

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2015 – Edition 11 – August

Upcoming Events

More information will be added later if made available to the editor

Droop Mountain – October 9-11

Droop Clean-up – August 8 – 9:30 am (or thereabouts)

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Bulltown Heritage Days – **NOTE** – Changed to August 8 by the US Army Corps of Engineers. (Contact Sam Krafft for more information)

Fort Mulligan Day – August 15, Petersburg, WV

Dry Creek – August 14-16, White Sulphur Springs

Jackson's Mill – September – weekend of Sept. 4, 5 & 6. See article below.

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

Zoar, Ohio – Sept. 19-20

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

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

Guyandotte – Oct. 30-Nov. 1

Other events

St. Marys, W. Va. – Sept. 4-6

Logan State Park – Sept. 25-27

below) know if you are coming. A lunch will be provided. (Mark 363-0935)

Minutes From July Meeting

President Mark Tennant called the meeting to order on or about 9:30 am, July 12, 2015 in the Federal Camp at Rich Mountain.

Approximately 20 members were present.

Mark Tennant suggested that the reading of the minutes from the last meeting be waived. Chuck Critchfield stated that he felt a correction of the minutes was in order. The minutes from the June meeting read: "Tim Glaser gave Treasurer's report balance of \$3,500 including \$1,500.00 Droop grant." That should be corrected to read "Tim Glaser gave Treasurer's report balance of about \$3,500 not including \$1,500 Droop grant." No objection having been raised to the correction, it is entered into the records.

Chuck Critchfield reported in Tim Glaser's absence (he was preaching that Sunday morning) that the most recent bank statement showed \$5,172.54. He reminded the members present that \$1,500 is designated for Droop. Mark Tennant reminded all in attendance that the \$1,500 could only be spent on the dance, powder and insurance.

No unit having expressed a desire for a separate meeting, no unit meetings were held.

A discussion was held on the amount of powder to be purchased for Droop. No vote was held but the group discussion generally suggested that 75 lbs be purchased since the WVRA treasury was in good shape.

Mark Tennant will take responsibility for the Droop flyer. Tim Glaser will handle the pre-registrations. Mark mentioned that Jim and Linda Barnes had volunteered to organize the dinner.

TASAS Unit Rep Diane Tennant requested money for the ladies' tea. She was reminded that each unit has \$100 designated for their use. That money can be requested through Tim Glaser.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled August 8, 2015 at the Droop Mountain Clean up.

Droop Mountain

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

Droop Mountain Clean up

Droop Mountain clean-up is scheduled for August 8 starting about 9:30 or 10:00 am at the state park south of Hillsboro, W. Va. Please let your unit rep (see list

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Droop Clean up is scheduled for August 8, at 9:30 am (more or less). Camping is available Friday or Saturday night for those wishing to camp. Lunch will be provided. Please let Mark Tennant know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

The question of the tax status form was raised. The secretary not being present, no answer could be made. Chuck Critchfield volunteered to search old emails as he thought the issue had been discussed. (Secretary Jack Rush responded that he had met with Tonya Daft and Tonya had filed the papers. Thanks to TONYA!)

It was announced that Katrina Watterson is getting married on August 8.

It was announced that a reenactment will be held at Jackson's Mill over Labor Day Weekend. Jason Studenwalt is to get information to the editor so he may publish it in the newsletter.

Chuck Critchfield reminded all present that he makes an effort to communicate to members through the newsletter. He does not know who is responsible for the Facebook Page for the WVRA, which appears to be abandoned.

He suggested that all monitor the WVRA-TASAS Facebook page. There is no ONE mailing list for emails as Yahoo will not allow him to mail to all members as once. Such email is treated as SPAM.

*There being no further business, Mark Tennant adjourned the meeting.
Submitted by C. L. Critchfield*

GRAFTON NATIONAL CEMETERY LANTERN TOUR

The 2015 Lantern Tour, after a year's hiatus, due to the VA doing construction at the cemetery last year, was again well attended. Over 100 spectators attended the 8:30 PM tour after the thunderstorm and showers finally ended about 8PM.

The City of Grafton provided gas money and a catered meal to those reenactors who desired them. While eating our catered meal from Gourmet Express (a very good restaurant in

Grafton) at Grafton City Park we were witness to one of Nature's more colorful displays- a double rainbow during a thunderstorm. In fact we saw two more rainbows while getting ready for tour at the National Cemetery between 7 & 8 PM.

WVRA members who helped me were: Art & Pam Dodd, Gary & Millie Goetz, Jim & Linda Barnes, Kevin Skaggs, Ron & Debbie Wenig, Hunter Lesser, Bill & Linda Donegan and Diane Tennant. Also WV CW Sesquicentennial Commissioner Rick Wolfe helped out.

Although my bugler bowed out at late date and I couldn't find a replacement, Bill & Linda Donegan stepped up and did an outstanding job in singing Taps and did their usual great job of singing Faded Coat of Blue.

Many thanks to all those who helped. And the City of Grafton has asked us back again next year.

- Mark Tennant

WALKING IN ANCESTORS SHOES

When I first heard about the Grand Review last year while attending New Market reenactment, I thought how cool it would be to march down Pennsylvania Ave. After signing up for march, I started doing a little research to see what West Virginia regiments actually participated in 1865 Grand Review. The 7th West Virginia Infantry, one of the premiere West Virginia Infantry regiments and only one in the Army of the Potomac was present. My great-great Grandfather Amos Hoffman had been drafted into the Union Army and was mustered in on April 9, 1865 (the day Lee surrendered) into the 7th WV Inf. as a private. But by May 1st he was promoted to Corporal and marched in the Grand Review later that month in Washington D.C. Amos had served with the Marion County Union militia prior to being drafted into the 7th. After the war, Amos was a successful farmer. Family tradition say he applied for and got a pension later but when he received the government check they had

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misspelled his name from Hoffman to Huffman. To prevent any problems cashing the checks, he just went along and changed his name to Huffman. He is buried in the Mt. Nebo church cemetery on Bunner's Ridge in Marion Co.

-- Mark Tennant

Bulltown

Sam Krafft sent me an email to notify the WVRA the Bulltown Heritage Days has been changed by the United State Army Corps of Engineers to August 8. Unfortunately, that is the same date as the Droop Clean up. Please contact Sam Krafft if you are interested.

WVRA Officers 2015

President – Mark Tennant

Vice President – Bill Brisendine

Treasurer – Tim Glaser

Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website – Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield

25th Va. Rep – Chris Johnson

1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – Sam and Connie Krafft

TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

Registration Fees – WVRA Events

By vote of the membership, the WVRA will pay for any member, who registers for a WVRA sponsored event. The WVRA will reimburse at the EARLY registration rate. Members will be responsible for any amount over and above the EARLY registration rate and any other costs, such meals. Members must pre-register to be eligible. Walk-ons will not be reimbursed.



Figure 1 – Discovered by the Editor in Charleston. I always suspected that there must be some marker or monument to commemorate the large number of Confederates to come from Charleston. This marker for the Kanawha Riflemen stands in a park overlooking the Kanawha River along Kanawha Boulevard. Prominent names like George Patton, the Ruffners, Shrewsbury, Teays, Summers, and Quarrier can be found throughout the list. This park apparently stands upon the Ruffner Family Cemetery.

Jacksons Mill Jubilee

(Editor's note – the following was received from Ronna Studenwalt.) Firewood provided. Union enter at pool gate and confederates enter at lower gate in historical area. Cars will be permitted onsite all day Friday up til 8:00 am Saturday morning, if coming for just the day

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they will need to park in the airstrip and ride the bus over where their uniform will be their gate pass in. For persons camping they can contact Jason Studenwalt for more info and or gate/parking passes. 304 884 7710.

Editor's Corner

Many apologies on the rushed nature of this *Dispatch*. The computer I use to publish the *Dispatch* decided to stop working. However, now restored, I am rushed to get something out before vacation and before Droop Clean-up. I do not have the Droop Flyer.

Rich Mountain – thank you to all the WVRA members and non-members who made Rich Mountain a success. I hate to start thanking folks directly by name because invariably, somebody gets left out. But here goes. Thanks to Phyllis Baxter, Chris Johnson, Tim Glaser, Mark Tennant, Peter Baxter, and Kevin Skaggs for the pre-event planning and work. Art and Pam Dodd, Gary and Millie Goetze and several others participated in Saturday's trail of history.

I thought that things went well. The heavy rains leading up the event and the rain on Friday afternoon and that night, did us no favors. The soft ground prevent us from getting vehicles into camp and caused us to seek a new venue for the Saturday reconnaissance on the pike. I enjoyed the Rich Mountain String Band on Saturday night. The dance as always was a lot of fun. I missed the Tower String Band, but we were grateful for their attendance.

Saturday's tour by WVRA member Hunter Lesser was outstanding and drew rave reviews from some of the attendees. After all we stood in the same entrenchments that the Confederates did exactly 154 years ago. I thought that the trail of history scenarios were well received by the spectators. I have to brag that the execution scenario organized by Mark Tennant drew a lot of interest. Mark's rough coffin was the work of a true craftsman.

Sunday, we fought just beyond the Field of Fire thanks to the small numbers. But once again, Rosecrans flanking march routed the stubborn Confederates from their defenses.

A big thank you to Peter Baxter, who continues to provide valuable support to the production of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch*. Thanks to Sam Krafft for his contribution.

Elizabeth Swiger!!! - In case you are reading the *Dispatch*, your emails keep coming back undeliverable. If you have a new email address, please send to me.

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.

The newsletter is being sent by email to members of record. It is posted on the WVRA website also. It is mailed to anyone who pays the \$15 mailing costs. It continues to be my plan to publish related articles of interest in addition to the items mandated by our by-laws (meeting minutes, treasurer's report, etc.)

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 which seems to be abandoned.

Please contact your unit rep (listed to the left) with any questions about your unit.

As always, if anyone has anything for the *Dispatch*, send it along. I will consider it.

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

WVRA website - wvra.org

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

Chuck Critchfield – editor

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Figure 1 – Execution squad marches coffin and prisoner to the parade grounds



Figure 2 = Execution



Figure 3 - Final attack by the 19th Ohio. The Indiana troops can be seen to our left flank.



Figure 4 – Federal army at Rich Mountain

