

The Official Newsletter of The WVRA

TRANS-ALLEGHENY

DISPATCH



SEPTEMBER 2010 EDITION

Official Newsletter of The West Virginia Re-enactors Association

WVRA pamphlets are available. Please help recruit new members!

Calendar of Events

AUG 7

Droop Mountain Clean up

Aug 21-22

White Sulpher Springs

Sept 4 WVRA Meeting 3:00

Weston Steer Steakhouse

Sept 10-12 Romney, /

Hampshire Heritage Fest

OCT 8-10 WVRA Droop

Mountain, WVRA meeting



I don't know how I ended up with this photo. I always call it the "Founding Fathers" photo of the WVRA. This is the original group, if I remember correctly. *In this photo:* Brian Breamer, Bill Snyder, Rob Freeman, Mike Phillips, Tag Ireland Submitted by Roy Shreve

Check Out Our Web Site at:

www.wvra.org

Web Masters

Donnie Stewart &

Lisa Johnson

For Sewing Needs

Diane Tennant at
Diane1wv@yahoo.com

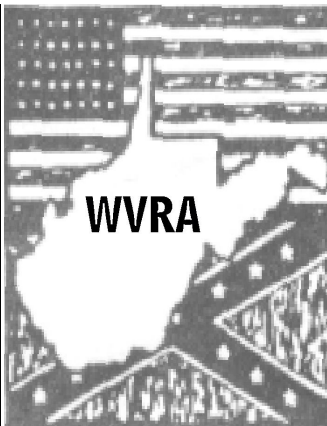
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Lisa Johnson at  
[queendurst2000@yahoo.com](mailto:queendurst2000@yahoo.com)

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

Articles, pictures, or information to be included in the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch **MUST** be emailed by **SEPT 15** to [rebeld4h@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeld4h@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

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



DUES NEED TO BE PAID BY MARCH EVERY YEAR  
WVRA Individual Membership dues \$15 per year  
FAMILY dues are \$25.

mail to : **TREASURER**  
Porter Stiles  
1258 Bell Run Road  
Fairmont WV 26554

## WVRA JULY SECRETARY REPORT

Submitted by Secretary Jack Daft

The meeting was called to order July 24 at 6pm at Beverly by Vice President Bill Snyder. Reading of the minutes was suspended {due to minutes being in the newsletter) on a motion made by Mark Tennant and seconded by Tag Ireland. No treasurer report was available.

OLD BUSINESS WVRA Directory—Tonya stated that when she finishes up the file of the new people who have joined she will send it to Donnie Stewart and he can email it to everybody. August 7th is the scheduled date of the Droop Mountain Cleanup. Tax Exempt status need information such as the old secretary minutes to send it in Tonya does not have enough past info to finish the 60 page report. Discussion ensued on where these minutes might be. Diane agreed to contact some of the past officers to see if they knew the whereabouts of the old minutes.

NEW BUSINESS The web site domain name Tim suggested we allow the name to expire then we can reapply for it. The hosting site can do the registration. Donnie can use any web site and apply for the domain name. When Tim gives it up at expiration, Donnie will put it under WVRA. Tim sent Donnie all the information he could find. Droop—Kevin Will do the pig for Droop. The WVRA Droop Committee needs a rough estimate of the cost. Phyllis is good for the dance at Droop.

Tourism—The decision was made to give Emily Ayers of the tourism bureau a list of reenactors, exhibitors, and speakers. If you would like to be on this list please contact Tonya. 2011 events Roger Ware, Corrick's Ford Battle Field Foundation wants to do a reencatment on 7/04/2011. Parsons and Rowlesburg are also interested Rich Mountain is the next week. After discussion it was decided the WVRA would inform them to not rely on our support if they chose that date. Sutler—There was other discussion about making available to the re-enacting public items for sale by WVRA members. A motion was made by Tonya and seconded by Tim to set up a WVRA sutlery where members could bring pre-priced goods to be sold with the understanding that the person is responsible for the items if not sold during the event. In other words, if it doesn't sell and you don't take it back home it gets pitched! The WVRA will charge 10% of sale price for providing space for the weekend. It was suggested the WVRA provide caps and powder at this sutlery location also. Mark will check with Mike Smith about what he will charge us. We could also use the web site to sell these items. Motion carried. Next meeting .... September 11th @ Westion Motion to adjourn Mark Tennant seconded by Diane Tennant.

A LARGE THANK YOU goes out to WVRA members and the 2nd VA for all their help with the Droop Mountain Clean up in August. Jack & Tonya Daft, Mark Tennant, Bill "Beal" Brisendine, Sam Priester, Jim Allman, Jay Allman, Jeff Goff, Jason Nugget Studenwalt, Ronna Studenwalt, Ken Connell, Rick Barker, John Emmons. **By order of the WVRA President Beal Brisendine volunteers helping with the Droop Mountain Clean up will not have to pay registration to participate at Droop in Oct.**

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt Raffle  
Maple Leaf Log Cabin/Scattered Leaves Pattern  
Approx. 80x80  
Made By Diane tenant and friends  
To benefit:  
Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation  
Raffle will be held on July 11, 2011  
\$5 per chance

*The WVRA Trans-Allegheny  
DISPATCH Newsletter and  
WVRA By-laws are on the  
web site at [www.wvra.org](http://www.wvra.org)*

**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/>**

Chel Depp  
Executive Director  
Rich Mountain Battlefield  
Foundation/Historic Beverly Preservation  
PO Box 227 Beverly, WV 26253  
304-637-7424  
[www.richmountain.org](http://www.richmountain.org)  
[www.historicbeverly.org](http://www.historicbeverly.org)

**Need equipment?  
Sutlers are listed on the  
web site.**

**WWW.WVRA.ORG**



# Pencil Points

The story of the everyday writing instrument — a toolbox essential — is anything but dull

BY CONNIE BASTYR



## Objects that we have in abundance

— such as toilet paper, writing paper and pencils — garner respect only if they're scarce. That's when we seem to recognize their indispensability. Take for example the pencil: easy to come by, hard to go without. Although you may not consider it to be a handyman's tool, it is essential, and probably the first toolbox item you learned to use.

Think of the last time you misplaced your pencil and needed to mark a cutline, record a measurement, draw a design or write a shopping list. A missing pencil can bring shop operations to a halt. So let's give due attention to the tool that's vital for every school box and toolbox: the pencil.

**Point number one:** The "lead" is a blend of graphite and clay, not lead. That misnomer can be traced to the ancient writing instrument the stylus, a stick of actual lead used to mark papyrus. (Today, the word *lead* is considered an acceptable term to describe the graphite-based cores of modern pencils.)

It was the discovery of a large deposit of pure graphite near Cumbria, England, in the early 1500s that ultimately spurred modern pencil design and production. The solid substance was sliced into thin sticks and wrapped in string or sheepskin to prevent it from breaking and from soiling users' hands.

England remained the primary source of pencils until 1662, when German manufacturers discovered a way to form a solid strand of the marking medium by combining the more readily available graphite powder with clay. The French, unable to import graphite from England or Germany during the Napoleonic wars, formulated a superior recipe for a granite-composite core in 1795.

**Point number two:** Pencils are not made by inserting graphite into hollowed wooden sticks; they're assembled sandwich-style. Although the Italians were first to successfully encase graphite in wood by hollowing a juniper stick and inserting a strip of graphite, by the mid-1600s



The oldest known pencil (found in a timber-frame house built in 1630) reveals its graphite-sandwich construction. The shape resembles today's carpenter-pencil design, which woodworkers and carpenters appreciate because the flat sides prevent it from rolling off of roofs and workbenches.

## HANDY FACTS

Before French scientists discovered during the 1770s that rubber worked as an eraser, people used bread crumbs to delete pencil markings from paper. The practice of attaching erasers to pencils didn't catch on until 1858. Apparently, teachers resisted the idea at first because they thought it would foster writing errors.

all pencil makers used a more efficient method: cutting channels in slats of wood, inserting strips of graphite (or compressed graphite powder) and then adhering the slats together. This technique allowed for the first mechanized production of pencils.

As during the Napoleonic wars, politics and pencils again intertwined when American colonists could not import the writing instruments from England during the War of 1812. This prompted Boston cabinetmaker

William Monroe to become the first U.S. pencil producer (in 1812). A pencil industry later flourished in New England: Eberhard Faber opened a large factory in Jersey City in 1861, and Joseph Dixon expanded pencil production with

the purchase of a graphite company in Ticonderoga, New York, during the 1870s. Eventually the industry was drawn to Tennessee, a source of Eastern red cedar, the preferred pencil casing at the time.

**Point number three:** Despite early predictions, neither the ink pen nor the computer has diminished the pencil's prevalence. According to the Early Office Museum, during the 1870s Americans used 20 million pencils each year; since then annual pencil consumption has increased to approximately 2.8 billion. Worldwide, more than 14 billion pencils are made annually to ensure that artists, students, teachers, architects, builders, woodworkers and handy people can keep drawing, learning, teaching, designing, building and working. ♦

### WEB EXTRAS

For a video about how pencils are made today, go to [www.HandymanClub.com](http://www.HandymanClub.com) and click on WEB EXTRAS.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY FABER-CASTELL

## The Art of Washing Clothes {Laundry}

### History

Soap has been around for 5000 years. Both the Egyptians and Babylonians used soap for personal cleaning. Soap then was a mixture of rendered animals fats and ashes. Lye would eventually become a popular soap product. Historically, standard soap was used when clothing was scrubbed by hand or washed in the river. Although its basic principles remain the same, it is now made using a sophisticated chemical and manufacturing process.

During the middle ages and medieval times, the use of soap was considered unnatural or the work of the devil. The abhorrence of cleaning body and clothes led to a decline in soap products, which some historians suggest and speculate the rejection of soap, and the associated lack of hygiene, may have contributed to the Black Death, {Black Plague}, that ravaged Europe. The black plague was generally transmitted by the fleas on rats because people were so dirty.

Even intolerance of people who continued using cleaners may have been exacerbated. Their religious laws demanded cleanliness so they continued using soap. The Europeans though, rejected soap at this time because it was considered a devilish product.

To some people it is a mystery product that they imagine full of numerous secret ingredients boiled up in a caldron. While not a magical product it is definitely a substance that has helped transform society. It is something we use every day to make our busy lives easier and safer.

Prior to World War II laundry was cleaned with soap or soap flakes. The Laundry detergent history begins around the time of World War II, soap flakes fell out of use during World War II. Laundry detergent provided a cheaper, more efficient method for cleaning. Detergent is not soap

In the past, people washed clothes by stomping on them with their feet, pushing them, pounding them on rocks, or beating them with sticks in the sea, river, or lakes. In order to wash clothes the people living in this house first had to heat the water in the wash pot over a wood or coal fire. Next, the clothes were scrubbed on the washboard with homemade lye soap and run through the wringer to squeeze out extra water. After that, the heavy clothes were hung up to dry.

Finally with the clothing made of cotton, linen, or wool, there was no such thing as "permanent press," the flatirons were heated on the pot belly stove and then used to press everything. Irons had to be reheated many times before the job was done and fingers and pieces of clothes were often accidentally burned. Fortunately, the wash was not done as often as it is today. People made their own clothes and therefore had fewer changes of clothes. They also did not change to clean clothes on a daily basis. People were dirty, with lower standards of cleanliness than today. In communities along the river or water supply, women would gather to do their wash. Large groups were safer from attacks. This usually happened on a set day, which was Monday, therefore the household chore and phrase as "Monday is Wash Day" was formed. In the 19th century most homes also had a scullery. In it was a 'copper', a metal container for heating water for washing clothes. The copper was filled with water and soap powder was added. To wash the clothes they were turned with a wooden tool called a dolly. Or you used a metal plunger with holes in it to push clothes up and down. Wet clothes were wrung through a mangle to dry them.

When or where the first washing machine was used remains unknown. Hand operated washing machines have been around since the 18th century. It is disputed who made the first electric washing machine but it was sometime in the early 1900s. In Britain washing machines first became common in the late 1950s and 1960s. Meanwhile a woman named Josephine Cochran invented the first practical dishwasher in 1886. Hers was worked by hand but an electric dishwasher was made in 1922.



People used to wash their clothes with soap flakes. The first synthetic detergent was invented in Germany during the First World War. In the following decades detergents were gradually improved and became more common.

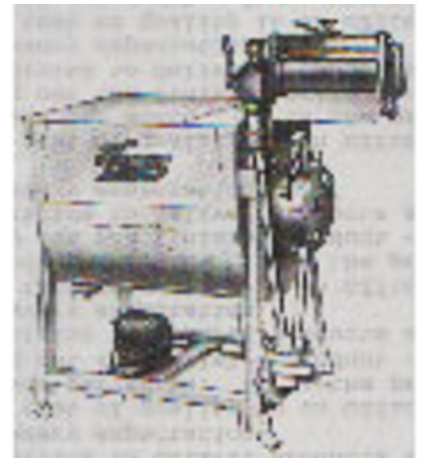
In 1860 in the US, Hamilton Smith invented a cylindrical washing machine. The machine consisted of a cylinder with holes revolving in a wooden frame. But these machines were not in wide use due to lack of mass-production and cost per household.

In Japan, the first patented washing machine was developed in 1906 by Iwataro Okuyama (Patent No.10609). This simple mechanism used two washboards, placed above and below to form a sandwich around the laundry. The washboards moved back and forth against the wash.

These earlier models were followed by motor-operated agitator and electric drum washing machines. These machines rapidly washed large volumes of laundry, contributing to societal hygiene and creating the new laundry business. In Japan, Shibaura Engineering Works, a forerunner of Toshiba, imported and marketed a drum washing machine made by Thor Corporation in the U.S. This machine removed dirt by rotating a drum and pummeling the wash. It also incorporated a wringer, as shown in Photo 1. Standard and lye based soaps are too harsh on the internal mechanics of washing machines.

**Borax**, also known as **sodium borate**, **sodium tetraborate**, or **disodium tetraborate**, is an important boron compound, a mineral, and a salt of boric acid. It is usually a white powder consisting of soft colorless crystals that dissolve easily in water. Borax has a wide variety of uses, during the 1860 it was used to whiten clothes

Other chores from the 1860's: wash clothes on a washboard, make candles, churn butter, and beat the rugs.



### **Wooden plunger, 1860**

Much smaller than the washing dolly, this hand held plunger was used to clean clothes by creating as much movement in the water and clothes as possible. Hot water and soap were not always easy to produce. Soap was very expensive as it was considered a luxury product and was heavily taxed until 1853. Soap making at home was an established craft. An alkali was needed and lye was commonly used. This had to be boiled with fat, which could be anything from the most expensive whale oil to kitchen grease. A curd like mixture was produced when salt was added. The price of soap fell during the second half of the nineteenth century, but what was cheaply available was of poor quality. It was full of soda which took the colour out of clothes and ruined the hands of the washerwoman.

### **Wooden washing bat**

The washing bat is a simple but effective tool for cleaning clothes. It can be used to pound the dirt out of clothes, but can also be used to beat wet laundry to reduce the time it took to dry. Laundry is one of the very few household chores that had a day assigned to it. The washing was almost universally carried out on a Monday. The size of the household determined whether or not all the laundry could be completed in a single day. In larger families or where there were few people to do the work it could take many days. As cotton goods became more affordable, there was also more washing to do. Washing, drying and ironing clothes and bedding was an enormous task. During the nineteenth century completing such a job was not just a practical matter, for some it was also a moral duty. Being clean was believed to reflect a clean character and pure spirit.

## Period Recipes for Soap

**Very Fine washing ball (1672)** Take three Ounces of Orrice, half an Ounce of Cypress-wood, 2 Ounces of Calamus Aromaticus, 1 ounce of Damask-Rose leaves, 2 Ounces of Lavender-flowers, a quarter of an Ounce of Cloves, beat all these and searce them fine, then take two pounds and an half of Castile Sope dissolved in Rose water, and beat all these forenamed things with the Sope in a Mortar, and when they are well incorporated, make it into Balls, and keep them in a Box with Cotton as long as you please.

### **Soap For Washing Without Rubbing**

A soap to clean clothes without rubbing: Take two pounds of sal soda, two pounds of common bar soap and ten quarts of water. Cut the soap in thin slices and boil together two hours; strain and it will be fit for use. Put the clothes in soak the night before you wash, and to every pailful of water in which you boil them add a pound of soap. They will need no rubbing, but merely rinsing

**Brown Tar Soap** To make take eight gallons of soft soap, two quarts of salt, and one pound of rosin, pulverized, mix and boil half an hour. Turn it in a tub to cool.

**Boiled Soft Soap** Put in a kettle the grease consisting of all kinds of fat that has accumulated in the kitchen, such as scraps and bones from the soup-kettle, rinds from meat, etc.; fill the kettle half full; if there is too much grease it can be skimmed off after the soap is cold, for another kettle of soap. This is the only true test when enough grease is used, as the lye will consume all that is needed and no more. Make a fire under one side of it. The kettle should be in an out-house or out of doors. Let it heat very hot so as to fry; stir occasionally to prevent burning. Now put in the lye a gallon at a time, watching it closely until it boils, as it sometimes runs over at the beginning. Add lye until the kettle is full enough, but not too full to boil well. Soap should boil from the side and not the middle, as this would be more likely to cause it to boil over. To test the soap, to one spoonful of soap add one of rain-water; if it stirs up very thick, the soap is good and will keep; if it becomes thinner, it is not good. This is the result of one of three causes, either it is too weak, or there is a deposit of dirt or it is too strong. Continue to boil for a few hours, when it should flow from the stick with which it is stirred like thick molasses; but if after boiling it remains thin, let it stand over night, re-

moving it from the fire, then drain it off very carefully into another vessel, being very particular to prevent any sediment from passing. Wash the kettle, return the soap and boil again, if dirt was the cause; it will now be thick and good; otherwise if it was too strong, rain-water added will make it right, adding the water gradually until right and just thick enough.

### **HARD SOAP WASHING Instructions**

Six pounds of washing soda and three of un-slaked lime. Pour on four gallons of boiling water, let it stand until perfectly clear, then drain off, and put in six pounds of clean fat. Boil it until it begins to harden, about two hours, stirring most of the time. While boiling, thin it with two gallons of cold water, which you have previously poured on the alkaline mixture, after draining off the four gallons. This must be settled clear before it is drawn off. Add it when there is danger of boiling over. Try the thickness by cooling a little on a plate. Put in a handful of salt just before taking from the fire. Wet a tub to prevent sticking; turn in the soap and let it stand until solid. Cut into bars, put on a board and let it dry. This makes about forty pounds of soap. It can be flavored (scented) just as you turn it out.

### **To Make Soft Soap Without Cooking**

Pour two pailfuls of boiling water upon twenty pounds of potash and let it stand two hours. Have ready thirty pounds of clean grease, upon which pour one pailful of the lye, adding another pail of water to the potash; let it stand three or four hours, stir it well; then pour a gallon of the lye upon the grease, stir it well; and in half an hour another gallon of the lye, stir it thoroughly; in half an hour repeat the process, and thus proceed until you have poured off all the lye; then add two pails of boiling hot water to the remainder of the potash, and let it stand ten hours; then stir the mixture, and if it has become stiff and the grease has disappeared from the surface, take out a little and see whether the weak lye will thicken it; if it does, add the lye; if it does not, try

water, and if that thickens it, let it stand another day, stirring it well five or six times during the day; if the lye does not separate from the grease you may fill up with water

### **GOOD HARD SOAP**

- 5 pounds of grease
- 1 quart and 1 cup of cold water
- 1 can of potash
- 1 heaping
- tablespoonful of borax
- 2 tablespoonfuls of ammonia

#### **Instructions**

Dissolve the potash in the water, then add the borax and ammonia and stir in the lukewarm grease slowly and continue to stir until it becomes as thick as thick honey; then pour into a pan to harden. When firm cut into cakes. Grease that is no longer fit to fry in is used for this soap. Strain it carefully that no particles of food are left in it. It makes no difference how brown the grease is, the soap will become white and float in water. It should be kept a month before using.

### **To Make Soap (1860 Old Virginia Housewife)**

Put on the fire any quantity of lye you choose that is strong enough to bear an egg. To each gallon, add three quarters of a pound of clean grease: boil it very fast, and stir it frequently; a few hours will suffice to make it good soap. When you find by cooling a little on a plate that it is a thick jelly, and no grease appears, put in salt in the proportion of one pint to three gallons. Let it boil a few minutes, and pour it in tubs to cool (should the soap be thin, add a little water to that in the plate, stir it

well, and by that means ascertain how much water is necessary for the whole quantity; very strong lye will require water to thicken it, after the incorporation is complete; this must be done before the salt is added.) Next day, cut out the soap, melt it, and cool it again; this takes out all the lye, and keeps the soap from shrinking when dried. A strict conformity to these rules, will banish the lunar bugbear, which has so long annoyed soap makers. Should cracknels be used, there must be one pound to each gallon. Kitchen grease should be clarified in a quantity of water, or the salt will prevent its incorporating with the lye. Soft soap is made in the same manner, only omitting the salt. It may also be made by putting the lye and grease together in exact proportions, and placing it under the influence of a hot sun for eight or ten days, stirring it well four or five times a day.

### **To Make Toilet Soap Ingredients**

- 1 pound of washing soda
- 1 pound of lard or clear tallow
- 1/2 pound of unslaked lime
- 1 tablespoonful of salt
- 3 quarts of water

#### **Instructions**

Put the soda and lime in a large dish, and pour over the water, boiling hot; stir until dissolved; let it stand until clear, then pour off the clear liquid, add the grease and salt; boil four hours, then pour into pans to cool. If it should be inclined to curdle or separate, indicating the lime to be too strong, pour in a little more water, and boil again. Perfume as you please, and pour into molds or a shallow dish, and, when cold, cut into bars to dry

## UPDATES MARION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please try to come to the Museum at about 1:45 for Chris Cummings presentation of the Congressional Bronze and Silver Medals for Youth that are to be presented by a Congressman. He is working on his gold that will be presented in Washington D.C. Chris has done much for the Historical Society since he became a lifemember at the age of 14. He has been a very active member by personally raising 3 grants totalling almost \$2000.00, painted the fence, being our soundman, interesting other youth, being a docent, setting up one of our facebook pages, doing our new display, carrying chairs, tables, etc for numerous events. He did whatever he could, even the very menial jobs no one else wanted to do. We want our youth to be involved then we need to support them when they do. He graduated from high school this year & will be leaving for WVU. Let's show him we are proud of him. Hopefully there will be news coverage there. I am sure as an honor student, student body president and captain of the football team he will become one of our future leaders....Dora

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Subject: Sept. 11

The Marion County Historical Society and the West Virginia Re-enactors Association are going to have a meeting at 10:00 on Saturday, Sept 11th at the Marion County Museum to discuss what Fairmont can do about promoting its Civil War local history. will be meeting with us. The 150Th anniversary of the Civil War begins in 2011 and continues through 2015. 2013 is the 150Th Birthday of West Virginia. Not only is this an important period of American History, but it could be an economic boost to the area. Heritage tourists spend 35% more on local items & normally spend 2 -3 days longer in the area.

Some of the ideas being tossed around: A Blue & Grey Ball, The Battle of Fairmont. bus tours for the Civil Trail and a living history portrayal of those buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Anyone interested is invited to attend & be a member of the group. All ideas are welcomed as well. Pass this on to your friends. ...Dora

Hi Dora,

We're not sure if we can make it to the Sept. 11th meeting; however, we have some suggestions:

- 1) The "living history" dinner with Belle Boyd's presentation was extremely successful. This may be partially due to the dinner being served. Whatever you (and others) did to promote this event was excellent and reached a lot of people. We suggest more of these events - dinner/living history.
 - 2) The concepts of a Civil War Ball and "Ladies' Tea" are successful with the reenactors. The "Ladies' Tea" events are more successful when there is a speaker or a project the ladies can work on, such as a sewing craft.
 - 3) We, as Gov. and Julia Pierpont, are definitely available for anything you would like us to do!
- We hope these suggestions are helpful!Pam and Art

Treasurer Reports

MAY REPORT....WVRA Balance \$1525.82
no with drawls

JUNE REPORT....As of June 10, we have
\$1745.92 in the account. Only \$19.95
was withdrawn from our account for the
Web.com.

Remember

To recruit!

*WVRA Membership Dues
should be paid in full before the
Beginning of March every year
and new enrollment forms
should be submitted every year
with your paid dues*

MODERN DAY TELEGRAM LETTERS

Greetings,

I am writing to you and your reenactment organization today in regards to a free offer for free cartridge tubes. My intent with this offer is to allow you or others in the group to view and try this superior product with no charge to yourselves. If I may briefly explain what has prompted me to do so:

I had reenacted for several years for both the French and Indian war and the War of 1812 with the department of parks and recreation in New York State as a form of employment. During that time I found that many different opinions abounded as to what the most authentic cartridge was. At that time, I had no time to research that particular contention. However, I recently moved to Virginia to pursue graduate studies in the English renaissance period, and it has been during this time that I explored the general history of paper making. It has been during this time that I realized that no one I have ever encountered has ever asked what paper was made of at the time of any of the early wars in this country. Most people would say wood, and they would be wrong. All large paper production in the United States was made from a rag pulp until 1867, when the first wood pulp facility in the nation was constructed in Massachusetts. Such paper has the benefit of extreme durability and a greater thickness than regular wood pulp paper. The process for making the rag pulp paper was much different as well. The paper was made in frames that were interlaced with crisscrossing chains or wire mesh, and thus that type of paper contained chain lines within the paper itself. Hence the name 'laid' paper, as an abbreviated for of laid in chain paper.

While I do not know what type of paper you or any members of your group use, most reenactors tend to favor a flimsy brown paper or modern news print style paper. Both are inaccurate to the materials of the era. I have found paper that matches the authenticity of the material aspect of paper in the pre-industrial era more closely. While it is virtually impossible to find rag pulp paper anymore, I have found a clean, acid free wood pulp paper with chain lines and a thicker texture that is advantageous to protecting the cartridge during bad weather. All of my cartridges are hand rolled with a deep counter sink to keep the powder in. I have never had powder at the bottom of my cartridge box with this method.

Hence I am offering to send 25 free cartridge tubes to your unit for you to view and dispose of as you will. I would require a mailing address and the specific caliber size for the cartridge tubes. I will pay shipping and handling to give you the opportunity to try these cartridges. If you have liked what you see with this product, I would be happy to produce more for a price. I make only the tubes so as to cut the price for reenactors. Cartridges are so expensive due to the black powder in them, but the most time consuming aspect of making a cartridge is in the construction of each individual tube. Hence I am offering a durable, closely authentic product that is equal to the mid line price of sutler cartridge tubes in the field. Here is a list of prices if you are interested with the product once you receive it: 100 tubes- \$10 : 250 tubes-\$25 and 30 free cartridges : 500 tubes- \$50 and 70 free cartridges: 1000 tubes- \$100 and 150 free cartridges: *first time order receives free shipping as well ** product sent upon payment with check via mail. Finally, I would like to declare that I am pursuing this as a private individual at the moment and am in no way affiliated with any business or corporation in this venture.

Many Thanks for Your Time,

Daniel F. Trombley

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I know that Jack and I received these and I think Beal received some also. Beal asked me to let everyone know about this. What did everyone that received these cartridges think?

*Thank You So Much for all your help with the DISPATCH. Special thanks goes out to Mark & Diane Tennant, Chuck Critchfield, Roy Shreve, Phyllis Baxter, Dora Grubb, Jack Daft, Lisa Johnson, Donnie Stewart, Dave & Marjory Thompson, Abigail Reynolds, Carol Rowe, Garth Lindley, Porter Stiles, Art and Pam Dodd. Please keep the stories, articles, pictures and info pouring in so the DISPATCH can provide the best information for everyone.*

## MORE MODERN DAY TELEGRAM LETTERS

Gentlemen:

The family of William C. Burns are hosting a memorial service scheduled for 25 September 2010 at 10:00 am in Zanesville, Ohio. We are looking for reenactors and musicians who might be interested in participating in this Civil War period event. We are expecting a Proclamation from the Governor as well as greetings from local dignitaries. We have a bagpiper from Columbus who plans to honor PVT. Burns, however we still need a drummer and perhaps someone who plays the fife.

I am attaching several documents and old newspaper clippings that detail PVT. Burns service to his country, his community and his comrades. He was with Grant during the surrender at Appomattox and was one of the founders of Memorial Day. He recited TAPS at memorial services, funerals, etc until his death at 92 years old. He was the last surviving member of the Hazelett Post GAR and one of the last surviving Union veterans in Zanesville at the time of his death. We would be honored with your presence and invite you all to this very special event. Blessings, Pam Steele Nashville, TN

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If anyone is available to portray a UNION Civil War soldier for the Morgan Reunion August 4 this Saturday at Pricketts Fort can you please contact Rita Laishley at 304 599-6155 she needs someone confirmed to do it by Monday evening. All she ask for is a 2 minute program and they will give you the info about the Morgan that you are representing and you can read it then you can tell about some of the things the soldier faced during the civil war and then enjoy the day at the reunion. some people will probably come up to you afterwards to ask questions. If you need info to pass out to them concerning our group (WVRA) let me know by Thursday so I can get it to you. Mark, Porter, Lee Miller and Jack have already been asked but are not available due to weddings, reunions, out of town and work. Your meal is free and they might be able to pay travel expenses or what not but you need to talk to her about that. Thanks a Million ...Tonya

~~~~~

Dear Ms. Daft and the WVRA,

My name is Amy Perryman and I am the West Virginia acquisitions editor with Arcadia Publishing in Charleston, South Carolina. We publish a popular series of photographic histories called Images of America, which chronicles the histories of communities, towns, and counties throughout the country. You may have seen some of the books we have published in your area such as Images of America: Upshur County or Images of America: Tucker County, or the upcoming Images of America: Lewis County. We finance the entire publication and pay royalties to the author, which makes it a great fundraiser for organizations.

We would love to include a title on Buckhannon in this or one of our other series. Do you know anyone who would be interested in authoring a history of the area? If you would like to receive more information about our company and a sample book, I will be happy to put together a package for you.

For a brief overview of our company, please refer to our website, [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com). Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to hear from you soon! Love your website!

Very best,

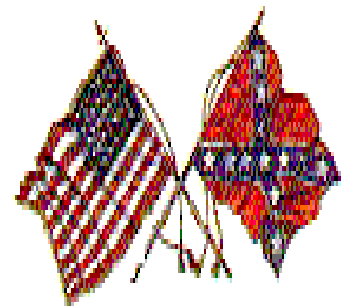
Amy Perryman

Acquisitions Editor

Arcadia Publishing

ph: 843.853.2070 x 132 and fax: 843.853.0044

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## Modern Advances in Hygiene

It was in 1860 did a monumental breakthrough by French chemist Louis Pasteur ignite the eventual discovery of germs. During the 1800's to the early 1900's, surgeons were not aware of germs, they even used the same surgical instruments uncleaned with multiple patients (especially during the Civil War). It was due to Pasteur's belief in the germ theory that he found a way to immunize diseases, and find a cure to rabies.

With the presence of germs confirmed, new steps were taken in hygiene to prevent these germs from proliferating, sickening, and spoiling. Milk after Pasteur's discovery was pasteurized (heated to destroy germs), and this process was named after him for his groundbreaking discovery.

Surgical instruments after this were soon required to be sanitized, the doctor's hands cleaned, and the patient's wound cleaned. Advances in public utilities made it possible for the creation of the modern bathroom, new dental products that prevented cavities were produced, stronger powered soap, with less abrasiveness was made, the importance of daily cleaning began to be stressed, and the general public soon began to shift into a cleaner, sweeter scented direction.

Thanks to discoveries, customs, experimentation, and public demand, hygiene is now an essential everyday part of our lives. Due to our past ancestor's desire for cleanliness, it has benefited us today through improvements, discoveries, and solutions.

### WVRA FAMILY TIDBITS

Congratulations Bill and Dreama Snyder on your Wedding Anniversary September 23. Tasha Daft Carpenter also celebrated her birthday September 23. And Ronna Studentwalt and Tonya Daft celebrated their birthday September 28.

Diane Tennant sent me an reminder about Garth and Angie Lindley's little baby girl. Garth is in the 1st WV and Angie I think she is still with the TASAS. She was born on June 12, 2010, Elizabeth Rachel "Ella" Lindley, 7 lbs, 6 ounces. We are looking forward to meeting her in the near future.

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We want to thank everyone for all the well wishes and prayers for Jack when he was in the hospital. Also I am so glad to hear that Abigail Reynolds is back to being her sunshine self. And we all pray she stays that way. Love and miss ya!

We are all sending out prayers for Lisa Johnson and Donnie Stewarts family they are going through a rough time. Lisa's grandfather is not well, we wish you all the best. And thanks sooo much for everything you do even when you have family problems to deal with.

DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE A BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY OR FAMILY NEWS TO SHARE....PLEASE LET ME KNOW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE WVRA ASSOCIATION



REENACTING THE ERA
OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



www.wvra.org



SEPT 2010 ISSUE
WEST VIRGINIA
REENACTORS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 2133 BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

WVRA Meeting

SEPTEMBER 4

WESTON 3:00pm

Western Steer Steak
House



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 Daff, Editor
479 Plum Run Road
Mannington, WV 26582