood that I am unable to make some events.

By the time you all read this the season will have started with No Mans Land & Fort Paul in quick succession in April, then with the Balloon Festivals which I know a few do not like but these events are a large recruiting base and pay the Society well for our attendance and I urge you to attend for support.

Again, hopefully by the time this goes to print the world may have calmed down a bit and the fuel prices and economic problems have stabilised or even reduced to a more favourable situation for everyone.

I am really looking forward to seeing everyone again and having a good laugh and drink around the camp fire, and don't forget the Majors Cheese & Crackers on the Saturday nights.

Let's dust off the cobwebs, repair all your kit and get those muskets cleaned and we shall all see each other on the field of glory and give those damn Yankees hell.

Your obedient servant

Major Glenn Gibson

Commanding Officer

Confederate Forces ACWS

ACWS AT FORT PAULL, HULL

The ACWS attended an event at Fort Paull, Hull on the weekend of 18th and 19th April 2026. Despite mixed weather, it was actually lovely and quite sunny on the Sunday when the public were allowed entry to the event. Sadly, there could have been more but those present really thoroughly enjoyed all our activities and the overall social media feedback in Hull on the event was extremely positive and generous.

Fort Paull itself is a superb location for re-enactment purposes and is full of historical significance and importance particularly being built in 1864. Historically, Fort Paull is a gun battery situated on the North bank of the Humber, near the village of Paull, downstream from Hull in Northern England. Its batteries have been built at Paull by both Henry VIII and Charles I during the English Civil War during the siege of Hull and the Napoleonic Wars. The first fort built on the site was started in 1542 with a capacity for 12 guns. Rumour has it that a couple of these ancient guns still remain under the foundations of the fort. The current fort is of pentagonal design and was built between 1861–1864 and on the recommendations of the Royal Commission, hence it is one of the Palmerston Forts. For us, this is very significant as these were the years of the American Civil War. The original emplacements, 19 64-pounder (29 kg) RML artillery pieces were concealed or demolished in 1894 when concrete emplacements for 3 6-inch Breech Loading (BL) guns on

hydropneumatic carriages and 2 4.7-inch Quick Firing (QF) guns were built. A mining station was added in 1886 and searchlights followed in 1907. The 3 6-inch gun positions were remodelled after 1902 to newer Mark VII types on central pivot mountings. At the outset of the First World War, Paull was judged too close to Hull, so was disarmed when new forts were built at Sunk Island and Stallingborough. The fort was used as a training base between the wars and during the Second World War, it was converted into a magazine to serve the Russian convoys. A degaussing station was also added. For those unaware, degaussing is the process of reducing a ship's magnetic field to make it undetectable to magnetic mines.

In 1960, Fort Paull was released from the Ministry of Defence and closed down. In 1964, a group of volunteers, the Friends of Fort Paull, took over the site and began to restore the fort as a heritage museum. Fort Paull finally opened to the public in 2000. Fort Paull previously housed a waxwork museum showing figures which have influenced the fort's long history as well as an armoury showing various artillery pieces and armoured vehicles. The fort also played hosts to various military re-enactments from time to time which regularly included events by the ACWS.

Fort Paull was the location of the last remaining complete Blackburn Beverley heavy transport aircraft. In January 2020, it was announced that the attraction would not be opening for the 2020 season. The museum's contents were subsequently auctioned on 19 September 2020. The contents auction raised a six-figure sum, the Blackburn Beverley itself bringing £21,000. Fort Paull was subsequently closed and effectively moth balled. In May 2024, a post on Facebook announced the site had been bought and would be undergoing works to reopen. The post referenced the desire to bring the site back for future generations and start running events there again. It mentioned they will be starting from scratch after a lot of the museum's contents were auctioned off when it last closed. The attraction reopened on 28 September 2024 with a classic car weekend. It is currently run by our very close friends and comrades the 2 Nicks and a host of other excellent hard working volunteers who are currently working tirelessly to repair all the necessary infrastructure and clear out all the gun emplacements, deep underground tunnels and overgrown vegetation. It also now has a superb refurbished bar, a number of food stalls and a souvenir shop. Fort Paull now has a full list of events throughout 2026 of which the ACWS was part. As a friend of Fort Paull itself as well as having close friends as volunteers, I personally feel some excellent work has taken

place particularly with the trimming down of vegetation around the whole site as well as the current construction of a World War 2 officers bunker/office/map room and the renovation of original and partly intact ammunition loading equipment and pulleys. I also knew a few others who visited the tunnels late at night armed with actual "ghost" detectors to meet the ghouls, goblins and ghosts that emerge from them during night time!

The ACWS was contracted to perform drill displays, firing display, kids drill and a skirmish on the Sunday. Both camps had their own respective living history displays with Confederates William Jennings excellent Personal Kit display, Steve Lords Children's Uniform display and Goobers Ask a Soldier which all went down well. The Union also had their own excellent displays. The ACWS band also had their own individual display as an official part of the event which was also thoroughly enjoyed by the public. On the Sunday, both armies did 2 excellent drill and firing displays throughout the day as well as a Kids drill. However, the highlight for many was the excellent skirmish replicating Chancellorsville. This was achievable through the excellent Confederate Infantry numbers and the superb Union Artillery numbers with our 4 brand newly renovated Confederate cannon

. The Confederates began the skirmish by charging through both camps before being ambushed and flanked by the Union artillery. The reb casualties on the first shot was awesome with loads of casualties and the whole skirmish although short was fast firing and exciting. The excellent feedback from both the re-enactors and the public stands us in really good stead and enhances our professional reputation despite the relatively low numbers.

With regards my personal highlights, there was an outstanding evening on the Saturday in the Fort Paul bar and special thanks to our superb musicians Christian Sprakes, Catherine Conyard and John Bamber for playing. Parts of their performance were recorded. However, a bigger highlight for everyone must have been the restoration of the 4 Confederate cannon. Having been in storage for over 9 years, everyone must have been nervous but massive credit must go to Caz and both Union and Confederate artillery crews and others who worked all weekend to restore and paint all the 4 cannon as well as test fire them all. Everything went absolutely perfectly and full credit to everyone single person who helped. I am loathe to mention individuals but Joe Reed did put a 9 hour stint in! All the re-enactors took their own individual photos of this iconic site but I feel we could have done more particularly with regard getting photos for both ACWS publicity purposes and the ACWS

Photographic Competition 2026. Well done to Dave McDade, Health and Safety Officer who completed all the necessary outstanding FSPC certificates including a couple of new and eager young recruits. Overall, I personally know the organisers were delighted with our efforts over the weekend and hopefully we can go back and try and put on larger and bigger displays on a regular basis including larger scenario/skirmish to try and attract a much larger crowd. Well done to Christian Sprakes, our superb ACWS commentator, who really engages the public whatever the circumstances and always generates such fun and laughter. As ever, many many thanks must go to Catherine Conyard for all her hard work during the weekend and getting the event. I know it is important for the society to support such a site that is so historically iconic as well as so welcoming to us as in both the past and the present.

Article submitted by

Sgt Stewart "Goober" Douglas

43rd North Carolina



ACWS at Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham

The ACWS travelled to the superb location of Wentworth Woodhouse in Rotherham on the 5th and 6th June 2026 for a 1 day Saturday event. Despite the poor weather on the morning, the weather turned out really well in the afternoon when the public arrived. This was a brand-new venue for the ACWS and it proved to be a real cracker with the ACWS in top form throughout the day.

Wentworth Woodhouse itself is a Grade I listed country house in the village of Wentworth, Rotherham. The impressive building itself has more than 300 rooms and is surrounded by a 180 acre park with an estate of 15,000 acres. It now belongs to the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust and is undergoing restoration. It has a fascinating history including a Royal Visit by King George V and Queen Mary in 1912, used as a Training Depot and Headquarters of the Intelligence Corps during World War 2 and following the war from 1949 to 1979, the house was home to the Lady Mabel College of Physical Education, which trained female physical education teachers. The college later merged with Sheffield City Polytechnic before it closed due to high maintenance costs. In addition, during the 1940's and 1950's, much of the surrounding estate became the largest open-cast mining site in Britain with 132,000 tons of coal removed solely from the gardens. Ostensibly the coal was desperately needed in Britain's austere post-war

economy to fuel the railways. It took many years for the estate to return to its natural and present woodland state.

So with such a splendid back drop, the ACWS were contracted to perform living history displays, drill and firing displays, the ever-popular Kids drill and a skirmish in the late afternoon. With over 4,000 pre sale tickets sold, many more public turned up in droves and the ACWS camp was unbelievably full within half an hour of the gates opening. The Union Medical display, Union Christian Commission and the authentic Union Civil War authentic food and artefacts displays were busy throughout the day as were the Confederate Chuck a luck gambling game, authentic Civil War soldiers kit display and the kids in uniform photo shoot. Both firing and drill displays went down really well and much credit must go to Confederate Captain Andy Farnsworth and Union Captain Matthew Llewellyn for both stepping up as senior officers. They were excellent. The Kids drill proved really popular with 2 very long lines of kids meaning everyone had to have a turn holding and charging with a wooden musket in the front line. The final charge was brilliant as the kids and parents really clashed head on as they can only do in Yorkshire! Personally, I always like something fresh and new in a skirmish so that was why our skirmish this weekend stood out.

The scenario started with some Union artillery crew prisoners escaping from their reb captors before both armies entering the field and clashing and exchanging volleys before deploying in a skirmish line thereby allowing for more rapid fire. However, later on, it was discovered that 2 brothers had actually been on opposing sides during the battle with 1 brother suddenly discovering the dead body of his brother and cradling him. Callum and Charlie Potts took the lead roles and it was awesome when the huge amount of public nearby saw and recognised their similarity and all expressed their shock and sadness. This was even more poignant when both Mum and Dad, Lindsey and Andrew Potts also took the field as part of the scenario. Really well done. Just to add some Civil War history Alexander and James Campbell were both brothers born in Scotland and building new lives in America when they found themselves fighting each other for their adoptive countries at the Battle of Secessionville in 1862. Alexander joined the Union 79th Highlander regiment and James was in the Confederate Charleston Battalion. They wrote to each other including the passage "I was astonished to hear from the prisoners that you was colour Bearer of the Regt that assaulted the Battery at this point the other day.... I was in the Brest work during the whole engagement doing my Best to Beat you but I hope that You and I will never again meet face to face Bitter enemies on the Battlefield. But if such should be

the case You have but to discharge your duty to Your cause for I can assure you I will strive to discharge my duty to my country my cause." They both survived the carnage of the Civil War and remained true brothers in close contact with each other afterwards. The public thoroughly enjoyed and cheered the skirmish and many showed a really keen interest and appreciation of the Civil War. Other highlights included the excellent camaraderie by all the members of the ACWS who all helped each other due to unexpected organisational difficulties and the required early journey home, the lively camp fires on both camps and a few Confederates taking on a few dinosaurs! Overall, a short but cracking weekend and great to see a couple of eager new recruits who joined in well.

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



ACWS at Leicester Balloon Festival

This balloon festival event in the beautiful Victoria Park in Leicester has been exceptional. Yes the heat definitely made life more challenging and inevitably led to pretty much everyone including myself feeling knackered but it sure as heck was worth every minute!

Me and Sgt Matthew Jennings arrived on Friday in the early afternoon and got our bits and pieces set up without a hitch. Initially both camps didn't have particularly large numbers of re-enactors but after 16:00hrs when we started Living History and especially after our drill/firing display/kids drill activity at 17:00hrs, the numbers swelled considerably much to our delight. I received a fairly small but decent turnout of public approaching my display but before long, we kitted up to take part in the aforementioned drill/firing display in the arena conveniently close to our camps. We were a little patchy early on but we improved our performance and I felt our firing volleys were very well synchronised. Not many children/parents participated in Excellent work everyone and chapo especially to Cpt Andrew Farnsworth and 1st Sgt Mike Bussey on effectively commanding our rabble. After we ceased operations at 19:00hrs, we settled in and we got to see some epic bike stunts in the same arena we used. On Saturday and Sunday, we saw not just those but some absolutely bonkers fire stunts including the moment where one guy on fire fell from a tower onto an inflated soft platform below and ran across the field before being doused by an extinguisher. Friday evening around the Reb campfire was once more very pleasant and we were joined by some Union re-enactors.

Saturday was personally the best, most productive and enjoyable of the three days. After starting operations at 12:00hrs, it took a short while but large crowds of people began flooding into the camps and at various points, me and my display were engulfed. At one point I

reckon over 20 people had gathered around my display forcing me to keep on my toes. I wouldn't have been able to cope without all the support from my comrades. Big thank you especially to Matthew and Wyatt Smith for assisting me in that and also to Jason Murray for wooing the public with Chuckaluck, Mark Spice demonstrating excellent craftsmanship with his forge and Joe Reed with all the items, predominantly leather that he was assembling together. Combined, all our displays made an immense impact and it illustrates how teamwork and different authentic elements working closely together can yield superb results. Our drill display at 13:00hrs was significantly better conducted and with additional numbers, it also enhanced the quality of the firing display and kids drill, both of which were excellent.

However, the key moment was at 17:00hrs when we commenced our first skirmish scenario. Us Rebs were the first to form up and deploy into the arena on the far side away from the camp. All the artillery pieces were set up at the other end where the Federals entered and deployed at. A small squad of three Confederates rushed forward to secure one of the guns and push it back to our side of the arena. However, during this process, the Federal sharpshooters moved forward and began harassing them with shots forcing the Confederates to halt every now and again, load their muskets and return fire. Eventually, they succeeded in transporting the gun back enough that the artillery crew of Joe, Wesley Crockford & Sgt Trevor Thomas took over and completed moving it into position whilst the volunteers provided covering fire before rejoining the ranks.

Afterwards, both sides main infantry units deployed and us Rebs split into two squads, the left one moving to the Pickett fence adjacent to our artillery gun to relieve the pressure on it's crew whilst the right one (I was in) moved forward on the right flank to lay down fire on the Union sharpshooters and infantry. We also had to endure counter fire from the three crewed Federal artillery guns. Both sides took casualties but gradually the scales tipped in the Union's favour and our few remaining survivors were eventually forced back to the edge of the arena where we made our last stand. I went down in the final moments of the battle and when asked if I had any last words by sharpshooter Daniel Nightingale, I gasped, "tell my family I love them and my comrades will avenge my death tenfold! You have not seen the last of us!"

After the flags went down at 19:00hrs, I hung out for some time initially around the Reb campfire whilst some of the youngsters played with the football I brought with me. Later on however, I played my trump card; offering around the homemade confections I once more prepared. Hope y'all enjoyed them and I do apologise Stuart Smith that you didn't get one. I'll make 110% sure that your name is written on a cookie/brownie the next time we see one another. I also witnessed a Federal horseshoes competition which was very entertaining and hilarious as always! From that point, I spent most of the rest of the evening around the Federal campfire enjoying the jokes, laughs banter and puns before returning back to our campfire later.

Our last day on Sunday was fairly similar to Saturday in that Living History was also very productive and we all did a brilliant job in the drill/firing display. An interesting detail was the authentic wooden mailbox stand that Melissa Huntley and her family had set up next to the boundary fence and roughly

halfway between the camps on both Saturday & Sunday. The idea was anyone who wanted to have a personal letter addressed to them from their Civil War missus/sweetheart, kindly written by Melissa, required their own name plus their missus' written on a slip of paper that would in turn need to be fitted into the mailbox to form the basis of the letter. Thank you ever so much Melissa for writing up my missus' letter addressed to me. I have read it and the level of detail in the message is fantastic and quite moving.

However, the second skirmish that we performed was quite different to Saturday's one. First off, both sides had fewer troops and although we deployed into the arena first, we swapped positions, staying on the side closest to our camp and presented arms whilst the Federals marched past through to the other side where we were on Saturday. Furthermore, the Pickett fence was now on the opposite side of the arena where we were deployed and was reinforced with some boxes and crates from the camps. The first phase witnessed the Federal artillery crews supported by the sharpshooters advancing forward the Pickett fence whilst we waited at the arena's edge from a distance. They successfully acquired three of the four artillery guns and moved back towards their starting position and although we harassed them shooting them in a skirmisher formation, we were held up by the sharpshooters and concurrently, they were able to unite with their main infantry line. The Federal artillery halfway down the arena managed to turn one of their guns towards us and open fire. Despite being pressed hard by musket and artillery fire, our right flank held well under the firm and steely command of Sgt M. Jennings and Cpt Farnsworth and we refused to yield much ground.

Inevitably, the Union pressure forced us back and we ended up withdrawing to the edge again leaving the field and our artillery piece in the hands of the 2nd time victorious Yankees. Massive thank you Maj Daz Paul for finding my button that came off one of my trouser breeches at the end and all the Union for another fantastic set of well fought and planned skirmishes. All the troops but especially the NCOs and officers plus the artillery and pyrotechnics crews performed superbly and very professionally throughout the drill and skirmish displays and it's something to be very proud of.

After the skirmish, We wrapped up but I stayed behind on Sunday evening even as most re-enactors packed up and headed home. As I sat close to my tent by myself observing the remainder of the evening around me, I felt very emotional and was nearly in tears as I reflected and dwelt on all that occurred and my contributions throughout the event even if it wasn't much. The following morning, I packed up and I had the fortune of driving to a Toby Carvery in Loughborough about 12 miles drive away and having a delicious breakfast alongside Joe, Linda Reed, Cerys Reed & adorable Immy before I returned home safely on Monday later in the afternoon.

Overall, a very memorable event with outstanding efforts and contributions from everyone throughout the course of the weekend. Very well done and I certainly look forward to seeing y'all again at the next full society event at Swindon. Until then, best wishes everyone!

Article submitted by

Pte William Jennings

2nd South Carolina



Notices from the Board

Reminder for all members to submit any photographs to the Communications Director's email address - editor@acws.co.uk - or to his personal Facebook messenger at the earliest opportunity.

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.

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.

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

From the Medical Team

It's has been a busy season with a few incidents, but all is well, one being taken into hospital via trust ambulance but was back on camp later that day at the Northampton Balloon Festival.

Please let your medical team deal with an incident when one occurs and please keep away unless you are assisting i.e. guiding the emergency services to the location, fetching and carrying equipment and holding sheeting or lights.

We would like to advise members to let the medical team know if you have any medical conditions, this will be kept in the strictest confidence. If members out on the field could put a card in their cartridge box with their name, any allergies, medical conditions and blood group as this gives us a good head start if we have to deal with anyone who is unconscious or otherwise unresponsive.

Can we also remind you to carry a small personal first aid kit yourself to deal with your own small cuts and grazes.

Stewart Hayllar's medical kit with O2 and Defib is always kept in his tent on the right just in the entrance and the Society's Defib is always located in Claire Morris' tent as well as her medical kit, so if you are sent to get either, you know where to find them!

See you in 2026

John Rushworth Memorial Trophy Photography Competition 2025

The rules are as follows

1. The photograph must be taken at an event last 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.
5. If you think someone else has taken a great photograph, feel free to send it in on their behalf.
6. All submissions must clearly state what event they were taken at.

tries for the competition must be sent to the Communications director
Editor@acws.co.uk



2nd

Avoncroft 2024
Abigail Hooper
(118th PA)



1st

Avoncroft 2024
Stewart Hayllar
(69th NY)



3rd

Avoncroft 2024
Matthew Jennings
(2nd SC)

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

Confederate Regimental Mascots

Many Regiments from both the North and the South kept or adopted animals during the American Civil War which took on semi official roles as regimental mascots. These included cats, dogs, horses, squirrels, raccoons, badgers, eagles, wild cats and hens. The Union Army had the most regimental mascots and undoubtedly the most famous was Old Abe, the bald eagle of Co. C of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment, Union Army, who participated in 37 battles and skirmishes. As such, this article will look at Confederate regimental mascots which are much less common and known.

The 3rd Tennessee had a gamecock named "Jake". He was originally obtained with the thought of dinner but having been placed with other chickens was recognised as such a fighter that his life was spared. Soon afterwards, Jake became involved with other rivals from other companies and became a renowned prize fighter. Other Confederate regiments heard about his reputation and Jake took on all comers as his fame spread. Jake followed the regiment throughout the War and was at the siege of Vicksburg and lived in the trenches with the 3rd Tennessee. He would screech and shriek at the incoming Federal shells. When the 3rd Tennessee was captured, he accompanied the regiment to Camp Douglas Prison. When the Confederate troops entered the prison, the Union troops jeered at them and Jake responded with a loud screech that the captured Rebel troops quickly took up with a rebel yell. At the end of the War when the 3rd Tennessee was mustered out, Jake went with them back to Tennessee. He died shortly afterwards and was buried in a casket with a well attended funeral.

The 43rd Mississippi had a camel named "Old Douglas". As a result, the regiment subsequently became known

as the "Camel Regiment." Old Douglas was used for transportation purposes and carried the Officers personal camp belongings. He was relatively well behaved and rarely got into trouble. However, he would not be restrained and tended to wander and graze but always in sight of his regiment. He became very friendly towards horses in his own company but would not socialise with others. However, he could be cantankerous and he occasionally spooked other horses in wagon trains and on one occasion during a forced march before the battle of Corinth caused a stampede injuring several men. Afterwards, he was banished from being inside the camp perimeter. Old Douglas was killed in action by a minie ball at the siege of Vicksburg by Union Sharpshooters whilst carrying supplies between Vicksburg and the left wing of Confederate General Pemberton's Army on the Graveyard Road near the 3rd Louisiana Redan. His skeleton was recovered by Union troops and his bones were used for finger rings and other ornaments for relic and souvenir hunters from the North. When his bones ran out, unscrupulous Yankee sutlers used cow bones in the pretence it was Old Douglas. Old Douglas has his own marker in the battlefield cemetery at Vicksburg.

The 2nd Kentucky, of the famous Orphan Brigade, had a mascot called "Frank". Frank the dog always accompanied his Rebel comrades into battle and carried his own small haversack around his neck which contained his rations. When the regiment was captured at Fort Donelson in Tennessee, he spent 6 months in prison at Indiana's Camp Morton and on exchange for Union prisoners followed the regiment out. He spent a further 2 years with the 2nd Kentucky before going missing. He was presumed killed in action.

The Richmond Howitzers had a mascot called "Stonewall Jackson". He was a particularly intelligent Jack Russell Terrier with a smooth white coat and black spots and proved to be a very fast learner. He would participate in roll call and attending with a pipe between his teeth would stand to attention when his name was called and remain rigid until roll call was over. He appeared to relish battle and as the cannons thundered would leap up and down yelping and barking. He was placed in an empty ammo box for shelter when under incoming fire. He learnt many tricks and as a result was coveted by many other regiments throughout the Army of Northern Virginia. He was subject to a number of kidnapping attempts. Unfortunately, one was successful involving Louisiana troops and he was never seen again. The Richmond Howitzers also possessed a big black crow. When the crow died it was so loved by its artillerymen that it was given a sombre military funeral including a salute from the guns of the Honour Guard. The ceremony was presided over by the Regimental Chaplain and eulogised in both English and Latin.

The 2nd Maryland had a black labrador retriever named "Grace" that was killed in action on Culps Hill, Pardees Field, Gettysburg. She was found wandering amongst the Confederate dead on 3 legs and badly scarred with bullet wounds having taken part in the earlier rebel charge. Before she died she was seen licking a rebel casualty perhaps her master. The rebels suffered 50% casualties. On observing her looking totally bewildered amongst all the dead and human carnage from both sides, Union General Kane ordered her a proper burial alongside her regiments fallen Confederate soldiers. He said "She was the only Christian minded being on either side"

Finally, Confederate General Robert E Lee had a pet barnyard chicken called "Nellie" in the camp so he could have a fresh egg every day during the

invasion of Pennsylvania. It nested under his cot whilst on campaign and the General never failed to leave his tent flap open for her. After Gettysburg, Nellie went missing but General Lee was not content until his aides eventually found her happily perched in the Confederate Headquarters wagon before they retreated.

During the preparation of this article, I came across a few miscellaneous Confederate mascots that may be of interest. A Confederate drummer owned a squirrel that danced to his masters drum. An Arkansas Cavalry outfit had a wild cat. After the battle of West Liberty, Kentucky, a Union report listed the captured as "34 Prisoners, 52 Horses, 10 Mules and 1 Large Bear". Undoubtedly a tame Confederate regimental mascot that was estimated to weigh over 3 hundred pounds. General JEB Stuarts 1st Virginia Cavalry had an enormous Raccoon that was so bad tempered it had to be fastened to a wheel of a captured Union gun. Confederate General TRR Cobb had a pet rooster who would crow on his command. A Louisiana regiment had a pelican and the 3rd Louisiana had a donkey who would constantly try to enter the regimental commanders tent and sleep with him.

The last known battlefield Confederate mascot mortality was "Charlie" of the Georgia Troop Artillery that was killed in action at the Battle of Cumberland Church on April 7 1865. 2 days after General Robert E Lee surrendered.

Finally, there was only one authentic photo ever taken of a Confederate mascot. This was of "Tinker" who served on a Confederate Blockade Runner.

Article by Stewart "Old Goober" Douglas

Confederate and Union Small Arms

In describing the weapons Confederate soldiers carried, notable historian Bell Wiley noted, “Almost as indispensable as a rifle, in the eyes of the men who rushed to the colours in 1861, was a pistol of some sort. That change in attitude, coupled with an increasing number of regimental officers who forbade their troops to have pistols, meant that after 1862 such weapons were carried mainly by officers and cavalymen. The ones shown here hint at their great variety over the American Civil War and reproductions for our ACWS living history displays would certainly make great and interesting viewing for the public.

Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver



Calibre: .44,
Operation: single-action, six-shot
Length: 14 inches
Weight: 2 lb 11 oz

The reliably effective Colt Model 1860 Army revolver was the most widely carried handgun during the American Civil War. It used paper cartridges made from a load of black powder and a ball wrapped together in flammable nitrated paper—that were loaded into the front of the chambers and seated with a loading lever ram. A percussion cap, placed on a nipple at the back end of the chamber, ignited the charge when struck by the hammer. The Colt Model 1860 Army, along with its sibling, the similarly popular .36-calibre Model 1861 Navy were nearly 40% of the revolvers acquired by the U.S. Government for use during the

war. However, a sizeable number eventually found their way into Confederate hands through capture.

The Butterfield Army Revolver



Calibre: .41
Operation: Single-action, five-shot
Length: 13 3/4 inches
Weight: 2 lb 10 oz

Philadelphia-based gun maker Jesse Butterfield designed this brass-framed, octagonal-barrel pistol, which incorporated his patented self-priming lock system: Priming pellets (or “wafers”) were placed in a spring-loaded feeding tube (screwed into the bottom of the gun’s frame, just in front of the trigger guard) and pushed into position as the hammer was cocked. Standard percussion caps could be used if pellets were not available. Though the U.S. government contracted in 1861 for 2,280 Butterfield revolvers, the contract was cancelled and only slightly more than 600 were produced making it a particularly rare weapon.

Palmetto 1842 Percussion Pistol



Calibre: .54
Operation: Muzzle loader, single-shot
Length: 14 inches
Weight: 2 lb 12 oz

The Palmetto Armoury in Columbia, South Carolina, manufactured 2,000 U.S. Model 1842 percussion pistols in the early 1850s for use by the state's militia. They became among the first pistols issued to Confederate troops. This Palmetto Model 1842 was carried by William Henry Wallace, a South Carolinian who entered the American Civil War as a Private and left it a Brigadier General.

Lefauchaux Model 1853 Revolver



Calibre: 12 mm (approximately .47)
Operation: Single-action, six-shot
Length: 11 1/4 inches
Weight: 2 lb 3 oz

This revolver, produced in Paris, was used by both Union and Confederate troops. The U.S. government purchased at least 12,000 for Union troops and Confederate officials procured between 2,000 and 5,000 for their soldiers. Unlike the cap-and-ball percussion system of contemporary American-made revolvers, the Lefauchaux fired an internally primed metallic (or "pinfire") cartridge. While technologically advanced, the gun was easily damaged and ammunition was particularly difficult to obtain so it was not a particularly popular weapon with the troops.

The LeMat 1st Model Revolver



Calibre: .42/.63
Operation: Single-action, nine-shot plus additional single shot
Length: 13 5/8 inches
Weight: 4 lb 1.6 oz

Jean Alexandre Francois LeMat, a physician in New Orleans, designed this innovative—and menacing—revolver in 1856 with the help of future Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard. Beneath the nine-chamber cylinder was a larger smooth bore barrel designed to fire buckshot. The hammer had a pivoting striker that could rotate to fire either the .42-calibre rounds or the lower .63-calibre barrel. Fewer than 3,000 LeMats were produced (in France and England) between 1856 and 1865. However, many of them were purchased and used by the Confederacy.

Article Submitted by

Sgt Stewart "Goober" Douglas
43rd North Carolina





EVENTS CALENDAR 2026

July 3 - 4 SWINDON BALLOON FESTIVAL

Full Society Event at Lydiard Park, Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon, Wiltshire, **SN5 3PA**.
INFANTRY ONLY (NO CANNON) .
Further details to follow.

July 24 - 25 DONCASTER BALLOON FESTIVAL

Full Society Event at Town Field, Thorne Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, **DN1 2JR**.
Pyrotechnics, Artillery, Infantry & Living History.
Further details to follow.

August 14, 15 & 16 NORTHAMPTON BALLOON

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

September 5-6 MOIRA FURNACE MUSEUM

Full Society Event at Furnace Lane, Moira Leicester, **DE12 6AT**.
Further details to follow.

December 5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting will begin at 1pm Prompt, medium to be confirmed..
Further details to follow.

NOTICE OF 2026 AGM

The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, (number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that its AGM will be held on Saturday 5th December 2026, starting at 1pm prompt via Zoom (virtually).

If you are a current member and have any nominations for posts of Directors or Army Commanders of the Society and/or you have any agenda items appropriate for the AGM, then put them in writing as soon as possible addressed to The Secretary, ACWS Ltd, 159 Horsley Road, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 8HJ. These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Thursday 1st October 2026.

Nominations for other than existing post holders have to be signed by the nominee and proposed by at least one other current member, who must also sign the nomination. The nominee may submit a short address for circulation to the membership to support their candidature.

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

- Chairperson: Darren Paul
- Secretary: Linda Reed
- Treasurer: Ian Morris
- Membership: Claire Morris
- Webmaster: Mike Bussey
- Events: Catherine McDade
- Communications: Joseph Reed
- Health & Safety: Dave McDade

Only one Army Commander is standing for re-election as at the date of this notice and this is:

- Federal Commander: Darren Paul

Glenn Gibson will be standing down.

Once relevant inputs have been received, the AGM Agenda can be put together, with guidelines regarding "Zoom", and the appropriate documentation can be sent to you before the AGM.

Please note, only current members of ACWS are entitled to vote at the AGM or to submit proxy forms. Members attending the virtual meeting are asked to have their membership cards to hand to help validation, online admission and voting if necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors,
Linda Reed
Company Secretary and Director
26th August 2026

NB: Electronic delivery of Agenda and voting slips. We will seek to send all the AGM paperwork to all those of you who have e-mail addresses electronically by that means (to cut down on printing and postages) and post only to those who currently have no e-mail address or who have specifically opted-out of e-voting. PLEASE NOTE, your Webmaster has devised a secure way for you to deliver your Proxy Vote electronically.

However, you all need to make sure either Mike Bussey or Claire Morris have your correct, up-to-date e-mail address for this to happen. If you fail to do this then you will not get the AGM papers or proxy vote form.

Please make sure we have the right information by NO LATER than Sunday 4th October 2026.