

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2018 – Edition IV - April

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Beverly (see below) - July 13-15

Sanctioned Events

University High School - April 20-21

Events Recommended by WVRA members

2018

March Meeting - March 24, Weston Steak House, 1 pm.

Clarksburg Gun Show - March 24, contact Jim Barnes

Bedlam on the Borderlands - Civil War symposium April 7, Beverly
info@beverlyheritagecenter.org.

New Market - May 19-20

Gettysburg 155 - July 5-8;
www.gettysburgreenactment.com/reenactors

Cedar Creek - October

Remembrance Day - November
Other Events

Philippi - June 1,2 and 3

Bulltown - October 12 -14, 2018 contact Sam Krafft (cwarcapt@yahoo.com)

Droop Mountain - October 12-14, 2018.

Other Time Periods

Beverly Centuries of History - July 13-15

Editor's note - if you plan to attend events, please work with your Unit Rep.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will March 24 at 1:00 pm at the Weston Steer House (normal location). Please note the starting time is 1 pm.

RENEW NOW

To be a member of the West Virginia Reenactors Association, you must be a registered and pay dues. I make this simple, seemingly obvious statement because in this day and age when having insurance coverage is mandatory to participate in some events, you must be a member of the WVRA to be eligible for the insurance we are attempting to purchase.

1st West Virginia members continue to be covered by the USV policy. But only if you are a member of

record with the First. You get that membership by joining the WVRA and declaring that you will join the 1st West Virginia.

Dues remain the same. Individual membership is \$15 and family membership is \$25. Family membership is limited to immediate family members from college age downward.

Remember, if you would like the newsletter sent to you via US Mail instead of email, please let me know. The subscription rate is \$10 to cover printing and mailing. PS - I need your address also.

Renewals to date (March 15, 2018)

General

Elizabeth Swiger

TASAS

Bill Snyder
Peter and Phyllis Baxter
Gary and Millie Goetze
Debbie Wenig
Christina Ward
William Ward
Patricia Carroll
Sherry Goff
Katie Goff
Jennifer Bravener
Pam Dodds
Hunter Lesser

Jennifer Smith
Linda Barnes
Debbie Rush
Brian Ward
Abbi Ward
Jakob Lester
Diane Tennant
Katie Skidmore
Morgan Goff
Art Dodds
Linda Donegan

25th Virginia

Bill Brisendine
Dirk Behana
Thurman Shaver
John Webb
Jay Allman

Ken Connell
Timothy Glaser
Jeff Goff
Jim Allman

1st West Virginia

Chuck Critchfield
Jim Barnes
Jack Rush
Ed ChapdeLaine
Patrick Carroll
Christopher Taylor
Ralph McCready

Kevin Skaggs
John Ziolkowski
Ron Wenig
Christopher Carroll
Mark Tennant
Bill Donegan
Meghan Lough

Artillery

Mark Poling
Tony Shaffer

Stormy Brasu k
Duane Miller

1st Virginia

John Brasuk
Carl Vandergrift
Chuck McCormick

Ed Falvo

Newsletter

Tag Ireland
Stormy Brasuk
Ed Falvo
Thurman Shaver

Mark Poling
Carl Vandergrift
Chuck McCormick

UPCOMING EVENTS

Clarksburg Gun Show

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Jim Barnes is manning a recruitment table at the Clarksburg Gun Show on the 24th or March.

Beverly Heritage Days

Editor's Note - the WVRA has voted to make this a sponsored event.

Living historians from 1750 until 1950 eras are invited join our timeline heritage event to share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. Beverly, West Virginia was the original county seat of Randolph County, and was a crucial crossroads through settlement, Civil War and 20th Century history. Located 6 miles south of Elkins along US Rt 219, Beverly is an active heritage tourism destination with town historic district, Rich Mountain Battlefield, and multiple museums and shops anchored by the Beverly Heritage Center. Beverly Heritage Days is our primary heritage event of the year.

Living history camps will include Native American, Pioneer, Civil War, and World War II eras. For this year we are seeking additional representation from post-Civil War periods, including World War I and civilian life. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, heritage crafts and displays are all welcome. The event will welcome music from a variety of periods, and a "timeline" dance Saturday evening will feature music and dancing from 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

We welcome input and suggestions from WVRA or other participants, as we plan the activities for the event. If you have a suggestion or would like to participate on the planning committee, please contact event chair Phyllis Baxter, phyllisb@meer.net or call BHC at 304-637-7424.

Participant info / registration for Beverly Heritage Days is posted on the website. For the direct link, <http://beverlyheritagecenter.org/BHD2018participa nt.html> or go to beverlyheritagecenter.org and there is a link on bottom left in the news block.

Beverly Heritage Days - Centuries of History is presented by Beverly Heritage Center and Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation. Editor's Note: nothing is planned at Camp Garnett or on Rich Mountain.

Film Project

(Editor's note - this was posted by Tonya Daft on the WVRA Facebook page on Oct. 30. All questions can be directed to her. She requests

contact by Facebook message. I have received no updates as of Jan. 28) This is an update to that posting (as first published in December newsletter.)

Update on Civil War era documentary film. Should have some dates after November 1 and location to do the trailer for the film. This so they can produce support for the documentary. I heard from some of you (WVRA members) with names phone email and addresses. Need someone from our WVRA group that has cannons. Need possible two. If you have not contacted (message me) with your info please do so ASAP so when everything is decided I can reach you quickly. Thanks a Million. Tonya Fluharty Daft.

University High School Civil War Days

From Phil Caskey, the award-winning history teacher at University High School in Morgantown, West Virginia:

Dear WVRA,

You are cordially invited to return to University High School's two-day Encampment, April 20-21, on school grounds.

Our event last year would not have been successful if not for our gracious participation. By expanding to two days, we are hopeful more re-enactors will be able to commit to our growing event and we are hopeful you all can return again.

April 20 will be our day-long program for students in the county, working in rotations and Saturday the 21st, we expand and welcome the general public. We will have a reenactment on Saturday among other events planned to engage the community.

We are also looking for a sutler this year. Any suggestions.

Friday's program begins at 8 am. Phil has requested that reenactors please set up before that time. Reenactors are able to set up after school lets out on Thursday, April 19 (around 3 pm).

(editor's note: Might I suggest that somebody coordinate the WVRA presentations. Last year we didn't know what to expect and threw something together at the last minute. Some like Ralph McCready's was well-rehearsed and presented. Some like mine were thrown together from memory, which is fraught with gaps.)

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Bedlam on the Borderlands

Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation is sponsoring another Civil War symposium on Saturday, April 7 at the IOOF Hall in Beverly. This year's theme is Bedlam on the Borderlands and will feature four speakers who will talk about West Virginia-related topics.

Schedule

Noon - Registration

12:50 - Welcome and Overview - Rick Wolfe

1:00 - Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital - Kevin Pawlak

1:50 - The McNeil Rangers in the Gettysburg Campaign - Steve French

3:00 - The Battle of Lewisburg - Richard Armstrong

3:50 The Crooked Road to Freedom: Strange Tales of Slavery and Emancipation - The one and only Hunter Lesser

For prices and registration information, please visit info@beverlyheritagecenter.org or call 304-637-7424.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 1, 2018.

Beginning Balance	\$5,016.75
Credits	
Membership dues	\$45.00
Debits	
RMBF (S. Prager Gains)**	\$375.00
Prickett's Fort (S. Prager Gains) **	\$375.00
Ending Balance	\$4,311.75

** see item in January 16 meeting minutes

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

Mountain State History Expo

The Mountaineer State History Expo was a great success. It was well attended by the public and had many interesting exhibits.

We had a exhibit of two tables with information on artillery as well as general information. We had a very enjoyable time talking and answering questions from the public.

We had 10 people interested in joining us in historical reenactments.

We are looking forward to doing this event next year.

We were also interviewed by the local paper.

Submitted by Sgt. Stormy Brasuk

Lurty's Company Virginia Horse Artillery

(Editor's note: This is a quick review of the Mountain State History Expo held at the Marion County Court House, Fairmont, March 10 by the Marion County Historical Society.

OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

USV Update

Just a brief reminder, the 1st West Virginia belongs to the an umbrella group, the United States Volunteers. We belong to the First Regiment, which by the way, is commanded by Colonel Kevin Skaggs.

Since the annual meeting in January, a majority of the 2nd Regiment has elected to leave the USV and form their own organization. As a Company commander, I was forwarded a communication from USV commander Darrel Markijohn. I have included parts of that communication below.

Forwarded to 1st Regiment:

All,

I am proud to add Captain Casey Chuhinka (71st Pa), Captain Nick Pollack (50thPa), and Captain Don Arns (5th/95th NY) to this e-mail chain of USV Field Grade Officers. I also want to recognize Lt. Col. Michael Kiss (PA Reserve), Lt. Col. Bill Leonard and Lt. Col. Steve Kuhn (USV Artillery) and Maj. Walt Dewey (1st USV Regiment) as the newly elected USV Field Grade Officers. Please help me welcome these distinguished individuals to this strong cadre of USV Officers!

To those new to this chain, all of the USV Corporate Officers are also on this list, including Katie Mullin our Civilian Coordinator, and members of your USV Brigade Staff. Everyone on this list is a proud and loyal member of the USV!

I wanted to bring you up to date on a few items.

(editor's note: I have removed items of no interest to the 1st West Virginia Infantry)

2. **New Market.** All good news to report on New Market. We have had a series of conference calls. Last year's success has spurred a serious uptick in Confederate Support. The entire ANV is coming, meaning our field superiority may have been short lived. This is an excellent event for families, and great opportunities for civilians to participate in some of the scenarios, since most of the fighting is in and among the historic Farm buildings at the site.

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Large numbers from the Federal Volunteer Brigade and the National Regiment will be in attendance. Get your registrations in.

3. **155TH GETTYSBURG.** There is much to report on Gettysburg. Your Brigade Staff made yet another trip to the Redding farm this past weekend and solidified once and for all, the Battlefield Site and the Federal Camping area. I am confident that you are all going to love the battlefield we chose, and fought to hold over some chatter about moving it. The planning for Reynolds March is in full swing, and we are very excited about the opportunities it brings us.

The early registration is also encouraging. There are already over 3K registered reenactors. Based on past results, we are confident that the numbers should get close to and probably exceed 5K. Our relationship with Maj. Gen. Gordon Grehe, Commander of the ANV and Confederate Forces at GB could not be any better. WE are both working on well planned scenarios and are happy to announce that we are incorporating all of the requests to portray individual regiments and brigades.

In early JUNE, 2018, we will be mustering at the Redding Farm to build the stone wall. We will be getting dates out to you soon and hope that you will be able to encourage some of your boys to give us a hand.

4. **CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES.** Katie Mullin and a strong list of respected USV Civilians have been holding monthly conference calls with the Brigade Staff and planning some exciting civilian activities. One item that they have suggested, which is long over due, is a USV Electronic Newsletter. Major Jason Eckart has agreed to spear head the project. Expect a regularly published communique, with current events and other items of interest. Thank you Katie and your committee for working on this project. Our civilians are also working on some real neat projects for New Market and Gettysburg. If you have any civilians that want to pitch in, please have them contact Katie.

5. **AND FINALLY....** I want to commend all of the company commanders, troops and civilians from the units in our 2nd USV Regiment that voted to remain members of the USV. As we have proclaimed all along, the flag of the USV 2nd Regiment will continue to fly. These brave and loyal individuals will be carrying on the proud tradition of the USV

2nd Regiment. I am sure that everyone on this list joins me in committing every asset and resource that exists in the USV to assist you all in rebuilding your Regiment.

HUZZAH TO THE 2ND REGIMENT AND THE USV!

Regards,
Brig. Gen. Darrell Markijohn

FOR SALE

Former member Rob Freeman is selling some of his Civil War period clothing that was worn by himself and his father. He is selling shirts, a military vest and civilian vest, a almost new Union frock coat, a Confederate sack coat with Virginia buttons and two pairs of sky blue pants. Contact Pam Nicholson jmpnicholson@aol.com or Rob at rffreeman1373@gmail.com for more information.

155 Years Ago

March and April of 1863.

1st (Western) Virginia Infantry

The First remained at camp, guarding the B&O, at North Mountain in the Eastern Panhandle, until March 6. On the sixth they marched in the mud to Romney, camping at the first camping the regiment used in 1861. The boys were not there long before moving a couple miles west to Mechanicsburg Gap, where the road to New Creek (modern day Keyser) passed through the ridges on the west side of the South Branch Valley. Here, along with the 54th Pennsylvania, the Ringgold Cavalry and Battery E of the 1st (Western) Virginia Artillery, the First guarded the western approaches to Romney.

"Picket duty, drill and parade occupied fully the time of the command" according to Rawling. He described frequent night alarms including cries of "snakes." The legless creatures, apparently seeking the heated interiors of soldier tents, appeared from time to time. Although not a big crisis in the daylight, nighttime snake alarms were "sufficient to cause evacuation of a tent in the shortest possible time, no one wanting such a bedfellow."

In looking at Joshua Winters' diary and letters from March and April of 1863, he confirms Rawling's observation about the routine of garrison duty. Winters does mention a few "scouts" that took him away from camp to investigate Confederate activity. Winters would bump into Rebel cavalry, but no pitched battles took place. Although one trip to

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Greenland Gap involved a 31-mile march. A "vary hard march" according to Winters.

From "History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry" by C. J. Rawling and "Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winter - A Private in the Union Army Company G, First Western Virginia Volunteer Infantry" edited by WVRA member Elizabeth Davis Swiger.

12th (Western) Virginia Infantry

The 12th Infantry was posted in Winchester for the winter of 1863. On March 17, the 12th along with the 9th and 10th marched into Hampshire County to vote. (When the statehood bill reached Congress, however, the lack of an emancipation clause prompted opposition from Senator Charles Sumner and Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio. A compromise was reached known as the Willey Amendment which was approved by Unionist voters in the state on March 26, 1863. It called for the gradual emancipation of slaves based on age after July 4, 1863.)

On March 27, they moved to Berryville near the Shenandoah River. Here they were closer to ongoing war with partisan bands and with Mosby's command. In addition Confederate regular army pickets were a mere 4 miles to the east. "The 12th Va. Regiment has the advance of this division: the post of danger and also of honor," wrote Thomas Orr. Here with two other infantry regiments, a battery and a regiment of cavalry, the 12th settled into the routine of picket duty and camp life once again.

A small band of guerillas under the command of Captain Lapole* (also referred to as Lapool and Leopold) was particularly troublesome. These "very bold and annoying" men frequently fired on the pickets and outposts. One night the guerillas capture two cavalymen and five horses. To put a stop to this, a detail of 40 men volunteered under the command of Lieutenant Powell of Company H. They crossed a high and rapid Shenandoah and thanks to help of a negro man were guided to house where they surprised a sleeping Lapole and several others at dawn of April 9.

These men were complimented by the command chain all the way up to Division commander Robert Schenck. Lapole was convicted by a military court and hung in May of 1864.

As April closed, the 12th remained at Berryville, waiting for the next campaign.

** - (editor's note: I was unable to find anything other reference to this person in my reference materials)*

"From "History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry" by William Hewitt and A company of BOYS IN BLUE" by Mark E. Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr. (Donated by Orr's descendant Mark E. Paul)

As always, I welcome any similar information on the 25th Virginia or 1st Virginia Cavalry.

They Said It (or didn't)

I received a post three times from some unknown person (or fake person) saying "Two quotes you won't see in school." My response to that: 'Maybe because the quotes are not accurate.' The posting contains quotes and pictures of Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee that would lead you to believe that Lincoln was really not all that much in favor of freeing the slaves and that Lee was not an enlightened abolitionist. Sitting here in the 21st century looking back at these men, we have a tendency to paint absolute pictures of these men, when they had nuances to their persona. They were not, all one thing or another.

Quote number one, beside a picture of Abraham Lincoln. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it." First, this leads you to believe that was the total sentence. It was not. Where you see a period there was a comma. This quote is pulled from Lincoln's letter of August 22, 1862, to Horace Greeley, influential editor of the New York Tribune. Here is the letter.

*Executive Mansion,
Washington, August 22, 1862.*

*Hon. Horace Greeley:
Dear Sir.*

I have just read yours of the 19th. addressed to myself through the New-York Tribune. If there be in it any statements, or assumptions of fact, which I may know to be erroneous, I do not, now and here, controvert them. If there be in it any inferences which I may believe to be falsely drawn, I do not now and here, argue against them. If there be perceptible in it an impatient and dictatorial tone, I waive it in deference to an old friend, whose heart I have always supposed to be right.

As to the policy I "seem to be pursuing" as you say, I have not meant to leave any one in doubt.

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*I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. **If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it**, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views.*

I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men every where could be free.

Yours,
A. Lincoln.

Robert E. Lee's quote in this Facebook meme goes as follows: "There is a terrible war coming and these men who have never seen war cannot wait for it to happen, but I tell you, I wish that I owned every slave in the South, for I would free them all to avoid war."

This quote is a bit controversial. There is no primary evidence that Lee ever wrote or said this. Something similar appears in the writing of a Presbyterian minister about 15 years after that minister interviewed Lee in 1869 and it is possible that this quote was drawn from that source. This quote appears in a text book of quotes a few decades after the war, but there is no citation.

"If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think, and feel."
-- Abraham Lincoln, October 7, 1858.

"In this enlightened age, there are few I believe, but what will acknowledge, that slavery as an institution is a moral & political evil in any Country.

It is useless to expatiate on its disadvantages. I think it however a greater evil to the white than to the black race, & while my feelings are strongly interested in behalf of the latter, my sympathies are more strong for the former. The blacks are immeasurably better off here than in Africa, morally, socially & physically. The painful discipline they are undergoing, is necessary for their instruction as a race, & I hope will prepare & lead them to better things. How long their subjugation may be necessary is Known & ordered by a wise & merciful Providence. Their emancipation will sooner result from the mild & melting influence of Christianity, than the storms & tempests of fiery Controversy. This influence though slow is sure. The doctrines & miracles of our Saviour have required nearly two thousand years to Convert but a small part of the human race, & even Christian nations, what gross errors still exist! While we see the Course of the final abolition of human slavery is onward, & we give it the aid of our prayers & all justifiable means in our power we must leave the progress as well as the result in his hands who Sees the end; who Chooses to work by slow influences ; & with whom two thousand years are but a single day" - Robert E. Lee in a letter to his wife, December 1856.

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)
Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

WVRA Officers 2018 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes
Vice President – Ken Connell
Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush
Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*
Website – Peter Baxter*
1st W. Va. Rep – Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant
25th Va. Rep – Tim Glaser
1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk
Artillery – Stormy Brasuk
TASAS – Diane Tennant
Union Rep - Debbie Rush **
Confederate Rep - Sherri Skidmore Goff **
20th Century Rep - Linda Barnes **

* Non-voting member of executive board

** Not members of executive board

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Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

LAST MONTH'S Editor's Corner elicited no responses. I think I could write Robert E. Lee was a communist and nobody would notice (*I am joking about him being communist*).

Thanks to everyone who made contributions to this issue - Jim Barnes, Stormy Brasuk, Peter Baxter for posting on WVRA.org and Mike Phillips.

PHILIPPI - The annual Philippi reenactment is scheduled for the first weekend in June. (as usual it's the weekend I am with Special Olympics). Eric Smallwood has posted an announcement on Facebook about the event and the 1st West Virginia, Co. A. Also, he talks about the Confederate company (K Barbour Mountain Guard) that becomes part of the 31st Virginia. He is soliciting participation. You can find the posting on Conference of West Virginia Reenactors Facebook page.

BEVERLY HERITAGE CENTER - announced that rehabilitation work on the 1841 Randolph County jail sitting behind the Heritage Center in Beverly, will start in 2018. Beverly is also embarking on our their annual growth campaign to provide funding for improvement projects. Please donate. beverlyheritagecenter.org.

CONFEDERATES - Once again, I appeal to our brethren in the 25th Virginia or 1st Virginia to contribute historical info their regiments or Confederate related historical materials.

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE RETREAT and Lighthouse contacted Porter Stiles who forwarded the information to me. This group wants to have a Civil War reenactment on June 16 and is inviting us to participate or maybe even organize. I will bring the information to the March 24 meeting.

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.

There are two Facebook pages currently in use as avenues of communication by WVRA members. One is the WVRA-The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society group page. The other group is labeled simply West Virginia Reenactors Association. Tonya Daft is the administrator on the West Virginia Reenactors Association page. Please address all questions to her about that page. I am not sure who is administrator to the WVRA-TASAS page. I continue to use the WVRA-TASAS page to post announcements as it has been the page getting the most use (by far) over the past 3 years.



Nathan Goff - submitted by Mike Phillips.

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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

Chuck Critchfield – editor

608 Skyview Drive

Clarksburg, WV 26301

Ccritch608@yahoo.com