

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2022 – August - Edition CXLII

## Next Meeting

None scheduled at this time.

## Upcoming Events

**PLEASE NOTE that all of the events in 2022 are dependent on the status of the pandemic. Please ensure that the event is not cancelled before attending.**

*Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar. Addendum, January 2022. I discussed this issue with the insurance expert of the USV and he agrees that this is a gray area. There is some question whether the liability insurance would cover WVRA members only at sanctioned WVRA events or all events. He further agreed that publishing events in the newsletter may help to make them "official."*

I would suggest contacting Roger House if you have questions about the Daniel Lady Farm events.  
([csacannon@aol.com](mailto:csacannon@aol.com))

### Sponsored

None at this time

### Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

2022

**Wild West Show, August 6-7, Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg**

[EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

**Battle of Dry Creek** – White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, August 19-21

<https://battleofdrycreek.org>

**Fort Mulligan,**

August 19-21, Petersburg, W. Va.

[ranger749@yahoo.com](mailto:ranger749@yahoo.com)

**160th Antietam / Sharpsburg**, September 17-18, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg. [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

**Hardy County Living History**, (Moorefield, WV) Sept. 24

**Apple Harvest Festival, Oct. 1-2**, Burlington, W. Va. [ranger749@yahoo.com](mailto:ranger749@yahoo.com)

**Droop Mountain, Oct. 7-9**

<https://battleofdrycreek.org>

**Cedar Creek**, Strasburg, Va., Oct. 14-16

**Fall Harvest Days at the Farm**, Oct. 15 & 22, Daniel Lady Farm Gettysburg, [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

[EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

**World War II** event (theme to be announced), Oct 29-30, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg. [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

**Halloween Cowboy History Show**, Oct. 29-30, Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

**Remembrance Weekend Military Yard Sale and Swap Meet**, Nov. 18-19, Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](#)

## Events recommended by friends of WVRA Civil War

**Battle of Saltville** – Saltville, Virginia, August 19-21 tentative date

**Jeb Stuart Event** - Ararant, Virginia, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2

## Minutes

WVRA Meeting Minutes

**July 23, 2022**

**Beverly Heritage Museum Court Room**

With the approaching thunderstorm, the meeting time was moved up from the scheduled time. Word had been received that President Andrew Valentine was unable to attend. Vice President Ken Connell called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm. Nine members were present. Because of the high winds, two members left during the meeting to secure reenacting equipment. One member returned before the end of the meeting. The Secretary being absent, Chuck Critchfield volunteered to take minutes and the Vice President accepted said offer.

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Chuck Critchfield moved and Jim Allman seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting since they had been published in the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch*. We were not aware of any alterations to the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Brisendine moved and Rick Byrd seconded a motion to dispense with the treasurer's report as the treasurer was not present and an end-of-the month report would be sent soon. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business/Committee Reports**

Art and Pam Dodds presented the report and recommendation of the ad hoc committee created to examine to WVRA By Laws as they apply to the proposal to bring the Valley Division into the WVRA. Art and Pam reported that generally speaking the By Laws do not allow an organization like the Valley Division to become a unit under the WVRA umbrella. (A copy of the minutes of this committee are added below.)

Bill Brisendine, also a member of said committee, emphasized that Article 5, Section 14(A) of the By Laws concerning the requirement that at least three current WVRA members must present to the Executive Board the proposal to accept a new unit. Additionally, he cited the requirement that no more than three members of the new unit can come from an existing unit within the WVRA. Bill further stated the requirement that Unit member had to be WVRA members (Article 5, Section 3). He then stated the opinion that Valley Division members would have to join the WVRA first as General Members.

It was further discussed that Valley Division is already divided into units, and as such is an organization similar to the WVRA and not a single unit, at least as the members present understood the definition of a unit to be in the By Laws.

No vote was held in relation to the report.

## **New Business**

Chuck C. presented to the meeting the possibility of creating a new dismounted cavalry unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry. Rick Byrd, Captain, 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia Cavalry, withdrew the request to form a new unit and stated those WVRA members who portray this unit would remain in the 1<sup>st</sup> West

Virginia Volunteer Infantry. No action was taken and no further discussion was needed.

## **Next meeting**

The members present recommended to the Vice President that setting the date for the next meeting be passed to the Executive Committee as there was no impending issues known to the membership present at this meeting. The Vice President hearing no objections, accepted that recommendation.

No further business being known to the chair of the meeting, he entertained a motion to adjourn by unknown persons. The motion passed unanimously and the group left in a rush to assess any damage done by the high winds.

- Submitted by Chuck Critchfield, WVRA member

Attached is the report referenced in the minutes above:

*Committee Review of By-Laws Pertaining to New Units*

*The Committee meeting started approximately 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at the Beverly Heritage Visitor's Center in the Courtroom. Present were: Dave Judy, Sue Judy, Art Dodds, Pam Dodds, Bill Brisendine, and Rick Byrd.*

*Art handed out copies of excerpts from the By-Laws as they pertained to forming a new unit. He summarized the information that a new unit can be formed when 3 WVRA members provide such a request to the Executive Board. The Executive Board can choose to recommend the formation of the new unit and then provide it to the general membership for a vote using secret ballots. Dave Judy expressed that he wants this procedure to remain as it is. Discussion ensued clarifying that a new unit is formed by 3 WVRA members and that another outside unit cannot simply become a new unit in the WVRA unless the procedure is followed: specifically, all the members of the new unit must be existing members of the WVRA, with 3 of these WVRA members providing a request to the Executive Board for the formation of the new unit. The new unit must be recommended by the Executive Board to the general membership for a secret ballot vote.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Dodds, acting Committee Secretary*

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## Treasurer's Report

July 1- July 31, 2022

Beginning balance	\$2,046.75
Credits	
Membership	\$ 15.00
Debits	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$2,0614.75

Submitted by Tim Cox, Treasurer, WVRA

## Insurance

Treasurer Tim Cox has received the certificate of insurance. Both Tim and I have a copy of the certificate. If you require a copy please send Tim or me an email requesting a copy and we will email you a PDF copy of said certificate.

- Chuck Critchfield

## Upcoming Events

For the complete list, see above. The following is any additional information submitted to the editor for the events listed above.

### Fort Mulligan

Please add to this a second Ft. Mulligan event on Aug. 20. We will give a pound of powder and a meal to all who serve in our reenactment on this date. (The other date, April 16 is a living history without amenities.) All are still invited to attend.

- Dave Judy

### Two Droops

Yes, Virginia, there are two Droop Mountain events this year.

The annual event is being held at the Park on October 7-9 of this year. I assume that the same link as last year <https://battleofdrycreek.org> can be used to get information on this year's event.

Jason and Ronna Studenwalt are involved with a fund-raising event at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park on November 4-6. The event is entitled Echols Last Stand and currently there is a Facebook page dedicated to this event.

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## Event Reviews

### Beverly Heritage Days

On July 23, ten members (if I counted correctly) of the WVRA participated in the Beverly Heritage Days in the city of the same name, in Randolph County. This was a timeline event, and multiple historical periods were represented. Reenactors from pre-revolution days, Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War II were present.



John Webb consults with a Catholic priest as Chuck Critchfield and Keith Kopshina march behind in the Beverly Heritage Days parade on July 23.

The day kicked off with a short parade through Beverly. Reenactors returned to their camps to meet with the public. It had been a couple years since I had been to Beverly, thanks to Covid and my own health issues so it was nice get back. The jail was now open as was the excellent small museum.



Captain Rick Byrd

Rick Byrd had his tent set up behind the jail, where I joined him with my dog tent and infantryman display. Art and Pam Dodds were very active with

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their activities and presentations, which I am sad to say, I was not able to visit. John Webb joined Rick and I in the rear of the jail, with his Confederate infantry impression.

A meeting of the WVRA was held later in the day and minutes of that meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. A thunderstorm swept over Rich Mountain and descended on Beverly about the time the meeting started. Wind gusts began to blow the easy-up canopies around and volunteers scrambled to collapse the canopies before the winds mangled the frames. My dog tent succumbed to the wind. A large sycamore branch just missed the World War II and parked cars at the end of the alley. I am not aware of any other damage.

As has been the case in the past, the crowd was not big, but the spectators who visited with us were enthusiastic. The scavenger hunt seemed to be a big hit with the youthful visitors.

It was good to have the wool on again, despite the 90/90 (heat/humidity) conditions. It has been over two years.

Thanks to the WVRA members who were present.  
- Chuck Critchfield

## **Other Features**

### **Book Review**

## **The Republic of Violence The Tormented Rise of Abolition in Andrew Jackson's America**

**By J. D. Dickey**

This book appealed to me for a couple reasons. First, I knew little about the abolition movement and second because J. D. Dickey tells and writes a good story.

Mr. Dickey attempts to paint the history of the abolition movement in the 1830's. And the story is surely tormented as the title suggests. The abolitionists were not popular in any corner of 1830's American – North or South. Abolitionist speakers were banned in the South. Sometimes

at the pain of death. The US Postal Service would not deliver their literature in slave states and eventually slave sympathizers would simply break into the post office, seize and the burn the literature. In the North abolitionist were beset with mobs bent on breaking up their meetings and in some cases seeking out speakers for tar and feather treatment or occasionally for hanging.

It was surprising to what extent mob rule was used in Philadelphia, New York and Boston to counteract public abolition meetings and to intimidate the speakers into silence. Mobs, often sponsored by the leading citizens, were roamed through the city while the local governments were slow to act or did nothing at all to put down the mob violence. On occasion, after marching to the church, meeting hall, or other location to break up the abolition meeting, the mobs would then spread to the city to burn the homes and businesses of those sympathetic to the abolition movement or ultimately into black neighborhoods to burn and destroy.

The abolition movement was not only beset with exterior opposition of the worst nature, but it suffered from internal rifts. The movement was divided along pacificism versus active resistance. Blacks and whites had differing opinions. Religious denominations differed on how to proceed. Women were very active in the abolition movement at a time moderate members of the movement felt women should not be speaking in public or actively involved. And then there was William Lloyd Garrison who was always stirring the pot, with whom, the other major leaders in the movement got along with.

By the end of the decade, after the killing of abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy and the burning of Pennsylvania Hall in Philadelphia, the movement began to gain a little sympathy. This momentum would continue to slowly build into the 1850's.

This book is a long plow through a rocky field, filled with many, many characters. It was tough to keep track of all the historical characters at times. It did illuminate for me much about abolitionism that I did not know. Which brings me to the second part of this article where I switch from review to commentary.

As I read this book I realized that like many subjects surrounding the American Civil War, what

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I learned in my early days was superficial or just wrong. Like the lead up to the war, reconstruction and the war itself, what we taught in school was incomplete or just wrong.

All of us have subjected to the "lost cause" interpretation of the war. We learned the Dunning school's interpretation of reconstruction. We were taught that the entire North, led by altruistic abolitionists, was against slavery. All of these theories are wrong or oversimplified. This book helps to burst that bubble which contains the fallacy that the North was behind the abolitionists. When in fact the entire country was sympathetic towards slavery – at least up until the 1850's when the fugitive slave laws, Dred Scott, and other events did much to change hearts. Slavery was an American problem, not just a Southern problem.

- Chuck Critchfield

## For Sale

From Bryan Cokeley

With regret, I am resigned to getting out of the hobby. 😞 I just don't seem to have the impetus to get to events with Hampton having left the state. He was in Texas; he now lives in Richmond. (Apparently, he took to heart those calls of "On to Richmond!") He turns 30 in May. He was 10 when we went to our first School of the Soldier. The passage of time. Maybe we all added 5 years this past year. It seems wasteful for me to sit on all of this reenactment gear. I will keep my musket. I can make some young person a great deal on everything else – **a whole kit to get started in the hobby. If you know of someone interested, please let me know.**

Miss everyone! Best,  
Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia)

From Debbie Moore

Civil War Items:  
Day dresses, ball gowns, shoes, parasail, patterns, jewelry, ladies articles, clothing, haversack, camping articles. For further information or to set up a time to come and see, call Debbie at 304-798-3490 9-6. Will sell at reasonable offer.  
Feb. 2022

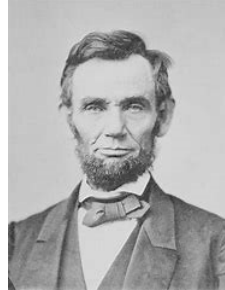
New Civil War History of Harrison County  
*A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia 1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War 1856-65. By Pete Taylor*

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.  
July 2022

## They Said It (or didn't)

Quotes, misquotes and fabrications attributed to the famous, nearly famous, not famous and infamous.



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

- Abraham Lincoln, February 30, 1866

"The worst rebs to get along with are the Texans, and next those from Florida, and the easiest ones the Georgians themselves; the very one who one would think would feel the most like defending their 'sacred soil' most desperately..."

- Sgt. Major John Brannum describing the Confederates opposite his lines at Utoy Creek, west of Atlanta, August, 1864

## 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.wvmasondixoncwrt.org/](http://www.wvmasondixoncwrt.org/)

Link to Clarksburg History Museum -

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

Battle of Gettysburg Podcast -

Addressing Gettysburg podcast -

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -

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

## 2022 WVRA Officers

**Andrew Valentine - President**

**Ken Connell - Vice President**

**Tim Cox - Treasurer**

**Jim Barnes - Secretary**

**Phyllis Baxter - Unit Rep (TASAS)**

**Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)**

**Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)**

**Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)**

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**Webmaster - Peter Baxter**

**Editor - Chuck Critchfield**

**Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.**

## Unit Field Officers

**(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)**

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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. Karl Mulac is the administrator of 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

**ANY MEMBER** who wants to contribute to the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch is encouraged to do so. I get very few items from members. Anyone who has an opposite point of view to mine, I encourage them to respond. I certainly have expressed some opinions that others might want to rebut.

**SMALL REENACTMENTS** continue to spring up with every little festival in West Virginia while large reenactments are probably a thing of the past.

**I WAS FORTUNATE** to attend the American Battlefield Trust annual conference in June. This was an opportunity to hear a number of experts speak about the war in the east.

One evening at dinner, after going through the buffet line, I was forced to find a seat at one of dozens of round tables in the hotel ballroom. Choosing one with just a seat or two occupied, I settled in to eat my dinner and make new friends. The folks left early leaving my table, close to buffet line, vacant and available to a group of attendees just coming in from a meeting of some sort.

First the director of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation sat beside me. Soon the former acting director of the National Park Service under Trump sat across from me. Gary Adelman, historian for the American Battlefield Trust and star of YOU TUBE sat across from me and next to me was the former chief lobbyist from the NPS. What a conversation was had for the next 20 minutes! But what I will take away from this intriguing episode, was the comments of the lobbyist, who upon learning I was from West Virginia, described his recent travels to Civil War sites in the Mountain State. But most memorable, was his effusive praise of the Beverly Heritage Museum.

**THANK YOU** – Tim Cox for the Treasurer's Report. Thank you to Pam and Art Dodds for the minutes of the by laws committee! Thanks to Peter Baxter for placing on the website.

## Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

**The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association**

**Association**

**August 2022**

**- Edition CXLII**

This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$15 per year fee.

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

WVRA website - [wvra.org](http://wvra.org)

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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 You Tube

*"History is dangerous. It goes after our myths and our identities."*

- Brig. Gen. (ret) Ty Seidule after receiving death threats for writing about history

*"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."*

- Robert Penn Warren

*All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.*

- Paraphrased from several historians