

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2016 – Edition 7 – June

Upcoming Events

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

Beverly Heritage Days, July 22-24

Events Recommended by WVRA members

McConnellsville (Ohio) – July 8-10, register by mail. Contact ccritch608@yahoo.com for registration form.

Dry Creek (Greenbrier State Forest) – Aug 19-22

Bulltown – October 7-9, 2016 – Hosted by 10th W. Va. and Army Corps of Engineers, contact Sam Krafft for details

Elmwood Manor – Union, West Virginia, August 26-28, 2016, contact Chris Johnson at wvaca@hughes.net

Peterstown, WV (Monroe Co.) Civil War Festival Oct 7-9, 2016. Contact: Chris Johnson-
wvaca@hughes.net

Guyandotte (W. Va.) Civil War Days – November 4-6

Other - 2016

153rd Gettysburg – July 1-3

<http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/>

1st Bull Run – July 22-24 (at Cedar Creek Battlefield) www.ccbf.us

Jackson's Mill – September (assume it will be Labor Day weekend)

Sidney, Ohio – Sept. 16-18, 2016 (suggested by the USV)

Cedar Creek – October 14-16, 2016,
www.ccbf.us

Philippi Meeting

A meeting was held at Philippi and some business issues were discussed. When the details are available, they will be published in the columns of this Trans-Allegheny Dispatch.

I have no report on the event. If some member attended and would like to send in a report for the Dispatch, please contact me.

I have no intelligence as to whether the next WVRA meeting has been scheduled. Although with the WVRA-sanctioned Beverly event coming up, I would

suggest that Saturday would be a good suggestion. BUT – THIS IS NOT THE FINAL DECISION.

Beverly Heritage Days

At the March 5 meeting, the Beverly Heritage Day event was approved as a WVRA Sanctioned Event. If you are interested in attending as a Civil War reenactor, contact Mark Tennant soon. A bit thank you to those who have contacted Mark to date. He needs this information to help plan the camps, etc.

According to our by-laws: “*Sanctioned Events are those not planned or organized by the WVRA, but approved by the Association for official participation. Attendance at sanctioned events is expected of all WVRA members.*”
Note -The rest of that by-law can be found at WVRA.org.

Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History are scheduled for July 22 through July 24 at Beverly, W. Va. This event will be a “timeline event” featuring living history and other programming from periods throughout Beverly’s history. By timeline, the intent is to allow living history from multiple time periods. Preliminary planning shows living historians from the pioneer and Native American, Civil War and World War II periods. However, other periods may be represented.

Union, West Virginia

Pards,

Here are the preliminary flyers and registration form for the Monroe County Heritage Days' "War Come to Union" event here in Union, WV, August 26-28, 2016 . I could sure use your help on this. I need primarily Federals as this was an 'occupation' of the town. Civilians are also needed to portray the townfolk. There were also Confederate prisoners and Freedmen in the 'train' that followed the Federal Army. The Living History camp will include a CSA camp. Feel free to pass this info along to any interested parties.

Please try and make it if you can.

*Thanks,
YOS,
Chris 'CW' Johnson*

Chris Johnson (Unit Rep of the 25th Va) has issued a call to all living historians to attend the “Federal Occupation of Union, West Virginia at Union in Monroe County August 26-28, 2016. He says he needs Union troops, Southern civilians, Confederate

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Home Guard, and artillery demonstrations. Chris asks WVRA members to put it on their calendar now. Details will come soon. The event flyer is now available. I will be happy to email it to you. Contact me at ccritch608@yahoo.com. If you have specific questions about the event Chris Johnson can be reached at wvaca@hughes.net.

McConnellsville, Ohio

I received information on the annual McConnellsville, Ohio event, July 8, 9 and 10. Ralph McCready, WVRA member is involved in the event and invites all WVRA members to attend. McConnellsville is not far from the Ohio River and therefore close to many of us in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania, not to mention our Eastern Ohio members.

This is another event that I have heard nothing but good comments concerning. The event “sponsor” has created a small village that is the center of the Sunday reenactment. This year’s Sunday reenactment is titled “Sherman marches on Georgia.” Ralph has sent me registration forms as this event has no on-line registration process. I can email the forms to you if you are interested (ccritch608@yahoo.com)

Report on Grafton

Over 220 persons attended Lantern Tour at Grafton National Cemetery. My thanks to Art and Pam Dodd, Gary and Millie Goetze, Jim and Linda Barnes, Ron and Deb Wenig, Hunter Lesser, Rick Wolfe, Larry Smith and special thanks to Taylor county Middle School student Mallorie Peters who played a perfect *Taps*.

- Mark Tennant

Lewis R. Daft Memorial

Dear Mr. Critchfield,

The Marion County Honor Guard would like to thank the West Virginia Reenactors’ Association for the generous donation in memory of Lewis R. Daft.

You donation was used by the honor guard members.

Honor Guard Commander

Richard Malcolm

It was signed by other members of the Marion county Military Council Honor Guard.

155 Years Ago

On May 26th, 1861, the 90-day volunteers of the 1st Virginia Regiment received orders and marched from Camp Carlisle on Wheeling Island to the B&O Railroad depot and loaded on cars. The regiment moved by rail to the “burnt bridges” near Mannington (Marion County). Here at Camp Buffalo (named for Buffalo Creek) the 1st was now camped with Ohio regiments. The 1st suffered its initial casualty when a member of Company G was killed “by the accidental discharge of a gun.”

The regiment arrived at Grafton and was now brigaded with the 16th Ohio, 7th Indiana, commanded by Colonel Kelley (of the 1st). The brigade moved east to Thornton where it left the railroad and marched towards Philippi, 22 miles to the south. This movement was intended to get in the rear of the Confederates then camped at Philippi, while another force approached from the west. Marching through the “darkness and rain and through the mud, being a new experience to most of the men” they reached Philippi during the “gray of dawn of the 3^d” and found they were “in the vicinity of the enemy.”

The longer route and a missed turn brought the brigade in late and rather than behind the enemy, on their northern flank. The Confederates began to hurriedly leave town on the Beverly Road when the 2nd Brigade began shelling the town. The First Brigade with the “First Virginia in the advance – led by companies C and B, with Colonel Kelley at their head – entered the town on the run, driving all before them.”

- From History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry by C J. Rawling

Meanwhile Further South

Three slaves crossed the James River to Fortress Monroe: Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend. All had been enslaved field hands on a farm outside Hampton (Virginia). The day before these slaves crossed May 23, 1861, Major General Benjamin F. Butler had arrived at the fort. The laws of the country clearly stated all fugitive slaves must be returned to their masters. Noninterference with

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slavery was at this point a cornerstone of the Union's war policy. Lincoln began his first inaugural by stating "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery the States where it exists."

But conditions had changed. War was now underway and these slaves provided key military intelligence. Butler, a successful attorney before the war, would be forced to a quick decision as a rebel officer, under flag of truce, had approached the causeway of the fort wanting the slaves back. In subsequent discussions between Butler and Major John B. Cary of the Virginia Militia, Butler introduced the famous theory. "I am under no constitutional obligations to a foreign country, which Virginia now claims to be," he is recorded as saying. "I shall now hold these negroes as contraband of war, since they are engaged in the construction of your battery and are claimed as your property."

- From "1861 The Civil War Awakening" by Adam Goodheart.

QUOTES

"All we ask is to be let alone" – Jefferson Davis in 1861

"Although volume upon volume is written to prove slavery a very good thing, we never hear of the man who wishes to take the good of it by being a slave himself." - Abraham Lincoln in 1861

WVRA Officers 2016 (executive board)

President – Mark Tennant

Vice President – Bill Brisendine

Treasurer – Jim Barnes

Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website – Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield

25th Va. Rep – Chris Johnson

1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – vacant

TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

Editor's Corner

I have registration information for Union and McConnellsville. Let me know if you need it.

Mark Tennant is spending a lot of time with his ailing father. If you need to reach him, please call Mark directly. He does not always have access to the internet.

Because of the health of Mark's father, Mark was not able to attend Philippi or the WVRA meeting at Philippi. A few members did attend a meeting at that event and some business was discussed. Once I have a good summary of the meeting, we will get it published in the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. One item that did arise from that meeting is currently being discussed by the Executive Committee).

Our apologies to our long-time members the Dafts. We were finally able to conclude the memorial donation in memory of Jack's father Lewis.

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.

The newsletter is being sent by email to members of record who provided a VALID email address. It is posted on the WVRA website also. It is mailed to anyone who pays the \$15 annual mailing costs. It continues to be my plan to publish related articles of interest in addition to the items mandated by our by-laws (meeting minutes, treasurer's report, etc.).

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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The views expressed here are not necessarily
the views of the WVRA

WVRA website: www.wvra.org

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

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