

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2016 – Edition 11 – October

Upcoming Events

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

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

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

Clarksburg IOOF Cemetery – November 5

Other - 2016

Cedar Creek – October 14-16, 2016,

www.ccbf.us

member Sam Krafft (304-269-7658). In response to questions that I have received, this reenactment is no longer organized by its former sponsors and is now sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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 at 304-825-6103.

Treasurer's Report

Here is the report for October:

Beginning Balance - \$4158.65

Deposits - 0.00

Debits - \$22.95 Web.com

Service Charge - \$ 3.00 Huntington Bank

Ending Balance - \$4132.70

-submitted by Jim Barnes, Treasurer

NEXT MEETING

To my knowledge no meeting was held at Jackson's Mill in September. At this time, no future meetings have been scheduled.

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 (none)
- Secretary (none)
- Unit Rep 1st W. Va. (none)
- Unit Rep 25th Va. (none)
- Unit Rep 1st Va. (none)
- 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.

Bulltown

The Bulltown reenactment is scheduled this weekend (October 7-9). If you are interested contact the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Bulltown or WVRA

Elmwood/Union, West Virginia

The final weekend of August, I had the pleasure of driving into Monroe County to visit and camp in the county seat of Union to participate in a reenactment of the Union Army's visit to Union in 1864. About 10,000 Union troops under William Averell and George Crook passed through this area, using the local farms to supply the Northern troops. Averell had abandoned his raid on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad (Saltville Raid) and Crook had turned back after reaching the railroad at Dublin and Radford (Central Station in 1864), Virginia. Crook was supposed to turn north to meet Sigel, but had heard nothing from Sigel (who had been defeated at New Market). Crook's forces fought Albert Jenkins Confederates at Cloyd's Mountain as part of this raid. Both forces retreated through Union on the return north.

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I arrived at the reenactment site adjacent to a church on the north edge of Union and in a field below the Confederate memorial. The sun was bright and the weather hot and humid. I set up my tent in a field beside US Route 219, which connects Union to Lewisburg. There were a handful of tents set up, belonging to both sides. WVRA members Tim Glaser, arrived from North Carolina, had his telegraph display set up in front of his tent.

Chris Johnson's wife Sabrina was "manning" the registration tent and was very helpful in keeping us informed on schedule, etc. The rest of the evening was spent trying to stay cool and relaxing. Tim and I did stroll into downtown (only 2 or 3 blocks away) for a dinner at a pleasant local eatery. The night fire was cancelled when the artillery failed to report. (Artillery was present on Saturday). The night was lively thanks to the game traffic moving along US 219, just a few yards from our tents. Rival Greenbrier East fans passed to and from the game with James Monroe, located several miles south of Union in the center of Monroe County.

Chris Johnson kept us busy on Saturday. After breakfast at the local rescue squad, he had 3 living history scenarios schedule for our group. The first involved the union (about 8 infantry and 8 splendid horsemen from the 2nd US Cavalry, Co. A) driving the local militia (about 10) from the streets of Union. Later in the morning, we moved over to the main street through town to reenact the searching of a house (this was a decidedly Confederate town) for contraband, etc. Finally later in the scorching afternoon, we moved to Elmwood, across of 219 from camp, to provide an infantry demonstration for the small but very interested crowd, and then finished the afternoon by reenacting the search of Elmwood for traitors, deserters, contraband, material of war, etc. Cavalry and artillery performed demonstrations as well during the afternoon.

I skipped town at this point, having a Sunday obligation at home. I missed the dance that night and Rev. Glaser's church service on Sunday. As reported the crowds were small but engaged. The townspeople we met very hospitable and glad to have us there. The amenities were good (didn't try the firewood since temperatures were so high). In addition to myself, Tim Glaser and Chris Johnson, I talked with Bill Brisendine on Saturday. Bill was spectating Saturday. He said that Ken Connell was with him, but I did not get to talk with Ken.

My hat is off to Chris Johnson who did so much to organize this event. It was a good start. The heat and the proximity to the White Sulfur event the weekend prior, probably held the participation down. But Saturday, Chris kept us moving from one scenario to another, with a little down time to rest in the shade of the trees. It was a fun Saturday.

- C. L. Critchfield



Figure 1 - Chris Johnson with Confederate memorial and beautiful scenery in background



Figure 2 - Tim Glaser in our camps next to US Route 219

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Figure 3 – Elmwood, also known as the Hugh Caperton House, is a historic home located near Union, Monroe County, West Virginia. It was built in the 1830s, and is a two-story, nearly square brick dwelling with Greek Revival details. The front facade features wide limestone steps and a veranda, with second-story balcony, Chinese Chippendale railings at both levels, and four plain but huge plaster covered brick columns. The house was built by Congressman Hugh Caperton (1781–1847). It was home to Allen T. Caperton (1810–1876), the first ex-Confederate elected to the United States Senate after the American Civil War. - Wikipedia



Figure 4 - Elmwood is inspected for contraband, Secessionists in hiding and other items of value to the military effort of the Southern rebels.



Figure 5 – Brigadier General, John Echols, CSA, house in Union



Figure 6 - Action as the Union army clears the town of local militia.

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

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1st Regiment Virginia Infantry Volunteers

During the month of October 1861, 1st Virginia Regiment was formed at Camp Carlisle on Wheeling Island, Virginia. According to C. J. Rawlins' history of the regiment, "a large mass meeting of the citizens of Wheeling was held at the Atheneum, at which a guarantee was given that the families of absent soldiers would be provided for."

Colonel Joseph Thoburn

Lt. Colonel Hy. Hubbard

Major Issac Duval

1st Lt. James McElroy, Adjutant

Co. A. – Jacob Weddle

Co. B – James. C. White (organized in Brooke Co.)

Co. C – William Millhouse (Martin's Ferry, Ohio)

Co. D – James F. Donnelly (Cameron, Marshall Co.)

Co. E – William Morgan

Co. F – Edward W. Stephens

Co. G – Oscar W. Melvin (org. in Brooke Co.)

Co. H – James M. Bowers

Co. I – John B. Trimble

Co. K – Richard Radcliff

J. K. Rawlins makes mention of a company mustering in from Hancock and part of a company from Wetzel. Joshua Winter, Marshall County, joined Co. G.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

Sorry I am running a little late with this month's edition of the Trans-Allegheny Disptach. I have been busy with a writing project related to my family genealogy and refereeing high school volleyball.

Thank you to Jim Barnes for the Treasurer's Report. Thanks to Tonya Daft for information about next month's memorial service. Thank you to Chris Johnson for his contribution to this month's Dispatch. I don't believe I had any other submissions. The September issue was not posted to the website as Peter Baxter was not able to perform that duty last month.

It is time to nominate officers if the organization is continue. Please forward nominations to me. When I am aware of the next meeting, I will communicate to you.

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. Peter Baxter is out of the hospital and at home.

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](#)

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Figure 7 - 2nd US on the lawn at Elmwood interacting with spectators