

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition V - May

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Beverly (see below) - July 13-15

Sanctioned Events

University High School - April 20-21

Events Recommended by WVRA members

2018

April Meeting - Friday evening, April 20 at

University High School - tentative

New Market - May 19-20

Gettysburg 155 - July 5-8;

www.gettysburgreenactment.com/reenactors

Henderson Hall - June 16,17 near Parkersburg.

McConnellsville - August 3-5

Cedar Creek - October

Remembrance Day - November

Other Events

Philippi - June 1,2 and 3

Bulltown - October 12 -14, 2018 contact Sam Krafft (cwarcapt@yahoo.com)

Droop Mountain - October 12-14, 2018.

Other Time Periods

Beverly Centuries of History - July 13-15

Editor's note - if you plan to attend events, please work with your Unit Rep.

was one correction noted. There were 7 people, not 5, that voted against sponsoring the Beverly Timeline Event. Minutes were accepted unanimously with this correction.

3. Chuck C. reviewed the email sent by Phyllis B. detailing the Civil War Symposium sponsored by RMBF. Jack R. passed out flyers for the event. Chuck also reviewed the Beverly Time Line event. More information is available in the April Newsletter.
4. The WVRA had a recruiting display at the Gun Show in Clarksburg on March 24th.
5. Liability Insurance (Lockton Affinity, LLC) through the NRA, is proceeding. The paperwork has been filled out. A list of all of the projected events for the year was completed. Cost is estimated to be about \$600 per year and will cover about 140 members. The application will be submitted before the next meeting.
6. Reviewed the new Membership Application that was revised by Jim B to include other time period groups. There were some changes that were not understood. Need to have Jim explain changes. Motion was made to table discussion until next meeting. Motion Jack R., 2nd Duane M., Passed.
7. Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation has found a replica Wheeling Ambulance available for sell for \$3500.00. They are interested in acquiring it for display. Bill B. made a motion to contribute \$100.00 to RMBF to help with the purchase. Jim A. seconded, motion passed.
8. Chuck C. made the motion to allocate \$100.00 to each of the 5 units of the WVRA. Stormy B. seconded, motion passed unanimously.
9. Broke into unit meetings. Nothing new to report.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will March 24 at 1:00 pm at the Weston Steer House (normal location). Please note the starting time is 1 pm.

March 24 Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2018

Weston Steakhouse, Exit 99 of I-79

At 1:01 pm the meeting was called to order by Vice President Ken Connell. In attendance were 10 members.

1. Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$4361.75 as of March 24, 2018. The Treasurer's Report for February was reviewed and approved.
2. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the February 17th meeting were reviewed. There

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10. Chuck C. reviewed an email he received about a Reenactment at Summersville Lake Lighthouse and Retreat. As of yet they have nothing planned. This is the same weekend as the Henderson Hall event that the Artillery and the 25th VA has already planned to attend. There was no other interest by the group. Chuck was going to respond to them that they need to plan further ahead as most groups already have their reenacting schedules set for the year.

11. The next meeting will be held Friday evening, April 20th, at the University High School Event.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25.

Respectively submitted,
J Rush March 26, 2018

Revision to February Minutes

The following revision was made at the March 24 meeting to the February meeting minutes. (Revision is underlined>)

8. The sponsoring of the Beverly Time Line Event on July 13-15 was voted on. The sponsorship passed with seven members voting against. Register on the Beverly website.

The original minutes stated that five members voted against.

Renewals to date (March 25, 2018)

General

Elizabeth Swiger

TASAS

Bill Snyder
Peter and Phyllis Baxter
Gary and Millie Goetze
Debbie Wenig
Christina Ward
William Ward
Patricia Carroll
Sherry Goff
Katie Goff
Jennifer Bravener
Pam Dodds
Hunter Lesser

Jennifer Smith
Linda Barnes
Debbie Rush
Brian Ward
Abbi Ward
Jakob Lester
Diane Tennant
Katie Skidmore
Morgan Goff
Art Dodds
Linda Donegan

25th Virginia

Bill Brisendine
Dirk Behana
Jeff Goff
John Webb
Jay Allman

Ken Connell
Timothy Glaser
Jim Allman

1st West Virginia

Chuck Critchfield
Jim Barnes
Jack Rush
Ed ChapdeLaine
Patrick Carroll
Christopher Taylor
Ralph McCready
Keith Kopshina

Kevin Skaggs
John Ziolkowski
Ron Wenig
Christopher Carroll
Mark Tennant
Bill Donegan
Meghan Lough
Ross Wetherell

Artillery

Mark Poling
Tony Shaffer
Thurman Shaver

Stormy Brasuk
Duane Miller

1st Virginia

John Brasuk
Carl Vandergrift
Chuck McCormick

Ed Falvo

Newsletter

Tag Ireland
Stormy Brasuk
Ed Falvo
Thurman Shaver

Mark Poling
Carl Vandergrift
Chuck McCormick

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beverly Heritage Days

Editor's Note - the WVRA has voted to make this a sponsored event.

Living historians from 1750 until 1950 eras are invited join 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. For this year we are seeking additional representation from post-Civil War periods, including World War I and civilian life. 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.

We welcome input and suggestions from WVRA or other participants, as we plan the activities for the event. If you have a suggestion or would like to

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participate on the planning committee, please contact event chair Phyllis Baxter, phyllisb@meer.net or call BHC at 304-637-7424.

Participant info / registration for Beverly Heritage Days is posted on the website. For the direct link, <http://beverlyheritagecenter.org/BHD2018participa nt.html> or go to beverlyheritagecenter.org and there is a link on bottom left in the news block.

Beverly Heritage Days - Centuries of History is presented by Beverly Heritage Center and Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation. Editor's Note: nothing is planned at Camp Garnett or on Rich Mountain.

University High School Civil War Days

From Phil Caskey, the award-winning history teacher at University High School in Morgantown, West Virginia:

THE BLUE & THE GREY: UHS history teacher Phil Caskey is firming up plans for the school's second annual Civil War encampment, scheduled Friday and Saturday, April 20-21, on the UHS athletic fields. "We're set with re-enactors and we're looking at nine stations of rotation, chock-full of medicine, artillery, drill, signal corps, West Virginia history, women in the war, a 'day-in-the-life' and a few others." UHS students may visit the encampment 8-10:15 a.m. Friday. Visiting eighth grade students will tour 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday. The public will be invited to experience Civil War life 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. "It should be a grand time," Caskey said.

Friday's program begins at 8 am. Phil has requested that reenactors please set up before that time. Reenactors are able to set up after school lets out on Thursday, April 19 (around 3 pm).

(editor's note: Might I suggest that somebody coordinate the WVRA presentations. Last year we didn't know what to expect and threw something together at the last minute. Some like Ralph McCready's was well-rehearsed and presented. Some like mine were thrown together from memory, which is fraught with gaps.)

McConnellsville

The annual reenactment at McConnellsville, Ohio, will be held in August this year. Normally held in

July, the event has been moved to August 3-5 according to WVRA member Ralph McCready (himself).

Ralph writes: "This year we are changing the battlefield for Sunday's battle and having it at the fairgrounds. We will be reenacting Buffington Island. Have reenactors contact me for more information and registration forms. E-mail: irishman1020@hotmail.com phone: 740 - 638-2126. I will bring forms with me to University High School. See You then.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 1, 2018.

Beginning Balance	\$5,016.75
Credits	
Membership dues	\$45.00
Debits	
RMBF (S. Prager Gains)**	\$375.00
Prickett's Fort (S. Prager Gains)**	\$375.00
Ending Balance	\$4,311.75

** see item in January 16 meeting minutes

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

Mountain State History Expo



Figure 1 - John Brasuk with his display at the Marion County Court House.

(Editor's note: The Mountain State History Expo was held at the Marion County Court House, Fairmont, March 10 by the Marion County Historical Society. Stormy Brasuk's review can be read in last month's newsletter

Clarksburg Gun Show

(Jim Barnes attended the Clarksburg Gun Show on March 24 and sent the following) Mark (Tennant) helped with the event on Saturday, but none of us thought to take a picture while he was there. So you can list him as present but not pictured. We had a

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good spot which allowed us to get a lot of traffic. Over the two days, we handed out information to several people who seemed moderately interested. A few took applications and several more took my business cards. We were competing with Roger House's group who brought a full-size Howitzer and a Gatling gun. Hard to compete visually with that! It was a pleasant relaxed weekend, and at least we got the organization's name out there. We won't know for awhile if any of the interested folks actually will join, but it was a good learning experience for us. The promoters were very friendly and seemed glad to have us there. I bought the banner for the display and will donate it to the organization.



Figure 2 - Linda and Jim Barnes make a presentation at the Clarksburg Gun Show. Also present but not pictured was Mark Tennant

Submitted by Jim Barnes

Bedlam on the Boderlands

Despite forecasts earlier in the week of significant snowfall, the Civil War Symposium sponsored by the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation persevered and presented another interesting program. Amid some persistent springtime flurries and cold weather about 30 people ventured to the IOOF Hall in Beverly to hear a program geared towards the war in West Virginia.

Kevin Pawlak kicked off the program with a presentation on the Confederate medical efforts with a concentration of the care of the wounded during and after Antietam, most of whom were evacuated to Shepherdstown. He also discussed Sheperdstown's reaction to the overwhelming deluge of wounded which turned the town into one big Confederate hospital.

Richard Armstrong, writer of books in the Virginia regimental series, made a detailed presentation about the 1862 battle of Lewisburg. Armstrong wrote the history of the 25th and the 31st Virginia regiments, among others from Western Virginia.

Hunter Lesser presented a balanced and interesting presentation on slavery, sprinkling in stories of individual slaves and their masters. Hunter's delivery always keeps one engaged and this presentation was no different. He slanted his presentation towards Virginia's experience with slavery and the slaves struggle for freedom.

Unfortunately the program on McNeil's Rangers was cancelled as the presenter was concerned about the forecast. Hunter and Rick Wolfe jumped into to throw together an interesting program on certain collectable relics that each had obtained. Each presented a tale of how they obtained the relic, the significance of the relic and linked it to a soldier. Rick told of his quest to find a photo of a particular officer in a West Virginia regiment, the satisfaction of finding the picture and the disappointment of finding there were other copies of the picture. Hunter related how an exploded shell in his possession, was found on the Greenbrier River battlefield in the general vicinity of the position of the 14th Indiana. Hunter had in his possession a letter from a 14th Indiana soldier who was mortally wounded by a shell. Was this the shell that did the deadly work? Maybe? Maybe not? An interesting and sober thought.



Figure 3 Kevin Pawlak makes his presentation on "Shepherdstown in the Civil War."

Of course there were great displays set up in the IOOF Hall. Each of the authors brought items for sale, Jack Lewis was selling his book, Armstrong his, and 35th Star Publishing was present also. Hunter

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had a nice display and once again Rick Wolfe had a presentation that was outstanding. This time on the Union regimental commanders, with pictures of each and biographical highlights of each.

Not to be ignored was the time afforded participants between presentations to talk with the authors and historians present. Perhaps the single most enjoyable moments for me, were mixing with those on the program and those in audience whose knowledge on Civil War history is so rich in local knowledge.

-- C. L. Critchfield

OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

FOR SALE

Former member Rob Freeman is selling some of his Civil War period clothing that was worn by himself and his father. He is selling shirts, a military vest and civilian vest, a almost new Union frock coat, a Confederate sack coat with Virginia buttons and two pairs of sky blue pants. Contact Pam Nicholson jmpnicholson@aol.com or Rob at rfreeman1373@gmail.com for more information.

Jim Barnes reports that at the Clarksburg Gun Show, a National Guard recruiter stopped by and said he had a nice Civil War officer's desk he wants to sell if anyone is interested contact Jim Barnes.

155 Years Ago

May 1863

1st (Western) Virginia Infantry

The First remained at camp, guarding the B&O, at North Mountain in the Eastern Panhandle. C. J. Rawling records nothing of interest in his book about the month of May. It is interesting that little is written by him this month as Jones and Imboden were raiding through the state.

Joshua Winter's letters and diary entries speak mostly of the routine of camp life during this month. He does take time to comment on the war. "(T)he papers say that the south is a grate deal weaker than we thout thay was. (T)he General (*Grierson?*) that made the raid through Mississippi says he thinks thay cant stand it mutch longer....perhaps it will be all over this fall or next spring." Possibly because of Jones and Imboden Joshua wrote "(I) suppose that you think that the war has just commenced becaus

thair is a big excitement a bot it thair. i think thay get vary bad sceard before thay git hurt. Thair aint much danger of a vary big force ever gittin in to Wheeling. the rebels has lost a good General, that is Jackson. He is ded for sirtin this time."

From "History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry" by C. J. Rawling and "Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winter - A Private in the Union Army Company G, First Western Virginia Volunteer Infantry" edited by WVRA member Elizabeth Davis Swiger.

12th (Western) Virginia Infantry

The 12th Infantry was on duty at Berryville, Virginia as ~~of~~ ~~May~~ ~~1863~~ opened. Here guarding the northern end of the Valley of Virginia, the regiment was called to return to Western Virginia to guard Clarksburg from a threatened attack by "Gen. Jones who was raiding the country about there generally."

The regiment started westward by first marching north to Harpers Ferry to catch the train west. Their march took them through Charlestown, scene of John Brown's trial. Both Orr and Hewitt write of an incident on the march that took place late on the night of May 9, in Charlestown.

"We marched through that old town of Charlestown...a noted place for long years to come, because of its association with the name of John Brown of Osawatomie..." wrote Hewitt. "It was perhaps between nine and ten o'clock...when we passed through the old town. The lights were out and the street deserted, the citizens apparently had retired for the night.... There was nithing to disturb the quiet of the night...but the monotonous tramp, tramp of the soldiers as they marched, when suddenly the quiet was broken..."

Orr wrote: "someone struck up "Old John Brown's body lies a moldering in the grave, etc. Instantly, it was taken up by the whole regiment and sung as it perhaps was never sung never sung before or since."

"Pretty soon windows were hoisted, shutters were thrown open and lights flashed out on the streets. It seemed as if the citizens of the old town were startled!" Hewitt recorded. "Possibly they thought the spirit of John Brown had come back from the spirit world to haunt them."

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On the 11th of May, the 12th Regiment arrived five miles east of Clarksburg where a bridge (at Bridgeport??) burned during the Jones-Imboden raid interrupted the train's progress. Later the same day the men arrived in Clarksburg. An attack never came upon the force at Clarksburg, and the 12th spent the rest of the month doing garrison duty. Orr's diary the rest of month is contains several daily entries that say "Not anything of importance today" or an occasional "All quiet today." If Orr is correct as the threat from the Jones-Imboden raid subsided, only the 12th and four companies of the regiment assigned to guard the railroad anyway, the 6th West Virginia, remained in Clarksburg towards the end of the month. One of the reasons the 12th remained may have been due to its French problems.

Of course, the 12th having five companies from the immediate or surrounding area, the temptation to sneak a visit home, or using the parlance of the time, to "take French leave," was great. But even the five Northern Panhandle companies were not all the far from home. Regimental commander Colonel John Klunk visited his superior in Grafton General Benjamin Kelly to petition Kelly to allow for a furlough for the regiment. But Kelly granted just a couple furloughs for each company. That had to be little solace to the Northern boys as the five other companies took French leave. Company E was from Clarksburg. Company G (the company containing my relatives) was from the area between Clarksburg and Fairmont. Although it was just a few days, there was no forgiveness for the those on French leave. "Some of Co. G went home and when they came back they had to pack 5 bricks on their backs for five days." Some were sentenced to carrying a heavy log for five or six hours. But as the regiment returned to camp, another campaign in the east unfolding. One which would draw in the 12th.

"From "History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry" by William Hewitt and "A Company of BOYS IN BLUE" by Mark E. Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr. (Donated by Orr's descendant Mark E. Paul)

As always, I welcome any similar information on the 25th Virginia or 1st Virginia Cavalry.

They Said It (or didn't)

Some of you know that one thing that bothers me greatly is the misuse of the words of historical

figures, many times 'founding fathers.' to advance an argument of some sort. Thomas Jefferson is the primary example. Both sides of the political spectrum use his quotes to advance their respective agendas. And then there are total fabrications attributed to Jefferson. Like this one:

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

There is no evidence he said or wrote this.

I am going to venture into the late 18th century to address a misquote that is making the rounds on Facebook, now the debate over the Second Amendment is raging once again after the school shooting in Florida. This misquote is attributed to George Washington. The following three paragraphs are from the George Washington's Mount Vernon website under "Spurious Quotations." The quote making the rounds is first.

" 'A free people ought not only be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government.'

"This quote is partially accurate as the beginning section is taken from Washington's First Annual Message to Congress on the State of the Union. And it apparently addresses the need to have the capability to manufacture military supplies in the United States. However, the quote is then manipulated into a differing context and the remaining text is inaccurate. Here is the actual text from Washington's speech:

'A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined; to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite; and their safety and interest require that they should promote such manufactories as tend to render them independent of others for essential, particularly military, supplies.'"

"My unhappy fellow citizens talk of seceding from the Union. It is impossible, but they will not hear reason. I foresee nothing but disaster and ruin for them." Judge James Louis Petigru about his friends in Charleston, South Carolina before the Civil War.

"...everybody is drunk or crazy." A North Carolinian visiting Charleston, South Carolina around the time the state seceded.

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There is the common misconception that infantry soldiers of that era would have rather been in the cavalry, than to have walked the many miles that they did during the war. When West Virginia Infantry units became mounted (five regiments??) Thomas Jefferson Orr of the 12th West Virginia Infantry wrote: *"There is some talk of our regiment being mounted but I hope that it is not that the case. I would rather walk than be troubled with a horse."*

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org – Beverly Heritage Center
WVRA.org – our website
<http://www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/> -- W. Va.
Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)
Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

WVRA Officers 2018 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes
Vice President – Ken Connell
Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush
Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*
Website – Peter Baxter*
1st W. Va. Rep – Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant
25th Va. Rep – Tim Glaser
1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk
Artillery – Stormy Brasuk
TASAS – Diane Tennant
*Union Rep - Debbie Rush ***
*Confederate Rep - Sherri Skidmore Goff ***
*20th Century Rep - Linda Barnes ***

* Non-voting member of executive board

** Not members of executive board

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU to everyone who made contributions to this issue - Jim Barnes, Stormy and John Brasuk, Peter Baxter for posting on WVRA.org and Mike Phillips. Thank you to Jim Barnes for donating the banner used at the Clarksburg Gun Show. Thanks to the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation for the Civil War Symposium at Beverly earlier this month.

PHILIPPI - The annual Philippi reenactment is scheduled for the first weekend in June. (as usual it's the weekend I am with Special Olympics). Eric Smallwood has posted an announcement on Facebook about the event and the 1st West Virginia, Co. A. Also, he talks about the Confederate company (K Barbour Mountain Guard) that becomes part of

the 31st Virginia. He is soliciting participation. You can find the posting on Conference of West Virginia Reenactors Facebook page.

BEVERLY HERITAGE CENTER - announced that rehabilitation work on the 1841 Randolph County jail sitting behind the Heritage Center in Beverly, will start in 2018. Beverly is also embarking on our their annual growth campaign to provide funding for improvement projects. Please donate.
beverlyheritagecenter.org.

CONFEDERATES - Once again, I appeal to our brethren in the 25th Virginia or 1st Virginia to contribute historical info their regiments or Confederate related historical materials.

PERSONAL - Jack and Tonya Daft ask that you keep their family in your prayers.

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. Insurance questions about the 1st Virginia Cavalry should be directed to the Unit Representative.

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 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 (by far) over the past 3 years.

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

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