

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017– Edition 8 – July

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Rich Mountain – July 14-16 Beverly and on the battlefield.

Events Recommended by WVRA members

McConnelsville, Ohio – July 8-10

irishman1020@hotmail.com (740) 638-2126

Camp Bartow/Travelers Repose - August 12

War Comes to Monroe County - Union, W.

Va., August 25-27

Cedar Creek – October 6-8 USV Sanctioned

Other – 2017

Gettysburg – July 1-3

Jackson's Mill – Labor Day Weekend

Other Time Periods

None at this time

Children's activities

BBQ lunch and pie sale

7:30 Time travel dance in Beverly (IOOF)

At Rich Mountain

1-5:30 pm Civil activities

4:30 Civil War skirmish

Sunday, July 16

10 am - 1 pm - Camps and activities continue in Beverly

10 am - 2 pm - living history at Rich Mountain

1:30 Rich Mountain memorial ceremony

2 pm - Battle of Rich Mountain reenactment

Beverly is located 6 miles south of Elkins on US 219/250. Camp Garnett is located 6 miles west of Beverly at the foot of Rich Mountain.

Go to beverlyheritagecenter.org to learn how to register. WVRA members register free. Also the link can be found on the WVRA-The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society Facebook page.

30th Annual Malta & McConnelsville Civil War Encampment Days

Ralph McCready has forwarded the following intelligence concerning this reenactment on July 7, 8, and 9 in and around McConnelsville, Ohio in Morgan County.

We will provide three meals, powder ration and we rent the community pool next to the camp ground for two hours on Saturday evening so the reenactors can cool off before the dance.

Saturday we have a small skirmish downtown and lay a wreath at the Civil War memorial in the town square. Sunday we break camp and move to Dr. Richmond's farm about five miles out of town. The battlefield is set up like an amphitheater with spectators watching from the top of a hill. At the bottom of the hill are buildings to simulate a town in the 1800's.

This year we were reenacting the battle of Corydon, Indiana, the first town John Hunt Morgan hit when he entered Indiana. It was defended by 450 militia, while Morgan brought over 2,000 men across the Ohio. Most of the militia had old muskets and squirrel rifles with the exception of one company who had Henry rifles. The militia held off the first assault thanks to the

Next Meeting

If possible, a meeting will be held at the Beverly/Rich Mountain event. Stay tuned for details

UPCOMING EVENTS

Centuries of History featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain

The WVRA has voted to SPONSOR the Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History, Featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain Reenactment on July 14, 15 and 16. Activities will take place at Beverly and at Field of Fire location at Camp Garnett. We voted overwhelmingly to participate, so please register now.

Schedule

Friday July 14

7:30 Blue & Gray Choir

Saturday July 15

10:30 am Timeline Fashion Show (Beverly IOOF)

10 am - 5 pm Beverly Camps

Native American

Pioneer

Civil War

World War II (camp & equipment)

Cannon and machine gun demonstrations

Live music from all periods

Artisan's demonstrations

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repeating Henry rifles. Then Morgan brought up the artillery and ended the fight.

We are inviting anyone with a repeating rifle to help out. We end the battle with nine artillery pieces which make a good show with over 35 ground charges and special effects in the town.

Contact Ralph McCready, Irishman1020@hotmail.com or 740-638-2126 for more information.

Camp Bartow

The West Virginia Land Trust will host a celebration and tour of their recently acquired property at Camp Bartow (Bartow, W. Va.) on August 12.

The WVRA has been invited to attend and participate. Artillery is welcomed and early war impressions are encouraged.

When I receive more details, I will pass them on to the membership. See information below. In the meantime, if you have questions let me know.

Treasurer's Report

5/1/17 to 5/31/17

Beginning Balance:	\$4,209.51
Credits (memberships):	\$0.00
Debits:	
Web.com (3/03)	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$4,209.51

Submitted J. Rush
6/5/2017

Camp Bartow Preserved

The following is taken from an article in the Charleston Gazette Mail

The West Virginia Land Trust has purchased the main part of Camp Bartow including the earthworks, located on the outskirts of Bartow, W. Va overlooking the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike where it crosses the East Fork of the Greenbrier River. This ground has also been known as Travelers Repose

Grafton

By Mark Tennant

For the tenth year out of last twelve, members of the WVRA held a lantern tour of the cemetery. Helping me on that beautiful spring evening were : Jim & Linda Barnes, Art & Pam Dodd, Bill & Linda Donegan, Gary & Millie Goetze, Hunter Lessor, Larry Smith, Diane Tennant and RMBF member Rick Wolfe. Also Adam Smallwood, Eric's younger brother, did a great job playing Taps at end of tour.

After a delicious catered meal provided by Gourmet Express- a local restaurant in Grafton, we met at the cemetery to get ready for the tour. This entails marking the top of the gravestones of the soldiers we talk about with flowers to be able to find them in the dark and getting the lanterns ready. Over 105 spectators showed for the tour. During the ten years we have had the tour over 1,300 persons have attended.



Figure 1 - Linda Donegan (Dorothea Dix), Bill Donegan (US Navy impression), Jim Barnes as General Black Jack Logan and Linda Barnes

After the Civil War, between mid 1867 thru the end of 1868, 1,251 mostly Union dead were reinterred at Grafton Nat. Cemetery from battlefields and cemetery's across WV and Va. 583 are known, 668 are unknown.

Since the WVRA has been invited to an event at Traveler's Repose on Aug. 12th weekend, I will recount the story of an Indiana soldier- E. J. Abbott of Co. C, 9th Indiana Inf. who was killed in action at the Battle of Greenbrier River near Traveler's Repose on Oct. 3, 1861. You've heard the expression " that

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bullet must have had his name on it ". This story will show how literally true that expression can be.

Ambrose Bierce, a fellow soldier of Pvt. Abbott, belonged to the same company and regiment, later became one of the greatest writers of the Civil War era. His books include *An Occurance at Owl Creek Bridge*, *Devil's Dictionary* and his account of Pvt. Abbott's death from *On a Mountain*-Ambrose Bierce's CW Memoirs: we fought another battle, it has not got into history, but it had a real objective existence, although by a felicitous afterthought called by us who were defeated a "reconnaissance in force". Its short and simple annals are that we marched a long way and lay down before a fortified camp of the enemy at the farther edge of the valley. Our commander had the forethought to see we lay well out of range of the small arms of the period. A disadvantage of this arrangement was that the enemy was out of reach of us as well, for our rifles were no better than his. Unfortunately-- one might almost say unfairly--he had a few pieces of artillery very well protected, and with those he mauled us to the eminent satisfaction of his mind and heart. So we parted from him in anger and returned to our own place, leaving our dead--not many.

Among them was a chap belonging to my company, named Abbott; it is not odd that I recollect it, for there was something unusual in the manner of Abbott's taking off. He was lying flat upon his stomach and was killed by being struck in the side by a nearly spent cannon-shot that came rolling in among us. The shot remained in him until removed. It was a solid round- shot, evidently cast in some private foundry, whose proprietor, setting the laws of thrift above those of ballistics, had put his " imprint " upon it: it bore, in slightly sunken letters, the name "ABBOTT." That is what I was told- I was not present.

So try and attend the Aug. 12th Traveler's Repose event and look for a cannonball with the name "ABBOTT" imprinted on it.

Again many thanks to anyone who read a story, held a lantern and helped find a grave in the dark at the lantern tour.

Philippi



Figure 2 Allen Pinkerton (aka Ralph McCready) and an artillery instructor (Bill Donegan) from VMI at Philippi



Figure 3 Colonel Skaggs at Philippi

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Figure 4 Captain Goff at Philippi

I received no intelligence concerning the recent actions at Philippi, Virginia. I have seen pictures which indicate that the turn out might have been a bit low. Kevin Skaggs, Jeff Goff, Ron Wenig, Bill and Linda Donegan and Ralph McCready did attend. There may have been other members at Philippi, but I only identified the above in pictures sent to me. Thanks to the Donegans and Sherry Skidmore Goff for these pictures.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your kindness! My son and I had a wonderful time at Gettysburg. We will hopefully be able to pay it forward for another student next year!

Thanks again!!

Sheryl & Eric Saunders

(editors note - we assume this is in response to one of the students from University High School that we sponsored this spring).

History

"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 some sometimes a deceptive one, and that the diverse events constantly impinge upon and modify one another.

David M. Potter from "The Impending Crisis - America Before the Civil War 1848-1861

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 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 *****

Dancing With Stonewall

Catching up the 1st Virginia (loyal) in May and June 1862.

On May 1, General Shields Division was ordered to unite with General McDowell's Division at Fredericksburg. From there, these 40,000 men these men would combine with McClellan's army for the drive on Richmond. The War Department apparently was satisfied that Stonewall's mischief in the Valley was done and he was headed to reinforce Lee.

"In passing through Warrenton (Va.) the First attracted a great deal of attention from the ladies; as for the men, there were none to be seen, except, occasionally, a very old one. The ladies, doubtless, were attracted by the music, the bright flags, and the fine appearance of the men marching with cadence step. The First never looked better, though the clothing of the men was considerably worn, the wear and tear having been great on the Shenandoach. One young lady remarked, 'Oh, look, grandma; there goes a Virginia regiment!' The elderly lady, after adjusting her glasses and taking a good look, replied, 'Oh, yes; they are those Western Virginians,' laying a strong emphasis on the *Western*....

Later in that same march in Spring, 1862, the Regiment arrived opposite Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock. "There were a great many new troops here, all apparently from New York and New England States. The First was a curiosity to these men, they not knowing that there were any Virginia troops in the Union army."

The next day, the Union troops under McDowell and Shields were reviewed by President Lincoln. The First however, along with the entire Third Brigade

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"was not included in the review" be as it was "so badly clothed." Nevertheless, most members of the First got their first and only glimpse of the President who according to Rawling was already showing the stress and strain of being Commander in Chief.

At Fredericksburg, Shield's Division was reorganized into four brigades, the First placed with the 7th Indiana, 84th and 110th Pa. The regiment also received their shelter tents.

Stonewall Jackson, having resumed the offensive in the Valley, Shield's men were ordered to return to the Valley. The First and the rest of Carroll's Brigade marched north and then west towards Front Royal. By early June the men were headed south in the Luray or Page Valley arriving near Port Republic by the 8th. Much of this time was spend marching and sleeping in the rain and therefore "muddee rodes."

By June 8, Carroll's Brigade reached the Port Republic Bridge, where they were driven back by the Confederates before the bridge was burned. The next day Jackson attacked the Federals on the east side of the river, two brigades commanded by Erastus Tyler. The 150 men of the First were heavily involved around "the Coaling" on the left flank of the Federal army. The tide of battle eventually went in favor of the Confederates and the First formed a rear guard and was harassed for about 5 miles as the Northern troops withdrew.

Carroll's Brigade retreated up the Luray Valley reaching Front Royal on the 15th. By the end of June, the First was camped outside of Alexandria, Virginia to rest and refit.

Joshua Winters makes some mention of "Fort Publick up the Shanadore river."

Rawling relates an incident on the march to northern Virginia in which regimental wagon master Holliday, at the back of the wagon train, much annoyed by the lead team of Robinson's Ohio Battery, confronted the driver. Holliday told the driver if he drove the tongue of the wagon into his horse one more time, he would unseat the driver from the wagon. And to be sure when it happened again, Holliday hurled a "good-sized" stone at the head of the driver, who dodged the missile. "The man sitting with the driver, Bollman by name, said at the time to be from Portsmouth, Ohio, pulled out an old-style holster pistol, and, taking deliberate aim, fire at Holliday, striking him fair on the temple, inflicting a mortal

wound. " Company A took out after the man, scouring the country to no avail.

- from "*History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry*" by C. J. Rawling and "*Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters*", edited by Elizabeth Davis Swiger.

25th Virginia

155 Years Ago

The 25th had just recently been reorganized as June 1862 unfolded. Four companies remained and a fifth company was created form the remains of missing companies. Those missing companies remained prisoners of war. The 9th Battalion of Virginia Infantry was merged into the 25th and one company of the 31st Virginia was transferred to the 25th bringing the regiment up to 10 companies. Command was assigned to Colonel George Smith, VMI graduate.

In June, the 25th, a part of Arnold Elzey's Brigade, fought in Jackson's Valley Campaign and suffered over 30 killed and wounded at McDowell, Port Republic and Cross Keys. On the 17th, Elzey's Brigade and the rest of Ewell's Division headed to Richmond and on the final days participated in Gaines Mill.

- from Armstrong's *25th Virginia Infantry and 9th Battalion Virginia Infantry*

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

Droop Mountain

Nothing new to report. Bryan's Battery and the WVRA have been discussing the possibility of holding the Droop Mountain reenactment in October of 2017. The WVRA has offered to help and is waiting to hear from the battery. Although it is getting very late in the season now.

Military Organization

Civil War

1st Virginia Cavalry
UNIT REP - John Brasuk
Captain - John Brasuk
Sergeant -
Corporal -

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1st West Virginia Infantry
UNIT REP - Mark Tennant
Captain - Chuck Critchfield
Sergeant - Ross Wetherell
Corporal - Vacant

25th Virginia Infantry
UNIT REP - Tim Glaser
Captain - Jeff Goff
Sergeant - Greg Watterson
Corporal - Jay Allman
UNIT REP - Stormy Brasuk
Battery A
TBD

Battery B
Sergeant - Stormy Brasuk

Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society
UNIT REP - Diane Tennant
Union Rep - Debbie Rush
Confederate Rep - vacant

New By-Laws

The By-law revisions were approved at the March meeting. The primary changes were detailed in the last meeting, but once again the main change will allow other time period reenactors to join the WVRA. Also the new by-laws combine the office Secretary and Treasury into one office when that is needed.

Anyone wishing a copy of the by-laws can contact me to obtain a copy.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

PERSONALS – It is good to see Jack Daft on a regular basis in the ICU at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Clarksburg - working, not as a patient.

NRA – the executive committee is investigating the possibility of insuring the entire group under a policy from the NRA. Tim Glaser has volunteered to lead this project.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch. Thank you to Sherri Goff for the Philippi pictures. Thank you to Mark Tennant for the review of Grafton. Thank you to the person who sent the article on Camp Bartow/Travelers' Repose. It was pretty much like the article in last month's Dispatch, so I did not publish. Thank you to the Donegans for the pictures.

TRIVIA QUESTION – Nobody has attempted an answer to this question, so I will continue to list it. I once heard Gary Gallagher, famous Civil War historian say that every student of the Civil War, no every student period, should know the five components of the Compromise of 1850. After all the Compromise plays a big role in the coming of the Civil War. Can you name them? I had no takers to this question. A question for next time? How about, "In which battle did John Brown fight for the Confederacy and Jefferson Davis for the Union?"

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.

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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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

Facebook – [WVRA – TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid Society](#)

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