

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2017– Edition 14 - Mid-November

## Upcoming Civil War Events Sponsored Events

None at this time

### Events Recommended by WVRA members

**IOOF Cemetery** - November 10 (2 pm)  
Clarksburg  
**Remembrance Day** - November 18,  
Gettysburg

### **2018**

**Annual Meeting** - (tentative) - January 13  
Weston Steak House.

**University High School** (tentative) - April  
20-21

### Other Events

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

### Other Time Periods

None submitted at this time

## Next Meeting

The annual meeting is tentative scheduled for January 13 at the Weston Steak House. Once it is confirmed, we will let you know.

Nominations for WVRA offices in 2018 have started to arrive. Yet there are still offices without any nominations. And, of course, additional nominations for any office will be accepted. Please submit nominations to Secretary/Treasurer Jack Rush or to me, your editor.

Also, it is time to renew your membership. A membership application should be attached as part of this Mid-November newsletter. You can complete and return to me at the address listed on the membership form.

Remember, if you would like the newsletter sent to you via US Mail instead of email, please let me know. The subscription rate is \$10 to cover printing and mailing.

## Executive Meeting October 29, 2017

### WVRA Executive Committee Meeting Christ Episcopal Church Parish House, Clarksburg

At 2:15 pm the meeting was called to order by President Jim Barnes. In attendance were 8 members.

1. Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$4080.66 as of September 30. The current Treasurer's report will be published in the next newsletter.
2. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and reviewed. There were no questions or corrections concerning the minutes. Minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. Talked about the web hosting of WVRA.org by WEB.com. They have not been cooperative in canceling their service. This looks like it might be a long ordeal. Peter Baxter has moved our web site to Godaddy. There was a total charge of \$121.37 to facilitate the change. Peter had paid this amount by credit card. The committee approved repayment of this amount to Peter.
4. Chuck Critchfield read a thank you card from one of the students that we sponsored to visit Gettysburg with University High School.
5. Bill Brisendine made a motion to donate \$50.00 to the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation in the memory of Lynn Marks. Lynn was a long time member of WVRA and had just recently passed away. This was approved unanimously.
6. Chuck is not putting information on the WVRA page. He is only putting it on the WVRA- TASAS Facebook page. We do not know who owns/controls the TASAS page. It seems that Tonya Daft will sometimes post on the WVRA page.
7. Jim Barnes wants to take on recruitment as a special project. Thought maybe at the next Morgantown Gun Show.

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8. Jim is also going to check with Tim Glasser about the Liability Insurance through the NRA that he was going to arrange after the spring meeting.
9. Bill gave a report about the Droop Mountain Reenactment. He said it was a very small event. About 2 Union tents with 6 soldiers. There were maybe 25 confederates. He saw no anti-confederate sentiment.
10. Huntington Bank mailed a debit card for our checking account. Jack Rush will cancel.
11. The Post Office service fee is usually due about this time. Mike Phillips usually pays and is reimbursed. Jim Barnes will get Jack Mikes contact information and he will contact him.
12. The group has an old printer/copier that was purchased many years ago to publish the Newsletter. It is obsolete and is no longer usable. The committee gave permission to dispose of it.
13. The committee proposed the following officers for next year. Nominations can be made by the members for any or all of the positions.

President	Jim Barnes
Vice President	
Secretary/Treasurer	Jack Rush
News Letter Editor	C. Critchfield
Union Rep	Mark Tennant
Confederate Rep	Bill Brisendine
TASAS Rep	Diane Tennant
Artillery Rep	
Calvary Rep	
Web Master	Peter Baxter

14. Events for next year:

University High School	(tentative) April 20, 21
Bull Town	October 12-14
Droop	November 2-4
Grafton Lantern Tour (Mark will probably do one more time)	
Rich Mountain events will be decided during their planning meeting November 7	

15. Next group meeting tentatively will be January 13, 2018 at the Steer Steak House, Weston. Jim will call them to find out about room availability and advise. Check the next newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned.  
Respectively submitted,  
J. Rush  
October 31, 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Film Project

*(Editor's note - this was posted by Tonya Daft on the WVRA Facebook page on Oct. 30. All questions can be directed to her. She requests contact by Facebook message.)*

Update on Civil War era documentary film. Should have some dates after November 1 and location to do the trailer for the film. This so they can produce support for the documentary. I heard from some of you (WVRA members) with names phone email and addresses. Need someone from our WVRA group that has cannons. Need possible two. If you have not contacted (message me) with your info please do so ASAP so when everything is decided I can reach you quickly. Thanks a Million. Tonya Fluharty Daft.

### University High School Civil War Days

Phil Caskey, history teacher at Morgantown's University High School, has provided us with advance intelligence concerning his Civil War history days.

He states that the 2018 event is scheduled for April 20-21 this year, pending approval from the Monongalia County Board of Education. The first day would be presented to the students (middle and high schools last year) and the second day open to the general public.

The WVRA participated in the 2017 event, which was set up in a field adjacent to UHS. Middle school students from Mountaineer Middle and Clay-Batelle Middle moved from station to station engaging with the reenactors and living historians.

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## Treasurer's Report

October 1 through October 31, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$4,080.66
Credits	0.00
Debits	
Web.com	\$22.95
Web.com	\$22.95
Christ Ep. Church	\$15.00
Ending Balance	\$4,019.76

Submitted by Jack Rush Nov. 2, 2017

Peter Baxter reports that WVRA.org has been successfully transferred to GoDaddy, thus saving the WVRA \$22.95 every 28 days. Work is now underway to cancel the current arrangement.

## USV Business

For 1st West Virginia members, Dave Childs, our regimental commander in the 1st Regiment of the USV has decided to step down. He has held the post for seven years. His Lieutenant Colonel has been Kevin Skaggs. Elections for the new Colonel will be held in January at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting will be held once again at the Gettysburg Hotel on the square in downtown Gettysburg. The meeting is January 6, 2018,

## AFTER ACTION REPORTS

None (see executive meeting minutes for small comments on Droop)

## OTHER NEWS

### Phyllis Baxter Honored For Her Historic Preservation Efforts

Phyllis Baxter received the "very first" Betty Woods Nutting Award for exemplary service to historic preservation from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at organization's October 15 at West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling.



Figure 1 Here is Phyllis hard at work picking up trash on Rich Mountain as part of Park Day 2016

From the SHPO website:

Phyllis Baxter of Elkins, Randolph County, will receive the Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting Award for exemplary service to historic preservation. Baxter, who moved to Randolph County in 1978 with her family, has been a leader in historic preservation efforts with the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, Historic Beverly Preservation, Inc. and the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area. As an advocate for historic preservation, she has served on the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia board and annually attends Capitol Hill Advocacy Day sponsored by the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and Preservation Action.

"It is an honor to recognize Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting for her amazing lifelong commitment to historic preservation in Wheeling and in the state," said West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith. "We are pleased that Phyllis Baxter is the first person to receive the award which celebrates her strong commitment to historic preservation."

### Thank You for WVRA Donation to Civil War Trust in Memory of JR Moore.

*Dear Fellow Preservationists,*

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*I cannot thank you enough for your recent wonderful \$50.00, in memory of Jacob R. (J.R.) Moore, gift toward our recent campaign to save critical land at four battlefields in Virginia and West Virginia, including Cedar Creek and Harpers Ferry.*

*By acting when you did, you helped us take advantage of a nearly \$15-to-\$1 match fund opportunity to save 243 acres of hallowed ground. That is a major accomplishment, and I commend you for your generosity, and for your willingness to act.*

*When I look back on all that you and your fellow Civil War Trust members have been able to achieve over the years, it is both astounding and very gratifying. I count myself lucky to be able to help bring these battlefield preservation opportunities to your attention. Together, we are making history, and you are the key to that success.*

*I hope you remember that we are not just saving these hallowed grounds for this generation, but for all generations to come. That makes this work, and your leadership role in the Trust, a crucial part of the success of this mission. I hope you are taking care of yourself; we cannot spare you!*

*Again my deepest thanks for all you do for this great cause.*

*Most sincerely yours,*

*Jim Lighthizer, President, Civil War Trust.*

## WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President - Jim Barnes

Vice President - John Brasuk

Treasurer /Secretary - Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*

Website - Peter Baxter\*

1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep - Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant

25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep - Tim Glaser

1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry - John Brasuk

Artillery - Stormy Brasuk

TASAS - Diane Tennant

\* Non-voting member of executive board

## 155 Years Ago

With the report on the incident at Cedar Creek taking priority this issue, this feature will be delayed until

next issue when I will resume my report on the actions of the 1st West Virginia and 12th West Virginia in 1862. As always, I welcome any similar information on the 25th Virginia or 1st Virginia Cavalry.

## They Said It

"Negroes are to this country what raw materials are to another country." Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, aide to George Washington, delegate to the Constitutional Convention and Charleston Planter.

"Ah! Slavery is a hard business, and I am afraid that in this country we shall know it to our bitter cost some day or other." Written by a Charleston woman a few days after the Denmark Vesey rebellion mass hangings in Charleston, South Carolina.

"I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time save Slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy Slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy Slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about Slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save this Union, and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views. I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty, and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men, everywhere, could be free."

Yours,

A. LINCOLN.

Lincoln to Horace Greeley, August 1862. The entire paragraph is presented here as some pick only one sentence from this quote to make a "not so correct" point about Lincoln's views on slavery.

## Sites of Interest

[Beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://Beverlyheritagecenter.org) – Beverly Heritage Center  
[WVRA.org](http://WVRA.org) – our website

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<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrtable.org/> -- W. Va.  
Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)  
Civil War Trust – [civilwar.org](http://civilwar.org)

## **American Revolution**

### **Don't Bring a Knife to a Gun Fight**

By Mark Tennant

While on vacation at a southern North Carolina beach, Diane and I visited the National Park Battlefield at Moores Creek Bridge, located approximately 40 miles northwest of Wilmington, North Carolina.

In the early days of the Revolution approximately 1,500 Scotch highlanders, recent immigrants to colonial America and loyal to King George attempted to march from east central North Carolina to near Wilmington in an effort to join up with British naval and other Tories located along the coast. Led by officers McDonald, McLeod and Campbell, names rich in Scottish lore, the 1,500 men headed toward the Wilmington area.

American militia led by colonels Moore, Lillington and Caswell tried to anticipate their of march by blocking roads and bridges in the area. Caswell and Lillington built some low breastworks and planted two cannons and 950 men on the southern bank of Moore's Creek blocking the road leading from the gridge. The narrow bridge in the midst of a swamp spanned the 50-foot-wide creek that was five feet deep with a tidal variation of 3 feet and with a muddy, miry bottom. However the bridge itself set on a sandbar, which was the highest elevation in the surrounding swamp.

The American militia had removed over half of the planking and had even creased the log stringers with tallow. While waiting behind their breastworks on the early morning of February 28, 1776, they heard the Scotch Tories battle cry "King George and the Broadswords," followed by the shrill notes of bagpipes. Unfortunately for the Tories, they only had around 500 guns to arm their 1,500-man army and had decided to send their shock troops

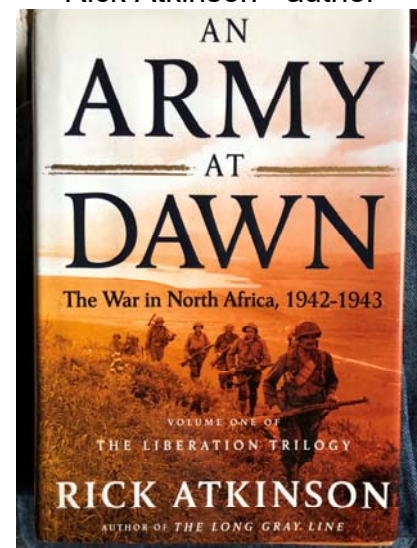
dressed in kilts and tartans and armed mostly with broadswords and Scottish claymores in a charge across the bridge.

Don't bring a knife to a gun fight, even if it is a big knife. Tory officers McLeod and Campbell were killed at the American's first fire of rifles, muskets and cannons along with approximately 30-40 other Highlanders. McLeod's body had nine-round ball bullet holes along with 24 swan shot.

The Scotch quickly lost courage on seeing their leaders killed and fled the battlefield. Approximately 900 Tories were later capture and disarmed. Only one American, John Grady of Anson's Company was mortally wounded. The early victory probably led North Carolina to instruct her delegates to vote for independence on April 12, 1776 in Philadelphia.

## **World War II**

Book Review - Army At Dawn  
The War in North Africa 1942-1943  
Vol. One of the Liberation Trilogy  
Rick Atkinson - author



A great book about the US Army's first combat in the Northern Africa campaign from the landings in western Africa to the total defeat of the Afrika Corps. If you are like me, I knew little of the US Army's fighting in North Africa other than Kasserine Pass. But this book describes in some detail the entire campaign, the leaders who tried guide the Army and their British counterparts.

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This is a well balanced narrative of the fighting, the strategy and the politics of the Allied effort to defeat the Germans and Italians.

Atkinson does a good job of mixing in individuals involved in the fighting from the soldier driving the tank all the way up to Eisenhower. He is pretty objective, in my opinion, as he doesn't hesitate to criticize as well as praise. The perfect example is his treatment of Patton, who some folks seem to think won the North African campaign by himself. Atkinson praises and shows his shortcomings as well.

This was a quick read for me, and I would recommend to anyone interested in the US Army's role in North Africa. I am looking forward to reading the next volumes of Atkinson's Liberation Trilogy.

-- C. L. Critchfield

## **Editor's Corner**

*The Editor's chance to speak*

CONGRATULATIONS to Phyllis Baxter for being recognized by the State Historic Preservation Office for her many efforts.

SO YOU THINK that the Civil War is ancient history...once again, I don't have to do much to convince you that it isn't ancient history with no meaning in today's world. General Kelly's comments have once again placed the War on center stage. The reason the war started is still being debated.

ONE OF THE FACEBOOK posts making the rounds this past month quotes Lincoln and Lee. Or should I say misquotes. The Lincoln quote comes from the letter I mention above in "They Said It." But only a portion of one sentence is quoted. And there is no evidence that the Lee quote "There is a terrible war coming, and these young men who have never seen war..." was ever written or said by the General.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch and switching the website to GoDaddy. Thanks to Jack Rush for work on the website charges. Thanks to Mark Tennant for his contributions.

CONFEDERATES - Once again, I suggest to you boys in gray, that most of what I print here in this newsletter seems to be Federal in nature. I welcome anything Confederate-related.

SOME MEMBERS have responded to the little survey I sent out this past month. I have seen many a conversation on Facebook about the fate of some Confederate memorials and thought that members might want to partake in the survey. The results, should I get enough, will be published here. And since the survey originated with the Civil War Trust, I will forward the results to them. But currently there aren't enough responses to justify the effort or make it valid.

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 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia and the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia infantry units participate in, you must be a member of record. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. members are covered under the USV insurance. Insurance questions about the 1<sup>st</sup> 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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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 per year.

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

WVRA website - [wvra.org](http://wvra.org)

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"History is lived forward but it is written in retrospect. We know the end before we consider the beginning and we can never wholly recapture what it was to know the beginning only"

- C. V. Wedgwood, English historian