

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2015 – Edition 16 – November

Upcoming Events

More information will be added later if made available to the editor

Sanctioned Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Guyandotte – Oct. 30-Nov. 1

<http://www.guyandottecivilwardays.com>

Other

Executive Board Meeting – November 14, 1 pm,
Weston Steakhouse

2016

1st Bull Run – July (at Cedar Creek Battlefield)

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

expenses. Tim said he could probably complete his term. Chuck C. said he could help with the Treasurer duties until the group elections next year. He is still listed on the bank account. The group agreed with this.

2. There are several Droop Mountain T-Shirts left over from the last Reenactment. We need to do something with them. It was suggested to donate them to Droop Mountain State Park so that they could sell them. A motion to donate them to the State Park by Tim G. Chuck C. seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
3. Tim Glaser is currently the WVRA member on the Rich Mountain Board. He will need to be replaced. Jack Rush was nominated by Phyllis B. to fill this spot. Chuck C. seconded. This was passed by the group.
4. A question was raised about there being a Rich Mountain Reenactment next year. Phyllis said that it has not been decided yet. The Rich planning meeting is to be held in November.
5. A big thank you to the Droop Committee was extended by group. Another fine reenactment was spear headed by Mark T., Tim G., Jim B., Linda B., Diane T., Phyllis B., and Chris J.
6. The next meeting time, date and location will be announced at a later date.
7. The meeting was adjourned.

J. Rush
October 20, 2015

This Edition of the DISPATCH

This edition has been mailed through the US Mail to all members of record who have given the WVRA officers a MAILING ADDRESS. It will also be emailed to members or record. The membership form and call for membership renewal will be included. Please return the membership form and dues to me (address on form). Do NOT return to Tim Glaser and do NOT return to the PO Box in Buckhannon.

Also, nominations for next year's WVRA and military offices is now open.

Next Meeting

The WVRA Executive Board will meet Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 at 1 PM til 3PM at the Steakhouse at exit 99 (Weston) of I-79. This is not a 'regular' meeting but is open to any member wishing to attend. The Executive Board will meet to discuss issues to be brought up at later WVRA meetings.

October Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2015

WVRA Meeting - Droop Mountain

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Tennant, at approximately 6:00 pm after dinner.

1. Tim Glaser is moving to North Carolina. He will help settle all of the Droop Mountain

Droop Mountain

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED AT
DROOP

-from Mark Tennant

Droop 2015 was, I believe, one of the better reenactments the WVRA has hosted. Although we have had larger numbers of reenactors and

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bigger crowds watching us, I thought we had a well run reenactment. I got many nice comments from both reenactors and spectators.

Thanks to all who helped at Droop:

Tim and Joanne Glaser for handling Droop registration, walk-ons and selling T-shirts. Last count I heard was that 160 reenactors attended Droop 2015. Chuck Critchfield for picking up bottled water for reenactment dinner and helping Union troops set up tents in Union camp and dropping off Droop Flyers on Summersville/Richwood route. Jim and Linda Barnes for ordering and picking up the rolls, potato salad, baked beans and chicken dinners. Chris Johnson for setting up Confederate camp and helping Jim & Linda pick up meals in Marlinton.

A big Union cheer (HURRAH) & Rebel yell to Kevin & Diane Mullenax for cooking the pig. It was delicious!!

"Beal" Brisendine for checking tickets at dinner and to all those who helped serve: Jim & Linda Barnes, Joanne Glaser, Diane Tennant, Jack, Debbie & Andy Rush and anyone else I missed.

Tim Glaser for doing period church service. Kevin Skaggs for laying out Union camp and commanding Union troops. As usual Kevin did a great job. Jeff Goff for commanding Confederate troops, another good job. Diane Tennant & Debbie Rush who helped make the "Needle Book" packets for craft at Ladies Tea and special thanks to Diane for planning the Tea. Thanks to Peter & Phyllis for playing & calling at the Dance. There was a big crowd of reenactors and spectators who attended and had a great time at dance.

Sam & Connie Kraftt for bringing mortar and portraying Union artillery in the woods on Sunday.

Thanks to the 17 1st West Virginia Infantry members (present & past) who fought at 2015 Droop: Kevin Skaggs, Chuck Critchfield, Ross Wetherell, myself, Sean McCready, Ralph McCready, Ed ChapdeLaine, Jack Rush, Andy Rush, Jay Kelley, Ned Smith, Larry Smith, Steve Allen, D.J.- Ross Wetherell's nephew, Mike Phillips and Mike's niece-Megan AKA "George" and Jim Barnes. Thanks to the 25th Virginia members I saw: Jeff Goff, Chris Johnson, Bill

Brisendine, Jim Allman, Jay Allman and Greg Watterson and a few more I forgot.

Special thanks to Bryan's Battery for "galvanizing" on Saturday to portray Union artillery, they looked good in my extra Union uniforms.

Thanks to Diane for cooking breakfast for 1st WV on Saturday & Sunday, the biscuits were perfect and the bottom didn't fall out of cast iron pot.

Thanks to Superintendent Mike Smith and his employees for all the help they provided.

My apologies if I missed anyone.

RESPECT & DISRESPECT AT DROOP

By Mark Tennant

RESPECT

I thought the Memorial Service at Droop Mtn. reenactment on Sunday was a very well done and emotionally moving experience. I contacted Helena Gondray, who lives next to Droop Mtn. State Park, after Tonya Daft facebooked me to contact this lady as she wanted to do Memorial Service. I concurred with her plans and placed the Memorial Service on the schedule. Helena read a poem by Louise McNeill Pease titled "*Droop Mountain*" and had family members, neighbors and friends (a lady representing Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary) read the names of those killed at the Battle of Droop Mountain. WVRA members Tim Glaser said prayer and Chris Johnson read poem "Bivouac of the Dead".

It was a very respectful and moving experience, I had a catch in my throat and a tear in my eye at the conclusion of the service.

DISRESPECT

On Saturday morning at Droop, I had the Union Infantry march down to the two union monuments to Sgt. John D. Baxter and Lt. Henry Bender of Co. F, 10th West Virginia Infantry at 10AM to await their orders for tactical. I told the stories about Sgt. Baxter and Lt. Bender and placed a US flag beside monument to Sgt. Baxter to honor him for his bravery and giving his life to preserve the Union and help make West Virginia a new state.

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The disrespect part of this was that I had to ask Chapman's Battery (Confederate) to please remove their cooking utensils from the Monument. I had to move some of their gear that was strewn around the Monument to place the US flag. *I would never disrespect a Confederate Monument in such a way.*

Maybe I'm being too sensitive but Sgt. Baxter was a Union hero and was mortally wounded on that spot and died the next day of his wounds.

If we continue to host the Droop reenactment, I will ask that no one be allowed to camp near the Monuments to prevent hem for being disrespected.

Another Thank You

forwarded by Tim Glaser

Thank you for helping me and the community pay tribute to the fallen soldiers on Droop. It was an honor to be a part of the reenactment weekend here. The event was on the front page of the newspaper - The Other Side of the Battle' with quotes from Diane Tennant and Phyllis Baxter and a discussion on etiquette from the ball in the evening. I have received numerous comments on the tribute and would like to thank the two commanders of each side, if you could provide this information to me. Also, the confederate soldier (*Chris Johnson – editor*) who read a poem at the end.

I remain, in respect for this place which wrote its own history.

- *Helena Gondry*

2016

It is not too early to be talking about the 2016 reenacting year. Reminders to renew membership, appeals for members to volunteer for officer positions, questions about the WVRA future and will there be a Rich Mountain event next year will be forthcoming. Just a reminder that memberships expire on December 31, 2015 and officer positions stop on the same date. We are starting to hear about 2016 events. Next year will be the 155th anniversary of 1861 events.

Bivouac Of The Dead

By Theodore O'Hara

(Written in memory of the Kentucky troops killed in the Mexican War - 1847)

Portions Of This Haunting Poem Are Inscribed on Placards

Throughout Arlington, As Well as on The McClellan Gate There

**The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on Life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents to spread,
And glory guards, with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.
No rumor of the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind;
Nor troubled thought at midnight haunts
Of loved ones left behind;
No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dreams alarms;
No braying horn or screaming fife
At dawn shall call to arms.
Their shriveled swords are red with rust,
Their plumed heads are bowed,
Their haughty banner, trailed in dust,
Is now their martial shroud.
And plenteous funeral tears have washed
The red stains from each brow,
And the proud forms, by battle gashed
Are free from anguish now.
The neighing troop, the flashing blade,
The bugle's stirring blast,
The charge, the dreadful cannonade,
The din and shout, are past;
Nor war's wild note, nor glory's peal
Shall thrill with fierce delight
Those breasts that nevermore may feel
The rapture of the fight.
Like the fierce Northern hurricane
That sweeps the great plateau,
Flushed with triumph, yet to gain,
Come down the serried foe,
Who heard the thunder of the fray
Break o'er the field beneath,
Knew the watchword of the day
Was "Victory or death!"
Long had the doubtful conflict raged
O'er all that stricken plain,
For never fiercer fight had waged
The vengeful blood of Spain;
And still the storm of battle blew,**

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**Still swelled the glory tide;
Not long, our stout old Chieftain knew,
Such odds his strength could bide.
Twas in that hour his stern command
Called to a martyr's grave
The flower of his beloved land,
The nation's flag to save.
By rivers of their father's gore
His first-born laurels grew,
And well he deemed the sons would pour
Their lives for glory too.
For many a mother's breath has swept
O'er Angostura's plain --
And long the pitying sky has wept
Above its moldered slain.
The raven's scream, or eagle's flight,
Or shepherd's pensive lay,
Alone awakes each sullen height
That frowned o'er that dread fray.
Sons of the Dark and Bloody Ground
Ye must not slumber there,
Where stranger steps and tongues resound
Along the heedless air.
Your own proud land's heroic soil
Shall be your fitter grave;
She claims from war his richest spoil --
The ashes of her brave.
Thus 'neath their parent turf they rest,
Far from the gory field,
Borne to a Spartan mother's breast
On many a bloody shield;
The sunshine of their native sky
Smiles sadly on them here,
And kindred eyes and hearts watch by
The heroes sepulcher.
Rest on embalmed and sainted dead!
Dear as the blood ye gave;
No impious footstep here shall tread
The herbage of your grave;
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While Fame her record keeps,
For honor points the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps.
Yon marble minstrel's voiceless stone
In deathless song shall tell,
When many a vanquished ago has flown,
The story how ye fell;
Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,
Nor time's remorseless doom,
Can dim one ray of glory's light
That gilds your deathless tomb.
- Submitted by Chris Johnson**

WVRA Officers 2015 (executive board)

President – Mark Tennant

Vice President – Bill Brisendine

Treasurer – Tim Glaser

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 – Sam and Connie Krafft

TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

Editor's Corner

This edition is being mailed to all members of record with a membership renewal form. Thanks to Chris Johnson, Jack Rush, Tim Glaser and Mark Tennant for submitted material for this edition of the Dispatch.

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.

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 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](https://www.facebook.com/WVRA-TransAlleghenySoldiersAidSociety)

Chuck Critchfield – editor

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West Virginia Reenactors Association

Mail completed form and payment to:
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 608 Skyview Drive
 Clarksburg, WV 26301

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____


Address: _____
Street

City, State, Zip Code

Phone: _____
Home/Cell, Work (optional)

Email: _____

Date: _____



Medical/Special Conditions:

UNIT MEMBERSHIP: *(Which unit of the WVRA do you want to join? Check one...)*

WVRA (General)
 TASAS (Civilian)
 1st W.Va. Inf. (Federal)
 25th Va. Inf. (Confederate)
 Artillery
 Cavalry
 Not Sure (Undecided)

| BACKGROUND & INTERESTS |
|--------------------------|
| Reenacting Experience? |
| Other Reenacting Groups? |
| Particular Interests? |
| Special Skills? |

| PARTICIPATING FAMILY <i>(please see notes 2 & 4)</i> | | |
|--|-----|----------|
| Name | Age | Relation |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

NOTES and DETAILS:

- DUES:** Dues are \$15 per year per person. Family dues are \$25 per year. There is an additional cost of \$15 per year if you must have a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you. (Email version of same newsletter is included in membership.) For group insurance purposes, all dues must be paid by or before March 1st. The reenacting year is from March 1st to February 28th of the following year, and membership files must be updated each year.
- MINORS:** Any member under the age of 18 needs the signature of an adult parent or guardian to join. Those under 16 will not be allowed to carry firearms, and members under 14 may not participate in reenactment battles. In addition, rules at specific reenacting events may restrict or deny participation by reason of age, and the WVRA will comply with event rules.
- MEETINGS:** Regular meetings are held, usually on the first Saturday of each month. During the reenacting year, meetings may be held at the various reenactments. Ask for meetings times and places when you join or check for info on the website (www.wvra.org).
- FAMILIES:** Each "soldier" should have their own membership, dues, and form on file. Individual Civilian Reenactors should also have their own complete membership. To encourage family participation, the special Family Membership dues rate (above) can be used to save cost. All family members are welcome to participate informally at WVRA events without paying individual dues. Persons who do not pay dues will naturally have no voice or vote in Association matters, however.
- DIRECTORY:** Member images and photos may be used for the newsletter, website, and WVRA public relations releases. However, detailed information like addresses and phone numbers will ONLY be listed in the directory circulated to other members. Such information will never be used in press releases or put on the website. If you still have privacy concerns and don't want your information used in any form at all, you must send a simple written request to that effect to the newsletter editor, secretary, and webmaster before April 1st of each year.

Signature of Member Applicant

Signature of Adult Parent or Guardian