

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2020 - June - Edition VI

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

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

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/>

WWII – June 5,6,7, Reading Air Show, Reading Airport, Reading, - **CANCELED**

PA. <http://www.maam.org/maamwwii.html>

WWII – June 12-14, Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival, Butler, - **CANCELED**

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

WWII – July 31-August 2, Bridge at Remagen 75th Anniversary Reenactment, Tidioute, PA. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgeatremagentidioutepa/>

WWII – August 20-22, D-Day Reenactment, Conneaut, Ohio. <http://www.ddayohio.us>

Next Meeting

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

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

May 1 to May 31, 2020

Beginning balance	\$2,897.34
Credits	
Membership and donation	\$ 15.00
Debits	
Ending Balance	\$2,912.34

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 GPBA 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)

Other Features

Good News In Dark Days!!!!!!

Chuck,

I wanted to let you know that I am doing well, and I'm now cancer-free. Please tell everyone that I greatly appreciate all the prayers.

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe as we work through this uncertain time. Thank you again for the prayers.

*Sincerely
Jennifer Smith*

ATTENTION MEMBERS

As I mentioned on the Facebook page, I invite members to send me a story on

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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

BOOK REVIEW Whispers in the Grass

By Nick Brokhausen

This riveting book is a cross between a memoir and a collection of stories from Nick Brokhausen who served in the Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies Operation Group (MACVSOG) in Vietnam. This is the second book and contains material from 1970 through 1971.

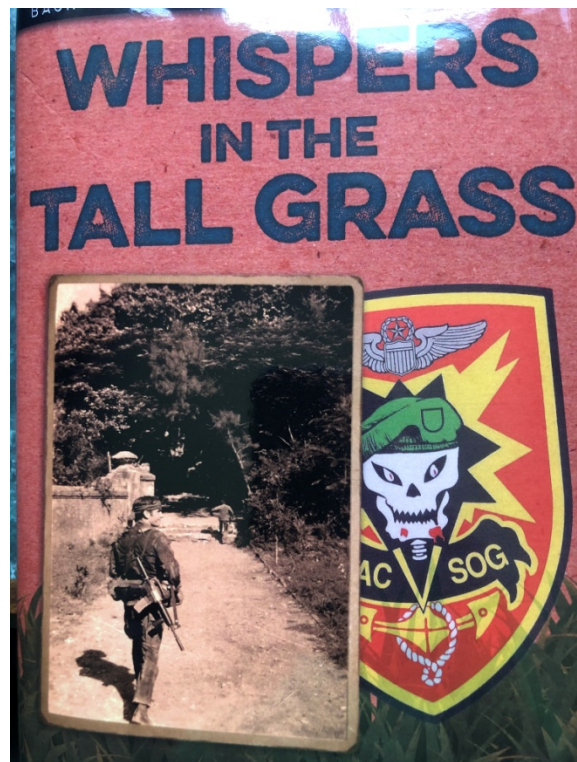
"According to Wikipedia, MACVSOG was a highly classified, multi-service US special operations unit which conducted unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War." These teams were inserted behind enemy lines to spy, gather intelligence and to serve as bait for the Air Force and other air assets.

Brokhausen was a member of one of these highly-classified teams that included two additional Americans and about eight Montagnard warriors. This book describes many of the incredibly dangerous missions in the mountains up near the DMZ, usually in Vietnam and but occasionally in those other two countries we weren't allowed to enter.

Use whatever words you would like to describe these missions: dangerous... spine-tingling...harrowing...mind-blowing. I prefer suicidal. Always surrounded by the enemy and with the only escape by helicopter under fire, I had a hard time putting this book

down. These teams created havoc behind the lines inflicting damage and tying down large enemy formations that far, far exceeded their tiny size.

Equally interesting, are the down-time episodes, whether it is training the Montagnards, hanging out at the club or leave time in some Vietnamese city. The wake of pranks and destruction from these visits makes for some hot times for the commanders of this unit who are constantly covering up for their misdeeds. But the unusual nature and effectiveness of these teams continually gives these bands of miscreants a reprieve.



There is nothing standard about this book, whether it is the units or the style in which the events are related. Brokhausen uses the language, nicknames, jocular style of communication and general irreverence that these soldiers would have used without thinking. The cast of characters is hard to follow at times, as each character seems to have two nicknames and a given name. Running through this book is the

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brotherhood between these soldiers, their commitment to each other and the teams, their affection for the Montnagard tribesmen, and constant stress and death.

-- Jim Barnes

This is an extraordinary book that I found hard to put down. It is not for all readers. The style of the storytelling will turn some off and the irreverence towards all forms of military authority will infuriate some. Heck, these guys didn't like Adrian Cronauer "a slightly demented zoom." Constant referral to "Definitions, Acronyms and Army Terms/Slang" appendix is a pain at times. But worth it.

Book Review: Sacred Ties

Sacred Ties by Tom Carhart (Penguin, New York, 2010) is a different take on Civil War history in that it uses the friendship between 6 West Point cadets to tell the story of the war. George A. Custer, Stephen D. Ramseur, Henry A. duPont, John Pelham, Thomas L. Rosser and Wesley Merritt are the individuals in question: three for the North and three for the South. On some occasions, they were faced with actually fighting directly against troops commanded by their close friends.

It makes for an engrossing tale and emphasizes the bonds that the West Point experience develops. Carhart takes us through the course of the war chronologically and discusses the events that affect the lives of the six young men. Along the way, he presents some interesting discussion on the battles themselves and presents a scenario that could have resulted in a Confederate victory at Gettysburg if things had been somewhat different.

Most students of the Civil War are familiar with the names of these men, but the author brings them to life in a lively and well-written book that I can thoroughly recommend.

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!!!!

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"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

"Great indignation is felt by the members of the Brigade at the dastardly conduction of the Copperheads in our native State. We have some respect for the rebel soldiers who will stand up, face the bullets and fight like men; but words cannot express the contempt with which we regard those home traitors, who seek to stab in the dark and fire in the rear."

- 120th Regiment Infantry New York Volunteers, Civil War Clippings

"History is never simple."

- Members of my family

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"It is said history is written by the winners.
History is written by the writers."

- Battle of Gettysburg Podcast discussing why the 20th Maine on the far left flank became famous and the heroic 137th New York on the far right...did not. (Note, I may not have gotten the quote exact, but that is the gist of it)

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. All three have faithfully assisted the editor or made contributions to the Dispatch.

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG PODCAST - I have been listening to this podcast, presented by two licensed Gettysburg guides, Jim Hessler and Eric Lindblade. Great stuff for listening during the quarantineand beyond. Their episode on **Gettysburg** the movie was great. They had an episode on Jackson at Gettysburg that was very interesting – although it was really about Ewell.

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. See the good news above!!!

LAST MINUTE - what a shame that the recent civil unrest has defaced historical monuments once again. It won't solve the problem.

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2020 - May - Edition V

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

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