

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2016 – Edition 14 – December

Upcoming Events

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

McConnellsville, Ohio – July 8-10

Rich Mountain – Beverly and on the battlefield, July

War Comes to Monroe County - Union, W. Va., August 25-27

Other – 2017

Gettysburg – July 1-3

Chris Johnson, Unit Representative of the 25th Virginia resigned from that position on Nov. 13 in an email to the Executive Board and a few members of the 25th Virginia with email addresses. He further warned that the 25th is in danger of losing its membership in the Army of Northern Virginia because of “lack of participation in Battalion events.”

Membership

Memberships for 2016 expire on Dec. 31, 2016. Please renew your membership before then. I will include a membership renewal form with this newsletter. Annual dues continue to be \$15 per individual; \$25 per family and \$15 per organizational membership. Family memberships are limited to family members college age and below. Membership forms and dues can be sent to me at 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. To date the following have renewed their membership:

TASAS

Bill Snyder
Linda Barnes
Peter Baxter
Phyllis Baxter
Tonya Daft
Art Dodds
Pam Dodds
Linda Donegan

First West Virginia Infantry

Jim Barnes
Mike Phillips
Chuck Critchfield
Jedediah Smith
Larry Smith

25th Virginia Infantry

Jack Daft
Tag Ireland
Ken Connell
Tim Glaser

General Membership

Hunter Lesser
Elizabeth Swiger

Members who have paid to have newsletter mailed rather than sent electronically.

Tag Ireland

Unit Nominations

To date I have received the following nominations for military officers within the respective units making up the WVRA.

NEXT MEETING

An Executive Board meeting is planned for December 10, 2016 at the Christ Episcopal Church PARISH HOUSE in Clarksburg. The church is located at the corner of Main and Sixth Streets in Clarksburg and the Parish House is located behind the church on Traders Alley. Please park in the church's parking lot.

The future path of the WVRA will be up for discussion. However, all issues requiring WVRA approval will be voted on, per procedures outlined in the WVRA by laws and not by Executive Board alone. Executive Board meetings are open to all members.

WVRA Business Items

Nominations are needed now for 2017 WVRA officers. To date, no nominations have been reported to me. Here are the offices:

- President (none)
- Vice-president (none)
- Treasurer **Jim Barnes**
- Secretary (none)
- Unit Rep 1st W. Va. **Mark Tennant**
- Unit Rep 25th Va. - **Tim Glaser**
- Unit Rep 1st Va. **John Brasuk**
- Unit Rep TASAS (none)
- Unit Rep Artillery - **Sam Krafft**
- Newsletter – **Chuck Critchfield**
- Website **Peter Baxter**

Current officers can be found listed below. Nominations can be sent to me ccritch608@yahoo.com or any officer.

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1st West Virginia

Captain – Chuck Critchfield

Sergeant – Ross Wetherell

1st Virginia

None

25th Virginia

None

Artillery

Sam Krafft sergeant for his gun

John Brasuk sergeant for his gun

TASAS

None

General members are the responsibility of the WVRA president.

WVRA Officers 2016 (executive board)

President – Mark Tennant

Vice President – Bill Brisendine

Treasurer – Jim Barnes

Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website – Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield

25th Va. Rep – Vacant as of Nov. 13

1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – vacant

TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

155 Years Ago

1st (West) Virginia Infantry

December, 1861 and the first winter of the war is underway.

C. J. Rawlins describes the garrison duty that the 1st was performing in December as “rather monotonous life....interrupted occasionally by alarms of the enemy’s appearance.”

Being on the front lines the Confederates were not far away and keeping constant watch on the 5 or 6 regiments then occupying Romney. During December Lieutenants Freeman were captured while on picket.

In December of 1861, Joshua Winter’s letters to his sister describe a little excursion that his company (G) and Company H made three miles from camp. Once they arrive at the picket post, word came that a skirmish was underway at “French town” (present day Frenchburg located on Route 50 between

Romney and Augusta). The two companies quickly marched in that direction at the “dobble kick” step. Winters claims they marched 3 miles in 17 minutes to reach French town only to find “the fun was over.”

Later, “our Lieutenant and 18 of us went on a scout to miles (2 miles) on the other side of French town” where they found no Rebels but did find chickens “in the fence corner” and milk in the “celar.”

By the fall of 1861 was well established as a staging area for horses, mules, equipment and provisions needed for United States forces facing Secessionist forces in the mountains to the east. As troops radiated eastward and southward, Clarksburg remained hub at the center of the garrisons and forces at Beverly, Buckhannon, Weston and Sutton.

During the fall, William Rosecrans had left a skeleton force to guard all these supplies leading loyal citizens to become very jittery. In September word came that Rebels had taken possession of Worthington, between Fairmont and Clarksburg, where they threatened to burn the town and move on Shinnston next. A force was quickly assembled and sent from Wheeling and Grafton to retake Worthington, only to find a half-dozen drunken rebels had entered the town, torn down the American flag and threatened to burn the town. This large force fled before the Federal force sent to subdue them could arrive.

Editor’s Corner

The Editor’s chance to speak

OFFICERS – We need members to volunteer for officer positions within the WVRA. If you note above, a few members have volunteered to put their names on the ballot.

MEMBERSHIP – Please renew your membership for the 2017 reenacting season. A blank membership form is included in this email. Please return the membership form to the address on the form.

NEXT YEAR – Looks like there will be a Rich Mountain reenactment in 2017. I hear through Facebook that there will be no Hurricane reenactment in 2017. However, apparently somebody in Ravenswood is trying to get something together that same weekend (March 24-26),

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch.

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FOR SALE – I hear through the grapevine that JR Moore is selling his Springfield and a 2-band Enfield. I would suggest contacting JR or Debbie directly. JR did sell his cannon. Hunter Lesser has advised that anyone who wants a signed copy of *The Civil War in Lewis County, WV*, by Roy Bird Cook, he might be able to oblige.

PERSONALS - Mark Tennant is spending a lot of time with his ailing father. If you need to reach him, please call Mark directly. He does not always have access to the internet. If you try to contact me by Facebook, make sure it is by Messenger. I am not monitoring Facebook newsfeed until the election bickering dies down.

PUZZLING – During the election campaigns many, many posts appeared supporting one candidate or another. About a dozen of those postings were related to the Civil War. Somebody's attempt to interject Civil War history into the political campaigns for the benefit of one side in particular.

Those postings explained that the Republican party in the Congress overwhelmingly supported ratification of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution and the Democrats were strongly against those amendments. Those are the facts.

However, the originators of these facts draw a straight-line connection to today's Republican and Democratic parties. The obvious conclusion to draw from this straight-line connection is that Republicans are the true party of liberty and the true party of civil rights and the Democrats are the party that supported slavery and therefore are still anti-civil rights, etc. A couple of those posts went on to chastise African-Americans for supporting, for the most part, the Democratic party when they should actually be registering Republican. It is puzzling to me how you can draw this conclusion. Anyone familiar with the whole breadth of American History would be troubled by such an analysis and conclusion. It is another example of the dumbing down of the whole election process.

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. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1st W. Va. members are covered under the USV insurance.

The newsletter is being sent by email to members of record who provided a VALID email address. It is posted on the WVRA website also. It is mailed to anyone who pays the \$15 annual 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. I would suggest that the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page seems to have more up to date information.

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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](#)

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Figure 1 - Sheridan Street In Clarksburg. This street is almost under the Route 50 bridge over Elk Creek in downtown Clarksburg and is hard to find.

Civil War Legacy

On the WVRA-TASAS Facebook page, I have posted a couple of street signs from Clarksburg showing streets named for Civil War era soldiers or leaders. I challenged the readers to find streets in their respective towns. Mike Phillips and Jeff Zickafoose responded with several names from Buckhannon and Robert E. Lee Avenue from Elkins.