

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2015 – Edition 5 – April

## Upcoming Events

More information will be added later.

### [WVRA Sponsored Events](#)

**Rich Mountain** – July 10-12

<http://www.richmountain.org/reen15/reen15prelim.html>

**Droop Mountain** – October 9-11

**Droop Clean-up** – August 8

### [Events Recommended by WVRA members](#)

**Bentonville**, March 20-22

**Appomattox** – April 10-12

<http://www.appomattoxhistoricalsociety.org/150th.htm>

**Grand Review** – May 17<sup>th</sup>

<http://grandreviewparade.org>

**Lantern Tour** – May 22, 8:30 pm, Grafton National Cemetery, see Mark Tennant

**Philippi** – May 29-31 304-457-4265

**Old Bedford Village** – June 12-14 (USV supported)

[eventhttp://www.oldbedfordvillage.com/events.php](http://www.oldbedfordvillage.com/events.php)

**McConnellsville, Ohio** – July 10-12 (Contact Ralph McCready for more information)

**Bulltown Heritage Days** – July 26. (Contact Sam Krafft for more information)

**Fort Mulligan Day** – August 15, Petersburg, WV

**Dry Creek** – August 14-16, White Sulphur Springs

**Carnifex Ferry** – Sept. 11-13 (FULL IMMERSION EVENT)

**Zoar** – Sept. 19-20

**Locust Grove** – October 23-25, Walkersville, Va. (ANV max effort event)

<http://www.oldbedfordvillage.com/events.php>

**Guyandotte** – Oct. 30-Nov. 1

### Other events

**Gilbert, W. Va.** – April 24-26

**Barboursville, W. Va.** – May 1-3

**Matewan, W. Va.** – June 19-21

**St. Marys, W. Va.** – Sept. 4-6

**Logan State Park** – Sept. 25-27

## Rich Mountain

The WVRA and the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation will team up to host the Rich Mountain reenactment the weekend after Independence Day weekend, July 10-12. Discussions about this year's event are underway. ON LINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN. Spread the word.

<http://www.richmountain.org/reen15/reen15prelim.html>

*From Rich Mounting BF --. Folks may sign up individually, it does not have to be by unit. WVRA paid members signing up before July 1 should identify themselves as WVRA and put 0 (zero) under fees (you are still responsible for meal cost or late fees.)*

## Droop Mountain

Droop will be held at its normal weekend October 9th through the 11<sup>th</sup>, while the leaves are in their full glory in the Greenbrier Valley. The WVRA voted overwhelmingly to hold the event, so please overwhelmingly support and volunteer to help the event.

## Grand Review

**I received this from the Colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the United State Volunteers.**

Friends, Commanders, Reenactors

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> general Update regarding the Grand Review march down Pennsylvania Ave on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, to end the historic 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary event cycle. A great deal of work has been done, but rumors abound. This Update goes over a lot of old information, updates some developments in more detail and, hopefully, corrects some rumors that are apparently impacting the decision to attend this once in a lifetime reenactment event. Even if you attended the 125<sup>th</sup> Grand Review 25 years ago (as yes, I did), this is going to be even more historically accurate; it involves the historic route, horses and a reproduction of the Presidential Reviewing Stand. We have worked especially hard to make this opportunity available in the post 9-11 and post-Boston bombing environment. We understand the decision to travel east for the many 1865 events this spring, but believe that it is important that reenactors of both sides come together in DC and in Blue to commemorate the end of the war and the end of the 150<sup>th</sup> series.

The purpose of this event is to reenact and mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Review – a military parade

## March Meeting.

Minutes of the March meeting were not available at press time.

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by the Army of the Potomac and Sherman's Army of the Tennessee/Georgia down Pennsylvania Ave. Those of you who are CSA and those of you who were with Sherman at 150<sup>th</sup> Bentonville are not yet done. You need to join Sherman and the Army of the Potomac in Washington DC. Unlike the Stacking of Arms at Appomattox, which was experienced by a relative few of Chamberlain's and Gordon's boys of 65, this parade marked the end of the war and the dismissal of many of the troops. In so many ways, reenactors keep the battles and memories of this greatest generation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century alive. The Grand Review was the honor bestowed by their leaders and a grateful nation for everything they did --- in period. We ask that you honor those who fought as they were honored by being a part of this national sesquicentennial.

Because this is Washington, there will be national media attention. It is also our hope and our belief that this attention will help to stimulate our hobby once again as we go past the 150<sup>th</sup> series.

## Parade Route:

The parade itself will begin at 3rd Street NW. This location is in the center of the Mall between Constitution and Independence Avenues in front of the Capital and the Grant Monument (great picture location- looking all the way down to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln). Note: the Capitol Dome is under repair and like it was in 1865 is surrounded by scaffolding—it does not get more authentic than this. We will proceed across Constitution, make a left onto Pennsylvania Ave, and proceed down Pennsylvania Ave to 12<sup>th</sup> Street and the Reviewing Stand at Freedom Plaza - near the historic Willard Hotel and the Treasury bldg. (which was there in period).

We only ask that as marchers with weapons you stay within the confines of the permit and parade route. We are doing this in high security areas.

## Registration:

Registration is open. The early bird registration fee has been set at \$25 to help cover the \$50,000 it costs for street closings, police traffic and crowd control and fire rescue down Penn. Ave, the shuttle busses to accommodate DC gun laws and other expenses. The registration goes up to \$35 on April 15th. Let me know if any group of reenactors needs help in getting in their registration.

All marchers (military and civilian) must register. Military and Civilian reenactors that do not wish to march but who would like to view the parade from an area set aside for period spectators, near the Reviewing Stand – without weapons - must also register.

See: <http://www.grandreviewparade.org/>

Facebook: **150th Grand Review**  
and  
**Grand Review Parade Weekend**

## Check in:

Check in for all marchers is at RFK stadium – no exceptions. Registration at RFK will begin at 7:00 am and will close at roughly 10:30 to permit everyone to be cleared and transported and for horse trailers to move to the parade site. It is illegal to move by public transit (public bus, taxi, subway) with any weapon in DC.

Check-in for registered – and un-armed spectators, who do not wish to march but also seek access to the period viewing area, as above, will also be done at the Reviewing Stand.

At RFK, all marchers will check in and, as we do normally, sign waivers. Military marchers will then proceed with their weapons to the DC Police/Weapons inspections area to have their weapon inspected. Once inspected, weapons will be banded as having been inspected and approved.

Mounted marchers (CAV and horse drawn teams), will check-in at RFK, as above, will go through weapons inspection, if applicable, and then proceed to the DC Animal Services Program area, to submit a Health Certificate and Negative Coggins.

## Camps:

There are no "reenactor" camps for this event. Like Remembrance Day there is a full schedule of events on Friday and Saturday and a chance to see the City. We suggest any hotel or motel anywhere around the beltway or nearby along I-95. RFK is easy to get to. A special period only camp (camps and uniforms) has been arranged for those with horses at Sully Plantation, on Rt 28, near Dulles Airport. This camp is to afford Cav and horse teams to get out to practice, be picketed, fed and watered beginning Friday afternoon. It also supports the Sully Historic site that Friday and Saturday. We are also working on the possibility that horse inspections will be conducted there at Sully Planation, to include a Veterinarian who can do DC Health Certificate Inspections. We will send out an Update when that is finalized, but in support of the parade, the District of Columbia is itself hiring a veterinarian to be on site in DC to support our horses in the case of an emergency. For the sake of the horses, equestrians can stay at Sully Friday night through Sunday night.

Use of the Sully Camp is not required, but is recommended. All horses will need to be transported to RFK for arrival at or near 7:00 am Sunday morning. It is about 1:20 hours trip from Sully to RFK.

There will be a water buffalo at RFK, at the parade start at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and at the end of the parade for canteens and horses, but you need to bring your own buckets and horse troughs. Ibid Sully.

## Transportation:

At RFK, registered marchers (and those who seek access to the period reviewing area that parked at RFK instead of going directly to the Reviewing Stand) will be directed to begin loading their busses as much as possible by unit

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and in the Order of March. Mounted Troops, cannon and wagon teams will be given driving instructions and special parking passes to access 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to unload and then move to their reserved parking area at the end of the parade. Important Note: this means that each trailer will need someone to move the trailer from 3<sup>rd</sup> to roughly 12<sup>th</sup> street and view the parade from the reserved reviewing stand or other public area.

Upon completion of the parade, horses and trailers will be directed to their parking locations at 12<sup>th</sup> street and may leave the City. Registered Marchers and period spectators will be directed to shuttle busses and returned to RFK.

## **The Reviewing Stand:**

A period Reviewing Stand is to be built at Freedom Plaza – in front of the Willard Hotel. It is being built from original drawings taken from the archives and from pictures taken in period. We are now accepting requests for period impressions to be a part of the Reviewing Stand. Pictures may be sent with these requests to [FederalManassas@comcast.net](mailto:FederalManassas@comcast.net) No Lincolns please.

## **Weapons:**

We have completed our discussions with the DC MPD, Dept. of Homeland Security and the DC fire arms inspections folks. All normally accepted reenactment muzzle loading rifles will be accepted. No center fire, no rim fire / pin fire and no pistols of any kind will be permitted. Sharps rifles are acceptable. Absolutely no caps, balls or powder! (OK, did not need to say this but better safe than sorry).

Each weapon will be inspected. Think Bentonville and the inspections done by the NC State Inspectors, only individually at registration. Each weapon will be tagged. No alterations to the rifles are required. In contrast to rumors, we will march with hammers, nipples, ramrods and bayonets.

## **Commanders:**

The military coordinators for this event are Dave Childs and Jake Jennette, who brought you several of our 150<sup>th</sup> events. There is NO overall military commander or Chain of Command. It is not necessary and each group is on its own. Dress uniforms are requested - to include historically Zouaves. No rage tags will be accepted.

Each umbrella group should organize itself, lead itself – with staff - and set out its own Order of March. Each Company is invited to march with its own colors as at Remembrance Day – or as determined by the umbrella group, e.g. National Regiment, AOP, First Division ANV, USV, FFD, etc.

Order of March

## **Civilians**

As noted above, civilians are welcome to march – unlike Remembrance Day – at the end of the parade only as was done historically. Civilians and military reenactors that do not wish to march may check in at RFK to be bussed to

the Reviewing Stand or may report directly to the Reviewing Stand to view the parade from the reserved period viewing area.

Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or need anything. We are doing our best to make the Grand Review the crowing jewel of the nations' 150th series and for the next 25 years. We cannot react if you do not contact us with any needs, clarifications -- or ideas.

Col. Dave Childs [FederalManassas@comcast.net](mailto:FederalManassas@comcast.net)

## **Bentonville – 150th**

A short five-hour drive from Southeastern West Virginia took me to the piedmont area of North Carolina and the Bentonville, North Carolina, battleground of March 1865. Here the Confederates of General Joseph E. Johnston made 'in effect' the Confederacy's 'Last Grand Charge' against General Sherman's Federals.

This event was the first large 'engagement' for many a reenactor 'breaking out' of Winter Quarters. The local papers estimated approximately 3,000-4,000 reenactors and 25,000 total spectators over the three-day event!

As part of the 2nd battalion, ANV, I was the only WVRA member of the 25th Virginia to fall-in with the Graycoats. I know for a fact that there was one other WVRA, 25th Virginia member, Guy Covey, who was 'Initiating' his 'new blue suit' at this event. We were able to 'make contact' on Friday afternoon and I might add that his Federal impression is quite good! Too bad we had to be 'brother against brother'!

Saturday dawned and the Confederate Army gathered on the plains of North Carolina for some much needed 'Drill'. As I had been assigned to the 7th Louisiana, Company B, under the command of Captain Tony Morgan, I was encamped with these fine southern gentlemen and upon 'first call' we were assigned to bolster the ranks of the 61st Virginia. Drill was completed and the troops were dismissed to 'go about their business' until the afternoon's battle. There was a nice assortment of Sutlers,

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and many a soldiers 'kit' was improved upon with the expenditure of hard earned 'greenbacks'. A short march to the field of battle placed us in front of entrenched Yankees who put up a good fight, but were forced to 'retire' towards the tree line due to the overwhelming force of Confederate 'firepower'. Then, out of the trees, came the 'Blue Host', and there ensued a great exchange of musketry, such as I had never heard before. As I was doing my best to repel the Federals on the Rebel left, there was made an advance towards the right of the Federal line and there the unmistakable "pop, pop, pop" of that infernal Henry repeater was heard! Taking a 'hit' under this rapid fire I fell wounded on the ground and thus ended 'My Battle'.

The next day was leisurely in the morning, but later that afternoon another march again placed us in front of the entrenched 'Bluebellies'. The harvested cotton field was quite sandy and we proceeded to entrench ourselves. There was many a Rebel in our midst that was 'amazed' to see cotton in it's natural habitat and several proceeded to collect mementos of this 'unique plant'. Soon, the artillery cannonade 'open the ball' and once again the Confederate infantry was called upon to press the Federals in their front and left flank. As the Federals attempted to extradite themselves from this hazardous predicament there approach in their rear a line of 'Butternut' and the Trap was closed!

All-in-all a nice event. If any of you wish to participate in the next Bentonville, NC reenactment... You'll have to wait 5 years!

Again,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
Pvt. Chris 'CW' Johnson  
25th Va. inf'y Reg't.

## Call for Volunteers!

There is a Living History/Encampment event being planned for Friday-Sunday, June 5-7, 2015 in Union, Monroe County, WV. The annual 'Farmer's Day' weekend will be having an

encampment in town and we are looking for 'Volunteers', both Federal and Confederate, to participate. If you are interested in this event we can sure use Your help!

Contact: Chris W. Johnson, 1-304-772-4712 or at: [wvaca@hughes.net](mailto:wvaca@hughes.net).

Chris 'CW' Johnson

## MOUNTAINEER STATE HISTORY EXPO

From the Marion Co. Historical Society  
On Saturday, April 18, 2015, in the magnificent marbled halls of the Marion County Court House that the Mountaineer State History Expo will occur from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Be our guest at no charge! Join in, as historical societies, museums and organizations and assorted topical history buffs will meet to share with the public a wide variety of WV history with exhibits, music, family activities, food, presentations and performances. Meet Jezebel as she makes her maiden appearance in West Virginia. Come meet the Scottish Highlanders and many more. As the nation is commemorating the last year of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, we have commitments of several special groups both Union and Confederacy. If you would like to have a table or volunteer to help, please contact use e-mail: [marionhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:marionhistorical@yahoo.com)

**Museum phone: 304- 367-5398**

Yes it is possible to have an encampment on our lawn & firearms but no ammunitio

**May:** 3<sup>rd</sup>- Making of the 35<sup>th</sup> State by Joe Geiger. In partnership with Jane and Frank Gabor Folklife Center  
23<sup>rd</sup> Julie Pierpont Day

We hope you will be able to join us for these events also

## Notes about the Dispatch

There continues to be some misunderstandings about the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Let me remind folks about some details:

- I strive to post the Dispatch around the first of each month.

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- The Dispatch is emailed to members with email addresses.
- The Dispatch is sent through US Mail to members who have paid the extra \$15 fee to have it sent through US Mail.
- Members who have no email address or have not paid the extra fee are not getting the Dispatch sent directly to them
- I do not send the Dispatch by email to all members at once. I have the email addresses broken down into groups. There is no longer a master list. So when I get requests to send an announcement to all members, I send it the Unit Reps for distribution.
- I encourage all members to contribute articles concerning this period of American history or the reenacting hobby. Including pictures. I am not a computer wizard, so sometimes technology issues stymie my efforts to publish pictures and letters.
- Peter Baxter places the Dispatch on WVRA.org
- The Dispatch editor is not responsible for the Facebook or website.
- The Dispatch is sent to friends of the WVRA. That list is about 8-10 contacts right now.

## WVRA Officers 2015

President – Mark Tennant  
Vice President – Bill Brisendine  
Treasurer – Tim Glaser  
Secretary – Jack Rush  
Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*  
Website – Peter Baxter\*  
1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield  
25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep – Chris Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk  
Artillery – Sam and Connie Krafft  
TASAS – Diane Tennant

\* Non-voting member of executive board

## Registration Fees – WVRA Events

By vote of the membership, the WVRA will pay for any member, who registers for a WVRA sponsored event. The WVRA will reimburse at the EARLY registration rate. Members will be responsible for any amount over and above the EARLY registration rate. Members must register to be eligible. PLEASE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT REGISTERING FOR RICH MOUNTAIN.

## Editor's Corner

Thanks to Chris Johnson for the list of events in West Virginia. It continues to boggle my mind at the number of events in West Virginia. The 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia is now officially part of the Army of Northern Virginia. Mark Tennant tells me the Lantern Tour is scheduled this year at the National Cemetery, May 22.

I will send out an update when details come to me about the March meeting in Beverly.

As always, if anyone has anything for the Dispatch, send it along.

## Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

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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 - TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid Society](#)

Chuck Critchfield -editor

Ccritch608@yahoo.com

## Pictures of My Saturday Morning Walk

Walking through Clarksburg can be historic

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Figure 1 - Federal Graves in Elkview Cemetery, the start of my Saturday morning walk



Figure 4 - The Remnants of the Federal Trenches Looking Northwest. Hill falls steeply to the Right towards town

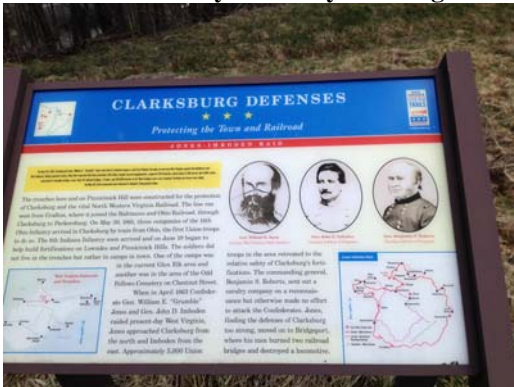


Figure 2 - The Federal Trenches Overlooking Clarksburg



Figure 3 - The View from Federal Trenches Looking Over Clarksburg to the B&O



Figure 5 - On Main Street



Figure 6 - Stonewall