

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2016 – Edition 6 – May

Upcoming Events

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

Beverly Heritage Days, July 22-24

[Events Recommended by WVRA members](#)

Grafton National Cemetery – Lantern Tour, May 27th; 8:30 pm, contact Mark Tennant

Philippi Blue and Gray Reunion – June 3-5, 2016

McConnellsville (Ohio) – July 8-10, register by mail. Contact crcritch608@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

Thunder in the Valley - Cross Keys and port Republic, Va. June 10-12
mike@malverngranite.com

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

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.

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” 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. See attachments below.

*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 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 crcritch608@yahoo.com. If you have specific

Next Meeting

At the March 5 meeting, the WVRA voted to hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 4 at the Philippi event after the Saturday battle. The meeting will be held at the Pavilion by the river next to THE bridge. Meeting time will be between 3 or 4 pm.

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questions about the event Chris Johnson can be reached at wvaca@hughes.net.

John Brasuk
Stormy Brasuk
Aaron Edwards

Grafton National Cemetery Lantern Tour,

On Friday May 27, at 8:30 pm, the Grafton National Cemetery will host a lantern tour. Please contact mark Tennant if you are interested. This is the same event he has helped to organize over the past several years. All registered reenactors invited to a catered meal at 6:00 pm. Gas money is available. Contact Mark Tennant for details. The reenactors who I have talked with in the past about this event, have highly praised the ceremonies and recommend it to all to attend.

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 title “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)

Philippi

Lt. Col. Kevin Skaggs has provided me with a copy of the registration forms for Philippi. There is no on-line registration for the June 2-5, 2016 event. If you would like a copy of the registration form, let me know. I have heard some complaints about the walk-on fee being high. So if that bothers you, pre-register.

Current Members

Now that we are 4 months into the current membership year, here is the current membership list:

Artillery

Sam Krafft and Connie Copeland
J. R. Moore
1st Virginia Cavalry

1st West Virginia Infantry

Mike Phillips
Chris Carroll
Patrick Carroll
Ed ChapdeLaine
John Ziolkowski
Chuck Critchfield
Larry Smith
Jed Smith
Jim Barnes
Kevin Skaggs
Burdell Waffler
Ron Wenig
Mark Tennant
Bill Donegan
Jack Rush
Ross Wetherell
Ralph McCready
Greg Bonner

25th Virginia Infantry

Tag Ireland
Ken Connell
Bill Brisendine
Tim Glaser
Jim Allman
Jay Allman
Chris Johnson
John Webb
Lynn Marks
Jeff Goff
Thurman Shaver
Greg Watterson
Katrina (KC) Staples
Mark Poling

Trans-Allegheny Soliders Aid Society

Diane Tennant *
Debra Rush *
Linda Donegan *
Debbie Wenig
Shari Goff and family
Mrs. Burdell Waffler *
Linda Barnes *
Millie Goetze
Gary Goetze
Art Dodd
Pam Dodd
Jennifer Smith
Brian Ward and family
Patricia Carroll *
Sir William Snyder
Peter Baxter
Phyllis Baxter
*spouse of 1st West Virginia member.

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General Membership

Elizabeth Swiger
Hunter Lesser

Members of the 25th Virginia are covered by the Army of Northern Virginia insurance. Members of the 1st West Virginia and their civilian family members are covered by the United States Volunteers insurance policy.

155 Years Ago

“On the 17th (April) the ‘ordinance of secession’ was passed by the Virginia convention at Richmond to be submitted to the people of the State for ratification. On the day following there was a meeting held in the Fourth Ward, Wheeling, to form the Rough and Ready Guards; about forty names were enrolled, the first one being James W. Bodley. The Union men of Brooke, Hancock, and Marshall Counties also commenced organizing. On the 19th an attack was made on the 6th Massachusetts Regiment in the streets of Baltimore. On the day following there was a rally of Union men at the custom-house in Wheeling where the United States flag was run up...On the 23rd five companies organized in Wheeling, also a company of home guards, composed of men forty-five years and upwards....Many young men at this time were leaving for the purpose of enlisting in Ohio and Pennsylvania regiments. The lower part of Wheeling was alive with the Union sentiment, from the Fourth Ward down – particularly Richietown – the Germans being very active in the cause, and this activity was common in all the Panhandle counties. On the 26th the Rough and Ready Guards, through Captain A. H. Britt tendered their services to the United States government...On the 23rd of May the regiment (90 day volunteers) was complete, so far as the number of men was concerned, and B. F. Kelley, a former citizen of Wheeling and colonel of the militia, then living in Philadelphia, was called to take command....” History of the First Regiment of West Virginia Infantry – C. J. Rawlings.

The Upshur Grays were organized in Upshur County, (West) Virginia by Captain John C. Higginbotham on May 27, 1861, despite strong Union sentiment in the county. On June 3rd, the fine new tents of the Upshur Grays became the target of the first cannon shots fired at the "Philippi Races". The group was designated Company A of the 25th Regiment Virginia Infantry when state forces were organized by Brig. Gen. Robert S. Garnett at Huttonsville in mid-June.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Heck became the first official commander of the regiment. As part of the Army of the Northwest, the 25th took an active part in the Tygart and Cheat campaigns, and participated in the battles of Rich Mountain, Greenbrier River and Allegheny Mountain.

In a regimental reorganization during the winter at Camp Allegheny (to replace losses incurred at the Battle of Rich Mountain), Company A became the second "Company B", while the companies of Lt. Col. George Hansbrough's 9th Virginia Battalion were organized into the empty companies of the 25th. The 9th had been an active Battalion in the Army of the Northwest, participating in actions at Corrick's Ford, Cheat Fort, Greenbrier River and Allegheny Mountain. – From the WVRA website

On the Right, By File Into Line

To move a column of fours into battle to the right, this is the command given. This is tough maneuver for some reenactors. On the command march, the rear rank men mark time (march in place). This seems to be the first that causes problems. Some reenactors have trouble remembering who the rear rank men are. You have to think back to the battle line. Were you in the rear rank when you formed. Also the rear rank will be in the two right columns as the company marches forward.

So, the rear rank on the command march begin to march in place. On the command march, the captain and the first sergeant will turn to the right, march straight forward, and be halted when they shall have passed at least six paces beyond the rank of file closers. The captain marks the spot with the sergeant falling in behind him.

Remember the front rank has continued marching forward. The first file marches just beyond the captain and sergeant and then wheeling, elbow-to-elbow, to the right march towards the captain and sergeant to a point two paces behind the line when the even numbered (2) soldier shortens his step and allows the odd number (the 1) to continue onto the line next to the captain. The even numbered soldier will then place himself on the left of the 1.

Meanwhile, back in the rear rank, marching in place, will execute the same maneuver once the “four men of the front rank are established on line of battle; the rear rank men, as they arrive on the line, will cover accurately their file leaders.” Now, we have deviated

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from this by instructing the rear rank to mark time (march in place) until three files of the front rank have passed. By allowing these front rank men to proceed and turn right into line, space should be created for the rear rank to perform the same maneuver.

The West Virginia Civil War Battles With the Most Casualties

Before you look at the list, try to make your own list. I was surprised by how many I missed.

1. Harpers Ferry, Sept. 12-15, 1862
2. Summit Point (Jefferson County), Aug. 21, 1864
3. Shepherdstown, Sept. 19-20, 1862
4. Moorefield, Aug. 7, 1864
5. Droop Mountain, November 5, 1863
6. Rich Mountain, July 11, 1861
7. Smithfield Crossing, Aug. 25-29, 1864
8. Camp Allegheny, Dec. 13, 1861
9. Carnifex Ferry, Sept. 10, 1861
10. Cheat Mountain, Dec. 15, 1861

Source – *The Ultimate Book of West Virginia Lists* by Rick Steelhammer

Civil War Quotes

“We, the People of South Carolina, in Convention.... declare....That the Ordinance adopted by us in Convention (in 1788) whereby the Constitution of the United States was ratified [is] hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other states, under the name “The United State of America,” is hereby dissolved”

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 Philippi, Union and McConnellsville. Let me know if you need it.

For those Americans who think the American Civil War is over and done with -- an irrelevant event -- think again. The furor over removing Andrew Jackson from the \$20 bill and putting Harriet Tubman on the bill, has once again reminded us of our heritage from the time. It also reminds us of how little some folks know about our history. Especially those folks who thought taking Stonewall Jackson off the \$20 bill is un-American.

There are a number of events coming up. But there is little interest out there!

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 - wvra.org

Facebook – *WVRA – TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid Society*

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