

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

January, 2025 – Edition CLXXIII

## Next Meeting

**No meeting scheduled at this time**

## Upcoming Events

*Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar. Addendum, January 2022. I discussed this issue with the insurance expert of the USV and he agrees that this is a gray area. There is some question whether the liability insurance would cover WVRA members only at sanctioned WVRA events or all events. He further agreed that publishing events in the newsletter may help to make them "official."*

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

July

**TBD** – Beverly Heritage Days

Note – if you have any events you would like listed, please let me know.

## NEW NEWS

Tim Glaser, our elected Webmaster, notified the Executive Board, that the outside funding he has used to pay for costs associated with our website, may not be available to him this year.

As a result, the Executive Board held an electronic vote and authorized by a vote of 6 yeses and one no response, to authorize the Treasurer to reimburse Tim for the cost of renewing the website, up to the amount of \$200.

## OLD NEWS REPRINTED FOR BENEFIT OF MEMBERS

### STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR

I am not speaking for the Executive Board or the entire membership of the WVRA. And I am not pointing a finger of blame at any other member of the Board or

membership. This is just a statement of where I think things stand at this point. Here are the issues.

**INSURANCE** – no further action has been undertaken. You can read the summary below. This summary has been published in the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch* for months now.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Usually, I begin to place reminders about membership in the NOVEMBER issue of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch*. I have not done so this year because the questions about insurance and the possible increase in dues have not been voted on.

**OFFICERS** – Additionally, I have usually placed the reminders about election of officers in the *Dispatch* by now. But, with the other questions still undecided, I have not put that reminder in the newsletter.

- The Editor (reprinted from December issue)

## INSURANCE???

*Editor's Note: There is nothing new to report this month on this subject. However, I am reprinting my summary of the situation that was printed in the September issue of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch, so that members have the latest information when we do take further action.*

**After a** motion was made at the July 20 meeting to not renew the WVRA liability insurance for 2025, the Association members present voted to table that motion until a little research could be completed. The dozen or so members present did not feel that such an important question should be decided without getting input from other members of the WVRA. As a result, the newsletter editor was tasked with sending a brief questionnaire to the membership to get their opinions. **THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WAS NOT A BINDING VOTE.**

The questionnaire was emailed FOUR times to members with email addresses in July, August and September.. It was sent through US Mail to the two members without email addresses and to the one member who pays to have the newsletter mailed through US Mail.

As of September 7, only 19 of 45 members had replied. That is less than one-half. Of the 19 who replied, 9 stated they have insurance through another organization and 9 stated they did not have insurance through another

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
January, 2025 – Edition CLXXIII

reenacting organization. One member was unsure. Of the 19 who replied, 10 voted to CONTINUE purchasing liability insurance for the WVRA. Six members voted to discontinue the insurance and 3 replied neither yes or no.

The comments I received were reflective of what had already been expressed at the annual meeting this spring and the meeting at Beverly in July. A quick synopsis would include:

- This is the only insurance available to me
- I have insurance through other reenacting organizations
- I don't want the insurance, I believe I would be covered by my personal homeowners
- The WVRA can't afford the insurance

Note: After business was conducted at the July 20 meeting, there was an informal conversation among a few members as to whether the insurance question was subject to the Full Ballot Procedure. Although it does not fall under the issues listed in Article 5, Section 5 of the Bylaws, which lists specific issues that must be submitted for the Full Ballot Procedure, I would propose that if falls under the following section of Article 5.

**Section 4~** Important group decisions of the WVRA will be made in a way that lets every member participate in the decision, whether they are able to be present at General Meetings or not. This process is called Full Ballot Procedure in the WVRA, and operates as follows:

A...The issue is presented in full to all members present at any General Meeting. Discussion is permitted and encouraged, but no vote is taken.  
B...A report of the issue presented, discussion heard at the meeting, and any written member comment for or against the issue is published in the next WVRA newsletter along with a blank absentee ballot.

C...Absentee ballots are returned to the Secretary by all who cannot be present at the next meeting. Absentee ballots may also be completed by the Secretary upon verbal/or email instructions from a member.

D...At the next meeting the issue is put to vote of all members present. Absentee ballots are counted in to yield the final result.

- C. L. Critchfield (reprinted from September issue)

## Secretary/Treasurers Report

For the period October 1-31, 2024

Balance	\$ 1,268.34
Deposits	
None	\$ 0.00
Debits	
Mailing and coping	\$ 20.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,248.34

All questions should be directed to the Treasurer/ Secretary

As reported by Rick Byrd, Treasurer/Secretary WVRA

## Upcoming Events

For the complete list, see above. The following is any additional information submitted to the editor for the events listed above.

Clarksburg History Museum Civil War tours are scheduled to resume in April. Members interested in participating in the tours can contact Art and Pam Dodd or myself. (Dec.)

## Event Reviews

I did not receive any information on Jackson's Mill, Moorefield or Droop Mountain. I did find a video of Droop Mountain on YouTube. It appears there was only Confederate States of America troops and no United States troops present.

## Other Features

### Joanne Dempsey Glaser

Joanne Glaser, wife of Webmaster Tim Glaser, and former member of the WVRA, passed away on January 4. As of this day, Jan. 10, I have no further information and have not seen an obituary. Rev. Glaser was active with the Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society activities for many years before moving to North Carolina. If you need contact information for Tim Glaser, please let me know. [Ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:Ccritch608@yahoo.com).

Extract from the Daily State Sentinel,  
Indianapolis, Ind., Thursday Morning,  
December 12, 1861

### *Our Army Correspondence— From Western Virginia Huttonsville, Va., Dec. 1, 1861*

(From a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, upon the regiment's withdrawal from the Cheat Mountain region)  
"Editor Sentinel:

...War is a ruinous thing to a country, as is instanced in this State. The secesh army took nearly everything the

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

January, 2025 – Edition CLXXIII

inhabitants had, while on their retreat, and of necessity, our people have taken much of what was left. It is true, however, that we paid for everything at high figures yet the people cannot live on money alone, and there is nothing here for them to buy, consequently I fear that many will, of necessity, suffer for want of food. If this suffering could be confined to those who are responsible for this unnatural war, it would not be so bad, but as it is, the innocent must suffer with the guilty. Hoping this will reach you in safety, I am yours, W.”

- Contributed by Hunter Lesser

## Camp Allegheny: A Haunting Anniversary Visit

By Hunter Lesser

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 dawned snowy, cold and clear, perfect for an anniversary trip to the Battle of Camp Allegheny. Fittingly, the battle was fought on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> in 1861. Tracing the old Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike (U.S. Rt. 250) over snowy Cheat Mountain, I pulled off in the valley below and joined up with Allen Harmon, a Civil War fanatic who never misses a chance to visit the high altitude gem on Allegheny Mountain. It was good to have company, as the old pike leading to Camp Allegheny was covered with snow and ice. However we reached the battlefield without mishap.

Back in December 1861, newly minted Union General Robert Milroy was itching for a fight. Deserters promised Milroy that the Confederates at Camp Allegheny were badly demoralized. A break in the weather also urged him on. Licking his chops, Milroy patched together about 1,900 Union volunteers and launched a two-pronged assault. He was so confident of success that Union artillerymen marched without cannons, expecting to work the Rebel guns!

The battle opened at dawn. Colonel Ed Johnson, with 1,200 Confederates on the mountaintop, drove back Milroy's assault on his right flank by midmorning, leading charges in his nightclothes with a wooden war club. Milroy's column on the Confederate left flank arrived late, allowing Col. Johnson to collect his force there and drive back the intruders by midafternoon. By all accounts, the battle on this mountaintop was one of the hardest of the war to date.



A lone Confederate sentry (Allen Harmon) stands guard at the site of Camp Allegheny on the anniversary of the battle, Dec. 13, 2042.

Although badly outnumbered, the Confederate Army of the Northwest earned a rare victory. Their leader, the hard charging, club swinging Ed Johnson, became an instant folk hero. Johnson gained a general's star and a nickname—"Allegheny." His wooden war club ended up on display in Richmond. On December 13, 2024, our arrival on the battlefield did not disappoint. A blanket of snow and a cold, biting wind almost matched the conditions of 1861. We walked the Confederate trenches, gazed at spectacular views, and explored the remains of army huts. Bracing against the cold, we marveled how soldiers spent the entire winter on that frigid, windswept summit, many of them in tents!

We followed fox tracks in the snow, just like Confederate soldiers hunting the corpses of their fallen foe. We found none, but the sweeping vistas, well-preserved features and solitude give this isolated place an eerie feel, one that National Park Service officials have compared to Montana's Little Bighorn Battlefield. We never saw or heard another vehicle all afternoon.

You can easily step back in time at Camp Allegheny. Some say this place is haunted. I'm not a true believer in ghosts, but it's not hard to imagine Ed Johnson charging up the mountainside with his war club, or to spy a sentinel pacing his lonely beat as you walk this haunting, windswept battlefield.



# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
January, 2025 – Edition CLXXIII

Virginia. The Chair is carefully bound with the magical bungee chord to prevent it from wreaking havoc.

## THE CHAIR

### *Ownership is passed on!* Woe to its new owner

Yes it is true. The infamous Chair from Hades has a new owner. This is the chair that has baffled, bedeviled and even haunted dozens of reenactors. This is the chair that has caused many a strong man to run in terror from its cursed puzzlement. I have witnessed the chair cause a young woman to swear like a mule-driving teamster. Left behind at Rowlesburg one spring day by its owner Jim Barnes, he arrived at his home in Morgantown only to find the Chair on the front porch. This piece of possessed furniture has been known to mysteriously vibrate for reasons unknown. And alas, as a few have discovered the Chair has bitten a few unsuspecting reenactors and collapsed without warning. Jim has turned the chair over to Cam Mallow, who is now charged with keeping the Chair under control until the next campfire at the next reenactor when the full range of its powers, coupled with demon alcohol, will be turned loose once again.



Jim Barnes places the infamous Chair from Hades into the hands of the unsuspecting Cam Mallow of the 7<sup>th</sup> West

## They Said It (or didn't)

Quotes, misquotes and fabrications attributed to the famous, nearly famous, not famous and infamous.



**"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet just because there's a photo with, a quote next to it."**

- Abraham Lincoln, February 30, 1866  
Google shareholders meeting

The recent passing of President Jimmy Carter brings to mind a story I heard long ago, from a fellow reenactor. A story about the President that has connections to the Civil War. Whether it is true or not, I have never been able to verify. Nor have I tried that hard. The story goes, that Carter was campaigning for president in 1976, through the state of Ohio. His itinerary was put together quickly, leaving little time at some stops, to prepare a program. At one Ohio town, the name of which was not known by the story teller, the local community frantically put together a brief program to welcome Carter. The local high school band director was tasked with coming up with a short musical welcome of some sort. Looking through his options, the director wanted something different from the songs that were being used along the campaign trail, including the over-used Georgia On My Mind. The harried band director came across Marching Through Georgia in some catalogue of music and pulled it out. As the song was played by the band, Carter, all too familiar with the song and its poor relationship to 1970's Georgia, simply acted as any good political candidate would and smiled as the tune was belted out by the band.

- From the Editor's memory

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

January, 2025 – Edition CLXXIII

*"It takes an immense amount of study to learn well the art of killing people, without getting killed yourself. And that is the great secret of war, to kill & cripple the enemy to the greatest degree with the least possible damage to those under your command.*

- Lt. Col. Carter Van Vleck, 78<sup>th</sup> Ill.

*"At the bottom the coming change simply meant that the infinite ferment of the industrial revolution was about to work its way with a tremendously energetic and restless people who had a virgin continent to exploit. One difficulty was that two very different societies had developed in American, one in the North and the other in the South, which would adjust themselves to the industrial age in very different ways. Another difficulty was that the difference between these two societies were most infernally complicated by the existence in the South of the institution of chattel slavery. Without slavery, the problems between the sections could probably have been worked out by the ordinary give-and-take of politics; with slavery, they became insoluble."*

- Bruce Catton

## For Sale

From Bryan Cokeley

With regret, I am resigned to getting out of the hobby. 😞 I just don't seem to have the impetus to get to events with Hampton having left the state. He was in Texas; he now lives in Richmond. (Apparently, he took to heart those calls of "On to Richmond!") He turns 30 in May. He was 10 when we went to our first School of the Soldier. The passage of time. Maybe we all added 5 years this past year. It seems wasteful for me to sit on all of this reenactment gear. I will keep my musket. I can make some young person a great deal on everything else – **a whole kit to get started in the hobby. If you know of someone interested, please let me know.**

Miss everyone! Best,  
Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia)

New Civil War History of Harrison County  
*A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia  
1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War  
1856-65. By Pete Taylor*

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for

that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.  
July 2022

### Rifles

Here is the info on the rifles: Thanks so much for your help. If you need anything else - just let me know.. 03A3 Springfield \$975.00 Smith Corona Model 30-06

1903 30-06 \$1800.00 Double Heat Treated Receiver Serial # 822355 Excellent Condition.

For Further information, please contact: Steve Manos at 304-753-9306 or email at dmanos@wvva.net

Thank you!

Dottie Manos

February 2024

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: This was sent to me by a former WVRA member. I am printing it as it was sent to me. I do not know the seller.)**

### Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)

Beverly Heritage Center -

[www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

[www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/](http://www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/)

Link to Clarksburg History Museum

<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

Battle of Gettysburg Podcast -

Addressing Gettysburg podcast -

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -

[www.ShenandoahAtWar.org](http://www.ShenandoahAtWar.org)

## 2024 WVRA Officers

**Art Dodds - President**

**John Arnold - Vice President**

**Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer**

**Pam Dodds - (TASAS) Unit Representative**

**Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)**

**Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)**

**Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)**

**Webmaster - Tim Glaser**

**Editor - Chuck Critchfield**

**Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.**

### Unit Field Officers

**(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)**

**ATTENTION** - Please do not send any correspondence to the former PO Box in Buckhannon. Membership information can be sent to me. Remember you must be

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

January, 2025 – Edition CLXXIII

a member of record to qualify for membership benefits. To be covered under the liability insurance policy purchased by the WVRA, you must be a member. Karl Mulac is the administrator of the WVRA-TASAS page. I continue to use the WVRA-TASAS page to post announcements as it has been the page getting the most use.

As newsletter editor, I encourage submissions from members or readers, that are related to American history. I retain the right as editor to make a final decision on the content of this publication. Abusive or political submissions will not be published.

## Editor's Corner

*The Editor's chance to speak*

**THANKS** to Hunter Lesser for his excellent contributions to this issue of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch*. And his continuing series on visiting Civil War sites in West Virginia on the anniversary dates of the battle or other significant event. Rick Byrd will issue a Treasurers Report once his computer is back up and running.

**ADDRESS** – The WVRA has a new official address. The new address is WVRA, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV, 26253. However, any correspondence about dues, membership, newsletter, etc., should be sent to me. If any mail comes to the Beverly PO Box, the Beverly Heritage folks will contact me. My address has changed to 193 Eastgate Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508.

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW** who is a member of the WVRA and who is not, please ask Rick Byrd or myself. I usually publish the membership list in the newsletter for a few months for all to see. But some members are uncomfortable with names, email addresses, phone numbers etc., being published. So I just list names.

**ANY UNIT REP** wishing to have the contact information about their individual unit, please let me know. Any Association officer wishing to have the WVRA contact list for the purpose of reaching out the members for Association business, please let me know.

**PERSONAL** – I called Kevin Skaggs in December. The former WVRA member has finally reached retirement. He says he is doing well, although somewhat limited by the COPD that knocked him

out of reenacting in the past few years. Former member Mark Tennant was hospitalized a few days for a blood clot in his lungs. As of December, he was home and has partially recovered. I have no updates on Bill Donegan. He was recovering last I heard.

**HAVE AN OPINION** you would like to express? Send it to me.

**HAVE A STORY** about the THE CHAIR that you would like to tell? Send it to me.

## Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

December, 2024 - Edition CLXXIII

This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$15 per year fee. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA.

WVRA website - [wvra.org](http://wvra.org)  
Chuck Critchfield - Editor  
193 Eastgate Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
[ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com)

*"We tend to create stories that appeal to us. Then we impose those stories on the past."*

- A Wallace Collection video produced on the 500th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt -found on You Tube

*"History is dangerous. It goes after our myths and our identities."*

- Brig. Gen. (ret) Ty Seidule after receiving death threats for writing about history

*"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."*

- Robert Penn Warren

*All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.*

- Paraphrased from several historians

*"The People made their recollection fit in with their suffering"*

-Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War

*"History and memory aren't the same thing."*

- Me