

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 13 - November

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

IIOF Cemetery - November 10 (after parade)
Clarksburg

2018

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

am still waiting on information from the city pertaining to the Jackson Cemetery in order to put together an effort to reset and restore the grave markers. Here's my phone number 609 346 4456. Thank you for your time..... Shaun Jedju

Editor's Note - Senator Carlisle is buried in this cemetery. This is the same cemetery in Clarksburg, where we have honored these folks in past years.

Film Project

(Editor's note - this was submitted by Tonya Daft and all questions can be directed to her. Contact information can be found at the end of this story)

This is **Calvin Grimm** with Lost Valley Studios. Here is a summary of the film project we are working on and would like your reenactment group to participate in: "River of Hope" (working title) tells the real-life story of a Confederate sympathizer in the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia (Sam Cabell) who marries his African American slave (Mary Barnes), who goes on to found the first college for African Americans in West Virginia.

The story begins in the 1840s as the couple travels back to West Virginia and eventually settles along the Kanawha River near what is now the town of Institute. It progresses through the tumultuous beginnings of the Civil War, which saw Kanawha Valley residents divided between Union and Confederate sympathies. As the war begins, the Valley being occupied by both armies and changing hands forcefully multiple times creates a strained life for Sam Cabell, Mary Barnes, their children, and their community.

The local engagements of the Battle of Scary Creek and the Battle of Charleston both greatly affect their livelihood and home. As the war comes to a close, Sam Cabell, although married and living with one of his former slaves and their mixed-race children, sustains his heritage to "old Virginia". His sympathies and discourse for the defeated Confederate cause result in returning Union army veterans conspiring to kill him at his own home in Institute. Turning tragedy into prosperity, his African American widow Mary Barnes then works with the Governor of West Virginia, Aretas Flemming, to found what would be become West Virginia State University - the first college for African Americans in West Virginia.

Next Meeting

An executive meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, October 29 at 2 pm at the Christ Episcopal Church Parish House, Sixth Street and Traders Alley in Clarksburg.

Although this is an executive meeting, it is OPEN to all members. Planning for 2018 and the future of the WVRA will be on the agenda.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IIOF Cemetery Clarksburg

Submitted by Tonya Daft

They are still having problems getting an ok from Clarksburg to work on the Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Clarksburg. They need to repair and replace the headstones and to work on maintaining the cemetery. But Shaun (Jedju) wants everyone to help with a dedication again to the IIOF Cemetery in Clarksburg (Chestnut Street) see his email below and his contact information if you are interested....**Tonya**

I have a date on a Veteran's Day Commemoration event, November 10th, I am planning it to be after the Clarksburg Veteran's Day Parade so I am not yet sure of a time, I am also inviting numerous military members and organizations, I already have a platform donated to be used as the speaking area. The event is for the former IIOF Cemetery, I

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That about summarizes the film, and the three aspects I would like your reenactment group to assist with are:

- 1) Reenactment of the Battle of Scary Creek
- 2) Reenactment of the Battle of Charleston
- 3) Filling spots as military officers and soldiers during sporadic other scenes

The biggest logistical challenge will be finding a suitable place to reenact the Battle of Charleston. The location requires two somewhat substantial rivers meeting (resembling the Kanawha and Elk Rivers) and also featuring an old-fashioned bridge across one of the bridges - the one which was cut/destroyed by the Union Army as the fled Charleston was a suspension bridge, but anything "old fashioned" will work. We obviously won't be destroying or harming the actual bridge - I will do that with special effects

As I mentioned before, the filming of the battle scenes for the project will likely be in the early spring of 2017. Historically, Scary Creek was fought in July and Charleston was fought in September. Clear spring days should mimic July and September accurately enough for our purposes.

I greatly appreciate your time, and I really look forward to hearing back. I'm very excited about this project.

Take care and best regards,
Calvin Grimm Owner/Director - Lost Valley Studios, LLC

*(Tonya's note: I think he meant 2018 because he has not started yet...Tonya. Please contact me if you have any interest so I have contact information for everyone. **Tonya Daft (304-825-6103)...rebeld4h@yahoo.com...Facebook Tonya Fluharty Daft by private message)***

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.

Treasurer's Report

Sept. 1, 2017 through Sept. 30, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$4,199.51
Credits	0.00
Debits	
Web.com	\$22.95
Web.com	\$22.95
Web.com	\$22.95
Donation to Civil War Trust in memory of J. R. Moore	\$50.00
Ending Balance	\$4,080.66

Submitted by Jack Rush October 3, 2017

The 'mysterious Web company hosting the groups' website has started debiting our account. They have debited for the previous three months. They have already debited for the month of October.

Jack Rush - Treasurer and Secretary

I will try to have it moved before the end of October, so that Jack can cancel this charge in future.

You will have to make other arrangements eventually, but for now the WVRA can ride free on a web hosting package deal that I am maintaining with GoDaddy.

I've been pretty distracted this year.

-- Peter Baxter, Website Master

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

Cedar Creek

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following 3-part report on the reenactment at Cedar Creek on October 13-15, 2017 was made by Darrell Markijohn, the commanding officer of the United States Volunteers. The 1st West Virginia belongs to the USV and Kevin Skaggs and I can vouch for Darrell. The following are his introductory letter, his report on the reenactment and his report on the bomb incident.

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CEDAR CREEK,

Gentlemen,

I am attaching a copy of my After Action reports for Cedar Creek. There is a separate one for the Pipe Bomb incident. Please distribute this down the chain of command. It is important that everyone have an opportunity to see these.

While we all faced a crisis that none of us could have expected, your leadership and experience carried the day. We worked our way through the threat, and in the end, were able to take care of our members and families under trying circumstances. The USV really showed its mettle.

I also want to credit all of the officers and troops that participated in Sunday's impromptu battle. After Cedar Creek rightfully cancelled the event for spectators, the battle that Maj. General Brennan and Maj. General Shelton put together on Sunday morning is EXACTLY what we all needed. For those of you that were present, I think you have to agree with me that it may have been one of the most emotional experiences ever in this hobby. We all walked away from that field with an overwhelming sense of unity with our fellow reenactors, blue and gray.

This past weekend, we as reenactors were under attack, LITERALLY and FIGURATIVELY. However, we stood our ground, and will continue to do so. Remembrance Day is a GO. Security measures are being implemented and the parade will take place as planned. I urge you to rally your troops and encourage them to make an effort to come out and march. Let's show all the lunatics of the world that the threat of a pipe bomb will not force us to discontinue to reenact Civil War history.

Regards,

Brig. Gen. Darrell Markijohn

**Report of Brig. General Darrell N.
Markijohn, USV, commanding
OCTOBER 14-15, 2017--The BATTLE
OF FIRST WINCHESTER AND**

**HDQRS. USV Brigade,
Middletown, Va. October 17, 2017**

The USV returns from the Cedar Creek Fall Campaign with much to talk about and remember. Cedar Creek is an event that we attend every year. We sometimes complain that CC is the "same ole, same ole." Well..... it was anything but that this year!

The USV Brigade mustered 188 rifles from all three of its infantry Regiments. Overall Commander, Maj. Gen. Ted Brennan designated the USV as the 1st Brigade. It was the largest Federal Brigade on the field. Col. Childs and Col. Young, and all of their Field Grade officers and adjutants were present. We assigned two companies of the 3rd USV to Col. Young's 2nd USV Regiment giving us a balanced two regiment Brigade.

The USV Artillery Regiment was also in force and a significant part of the US Artillery Reserve under the command of Col. Rick Dennis.

Battle of 1st Winchester

For Saturday's battle, the USV Brigade was positioned on the far right of the union line. General Brennan placed us along the ditch south of the Heater House. We sent skirmishers forward on top of the hill in our front to keep an eye on the enemy. They weren't there long. A large force of CS infantry pushed against our front. The CS mounted and dismounted cavalry harassed our right flank, but were held back by our own Cavalry. As the CS army pressed us, we were ordered to fall back. The Brigade did so in order, and continually positioned itself to pour fire into the enemy. We were able to slow down the enemy's advance significantly, and at about the time that we fell back to the top of the hillside north of the Heater House, the scenario was stopped.

Historically, the Federal Army was pushed back hard by the CS Valley Army, and the USV

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Brigade did its historical roll in fine order. Colonels Childs and Young handled their regiments very well, and gave up ground grudgingly. It was a good fight.

Saturday Evening Pipe Bomb Evacuation

Obviously, any after action report for 2017 Cedar Creek has to include the unfortunate incident that forced the entire CS army to evacuate their campsite. It is so significant however, that it deserves its own AAR. Please see the supplemental report on that topic.

Sunday Morning Cedar Creek Battle

The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation cancelled all of Sunday's scheduled events "for spectators" for obvious reasons. Much credit is given to US General Brennan and CS General Shelton for making the decision to go forward with the Cedar Creek battle. They secured permission from the Foundation, and since there would be no spectators, moved the battle to 10:30am.

The USV Brigade marched out onto the field to the top of the hill facing the Confederate Camp. Since there were no spectators, it was eerily quiet. I don't think I will ever forget that feeling. We were placed in the middle of the Federal line. The 2nd Brigade was to our right, and the 3rd Brigade was to our left.

The engagement opened with a cavalry assault on the right flank of the Union line. Our cavalry fought it off. Immediately thereafter, a large line of Confederate Infantry emerged directly in our front. They marched through their artillery line and from about 200 yards, opened fire with a resounding rebel yell. The battle was on.

As the CS troops advanced, the Union line began to fall back. After securing three separate lines of defense, we decided to hold our ground. At about that moment, led by companies in the USV Brigade, Federal Troops began to charge the CS line. Once it started, groups of US soldiers up and down the line double quick' d into the Confederate Lines. When about half the

army had done the same, we decided to end the scenario.

The battle ended a little earlier than planned. Yet as I looked at the troops, now totally commingled with their Confederate Counterparts, it was easy to see why. After all of the crap that we all had to deal with the night before, including an entire evacuation of the Confederate Army from their camps for over 5 hours, it was a very fitting end. It was clear that our troops charged the enemy not to engage it, but rather to embrace their brothers in arms. It was one of the most emotional moments I have ever experienced. Men were sobbing. Shouts of USA... USA... USA... erupted up and down both lines. We quieted the troops, and I asked the Federal band to strike up the Star Spangled Banner. EVERYONE placed their hand over their heart and SANG. General Shelton asked his bugler to play Dixie. Hugs were a plenty, and well wishes were exchanged everywhere.

As we walked off the field, I was inundated with comments from fellow soldiers saying this was the RIGHT thing to do, and that this was the greatest battle EVER.

Aftermath

153rd Cedar Creek will be discussed for years to come. Our hobby, which already had a number of issues to deal with, now has new and more foreboding challenges to address. It is hard to know how the events from this past weekend will shape the future of this hobby. All I can say is that I have never seen the Hobby more UNITED than I did this past Sunday. And trust me, we are going to need every bit of this unanimity to overcome this new assault.

I commend the USV Regimental Commanders, their field grade officers, their company commander, the non-commissioned officers, and every soldier and civilian. While we are only an army on the weekend, it was because we were an army THIS past weekend that allowed us to resolve a very serious situation. Your thorough search of your camp, and the written reports that you assembled were the sole reasons that

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the Union Army was not forced to evacuate the site. The men and women leaders of the USV DID THEIR JOBS, and did them well. You all deserve to step back and take pride in this extraordinary effort.

Next up.... Remembrance Day. WE WILL NOT STAND DOWN. We have already had a number of discussions with law enforcement and safety organizations in Gettysburg and the PARADE IS A GO. Security is obviously an issue, and TOP MEN are working on it. In the meantime, get the word out. Let's send a message to the entire Country that this hobby will endure. I cannot think of a better way to do that than to swell the streets at Gettysburg with three regiments of USV infantry, USV Cavalry, USV Artillery, USV Sharpshooters, and USV Civilians.

Very Respectfully, your obedient servant,

D.MARKIJOHN
Brig. General, United

States Volunteers

Report of Brig. General Darrell N. Markijohn, USV, commanding OCTOBER 14-15, 2017--The BATTLE OF FIRST WINCHESTER AND CEDAR CREEK,

**HDQRS. USV Brigade,
Middletown, Va. October 17, 2017**

REPORT ON PIPE BOMB EVACUATION AND ITS AFTERMATH

Immediately after Saturday's Battle, at approximately 4:00pm, a Sutler owner found a large pipe bomb in her tent. This particular tent was adjacent to the large activity tent and adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Confederate Army camp.

Law Enforcement was immediately contacted, and the entire Sutler area and Confederate Infantry and Artillery Camp was evacuated. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office responded. A Bomb Squad was dispatched to the site. A robot loaded the device into a bomb detonation vessel and with the use of secondary explosives, blown up. It has yet to be confirmed if the device itself was armed and capable of exploding on its own. At the time all of this was going on, the Federal Army was in Camp in the far North West Corner of the Cedar Creek Battlefield, very far away from this scene. The information regarding this incident that came over the radio was vague at first. Our first hint of trouble was a statement that the Sutler area had been shut down due to a bomb "threat." Then we heard that there was an actual pipe bomb found in the Sutler area.

The news of this, and a bunch of unsubstantiated rumors spread through the camp like a wild fire. As a flood of individuals converged on General Brennan's Federal Headquarters, he wisely decided to issue a general Officers' Call so that he could disseminate what we knew. Approximately 100 individuals appeared around his command tent. At that time, he was going to advise everyone that the Sutler Area had been closed and that we were to remain in camp and await further instructions. As we waited for everyone to assemble, a radio communication from a Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Representative (CCBF) ordered the Federal Army to "immediately evacuate through the North Gate." We were ordered to leave "without taking anything with us." We were told that law enforcement was going to inspect our camp, and once they decided that the area was safe, we would be permitted to return. Everyone standing around the command tent heard these orders.

Further private discussions with the CCBF representative revealed that the evacuation was being ordered by law enforcement and was due in part to safety concerns as well as criminal investigatory concerns. When we asked where we were to evacuate to, there was no immediate answer.

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At about this time, a Frederick County Deputy Sheriff closed the north gate, and refused to let anyone in the camp, and began preparing for the evacuation.

General Brennan's response was measured and appropriate. He asked that the law enforcement official responsible for the evacuation order be brought to our camp for an in person discussion. He also ordered the entire Federal army to conduct an immediate and thorough search of the camp. He demanded that every tent, every box, every container, etc., be searched, and that each company commander prepare a written report detailing the search of their respective company street. All reports were then ordered to be sent to Regimental headquarters, signed off by the Regimental Commanders, and then sent to and signed off by the Brigade Commanders. Within less than 45 minutes, the Federal Camp had been searched by the BEST PEOPLE that could determine if any strange and sinister device had been left there – the very folks that owned and were familiar with the camp.

We waited for our visit with law enforcement. No one came. Then about 6 pm. General Brennan and I were summoned to the Sheriff's Command Center for a meeting with the Frederick County Sheriff. Fortunately, by then, we were able to secure the written search reports from the 1st Brigade and the Federal Artillery, and we gathered them into a folder and brought them with us for our meeting.

When we arrived, we noticed approximately 30 individuals in the command post. Representatives from the FBI, ATF, Virginia Highway Patrol, Middletown Police, and the Frederick County Sheriff were present.

The Sheriff advised us that he brought us there to develop a plan to evacuate the Federal Camp. We were told that 4 school buses had been assembled to take the Federal Troops and civilians to a local elementary school. Law enforcement was then going to inspect our camps, and until they were able to determine

that the area was safe and clear of any dangerous devices, we would not be permitted to return.

Fortunately we had our written inspection reports, and we were able to provide them to the Sheriff and advise him they were sound and reliable. We stressed that every person in the Federal Camp had registered for the event by providing proper ID and that the CCBF had the name of every person. We also were able to assure the Sheriff that we were an ARMY, that we had a chain of command, and that every person in that area was accountable to someone up that chain, and ultimately to General Brennan. We asked the Sheriff to trust the results of the search and allow us to remain in camp. The fact that 3 hours had since gone by since the pipe bomb was discovered, and that the evacuation of 1,000 individual in 4 buses would take another hour at least was not lost in our discussions with him.

After excusing himself, and having a discussion with someone at the command station, the Sheriff wisely relented. He assigned one of his Deputies to accompany General Brennan and myself on an inspection of the Federal Camp and to review the written inspection reports. If they were deemed acceptable to the Deputy, he would allow us to remain in camp.

General Brennan and I left with the Deputy and walked down the entire line of the Federal Camp. We started with US Artillery, then moved on to the Infantry Brigade camps and concluded with a visit to the Cavalry Camp. It was now completely dark. At the end of our inspection, the Deputy was appeased and we were able to report to the Sheriff that our camp was secure. The evacuation order was duly lifted.

We then turned our attention to lifting the ban on folks coming in and out of the Federal Camp. Only registered reenactors would be permitted in and out of the camp. General Brennan stayed at the North Gate to assist the Deputy Sheriff to confirm that folks attempting to come and go were registered. I stayed at the command tent to assist the Confederate Army in their attempt to

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return to their respective camps. The USV, at the request of the County Sheriff, was able to secure three licensed law enforcement/Firemen from the ranks to assist in checking ID's of all of the Confederate troops that were being permitted to return to their camps. We were stationed at the north end of State Rt. 11 near the Barbeque Restaurant where we checked a long line of cars and busses loaded with Confederate Troops heading back from the local elementary school.

Just before midnight, all of the Confederate Troops were finally back in camp and we returned to headquarters.

Observations

This was an attack on our hobby, LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY! It was a lethal attempt to harm our family and friends.

It is not known whether it was an active bomb. Most of the "reports" we have heard is that it was NOT an actual bomb. Law enforcement is understandingly reluctant to comment on that issue while it investigates this heinous crime. We may never know.

Regardless, someone spent a lot of time putting this thing together. The longstanding dispute over Confederate Flags, and the more recent assault on Confederate Monuments, is now aimed at Civil War Reenactors and their families, Blue and Gray.

We must now consider security measures at our Civil War Reenactments and Living Histories. And we will. This Hobby will not Stand Down.

And most importantly, we will not give this demented individual or individuals the satisfaction of knowing that they gained anything. They may have caused an event to be cancelled, and a lot of inconvenience, but they have only strengthened the resolve of every person present to continue with our mission of reenacting the history of our country. We do not tell political stories. Civil War Reenactors tell military history stories and there is no place for political movements inconsistent with this

respectable objective, let alone ones premised on violence.

And finally, I commend all of our friends at the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Board Members, volunteers, and especially Pat Kehoe and the Foundation President Joe D'Arizzo. You all worked your tails off to help us. Nobody should have to deal with this kind of emergency. We saw the stress and strain in your faces and yet you never took a rest until everyone was back in camp and safe. I speak for the entire USV in offering our thanks for the extraordinary efforts you exhibited in taking care of our members.

Very Respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. MARKIJOHN

Brig. General, United

*States Volunteers, 1st Brigade at Cedar Creek,
Comdg*

WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President - Jim Barnes

Vice President - John Brasuk

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

* 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.

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org - Beverly Heritage Center

WVRA.org - our website

<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrt.org/> -- W. Va.

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

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Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

EXECUTIVE MEETING is scheduled for Oct. 29 as mentioned above. ALL MEMBERS are welcome to this meeting. We will discuss 2018. We would not be faithful to ourselves, if we deny that the events of 2017 at Charlottesville and Cedar Creek will not have an effect on reenacting in the future.

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. You may read the Cedar Creek reports above. A lot of rumors were floating around cyberspace in the hours after the incident at Cedar Creek. You can see from the report above that we don't know all the facts yet. Darrell Markijohn reports that it may NOT have been an "actual bomb."

Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation reported on its website, in bold letters, in the weeks leading up to the reenactment that they (CCBF) had received a threat of violence. And according to once source, that individual had been caught.

Another thing that was evident after the incident on Facebook were assumptions that the perpetrators of this incident belonged to a certain group or was of a particular political persuasion. But we don't know who did this and there is no use stirring up false accusations.

ONE OF THE FACEBOOK posts making the rounds again this past month was the "blacks owned slaves" post. Now, this is an accepted fact. But the feeling you get from these posts is the fact that blacks owned slaves somehow mitigates the onus placed on whites for owning slaves.

A study I ready showed that in 1830 free blacks owned about 13,000 slaves in the US out of a total of just over 2 million slaves. Black planters had to use the tools available to them at the time to compete with white planters.

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.

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.

DROOP MOUNTAIN - was held this year. I am aware that some members and former members of the WVRA were present, but I have no reports other than they had a good time.

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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"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