

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2017- Edition 10 - August

## Upcoming Civil War Events Sponsored Events

None at this time

### Events Recommended by WVRA members

**Camp Bartow/Travelers Repose** - August 12  
**War Comes to Monroe County** - Union, W.  
Va., August 25-27

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

**Jackson's Mill** - Labor Day Weekend

**Droop Mountain** - October 14 & 15

### **Other Time Periods**

None at this time

## Next Meeting

No meeting is scheduled at this time. Stay tuned

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Camp Bartow**

The West Virginia Land Trust will host a celebration and tour of their recently acquired property at Camp Bartow (Bartow, W. Va.) on August 12 at Noon. Reenactors are asked to be there at 11 am to prepare for the ceremony, which hopefully will include an honor guard.

The WVRA has been invited to attend and participate. Artillery is welcomed and early war impressions are encouraged. Civilian impressions as well as military are welcome. A tour by the one and only Hunter Lesser is planned afterwards.

Please go to the Facebook page to find the link to register. If you are unable, please contact me. (LATE EDITOR'S NOTE -- Registration may be filled)

### **Droop Mountain**

This email was sent in reply to Jim Barnes' efforts to find out what was happening about Droop.

*"Jim, we will be putting the event on Oct. 14 & 15. Since we only learned that the WV Reenactors Assn was not going to do it this year we did not want to see the event disappear so will do it this year without much advanced planning (We had volunteered 2 years ago to assist them this year and take over the event after that.)"*

*Not sure if there will be a dance or meal this year, but we will have the event. Our advanced planning will be for next year (2018), the 155th anniversary of the battle. We will try and hold it close to the actual battle anniversary (November 6th, 2018. Not sure yet if it will be the weekend before or the weekend after since we just learned that a group of campaigners have scheduled an event celebrating the Union advance on Droop for the first weekend in November, 2018. Maybe we can join forces with them if I can figure how to contact them.*

*We should have a good artillery showing this year. Not sure about infantry since it the same weekend as Cedar Creek this year." - Tim Walker of Bryan's Battery.*

Further discussion was held about changing the date to the first weekend of October, but the decision was made to keep it as is currently scheduled.

### **Union**

Chris Johnson, former WVRA member, is once again putting on "War Comes to Union!" a living history event in the town of Union, way down in Monroe County August 25-27. Last year, and this year, infantry reenactors will have 3 scenarios and a demonstration to present to the public. Chris kept us hopping last year, with the interesting scenarios. Please contact Chris at 304-772-4712 or [wvaca@hughes.net](mailto:wvaca@hughes.net).

### **Jackson's Mill**

Jackson's Mill is scheduled for Labor Day weekend but I have no further information. Contact Mr. Jason Studenwalt (31st Virginia) at [j\\_rstudenwalt@yahoo.com](mailto:j_rstudenwalt@yahoo.com).

### **Bulltown**

I have no information on Bulltown.

### **Dry Creek**

One rumor heard at Rich Mountain says Dry Creek has been canceled. Yet I see Facebook posts saying it is not and I have seen emails assuring everyone that it is on as usual. Anyone interested should contact the 26th Virginia to make sure.

### **More On Beverly Heritage Days**

By Jim Barnes

Beverly Heritage Days took place this year on July 15 and 16. This year, in addition to the timeline concept which began last year, there

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was also a reenactment of the 1861 Battle of Rich Mountain. The timeline living history camps were mainly active on Saturday while the battle reenactment took place on Sunday. Chuck has written about the battle, so I will confine my comments to the living history aspect of the weekend.

There were three distinct camps located around the town. The Civil War camp was located behind the old jail across Walnut Street from the heritage center. The Early American camp was located across Rt. 92 on Court Street.



**Figure 1 Bill Donegan in World War II impression**

As I was committed to the WWII camp, I didn't get to see a lot else. We did get up to the Civil War camp for a visit late Saturday afternoon and chatted with the folks there, who were mostly WVRA members. Jim Allman had some interesting artifacts he was displaying during the event. Also, the Brasuks' artillery crew brought their mountain howitzer and fired it off at intervals during the day, which was of great interest to the public.

Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to make it down to the early American camp, so I can't comment on it. However, Karl Mulac who, I

believe helps with our website, gave a nice uniform and equipment demonstration at the fashion show Saturday morning.

The fashion show was extremely well done and offered a variety of dress, both men and women, from all the periods represented at the event. Diane Tennant and Sylvia Hayhurst deserve a 'well-done' for their work on this aspect.



**Figure 2 - The Brasuk's impressive set up**

As for the WWII camp, I set up a company clerk's display for Company K U.S. 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and Bill Burruss brought his 1942 Ford Jeep which provided transportation for us through the weekend. There was a sizable representation from the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the German Army across the road from us, and Eric Satterfield and his Kameraden entertained the spectators with weapon demonstrations and period vehicles.

I changed clothes and time periods on Sunday, and Bill gave me a Jeep ride over Rich Mountain to the Field of Fire for the Battle reenactment. The mountain road certainly made the old Jeep jump around a bit.

A special thanks to WVRA member, Phyllis Baxter for her efforts to hold things together on this far-flung event. Phyllis also did her usual great job calling the dance Saturday night, which featured music from the different time periods. The Rich Mountain String band did a nice job on some Texas swing music for the twentieth century reenactors.

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Figure 3 - Linda Barnes and her impression

Overall, I had a good weekend at Beverly. I think events like this which show a broad canvas of history are good for the hobby. Whichever time period we do, we can do a little teaching. We have all run into members of the public who have a scant knowledge of history. I like to think that every now and then, we inspire one of them to read a book.

## Treasurer's Report

July, 2017

Beginning Balance:	\$4,209.51
Credits (memberships):	\$0.00
Debits:	
Web.com (3/03)	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$4,209.51

Submitted J. Rush  
July, 2017

There is no change in the balance from last month. Jack Rush reports that the mysterious web hosting site has stopped taking automatic withdrawals from our checking account. Peter Baxter and Jack are investigating.

## WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President - Jim Barnes  
Vice President - John Brasuk  
Treasurer /Secretary - Jack Rush  
Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*  
Website - Peter Baxter\*  
1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep - Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant  
25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep - Tim Glaser  
1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry - John Brasuk  
Artillery - Stormy Brasuk  
TASAS - Diane Tennant  
\* Non-voting member of executive board

## 155 Years Ago First Virginia

As July opened, the First remained in camp in Northern Virginia not far from the Washington defenses. C. J. Rawling wrote that on the "4th there was a grand salute in honor of the day from the forts on Arlington Heights and Munson's Hill, -- the big guns making a tremendous noise." On the 16th the regiment was paid "which, it may be noted, was twenty-six dollars for the private soldier" Rawlin noted.

On July 21, the First was part of 10,000 troops reviewed near the Fairfax Seminary on the hill between Fort Work and Fort Warren. Among the spectators were ladies from Wheeling which did much to raise the spirits of the men recognizing them. By the 25th the First was loaded on freight and cattle cars in response to movement by the Confederates to the West. It was evident to the boys that some of the cattle cars had "very recently been used in their legitimate business." But as Rawling added, "even this was better than always marching." The First unloaded near Warrenton and remained there through the end of the month. Joshua Winters recorded that the final day of July was very warm. "it is litning vary mutch to night....no noos today."

So ended July of 1862.

- From *History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry* by C. J. Rawling. *Civil War Lettes and Diary of Jushua Winters*, edited By Elizabeth Davis Swiger.

**From the Wheeling Daily  
Intelligencer**

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June 1, 1861

According to Rick Wolfe: "In camp at Camp Buffalo on May 27 an accidental discharge of a rifle killed Frederick Fowell a musician in Company G, and wounded Alexander Mather a fellow musician in the same company." The actual article below describes the incident and funeral. The B&O ran along Buffalo Creek from Fairmont northwestward towards Mannington. Burnt Bridges was located along the creek near Farmington or Mannington.

## **Latest From Out the Road**

### **The Accident Reported in Yesterday's Telegraph -- Impressive Funeral Ceremonies -- Movement of the Rear Columns for Grafton**

[By last night's train.]

Eds. Intel.:--I send you a few hasty items, probably the latest you may have from Camp "Burnt Bridge," as also possessing peculiar interest. You have been informed of the melancholy death of one of Capt. Kuhn's men, by the accidental discharge of a musket. The particulars I give as I received them from a messmate, and others. A party had gone out scouting, one of which was so thoughtless as to carry his piece cocked, when, in crossing a fence, he either touched the spring, or caught it on the fence or a twig, and discharged the entire load into the breast of his comrade, the ball passing entirely through his body, killing him instantly and also through the thigh of another, producing a very frightful flesh wound, but the surgeons think him like to recover.

This morning the usual gaiety was not indulged in, and all seemed to be impressed with the solemnity of a *Funeral in Camp*. The body was placed in a coffin draped with the American flag, and borne from the camp to a car, by an escort of eight pallbearers, a guard of honor, the company of which he was a member, the ensign bearing their flag in mourning, and the officers of the other companies on the ground, with numerous others of the Volunteers, the band playing the solemn and impressive dead march. The car moving up to Mannington, the procession again formed, the ministers of the place at the head, and moved to the place of burial, where the body was interred with military honors. Soon after the return of the escort to camp, order was given to strike tents, and again all was animation. The bridges were opened between 2

and 3 o'clock, the camp broken up, except a guard, and the troops moved gaily on to Grafton.

Submitted by Mark Tennant. Originated with Rick Wolfe.

## **The First West Virginia**

from Wikipedia Page

The second incarnation (3 year men) of the 1st West Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment was mustered in for three year's service on October 30 at Wheeling, Virginia. It was known as the 1st Virginia until West Virginia became a state. Among the more notable members was the chaplain, James McCook, a member of the famed Fighting McCooks. Most of the early recruits were from neighboring Ohio. An analysis of the regiment by the George Tyler Moore Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, shows that it was composed of 39% native West Virginians, while 23% were from Ohio, 18% Pennsylvania, 11% were immigrants and 8% were from other U.S. states.<sup>[1]</sup>

Following the expiration of the original three-year term of enlistment, veterans of the regiment who chose to re-enlist were amalgamated with the 5th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment on October 10, 1864, to form the 2nd West Virginia Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

1 - George Tyler Moore Center, Shepherd University

## **12th Virginia Volunteer Infantry**

On July 1, 1862 Abraham Lincoln called for hundred of thousands of new volunteers to fill the ranks of the Union army and quash the rebellion. So began the process of filling the ranks of the 12th Virginia. More next month

### **Sites of Interest**

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

## **They Said It**

March 4, 1850, a dying John C. Calhoun, famous Southern statesman, rose from his sickbed and made his way to a Senate chamber embroiled in debate. Calhoun was ready to speak out on the debate

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underway on what would become the Compromise of 1850. Senator James C. Mason of Virginia had to read the speech for Calhoun during which the following was uttered:

*"It is a great mistake to suppose that disunion can be effected at a single blow. The cords which bind these states together in one common Union are far too numerous and powerful for that...The cords...are not only many but various in character. Some are spiritual or ecclesiastical; some political, others social. Some pertain to the benefit conferred by the Union, and others to the feeling of duty and obligation...Already the agitation of the slavery question has snapped some of the most important, and has greatly weakened all the others..."*

From "The Impending Crisis: America Before the Civil War 1848-1861" by David M. Potter.

## Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

**PERSONALS** -Your editor has entered physical therapy for his injured right foot and may be out of action for a few weeks. In response to Jim Barnes review Beverly Heritage above....Yes Jim, that was an impressive entrance at the Field of Fire Sunday! In a Jeep!

**RICH/BEVERLY** - Some discussion was held informally as to the future of the Rich reenactment. The attendance has been dwindling for years as the participants in the hobby have been doing so. Add to that, the number of reenactments in West Virginia continues to grow at a time when just maybe, we ought to shrinking the hobby to where it was 30 years ago. At that time there were a few reenactments that were available but they attracted larger numbers.

**SO YOU THINK** that the Civil War is ancient history...for those of you who followed former member Eric Smallwood's Facebook posts, you saw that he was at Gettysburg over July 4 weekend. He had an encounter with the right-wing protesters who were at Gettysburg to counter the left-wing protesters. The left-wing protest turned out to be fake news so the right-wingers had nobody to protest. Things apparently got heated anyway and one protester shot himself in the leg.

**DROOP** - Bryan's Battery is moving forward with a Droop reenactment this year. You can see the article

above. I don't know how much the WVRA will be able to help as folks have already made plans for the weekend assuming that there would be no Droop this year.

NRA - the executive committee is investigating the possibility of insuring the entire group under a policy from the NRA. Tim Glaser has volunteered to lead this project.

**THANK YOU** - Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch. Thank you to Jack Rush, Jim Barnes, Rick Wolfe, Mark Tennant for their contributions. Thank you to the members who published pictures of Rich Mountain/Beverly on Facebook that I was able to borrow.

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 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia and the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia infantry units participate in, you must be a member of record. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. members are covered under the USV insurance. Insurance questions about the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://wvra.org)

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

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