

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2016 – Edition 4 – Mid-March

Upcoming Events

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

Beverly Heritage Days, July 22-24

[Events Recommended by WVRA members](#)

Putnam Civil War Days – March 31 – April 1, 2016, <http://putnamcivilwardays.weebly.com>

Dream a Good Death – April 2 (see below)

Barboursville (W.Va.) Civil War Days – May 13-15

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 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

Buchanan, Virginia – April 28-29 (suggested by our friends in the 24th Va/83rd Pa)

New Market – May 13-15

Barboursville (W.Va.) Civil War Days – May 13-15

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

EVENTS ISSUE

In an effort to let you know what events are planned for 2016, as early in the year as possible, I am sending this “events issue.” Included is a handout about our 2016 SANCTIONED event, Beverly Heritage Days.

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.

ccritch608@yahoo.com.

Minutes – March 5 Meeting

President Mark Tennant called the rescheduled meeting to order at 1 pm. Six members present.

Jim Allman made motion to dispense with reading of last meetings minutes as they were published in Dispatch. Ken seconded.

Treasurers Report \$4,376.32.

Jim made a motion to allocate to each active unit within the WVRA which has at least 3 members active and current WVRA members, the normal \$100 “unit funds.” Ken seconded the motion. Passed 6-0.

Tim Glaser said 25th and USV insurance has been paid for 2016.

Broke into unit meeting.

Voted on sanctioning Beverly event in July. With the vote of all present and the absentee ballots, 15 voted to sanction; nobody voted against, and 5 abstained. A majority of members having voted to sanction, the Beverly event is now sanctioned by the WVRA.

In the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch, Chris Johnson had reported on possible School of Soldier events; one in April the other in May both at Carnifex Ferry. We discussed and decided anyone could attend whichever they wanted to.

Memorials, discussed possible memorials to Bill McVay and Kelso Marple. After discussion, the feeling of the membership that memorials should be for current members. Memorials failed 6-0.

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Discussed Philippi event. Decided next meeting on Saturday afternoon at Philippi event after the Saturday battle at Pavilion at the river beside bridge. Meeting time will be approximately 3 or 4 pm.

Adjourned meeting at 2:05 PM

- *Minutes submitted by Mark Tennant and edited by Chuck Critchfield*

Beverly Heritage Days

At the March 5 meeting, the Beverly Heritage Day event was approved as a WVRA Sanctioned Event.

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.

Mountaineer State History Expo

Mark Tennant will be manning a table at The Annual Mountaineer State History Expo at The Marion County Court House (Fairmont) on Saturday, March 19. Mark plans to exhibit a Springfield, an Enfield and an officers sword, and is seeking other Civil War related items for display.

The Annual Mountaineer State History Expo is sponsored by the Marion County Historical Society and will take place from 10 am until 2 pm on that Saturday. The expo is free to the public and free to Exhibitors. Live music from bagpipes to bluegrass, a food court, historic demonstrations and displays. Jezebel will appear.

For further information call the Marion County Historical Society (Dora Grubb) 304-367-5398 or e-mail marionhistorical@yahoo.com

Union, West Virginia

Chris Johnson (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.

Membership

This is the last request to members to renew their lapsed WVRA membership. Dues are \$15 for an individual membership and \$25 for family memberships (all family at home through college age). You can send the dues to me at C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV, 26301.

Thank you to the members who have renewed since last issue of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. We now have 44 memberships which includes 60 members.

1st West Virginia Infantry

Greg Bonner

25th Virginia

Mark Poling

1st Virginia Cavalry

None

Artillery

None

TASAS

None

School of the Soldier

The 31st Va. and 36th Va. of Wise's Legion are having a School of the Soldier at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park. The WVRA and any members (CS and US) are 'cordially' invited to attend since there is little interest with the WVRA to hold our own School of the Soldier.

31st Virginia School of the Soldier is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 15 through 17. This is an encampment April 16 (Editor's note: not sure what they mean by an encampment)

36th Virginia School of the Soldier, Friday through Sunday, May 27 through May 29. There is an encampment on May 16.

- Submitted by Chris Johnson

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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 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)

Philippi

Efforts to locate any registration material have failed to this point. I have not been able to find an “official” site on the web. I have been told that there is going to be a 155th reenactment of the battle of Philippi and have found a Facebook page announcing the dates of June 2 through June 5 of this year.

Civil War History Showcased Through Song in Hansbarger’s *Dream of a Good Death*

The Monroe County Historical Society is hosting a performance of Clark Hansbarger's multi-media Civil War show *Dream of a Good Death* at 7:30 pm on Saturday, April 2nd at the Ames Clair Hall in Union, West Virginia. Admission to the evening is \$10, students \$6. Tickets available at the door, seating begins at 6:30.

Songwriter and Monroe County native Clark Hansbarger's *Dream of a Good Death* traces the arc of the Civil War from its beginning to its end. Part folk opera, part multi-media lecture, this cycle of original songs follows the trials, hopes, fears and sacrifices of Civil War soldiers as they struggle through the Union conquest of Port Royal, the fires in The Wilderness, the killing fields of Cold Harbor, and the long siege of Petersburg.

Each song is introduced with stories and historical photographs, enriching the audience's appreciation of the songwriting and providing an historical thread. The human tragedy and costs of war are experienced in a new way through the deeply personal lens of each song's protagonist.

Dream of a Good Death has been performed throughout Virginia to large audiences, receiving good reviews from a variety of notable sources. Historian and author Howard Means describes *Dream of a Good Death* as "one of the most imaginative approaches to the Civil War I've ever witnessed. In short, terrific entertainment — the rare evening that leaves you better informed and fully satisfied."

Clark will be joined on April 2 by his daughter Kara on vocals and his band [The Bitter Liberals](#). The Bitter Liberals' two records "13" and "Again" have together received six Wammie nominations from the Washington Area Music Association, including Best Group and Best Recording in the Folk-Contemporary category, Best New Artist and Best Debut Recording. The band performs regularly to large audiences at venues including The American Theater in Hampton, VA, Winchester, Va's Bright Box, and Shepherdstown's famous Old Opera House.

More info (along with videos, pictures, and music) can be found on Clark's website civilwarsong.com.

For more information, contact Clark Hansbarger at 540-533-8530 or via email clarkhansbarger@gmail.com

- Submitted by Chris Johnson

The 25th Va EVENTS:

Here are the events that the 25th Virginia have listed for 2016.

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- 15-17APR16 School of the Soldier, Hosted by 31st Va (Wise's Legion) at Carnifex Ferry BSP **INDIVIDUAL EFFORT**
- 27-29MAY16 School of the Soldier, Hosted by 36th Va (Wise's Legion) at Carnifex Ferry BSP **INDIVIDUAL EFFORT**
- 03-05JUNE16 Philippi's Blue & Gray Reunion (Philippi, WV) **MAX EFFORT**
- 22-24JULY16 1st Manassas (Cedar Creek, Va) **MAX EFFORT**
- 19-21AUG16 Dry Creek (GSF, Caldwell, WV) **MAX EFFORT**
- 26-28AUG16 Occupation of Union, WV (Union, WV) **INDIVIDUAL EFFORT**
- 14-16OCT16 Cedar Creek Reenactment (Cedar Creek, VA) **ANV MAX EFFORT**
- 04-06NOV16 Guyandotte Civil War Days (Guyandotte, WV) **INDIVIDUAL EFFORT**

Any questions should be directed to the Unit Representative of the 25th Virginia, Chris Johnson.

USV, 1st Regiment Events

Here is the event list from the 1st Regiment meeting back in January. The underlined, bold events are designated as maximum effort events. Registration sites for a couple of these events is listed on page 1.

I am in a bit of a pickle, as I had committed to 155th Bull Run, which unfortunately, is the same weekend as Beverly Heritage Days. Some of you had told me last fall that you were interested in 155th Bull Run. If so, please contact me at ccritch608@yahoo.com or 304-623-5836.

- Endview Plantation (Norfolk/Williamsburg) : April 9-10th
- NPS Appomattox, VA, April 15-17
- Neshaminy, PA (Philly - 2nd Regt with the 6th NH) April 21-24
- **Bedford Village, PA: June 11-12**
- Peterboro, NY June 11-12
- Fort Monroe, VA, June 10-12 JUN .
- 153rd Gettysburg, July 1-3 2016, PA
- **155th 1st Manassas/Bull Run at Cedar Creek, VA, July 22-24**
- Morgans Raid, Pomery, Ohio, Sept 15-18
- **Sidney (Western Ohio), Sept. 16-18 2016.**
- **Cedar Creek, VA, Oct 20-22**

WVRA Officers 2016 (executive board)

President – Mark Tennant

Vice President – Bill Brisendine

Treasurer – Jim Barnes (new)

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 – to be determined

TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

Springfields

Gentlemen,

As an old Springfield shooter, I (*Kevin Skaggs*) have seen that problem before with the Lock Plate screw being a bit too long and it interfering with the hammer. As you said, back the screw out just a little and the hammer will clear it. Just remember to check the screw before and after a battle to make sure that you still have it.

The biggest problem with an 1861 Springfield is that it will misfire A LOT. The easiest way to correct that is add an extra step to the load. After “CHARGE CARTRIDGE” and you go to the “READY” position before “PRIME”, turn the musket over so that the lock plate/hammer is pointed toward the ground and then hit between the two lock plate screws with the heel of your hand. What this does is to knock a little bit of powder into the chamber below the nipple so the spark from the cap will not have to make a 90 degree turn to fire the main powder charge.

- Thanks to Kevin Skaggs (who is responding to a question about a common problem with Springfields)

Songs

Editor's Corner

I have noticed Facebook chatter about the cost of walking on at local reenactments. Some events are charging \$25 to walk on (instead of pre-registering by a deadline at a much cheaper price). I have not received any response concerning Jackson's Mill this year, but have seen Facebook chatter that indicates it will be held this year. I assume it will be held around Labor Day weekend.

I have been asked about where pre-rolled cartridge papers might be available other than at sutlers at larger reenactments. Hand-cut, hand-

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rolled, 58 caliber paper cartridges are available at Widow Maker's Cartridges. Email seanbrettsmom@yahoo.com for prices and quantities.

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](#)

Chuck Critchfield – editor

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Figure 1 - Tomb of the unknown Civil War soldiers atop the hill at Arlington National Cemetery. Contains over 2100 unknown soldiers.



Figure 2 Confederate Monument at Arlington National Cemetery



Figure 3 McClellan Gate at Arlington National Cemetery