

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition IX - August

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Beverly (see below) - July 13-15

Events Recommended by WVRA members 2018

McConnellsville - August 3-5 (contact Ralph McCready -see below)

Cedar Creek - Cancelled

Remembrance Day - November

Other Events

Dry Creek - August 18-19, White Sulfur Springs (register at same address as Droop)

Jackson's Mill - Labor Day weekend, j_rstudenwalt@yahoo.com

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

Droop Mountain - October 12-14, 2018, (battleofdroopmountain.com).

Other Time Periods

Nothing at this time

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

Droop Mountain (The First)

There are two Droop Mountain events being held this year. The first event will be held October 12-14, 2018 at Droop Mountain State Park. The second is the Averill's Advance event in November and is a campaigner event.

There seems to be interest within the WVRA to attend the first event in October so I contacted the organizers. But to date I have no response that I can find. However, I found a nice website for BOTH the Dry Creek and Droop events at the web address of battleofdroopmountain.com. Registration, schedule and other details for BOTH reenactments can be found at this site. There does not appear to be any on-line registration.

Next Meeting

None scheduled at this time

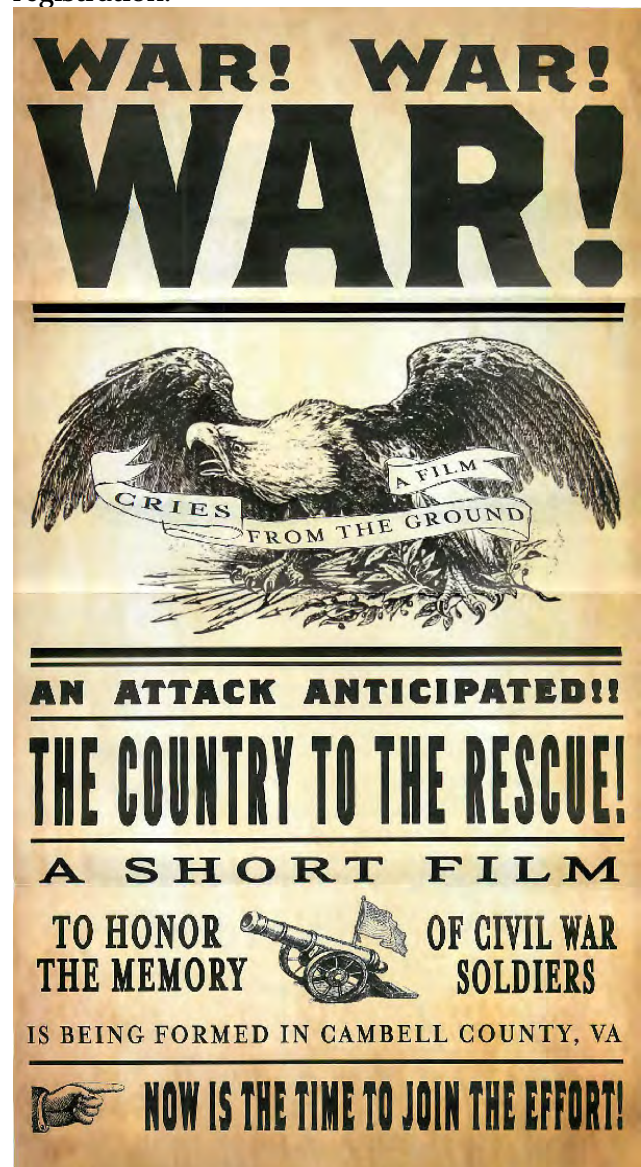
UPCOMING EVENTS

Reenactment Event is Cancelled

This was posted on the Cedar Creek Website

New circumstances beyond the control of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, and our paramount concern for the safety of our reenactors and visitors, have forced us to cancel this year's reenactment. We do not take this matter, the community of supporters, or the public interest lightly, and we have made this decision with the best of intentions.

(Editor's Note: Although rumors regarding the reason for the cancellation are rampant, I have heard nothing official other than the above statement. I have had no update since publishing this in the July edition of the Dispatch)



Announcement About a Film Cries from the Ground

Genesis 4:9-10

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition IX - August

Attention Commanders and Staff of the 1st West Virginia Volunteer Infantry:

(Editor's Note - this was addressed to the 1st West Virginia, but I assume it is opened to all members of the WVRA. The Biblical reference above is that of the organizers of this film and refers to the Cain and Abel story. The verses cited conclude when the LORD says to Cain "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground")

My name is Jordan Hunt and I am a filmmaker currently located in Lynchburg, Virginia. I want to make you aware of an upcoming production my team will be filming this November entitled Cries from the Ground.

Cries from the Ground follows two soldiers in the Civil War. Both are courageous and brave. Both leave behind families and loved ones. Both fight for the right reasons. But one wears blue, the other gray.

You may be familiar with the several made-for-television documentaries that the History Channel has produced and the few feature-length Civil War films such as Glory and Gettysburg. Cries From the Ground is different because of its target audience: young people who have little interest in the Civil War, and who have no idea what it was like to experience it.

Because of this, this film will be primarily released on the internet for free, and its runtime will be much shorter and easier to watch. We producing Cries from the Ground not to make money, but to bring the story of the Civil War into the homes and lives of the American public.

Here's how you can get involved:

- We need to raise over \$45,000 to make this project a reality. Through generous donations, gifts-in-kind and other contributions, we have already raised \$35,000 of this total. In fact, myself and my entire crew have decided to work for free because we truly believe in the power of this project. However, we still need to raise another \$10,000 before we can begin production. This will pay for costumes, props and locations that will enable us to portray the highest level of historical accuracy. Simply visit [PayPal.me/criesfromtheground](https://www.paypal.com/criesfromtheground) or contact me directly. We cannot do without your help!

- We are searching for reenactment groups to join us on set. If you are within driving distance of our set in Lynchburg, Virginia, please reach out to me. We need large groups of Civil War soldiers to accurately portray the scope of the battlefield. You might even qualify for a leading role!

- We are always looking for qualified historians to serve in an advisory role. If you have received this letter, that

means we hold each one of you in the highest regard when it comes to knowledge and passion for historical accuracy. My team has spent the last several months researching all aspects of the Civil War by visiting historical sites and museums, reading and studying academic sources, and attending reenactments up and down the East coast. If any of your team has suggestions for our productions, please send them my way.

Thank you for all that you do, and please continue to support and preserve history. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us using contact information below.

Jordan Hunt
Jordanhuntfilms.com
2 Sheri Lane Lane
Sellingrove, PA 17870
contact@jordanhuntfilms.com

Treasurer's Report

For the period July 1 through July 31, 2018

Beginning Balance \$3,613.26

Credits

Membership \$60.00

Ending Balance \$3,673.26

Submitted by Jack Rush August 6, 2018

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History

Small, intimate and diverse

Once again the fine folks at Beverly Heritage Center and associated organizations organized a splendid little living history in the heart of former county seat of Randolph County. About 30-40 reenactors endured the July heat on Saturday and Sunday to interact with steady stream of spectators.

The great thing about these small events are the spectators are few, but steady, and generally very interested in what you have to tell them. Beverly on Saturday was no exception with spectators of all kinds and ages wondering through Historic Beverly's attractions and the historic camps asking all kinds of questions.

The Civil War cam was set up behind the old jail in the shade of the large trees. Ralph McCreedy, Rick Bird, Ed ChapdeLaine, Jim Allman and Ken Connell

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2018 – Edition IX - August

all set up with me in the backyard. Down the alley the World War II living historians set up quite an impressive camp with US armed forces on one side and German troops on the other. The Spanish-American War reenactors were in between us and the 20th century crews. Over on the other side of US Route 250 could be found the 18th-century living historians.

I spotted Jim and Linda Barnes and Bill Burruss (new member) in the World War II camp. Karl Mulac was over in the 18th-century area. Other members joined us during the day. I believe Mark Tennant did some time traveling, by doing a fine French-Indian War impression on Saturday, sleeping in the World War II camp that night and falling in with the Union army on Sunday.

Much of what we did was living history. But we marched in a short parade Saturday with all the periods. And on Saturday evening a fine dance was held on the upper floor of the Odd Fellows hall. Sunday we did a firing demonstration for the sparse crowd. Sunday the 1st West Virginia, accompanied by Eric Smallwood portraying a 10th West Virginia Lieutenant, marched to the Laura Jackson Arnold house to assist with a dedication of the new DOH roadside marker describing Laura, in the corner of the front yard.

The museum at Beverly Heritage opened a new exhibit featuring a number of items from a Randolph County World War I veteran.

- C. L. Critchfield



Figure 1 - The WVRA assists the Laura Jackson Arnold House organization during the Beverly event with the dedication of a new highway roadside marker. Left to right: former member Eric Smallwood, Mark Tennat, Chris Taylor, Jack Rush, Rich Bird, unidentified, Chuck Critchfield and Ed ChapdeLaine.

"Ride Through History" Alliance, Ohio

By: Sergeant Stormy Brasuk

We were pleased to add this event (hosted by the Marlboro Volunteers.) into our calendar after receiving a personal invite from Capt. Daryl Metcalf of the 14th Kentucky Cavalry, Co. F

This event shows Revolutionary War to Vietnam and beyond. The public can visit the camps and talk to the reenactors and also take the 'ride' thru the historic battle venues. The 'Ride' thru these battle venues is on military trucks (Deuce and 1/2). Each ride consisted of 5 of these trucks which would stop at each venue. Each venue was then introduced and a representative of that section gave a little talk and then a battle scenario was enacted.

We were the first stop on the ride...Civil War 1863 Shenandoah Valley.

I (Stormy) acted as representative for our section giving a little informative talk and safety instruction for the viewing public (how to protect ears, ect..) we then fired the cannon to start our battle scenario after firing the cannon we retired from the gun and joined in the skirmish.

We did this 4-5 times Saturday and Sunday. We did this event as [1st.W.VA](#). Battery B (Union) as there was a shortage of Union troops and we were asked to galvanize.

The organizer of this event treated everyone who participated out to ice cream at a local shop they took all of us in the Deuce and 1/2 trucks it was great fun! We look forward to participating in this event again next year.



1st West Virginia Artillery, Battery B, preparing to fire at Ride Through History event as spectators watch from World War II deuce and a half.

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2018 – Edition IX - August

Henderson Hall Plantation, Williamstown, WV

By: Sgt. Stormy Brasuk, Lurty's Horse Artillery

We arrived Thursday to setup our camp.

Friday: we made our cannon rounds and prepared for Saturday battle.

Saturday: officer's meeting at 9:30 am.
Colonel Haddix overall battery commander.
A request was made for volunteers to assist with a cannon demonstration with [1st.W.Va.](#) Carlin's battery D light artillery (event host).

Lurty's volunteered to assist and we demonstrated how a gun is run with a short crew (two on gun, a gunner giving commands and a powder monkey). Major John H Brasuk acting as gunner and narrator explaining our gun and how it works to the crowd. During the demo we fired four shots, they fired three due to a misfire.

The battle commenced at 13:00 and lasted till 13:30. We fired four at start of battle than three more before the 2nd. platoon of infantry began their advance. Our 8th and final shot was in what Col. Haddix called a "round robin" which consists of each cannon at zero intervals/seconds.

Sunday:

Battle commenced at 13:00 till 13:45.
We began battle with 4 shots. By gunner's command we adjusted our cannon angle to give Capt. Delay of the 36thVA. Wise's Legion cannon aid.
The battle concluded with an impressive "round robin" firing of all 7 guns on the field (zero seconds intervals) the Union's 2 guns, confederate's 5 guns).

OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

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 rfreeman1373@gmail.com for more information.

Jim Barnes reports that at the Clarksburg Gun Show, a National Guard recruiter stopped by and said he had a nice Civil War officer's desk he wants to sell if anyone is interested contact Jim Barnes.

155 Years Ago

July 1863

The 1st West Virginia

As July ended and the Army of Northern Virginia retreated from the Gettysburg Campaign, the 1st West Virginia found itself at Back Creek near Hedgesville. While there Joshua Winters wrote "(T)hair is not mutch noos hear. thair is no rebels enne ways close hear. the last we hurd of them thay was a goin tords Gordinsvill. Thair is a good menne desurters a comin in...they say the southern Confedersy is plaid out."

After a week or so, the 1st marched up the Shenandoah Valley to Winchester and then to Romney in response to active Confederate units in the South Branch Valley. At Romney the 1st would escort one supply train to Petersburg where they unloaded the supplies for Brigadier General William Averell's forces then camped at that location.

In mid-month, the 1st, 14th West Virginia, a troop of cavalry and a battery moved to garrison Petersburg, West Virginia "and there were engaged in scouting through the mountains, the country being infested with bushwhackers, who were citizens at times and soldiers when there was promise of gain."

This force was responsible for guarding this area from the bushwhackers who were constantly capturing troops, supplies and loyal citizens. "These duties....were arduous in the extreme. Long and weary marches were often undertaken to surprise an enemy, and generally resulted in finding that enemy on alert and usually absent..." By the end of August the First had been in Petersburg for two weeks.

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.

The 12th West Virginia

The 12th, like the First, was left behind by the war in the east which had moved further south. The battle

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition IX - August

of Winchester in June had destroyed the brigade and division to which the 12th belonged. The 12th being one of the few organizations to escape. After wandering around in the wake of Gettysburg the regiment landed in Martinsburg where it would spend the month of August, 1863 recovering from the disaster at Winchester.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Northcutt having been captured, command had devolved to Captain William D. Curtis of Company D. Curtis was promoted to Major and assumed command of the regiment.

On August 4 the 12th left their encampment at Sharpsburg, Maryland, on the "old battlefield of Antietam" where a "great many of the dead that had been buried and more than half of them had been rooted up. Their bones lying scattered over the ground." The regiment moved to Martinsburg, West Virginia which Thomas Orr described as "a very pretty place."

On the 12th Orr wrote to his father to tell him what was left of his division "is now encamped in the south end of Martinsburg in the lawn in front of the honorable Charles J. Faulkner's mansion an ex member of the US Senate..." (Faulkner was ambassador to France under Buchanan and served on Stonewall Jackson's staff). Orr further related "Our duty is not very heavy here. ...We don't do much except ly in the shade." The 12th continue to recuperate and regain strength at Martinsburg for the remainder of August, 1863.

"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) Even though we don't portray the 12th, I continue to study it because it was raised from our area and I have so many cousins in the unit.

The 1st Virginia Cavalry, Co. A

The 1st Virginia Cavalry completed its organization at Winchester, Virginia, in July 1861, under the command of Colonel James Ewell Brown (J.E.B.) Stuart at the command of General Thomas Jackson. Unlike most regiments, the First contained twelve companies. The men were from Amelia, Augusta, Berkeley, Clarke, Frederick, Gloucester, Jefferson, Loudoun, Rockbridge, Rockingham, and Washington counties.

25th Virginia Infantry

The 25th Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment was an infantry regiment raised in Virginia for service in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. It fought mostly with the Army of the Northwest and Army of Northern Virginia. Its brave soldiers saw action from the first battle (Philippi) until the last (Appomattox).

The 25th Virginia was organized during the early summer of 1861. Its members were raised in Upshur, Augusta, Highland, Bath, Pendleton, and Rockbridge counties.

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

They Said It (or didn't)

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

"The bird of our country is a debilitated chicken disguised in eagle feathers...We are a weak, divided, disgraced people, unable to maintain our national existence." - newspaper man George Templeton Strong in the days leading up to Fort Sumter in criticism of President Lincoln.

"I used to think that we had hard times when we were in the mountains but we never knew anything about hard times such as the Army of the Potomac sees. I was with them 24 hours, long enough to see how they live." - Thomas J. Orr, 12th West Virginia in the aftermath of Gettysburg.

Sites of Interest

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

WVRA Officers 2018 (executive board)

President – Jim "Hawkeye" Barnes
Vice President – Ken Connell
Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush
Newsletter editor - Chuck "Pathfinder" Critchfield*
Website – Peter Baxter*
1st W. Va. Rep – Mark "Not Burned Biscuits" Tennant
25th Va. Rep – Bill "Beal" Brisendine
1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition IX - August

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

those who want the monuments torn down are upset. That sort of represents what is happening in America today.

I HOPE to have a report on the WVRA mini-tour to West Virginia Civil War burial memorials in a future newsletter.

PERSONAL - Jack and Tonya Daft ask that you keep their family in your prayers. We missed Jim Barnes at New Market and hope he is feeling better these days. He seemed to be back to normal at Beverly. Has anyone seen or heard from Bill Snyder? It was good to see Ed ChapdeLaine at Beverly, still not fully recovered though, from his car accident.

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 (by far) over the past 3 years.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

LET ME REMIND the readers of this fine publication that the opinions expressed in this newsletter **are not necessarily** the opinions of the WVRA. And believe you me, we have members who are 180 degrees apart on a few subjects. This newsletter is emailed to all members who have given me an email address, EXCEPT to the seven members who have paid the extra mailing fee to have it sent to their US Mail address. Those getting it through the US Mail sometimes get the newsletter almost 10 days after the emailed version is sent. The past July issue was case in point. I had a 3-day window after vacation, Gettysburg and Beverly to create the newsletter and email it. But not enough time to take the newsletter to the local copy center, address and mail until I returned from Beverly.

DROOP MOUNTAIN registration information is now available on line. The WVRA is not sponsoring this event. I have seen information on Bulltown on line also. There seems to be interest from WVRA to return to the Droop reenactment.

THANK YOU to everyone who made contributions to this issue - Debbie Rush, Stormy Brasuk, Diane Tennant. A special thanks as always for Peter Baxter's able help.

SO YOU THOUGHT THE CIVIL WAR WAS OVER - while controversy swirls around Memphis, Tennessee, and the removal of Confederate memorials, little press is floating around about St. Augustine, Florida's efforts to "contextualize" the Confederate monument in that city. The plan there is to keep the monument but add plaques to further interpret the monuments. That plan has been approved by the governmental body with jurisdiction over that space. Four bronze plaques are being added to bring the war into context. Of course, since this is a compromise measure, those who want the monuments to stand, unaltered, are upset. And

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

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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

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2018 – Edition IX - August



Figure 2- KARL MULAC demonstrates weapon at Beverly



Figure 5 - Governor Francis Pierpont portrayal by Art Dodds



Figure 3 - Medal of Honor winner James Burns front row center in dark uniform. Professor of Military Science and Tactics and Commandant of Cadets at West Virginia University in the first decade of the 20th century. Burns, a member of the 1st West Virginia, won the Medal at New Market and had retired from the US Army as a Major. From the Monticola (WVU yearbook)



Figure 4 - Major John Brasuk commands 1st West Virginia Artillery, Battery B. Stormy Brasuk assists with loading.



Figure 6 - Jim Barnes