

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2016 – Edition 12 – November

Upcoming Events

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Guyandotte (W. Va.) Civil War Days –

November 4-6

Clarksburg IOOF Cemetery – November 5

Other – 2017

Gettysburg – July 1-3

NEXT MEETING

At this time, a general meeting of the WVRA is not scheduled. A meeting of the executive board is planned for November. Date, location and time to be determined.

Nominations Needed

Nominations are needed now for 2017 WVRA officers. To date, no nominations have been reported to me. Here are the offices:

- President (none)
- Vice-president (none)
- Treasurer **Jim Barnes**
- Secretary (none)
- Unit Rep 1st W. Va. (none)
- Unit Rep 25th Va. (none)
- Unit Rep 1st Va. **Mark Tennant**
- Unit Rep TASAS (none)
- Unit Rep Artillery (none) currently vacant
- Newsletter – **Chuck Critchfield**
- Website (none)

Current officers can be found listed below. Nominations can be sent to me ccritch608@yahoo.com or any officer.

Veteran's Day Weekend Ceremony

On Saturday, November 5, at the IOOF Cemetery in Clarksburg, a ceremony to honor veterans will be held. The WVRA has once again been invited to attend.

The ceremony begins at 11 am and we are asked to be there between 9 and 10 am. Several Civil War veterans are buried here as well as Senator John Carlisle.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Tonya Daft immediately, at 304-825-6103 or rebeld4h@yahoo.com, or by Facebook. See WVRA-The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society page on Facebook.

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

155 YEARS AGO

By November of 1861 the 1st (West) Virginia Regiment was for the most part completely formed at Camp Carlisle on Wheeling Island. In mid-October four companies from the First boarded a steamboat for Wirt County, via a Parkersburg landing, under the command of a Lt. Col. Richmond (who I cannot find on the roster officers.) What the four companies were up to in Wirt County is not mentioned but we assume Southern activity of one sort or another prompted the sending of troops to that area.

If C. J. Rawlings is correct, these four companies left Wheeling without any weapons, as he writes “the muskets and rifles for the First were received” on November 6. By this date the four companies were ordered to Romney for duty probably related to guarding northwestern Virginia frontier from Confederates eyeing the B&O Railroad to the north. Meanwhile back in Wheeling the remaining six companies were mustered in and presented with a stand of colors by Governor Pierpont. November 9 the companies in Wheeling left “for the field of operations, amid the tears and followed by the prayers of the loved ones at home, -- the last parting of many of them.”

The regiment camped northwest of Romney the next day having marched in from New Creek Station southward. Here the First fell into the routine of camp life. Here camped with Ohio regiments,

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Indiana regiments and the 7th (West) Virginia the men of the First began to “drill, drill, drill.” After a few weeks of company and battalion drill, the “regiment began to assume the appearance of a body of soldiers.”

Rawlings described camp life as “rather monotonous” only interrupted “occasionally by the alarms of the enemy’s appearance.”

Joshua Winters, a soldier in Company G and a resident of Marshall County, described the trip to Romney in more detail. After leaving Wheeling on the 8th according to Winters, the train got within a mile of Fairmont before the “cars in front of us run off the track and we had to stop and sum of our boys went to a courn huskin.” ... “(A)rive at New Crick the 9, left New Crick on the 9 and went to Burlington. (I)t rained all day, the mud was deap. (W)e staid all night in a stabell. (O)n the 10 we started for Romeny, arrived at Romeny at 2 oclock a saboth eaving.” During this march, Winters knapsack was hauled on a wagon, greatly relieving the weight he had to bear on this first march of significance.

Winters was lucky enough to spend the rainy evening in Burlington in a stable with plenty of hay. Also, the men were learning fast, taking fence rails to build fires to cook breakfast the following morning. Winters described the South Branch Valley as a “purty place.” Apparently sleeping on the ground in his tent on “spruce pine,” Winters also mentions drill. It appears from his letter of November 12, 1861, that the regiment drilled 2 hours in the morning, two hours in the evening and had “dress praid at 4.” Winters further describes what appears to be target practice. (T)hay shoot 7 and 8 bars every morning.”

From the “History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry” by C. J. Rawlings and “Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters” edited by Elizabeth Davis Swiger

- C. L. Critchfield

Editor’s Corner

The Editor’s chance to speak

OFFICERS – We need members to volunteer for officer positions within the WVRA. If you note above, a few members have volunteered to put their names on the ballot.

MEMBERSHIP – Please renew your membership for the 2017 reenacting season. A blank membership form is included in this email. Please return the membership form to the address on the form.

NEXT YEAR – Plans are being discussed for a possible reenactment at Rich Mountain next year in July. Nothing has been decided as of yet.

RECENT EVENTS – I have received no after action reports for Jackson’s Mill, Bulltown, Carnifex Ferry, Cedar Creek or other fall reenactments. Such reports would be welcomed here.

PERSONALS - Mark Tennant is spending a lot of time with his ailing father. If you need to reach him, please call Mark directly. He does not always have access to the internet.

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 official positions of the WVRA

WVRA website - wvra.org

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

[TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid Society](https://www.facebook.com/TransAlleghenySoldiersAidSociety)

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West Virginia Reenactors Association

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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 fire-arms, 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 reen-actments. 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