

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2020 - January - Edition I

## Upcoming Events

### Civil War

### Sponsored

**Beverly Heritage Days** -- July 18-19,  
2020 (PROPOSED - not approved yet)

### Sanctioned

None at this time

**ANNUAL MEETING** - January 25, 1pm,  
Weston Steakhouse.

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

**USV Meeting** - January 9-10, Gettysburg.  
Contact Chuck Critchfield for details

**Manassas Gap** - third weekend in March  
is <https://www.tattnallcountyga.com/the-battle-at-manassas.cfm>

**School of the Piece** -- April 18, 2020 at  
Jacksons' Mill - Contact Roger House for more  
information

**Morgan's Raid** -- April 24-26, 2020 at  
Meigs County Fairgrounds , Pomeroy , Ohio --  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Barboursville** -- tentatively May 8-10  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence** --  
June 19-21 at Cronwells Turkeyville Resort  
Marshall Michigan, Contact Roger House for  
more information

**Battle of Dry Creek** - August 14 - 16 at  
White Sulphur Springs W.Va

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Droop Mountain** --October -11

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Guyandotte** -- Nov 5-8, 2020

(tentative) contact Roger House for more  
information

## Other Events

**Bentonville - March 21 and 22**

**Appomattox 155th Event** - Appomattox  
Nation Park, tentatively scheduled for Easter  
weekend.

**New Market** - May 15-17, 2020 - New Market, Va.  
**Gettysburg - July 4 and 5, 2020** - Gettysburg at  
the Daniel Lady Farm, info@GBPA.org

**Cedar Mountain** (Slaughter on the Mountain) -  
August 8 and 9. A Chris Anders event.

**Cedar Creek, Oct. 17 and 18, 2020** -  
Middletown, Va.

**Fredericksburg, Dec. 11-13, 2020,**  
Fredericksburg, Va.

**Chancellorsville May 1-2, 2021** - NPS Event

## Other Time Periods.

### World War II

None at this time

## Next Meeting

The annual meeting has been scheduled for  
Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 pm at the Weston  
Steakhouse. This restaurant is located at Exit  
99, one-half mile east of I-79. We will elect  
WVRA officers and vote on Beverly Heritage  
Days as a sponsored event.

## This Edition of the Dispatch

This edition of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch is  
being mailed to all members who have not  
renewed their membership. There are  
members for whom I have no email or USPS  
mailing address who will not get this newsletter  
and will have to access it on WVRA.org.

## Elections

It is time to begin the process of electing new  
officers for the West Virginia Reenactors  
Association. Nominations have been made and  
are STILL open currently for Association  
positions:

President - Jim Barnes \*\*

Vice President - Ken Connell

Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Rush \*\*

Editor - Chuck Critchfield \*\*

Website - Peter Baxter

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\*\* - nomination accepted at November meeting.

We will vote on these offices at the annual meeting on January 25. Nominations can be made at that meeting also. Individual units will select their Unit Representatives at that time.

The President currently serves as Unit Representative for General members which includes other time periods.

Please send your absentee ballots to current officers or to me, Chuck Critchfield, Newsletter Editor or Jim Barnes, WVRA President. (To date I have received several).

## Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History will be held in Beverly on July 17, 18, 19, 2020. This will again be a timeline event, with an emphasis on living history scenarios to bring stories alive for visitors. All periods from mid-1700s to mid-1900s are welcome, military and civilian. Demonstrations, displays, presentations, and children's activities are all welcome. Please share your ideas with us! [info@beverlyheritagecenter.org](mailto:info@beverlyheritagecenter.org)

- Phyllis Baxter

## Membership Renewal

It is also time to renew our memberships for the next reenacting year. Membership renewals are good from January 1 through December 31 of 2020. I will include a membership renewal application with this newsletter.

Keep in mind that in order to be covered by our insurance policy, you must be a member of record.

- Dues:** Dues are \$15 per year per person and \$25 per year for a family. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter there is an additional \$10 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership.
- Minors:** All members under the age of 18 need the signature of a guardian to join. Those under 16 will not be allowed to carry a firearm. Those under 14 may not participate in reenactment battles. In addition the WVRA

complies with the particular rules at specific events regarding age.

- Meetings:** Will usually be held at the first Saturday of the month during the off-season. During the Reenacting season, meetings may be held at particular events as needed.
- Families:** All individuals should have their own memberships, although family memberships, covering the entire family can be used to save cost. This is limited to members and their home-based children.

## Memberships Received to date:

### 1st West Virginia Infantry

Mike Phillips	Jack Rush
Rick Byrd	Keith Kopshina
Chuck Critchfield	Kevin Skaggs
Jim Barnes	Ed Chapdelaine
John Ziolkowski	

### 25th Virginia Infantry

Tag Ireland	Bill Brisendine
Dirk Behana	Tim Glaser

### Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

Phyllis Baxter	Debbie Rush
Peter Baxter	Linda Barnes
Bill Snyder	Art Dodds
Pam Dodds	

### Artillery

David Judy	Susan Judy
Roger House	

### General

Larry Teets	Abraham Price
Erik Herb	Matthew Price
William Burruss	Hunter Lesser

If you think I have failed to list your membership and you have paid dues, let me know.

## Treasurer's Report

December 1-31, 2019

Beginning balance	\$3,138.88
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Credits:

None

Debits:

PO Box	\$ 64.00
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Ending Balance	\$3,074.88
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Submitted by Jack Rush

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## Upcoming Events

### Morgantown Gun Show

Jim and Linda Barnes will be manning another recruiting table at the January Morgantown Gun Show on the 18th and 19th. These gun shows draw individuals interested in reenacting. If you would like to assist the Barnes, please contact Jim at [jd621hs@gmail.com](mailto:jd621hs@gmail.com)

### Civil War Roundtables

**Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable** meets at Eat'n Park at the Bridgeport Exit(119) of I-79 at 7 pm. Come earlier if you plan to eat before the program. There is no charge for meetings, but if you plan to join the SJCWR, the annual dues are \$15.

February 11 - Steps to Secession by Chuck Critchfield

March 10 - Morality or War Experience? The Definition and Treatment of Mental Illness in the Union Army by Katie Thompson

April 14 - Captain John Young by Phil Hatfield

May 12 - A Desperate Fight for Life, The Skirmish at Middle Fork Bridge, July, 1861

### Rich Mountain Civil War Symposium

April 4, 2020

Beverly, West Virginia

Noon until 5 pm

Dinner at 6 pm

Past Rich Mountain Civil War Symposiums have been held in the IOOF Hall near the Beverly Heritage Center followed by a dinner at the the BHC. The fee for the symposium will be \$30 and \$70 for the symposium AND the dinner.

For more information or reservations call 304-637-7424 or [www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org).

Steve French - McNeil Rangers

Allan Tischler - Sheridan Scouts

Hunter Lesser - Bushwhackers

Cameron Mallow - Swamp Dragons

### Gettysburg

Apparently there is now only one event scheduled to replace the annual Gettysburg reenactment. The remaining event is being organized by the Gettysburg

Battlefield Preservation Association at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm east of town.

This is not a site that has been utilized before and the farm is actually part of the edge of battlefield. The GBPA has 148 acres to stage the event and has already staged a "fall skirmish" as a dry run. The 157th event is scheduled for July 4 and 5 in 2020. Early registration is being accepted now.

The representatives from the GBPA put on quite an impressive presentation. It sounds like they have their stuff together. For more information see [www.GBPA.org](http://www.GBPA.org).

## Event Reviews USV Meeting

The United States Volunteers, of which the 1st West Virginia is a member, held its annual meeting at the Gettysburg Hotel in the town of said name, January 11. In attendance were members Kevin Skaggs, Ron and Debbie Wenig and yours truly.

This meeting was uneventful with a couple exceptions, which I will endeavor to relay to you, the loyal readers of the *Dispatch*. General D. Markijohn stepped down as brigade commander after several years of service to the USV. He stepped in to the brigade command, as he was the regimental commander with the most seniority when his predecessor passed away in mid-year. Darrel will return to the cavalry.

Speaking of cavalry, the mounted wing of the USV was not present. There is some issue surrounding insurance and few additional details were offered other than an assurance that efforts were being made to correct the issues.

Dave Childs, longtime colonel commanding the First Regiment of the USV, was elected the Brigadier General Commanding the USV overall. Kevin Skaggs, our own member, was reelected as Colonel of the 1st Regiment.

Recognizing that an increase in dues was needed after 18 years of steady dues, a motion was made to increase dues. After some discussion, and amendments, the motion carried to increase the dues to \$120 annually.

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**Figure 1 Dave Childs addressing the USV meeting at the Gettysburg Hotel on January 11. He was later elected to lead the USV**

Maximum effort events for the USV are Bentonville, Gettysburg and Cedar Creek. I will note that New Market got no support from the USV as an event to support. So it may be a good time to give that event a rest.

From a personal standpoint, I was able to get out in Gettysburg and the warm weather allowed Pam and I to walk parts of the battlefield. I try to see sections I have not seen before, which at Gettysburg is easy to do because it is so big and there are so many side areas off the beaten path.



**Figure 2 The marker showing the position of the 7th West Virginia on the east side of Cemetery Hill facing Culp's Hill. I had only encountered the 7th's**

## **main monument on top of the Hill in the past.**

On Friday we walked from downtown through Gettysburg College to Oak Ridge moving through XI Corps positions to the I Corps positions on Oak Ridge. From the observation tower on Oak Ridge we moved to the I Corps positions along the Chambersburg Pike and back into town. Saturday we explored the area between Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill. Here I stumbled upon a second 7th West Virginia marker recording the spot they held at some point during the battle.

C. L. Critchfield

## **Other Time Periods**

Nothing submitted or to report.

## **Other Features**

### **For Sale**

Tim Koch (or Cook?) a reenactor in the Morgantown area is selling a large group of Civil War reenacting equipment from weapons to clothing. As of October, he still had items remaining. For more information call Tim at 304-906-552.

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## **"They Said It (or didn't)"**

*"Historians customarily write about past events as if each one occurred in isolation, neatly encapsulated in a sealed container, or chapter, which keeps it from being mixed up with other events in their own containers. This practice is based on a sound assumption that both the writer and the reader can best do one thing at a time. The alternative would be to make history as chaotic as a dictionary of dates. Yet a realist will always want to remember that this neat historical order is only a convenient fiction, and sometimes a deceptive one, and that diverse events constantly impinge upon and modify one another."*

-- David Potter

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

-- Quote attributed to multiple people including (sarcastically) to Abraham Lincoln

From Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, May 13, 1862:

*"In giving a synopsis, the other day, of the proceedings of the Court Martial at Charleston we stated that one of the charges against Capt. Wm. A West, who was discharged from the service, was 'keeping his wife in camp, dressed in the uniform of a soldier.' We are requested to state that this is a mistake--it was another man's wife that West had in camp, and not his own. We make the correction with pleasure."*

[Note: William A. West was Captain, Co. A, 1st West Virginia Cavalry. Dismissed from service 4/23/1862] - submitted by Hunter Lesser

**"You may slap a Yankee in the face and he'll go off and sue you, but he won't fight"**

- Charleston Mercury prior to the war.

*"I preach to you, then, my countrymen, that our country calls not for the life of ease but for the life of strenuous endeavor. ...If we stand idly by, if we seek merely swollen, slothful ease and ignoble peace, if we shrink from the hard contests where men must win at hazard of their lives and at risk of all they hold dear, then bolder and stronger peoples will pass us by, and win for themselves the domination of the world. let us therefore boldly face the life of strife, resolute to do our duty well and manfully; resolute to uphold righteousness by deed and by word; resolute to be both honest and brave, to serve high ideals, yet to use practical methods. Above all, let us shrink from no strife, moral or physical, within or without the nation, provided we are certain that the strife is*

*justified, for it is only through strife, through hard and dangerous endeavor, that we shall ultimately win the goal of true national greatness."*

Theodore Roosevelt

## 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>

## WVRA Officers 2019

Jim Barnes - President  
Ken Connell - Vice President  
Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer  
Diane Tennant - Unit Rep (TASAS)  
Mark Tennant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)  
Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)  
Vacant - Unit Rep (artillery)  
Webmaster - Peter Baxter  
Editor - Chuck Critchfield

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. 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.

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.

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## Editor's Corner

### The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU to Peter Baxter, Jim Barnes and Jack Rush. All three have faithfully assisted the editor or made contributions to the Dispatch. A SPECIAL THANKS to Jim and Linda Barnes for their efforts at the Clarksburg and Morgantown gun shows.

BEVERLY HERITAGE DAYS - Planning for next year's event is underway. If you have any ideas, please let me know or pass them on to WVRA member Phyllis Baxter. Beverly Heritage Center has kicked off its 2020 capital campaign to raise money for several projects including, replacement of HVAC systems, bank roof replacement, exhibit development, protection of Civil War graffiti, signage at Rich Mountain, and other related needs.

PERSONALS - Keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers.

THURM SHAVER - does anyone have an address for Thurm? He is not on line at all and he moved to a new location. But the address he gave me is not correct - at least the USPS keeps returning emails. Has anyone heard from Bill Snyder??

THE CLARKSBURG HISTORY MUSEUM is apparently planning an exhibit on Stonewall Jackson in the near future. Details as they become available. The Museum is located on Main Street in Clarksburg across from the street from the Episcopal church where we have danced and met in the past. Check their website for their irregular hours.

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS - According to a Memphis television station website, the three Confederate monuments removed two years ago by the city government of Memphis "are now in the possession of the Sons of Confederate Veterans."

Ownership of the statues of Jefferson Davis and Nathan Bedford Forrest and the bust of James Mathis has been transferred to the SCV. A SCV spokesperson said that the statues would be re-erected but no plans or locations have been finalized. Forrest and his wife remained entombed in a concrete vault in the park from which his statue was removed.

I suspect that this is the future of Confederate monuments in urban areas such as New Orleans, Austin, Richmond and other larger southern cities.

Municipal governments will vote to remove the statues and the statues will re-appear on private property.

Meanwhile, the Confederate statue along the Randolph-Pocahontas line near Mingo has been restored as much as was possible after vandalism this past year.

I WILL MAKE MY REGULAR plea to the membership (or non-member readers) to contribute to the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Especially those members from other periods than the American Civil War.

PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL TO MY ADDRESS and not to the PO BOX in Buckhannon. We have received some announcements recently at the PO Box which we do not inspect on a regular basis.

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 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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"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world - Robert Penn Warren