

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2017– Edition 5 – April

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Rich Mountain – July 14-16 Beverly and on the battlefield.

Sanctioned Events

Living History – University High School, April 21, Morgantown

Events Recommended by WVRA members

New Market, Va – May 20-21 USV sanctioned www.vmi.edu

Grafton National Cemetery – May 26 (contact Mark Tennant)

Jackson Family Cemetery, Clarksburg – May 28 (contact Tonya Daft)

McConnellsville, Ohio – July 8-10

War Comes to Monroe County - Union, W. Va., August 25-27

Cedar Creek – October 6-8 USV Sanctioned
Other – 2017

Marion Co. Historical Society – April 1 see facebook page

On to Richmond – June 2-4

Gettysburg – July 1-3

Jackson's Mill – Labor Day Weekend

Also the new by-laws combine the office Secretary and Treasury into one office when that is needed.

Anyone wishing a copy of the by-laws can contact me to obtain a copy.

FROM THE MARCH MEETING

*West Virginia Reenactors Association Meeting
March 4, 2017, 1 pm
Weston Steakhouse*

President Jim Barnes appointed Elizabeth Stormy Brasuk as Acting Secretary

Jim Barnes called the meeting to order. Nine members present. Two special guests, Rob Cook, a reenactor and Phil Caskey, a history teacher at University High School (UHS).

Phil Caskey made a presentation about the living history event at UHS on April 20-21.

- Gun powder and guns are allowed
- Lincoln actors attending
- Reenactors from Barbour Grays, 1st Va. Cav.; artillery, WVRA attending
- Reenactors may set up after 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 20
- Phil C. will be on hand for assistance
- Wood, water and port-a-johns are provided. Working on a water mule.
- Suggested that medical personnel standby; hay for seating
- Hopes to have this event expand to a larger event and extend to Saturday in the future
- Let Phil C. know how many coming
- Tables available
- Fire pits allowed

Students will be coming in 3 waves

- 7:30 – 9:30 am, UHS sophomores (300)
- 9:45 – 12:15, Monongalia County 8th graders (350-400)
- 12:30 - ? other UHS students

Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the last meeting since they were published in the newsletter was made by Chuck Critchfield and seconded by John Brasuk. The motion passed. Jim Barnes made the treasurers report.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Barnes read a thank you note from the Soldiers and Sailors committee

TENTATIVE NEXT MEETING

IMPORTANT – this is a TENTATIVE DATE. As of the publication of this newsletter, there is no pending business requiring a meeting. So, this meeting may be canceled. Please monitor email, etc.

Saturday April 29 at 1 pm at the Christ Episcopal Church Parish House in Clarksburg, West Virginia. The church is on the corner of Main and 6th Streets and the Parish House can be found directly behind the church on the corner of 6th Street and Traders Alley.

New By-Laws

The By-law revisions were approved at the March meeting. The primary changes were detailed in the last meeting, but once again the main change will allow other time period reenactors to join the WVRA.

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The revised by-laws were presented for a vote. Chuck C. reported that he had received 4 absentee ballots. Chuck C. moved that the new by-laws be accepted and that the vote be down by voice vote. John B seconded the motion. The by-laws revisions were accepted unanimously by voice vote of all present and absentee ballot.

Now that the by-laws were approved, Jack Rush will assume the combined Secretary/Treasury officer position for the WVRA.

Mark T. reported that the annual ceremony at Grafton National Cemetery will be held this year on May 26.

Unit Meeting Reports

Artillery reported plans to attend Reenactor Appreciation at Gettysburg, March 10-12, the UHS event and Artillery School.

1st West Virginia reported plans to attend New market, Grafton lantern tour and Beverly.

No reports from TASAS, 1st Virginia or 25th Virginia.

Next Meeting at Clarksburg on April 26 at 1 pm.

Submitted by Sgt. Elizabeth Stormy Brasuk

Thank You Notes

February 3, 2017

Mr. Barnes:

Thank you for the very generous donations from the WV Reenactors Association for the move and restoration of the Wheeling Soldiers and Sailors monument. The project is progressing nicely, thanks to people like you. Please all try to come to the rededication sometime in 2017!

Gratefully,

Margaret Brennan

Civil War Monument Committee

University High School

March 1, 2017

Dear West Virginia Reenactors Association,
On behalf of University High School, our American Civil War Studies classes send the biggest thank you for sponsoring two of our

students to our upcoming field trip of Gettysburg in April. The students who have been awarded your monies come from families that will greatly benefit from your generosity and get to experience something they may not normally be able to do due financial hardships.

For the students your are sponsoring this will be a meaningful, experiential learning activity of a lifetime. Both students are active in enriching their education of the American Civil War and I personally thank you for allowing them to flourish in this endeavor. The trip to Gettysburg will cap our studies of this grand conflict and offer a unique perspective into the largest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere.

Additionally, we'd be remiss if we didn't thank you in advance for attending our inaugural UHS Civil War Encampment on Friday, April 21. We are thankful for your participation in this unique experience. We are planning an event that will bring our West Virginia Civil War heritage to life.

Thank you once again for your generosity,
Cordially

(Signed by Philip H. Caskey)

Philip H. Caskey

2016 Civil War Trust National Teacher of the Year

2013 WVU CDCE Model Scholar-Teacher

Social Studies Educator

Treasurers Report

2/1/17 to 2/28/17

Beginning Balance:	\$3,977.31
Credits (memberships):	\$315.00
Debits:	
Web.com	-\$22.95
Bank Service Charge	-\$3.00
Ending Balance:	\$4,266.36

Submitted J. Rush

3/24/2017

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Centuries of History featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain

The WVRA has voted to SPONSOR the Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History, Featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain Reenactment on July 14, 15 and 16. Activities will take place at Beverly and at Field of Fire location at Camp Garnett.

This year will be a "better-than-ever joint event to commemorate the Battle of Rich Mountain and history of nearby Beverly, Randolph County. Civil War camps and reenactment on the Battlefield park property will be joined by timeline living history and multi-period camps in Beverly. Battle reenactment, living history scenarios, displays and music from the range of periods will bring exciting and educational activities for our visitors. Activities for spectators and participants will be shared between the two locations."

Living History in Morgantown

Phil Caskey, the teacher at University High School in Morgantown who is organizing this living history, will be on hand at our March 4 meeting in Weston. The WVRA has voted to sanction this event, scheduled for April 21.

This event will take place at the high school starting at 7:30 am on Friday April 21. Phil has announced that you may camp overnight at the high school and set up sometime after school lets out on Thursday afternoon. The school is located on Bakers Ridge Road north of Morgantown and is off the Point Marion Road.

Three different waves of students are expected to visit with us (8th graders, UHS history students and a final group open to all UHS students). In other words, hundreds of potential visitors. Other reenacting groups will be present, but all from the Civil War period.

Grafton National Cemetery Lantern Tour

Mark Tennant received confirmation from Kevin Stead, Grafton, City Manager that the National Cemetery Lantern Tour is officially approved for

Friday, May 26, 2017 at 8:30 pm. This is at "old" National Cemetery on Walnut Street near Grafton/Taylor Co. Library, not the "new National Cemetery at Pruntytown.

Anyone willing to help Mark Tennant please contact him now (304-363-0935). Tour usually lasts approx. 1 and 1/2 hours. There will be a catered meal at 6 pm at Graton city park for reenactors and gas money will be available for those who want it. Those who have them, please bring candle /kerosene lanterns. Hope for good weather.

Jackson Family Cemetery Ceremony

A ceremony is planned at the Jackson Family Cemetery in the Kelly Hill section of Clarksburg on Memorial Day. Please contact Tonya Daft as soon as you can for more details.



Photo courtesy of John (Jay) Ziolkowski

New Market

The USV 1st Regiment, of which the 1st West Virginia is a member, will portray the 1st West Virginia at the annual New Market reenactment this year, May 20 and 21. This is a quite an honor for the First, once again. Please sign up now to attend!

By the way, this is a date photo. I recognize Mike Kelly, Jimmy Epling?, myself, Art Helmick or Mark Tennant, Jeff Zickefoose, Jack Rush and I think see the arm of Corporal James Barnes.

Go to www.vmi.edu to learn how to register.

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WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes

Vice President – John Brasuk

Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website – Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield

25th Va. Rep – Tim Glaser

1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – Stormy Brasuk

TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

***** 155 Years Ago *****

Stonewall's Only Defeat Thoburn Wounded

March 1862 – Tales of the First Virginia

On the first day of March of 1862, the First Virginia was given orders to march and by 3 pm was at the Capon River, where they crossed “on a bridge made of the wagons.” The regiment was part of force headed toward Winchester and a start of a campaign to take the Shenandoah Valley. This initial movement was short lived, as the whole command returned to Paw Paw the next day. Brigadier General Frederick W. Lander, the district commander had died of pneumonia. On the 3rd, Lander’s funeral was held at Paw Paw.

The following week, the Federals resumed the advance towards Winchester, this time riding the rails eastward. About 12 miles from Martinsburg, the troops detrained and camped. Irish-born Brigadier General James Shields assume command of the little army, now composed of 3 brigades. The First belonged to the third brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Erastus Tyler of the 7th Ohio. After repairs were effected on a missing railroad bridge, Shields command reboarded and traveled past Martinsburg to the Winchester Road, where once again they left the train and set up camp. C. J. Rawlin said that the Winchester Road was “a fine macadamized road, but somewhat cut up be the hauling of locomotives over it.”

By the 14th the First and Shields Division reached a point less than one mile north of Winchester where they encountered Turner Ashby’s cavalry. The Third Brigade soon entered Winchester to the hoots of the genteel Southern women who were “noisy and demonstrative.” In particular, the women became

“stirred” by the appearance of two Virginia regiments in the marching column. The next day the Federals were one mile beyond Strasburg on the Valley Pike where they encountered the enemy. After a skirmish the regiment camped for the night in a cold pouring rain with almost nothing but gum and woolen blankets to protect them. “This may be considered the beginning of the regiment’s hard service.

The Federals now under Nathaniel Banks had followed the retreating Stonewall Jackson up the valley and skirmished with the Rebel rear guard at Strasburg and Middletown. About this time, Banks began to shift his troops eastward towards Washington and Banks himself left the Winchester area leaving local command to James Shields. Any pursuit of Jackson was called off and Shields withdrew to Winchester. Under mistaken intelligence, Jackson headed back down the Valley to retake what he though was a very lightly defended Winchester. On March 23, Jackson’s tired troops clashed with Shields men at the First Battle of Kernstown.

On Sunday the 23rd, the First could hear constant artillery firing beyond town, while eating breakfast. At about noon the First and the rest of the Third Brigade marched south towards the cannon fire. Joshua Winters wrote “the canon balls whisselled over our heads” and then added “you ott to of seen us a dodging. We all cum down in one motion.” The First marched through fields in column. Eventually companies A and G were placed in skirmish line to proceed the column. By the time the First reached the battlefield, the Confederates held the stonewall along the “Sandy Ridge.” The First was on the extreme right of the line and was perpendicular to the main line, facing the refused left flank of the Confederates. About 3 pm, the infantry fight on that flank got underway.

The First advanced and once in range received a volley from the woods in their front. “our kirlen (Joseph Thoburn) put his cap on his sord and started throu the field and holard ‘Com on Boys’.” Rawlin wrote that “there was no time to speculate...as there was the enemy doing his best to kill; the buzz and whistle of the balls, with now and then a pit or thug as one hit the solid part of a man...not pleasant music.”

Rawlin noted that the Confederates on higher ground were for the most part firing too high. Nevertheless, Thoburn was wounded. For about two

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hours the First exchanged fire with their enemy. “The men of the First as well as the whole command were pouring in their fire, pressing them hard, moving up step by step, always forward and cheering...No rebel yell there; it was a hearty hurrah, the difference in the two being very plain.” “The roar of the musketry soon became continuous; all ideas of platoon firing were forgotten, it was simply fire at will...” Winters commented in his diary that “we lost a grate menne min but thay lost four to our one (actually about 700 to 500). Company G, Winters’ company, “didant lose a man” according to Joshua

Dwindling ammunition soon caused the South to retreat up the Valley and away from Kernstown leading to Federal claims after the war, that this was Stonewall’s only tactical defeat during the war. Rawlin wrote that “the North hailed it (victory) with almost unbounded joy, as it appeared to mark a turning-point in the tide of affairs.”

Winters writes that on the 24th “we took after them” marching through muddy wheat fields until they reached Cedar Creek. “at night our Co had 12 min. all the rest giv out. We got close anuf to fire the canon.”

So ended the first battle of Kernstown and also the opening act of Jackson’s Valley Campaign. The First would take part in some of the last acts of the Campain later in the spring.

- *From History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry by C. J. Rawling*
- *Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters Edited by Elizabeth Davis Swiger (WVRA)*
- *Wheeling-Intelligencer*
- *And most of all KEVIN SKAGGS*

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org – Beverly Heritage Center
WVRA.org – our website
<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrtable.org/> -- W. Va.
Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

Yankees, Rebels and Rabble Rousers

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation is presenting a Civil War symposium on April 1, 2017 in Beverly at the IOOF Building starting at Noon. The

theme of the day’s presentations is “Commanders who inspired, astonished and bewildered!”

Schedule

Noon – Registration

12:45 pm- Welcome and Overview of RMBF – Rick Wolfe

1:00 pm - William Powell The Iron Man – Rick Wolfe

1:45 – Robert E. Lee’s Feuding Generals: Wise vs. Floyd – Hunter Lesser

3:00 – Colonel Joseph Thoburn and the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign – Scott Patchan

3:45 – Soldiers, Statesman and Politicians: Commanders of the 23rd Ohio – Dr. Billy Joe Peyton

After the afternoon speakers’ program, Beverly Heritage Center will be offering a Springtime Soiree Dinner at the Heritage Center. Social hour and open house start at 4:30 and dinner is served at 6 pm.

The symposium fee is \$30 and \$15 for students. Dinner and Symposium are \$70 and dinner alone is \$45. For more information or RSVP please contact Beverly Heritage Center at 304-637-7424 or info@beverlyheritagecenter.org.

Military Organization

1st Virginia Cavalry

UNIT REP - John Brasuk

Captain - John Brasuk

Sergeant -

Corporal -

Events - TBD

1st West Virginia Infantry

UNIT REP - Mark Tennant

Captain - Chuck Critchfield

Sergeant - Ross Wetherell

Corporal - Vacant

Events - UHS Living History, New Market,

Beverly/Rich Mountain

25th Virginia Infantry

UNIT REP - Tim Glaser

Captain - Jeff Goff

Sergeant - Greg Watterson

Corporal - Jay Allman

Events - Beverly/Rich Mountain

1st West Virginia Artillery

UNIT REP - Stormy Brasuk

Battery A

TBD

Battery B

Sergeant - Stormy Brasuk

Events - Reenactor Appreciation at

Gettysburg, March 10-12, the UHS event and Artillery School.

Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

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Unit Rep - Diane Tennant
Union Rep - Debbie Rush
Confederate Rep - vacant
Events - TBD

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU – Thank you to Jim Barnes and Jack Rush for stepping up to leadership positions. Thank you Stormy Brasuk for taking minutes at the March meeting!

MEMBERSHIP – Please renew your membership for the 2017 reenacting season. Remember that in the 1st West Virginia, insurance coverage is dependent on your paid membership within the 1st West Virginia.

DROOP MOUNTAIN – rumors persist about a Droop Mountain reenactment. There is apparently a possibility that Bryan's Battery with our help will hold a reenactment at Droop in 2017. As of the March meeting, we had not heard from Bryan's Battery.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch.

FOR SALE – Hunter Lesser has advised that anyone who wants a signed copy of *The Civil War in Lewis County, WV*, by Roy Bird Cook, he might be able to oblige.

FORGOTTEN CIVIL WAR?? – While listening to the national news on March 21, I heard a piece about the Civil War. A short segment that showed the war is still occupying our thoughts and actions. In the 1990's some southern states, led by Virginia, created a holiday called Lee-Jackson-King Day. Robert E., Thomas J. and Martin L. were all born around the same day and as a result the state observances were combined into one day. On March 21, Arkansas' legislature voted to separate the holidays, moving the Confederate holiday into the fall – much to chagrin of Robert E Lee's admirers in Arkansas. That leaves two southern states with the combined holiday. I won't comment on the political fallout from this split – or the fallout from the original decision to combine Lee/Jackson Day with M. L. King day.

Please do not send any correspondence to the PO Box in Buckhannon. Membership information can be sent to me. Remember you must be a member of record to qualify for membership benefits. To be covered under the respective

insurance policies that the 1st West Virginia and the 25th Virginia infantry units participate in, you must be a member of record. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1st W. Va. members are covered under the USV insurance. Insurance questions about the 1st Virginia Cavalry should be directed to the Unit Representative.

Yours truly, has no connection to the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page and takes no responsibility for it. Nor do I have any responsibility for the WVRA Facebook page. I would suggest that the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page seems to have more up to date information.

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 per year. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA

WVRA website - wvra.org

Facebook – [WVRA – TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid Society](#)

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From the February meeting, Bishop George W. Peterkin, aide to Brigadier General William Nelson Pendleton, Seven Pines until Appomattox.



GEORGE W. PETERKIN IN CONFEDERATE UNIFORM
(From An Early Photograph)