

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2020 - July - Edition VII

Upcoming Events

A note from the Editor

I have noted on this schedule the events that have notified me, that their event is canceled. If you are interested in any event on this schedule, I suggest **you contact the event** or the contact person listed to determine if the event is canceled or not canceled.

Civil War

Sponsored

Beverly Heritage Days -- SEE BELOW

Sanctioned

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

McConnellsville - McConnellsville, Ohio, July 10-12 - contact Ralph McCready (all time periods welcome) - **CANCELED**

Fort Mulligan - August 14-15 at Petersburg. Contact Dave Judy 304-749-7957

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

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

Burlington (Apple Harvest Festival) - October 3-4. Contact Dave Judy for more information 304-749-7957

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

Gettysburg - To be announced, 2020 - Gettysburg at the Daniel Lady Farm, info@GBPA.org (see below)

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.

2021

Chancellorsville May 1-2, 2021 - NPS Event

Other Time Periods

18th Century— July 3-5, [French and Indian War](#)

[Encampment](#), Old Fort Niagara's annual recreation of the historic Siege of 1759. Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, NY.

18th Century – July 9-12, Whiskey Rebellion Festival, Washington,

PA. <http://www.whiskeyrebellionfestival.com/>

Timeline – November 7-8, Troops and Trains. RR Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg,

PA. <https://rrmuseumpa.org/events/>

PA. <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

WWII – July 31-August 2, Bridge at Remagen 75th Anniversary Reenactment, Tidioute,

PA. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgeatremagentidioute/>

WWII – August 20-22, D-Day Reenactment, Conneaut, Ohio (SEE BELOW) Canceled.

<http://www.ddayohio.us>

Next Meeting

The next meeting had been scheduled for the Beverly event. With cancellation of that event, the meeting has likewise been canceled.

About the Statues

In recent weeks, we have seen a surge in the destruction and vandalism of statues and monuments around the country. When the left began targeting Confederate statues, some said, "What's next? George Washington, Thomas Jefferson?" Well, that has happened. Many on the left defend this as justifiable because of slavery. Then

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how do you rationalize the defacing of a statue of John Brown in Kansas, a statue of John Greenleaf Whittier, an ardent abolitionist, in California, the memorial to Robert Gould Shaw in Massachusetts, U.S. Grant in San Francisco and the effort to remove a statue of Abraham Lincoln (which was purchased by freed slaves) in D.C.? How about the vandalism to the WWII memorial in D.C.?

Ending Balance

\$2,927.34

Submitted by Jack Rush

Upcoming Events

Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Days as a single large event is cancelled.

Beverly Heritage Center hopes to reopen at least part time for the summer, with safety measures in place.

We are planning a series of smaller living history activities and programs, through this summer. We invite reenactors to schedule with us to participate individually or in small groups. We hope for some in person attendance, but in smaller groups and families keeping distance, rather than large crowds. We plan to livestream and/or record these activities, to make them available to more people.

This may all be adapted pending public health situation and guidance.

- Phyllis Baxter

Gettysburg (update)

Gettysburg and Adams Co was moved to the Yellow Phase by the Governor as of Friday, May 22, 2020. This only allows groups of up to 25 people to gather. After much discussion with local leaders and Government officials, it is doubtful we will be moved to the Green Phase before July. As a result, the Board of the GBPA has decided to POSTPONE the 2020 Battle of Gettysburg to a date later in the summer. The event will remain a 2-day event, held on a weekend.

We delayed making this decision in hopes of a quicker resolution, but an event of this size cannot accommodate the rules and restrictions of the current time, even in an outdoor setting. We continue to monitor the flow of events and an alternate date will be announced by June 10th.

If you have questions about registration see the website of the GPBA.

From the GPBA website (Gbp.org/event)

You can dismiss some of this as sheer ignorance and/or stupidity, but in my opinion, none of this is really about race, it is just a visible part of the continuing attack on our institutions by various parties on the extreme left. In the novel *1984*, one of the slogans of the Marxist police state in which the protagonist lives is "Ignorance is strength." An ignorant public makes for a stronger totalitarian society.

Somebody has to tell the story. Most college and university history departments have few, if any, professors who are not liberals or more extreme leftists. No intellectual diversity allowed. Our state board of education continues to try to decrease the number of required history credits despite the obvious lack of historical knowledge across the general public. Add to this the fact that most teens are too busy staring at their cell phones to concentrate on any studies and the picture looks grim. Fighting this kind of moronic behavior is one reason that I persist in Reenacting/Living History.

I know that this is a disappointing year for reenactors. Who knows what we will be able to do when the pandemic ends and we can return to the field? I just hope that all our members will keep the faith and be ready to go back out as soon as we can and work to keep our history from dying.

- Jim

Liability Certificate

A PDF copy of the WVRA's liability or insurance certificate was emailed to members with an email address on April 6. That email also contained the April newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact me at ccritch608@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report

June 1 through June 30, 2020

Beginning balance	\$2,912.34
Credits	
Membership	\$ 15.00
Debits	

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D-DAY

May 13, 2020

To our volunteer, reenactor, and visitor communities
and City of Conneaut residents:

The D-Day Ohio Board of Directors has met and, after extensive review and consideration of current social distancing expectations, maximum gathering limitations and quarantine requirements, coupled with the concern for everyone's health and safety, we have determined that we will not be holding DDay Conneaut 2020 in the same format as we have in prior years. We will be unable to hold our large event at Conneaut Township Park on August 21-22. Instead, D-Day Ohio will be presenting a series of smaller events and activities that continue our educational mission, adhere to the ever changing social distancing and group size thresholds, and are respectful of the community of Conneaut (our host community) and travel quarantine expectations. While we realize that the event is still a few months away, we feel it is highly probable that many of our usual supporters would be unable to attend without potentially endangering themselves, other participants and spectators, our honored veterans, and the Conneaut community. Travel restrictions and quarantine requirements also present significant challenges. Last, all museums and outdoor attractions drawing large crowds remain closed in Ohio and the opening date has not been discussed by State of Ohio officials. Though saddened that we may not be able to bring you the landings, recreated battles, boats, tanks and planes.... that same scale and panorama of WWII history as we have brought you in the past... this year we are excited about the opportunity to offer focused, living history and educationally oriented programs at locations throughout Conneaut and broadcast these online for those who can't join us in person, including our Veteran attendees. Our Board and living history leaders are working through our plans for 2020 and will have additional details to share over the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned and hang in there with us as we recalibrate to accommodate the current circumstances.

Please also follow us on social media or through our email newsletter (sign up on our website!) for information on our commemorative items that

celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and our schedule of upcoming activities.

Sincerely, Betsy Bashore, CEO

Event Reviews

Droop Mountain



Figure 1 - From the left John Webb, Jeff Goff, Tim Boggs, Ken Connell, Cool Bill Brisendine, Shirley Boggs and Jim Allman. A Small living history was held at Droop Mountain in early July.

Other Features

ATTENTION MEMBERS

As I mentioned on the Facebook page, I invite members to send me a story on your relatives who fought in the Civil War -- or any war in particular. This was suggested by Tim Glaser and I think it is a great idea. Also, as I have done in the past with ZERO results, send me your favorite reenacting story. Or a story of your favorite reenactment.

My address and email address are listed below.

-- Chuck Critchfield, editor

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DAVID S CREIGH

By Tim Glaser

David S Creigh was Joanne Glaser's great, great uncle. I talked to Chuck several months ago that I thought it would be nice to hear from people in the WVRA about their West Virginia (VA) relatives in this and all wars. I realize that at the moment this is probably politically insensitive but I bring this up to show that a person needs to always take the time to learn facts and not to reduce ourselves to mob violence.

I did not write most of this but brought in from many sources. Mainly historical references of Greenbrier County. The 1st W. Va. figures prominently in the story. After the Battle of Droop Mountain Lewisburg was once again occupied by Federal forces. There was a general unease and fears about Federal occupation were not entirely unjustified. For much of the war, Greenbrier County and large portions of West Virginia were home to guerillas and "bushwhackers." Some of these men were individuals truly trying to fight for the Confederate cause, but, many, if not most, were nothing but a criminal element who found the margins of the war to their liking. Some of these partisan units were formally recognized by the Confederate military, but even most of those were eventually shut down because of their lawless behavior. Meanwhile, the Federal reaction to these elements was harsh and uncompromising. As Union forces occupied Greenbrier County after the Droop Mountain campaign, the inhabitants found themselves subject to military law and trial by courts martial. The results could be tragic and unjust.

Creigh was a prosperous merchant and farmer who had lived his entire life in the Lewisburg area. At the time of the Droop Mountain campaign in late 1863, he was 54 years old, had been married to his wife, Emily, for 30 years, and had a family of 11 children. Creigh was like many Virginians before the war, a political conservative, opposed to secession and war, but supportive once that course was decided upon by the Commonwealth. As a result, his three oldest sons would enlist in the 14th Virginia Cavalry and fight for the Confederacy. I have histories of them also.

As the war raged on, Creigh and his family desired nothing more than to peacefully work their land, and quietly pray for the war's end and the safe return of their sons. In early November 1863, as Averell's troops occupied the Lewisburg area, there was the inevitable foraging and, worse, scavenging. Foraging is distinct from scavenging, in that foraging is an organized, sanctioned activity, while scavenging is typically conducted by individual soldiers who are operating outside military authority, and acting as nothing more than common thieves. The latter is what David Creigh

and his family encountered on the night of November 8. On that evening, Creigh was visiting the nearby home of a friend, John Dunn. As the two men chatted, a Union cavalryman entered the house without knocking. He demanded that Dunn tell him where his horses might be. Dunn tried to be evasive, so the soldier set about searching the house. Concerned that this man would visit his home next, Creigh left and hurried home. Once he arrived at his house, he told Emily that a soldier was searching the Dunn home looking for things to steal and that he would likely be coming to their home shortly. He urged his wife to remain calm, while he went to the nearby residence of another friend, a Mr. Arbuckle, whose wife was at Creigh's home helping tend to his sick daughter, Elizabeth. He told his wife that he wanted to see if he might borrow a pistol from Arbuckle. The soldier was armed and he was obviously operating outside military authority. Therefore, Creigh was justifiably concerned and fearful for his family's safety.

When Creigh returned home, as he entered the front door, he heard raised voices upstairs and quickly realized that, as he feared, the soldier had come to his house. His wife was arguing with the soldier. When Creigh reached the top of the stairs, the soldier, who had been emptying trunks in search of booty, entered the hallway and confronted Creigh. He asked Creigh if he had the key to a trunk that could not be opened. Creigh responded that the trunk in question belonged to Miss Lewis, his children's teacher, and that he did not have a key. At that moment, Creigh's daughter, Elizabeth, rose from her sickbed, came out of her room, and told the soldier that there were more trunks at the rear of the house. The soldier turned and walked to where Elizabeth indicated and began rummaging through a set of trunks. As he did so, Creigh quietly cocked the pistol he held beneath his coat and moved towards the soldier. About that time, the soldier found a set of cards in one of the trunks and inquired as to what they were. Elizabeth told him that they were merit cards from school and he shouted at her that they were not. At this moment, as the soldier raised his voice, Creigh became increasingly nervous, removed the pistol from his coat, and told the soldier to leave his house. As Creigh raised the pistol, the cap exploded and the round slammed harmlessly into the wall. Immediately, the soldier lunged at Creigh and began grappling with him. Creigh used the now unloaded pistol as a club and pounded on the soldier's head. The soldier went down initially, but rose back up and locked his head under Creigh's arm. As he did so, the Federal trooper pulled his own revolver, raised it, and aimed it at Creigh's head. Emily leaped to her husband's aid, jerking the soldier's arm down. The revolver lowered until it was aimed at the bodies of both men and, as it did so, a shot was discharged. The soldier now shoved Creigh and his wife toward the head of the stairs, and all three tumbled down into the foyer of the house, and the soldier's

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revolver dropped from his hand, skittering across the foyer floor.

Creigh continued to wrestle with the soldier and soon discovered that the trooper must have been struck by the revolver shot, as he was bleeding. As the two men continued to struggle, Emily and Mrs. Arbuckle tried to pick up the now loose revolver. As they grabbed the weapon, it went off again, striking the soldier once more. Holding him upright, Creigh carried him to within 10 feet of the portico, then dropped him, believing him to be dead. Suddenly, the soldier's fingers twitched and, fearing he was still alive, Creigh grabbed a nearby axe and crushed the soldier's skull.

Now, Creigh debated what to do. He knew he would never receive a fair trial for his actions and he feared a Union patrol might happen by at any moment. The only viable option seemed that of hiding the body. With the help of one of his sons and an Irish farmhand, they loaded the soldier's body into a cart and covered it with hay. They traveled about three-fourths of a mile down the road, where they dumped the body in an abandoned well, then covered it again with hay. With this grizzly task complete, they hurried back to the Creigh home.

As spring of 1864 arrived, no one had come looking for the dead soldier. Union authorities probably assumed he was just another deserter. Meanwhile, the war continued unabated and there had been changes in the Federal hierarchy for the Department of West Virginia. General David "Black Dave" Hunter was now in command. Hunter was an ill-tempered brute of a man, a poor soldier, and a fanatic abolitionist who hated the South and all those who sympathized with its cause. He was determined to crush any local resistance to Union authority and to provide ready examples what would happen to those who opposed it. Tragically for David Creigh, he would become one of those examples. On May 15, a slave entered the camp of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry and told the commander that he had discovered the body of a soldier in a nearby well. Captain Howe, an officer in the regiment, was ordered to accompany the slave back to the well along with a detachment of men and investigate the report. Howe did so and, as he and the slave entered the well, he found a decomposing body dressed in a cavalry uniform. The body was too far gone to be removed, so it was left there, and Howe returned to camp to report on his findings. As the well was on David Creigh's property, he was immediately arrested and taken to Bungers Mill, four miles from Lewisburg for trial by courts martial. They never wondered if someone else had dumped the body in there just being on his land was "good" enough.

The court convened on June 2, with five Union officers chosen to pass judgment on David Creigh. The formal charge was murder and the specification stated that Creigh murdered an unknown Union soldier with an

"axe or other weapon" at his residence on November 8, 1863. Creigh entered a plea of "not guilty" to the charge and "guilty" to the specification. Two witnesses for the prosecution were called, Captain Ricker, an Assistant Inspector General who had spoken with Creigh about the incident after his arrest, and Captain Howe. One witness was called for the defense, John Dunn, to whom Creigh confided the events of November 8. Finally, Creigh was allowed to present his own story, and he did so with complete honesty, hoping the court would see him as a man protecting his home. When he was finished, the court did not ask him a single question, did not challenge his statements, or cross examine him in any way. Rather, they closed the court so that they might deliberate the findings and reach a verdict. That verdict was soon in coming, and, within a couple of hours, David Creigh was found guilty of both the charge and the specification. Despite what should have been mitigating circumstances, they sentenced him to be hung with a sign around his neck stating that he was a murderer of a Union soldier, and that his home be burned to the ground.

The next day, Union forces began withdrawing from the county for an advance on Lynchburg, Virginia, and they took Creigh with them. On June 9, Generals Averell and Crook approved the court's findings and forwarded them to General Hunter for review and final approval. Of course, there was no chance Creigh would find any mercy at Hunter's hands—he was just the kind of example Hunter needed. Hunter approved the findings and sent Averell orders to execute the sentence immediately. Averell and his brigade were on the march when the orders arrived. He promptly halted the column near Brownsburg, Virginia, at the home of Reverend James Morrison. Creigh was taken inside and told that he was to be hung. However, General Averell had given orders that, despite Hunter's approval of the court's recommendations on sentencing, the Creigh home would not be destroyed or molested in any way. Creigh was given the evening to make his peace and write Emily a final letter. The next morning, he was taken to a nearby tree to be hanged. But, no one on Averell's staff wanted to do the job. They not only stated to a man that they had not enlisted to be executioners, but they had also come to like and respect David Creigh.

Finally, a 19-year old private was ordered to carry out the execution, which he did with great reluctance. A Union army chaplain who was present later said that, of the 300 men who witnessed the execution, there was not a single dry eye. Despite Hunter's orders that Creigh's body remain hanging as an example to others, the Morrison's lowered his body as soon as the Federal troops departed and buried it quickly in a blanket. Six days later, David Creigh's son, Cyrus, arrived, procured a coffin, and reburied his father in a nearby churchyard. It remained there until a month later, when Cyrus returned and had the remains taken home to Greenbrier County.

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David Creigh is still buried there, resting along side his wife, Emily. David Creigh was a man simply defending his home. But, in war, especially when one lives on the margins of the war, self-defense can quickly become a crime. For David Creigh, there was no justice, only the satisfaction of a need by Union authorities to ensure the occupied feared their occupiers. His story is, indeed, tragic and perhaps more so because he was almost certainly not alone in his fate. Any war, and especially a civil conflict, can strip people bare of their humanity, of simple decency, of any sense of justice. The ends seem to justify any means, and, in this case, the end was the brutal pacification of Greenbrier County with David Creigh paying the ultimate and terrible price to achieve it.

Other Time Periods

Nothing submitted or to report.

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.

FREE!!!

Two children's camp dresses, two teenage camp dresses, one adult camp dress (size 14). Contact Porter Stiles through Instant Messenger or Facebook for pictures and further information. FREE!!!!

#####

"They Said It (or didn't)"

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

-- Abraham Lincoln, February 31, 1866

"There is a hopeless desperation chilling one when engaged in a contest with disease."

- Brig. General Wilder Dwight, Harpers Ferry, Dec. 1861

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org

Beverly Heritage Center -

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

Link to Clarksburg History Museum -

<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

Battle of Gettysburg Podcast -

WVRA Officers 2020

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)

Dave Judy (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.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU to Peter Baxter, Jim Barnes, and Jack Rush. Also to Tim Glaser and Denene Satterfield. Tim responded to my request to submit history of family members who served in the war.

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STATUES - I have been asked many times "What do you think about tearing down statues?," or some variation of that question. And the answer for me is difficult. I answer, generally I am not in favor of removing these monuments. Then add: 1) some memorials/monuments need to be rewritten/revised to tell the whole story; 2) if the government bodies that authorized the erection of these monuments on public land now decide to remove them, then I guess that is should be done. If we don't like it, then use the ballot box to remove that government official; 3) these monuments should not be torn down or defaced. Those doing so should be prosecuted; 4) if the monument is on private property then the property owner has the right to erect that monument where it stands; 5) Monuments on battlefields should not be removed.

The Stonewall Jackson statue on the front lawn of the Harrison County Court House is the perfect example of this debate. Two formal requests have been made to have it removed. The Commission voted 2-1 to leave the statue on the Court House lawn - for now.

Here is the plaque on the base of the memorial:

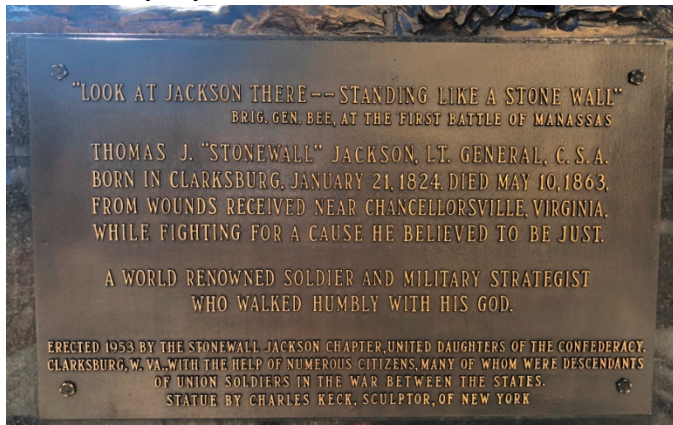


Figure 2 - "LOOK AT JACKSON THERE -- STANDING LIKE A STONE WALL" BRIG. GEN. BEE, AT THE FIRST BATTLE OF MANASSAS THOMAS J. "STONEWALL JACKSON, LT. GENERAL, C.S.A. BORN IN CLARKSBURG, JANUARY 21, 1824. DIED MAY 10, 1863 FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED NEAR CHANCELLORSVILLE, VIRGINIA, WHILE FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE HE BELIEVED TO BE JUST. WORLD RENOWNED SOLDIER AND MILITARY STRATEGIST WHO WALKED HUMBLLY WITH HIS GOD. ERECTED 1953 BY THE STONEWALL JACKSON CHAPTER, UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY. CLARKSBURG, W. VA., WITH THE HELP OF NUMEROUS CITIZEN, MANY OF WHOM WERE DESCENDANTS OF UNION SOLIDERS IN THE WAR BETWEEN

THE STATES. STATUE BY CHARLES KECK SCULPTOR OF NEW YORK.

The plaque presents a story that while accurate, is not complete. And if the statue is to remain, it should tell the rest of the story. Additionally the Union monument/plaque inside of the Court House should be displayed a long with Jackson.

Some groups are calling for the removal of Stonewall from the Capitol grounds in Charleston, where he occupies a prominent location overlooking the river. SOme suggest he moved to a museum. But the lawn of the Capitol is a museum of sorts. I would guess his plaque needs additional information like the Harrison statue, but is moving him to the Cultural Center really doing anything?

CIVIL WAR PODCASTS - I am discovering more and more podcasts about history in general. However, I am concentrating on the Gettysburg podcasts now: **Battle of Gettysburg Podcast** and **Addressing Gettysburg Podcast**.

PERSONALS - Your prayers for Jennifer Smith have helped. Keep Jeff Zickefoose in your prayers

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WVRA website - wvra.org
Chuck Critchfield - Editor
608 Skyview Drive
Clarksburg, WV 26301
ccritch608@yahoo.com

"We tend to create stories that appeal to us. Then we impose those stories on the past."
- A Wallace Collection video produced on the 500th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt ,found on You Tube

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