

# Trans Allegheny Dispatch

The Newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2014 Edition 4 - September, 2014

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Jackson's Mill** - August 29-31. Jason Studenwalt is organizing (CONTACT him if you are interested at 304-884-7710). It sounds like they are re-starting this event. See July meeting minutes.
- **Carnifex Ferry, Sept. 12-14**
- **Reenactment of the Battle of New Market Heights, Campaign Before Richmond 1864'** (27-28 SEPT2014, Henrico County, Va.)  
<http://www.civilwarhenrico.com>
- **Bulltown and Civil War Ball October 10-12.** Important see below for details. WVRA supported event.
- **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cedar Creek**, October 17-19. **1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. plans to attend.** Here is the site I found where I found the registration:  
[http://ccbf.us/?page\\_id=32](http://ccbf.us/?page_id=32)
- **Remembrance Day** - November 15 at Gettysburg
- **USV Annual Meeting** - January 10 at Gettysburg
- **Bentonville 150<sup>th</sup>** - March 20-22
- **Saylors Creek 150<sup>th</sup>** - March 27-29
- **Appomattox 150<sup>th</sup>** - April 10 -12
- **Grand Review 150<sup>th</sup>** - May 17th
- **Rich Mountain** (pending approval) - July
- **Droop Mountain** (pending approval) October

## Phillipi

Also telegraph report from Grafton after courier from Philippi rode in to report a major victory for the Union. Seccesh routed, Rebels ran out of town leaving behind tents, wagons, supplies and armaments. However, Col. Kelley badly wounded, possibly mortal. He was shot by a low down dirty snake of a bushwhacker. Col. Lander made heroic ride from top of hill where Union cannons were to covered bridge to deliver important message, this was down a very steep and nearly vertical hillside.

1st Loyal Virginia Infantry regiment made good accounting of themselves.

1st WV Inf members present: Col. Skaggs, 1st Sgt. Tennant, 2nd Sgt Eubank, Corp. Bonner and Pvt. A. Rush and Pvt. Gilmore..

Pvt. Barnes was seen impersonating a General but escaped capture. Artillery members present Sgt. Moore, Pvts. Kelly and Keenans and Pvt. Sam & Connie Kraft - submitted by Mark Tennant

## Bulltown

According to Ranger Tommy V. Smith of the Bulltown Historic District. The Bulltown Civil War Reenactment is going to be held October 11 and 12. Reenactors may arrive starting Friday, October 10. Registration is on a 'walk-in' basis starting Saturday morning and is at "no charge" to reenactors. "Straw and Water will be provided." Ranger Smith informed us that "authenticity guidelines and safety guidelines should be posted on the WVRA website soon." All interested parties can contact Ranger Smith for information at: 1-304-452-8170

The dance is scheduled for 7 pm at one of Bultown's pavilions. The Rich Mountain String Band is slated to perform. Diane Tennant is providing beverage and asks that other members bring period foods or cookies.

## Jackson's Mill

### Stonewall Jackson Jubilee

*The following modern dispatch has been received from our friend Jason Studenwalt, 31st Virginia, Co I.*

I would like to take the time to thank everyone who will be returning to the Jackson's Mill Jubilee. The event will be under the direction of the 31st VA co I & Wisers Legion.

I just want to let everyone know what will be going on for the weekend. As of right now we will be having a living history camp, but if we

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are to have enough people to do a skirmish then we will.

We will be doing bayonet drills as well as infantry drills at 10 and 2 both days. Everyone is requested to participate in this. We also ask that you interact with the spectators during open camp times.

The times for everyone to show up on Friday are all day, Saturday before 8 am and after 5 pm, Sunday before 8 am. We are asking everyone to stay until at least 4 pm on Sunday. We are working closely with the NEW Jubilee committee to get this going again, we would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation.

The directions for those that will be there all weekend are as following: enter at the pool gate, keep left at the Y confederates are in the volleyball court area. Union enter at the same gate keep right at the Y and your camp will be in the yard of the former directors house next to the dining hall. If you are attending for just a day trip you are ask to park in the air strip and ride the shuttle bus over and back. As long as you are dressed you won't be charged to gain entry to the event. Any one who is not dressed and just coming to check things out will be charged to enter.

If anyone is set up to camp and has to leave before 4pm Sunday accommodations will be made to have your things taken to your car via a golf cart, then anyone else after four can start tearing down and loading by the people who have the furthest to travel first. We are only allowed to bring three cars in at a time on Sunday afternoon.

There will be ice available if you need to purchase it through the jubilee committee and firewood is provided.

Things are going to be tight and tough this year, but if we show them we are willing to work with them this year it might be easier in following years. So lets have a good time and make the best of the weekend.

The open hours for the Jubilee are Friday 12 pm to 9 pm, Saturday 9a to 11p and Sunday 9 am to 6 pm.

Thanks once again, hope to see you there. If you have any questions you can call me at 304 884 7710.

### Corrick's Ford

Tim Glaser posted this to Facebook. He took it from the website of Authentic Campaigner, and it was posted by the Authentic Campaigner Manger, Eric Tipton.

"After much thought and reflection, we have decided to cancel the Corricks Ford Event for 2015." ..... "We may revisit the event at a future date, and we would love to do something in West Virginia again, but for right now, it is off.."

"Please pass the word along and thanks to everyone for your support and well-wishes."

There had been some discussion about Corrick's Ford being held in July of 2015. I believe that Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation had some very preliminary discussion with this group.

### McConnellsville Reenactment

July 11, 12 & 13

By Ed Chapdelaine

The reenactment began on Friday when most of the reenactors arrived. About 5 members of 1st West Virginia Infantry participated, to include the Federal Commander. The camp was set up in McConnellsville Park with 21st century cars within a few feet of the tents.

On Friday night, both Union and Confederate Artillery units set up on either side of the Muskingum River and put in a night firing demonstration. A battle was staged on Saturday

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which took place on the streets of downtown McConnellsville. The Union forces had about 13 or 14 infantry men and a small cannon and crew. The Confederate contingent was about 25 men. The Union forces, depicting some of Morgan's Raiders' events, drove the Confederates from town. The weather was quite warm in the low 90's.

On Sunday, after breakfast, all camps broke early as the battle was about 5 miles out of town on Richmond Farm. The battle was a recreation of the Battle of Lebanon, Kentucky, where John Hunt Morgan's men overwhelmed a small Union garrison in the town. In this battle, the Union Army was in a defensive position and was attacked by a significantly larger Confederate force. This battle had many ground placed charges and some collapsing buildings. It made for a very interesting scenario.

The weather was quite hot but the Union soldiers got to expend a lot of powder.

Ed Chapdelaine and Ralph McCready were sighted at the McConnellsville reenactment. Here there are at New Market in May.



## 10 Steps for a More Enjoyable Weekend

By Rear Rank Productions

In order for each of you to make the most of the weekend and to help create the aura of the time period, I have listed steps to help you in this. These are not required to participate in the event, but will make the event more enjoyable for you.

1. Research the units portrayed at the event and the actions they were in prior to arriving. Try to put yourself in their mindset and act as they would have. This is unit and event specific and may take a little time, but even if you just read the basic information on the web, it is better than just stumbling out there for a typical shoot them up! Research does require work, but the benefits are immense! It also helps you truly act like the original soldiers did.
2. Act like you are under fire. Don't stand there like iron men in perfect ranks while being shot at. It's that simple, duck, dodge and huddle together tightly. This is how troops really acted in combat, not the usual two straight battle lines firing at each other at 40 yards. This is just plain wrong. Act the reenacting part!
3. Keep at longer combat distances! Most CW combat took place at 200+ yards. We cannot do this at most events due to the public, but we can keep the distance to around 70 yards or so. The 40-yard duck shooting is just plain silly. If you are to be forced back, don't walk to the rear, run as if your life depended on it, and then rally around your flag at least 70+ yards to the rear. Reform, look confused and go back in! A lot of reenactors get caught in the old "well, we are the 500th San Francisco, and WE never run!" How historically inaccurate and egotistical that is!
4. Carry full kits. By this, I mean a blanket roll or a knapsack. It gives you a more realistic feel of what being a soldier is about. When you go into battle, you have two choices, some units carried their kits in (seen among veteran units) because they did not want to lose the valuable equipment, or you can drop knapsacks by order, and leave a guard with them. It just adds to the feeling of truly being a soldier. If you do decide to use a blanket roll, do not use twine to tie it up, but rather a leather strap with a buckle, and twist

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the blanket like a twist of tobacco to make it ride high and tight against you, thus staying out of the way.

5. Hike up your traps. Canteens and haversacks should be worn with the top of the item at the elbow when the arm is fully extended at the side. An examination of period photos of veteran soldiers depict this, and it is for one simple reason; equipment worn high rides better, and does not beat you to death when you run. Also haversacks should be worn outside the belt, so it is easy to grab a bite to eat (again seen in period photos).

6. Cigarettes and beverages. This event does not allow alcohol, so this doesn't apply here or really at too many events, but for non-alcoholic beverages or those events who do not ban alcohol, be sure to bring your drink of choice in a period container. It is just wrong to sit around with a can or bottle in camp. This gives reenactors a poor public image, and is historically wrong. As to cigarettes, I am a smoker too, so do not take this personally, but cigarettes did not exist in any documented numbers in the US during the war years. They were invented in France in the 1850's and were meant for women. The habit did not get much notice on this side of the Atlantic till after the War, and then it was mostly women who started using them. What all this means is, if you are going to smoke a cigarette do NOT do it in camp, in front of other reenactors, or the public.

7. Camp lighter than usual. I do not mean all campaign, but put yourself in the soldier's shoes. He probably just marched 30 miles or more the previous week and would have carried less than what he would have at a stationary camp. Pull out all your gear and determine what is NEEDED to live for 3 days. They had to do it for weeks on end. Plus sleeping in the trenches/on porches make for great team building and overall experiences. After that last battle when you are worn out and can barely drag yourself off the field, it means less work to get home to the shower!

8. You can live without a cooler. Believe it or not, since I started eating period foods, I eat much better at events than ever before. I don't mean just hardtack

and salted pork. Plain long grain brown rice is easy to cook, and it goes great with sliced fried red potatoes and onions. For meat, go to your butcher shop and pick up salt and sugar slab bacon (2 lb. or so). Be sure to boil the meat in your period cup to get rid of the extra salt, then fry it on your tin frying pan or plate. Then use the grease left over to cook your veggies. Beans were issued a lot, they are the dried white beans, but they need to be soaked overnight to cook well. Soft white bread was issued to some regiments, so bring a loaf of unsliced bread or corn bread. As a treat, bring coffee beans for your morning coffee, green or browned, they were issued both ways.

9. Wear nothing modern. This makes you feel more like a soldier and not a modern guy dressed up with boxers underneath.

10. Remember you are an educator, and in everything you do be sure the public is getting a proper presentation of the sacrifices of those great men and patriots of the 1860's.

Submitted by Pvt. Chris "CW" Johnson

25th Va. Inf'y Reg't

## Battle of White Sulphur Springs

*From West Virginia Archives & History*

**Monroe Watchman**  
**March 19, 1908**

### Battle Of Dry Creek

*Mrs. E. A. Humphreys of Greenville, this county, who had six brothers in the Confederate army, sends us with the request that we publish it the following recent letter from her youngest brother, Mr. David C. Jones, now of De Soto, Mo., which we are sure will interest his old comrades and others:*

"You take great interest in the stories and reminiscences of the civil war, and I am anxious to know what has been published about the Dry Creek fight. It was true we fought through the fence, but the enemy was not sticking to the other side; they were behind a bank of the branch about 15 or 20 steps from the fence. It was in the night and we could only see the blaze of their guns to shoot at and nothing but

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their heads above the ground. When they shot at the flash of our guns we were all exposed to their fire, being protected only by the rails. Col. Geo. M. Edgar, the commander of our Battalion, the 26th Virginia, was right beside me, and he and I felt the wind of several bullets that passed between our faces. My gun got so hot and dirty from rapid firing that a ball choked in it. I had to ask the Colonel to hold his hands on the rod to stiffen it while I hammered it down with a rock; then I went on firing as hard as I could. After awhile the blaze of guns disappeared from our front and we supposed the enemy had retired; but in from 1 to 2 hours he was at us again. They fought us thus from 7 a. m., one day until daylight the next. I think they made fourteen different charges, two of this number with cavalry. They charged all night, from 1 to 2 hours apart. The last charge just before day was the most determined and the hardest to repel. Then they retreated via Callaghans, Morris hill, Back creek and Huntersville. "All this time about 2,500 of our cavalry were lying at White Sulphur taking no part in the fight, and Gen. Wm. L. Jackson (Mud Wall Jackson) was lying up on Warm Springs Mountain where he had retreated from off the Alleghany at the head of Back Creek, and never made a move to attack Averill's rear, or to cut him off from his line of retreat. Major General Sam Jones was in chief command; so all can guess whether he was a general or not by the way the campaign was managed. "Mud Wall" Jackson's command consisted of about 3,000 cavalry, mostly made up of Tennessee troops, I think. We called him "Mud Wall" in contradistinction from Stonewall Jackson, because "Old Averill," as we called Gen. Averill, always without exception ran over him, knocked him down and ran him off, as he did at the time of the Dry Creek fight. And when he got switched off out of Averill's way he was in no hurry to get back. "I could tell of other campaigns in Monroe, Greenbrier and Craig that were as badly managed as this one. Many of my old Confederate comrades were from Monroe and some from where Alderson now is. It used to be called Alderson's ferry and we crossed the river there several times in our campaigning. I think we marched over almost every hog-path in Monroe and adjoining counties.

"Gen. Echols' Brigade was composed of the 26th Battalion, 22nd and 45th Va. Regiments and sometimes Derrick's Battalion. \_\_\_\_ written about the Cry Creek fight? I would like to hear from him. We went into that battle with something over 60 men in my company (Co. B, 26th Va. Battalion) and came out with 39 able for duty - over one-third killed and wounded; but the loss of the entire command was not so heavy. Our battalion and my company in particular happened to get into the most exposed positions. We were under heavy shell fire in the forenoon, and in the afternoon our line was moved to the right to let Derrick's Battalion come into position; and then our company got in front of this bank of the branch I have described above, and we lost more or less men every charge we repelled. You can send this to your county paper if you think the editor will publish it.

Your brother. "David G. Jones"

Submitted by:

Pvt. Chris "CW" Johnson  
25th Va. Inf'y Reg't

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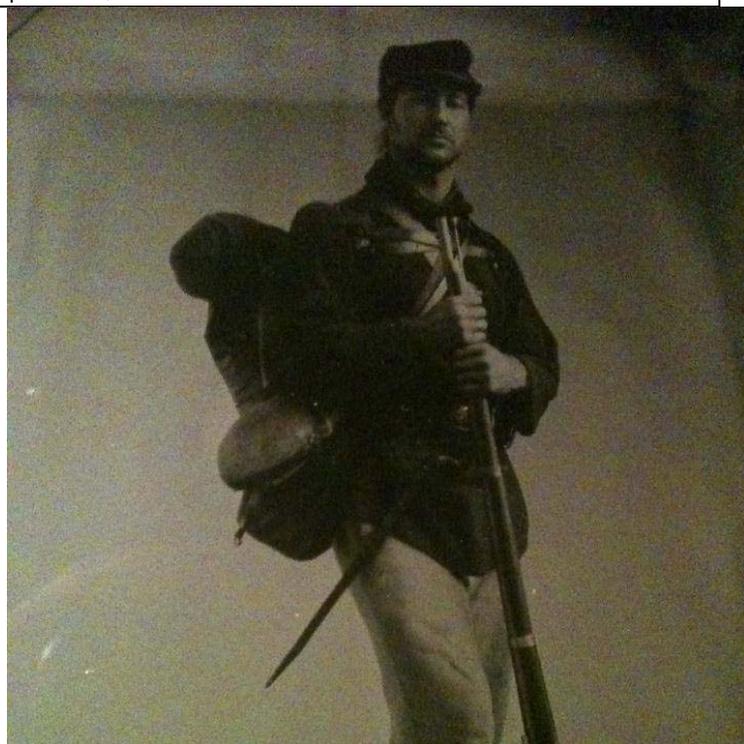
## Men of Virginia! MEN OF KANAWHA! TO ARMS!

The enemy has invaded your soil and threatens to overrun your country under the pretext of protection.

You cannot serve two masters. You have not the right to repudiate allegiance to your own State. Be not seduced by his sophistry or intimidated by his threats. Rise and strike for your firesides and altars. Repel the aggressors and preserve your honor and your rights. Rally in every neighborhood with or without arms. Organize and unite with the sons of the soil to defend it. Report yourselves without delay to those nearest to you in military position. Come to the aid of your fathers, brothers and comrades in arms at this place who are here for the protection of your mothers, wives and sisters. Let every man who would uphold his rights, turn out with such arms as he may get and drive the invader back.

C. Q. TOMPKINS,  
Col. Va., Vol's. Comdg.

Charleston, Kanawha, May 30, 1861.



## The 1st West Virginia in 1864 150 Years Ago

*Another in my continuing series about the 1st West Virginia in this, the sesquicentennial year of the Civil War - Chuck Critchfield*

Submitted by Chris Johnson, 25th Va. Infantry.

**Meet the Members - Corporal Ross Wetherell** Chris Johnson suggested a new feature for the Dispatch called meet the members and even sent me a picture of himself to get it started. Unfortunately, after wrestling with his picture, I still couldn't get it to cooperate. So I found this on my Facebook page. Great picture. Email me a picture if you would like to be the next member featured.

August of 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley saw an important change in Federal leadership in the Valley. As part of Franz Sigel's campaign and then David Hunter's campaign, the 1st and the rest of the Army of West Virginia had marched into the valley at least three times. U. S. Grant, frustrated by the lack of success, cooperation between departments and suspect leadership, appealed directly to President Lincoln that "All I ask is that one general officer, in whom I and yourself have confidence, should command the whole." And that officer was Major General Philip H. Sheridan. Grant ordered all the Federal forces to concentrate near Harpers Ferry. Soon after on the 6th Sheridan arrived with orders to "drive Early out of the Valley and to receive orders from no live man but Grant himself."

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The next five weeks would see the Federal forces thrash about, advancing, probing, retreating and then repeating it all again. Jubal Early did much of the same with the armies occasionally bumping into each other. This did little other than producing heavy skirmishing and small pitched battles between regiments or other smaller bodies of soldiers. Although there were no grand battles this month, that mattered little to the average soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup>, who was still involved in skirmish line duty and other activities that brought him into the sights of enemy rifles.

The First was now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of Thoburn's Division, commanded by Col. William B. Curtis of the 12<sup>th</sup> West Virginia. Joining the 1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. were the 12<sup>th</sup> West Virginia and the 4<sup>th</sup> West Virginia to form a rather small brigade. J. J. Rawling described the 1<sup>st</sup> more as a battalion than a regiment at this point of the war.

## "Calling all Yankees"

West Virginia... born out of the crucible of the American Civil War... a new State admitted to the Union as a result of predominantly Union sympathies. One would think that Federal reenactors would be in abundance here in West Virginia but my experiences have proven, to me, otherwise. Case in point... The Battle of Dry Creek (White Sulphur Springs) took place the weekend of 15-17AUG14. At Saturday morning's Confederate camp muster it was determined that the Federals were (once again) in serious need of Infantry riflemen. Oh, there was a respectable contingent of Yankee Horsemen, and ultimately some fought as dismounted cavalry, but where was the infantry?

Southrons to the rescue! A call went out amongst the rebel reenactors and there step forward a "brave and bolden band" of Galvanizers. This produced a small company of Federals and we were able to aggregate with

cavalry to even the odds against the Graycoats.

The Dry Creek event went off well enough to educate and entertain the public while also paying respect to 'Those who went before'. Hats off to those who attended!

As a small group of living historians and reenactors in this state, we need to make every effort to attend events as often as possible. I would suggest that all reenactors take measures to be able to Galvanize when needed. Anyone attending should try and bring 'Loaner Gear' to help outfit new recruits. Each and every one of us should strive to encourage those around us to 'give reenacting a try' and foster interests in The American Civil War and our hobby!

GO OUT AND RECRUIT!

Pvt. Chris "CW" Johnson

Something else:

"We have shared the incommunicable experience of war... we have felt... we still feel ... the passion of life to it's top. In our youths... our hearts were touched with fire!" - **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

WVRA Officers

President - Mark Tennant

Vice President - Bill Brisendine

Treasurer (interim) - Tim Glaser

Secretary - vacant (Need a volunteer)

Newsletter editor (interim) - Chuck Critchfield

Website - Peter Baxter

25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep - Chris Johnson

1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalary - John Brasuk

Artillery - Connie & Sam Kraft

TASAS - Tonya Daft

**EDITOR'S CORNER (SEPTEMBER)**

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Thank you to Chris Johnson, Mark Tennant, Ed Chapdelaine, Jason Studenwalt for their contributions. Again, I rely on your contributions to help make this informative.

**APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS** We continue to suffer from lack of contact information. This newsletter is being emailed to those dues-paying members for whom I have email address. We tried mailing the July newsletter by US Mail, but we are lacking ground mail addresses on many members also. If you are reading this on the WVRA website and not having emailed directly to you, it is likely we don't have your contact information.

Included in this issue is a ballot. Up for vote is whether the WVRA should sponsor Rich Mountain and also whether we should sponsor Droop Mountain. To date I only have replies from Jim Barnes, Ralph McCreary, Ed Chapdelaine, and Chris Johnson.

### **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch**

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The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA

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## Ballot

### September 2014 Issue of the Trans Allegheny Dispatch

Please return this ballot by September 1, 2014. Since we have no secretary you may return to me, Chuck Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301 or by email to ccritch608@yahoo.com. Or other officers listed in the newsletter will accept

Member name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Item One

Should the WVRA sponsor Rich Mountain reenactment in cooperation with the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation in July of 2015?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ No, do not sponsor

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#### Item Two

Should the WVRA sponsor Droop Mountain reenactment in cooperation with the Droop Mountain State Park in October of 2015?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, Sponser

\_\_\_\_\_ No, do not sponsor