

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2017- Edition 15 - December

Upcoming Civil War Events Sponsored Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Beverly (see below)

2018

Annual Meeting - (tentative) - January 13
Weston Steak House.

University High School (tentative) - April
20-21

Gettysburg 155 - July 5-8

Other Events

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

Other Time Periods

Beverly Centuries of History - Probably
July 13-15

Next Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for January 13 at 2 pm at the normal location, the Weston Steak House at Exit 99 of I-79. This will be the meeting that we elect new officers.

Election

We have begun to receive nominations for the WVRA officers of 2018. I have listed those nominations below. Before the annual meeting in January, I will send a ballot out to all members with a MAILING ADDRESS via US Mail. To those members for whom I have no mailing address, I will send by email. For those for whom we have neither, you can ballot on line at WVRA.org.

We have no military officer nominations at this time. Last year we made those nominations at the Annual Meeting and may have to do so this year.

To date we have the following nominations:

WVRA

President - Jim Barnes

Vice president - NONE

Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Rush

Website - Peter Baxter

Newsletter - Chuck Critchfield

Unit Reps

1st Virginia Cavalry - John Brasuk

1st West Virginia Infantry - Chuck Critchfield

25th Virginia Infantry - Bill Brisendine

Artillery - Stormy Brasuk

TASAS - Diane Tennant

Military

1st West Virginia

Captain - Chuck Critchfield

NO OTHER NOMINATIONS at this time.
Please submit nominations to any officer.

RENEW NOW

Also, it is time to renew your membership. A membership application should be attached as part of this Mid-November newsletter. You can complete and return to me at the address listed on the membership form. The due structure is listed on the membership form. Family dues do not include children over 21.

Remember, if you would like the newsletter sent to you via US Mail instead of email, please let me know. The subscription rate is \$10 to cover printing and mailing.

Renewals to date (Dec. 2, 2017)

General

Elizabeth Swiger

TASAS

Bill Snyder

Jennifer Smith

Peter and Phyllis Baxter

25th Virginia

Bill Brisendine

Ken Connell

1st West Virginia

Chuck Critchfield

Kevin Skaggs

Newsletter

Tag Ireland

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John and Stormy's Sad Plight

John Brasuk's home at Monumental, outside of Fairmont, recently burned. John and Stormy escaped. Two dogs are missing. Here is a response from John shortly after Thanksgiving.

Hi Chuck we're dealing day to day and doing ok. We will be at the January meeting in Weston. We'll... give an update on our situation here in Monumental (Fairmont). The Fire Marshal and the Fire Department declared it an electrical fire and have cleared for the start of the cleaning up and preparing to rebuild in the Spring. We are currently in the brick house across from log house at the farm.

We're keeping up hope for the two dogs that were in the house with us at the time of the fire. We're also trying to move forward from this tragic event and go into 2018 a little better than 2017.

Big John and Stormy

advance intelligence concerning his Civil War history days.

He states that the 2018 event is scheduled for April 20-21 this year, pending approval from the Monongalia County Board of Education. The first day would be presented to the students (middle and high schools last year) and the second day open to the general public.

The WVRA participated in the 2017 event, which was set up in a field adjacent to UHS. Middle school students from Mountaineer Middle and Clay-Battelle Middle moved from station to station engaging with the reenactors and living historians.

Beverly Time Line Event

Beverly Heritage plans to repeat the Beverly Time Line event of all time periods in July of 2018. I am fairly certain that Beverly will confirm the events dates as July 13-15 in the town as in the past.

No plans are being made for a reenactment at Camp Garnett.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Film Project

(Editor's note - this was posted by Tonya Daft on the WVRA Facebook page on Oct. 30. All questions can be directed to her. She requests contact by Facebook message.) This is an update to that posting.

Update on Civil War era documentary film. Should have some dates after November 1 and location to do the trailer for the film. This so they can produce support for the documentary. I heard from some of you (WVRA members) with names phone email and addresses. Need someone from our WVRA group that has cannons. Need possible two. If you have not contacted (message me) with your info please do so ASAP so when everything is decided I can reach you quickly. Thanks a Million. Tonya Fluharty Daft.

University High School Civil War Days

Phil Caskey, history teacher at Morgantown's University High School, has provided us with

Treasurer's Report

November 1 through November 30, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$4,019.76
Credits (Membership)	75.00
Debits	
Newsletter	49.98
Moving website	121.37
Donation (Lynn Marks)	50.00
Ending Balance	\$3873.41

Submitted by Jack Rush Dec. 2, 2017

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

I received no after action reports on Remembrance Day. Apparently the parade went without incident.

Civil War Trust Survey

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This fall I sent to members by electronic means, a Civil War Trust opinion questionnaire concerning saving Confederate monuments and a question on Robert E. Lee. This seemed to be a hot topic on Facebook and other forums and I thought that the membership might want to weigh in on the topic. But only 16 responded and some of those responses were from non-WVRA members as the survey was forwarded to at least one Civil War roundtable. Here are the results.

War Monuments in America:

1. The issue of removing CW monuments, particularly Confederate monuments which were erected after the war in public spaces such as town squares, courthouse lawns, libraries, etc. has exploded onto the nation's consciousness. Please select the state below which most closely aligns with your opinion:

A. **38%** - I support keeping ALL war monuments, from any conflict, exactly where they are, with no added interpretation or explanation needed.

B. **38%** - I support keeping monuments where they are, but would support adding additional interpretation, if needed, of the circumstances of how each monument have come into being, to add to the story of our nation's history.

C. **19%** - I support the removal of Confederate statues from public spaces if that is what the local community wants to do.

2. There is some concern that if Confederate monuments in public spaces are removed, monuments on battlefields may soon face a similar fate. What is your opinion of those monuments on battlefields, whether or not they are owned by federal government (through the NPS), a state or local government, or a private entity such as the Civil War Trust?

A. **0%** - I support the removal of Confederate monuments on CW battlefields.

B. **100%** - I do not support the removal of Confederate monuments on CW battlefields.

3. There have been calls for the CW Trust to take action to provide protection or sanctuary for any

state that is being removed. Seeing as how this would be a departure from the Trust's state mission of saving battlefield land, and could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in transportation, maintenance and other expenses, such a move could negatively impact the CWT's ability to save hallowed ground. What's your opinion?

A. **13%** The CWT should immediately get into the business of saving monuments, even if it means that we cannot save as much land.

B. **63%** The Trust Should offer limited support to local groups or national heritage organizations who are better situated to take the lead in this effort, but keep the focus on battlefields.

C. **19%** The CWT should stay out of the monument preservation business and concentrate on land.

D. **6%** None of the above

THE SECOND HALF OF THE SURVEY NEXT ISSUE.

OTHER FEATURES

WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President - Jim Barnes

Vice President - John Brasuk

Treasurer /Secretary - Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website - Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep - Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant

25th Va. Rep - Tim Glaser

1st Va. Cavalry - John Brasuk

Artillery - Stormy Brasuk

TASAS - Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

155 Years Ago

December, 1862

1st (Western) Virginia Infantry - Fall of 1862.

"During the whole war if at any time the Union feelings or patriotism of the men were at a low ebb, this was the time..." according to Rawling. The First had fought at Second Bull Run and fallen back to Washington's defenses. The First did not take part in the Antietam campaign, but on October 11 began to move by railroad from Washington to Baltimore and then Harrisburg and finally Pittsburgh on the 13th where they were fed by "the ladies." Later that evening they arrived at Camp Carlisle in Wheeling.

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Joshua Winters wrote that "(T)hair was a potition got up and we all sined and sent it to Peerpont to call us to Wheeling or sum place close...and get the regement filld up."

One home, a 15-day furlough was granted to the 230 men of the regiment. Lt. Col. Hubbard was in command at this point, Col. Thoburn having been judged unfit to command after the wear and tear of the recent campaign. E. W. Stephens of Co. F was promoted to Major, Major Duval having been promoted to the colonelcy of the 9th Virginia.

On November 27, the rested regiment, with a new flag, headed toward Cumberland, Maryland. After arriving there, the First moved eastward on the B&O to North Mountain and set up winter camp in a piece of woods. Camp was comfortable and orderly with a good supply of wood and coal, plucked from the trains hauling the coal. By the end of the year the First numbered between 600 and 700 men with "many of the prisoners taken during the year having rejoined."

As camp routine and drill got underway, dress parades returned. Joshua Winters wrote that "this is a vary pretty country. when we have dress praid thair is about 25 girls coms to see it, sum very pretty ones." He added that weather had been pretty and warm. The men were "waiting pashintley to hear how Burnside is getting along at Fredericksburg."

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.

12th (Western) Virginia Infantry

The 12th was newly formed and just in the field as the Fall of 62 unfolded. October opened with the 12th, over 800 strong, in camp near Buckhannon where all 10 companies were reunited. On the 19th "a drill-master appeared and put the regiment through quite a course of drilling" according to Hewitt.

The 12th in late October marched to Beverly, where they took up residence in Sibley tents. The tents were capable of holding 16 soldiers and their equipage. In the winter a small stove was placed in

the center and vented through a hole in the center of the tent.

In early November 3 companies were ordered to scout towards Monterey, Virginia by one route while the other 7 companies along with other regiments, under the command of General Milroy moved by another route to Monterey. Accounts from the soldiers show that they encountered only a few Southern soldiers (41 prisoners) but sharpened their foraging skills and the their skills living on the march. By mid-November they were returning to Beverly, mission having been accomplished.

From Beverly the regiment moved to Webster where they boarded trains on the B&O and moved to New Creek (Keyser). There were other regiments in camp at New Creek including the Irish volunteers of the 23rd Illinois and Colonel Mulligan whose green shirt "attracted considerable attention from the boys."

Later in December the 12th marched to Moorefield during which Lt. Colonel Northcott was capture by a Rebel scout and then re-captured by a Union scout. Still the 12th did not go into winter quarters, being sent out on another winter scout towards Strasburg, Va. which was square in the middle of the Shenandoah Valley. Once in Strasburg, the regiment established a camp without the benefit of anything except what the men carried on their backs. Living off the land and using rails to build "pens", filling "them in and covering them over with straw for quarters." From Strasburg, the moved "down" the valley to Middletown (near Cedar Creek battlefield), again living off the country. The 12th formed "regular foraging details" for the "purpose of getting subsistence, which were fairly successful."

By the 24th the expedition reached Winchester where they occupied abandoned Rebel winter huts and were introduced to lice. "We found them companions whose acquaintance was hard to cut."

The 12th would remain in Winchester working on fortifications, drilling, target practice and an occasional scouting expedition. New regiments normally were racked by measles and mumps and the 12th was no exception. Sgt. Orr makes note in his Nov. 28 letter that there "is a great deal of sickness" in the regiment, "most of it is measles and mumps." Orr succumbed and was committed to the hospital in Cumberland to recoup. Orr ended up in a room with two nurses, one of whom was from the 1st West Virginia.

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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.

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

They Said It

This month, 157 years ago....

"We, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, That the ordinance adopted by us in convention on the 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of the 'United States of America,' is hereby dissolved."

"I think it wisernot to keep open the sores of war but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife and to commit to oblivion the feelings it engendered."
Robert E. Lee in 1869 *

"There was a right side and a wrong side in the late war, which no sentiment ought to cause us to forget, and while today we should have malice toward none, charity toward all, it is no part of our duty to confound right with* wrong or loyalty with treason..."

Frederick Douglas 1877

* As published in the Times-West Virginian, May 28, 2017 and submitted by Mark Tennant

"History is lived forward but it is written in retrospect. We know the end before we consider the beginning and we can never wholly recapture what it was to know the beginning only"

- C. V. Wedgwood, English historian

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org – Beverly Heritage Center

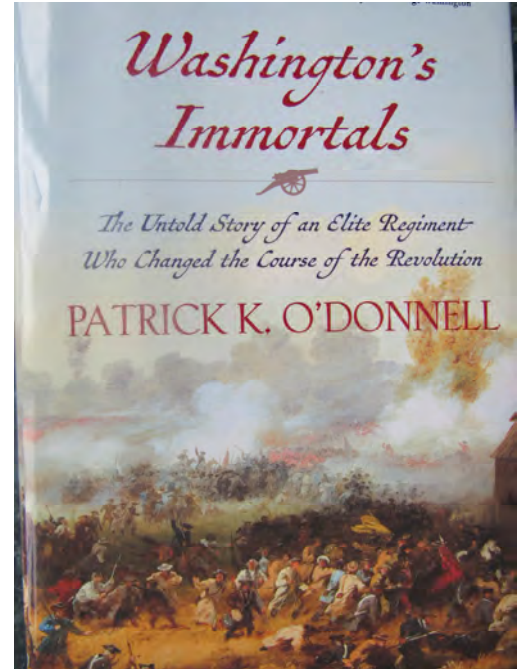
WVRA.org – our website

<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrtable.org/> -- W. Va.

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

American Revolution



Washington's Immortals

The Untold Story of an Elite Regiment who Changed the Course of the Revolution

by Patrick O'Donnell

This is a narrative of the Maryland Regiment in the American Revolution and its influence on the battles that it fought in and in the whole course of the war. These Marylanders fought throughout the war from its pivotal role in saving Washington's Army at the Battle of Brooklyn to the battles in the Southern Theater at the end of the war. O'Donnell argues that this regiment, was the rock of the Continental Army throughout the war by presenting examples at many battles of their unwavering service.

According to one reviewer the author "accomplishes for the Revolutionary War what Stephen Ambrose's Band of Brothers did for World War II." I am afraid that the HBO will need to do a mini-series on these soldiers to "accomplish" what Band of Brothers did. I think part of the problem rests with the thin documentation that exists from the Revolution in comparison to later wars. In any event, O'Donnell does paint a picture of some of the men who did leave a record of their service and is able to assemble a description of the battles in which the Maryland Regiment participated.

Some of the leaders, William Smallwood, Mordecai Gist, Samuel Smith and Richard Cary to name a few, are part of this story of the sons of Maryland's best families creating this regiment in Baltimore in December of 1774. The strong point of this book is the fact that this regiment fought from Brooklyn to Yorktown. So you get a taste of all the major battles of the Northern Theater and then the

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Southern Theater. Since this group along with the Delaware regiment form the backbone of the army throughout the conflict, Washington, Greene, Hamilton and all the famous generals of the war are woven into the story. This is a good read for those aficionados of the American Revolution.

World War II

I am trying to document my first cousin once removed who by oral tradition had been killed on D-Day in Normandy. Sgt. James Fortney served in the 60th Regiment of the 9th Division and is buried in Normandy. His regiment came ashore on June 10 and eventually spearheaded to drive to cut off the Germans on the Cotentin Peninsula

The 60th did drive across the base of the peninsula to the sea and trap the Germans who would fall back to Cherbourg. The Germans surrendered and the 60th was sent south on the 25th of July became involved in Operation Torch to turn the western flank of the German line. Cousin Fortney was killed in the first days of that attack.

I have searched the internet and can no find records, but am unable to find the company or battalion to which he belonged. I hoped to eventually find out where he was killed in action. Any suggestions?

- C. L. Critchfield

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

PERSONALS - John and Stormy's West Virginia house, located in Marion County in the community of Monumental, burned last month. See the note above. Jim Barnes reports that Sue Prager, former WVRA member died. Jim believes she was in the artillery unit. Ed ChapdeLaine sent me a note: "Most interesting news letter. Read book on the History of the Civil War Trust - 'Fighting the Second Civil War' by Bob Zeller. Now reading new Bio on U. S. Grant by Ron Chernow."

THANK YOU to Peter Baxter, Jim Barnes and Mark 'Quiz Whiz' Tennant and Phyllis Baxter who have made contributions one sort or another to this issue.

FOR SALE - Rob Freeman is selling 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 rffreeman1373@gmail.com for more information.

BEVERLY HERITAGE CENTER - announced that rehabilitation work on the 1841 Randolph County jail sitting behind the Heritage Center in Beverly, will start in 2018. Beverly is also embarking on our their annual growth campaign to provide funding for improvement projects. Please donate.

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. Insurance questions about the 1st Virginia Cavalry should be directed to the Unit Representative.

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.

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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

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