

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2020 - April - Edition IV

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*"Fellow members of the WVRA. Let us all keep in our thoughts and prayers the men and women who are on the front lines of our fight to contain the Covid-19 virus. Particularly our fellow reenactors, including those in the WVRA like Ron Wenig and Barry Miller, whose work through emergency services or law enforcement put them in harm's way every day. Once this is over and we are able to resume reenacting, don't forget the sacrifices that they, or any other member of this organization made to keep us safe. - Jim Barnes*

## Upcoming Events

### A note from the Editor

I have noted on this schedule the events that have notified me, that their event is canceled.

If you are interested in any event on this schedule, I suggest you contact the event or the contact person listed to determine if the event is canceled or not canceled.

### Civil War Sponsored

**Beverly Heritage Days** -- July 18-19, 2020 - See below

### Sanctioned

None at this time

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

**School of the Piece** -- April 18, 2020 at Jacksons' Mill - Contact Roger House for more information

**Morgan's Raid** -- April 24-26, 2020 at Meigs County Fairgrounds, Pomeroy, Ohio -- Contact Roger House for more information

**Barboursville** -- tentatively May 8-10  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence** -- June 19-21 at Cronwells Turkeyville Resort Marshall Michigan, Contact Roger House for more information

**McConnellsville** - McConnellsville, Ohio, July 10-12 - contact Ralph McCready (all time periods welcome) - **CANCELED**

**Fort Mulligan** - August 14-15 at Petersburg. Contact Dave Judy 304-749-7957

**Battle of Dry Creek** - August 14 - 16 at White Sulphur Springs W.Va

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Burlington (Apple Harvest Festival)** - October 3-4. Contact Dave Judy for more information 304-749-7957

**Droop Mountain** -- October -11

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Guyandotte** -- Nov 5-8, 2020 (tentative)  
contact Roger House for more information

### Other Events

**Bentonville - March 21 and 22**  
**CANCELED**

**Appomattox 155th Event** - Appomattox Nation Park, tentatively scheduled for Easter weekend.

**New Market** - May 15-17, 2020 - New Market, Va. - **CANCELED**

**Gettysburg - July 4 and 5, 2020** - Gettysburg at the Daniel Lady Farm, info@GBPA.org (see below)

**Cedar Mountain** (Slaughter on the Mountain) - August 8 and 9. A Chris Anders event.

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**Cedar Creek, Oct. 17 and 18, 2020** -  
Middletown, Va.  
**Fredericksburg, Dec. 11-13, 2020,**  
Fredericksburg, Va.

**Chancellorsville May 1-2, 2021** - NPS  
Event

## Other Time Periods

**18th Century** – April 2-5. School of the Longhunter,  
Prickett's Fort, Rt. 3 Fairmont, WV 26554. --

### CANCELED

<http://www.prickettsfortstatepark.com/events.html>

**18th Century**– April 23-26), 18th Century Market  
Fair, Fort Frederick State Park, Big Pool, MD.

<http://www.friendsoffortfrederick.info/index.htm>

**18th Century**, May 16, Siege of Fort Randolph, Point

Pleasant, WV. [www.facebook.com/fortrandolph](http://www.facebook.com/fortrandolph),

Contact Craig Hesson, 304-675-7933,

[chesson1774@suddenlink.net](mailto:chesson1774@suddenlink.net), or Deb Cassady,

[frandolph@yahoo.com](mailto:frandolph@yahoo.com), [fortrandolph.weebly.com](http://fortrandolph.weebly.com)

**18th Century**– July 3-5, [French and Indian War](#)

[Encampment](#), Old Fort Niagara's annual recreation of  
the historic Siege of 1759. Old Fort Niagara,  
Youngstown, NY.

**18th Century** – July 9-12, Whiskey Rebellion

Festival, Washington,

PA. <http://www.whiskeyrebellionfestival.com/>

**Misc.** – May 2, Machine Gun Shoot.  
Sponsored by DNA Guns. Many historic  
weapons available for rent. Admission  
\$10.00. Trickett Hill Road,  
Morgantown, WV 26508. GPS 39.5137999, -  
79.947000 (Sponsored by WVRA  
members.)

**Timeline** – November 7-8, Troops and  
Trains. RR Museum of Pennsylvania,  
Strasburg,  
PA. <https://rrmuseumpa.org/events/>

**WWII** – June 5,6,7, Reading Air Show, Reading  
Airport, Reading,

PA. <http://www.maam.org/maamwwii.html>

**WWII** – June 12-14, Bantam Jeep Heritage  
Festival, Butler,

PA. <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

**WWII** – July 31-August 2, Bridge at Remagen  
75th Anniversary Reenactment, Tidioute,

PA. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgeatremagentidioutepa/>

**WWII** – August 20-22, D-Day Reenactment,  
Conneaut, Ohio. <http://www.ddayohio.us>

## Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for the  
Beverly event. Exact time and location will  
announced at a later date.

## Membership Renewal

It is also time to renew our memberships for the  
next reenacting year. Membership renewals are  
good from January 1 through December 31 of 2020.  
I will include a membership renewal application  
with this newsletter. I have listed one final time,  
the members who have renewed. Per request, we  
do not list phone numbers and email addresses in  
the newsletter. If you need a member's contact  
information please contact me.

Keep in mind that in order to be covered by our  
insurance policy, you must be a member of record.

- 1. Dues:** Dues are \$15 per year per person and \$25 per year for a family. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter there is an additional \$10 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership.
- 2. Minors:** All members under the age of 18 need the signature of a guardian to join. Those under 16 will not be allowed to carry a firearm. Those under 14 may not participate in reenactment battles. In addition the WVRA complies with the particular rules at specific events regarding age.

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3. **Meetings:** Will usually be held at the first Saturday of the month during the off-season. During the Reenacting season, meetings may be held at particular events as needed.
4. **Families:** All individuals should have their own memberships, although family memberships, covering the entire family can be used to save cost. This is limited to members and their home-based children.

Donation	\$10.00
Debits	
Liability insurance	\$632.54
Ending Balance	\$2,897.34

Submitted by Jack Rush

## Memberships Received to date:

1st West Virginia Infantry	
Mike Phillips	Jack Rush
Rick Byrd	Keith Kopshina
Chuck Critchfield	Kevin Skaggs
Jim Barnes	Ed Chapdelaine
John Ziolkowski	Ralph McCready
Chris Carroll	Patrick Carroll
Bill Donegan	Chris Taylor
Ron Wenig	Ross Wetherell
25th Virginia Infantry	
Tag Ireland	Bill Brisendine
Dirk Behana	Tim Glaser
Greg Watterson	John Webb
Jim Allman	Jeff Goff
Ken Connell	John Webb
John Arnold	
Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society	
Phyllis Baxter	Debbie Rush
Peter Baxter	Linda Barnes
Bill Snyder	Art Dodds
Pam Dodds	Jakob Lester
Sherry Goff & Kids	Linda Donegan
Brian Ward & family	Debbie Wenig
Mary Mullenax	Arnold family
Artillery	
David Judy	Susan Judy
Roger House	
General	
Larry Teets	Abraham Price
Erik Herb	Matthew Price
William Burruss	Hunter Lesser
Eric Satterfield	Daneen Satterfield
Barry Miller	Rebecca Miller
Newsletter to be mailed	
Tag Ireland	Bill Snyder

If you think I have failed to list your membership and you have paid dues, let me know.

## Treasurer's Report

March 1-31, 2020	
Beginning balance	\$3,399.88
Credits	
Membership	\$120.00

## Upcoming Events

### Beverly Heritage Days *"Forgotten Stories"*

Living Historians and Reenactors from 1750 through 1970 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. For 2020, we will be focusing on the less-told voices of women, people of color, Native Americans, and other groups who are under-represented in traditional history, in addition to stories of those in the military and the communities they impacted.

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 18th, 19th, and 20th century eras with scenarios welcome for any part of our timeline, military and civilian. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, presentations, displays, and heritage crafts are all welcome.

*Forgotten Stories* – We want to tell stories that are not usually told, including groups and individuals that are often not included in mainstream reenactments or history. We are researching some local history stories to share, and encourage you to come up with less heard voices and additional time periods to help make this event something different.

<http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org/calendar/events/BevHeritDays2020/BevHeritDays2020.html>

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Battlefield Preservation Association at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm east of town.

## McConnelsville Is CANCELED

From **Ralph McCready**, himself

### Actors Needed

I was contacted by Mikey D'Amico of Mountain Craft Productions, which is a small film making operation. They are going to make a film for the Marion County Chamber of Commerce about the history of Harrison County. They want to do it around the end of March or beginning of April. they want Civil War and Colonial period reenactors. Contact me (Jim Barnes) if you are interested.

-Submitted by Jim Barnes

### Civil War Roundtables

**Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable** meets at Eat'n Park at the Bridgeport Exit(119) of I-79 at 7 pm. Come earlier if you plan to eat before the program. There is no charge for meetings, but if you plan to join the SJCWR, the annual dues are \$15.

April 14 - Captain John Young by Phil Hatfield

May 12 - A Desperate Fight for Life, The Skirmish at Middle Fork Bridge, July, 1861

**No word on any cancellations as of March 30.**

### Rich Mountain Civil War Symposium

April 4, 2020

Beverly, West Virginia

Noon until 5

**SYMPOSIUM IS  
CANCELED**

### Gettysburg

Apparently there is now only one event scheduled to replace the annual Gettysburg reenactment. The remaining event is being organized by the Gettysburg

This is not a site that has been utilized before and the farm is actually part of the edge of battlefield. The GBPA has 148 acres to stage the event and has already staged a "fall skirmish" as a dry run. The 157th event is scheduled for July 4 and 5 in 2020. Early registration is being accepted now.

The representatives from the GBPA put on quite an impressive presentation at the USV annual meeting. It sounds like they have their stuff together. For more information see [www.GBPA.org](http://www.GBPA.org).

*Statement on GBPA website: As of this time, all remaining events including the 157th Battle of Gettysburg to be held on July 4th and 5 th, remain as scheduled. Please address any questions to [info@gbpa.org](mailto:info@gbpa.org). They will be answered as quickly as possible. Phone calls will be difficult to respond to in a timely manner.*

## Other Features

### Disease and Epidemics

#### Scourge of Armies for Centuries

As long as there have been armies, disease and epidemic have followed close behind. The concentration of that many humans, many with little or no resistance to camp maladies, have given fertile ground to contagious disease. As we consider what Covid-19 might do, let us think of our ancestors and what they experienced in the armed forces.

The Spanish flu (also known as the 1918 flu pandemic) has gotten a lot of attention lately as it is compared to the current virus visiting us. It was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic. Lasting from January 1918 to December 1920, it infected 500 million people—about a quarter of the world's population at the time. The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high

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as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history.

Although its origins and how it spread are a matter of debate thanks to little and conflicting evidence, there is no doubt that World War I armies in the fields and in the camps did much to spread the disease rapidly. The close proximity of soldiers in camps, the large movement of troops, poor nourishment and suspect hygiene probably led to the rapid spread among the troops. The War is also blamed for the more virulent second wave of the flu which swept out of army camps in the fall of 1918. Scientists theorize that more virulent strains of mutating viruses normally do not spread as rapidly as the less virulent strains. But thanks to the armies the more virulent strain was transported back home from Europe.

Any student of the Civil War knows that disease and illness killed more soldiers than battle. The oft repeated line "dysentery killed more soldiers than bullets" has been part of reenactor presentations for decades. To the Civil War soldier, the quickstep was not a dance.

"It was the enemy's shot and shell the soldiers feared, but they would come under fire only infrequently. Meanwhile, every day of their army life, they were in mortal peril from an invisible enemy - the microbes that flourished in the filth of their camps and on the very hands of their doctors." (From Time-Life series, *The Civil War, Tenting Tonight - A Soldiers Life*)

Regiments mustered into service, went into camp and immediately began to lose soldiers to sick call. George W. Peterkin of the 21st Virginia recalls his first campaign. According to his biographer "Of the 900 men who left Richmond (in late July), six hundred came down in an epidemic of typhoid fever and measles, which raged among the soldiers of General Lee's command throughout that memorable August." Peterkin, a future

Episcopal priest and son of an existing priest "attended the funerals of the men of our Brigade, and gave them the last rites of the Church." (*George William Peterkin*, by R. E. L. Strider).

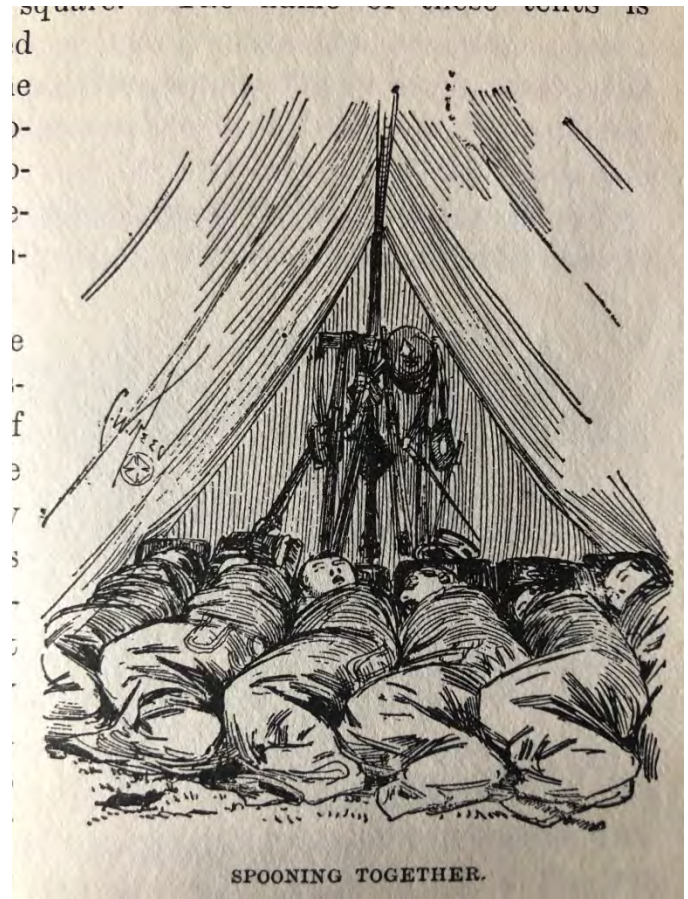


Figure 1 - No social distancing in the 1860's. Despite numerous prevalent contagious diseases, soldiers slept and lived in tight quarters. Spooning when necessary. I have read that four or five men were expected to sleep in a 6x6x6 A-frame tent. (taken from *Hard Tack and Coffee* by John D. Billings)

Although bowel ailments were most prevalent (by far) typhoid was deadlier. One estimates puts about 1/4th of Confederate non-combatant deaths as caused by typhoid or "camp fever." The "ague" or "shakes" were another name for malaria. Less deadly yet, a million cases were reported in the Federal armies. The medical experts of the time attributed malaria to breathing bad air or gases instead of the mosquito. There were other communicable diseases making the rounds at the same time. Chickenpox,

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mumps, whooping cough afflicted soldiers of both sides. But the measles was the worst and deadliest of these illnesses. One Iowa soldier recorded in December of 1861: "The measles went through our Regt. in such a manner that out of 560 men only some 250 are on duty."

John Pullen in his history of the 20th Maine wrote that the newly formed regiment "as a whole met disaster in its battle with disease.' He writes that about 300 of the 20th Maine were struck down by illness. "The survivors wrote of these days with a kind of terror and despair that is not found in any of their accounts of battles. There was, for example, the heart-breaking experience of trying to nourish a dying man back to health with hardtack. "

Gerald F. Linderman writes in *Embattled Courage* that the "first shock for the Civil War soldier was the extent and deadliness of disease....Each army suffered two waves of disease. The first consisted of the acute infections of childhood....such diseases as measles, mumps, and smallpox..." The next wave was comprised of "such camp diseases as dysentery, malaria and diarrhea. According to Linderman about 224,000 died from disease in the Federal Army and a similar number were discharged because of disability caused by disease.

"This fighting with disease is infinitely more horrible than battle. This is the price of saving the Union. My God, what a costly sacrifice!" - General James Garfield

## Other Time Periods

Nothing submitted or to report.

## Other News

### A Letter From Bill Snyder

Editor's note: I reached out to Bill Snyder, one of the founding fathers of the WVRA. I had not heard from him in a long time. But do see him

riding in his vehicle from time to time - with that unmistakable vanity plate 1WVINF.

*Dear Chuck,*

*Thanks for the newsletter and for thinking of me....As far as my health I can no longer drive, but doing better in everything else. Drema had several medical problems, but is doing good now. I talk to Tag (Ireland) every 3 days. He is doing good.*

*Hope everyone in the gang is OK I miss all of you guys. Hope to come to Philippi to observe,*

*Bill Snyder.*

## For Sale

Tim Koch (or Cook?) a reenactor in the Morgantown area is selling a large group of Civil War reenacting equipment from weapons to clothing. As of October, he still had items remaining. For more information call Tim at 304-906-552.

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"They Said It (or didn't)"

**"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet just because there's a photo with a quote next to it."**

-- Abraham Lincoln, February 31, 1866

*"I can predict with absolute certainty that within another generation, there will be another world war."*

- Woodrow Wilson speaking about the consequences of the Senate failing to approve the peace treaty. Remarks made in September 1919 almost exactly 20 years before the start of World War II in Europe.

*"The Constitution as it is, the Union as it was."*

Democratic slogan leading up to the mid-term elections of 1862. After the Emancipation Proclamation, some Democrats added "the Negroes where they are."

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*"There is a hopeless desperation chilling one when engaged in a contest with disease."*

- Brig. General Wilder Dwight, Harpers Ferry, Dec. 1961

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## Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)

Beverly Heritage Center -

[www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

[www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/](http://www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/)

Link to Clarksburg History Museum -

<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

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## WVRA Officers 2020

**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)**

**Dave Judy (artillery)**

**Webmaster - Peter Baxter**

**Editor - Chuck Critchfield**

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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 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, Jim Barnes and Jack Rush. All three have faithfully assisted the editor or made contributions to the Dispatch.

**BEVERLY HERITAGE DAYS** - Planning for next year's event is underway. If you have any ideas, please let me know or pass them on to WVRA member Phyllis Baxter. Beverly Heritage Center has kicked off its 2020 capital campaign to raise money for several projects including, replacement of HVAC systems, bank roof replacement, exhibit development, protection of Civil War graffiti, signage at Rich Mountain, and other related needs.

**PERSONALS** - Keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers. Thank you to those WVRA members who have sent get well wishes or asked about my son. He is getting around better and will be walking soon. See above for Bill Snyder's letter

**MEMBERSHIP** - We stand at 62 members as of March 30. I suspect that we will get to almost 65 as we have a few regular members who have yet to renew yet. Here are the totals from the past few years: 2019 - 65; 2018 - 67; 2017 - 81; 2016 - 62; 2015 - 82.

I WILL MAKE MY REGULAR plea to the membership (or non-member readers) to contribute to the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Especially those members from other periods than the American Civil War.

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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](http://wvra.org)

Chuck Critchfield - Editor

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"We tend to create stories that appeal to us. Then we impose those stories on the past."

- A Wallace Collection video produced on the 500th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt, found on YouTube

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