

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2019 - July - Edition VII

Upcoming Events

Civil War

Sponsored

Beverly Heritage Days, July 12-14

Sanctioned

None

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

Fort Mulligan, August 17, Petersburg, WV -

Contact David Judy at

ranger749@yahoo.com or 304-749-7657

Shenandoah 1864, Oct. 4-6 (USV)

Burlington, WV Oct. 4-6 - 304-749-7657

Contact David Judy at

ranger749@yahoo.com or 304-749-7657

155th Cedar Creek, Oct. 18-20, 2019 (USV)

Other Events

Droop Mountain, October 11-13, 2019

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com>

Other Time Periods.

World War II

June 22-23 PA Trolley Museum

September 6-8 **Brooke County WV Fair**

WW II Battle Reenactments:

August 2-4 **Operation Market Garden**,
Tidioute, PA

August 16-18 **D-Day**, Conneaut, Ohio.

18th Century:

July 5-7 Siege of Fort Niagara, Niagara
State Park, NY

August 23-25, **French and Indian War
Muster**, Fort Frederick MD

Labor Day Weekend - **Siege of Fort
Henry**, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV.

Miscellaneous

June 21-23, **Wild West Weekend**, Old
Bedford Village, Bedford, PA.

(Editor's Note: All events listed under the heading "Other Time Periods" were suggested by Jim Barnes and questions about those events should be directed to Jim.)

Next Meeting

A meeting has been scheduled as part of the Beverly Heritage Days event on Saturday, July 13 at 5 pm in the air conditioning of the Beverly Heritage Center.

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion

The WVRA's copies of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion (OR), all 120 plus volumes, were donated to the Waldomore's Archive, Local History and Genealogy Room in downtown Clarksburg. I met with Cathy Norko of the Waldomore on June 3 to transfer the books to the Waldomore. Ms. Norko will let me know when the books are available for use by the public.



Figure 1 Chuck Critchfield presents a couple of volumes to Cathy Norko of the Waldomore.

Many of you may remember the Waldomore, the home of Waldo P. Goff, located beside the Harrison-Clarksburg Library in downtown Clarksburg. The WVRA camped on the lawn once or twice many years ago as part of the city's West Virginia Day Celebration.

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Many thanks to Jack and Tonya Daft who stored the collection for a couple of decades.

-- C. L. Critchfield

Treasurer's Report

May 1-31, 2019
Beginning balance \$3,049.05
Ending Balance \$3049.05
Submitted by Jack Rush

Insurance

There have been several inquiries about insurance. Jack Rush has received the Certificate of Liability Insurance and will bring a copy to the next meeting of the WVRA.

Upcoming Events

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History

July 12, 13, 14, 2019

Beverly, West Virginia

Living Historians and Reenactors from 1750 through 1950 are invited to join the Beverly Heritage Center for our timeline heritage event to share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. Beverly, West Virginia was the original county seat of Randolph County, and was a crucial crossroads through settlement, Civil War and 20th Century history. Located 6 miles south of Elkins along US Rt 219, Beverly is an active heritage tourism destination with town historic district, Rich Mountain Battlefield, and multiple museums and shops anchored by the Beverly Heritage Center. Beverly Heritage Days is our primary heritage event of the year.

Living history camps will include Native American, Pioneer, Civil War, and World War II eras with scenarios welcome for any part of our timeline, military and civilian. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, heritage crafts and displays are all welcome. The event will welcome music from a variety of periods, and a "timeline" dance Saturday evening will feature

music and dancing from 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Planned scenarios and demonstrations are strongly encouraged that can be offered either continuously, or at scheduled times. Let us know your scenario plans in advance so that we can include them in the pre-event promotions.

Period crafts demonstrations are welcome, and could be offered either in the camps, or at separate stations through the event.

History Parade along the streets of Beverly will kick off the event Saturday morning. Please let us know if you can participate in color guard or music for the parade. Military and civilian groups and individuals from all periods, musicians, and period appropriate vehicles are welcome. NO non-historic participation – no cars with politicians, twirlers, or fire trucks!

Music - An outdoor stage Saturday will host an assortment of musical performances appropriate to the range of periods. Musicians in camps, in the Beverly Heritage Center, or at the Battlefield camps are also welcome. A "Through the Centuries Dance" Saturday evening in Beverly will mix a variety of dances from colonial line dances, to Civil War era quadrilles, to the Lindy Hop.

Sunday Recruitment Participation – This year we want to invite interested members of the public to come experience living history activities for themselves. Activities could include military drills, campfire cooking, craft activities, period dress instruction, or other scenarios your camp could offer for those interested in trying it for themselves. Let us know if you can offer hands-on, public participation, or "apprentice" opportunities for this. We would expect fewer numbers, but aim for more engagement with members of the public.

Programming - We are planning ways to make this event even better than ever, including some different programming from previous events. Let us know what you are interested in!

Selling Goods - Sutlers or other merchants of period appropriate goods are welcome. There will be no vendor fee, although pre-registration is required and a donation to support the event is encouraged. Craft demonstrators or camp participants who wish to sell within the period camps may do so with permission from the camp provost, as long as their display is period

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appropriate to that camp. A merchants' area will be available near the Beverly Heritage Center. Merchants with relevant modern goods or display will be placed in the BHC area, and only with advance approval. Please indicate your preferred location in your pre-registration.

Amenities - Camps in Beverly will be located in the large lawns within the town. Water and portopots will be available near camps, with running water toilets and a shower available at Beverly Heritage Center during open hours. Firewood and hay will be provided and ice will be available for purchase.

An ice-cream social for participants will be available Friday evening, as you arrive, set up and get registered.

Saturday lunch of grilled pork sandwich meal will be provided to pre-registered participants. You MUST pre-register by July 6 to get a lunch ticket.

Draft schedule (details subject to change, more will be added as plans are confirmed):

Friday July 12

Afternoon camps available
7:00 – 8:30 pm ice cream social for participants

Saturday, July 13

10 am- Parade of History
10:30 - 6 pm Camps and activities open

Beverly

Living History - Each camp is encouraged to schedule your own activities & demonstrations

Activities will be added to event schedule at planned times

Music, crafts, demonstrations, displays, children's activities - ongoing

11:45 Lunch - pork BBQ by RMBF (provided for pre-registered); Pie sale on Goff House porch

8 pm Through the Centuries Dance, IOOF Hall, Beverly.

Sunday, July 14

10 am – 2:00 pm Camps and activities open, public participation scenarios encouraged.

Registration

This event is FREE with pre-registration. Pre-registration is expected, and is required by **July 5** to get the participant meal. Please pre-register and provide information about your impression and needs by May if possible, so that we can plan and promote the event.

Watch for continuing updates!

You may register by individual, family, or unit. Please give us contact info (email if you use it) for everyone.

You can pre-register in any of these ways:

- On-line registration form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQmrm-i-ZYbLVsWS41TGBiHVI3uHmXvdMHGzSIE4yqeVofnQ/viewform>
- Print registration form from website, or fill out hard copy. Return by email, mail, or at BHC.
- Email all relevant information to: Christopher Taylor info@beverlyheritagecenter.org
- Mail to: Beverly Heritage Center, PO Box 227, Beverly WV 26253;
- Hand deliver to Beverly Heritage Center, #4 Court Street, Beverly
- Call for information or to register – we can take your info over the phone: 304-637-7424

Please also communicate with the provost contact for your period to ask specific questions and discuss impressions. This is very helpful for our planning, but does not replace your actual registration.

Frontier Karl Mulac
gryffynklm@aol.com

Civil War Chuck Critchfield
ccritch608@yahoo.com

WWII Jim Barnes (Allies)
jd621hs@gmail.com

Eric Satterfield (Axis)
defenderarmsllc@hotmail.com

Musicians Phyllis Baxter
phyllisb@meer.net

Other impressions, crafts, demonstrations –
Chris Mielke bhcamericorps1@gmail.com

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Vendors or other questions Christopher Taylor
info@beverlyheritagecenter.org

Event sponsored by Beverly Heritage Center,
www.beverlyheritagecenter.org, 304-637-7424.
Hosted by West Virginia Reenactors Association
www.wvra.org

Above, with printed registration form, could be a mailer.

Fort Mulligan and Burlington

WVRA member David Judy is encouraging all WVRA members to attend the Fort Mulligan Living History, August 17 in Petersburg. And the Burlington event October 4 through 6. I have not found any information on the internet about these two events but David says contact him at ranger749@yahoo.com or 304-749-7657



Figure 2 - Linda and Jim Barnes

On the second Day, author and longhunter authority, Mark Baker, discussed "An Armed Englishman is a Free Englishman: The Cultural Perspectives of English Society That Drove Armed Neighbors, in Mutual Defense, to Lexington and Concord." After that Nathan Kobuck talked about "Tips, Tricks and Bad Ideas." After lunch, Mark Baker reviewed his "Four Decades on the Trail: Who I Once Was, Who I Am Now, Which Signs I Still Find Intriguing, and Which Signs Are Still Hard to Follow." There was an auction in the evening, proceeds to go to the fort. I got a bottle of bear oil and some lead.

There was a church service on Sunday. As usual, a fine time was had by all. You make plans to attend next year.

--- Jim Barnes

Event Reviews

School of the Longhunter

The 25th Annual School of the Longhunter was held at Pricketts Fort, 88 State Park Road, Fairmont, WV 26554. As usual, the speakers were excellent and the event was worthy of its anniversary status.

On the first day, we heard Beth Kennedy discuss "Settlers and Captives", then Willie Franklin went over "The Small Things: Matching Your Gear to Your Gun." After lunch, there was a Round Robin trade session and then Mike Galban gave an interesting talk on "Dogs encountered on the Frontier". That evening, there was a Fort Feast (potluck dinner), but we were tired and live nearby, so we missed that.

Other Features

155 Years Ago (May 1864)

My continuing effort to remember the men who fought with the 1st and 12th West Virginia through the writing of Joshua Winters, Joseph Thoburn and Thomas Jefferson Orr.

When we last visited the men of the 1st and 12th in Thoburn's Brigade, they had participated in the battle of Piedmont, in

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which the Federals under David Hunter had decisively defeated the Confederate forces commanded by Grumble Jones -- and killed poor ol' Grumble in the process.

The Federals would proceed to Staunton and towards Lynchburg where Confederate forces from Lee's army would arrive and check their advance. Hunter would lose his nerve and retreat back to Staunton. Hunter realized that his retreat back toward Winchester was easily cut off thanks to the railroad line that arrived in the Valley from Charlottesville. So he reasoned that he must retreat westward into the Kanawha Valley thereby removing his 18,000 men from the war for a month.

When the men left Piedmont and started up the Valley, the Federals began to take what they wanted for sustenance and destroy what would be assistance for the Confederates. June 9th, the 12th was ordered to burn bridges and tear up track on the "railroad leading to Richmond." Colonel Curtis's men learned the art of Sherman's neckties -- piling the ties and placing the rails on the pile, which once lit, melted the center of the rails which could be bent into all kinds of creative shapes. At Staunton Hewitt describes that "enemy's tobacco had been by authority thrown into the streets" where the men of the 12th availed themselves and all they could carry. On June 10, Colonel Thoburn was elevated to command of the First Division Sullivan's Division, the latter "not being very well." On June 11, the 12th entered Lexington, Virginia, the home of Stonewall and the VMI. The Institute was burned and Stonewall's grave vandalized during the visit. "To the surprise of al all and the disgust of many, the bronze statue of Washington which adorned the grounds of the Military Institute, was loaded into one of the wagons of the train and hauled up the valley" and eventually to Wheeling. Rawling remarked that the destruction underway was "a feature of the contest the men of the First had seen comparatively little of..." to that

point of the war. On the 15th. in the extreme heat, the command crossed over the Blue Ridge towards Lynchburg.

Confederate resistance coalesced at Lynchburg where Thoburn's men were attacked on the 18th by Jubal Early's men. The Northerners repulsed the attack. The 1st West Virginia suffered casualties including the death of Lieutenant Gordon (C).

After this, Hunter began his retrograde movement crossing the mountains to the Kanawha River to catch steamboats that would navigate the river systems back to Parkersburg and the railroad where they could get back to the Shenandoah Valley. Rawling described the road through the mountains as very bad and then added "What road was not bad throughout that region"? The mountains offered little opportunity for forage and food. So Hunter's men, with little food on hand began to suffer upon entering this region. On June 26 Thoburn entered in his diary "The whole command is out of rations. The men are starving. Have not yet commenced on mule or horse meat." Expect to meet supplies soon." What little food found along the route was appropriated by Crook's command as it marched at the head of column. Finally on the 28th, we received rations of crackers and coffee....Two crackers to the man." Once again the head of the column "plundered" the arriving supply train before Thoburn's Division had a chance to re-supply. Eventually two-full days rations reached Thoburn's men "and the men are doing very well."

On July 4 they marched into Belpre, Ohio, having been forced by low water to disembark on the Ohio side near Blennerhassett's Island. By the 11th, the 12th was back at Hedgesville in the Valley. After being out of the war for almost three weeks the commands returned to the Valley to find it under invasion by Jubal Early.

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Editor's Note: Four (Winters, Orr, Hewitt and Rawling) of our five writers were not with their units during Hunter's Raid. Only Thoburn, at times commanding a division, was with the army.

The Forgotten Fury - The Battle of Piedmont by Scott C. Patchan. *Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters* Edited by WVRA member Elizabeth Davis Swiger. *History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry*, by C. J. Rawling. *A Company of Boys in Blue* by Mark Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr. *History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry* by William Hewitt. *Hunters Raid 1864 From the Diary of Colonel Joseph Thoburn*

Other Time Periods

Jim Barnes submitted a list of suggested events seen above.

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"They Said It (or didn't)"

"Never interfere with the enemy when he is in the process of destroying himself."
-- Napoleon

"It is said that the admission of West Virginia, is secession, and tolerated only because it is our secession.... Well, if we call it by that name, there is still difference enough between secession against the constitution, and secession in favor of the constitution."

-- Abraham Lincoln

"...no reflecting man will seriously affirm that 'the legislature of Virginia' which, a Wheeling, on the 13th of May, 1862, gave its consent (not the consent of Virginia) to the dismemberment of the Old Commonwealth, was, in truth and honesty such legislature of Virginia as the Constitution speaks of...."

-- Edwin Bates, Attorney General

"Lee was a consummate Tuckahoe. Jackson was a cohee. Tuckahoe is what early western Virginians called those from Tidewater, where the tobacco economy was founded on slave labor and the Anglican aristocracy had been dominant since the founding of Jamestown. Jackson was the cultural opposite, a Cohee, which is what upcountry settlers called themselves."

-- Chancellorsville 1863, *The Souls of the Brave* by Ernest B. Furgurson.

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org
Beverly Heritage Center -
www.beverlyheritagecenter.org
Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable
www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

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)
Unit Rep (artillery) - TBD
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 of record.

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

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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.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU to Peter Baxter. Thank you to Jim Barnes, Jack Rush and Chris Taylor for their contributions to this edition of the Dispatch

INSUFFICIENT TIME - I apologize for the third consecutive month, but I had to throw this issue together quickly. Too many other things going on right now. I have been spending time with my 90-year-old parents in North Carolina.

PERSONALS - Please keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers

BEVERLY HERITAGE CENTER announced the following: "After years of operation as a partnership effort of Historic Beverly Preservation and Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, the Beverly Heritage Center will be incorporating as an independent non-profit organization with increased emphasis on tourism marketing. The official new organization will be Beverly Heritage Convention and Visitors Bureau, but still operating at the Beverly Heritage Center. The founding meeting of that organization, to elect Board members and approve Bylaws, will be held Monday, June 17 at 6:30 pm at the Beverly Heritage Center."

The communication state that the new organization will "expand our tourism marketing efforts, to promote historic Beverly and the cultural and historic opportunities that bring visitors to Randolph County." Additionally they will "continue growing interpretative programming, with museum improvements and quality special events."

SO YOU THINK THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER?!? -

I INVITE MEMBERS (or non-members) to submit articles or information to the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. I shy away from copying or reprinting

previously published articles, but will summarize such information and write that summary for the newsletter. I do not limit submissions to the American Civil War.

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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

Chuck Critchfield - Editor

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A GREAT RALLY
OF THE
Friends of Liberty!
TO HELP SAVE THE
BEST GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD!
WILL BE HELD IN
Fairmont, on Monday, May 6th, Court Day.

Let every man who has the soul, the heart of an American beating within his bosom, be there. The glorious flag of our country has been torn down from the Capitol of our State and the flag of the traitors floats in its place. **AMERICANS**, we ask you to come to the rescue of our country and our country's cause. Our chains are being forged; their clanking may be heard in Richmond, in that secret, that dark and damnable Convention. Then let all come to the rescue. The great champion of Western Virginia,

HON. JOHN S. CARLILE,
will be there to address the people. Let us give him a warm and glorious reception. Other noble speakers in the cause of our liberties will be there.

FAIRMONT, MARION COUNTY, VA., APRIL 29, 1861.

West Virginia State Archives

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world - Robert Penn Warren

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