

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2014 – Edition 7 – November ,2014

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Executive Board Meeting** – Friday, November 7, 6:30 in Clarksburg area.
- **USV Annual Meeting** - January 10 at Gettysburg
- **Bentonville 150th** - March 20-22
- **Appomattox 150th** - April
- **Grand Review 150th** - May 17<sup>th</sup>; permits obtained and it's official
- **Connellsville?** – May 29
- **Grafton?** – May 30
- **Rich Mountain** - July
- **Droop Mountain** October

### Attention WVRA Members

WRVA members, keep in mind that we voted to change the reenacting year from March 1-Feb 28 to a calendar year. What that means to all of us, is...this current reenacting year is drawing to a close. As a result we need nominations for WVRA officers, military officers and renewal of dues. I will send the membership form along with this issue. Please complete the form and send along with your dues so that we have accurate update to date information. Especially your contact information.

By reading the minutes below, you can see that WVRA officers have been nominated to fill many of the executive board openings already (I am not sure if all have agreed to the nominations yet). Thank you to those members who have agreed to serve as officers. We will need military officer nominations also.

Current Executive Board members are reminded of the Executive Board meeting, Friday, November 7, 6:30 pm. Tentative location is Ryan's Steakhouse on Bridgeport Hill.

## Minutes September Meeting

WEST VIRGINIA REENACTORS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 by President Mark Tennant. There were 8 in attendance. By acclamation the group dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The treasurer reported there was approximately \$3200 in the checking account. The main expense being \$1014.00 for T-Shirts.

The group voted to sponsor the reenactments at Rich Mountain and Droop in 2015. Tim and Phyllis will work with Rich Mountain and Mark will work with Droop. A date needs to be set for the Rich Mountain event. Mark will fill out the grant application and contact the band for Droop. Other events were discussed. We do still have some powder and lots of T-Shirts left...Several people will be attending Cedar Creek. Corricks Ford has been cancelled.

Officers	nominated	for	next	year:
Mark	Tennant	-	President	
Tim	Glaser	-	Treasurer	
Bill	Brisendine	-	Vice	President
Chuck	Critchfield	-	Newsletter	
Peter	Baxter	-	Website	
Chris	Johnson	-	Confederate	Rep
Chuck	Critchfield	-	Union	Rep (Mr. Critchfield declined this nomination)
Dianne	Tennant	-	Trans	Allegheny
A	secretary	-	is	needed.

The 2nd Va (Stonewall Jackson Reenacting group) inquired about becoming a part of the WVRA. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Glaser Temp Secretary

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**CEDAR CREEK PICTURES AND  
REVIEWS COMING IN NEXT  
ISSUE OF THE DISPATCH!!**

## New Market Heights 150th

Just returned last night from 150th New Market Heights. A really nice event! Well organized, well done scenarios, and well attended! This time there were plenty of Yankees to 'dispatch' and the Fort Harrison and New Market Heights fortifications were impressive! Let me just say that I'm glad I did not sleep in the Breastworks, cause those that did had to do some spade work to place firing steps and head log placement as well as abatis placement. I can attest that those earthworks were formidable and quite difficult to get over.

There was a 'company' of USCT (about 50), but they were to 'my right' and I did not get to engage them. The battlefield was county land between and very close to Glendale and Malvern Hill, I was able to one day (friday), to visit Malvern Hill, Deep Bottom, and Fort Brady. Our camp in the woods was on the actual site of The Texas Brigade's camp at Malvern Hill! The 26th NC regiment was out in force and they had a nice Fife and Drum unit which made marching and evenings more enjoyable. I was encamped with some members of the 47th Virginia, The Stafford Guards, and our small group formed up with the 12th Virginia, Co. C.

I have offers to 'fall-in' with the 17th, 36th, 44th, and 47th Virginia regiments. All nice groups. I have been with the 17th and 47th before and know a few in the 44th as well as the 12th & 13th Va. I plan to be in contact with Chuck and the 1st West Virginia and will probably do Federal with the 1st West

Virginia on Sunday for the Cedar Creek reenactment, If so allowed.

*"Sic Semper Tyrannis"*

*Your obedient servant,*

*Pvt. Chris "CW" Johnson*

*25th Va. Inf'y Reg't*

*Co. 'B'*

## Book Review

*Gettysburg*

*The Last Invasion*

Allen C. Guelzo

This is a book I got for making a donation to Civil War Trust. It was not a book I was seeking nor expecting much from. But Gettysburg is and will be one of the most interesting of battles to me and it is a battlefield, over which I have walked several times, so I am familiar with the ground. So I figured this would be another book on the battle, a pleasant read on the beach this summer during vacation. After all, if you have Coddington's "The Gettysburg Campaign," you have read the "bible" of Gettysburg.

Guelzo, however, interprets the facts to arrive at conclusions that are a bit different than the conventional history. At least they were different to me. These different interpretations made this book hard to put down. For instance he writes that, "Comparatively few people understood the principal figure in making the Gettysburg battle happen in the way it did was a man who wasn't even there for most of the three days, and that was John Reynolds." The author argues that Reynolds disagreed with George Meade's "defensive shrinking back" to the Pipe Creek line and with the "connivance of Oliver Otis Howard, pushed ahead and sprang Lee's trap prematurely,

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something which was made all the easier by the absence of Stuart and a cavalry screen. It cannot be repeated too often: Lee did not lack for intelligence – for strategic information about the location, strength, and movement of the enemy; what he lacked was screening – tactical concealment of his own movements from observation and contact by the enemy. The result for Lee was that, rather than having the luxury of concentrating all three of his infantry corps between Cashtown and Gettysburg, two of those corps stumbled into contact with Reynolds' advance detachments on July 1<sup>st</sup>." As a result, Hill's Corps and Ewell's corps wasted men and momentum on uncoordinated attacks until Lee arrive and coordinated the drive that smashed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Corps.

He made another interesting observation that, to me as reenactor, trying to move bodies of troops through the landscape, seemed very relevant. He wrote that when southerners entered Pennsylvania they noticed "endless interweaving of miles and miles of wooden fences." But they may not have reflected on the reason or result of this landscape. "The state had mandated the gradual emancipation of its slaves in 1780, which drove downward the size of farmholdings that could be managed by a single owner or tenant. Lee's soldiers also missed the significance of the multitude of 'substantial fences' needed to enclose those small free-soil farms; these fences would play a role of their own in defeating slaveholding's bid for independence on a hot July afternoon not much more than a week away."

These are but samples that stood out to me, as I read the book. He presents other interesting interpretations of the battle and Civil War combat. Guezlo still narrated the

battle with sufficient detail for the most ardent Gettysburgphiles.

I would recommend the book as very interesting and entertaining.

-- The Editor

## Reproduction Muskets Manufactured in India

Steve Blancard  
Ordnance Sergeant  
3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, ANV

*Beginning in 2014, reproduction muskets manufactured in India will be prohibited from taking the field or being fired at any 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, ANV sanctioned event.*

The vast majority of Civil War reenactors use muskets made in Italy by companies such as Armisport, Euroarms or Pedersoli. They vary in quality from good to excellent. There are some reproduction muskets made by Miroku in Japan that are excellent, but are out of production now. However, there are a small number of muskets that are manufactured in India that have been infiltrating our ranks in the last few years. These muskets are of inferior quality compared to their Italian, Japanese and original counterparts. These are the subject of this discussion.

These Indian made muskets are somewhat hand-made with parts that are not necessarily interchangeable and sometimes crude in appearance. The metal work is often polished mirror bright, the stocks are made of teak wood and are often over sized and bulky looking. But these are primarily cosmetic issues. As they say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. But musket appearance is not the most significant concern of 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment leadership – safety is. We expect all members of the regiment to do provide an accurate and authentic impression of a Confederate soldier, honoring our forefathers

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deserves nothing less. But we balance our impression with the requirements of today's modern world. We want each and every one of you to have a fun and safe experience at every event we participate in.

There are ANV and 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Standard Operating Procedures and Safety regulations we are obligated to follow for the good of the hobby and the safety of all who participate. This is where the Indian made muskets have come to the attention of both the ANV and Regimental leadership. In recent years there have been a number of incidents where Indian made musket barrels have burst while firing, with both live and blank ammunition. An examination of these barrels has shown that they are not made of the same quality barrel steel as the Italian, Japanese or original musket barrels. The Indian made barrels are often made of steel tubing. In at least some cases, barrels exhibit a seam along their length where they have been welded together.

Civil War era Indian made muskets include the following models: Model 1842 Springfield or Harpers Ferry smoothbore, Model 1842 Palmetto variant with brass bands, Pattern 1853 Enfield and the 1854 Lorenz. There are many earlier style flintlock models as well, so this is not a complete list, but includes muskets appropriate for our time period.

So you may be wondering who sells these muskets. There are at least a few companies selling these online and sometimes you might see them being sold at events through Sutlers, so be aware when you or a new member may be looking to purchase a Civil War musket.

## Civil War Related Organizations

Civil War Trust - [civilwar.org](http://civilwar.org)

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

Mason-Dixon Civil War Roundtable

(Morgantown)

<http://wvmasondixoncwrt.org/>

## WVRA Officers 2014

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 (October)

This is my chance to ramble on and offer my viewpoints, which are not necessarily anyone else's viewpoints, including the WVRA.

I have an email from **Garth Lindley** who has accepted a new job.

"I wanted to let you know that I accepted the Director of Development for the Arboretum and Public Garden's GATEways Project at the University of California, Davis. Morgantown and WVU will always be home, but my family and I look forward to this wonderful opportunity and adventure. So it is going to be a while before I am doing reenacting again."

We wish Garth and his family the best of luck and we will miss him in the 1<sup>st</sup>, West Virginia.

Here is my monthly plea for updated email addresses. If you are seeing this on the website, it's probably because we do not have an updated email address for you. This is being emailed to less than 35 addresses. Also my monthly reminder that I have NOTHING to do with either FACEBOOK page associated with the WVRA. I have been known to post on the WVRA-Trans Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society, but that's it. I do not control anything with either page.

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For many years, in our Saturday night fireside chats, invariably the topic of movies and television shows arises – usually movies and shows that related to reenacting or history. Although Monty Python and *Quest For Fire* always seem to creep into the conversation. I am sure many have heard of my reminisces about a television show from 1961, the first year of the Civil War Centennial. I believed the name of the show to be the “*The Canfields.*” A show about a family divided by the Civil War, one son supporting the Confederacy and one son supporting the Union. One or two of my pards had a vague remembrance of such a show. By the way, you have to be of a certain advanced age to have lived in 1961. Anyway, I finally tracked down the show on You Tube (where else?). The show was called “*The Americans,*” and it was about the Canfield family. So my memory was not totally off, there was a Canfield involved. I watched a bit of the episode, obviously filmed on a backlot in Southern California, which does not resemble Virginia – but that is the reenactor in me coming out. I also recall, being too young to watch the show, because it was near my bedtime. However, at long last the mystery is solved.

We as a group have voted overwhelmingly once again to sponsor Rich Mountain and Droop. At Rich we have a lot of help from the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation folks. But at Droop, we do a lot of work ourselves with help from Mike Smith at Droop. After the last Droop (2013) I heard some of the members who worked so hard to make Droop successful, say to me, that they would not do Droop again unless more members step up to help. Don’t hesitate to help Mark Tennant and whoever else has volunteered to organize the event.

Did anyone go to BULLTOWN? I’d be interested in hearing how the living history demonstrations went.

Included in this November edition is a thank you note from the Pierpont Statue Committee for the WVRA’s \$100 donation towards the campaign to build a statue in memory of the “Father of West Virginia,” Francis H. Pierpont.

Thanks to **John Ziolkowski** for sending some old Droop pictures. If I could only figure out how to get them into this publication.....

Thanks to **Joanne Glaser** for taking minutes at the September meeting. Thanks to **Peter Baxter** for his help.

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

WVRA website - [wvra.org](http://wvra.org)

Facebook - WVRA-Trans Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

Chuck Critchfield – interim editor

[Ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:Ccritch608@yahoo.com)

## TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Please complete a membership form  
so we have updated contact  
information.



October 16, 2014

WV Reenactors Association  
c/o Charles Critchfield, Treasurer  
608 Skyview Drive  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

WV Reenactors Association:

On behalf of the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation and the Pierpont Statue Committee we would like to thank you for the generous contribution in the amount of \$100 (check #1193 dated May 20, 2014) towards the campaign to build a statue in memory of the "Father of West Virginia," Francis H. Pierpont.

Without your support, the undertaking to build this important public memorial of Pierpont would not be possible.

For income taxation purposes, this letter acknowledges your contribution. The Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3).

Sincerely,

Jeremy Morris

Jeremy Morris, Executive Director  
Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation  
Pierpont Statue Committee Member

*\* No goods or services were provided by the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation for this contribution.*

*IMAGE: ARTIST'S RENDERING UNVEILED ON JUNE 20, 2013*

Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation \* PO Box 350, Wheeling, WV 26003 \* TIN#55-0735567

# West Virginia Reenactors Association

PO Box 2133, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Mail completed form and payment to:  
 WVRA Treasurer Chuck Critchfield  
 608 Skyview Drive  
 Clarksburg, WV 26301

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

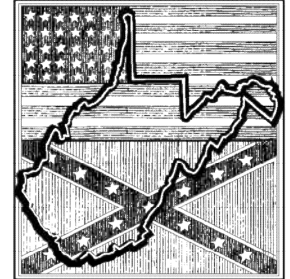
Street

City, State, Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell, Work (optional)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Medical/Special Conditions:

**UNIT MEMBERSHIP:** (Which unit of the WVRA do you want to join? Check one...)

WVRA  
(General)

TASAS  
(Civilian)

1st W.Va. Inf.  
(Federal)

25th Va. Inf.  
(Confederate)

Artillery  
(Dual Impression)

Cavalry

Not Sure  
(Undecided)

### BACKGROUND & INTERESTS

Reenacting Experience?

Other Reenacting Groups?

Particular Interests?

Special Skills?

### PARTICIPATING FAMILY

(please see notes 2 & 4)

Name

Age

Relation

### NOTES and DETAILS:

- DUES:** Dues are \$15 per year per person. Family dues are \$25 per year. There is an additional cost of \$15 per year if you must have a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you. (Email version of same newsletter is included in membership.) For group insurance purposes, all dues must be paid by or before March 1st. The reenacting year is from March 1st to February 28th of the following year, and membership files must be updated each year.
- MINORS:** Any member under the age of 18 needs the signature of an adult parent or guardian to join. Those under 16 will not be allowed to carry firearms, and members under 14 may not participate in reenactment battles. In addition, rules at specific reenacting events may restrict or deny participation by reason of age, and the WVRA will comply with event rules.
- MEETINGS:** Regular meetings are held, usually on the first Saturday of each month. During the reenacting year, meetings may be held at the various reenactments. Ask for meetings times and places when you join or check for info on the website ([www.wvra.org](http://www.wvra.org)).
- FAMILIES:** Each "soldier" should have their own membership, dues, and form on file. Individual Civilian Reenactors should also have their own complete membership. To encourage family participation, the special Family Membership dues rate (above) can be used to save cost. All family members are welcome to participate informally at WVRA events without paying individual dues. Persons who do not pay dues will naturally have no voice or vote in Association matters, however.
- DIRECTORY:** Member images and photos may be used for the newsletter, website, and WVRA public relations releases. However, detailed information like addresses and phone numbers will ONLY be listed in the directory circulated to other members. Such information will never be used in press releases or put on the website. If you still have privacy concerns and don't want your information used in any form at all, you must send a simple written request to that effect to the newsletter editor, secretary, and webmaster before April 1st of each year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Member Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Adult Parent or Guardian