

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2019 - April - Edition IV

Upcoming Events

Civil War

Sponsored

Beverly Heritage Days, July 12-14

Sanctioned

None

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

Civil War Symposium, April 6, Beverly, WV
University High School - TBD

New Market, May 18-19, 2019, New Market,
Virginia (USV)

Fort Mulligan, August 17, Petersburg, WV -
see Dave Judy

Shenandoah 1864, Oct. 4-6 (USV)

Burlington, WV Oct. 4-6 - See Dave Judy

155th Cedar Creek, Oct. 18-20, 2019 (USV)

Other Events

Droop Mountain, October 11-13, 2019
<https://battleofdroopmountain.com>

Other Time Periods.

World War II

May 4 **Bataan Death March Memorial**
- Wellsburg, WV

June 7-9 **Butler PA Jeep Fest**

June 22-23 **PA Trolley Museum**

September 6-8 **Brooke County WV Fair**

WW II Battle Reenactments:

August 2-4 **Operation Market Garden**,
Tidioute, PA

August 16-18 **D-Day**, Conneaut, Ohio.

18th Century:

April 5-7, **School of the Longhunter**,
Pricketts Fort, Fairmont, WV

April 25-28 **Fort Frederick Market Fair**,
Big Pool, MD.

Memorial Day Weekend, (possible) **French
and Indian War encampment**

July 5-7 **Siege of Fort Niagara**, Niagara
State Park, NY

August 23-25, **French and Indian War
Muster**, Fort Frederick MD

Labor Day Weekend - **Siege of Fort
Henry**, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV.

Miscellaneous

June 21-23, **Wild West Weekend**, Old
Bedford Village, Bedford, PA.

(Editor's Note: All events listed under the
heading "Other Time Periods" were
suggested by Jim Barnes and questions
about those events should be directed to
Jim.)

Next Meeting

At this time no meeting has been scheduled.

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion

The WVRA received a donation from an individual
in Charleston a number of years past. The donation
consisted of a complete set of the "*War of the
Rebellion Official Records*" otherwise known as
"THE O.R." This donation has been generously
stored at the home of Jack and Tonya Daft since
then. The Dafts requested that books be relocated.

Chuck Critchfield received the books from Tonya on
February 17 and is temporarily storing them at his
church in Clarksburg until a permanent home can
be found for them. The WVRA contacted Beverly
Heritage group but that organization was not
interested. Phil Caskey, outstanding teacher at
University High School in Morgantown has
expressed an interest in the books and the
Executive Committee has voted to donate the
WVRA O. R. volumes to University High School. As
of press time, UHS is considering the offer.
Finding space for that many books is not easy.

Some of the books are still shrink wrapped and a
handful have suffered some water damage caused
by a leak in the roof of the Daft's storage building.

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Treasurer's Report

March 1 - 31, 2019	
Beginning balance	\$3646.59
Credits	
Memberships	\$ 30.00
Debits	
Donation to Mingo District	
Historical Society	\$100.00
Liability Insurance	\$632.54
Ending Balance	\$2944.05
Submitted by Jack Rush	

Insurance

There have been several inquiries about insurance. Jack Rush has received the Certificate of Liability Insurance and will bring a copy to the next meeting of the WVRA.

Membership

Listed below are the members who have renewed membership or joined the WVRA. Please renew your membership today. You must be a member of record to be covered by the WVRA liability insurance. The membership renewal grace period will soon be over, so renew at the next meeting. Remember that if you want the newsletter mailed, a \$10 fee is necessary (and a mailing address!!!!)

Membership Renewals - 2019

GENERAL

Hunter Lesser	William Burruss
Aaron Bosnick	

TASAS

Phyllis Baxter	Peter Baxter
Bill Snyder	Linda Barnes
Art Dodds	Pam Dodds
Debra Rush	Jennifer Smith
Linda Donegan	Debbie Wenig
Sherri Goff and family	Diane Tennant
Mary Mullenax	Emilia Arnold
Linda Arnold	

1st West Virginia

Mike Phillips	Jim Barnes
Chuck Critchfield	Kevin Skaggs
Burdell Waffler	Jack Rush
Ed Chapdelaine	Rick Byrd

Keith Kopshina	Bill Donegan
Ron Wenig	Chris Taylor
Ralph McCready	Mark Tennant
John Ziolkowski	William Sailor
	25th Virginia
Tag Ireland	Dirk Behana
Bill Brisendine	Tim Glaser
Ken Connell	Jim Allman
Jeff Goff	Gregg Watterson
John Arnold	Roy Teter
John Webb	
	ARTILLERY
Thurm Shaver	David Judy
Susan Judy	
	Newsletter
Tag Ireland	Thurman Shaver

Upcoming Events

University High School

I have exchanged emails once again with Phil Caskey at University High School. He is not sure that UHS will be able to hold its annual living history this year. More information when it becomes available. (Editor's note: no update was received since last month)

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History

July 12, 13, 14, 2019

Beverly, West Virginia

Living Historians and Reenactors from 1750 through 1950 are invited to join the Beverly Heritage Center for our timeline heritage event to share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. Living history camps will include Native American, Pioneer, Civil War, and World War II eras with scenarios welcome for any part of our timeline, military and civilian. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, heritage crafts and displays are all welcome. Planned scenarios and demonstrations are strongly encouraged. This event is FREE with pre-registration, and includes camp amenities and one meal. For information and registration see www.beverlyheritagecenter.org (watch for updates coming soon) or call 304-637-7424.

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Annual Civil War Symposium "Looming Civil War"

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation will present its annual symposium on April 6, 2019 at the IOOF Building, in historic Beverly, West Virginia.

- 12:00 to 12:50 Registration
- 12:50 to 1:00 Welcome
- 1:00 to 1:50 "Inhospitable and Dismal Country: Nature and the 1861 West Virginia Campaign" – John M. McMillian
- 1:50 to 2:40 "Patriots & Petticoats: The Volunteers of 1861" – Hunter Lesser
- 2:40 to 3:00 Break
- 3:00 to 3:50 "West Virginia's First Soldiers: 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry" – Rick Wolfe
- 3:50 to 4:40 "Looming Civil War" - Jason Phillips
- 5:00 Opening of the "The First Campaign" Display with a beer and wine social (This opening is free and open to the public)
- 6:00 Dinner

Symposium Cost \$30 Student Price \$15
Optional Beverly Heritage Center dinner with a social starting at 5:00
Dinner \$45 Symposium and Dinner \$70
Contact: Beverly Heritage Center -
Info@beverlyheritagecenter.org - 304 637 742

Rowlesburg and Mingo

The Civil War monument on Cannon Hill in Rowlesburg is deteriorating according to a story on WDTV news in later February. The actual script that was posted on WDTV's website is a bit convoluted. Local residents describe the conditions that exist at the memorial but say little about any efforts to correct the conditions.

Meanwhile, the Confederate memorial and monument outside of Mingo, West Virginia, has been vandalized. The WVRA Executive Committee voted to donate \$100 to an effort

by the Mingo District Historical Society to repair the statue and the inscription on the base. There is some suspicion that the damage is politically motivated and therefore, the folks at the Historical Society do NOT WANT THIS MENTIONED ON SOCIAL MEDIA. They fear copycat vandalism or a return by the original perpetrators, if they find out the monument is being repaired. The statue is remotely located at the bottom of Randolph County near the village of Mingo. If you would like to donate, contact me at ccritch608@yahoo.com.

- C. L. Critchfield

Correspondence

Chuck,

Sadly, my run in the hobby appears to be at an end. My son – who was my re-enacting buddy – has moved to Texas.

If anyone knows of someone getting into the hobby, I can make them a deal on some gear.

My best to all.
Miss you guys!

Bryan (Cokeley)
(Editor's Note: Contact me if you are interested and will give you Bryan's contact information)

Dear Jim,
We have discussed our membership to the WVRA within the two units (1st VA Cav. And Lurty's Artillery). We have come to a joint decision that our presence within the organization is no longer beneficial hence, we will not be renewing.

Thankyou very much.
Sincerely,

Major John H. Brasuk
1st.Sgt. Stormy Brasuk
1st VA Cav.
Lurty's Battery

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Other Features

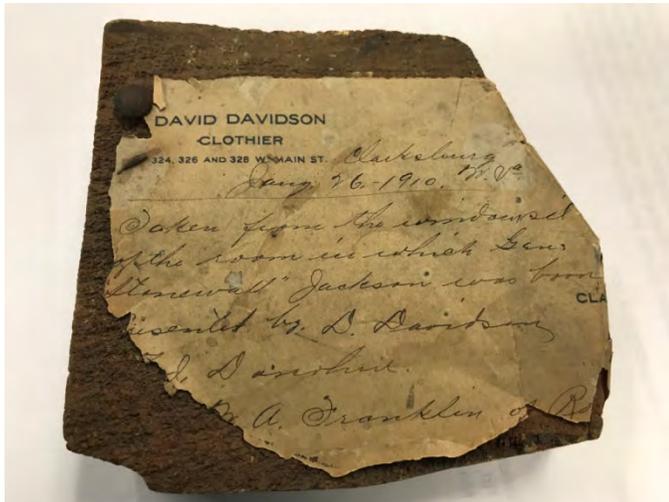
language of Patton struck me worthy as a story to share with my readers.

In July of 1861, Patton was, in his own words "severely wounded" and left behind when General Henry Wise's Confederates retreated up the Kanawha Valley. Patton fell into the hands of the Union army under Jacob Cox. On the other side, Colonel Norton of the 21st Ohio was wounded and captured by Wise's men.

At this point some sort of agreement was made between Wise and the Federals in which Norton was granted his request to be exchanged and sent home for treatment of his wounds. Patton, whose wounds were too severe, remained with his captors for treatment and rehabilitation, under the assumption-- by at least one side -- that Patton was exchanged for Norton without any parole. Cox however, had Patton "arrested" as a "prisoner of war" and classified as paroled making him ineligible to return to duty until exchanged. Cox later wrote that he felt Wise was attempting "to avoid the parole and get Colonel Patton on duty whilst Colonel Norton's position was still doubtful or unknown to me." Still Cox expected that a complete exchange would be made and "leaving both officers to have the exchange made through proper channels

Months later, when Patton returned to his lines and reported to General Wise who "expressed great surprise and astonishment" upon learning of Patton's situation. Wise wrote to Cox to say Patton was released from his obligation as was Colonel Norton. Cox responded that both were "on parole and as honorable gentlemen I expect them to observe it." Regardless, Wise "with a decided expression of opinion on this part" advised Patton to "resume service the instant my health permitted." Despite Wise's advice, Patton "declined...although my suffering country demanded the services of her loyal sons, because I would not under any circumstances subject myself to the imputation in any quarter of having deviated from the strictest rules of sensitive honor, and because being a prisoner of the Federal Government I acknowledged no authority but theirs to relieve me from my position. Consequently, I remained on parole..."

Patton concludes in his letter to Cox, written in April of 1862 from his camp in the field, after he had returned to his own army: "Subsequently to



The piece of paper shown above says:

*David Davidson
Clothier*

*324, 326 and 328 West Main Street
Clarksburg, WV, January 26, 1910.*

*Taken from the windowsil of the room in
which Gen. Stonewall Jackson was born*

....resented by D. Davidson

.....(D?????)

..... A. Franklin of

*(Recently donated to the Harrison County
Historical Association).*



Patton and Cox

A Tale of Honor and Exchange

At a recent meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable of Harrison County, the speaker, Eugene Schmiel the author of a biography of Federal General Jacob Dolson Cox, spoke briefly of the capture of George S. Patton at Scary Creek. By pure chance, I was glancing through a copy of the Official Records and happened upon correspondence related to said capture. The sense of honor and the wonderful

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my great astonishment and surprise and from what I deemed reliable authority I learned that Colonel Norton had resumed service and was in command of his regiment in Kentucky. I was not unable to verify the fact even if true, which I trust it is not. I did not intend to allow the dereliction of duty on the part of Colonel Norton to place me in a dishonorable position. I therefore still adhered to my parole, but as soon as my health permitted commenced negotiations through the Department of War of the Confederate States to under effect an exchange. This after many delays I succeeded in doing and on the ____ March, 1862, was informed by the Secretary of War in an official letter that I was duly exchanged and was ordered to resume service immediately. I am exchanged either for Colonel Lee, Cogswell or Colonel Wood - which one was assigned to me I do not know. I, however, had the assurance of General R. E. Lee that everything was regular and that I was released from all military and moral obligations to the Federal Government. I have thought proper to notify you of the fact of my exchange in order to avoid any misconstruction and that you may know that having taken your construction of the agreement as my guide I was not exchanged for Colonel Norton, who under that construction is now a prisoner of war on parole 'and as an honorable gentleman will be expected to observe it.' I cannot conclude without expressing my appreciation of the courtesy and kindness with which I was treated while a prisoner of war...I ought perhaps to have said whilst on my parole I was promoted to a colonel and was exchanged for a colonel. "

May 1862

On March 18, 1862, Confederate Secretary of War Judah Benjamin wrote to Patton to tell him "You are released from your parole and resume service at your pleasure." However, Benjamin was unable to provide the name of the Federal officer for whom Patton was exchanged, which obviously from his April letter to Cox, bothered Patton enough to write back to Benjamin on May 23, "I have been placed by your action in a most disagreeable and delicate position and exposed to the imputation of having violated my honor, sacred above all things to me at least...I demand therefore that you at once take measures to put me rectus in curia (right in court) by giving me a full and complete statement of the transaction and publicly freeing me from all blame."

That same day Secretary of War George Randolph (he had replaced Judah Benjamin) communicated with Major General Benjamin Huger, (departmental commander) telling him to inform Major General John Wool that Patton was exchanged for Colonel A. M. Wood. Randolph wrote that "supposing the exchange to have been made the Department ordered Colonel Patton on duty, but finding no record of it we desire now to release Colonel Wood from his parole if it has not been done already." (all this in the midst of the unfolding Peninsula Campaign).

Two days later, Major General Wool sent a dispatch to Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War for the United States, quoting a dispatch from General Huger. "Colonel Wood who has been released on parole and is relieved from his parole if he has not been heretofore, and he is exchanged for Col. G. S. Patton. The Department of War was under the impression that he had been so notified before." That morning Wool sent a flag of truce into Huger's lines to learn the situation.

Well the saga continued on June 2 when Patton still waiting official word and no longer at the front, but in Albemarle County recuperating, wrote the Chief of Bureau of War saying he had not received "any official notification....Be kind enough to send me at once the official papers including General Wool's answer...I am very anxious to rejoin my regiment." And again one week later to the Secretary of War Randolph, "I most earnestly beg you to cause me to be informed...I have been placed by the Department in a most disagreeable position...supposing myself to be a free man...I was re-elected unanimously colonel (of the 22nd Virginia)...If my exchange is not soon completed I shall be compelled in justice to myself to resign the commission I hold, as it was given to me under false impressions."

While it seems that the parolees Patton and Wood were now officially exchanged and Patton was waiting on the paperwork to satisfy his honor, the Federal side was confused. Patton's correspondence of April had made its way to Jacob Cox on top of Flat Top Mountain. Cox immediately writes to Colonel Jesse Norton (now in a different department) in the field telling him

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to beware as his exchange may not have taken place after all and he was in danger since Patton was telling him that in fact Col. Wood was exchanged and not Norton. In a June 24 correspondence from Major G. B. Cosby to Secretary Randolph about prisoner exchange, Cosby confirms that Wood had received notification of the exchange of Wood and Patton.

Meanwhile

And that's where the trail ends. No more reports appear in the Official Records, Series II, Prisoners of War, Etc. One would assume that it was all resolved to everyone's satisfaction - or additional letters would have been written. Jesse Norton resigned at the end of 1862. Probably because he never fully recovered from being shot through the hips. Patton obviously returned to his command, earning accolades in a handful of battles before being mortally wounded at 3rd Winchester.

I am still intrigued by this correspondence and the honor and integrity exhibited by Patton. A lawyer by trade, his command of the language is obvious. One question remains, however, in my mind. In May of 1862 he commanded his regiment at the battle of Giles Court House where he was wounded once again. Why was he fighting if he felt his exchange was yet to be legal? Terry Lowry suggests in his book 22nd Virginia Infantry that Patton thought his exchange had been completed in April "only to find out that was yet not formally completed" when he returned home to recover from his Giles Court House wound. Possibly that is why Patton wrote to Cox in April, 1862 to explain his position. But why in May did he begin all over again to campaign to bring his exchange to an official conclusion and have the paperwork sent to him. The answer may lie somewhere.

-- C. L. Critchfield

From the Official Records, Series II, Vol. 3 and 4 and 22nd Virginia Infantry by Terry Lowry.

Brothers in Valor

In the Spring, 2019 edition of Hallowed Ground, the publication of the American Battlefield Trust, the feature article is entitled Brothers in Valor - Modern Recipients of the Medal of Honor Visit

Historic Battlefields to Walk in the Footsteps of Their Civil War Forebears.

One of the sub-articles in this feature is "Take Out the Enemy - The Mears Party at Gettysburg" by Hershel W. (Woody) Williams a resident of Marion County. The Medal of Honor was awarded to Sergeant George W. Mears of the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves who led a party of six men that captured Confederate riflemen in the Weikert cabin during action in the Wheatfield.

Woody compares his experiences to those of the men at Gettysburg in the short piece. Four photos of the ageless Marine Corps veteran adorn the article along with a description of the action on Iwo Jima that led to Williams' being recommended for the award.

-- C. L. Critchfield

155 Years Ago (March 1864)

My continuing effort to remember the men who fought with the 1st and 12th West Virginia through the writing of Joshua Winters and Thomas Jefferson Orr.

The 1st West Virginia spent much of the cold winter of 1863-64 guarding the B&O. The regimental strength was much reduced after four companies had been captured at Moorefield. Remember that about 200 members of the 1st Regiment had "re-enlisted for the war." In March the "entire battalion, consisting of less than 400 men," was granted veteran furlough. Furlough was spent at home on the condition the men reassemble on April 1 at Webster in Taylor County. Jonathan Winters described the ride from Wheeling as "the tiresomest ride that we ever had."

The 1st West Virginia was now under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Weddle, after Colonel Thoburn was elevated to brigade command. Franz Sigel was the departmental commander, and General

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Sullivan the division commander. Winters described the country around Webster as "not a pretty place" after 3 years of war. Thomas Orr of the 12th would agree calling the area "too rough to suit me." By the 22nd, the regiment found itself debarking from B&O cars at Martinsburg, "that familiar gateway to the valley." On the 30th, the regiment moved a short distance to Bunker Hill.

The 12th

The 12th West Virginia likewise was ordered to travel to Webster to join other troops gathering for the spring campaign. As one soldier noted, there were enemy forces west of the mountains, so they expected to go east. And by the 22nd the regiment was also in Martinsburg.

Before they arrived at Martinsburg Hewitt writes that was ordered to Beverly part of an expedition Lynchburg, Va. Accompanying the 12th on their march to Beverly were 250 head of cattle. Playing the part of cowboys as Hewitt describes it, the men got the cows to Beverly only to learn that Sigel had changed his mind. The men returned to Webster.

At Martinsburg the 12th was organized into Thoburn's Brigade with the 1st, 34th Massachusetts and 54th Pennsylvania.

Thomas J. Orr remained on his assignment to Sullivan's Division headquarters and separated from the rest of the regiment. "I am still with Genl. Sullivan. I have a good time considering that I am in the army...board at a hotel...don't run the risk of being shot at."

Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters Edited by WVRA member Elizabeth Davis Swiger. History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry, by C. J. Rawling. A Company of Boys in Blue by Mark Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr. History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry by William Hewitt

Other Time Periods

Jim Barnes submitted a list of suggested events seen above.

#####

"They Said It (or didn't)"

"If there is any thing that I hate, the sound of it is the whistling of a Minnie bullet and the screaming of shells. I have heard quite enough to satisfy any curiosity that I ever had on that subject."

-- Thomas Jefferson Orr, 12th West Virginia, April 24, 1864 letter

"Never interfere with the enemy when he is in the process of destroying himself."

-- Napoleon

"A miasma of trouble hangs over everything...It is unbearably hard to fight a limited war."

-- Lady Bird Johnson, January 5, 1967

"Voters in 1854...faced a stunning array of parties and factions. Along with the old familiar Democrats, Whigs, and Free Soilers, there were also Republicans, People's party men, Anti-Nebraskaites, Fusionists, Know-Nothings, Know-Somethings (anti-slavery nativists), Maine Lawites, Temperance men, Rum Democrats, Silver Gray Whigs, Hindoos, Hard Shell Democrats, Soft Shells, Half Shells, Adopted Citizens and assorted others."

-- David M. Potter in the Impending Crisis

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org

Beverly Heritage Center -

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable

www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

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WVRA Officers 2019

Jim Barnes - President
Ken Connell - Vice President
Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer
Diane Tennant - Unit Rep (TASAS)
Mark Tennant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)
Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)
Unit Rep (artillery) - TBD
Webmaster - Peter Baxter
Editor - Chuck Critchfield

ATTENTION - 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 liability insurance policy purchased by the WVRA, you must be a member of record.

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.

As newsletter editor, I encourage submissions from members or readers, that are related to American history. I retain the right as editor to make a final decision on the content of this publication. Abusive or political submissions will not be published.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU to Peter Baxter. Thank you to Hunter Lesser, Jack Rush and Lt. Colonel Pete Taylor for their contributions to this edition of the Dispatch

PERSONALS - Please keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers. Bryan Cokeley has decided to retire from the hobby. We will miss Bryan (aka On Time Bryan). Always a pleasure to march with him.

WITH THE DEPARTURE of the 1st Virginia Cavalry and Lurty's Battery, the Executive Board has shrunk by two.

SO YOU THINK THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER?!? - - If you are interested in helping to restore the Confederate memorial statue in Mingo, please contact me. I stopped to visit the statue in Mingo on a trip to North Carolina and have pictures of the vandalism. Upon reaching North Carolina I viewed a news story about vandalism to a Confederate memorial on private property in Wilmington, North Carolina. The Mingo District Historical Association does not want the plight of the Mingo statue shared on social media as they fear it will attract more vandalism or the same culprits will return after the statue is restored.

I have made my opinion known before. If the governmental bodies responsible for these statues want to remove them through legal means, then fine. I don't like it - but do it transparently through government processes and hearings. I prefer they remain and be reinterpreted or something similar. The illegal removal of statues and vandalism of memorials should be punished. I look at Stonewall Jackson each day, riding across the Harrison County Courthouse plaza and wonder how long before that venerated statue is assailed. There is just a bit grumbling in town - now.

USV ITEMS OF NOTE - General Darrell Markijohn has stepped down from command of the USV for six months while his wife fights breast cancer. Scott Buffington is the senior Colonel and will ascend to command of the USV until Markijohn returns. Kevin Skaggs will command the USV at New Market.

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 per year fee.

The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA.

WVRA website - wvra.org

Chuck Critchfield - Editor

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"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world - Robert Penn Warren