

The Official Newsletter of The WVRA

# TRANS-ALLEGHENY



# DISPATCH



**MARCH 2010 EDITION**

**Official Newsletter of The West Virginia Re-enactors Association**

**The Good Times.....REMEMBER WHEN.....**

*Please pay your dues. It is extremely important to pay your dues on time. They are what keeps the WVRA established and the Dispatch running. So please pay your dues. And remember to recruit.*



### **Calendar of Events**

\*\*\*\*\*

WVRA Meeting March 6  
3:00 Weston Western Steer Steakhouse

\*\*\*\*\*  
April 10 Civil War Ball Clarksburg

\*\*\*\*\*  
WVRA April 10 Meeting Clarksburg during intermission at the Civil War Ball downstairs meeting room

SEE INSIDE REPORT FOR MORE FUTURE EVENTS

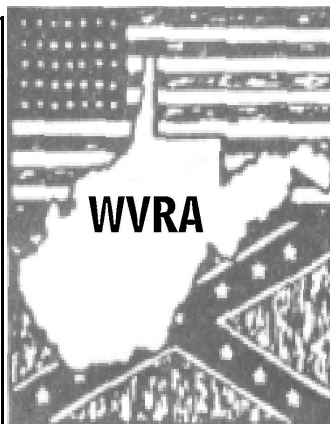
### **WVRA Reminders...Dues....Newsletter Deadlines**

Membership Directory will be provided in April or May every year to the WVRA membership only. If you do not wish to be included in the directory please contact your Secretary and Newsletter Editor of the WVRA BEFORE April 1. Directory WILL NOT be posted on the web

Articles, pictures, or information to be included in the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch MUST be emailed by MAR 15 to rebeld4h@yahoo.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Or mailed by MAR 10 to:  
Jack & Tonya Daft  
479 Plum Run Road  
Mannington WV 26582



**WVRA DUES NEED TO BE PAID BY MARCH EVERY YEAR**

Membership dues is \$15 per year, FAMILY dues are \$25.

mail to : TREASURER

**Porter Stiles  
1258 Bell Run Road**

**Check Out Our NEW Web Site at:  
www.wvra.org**

## WVRA Secretary Minutes for February

by

*stand in secretary Tonya Daft*

The rescheduled meeting of the WVRA was held February 12 at 6:00 at the Western Steer Steakhouse in Weston. Meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Tennant. Minutes from the last WVRA meeting were in the newsletter so reading of the minutes were so moved and accepted by Chuck Critchfield and 2nd by Porter Stiles. Treasurer Porter Stiles proceeded with treasurer report the balance was \$1372.45 there is no outstanding bills and nothing at that time has come in. Report accepted by Chuck second by Tonya Daft. Tim Glaser brought up the web site payment and Porter stated that it was automatic payment and that it had not come out of the account yet. Tonya explained that Lisa Johnson and Donnie Stewart were working on the web site and had most of it finished and wanted to show everyone but the weather has kept them at bay. Mark pointed out that the web master was not an executive officer so they did not have to be voted on. So Donnie Stewart and Lisa Johnson are the new web masters. Tonya suggested everyone check out the site and give feed back. [www.wvra.org](http://www.wvra.org)

Discussion was provided on the change of treasurer and where the mail should go for the organization. Due to the tax and other important non-profit group information needing to have the same address as in the past everyone saw a problem with changing addresses every time someone was elected for office. Retired postmaster Lynne Marks stated that we could have the mail forward to the treasurer or who ever we want and renew it every year. It was discussed and decided that the mail should go to the treasurer who would email any other info to the newsletter editor and other officers as it is received. Tonya moved that we forward the WVRA mail to the treasurer and Tag Ireland seconded. The motion passed.

Individual units. Nominated unit officers for the slate see enclosed list for details. TASAS discussed working on a quilt for Rich Mountain maybe a ladies sewing tea Diane Tennant will let us know some dates. Spring Gala Dance is April 10 Tonya doing food, Diane paper items, tablecloths and flowers. See if Phyllis can do the dance cards. Working on items for Droop Mountain individual gifts for the troops. Ideas will be in next newsletter. Sylvia Hayhurst and Diane Tennant were contacted about possible fashion shows for the Marion County Historical Society, Beverly, and Adaland Phillippi. The Marion County Historical Society also wants help with Peirpont day, Getting to Know You History Event and Civil War Ball. Tonya still has WVRA displays that can be used at these events. They would also like to meet with us to discuss more Civil war events in the future. It was decided that those meetings needed to be after 5:00 in the evenings or by 10:00 on Saturdays. All other units turned in their list of nominated offices see list enclosed.

Other business discussion was made that powder had went up to \$19 a lb. Mark Tennant went over list of events and other members added more events that they were aware of, please see enclosed schedule.

Officers: Porter nominated Bill Brisendine as President, Tim Glaser seconded and everyone was in favor. Chuck moved nominations for this meeting be closed Porter seconded. List of officers enclosed.

Mark announced that Mike Phillips wife had a baby boy February 9 his name is Sawyer Jackson Phillips.

It was also announced that Mark Tennant was named State History Hero and would receive his award Feb 18 in Charleston. Abby Reynolds and AJ Hamler have two new books and some of the members are going together to buy them to save postage.

Chuck Critchfield stated that he had walked the Veterans Park area and he does not believe there is enough room for the Clarksburg events and to do everything that the sponsors want to do. A committee was formed to meet and check out the area and get with the sponsors Bill Snyder, Tag Ireland, Jack and Tonya Daft and Bill Brisendine. And possible Chuck if he is available and anyone else that is interested. Another suggested was to have it on Lowndes Hill.

Mark stated that the Pocohontas group were contacted and willing to help with some things the Droop Mountain Grant proposal is due May 1. Droop Mountain Committee Memembers are Mark Tennant, Porter Stiles, Tonya Daft and anyone else that wants to be on the committee.

Bill brought up that we need to send invites to other groups and invite them to our events. Tonya stated that she was trying but she did not have addresses, so if anyone has addresses or emails for other groups please contact her.

NEW Business: Chuck went over the USV meeting and the 150th Gettysburg event complete info enclosed.

Tonya pointed out that the by-laws stated that you could not hold two offices to the executive board and that was becoming a problem especially with unit reps. A motion for An amendment was made due to low participation that a member can hold more than one executive office in the WVRA but can only vote once. Porter moved Tim seconded motion passed. Treasurer Porter Stiles collected dues at the meeting and turned in new member info. Tonya Daft brought up that some members had suggested that maybe instead of the Christmas Dinner since everyone is busy and the weather is always bad that we have a spring party. Discussion provided and it was motioned that we have a covered dish picnic at the Beverly Heritage Days at Joanne Glasers Church. Porter so moved and Tag Ireland seconded

## The Spring Gala Civil War Ball

The days are counting down and I don't know about you but this household and all that enter are very excited about the Civil War Ball. The youth are working on dresses and trying on outfits and signing up for special recipes to bring. This fabulous event will be April 10 at the Christ Episcopal Church in Clarksburg. I am organizing the food. I asked Chuck to open the church around 4:45-5:00 so we could set up and then get dressed in time. Diane Tennant is getting the paper products and flowers. I hope Phyllis can do the dance cards if not then please let me know ASAP. And we would be greatly appreciative and blessed if anyone that can show up early and help out, would do so. The band can always use help carrying stuff up the steps and I know I will have plenty of youth to help me carry stuff but sometimes we need extra hands to get all the food organized and on the tables. And sometimes I need extra hands helping the youth to get dressed. Also the tables need decorated before we can put the food on them. The social hour is around 6:30 and the dance starts at 7:00. If you would and could sign up to help provide refreshments it would be greatly appreciated we always ask that everyone bring something and even if someone signed up for tea and other drinks we always need more drinks. Please no alcohol this is at a church so we need to obey their rules. And yes that means I will not be providing my blackberry cordial or apple pie. This is just a list of period food for ideas you can add your own if you wish. Just please make sure it is period. They did not have chocolate chips back then, they had chocolate but not in chip form. Also if you need a dress or uniform please let me know ASAP have several you can borrow. And do not wait until the Easter week to let me know because Jack and I will be on vacation and will not be back until the Ball so you will miss us. Please call or email before March 31 if you need outfits, have questions, or need help. We are also having several ladies sewing teas at my house to make outfits if anyone is interested please email me for the day and time. Also keep in mind that Lisa Johnson and Diane Tennant make outfits but they need to know ASAP or they will not have time to do them. Chuck also wants me to remind everyone to please make sure that you do not wear heel plates, as it will ruin the beautiful wooden floor, if you MUST wear your brogans please put duct tape over the heel plate. And try to wear dark shoes if you must wear something other than period and please no tennis shoes with flashing lights. Also please remember to park in the side parking lot, sort of behind the church, do not park across the street in the rather large parking area or they will tow you. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Also please remember we also ask for a \$5 per person donation cost to pay for the band. Which is really cheap for such a wonderful evening.

**FOOD IDEAS:** Tomato Sandwiches, Cucumber Sandwiches, Ham salad Sandwiches, Pepper Sandwiches, Sunshine Punch, Oatmeal Cookies, Gingersnaps, Lemon Cookies, Sugar Cookies, Rhubarb Sugar Cookies, Mini nut rolls, nut rolls, Gingerbread, Lemonade, Tea sweetened and unsweetened, Hot wassail, Egg Salad Sandwiches, Fruit Tray, Vegetable Tray, Pumpkin bread, Pumpkin Cookies, Snicker Doodles, Berry Tray, Molasses Cookies, Mini Danish, Shortbread Cookies, Banana Bread, Raisin Cookies, Chicken Salad Sandwich, Mussels, Walnut Cookies, Jackson Jumbles, Fruit or Pumpkin Rolls, Orange Cookies, Fruit filled Cookies, Other period cookies, Other period finger cakes, Pretzels, and pound cakes. We also need 1 can frozen concentrate of each of these items OJ, Pineapple juice, Lemonade if you cannot find the pineap-



For timely discussions about  
CW events, clothing, firearms,  
and yes, even personalities in  
the hobby,

Go To

[www.authenticcampaigner.com](http://www.authenticcampaigner.com)

Or [www.cwreenactors.com](http://www.cwreenactors.com)

The link <http://www.wvra.org/page12.html> will take you straight to the equipment page and links to several Sutlers to buy your stuff from. Come join us at our next event and we will outfit you so you can try it out.

Tim Glaser

The association has  
\$1,372.35 in the account  
at the end of the year. No  
checks have been  
written for November -  
January.... Porter Stiles

If anyone has an email address to submit news articles in their local or community newspaper, TV or radio about the WVRA, please email Tonya Daft at [rebeld4h@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeld4h@yahoo.com) or call at (304) 825-6103. We already have Marion Harrison, Mon, Lewis, Hardy, Taylor, Grant, Barbour, Upsher, and Pendleton County news contacts. Need other counties. Also thank you to these people that have volunteered to be local contacts for recruiting in their area. Jack and Tonya Daft, Bill Snyder, John Foudray, Neil Randolph, Bill Bresidene, Richard Byrd. And

**Hats-off, Kudos, Hurrah, and just an old-fashion down home from the HEART..... THANK YOU!!!!!!**

I would like to take a moment to thank those that volunteered to fill positions of the WVRA executive board and WVRA units. It is refreshing when someone really wants to help out and volunteers to do so for the betterment of the organization. The very first volunteers that I received were Lisa Johnson and Donnie Stewart for the WVRA web site as web masters. Of course they did not know that I was in the process of nominating them, but they came through with flying colors and within a few short weeks already had everything planned out and ready to go. Their enthusiasm was outstanding. I also had several people that volunteered for office but felt they were stretched a little thin and would only take the office if absolutely necessary and if no one else volunteered, and thank you for that. It is great to know that if help is needed you will be there. I want to thank everyone that has helped provide information when it was needed and has helped me keep everyone informed as to what is going on. It takes all of us working together to make our group the best it has ever been. Yes we still have a few bugs and problems that need worked out, mainly the newsletter and membership directory, but hopefully even that will be solved no later than April. Again thank you everyone for pulling together and working together to make our group successful in providing a vessel of historical legacies for others to understand, learn from and enjoy. ...Tonya Daft



## WVRA MEETING PLACE INFO:

Steer Steakhouse # 9  
100 Market Place Mall  
Weston, WV  
(304) 269-7666

**{REMINDER}.....Please send your Civil War related articles, pictures, recipes, ideas, favorite web sites, critiques on events, information on events, your unit history, your unit events, something fun as a group that you would like to see us do, helpful hints, old time stories and pictures, jokes, things for sale, anything that you would like to see in your newsletter, I try not to make things one sided but lately the only thing that I am receiving is things for the ladies and southern sympathizer. Which really does not bother me {giggle}, but I want to make sure I am fair to everyone. Your**

### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS BUY THEIR BOOKS

"Civil War Woodworking"  
by AJ Hamler

\*\*\*\*\*

"The Reporter Wore Petticoats"  
By  
Dr. Abigail Elizabeth Reynolds

## Congratulations Mark Tennant for receiving the award and honor as State History Hero.



### Clarksburg Event

There have been some questions raised about the 150th 2011 Clarksburg event. Some members that have walked the park feel that we do not have enough room to pull everything off that the sponsor would like to see done. A committee has been formed to walk the area and see if what they project is possible so far Bill Brisendine, Jack and Tonya Daft, Bill Snyder, and Tag Ireland are planning on meeting to go over the lay out in March if any one else is interested please contact Tonya Daft at rebeld4h@yahoo.com . We also need to know what day and/or time is best for everyone. We might even want to plan to do it before the March meeting. So the plans can be discussed at the meeting.

*Thank you for all your pictures, articles and help with the newsletter: Jack Daft, Richard Byrd, Carol Rowe, Abigail Reynolds, Chuck Critchfield, AJ Hamler, Lisa Johnson, Donnie Stewart, Bill and Drema Snyder and Phyllis Baxter*

**The Reporter Wore Petticoats ....By Dr. Abigail Elizabeth Reynolds**

**Published by Infinity Publishing, "The Reporter Wore Petticoats" is now available at:  
www.buybooksontheweb.com/Product.aspx?isbn=0-7414-5785-7**

**Amid the social and political constraints of the mid-nineteenth century, newspaper reporter Elizabeth Grace Fitzgerald shares her adventures throughout the eastern United States and Great Britain. Recounted with simplicity, tenderness, humor, and suspense, this fast-paced novel engages the reader in laughter, sympathy, and outrage.**

**Not another dull history book, this story of persons of high and low estate will fuel the reader's desire to know more about the events of the Abolitionist and Suffrage movements, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War.**

**Included is a Teacher/Student guide, which can be adapted for use in English, History, and Creative Writing classes.**

Abigail Elizabeth Reynolds has a history as fascinating as her heroine. She is an ordained minister, a mental health professional, a mischievous adventurer in her own right, and a loving presence in the lives of those who know her.

Refusing to accept life sitting down, she recovered from cardiac arrest and a diagnosis of brain death, achieved a PhD, and wrote her first novel, which encapsulates her indomitable spirit and love of history.

She brings to this book a reminder of the courage and strength needed by those who would bring about change in the status quo of any era.

**WVRA FAMILY TIDBITS**

Soon Jack and Tonya Daft will be known as Grand Maw and Paw Daft, Yes, Tasha is having a little 'Goober Pea' and it is due September 26 right in between mine and Tasha's birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Abigail Reynolds and A,J, Hamler both have very interesting books available. Congratulations to both of you! It is great to have two WVRA members in the literary world.

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael Phillips is the proud father of a bouncing baby boy (Feb 9) and it is hard to believe a Yankee would name his son Sawyer Jackson Phillips, but then again we knew you loved us Rebs all along. Congratulations Mike

\*\*\*\*\*

Tim and Joanne Glaser are now in Beverly and I think they are finally moved congratulations to you guys.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Jack Daft February 10, Joanne Glaser and Diane Tennant February 18

\*\*\*\*\*

Our new Web Masters are really getting-r-dun . The new web site is up and running they want your input. They also hope to launch a fan page and a blog. Great job Lisa Johnson and Donnie Stewart.

## MODERN DAY TELEGRAM LETTERS

**Tonya: Here are a few events I'd like some of the members to consider it will include the web site address where they can down load the registration or the e-mail whom to contact to register...**

**Richard Byrd**

Only the Spring Mountain Fest is Union wanted to ride the Federal train and camp at the Depot.

APRIL23-25 NEED UNION TROOPS ONLY Union Civil War Train Living History - Petersburg W.Va. Spring Mountain Festival at South Side Depot. (FIREWOOD - PORT-A-Pot- Water Provided) F-Troops Contact Richard Byrd firstwvcav@frontiernet.net event hosted by the 1st WV Cavalry. Sponsored by the Spring Mountain Festival. Either Infantry and/or Cavalry. Federals will be protecting Train Depot and riding train. Troops will fight from train's Gondola car and Passenger cars as well as area around depot as if there was an attacked by the local confederate rangers. Camping will be set up behind depot. Provided are Water, port-a-pot and Firewood. To register and request info e-mail: Richard Byrd with name of your UNION unit, names and number of soldiers and civilians. Train Rides are Saturday Only. MAY 21 "C 23 Battle of Lewisburg, Lewisburg WV Living History and Reenactment (2 -Street Battles) Confederates and Union are needed. UNION IS NEEDED BADLY

(<http://www.battleoflewisburg.org/index.htm>)

JUNE 11-13 Whitehall, Pa. Camp Geiger <http://www.campgeiger.org/> Needs both Union & Confederate Excellent battle ground, few hundred acres to re-enact on.

SEPTEMBER 10th -12 "C12th Hampshire Heritage Fest Battle Re-enactment /Living History Romney West Virginia For REGISTRATION & WAIVER Forms download (in PDF format) go to [http://www.hampshireheritagefest.com/Hampshire\\_Fest/Hampshire\\_Fest.HTML](http://www.hampshireheritagefest.com/Hampshire_Fest/Hampshire_Fest.HTML) . Civil War Re-enactment & Living History The Fort Mill Ridge Civil War Trenches are battle trenches . Federals will again have the federal camp at the fort Mill Ridge trench fort as in the past 2 years. The Confederate forces will be camping on the Sitar farm. There will be 2 battle reenactments, Saturday's battle (2 PM) the Confederates will be attacking the Federals defending the fort. Transportation to the fort will be provided to the Confederate Soldiers Only. Sundays battle (2 PM) will be on the Sitar farm the Federals will attack the Confederate camp. Transportation to the farm will be provided to the Federal soldiers Only.

There is NO FEE but you MUST Pre-Register. Provided at both locations will be Water ,Firewood & port-a-pots The Romney Fire Department is hosting the festival. There will be a candle-light tour Sat night at 7pm "C 8pm in the Union camp in the fort & Confederate camp on the Sitar Farm . Any Questions Contact Mrs. Evelyn Baker ( [wvbuffalo@Hotmail.com](mailto:wvbuffalo@Hotmail.com) ). She is the Civil

To all WVRA members

Please check out the New web site.

[wvra.org](http://wvra.org)

Please let me know if there is anything you want to add or anything I forgot..

I know I still need to update the meeting and events page but that will be completed in March when we vote on it, but I hope before.. Thanks for all your help in this matter.. Lisa Johnson & Donnie Stewart

~~~~~  
Must be the time of year or something, because my new book, "Civil War Woodworking," has also just come out. You can see it at my publisher's Web site:

<http://www.woodworkerslibrary.com/product.php?productid=18000&cat=0&page> plus it's also on Amazon.

(And it's cheaper on Amazon, too. )

Congratulations Abby!.....A.J.

~~~~~  
Hello and Greetings to one and all!

I am excited to announced the my first novel has now been published. It is currently available directly from the publisher. In approximately 6-8 weeks in will be available at Amazon and other retail outlets. Just follow the link on my web site to purchase your copy today. [www.drabbyreynolds.com](http://www.drabbyreynolds.com) Thanks to all who have supported and encouraged me in the process.

Now, go buy the book and enjoy the read!

Abby

### **The Reporter Wore Petticoats By Dr. Abigail Elizabeth Reynolds**

*If anyone has past secretary minutes of the WVRA please turn them in to one of the WVRA officers. These minutes should be passed on from past secretary to the new secretary every year.*

*Thanks a Million*

## DID YOU KNOW THIS?..... Black Southerners in Confederate Gray

Note: The writer gratefully acknowledges Zack Malpass, Murfreesboro SCV Camp 33, for so generously sharing his extensive research, and to Dr. George Smith, for providing both research and viewpoint. There have been many major contributions to our nation and to our society by black Americans some that have changed history – and are continuing to do so today. One area that has never received the recognition it deserved and has even been over-looked to a certain degree was that of black Southerners who fought for the Confederacy. “During my research on pension applications, I came across instances where black men stated they were soldiers, but you can plainly see where ‘soldier’ is crossed out and ‘body servant’ or ‘teamster’ inserted.” Another black historian, Roland Young says that “he is not surprised that blacks fought ... some, if not most, would support their country, and that by doing so they were demonstrating that it was possible to hate the system of slavery and love one’s country.”

This same principle was exhibited by African Americans who fought for the colonies during the American Revolution, despite the fact that the British offered them freedom if they would fight for them. Peter Jennings, an early settler of Rutherford County, was one of more than 5,000 black soldiers who fought for the colonies in the war for Independence. In 1830 Jennings was listed as having built a house on the corner of Vine and Church streets, which was also his bakery shop. There is a marker in the old City Cemetery commemorating his services in the Revolutionary War, but the exact place of his burial is not known.

It has been estimated that more than 65,000 Southern blacks served in some form or fashion in the Confederate ranks, and more than 13,000 of these “saw the elephant,” a term used to describe meeting the enemy in combat. These black Confederates included both slaves and free men. The Confederate Congress did not approve blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers, except as musicians, until late in the war. But in the ranks it was a different story. Many Confederate officers, ignoring the mandates of politicians, enlisted blacks with the simple criteria, “Will you fight?” According to historian, Ervin Jordan, “biracial units were frequently organized by both local and state militia commanders in response to immediate threats by Union troops.” As of February 1865, there were 1,150 black seamen who served in the Confederate Navy. One of these was among the last Confederates to surrender, aboard the CSS Shenandoah in England, six months after the war ended.

However, Dr. George Smith has done extensive research on this subject as well and based upon both Union and Confederate documents included in the Official War Records, it is his opinion that “Since it was illegal for Blacks, either free or slave, to carry and bear arms, it is extraordinarily hard to believe there were 65,000 Blacks serving in Confederate ranks, with over 13,000 seeing combat. Closer to 100,000 free men and slaves were impressed under the numerous impressments acts. All the impressments acts clearly delineated slaves were to be used as teamsters, laborers, hospital orderlies, cooks, etc.”

As the war was nearing its final days, the Confederacy took progressive measures to build back its ranks with the creation of the Confederate Colored Troops, copied after the segregated northern colored troops, but this idea came too late for any measure of success. CSA Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, at the height of his military career and recognizing the plight of the South’s dwindling supply of able-bodied men, made a bold proposal in late 1863 to “drill and arm as many as 300,000 black slaves.” Included in this proposal was the idea to not only free the blacks who volunteered, but their wives and children as well. Cleburne was quite disappointed that his idea was not more readily embraced. However, in 1864, President Jefferson Davis, in an attempt to gain official recognition of the Confederacy by Britain and France, did approve a plan that proposed the emancipation of slaves. But what actually passed on March 13, 1865 was General Orders No. 14 which stated: “SEC. 2, that the General-in-Chief be authorized to organize the said slaves into companies, battalions, regiments, and brigades, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and to be commanded by such officers as the President may appoint. ... that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize a change in the relation which the said slaves shall bear toward their owners, except by consent of the owners and of the states in which they may reside, and in pursuance of the laws thereof.” This occurred just one month before the end of the war and by this point, there was no time, no munitions, no supplies, no uniforms, no nothing, for it to ever come to fruition. It is unclear whether the wages would go to the slaves or to the owners.

Contrary to what a lot of people believe, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which went into effect in January of 1863, stated that only those slaves held “within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States” would be freed and those slaves in states “not in rebellion” were not affected.

Free black men served the Confederacy as soldiers, teamsters, musicians, and cooks. They earned the same pay for their service as did white Confederate privates, which, in the Union Army, was not the case. They also earned the wrath of their fellow black men of the North. Ex-slave Frederick Douglas commented: “There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down ... and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal Government.” Horace Greeley, observing the differences between the two warring armies, commented: “For more than two years, Negroes have been extensively employed in belligerent operations by the Confederacy. They have been embodied and drilled as rebel soldiers and had paraded with white troops at a time when this would not have been tolerated in the armies of the Union.”



Corps, at Columbia on September 22, 1876, Col. Sanford said: "And to you, our colored friends ... we say welcome. We can never forget your faithfulness in the darkest hours of our lives. We tender to you our hearty respect and love, for you never faltered in your duty nor betrayed your trust."

When Forrest made his raid on Murfreesboro on July 13, 1862, there is documentation regarding the participation of Black Confederates according to Col. Parkhurst's report (Ninth Michigan Infantry) included in the Federal Official Records. He wrote: "The forces attacking my camp were the First Regiment Texas Rangers, Colonel Wharton, and a battalion of the First Georgia Rangers, Colonel Morrison, and a large number of citizens of Rutherford County, many of whom had recently taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. There were also quite a number of negroes attached to the Texas and Georgia troops, who were armed and equipped, and took part in the several engagements with my forces during the day."

Southern generals owned slaves but northern generals owned them as well. Gen. Ulysses Grant's slaves had to wait for the Thirteenth Amendment for freedom. When asked why he didn't free his slaves earlier, General Grant replied, "Good help is so hard to come by these days." In February of 1865, Grant in fact ordered the capture of "all the Negro men ... before the enemy can put them in their ranks." And Frederick Douglas warned President Lincoln that unless slaves were guaranteed freedom (those in Union controlled areas were still slaves) and land bounties, "They would take up arms for the rebels."

With the South's surrender, men stacked arms and went home. Many had no home to go to. During the early 1900s, many members of the United Confederate Veterans advocated awarding former slaves rural acreage and a home. There was hope that justice could still be served to those slaves who were once falsely promised "forty acres and a mule." In 1913, this plan was printed and promoted by the Confederate Veteran Magazine, as "the right thing to do." There was much gratitude toward former slaves, which stated, "thousands were loyal, to the last degree," now living with total poverty in the big cities. Regrettably, this proposal fell on deaf ears on Capitol Hill.

In 1891, Tennessee began granting pensions to Confederate veterans. The Board of Pension Examiners was established to determine if those applying for pensions were eligible. Eligibility requirements included an inability to support oneself, honorable separation from the service and residence in the state for one year prior to application. Widow's pensions were first issued in 1905. These applications show place of birth for widow and soldier, and information about their children. Proof of marriage was required. The board maintained three separate rolls: soldiers' roll, widows' roll and African-American soldiers' roll. The following notice appeared on the "Colored Man's Application for Pension."

"The Negroes' pension law passed by the Tennessee Legislature, provides that Negroes Pensioned by this Act must have been bona fide residents of this State three years if they served with a Tennessee Command, and ten years if they served with a command from any other State. They must have remained with the army until the close of the war, unless legally relieved from service. They must be indigent. Unless you come clearly under the law, it is useless to file an application."

Of those Black Southerners who wore Confederate Gray, only those surviving to pension age, or were fortunate enough to overcome postwar anti-Negro prejudice, even stood a chance of receiving a pension. The pension files were controlled by State authority, and were often subject to a local county review board. According to his grandson, Nelson Winbush, a native of Ripley, Tennessee, and a retired high school assistant principal now living in Florida, his grandfather died when he was five years old at the age of 88. "He was buried with great ceremony, dressed in full Confederate uniform with a Battle Flag draping his coffin. Sons of Confederate Veterans members came from three states to see him off on his last campaign. ... He had been to 39 SCV reunions before he died."

Nelson Winbush, like his grandfather and himself a member of SCV, speaks proudly of having the flag, which draped his grandfather's coffin, in his possession. "My grandfather was there ... 1861 -1865 ... at Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Brice's Crossroads, and Vicksburg. He was originally a cook and forager, ... but when they needed him, he fought just like anybody else."

So why did so many Southern black men choose to wear Confederate gray?

Blacks fought for the very same reason as whites – to defend their homes and their families. Historical data can sometimes be a matter of interpretation and the facts can sometimes contradict themselves. But, one must remember that day and time and judge it accordingly, for a man of the 19th century should not be compared to a man of today's world and evaluated by current standards. Regardless of how black Southerners participated, whether voluntary or involuntary, one thing is certain: the thousands of slaves and free persons of color in the South are the most



**Southern Heritage**  
**411.Com**

*Learn the Truth of Our  
Shared Southern Heritage*

## WVRA Unit Election Ballots

(vote for officers of the individual unit to which you belong) This ballot is solely for the use of WVRA members that Will Not Be Present at the March 6 meeting. You can also write in a candidate for a position.

### 1st WV Infantry

Captain: Chuck Critchfield

1st Sgt: Mark Tennant

2nd Sgt: Dave Eubank

1st Cpl: John Foudray

2nd Cpl: Jim Barnes

Unit Rep: Mark Tennant

### 25th Va. Infantry

Sergeant: Bill Brisendine

Corporal: Tim Glaser

Unit Rep: Tag Ireland

### Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

President: Tonya Daft

Union Assistant: Diane Tennant

Confederate Assistant: Joanne Glaser

Unit Representative : Diane Tennant

### 6th WV Cavalry

President : Porter Stiles

Unit Rep: Woody Flint

### 1st WV Artillery

**Sorry**, At the time of printing, the nomination list of the Artillery could not be obtained. Due to limited availability to communicate because of family illness, lack of computer, phone during storms and various other reasons. Please decide on your nominations and have them for the March meeting. Or write in your candidates and mail before deadline.

## 2010 Reenactments and Events

### March 6 WVRA meeting Weston

March 27-28 Hurricane

### April 10 Spring Gala Civil War Ball

### April 10 WVRA meeting at Ball

April 23-25 Union Train Living History

April 24 Oakland Maryland Living History

### April 24 Marion County Library CW His.

### May 1-2 School of Soldier

### May 1 WVRA Civil War Meeting SOS

May 15-16 New Market

May 21 Battle of Lewisburg

May 22 Fort Mulligan

### May 28 Grafton Lantern Tour 8:30

### May 29 Marion County Pierpont Day

June 5-6 Phillippi

### June 5 WVRA Civil War Meeting Phillippi

June 13-15 Camp Geiger Whitehall PA

June 19 Glenville Living History & Parade

July 2-5 Gettysburg

### July 24-25 Beverly Heritage Days

### July 24 WVRA Picnic Reunion, Beverly

Aug 21-22 White Sulpher

### Sept 4 WVRA meeting Weston

Sept 10-12 Romney, Hampshire Heritage Fest

### Oct 8-9 Droop

### Oct 8 WVRA meeting Droop

**October, November and December nominations for officers**

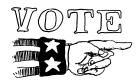
**If anyone has addresses and emails of other Civil War groups that participate in events with the WVRA, please forward the information to Tonya ASAP . We would like to invite them to our events and**

### MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT ! ..... VOTE TODAY

BELOW ARE ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR FULL BALLOT PROCEDURE. FOR THOSE THAT CANNOT ATTEND THE MARCH 6 WVRA MEETING AT WESTON. PLEASE MARK YOUR BALLOTS AND MAIL TO: TONYA DAFT 479 PLUM RUN ROAD MANNINGTON WV 26582



**POSTMARK BY MARCH 1 OR GIVE TO SOMEONE ATTENDING THE MEETING.**



In Accordance with the WVRA by-laws. A full ballot must be presented in order to decide whether or not to sponsor an event. Check the appropriate Box and return ballot to above address.

It has been proposed that the WVRA sponsor a School of the Soldier on the weekend of May 1-2 2010 You have two options for the event. Do you want a weekend event at Bulltown or a 1 day (Saturday) event at Rowlesburg (who stated we could stay over until Sunday and have a free breakfast)

YES: Sponsor the School of Soldier

YES: Sponsor the School of Soldier

In Accordance with the WVRA by-laws. A full ballot must be presented in order to make amendments to the by-laws.

It has been proposed that the WVRA make an amendment, due to low participation, that a member can hold more than one executive office in the WVRA but can only vote once per voting topic.

( ) YES: accept the change

( )NO: Do not accept

In Accordance with the WVRA by-laws. A full ballot must be presented in order to elect officers for the WVRA. Please check (X) the person you wish to vote for in that office or you may prefer to write in and vote for another candidate.

**WVRA President: Bill Brisendine ( )**  
IN \_\_\_\_\_

WRITE

**WVRA Vice President: Bill Snyder ( )**  
IN \_\_\_\_\_

WRITE

**WVRA Treasurer: Tim Glaser ( )**

WRITE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE WVRA ASSOCIATION



REENACTING THE ERA  
OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



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



MARCH 2010 ISSUE

WVRA MEETING  
MARCH 6 2010  
STEER STEAKHOUSE  
WESTON @ 3:00pm  
SEND IN YOUR VOTES IN  
TIME FOR THE MEETING IF  
YOU CAN NOT MAKE THE  
MEETING!

April 10 WVRA meeting  
at Civil War Ball



The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect any official view of the  
WVRA or its members.



The Trans-Allegheny Dispatch  
c/o Tonya Daft, Editor  
479 Plum Run Road  
Mannington, WV 26582