

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2019 - October - Edition X

Upcoming Events

Civil War
Sponsored

None

Sanctioned

None

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

Shenandoah 1864, Oct. 4-6 (USV)

Burlington, WV Oct. 4-6 - 304-749-7657

Contact David Judy at

ranger749@yahoo.com or 304-749-757

155th Cedar Creek, Oct. 18-20, 2019 (USV)

Other Events

Meet the Generals, October 3, Clarksburg

Droop Mountain, October 11-13, 2019

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com>

Other Time Periods.

World War II

None at this time

Next Meeting

No meeting is scheduled at this time.

Gettysburg

The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee (GAC) announced last month that they did not plan to hold their annual Gettysburg reenactment in 2020. However it appears the the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is stepping into the void. Read the following announcement:

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA.org) is proud to announce they will be hosting and managing the 2020 Battle of Gettysburg reenactment. It will be staged on the hallowed ground of the GBPA's 148-acre Daniel

Lady Farm located on Hanover Road bordering the Gettysburg National Military Park at Benner Hill. The Lady farm was briefly occupied by Union troops of the 12th Corps on the first day of the battle only to be ordered to positions on Culp's Hill. Confederate forces of Edward Johnson's Division set up its artillery on the farm and organized its infantry for the assault on Culp's Hill. The house and barn became a field hospital for the wounded and dying. Later the Confederate 2nd Corps troops retreated through the farm.

The 2020 reenactment is being planned as a two-day event on July 4th and 5th weekend. Kirk Davis, the GBPA's Vice President of Operations, will manage the event. He has decades of experience as an event organizer with the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee and other major reenactments.

The GBPA is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation founded in 1959. For 60 years the GBPA has fought to preserve the Gettysburg Battlefield through land purchase, education, and advocacy. Current GBPA programs include the historic Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg Battlefield Monuments Project, Scout Camping Program on the farm, historic site tours, BSA Venture Crew 1861 Fife & Drum Corps, and Preservation Advocacy.

Treasurer's Report

August 1-31, 2019

Beginning balance \$3,074.05

Credits: \$0.00

Debits:

D. Tennant, TASAS supplies Beverly event,
Check 1221 cashed July 31, 2019

Ending Balance \$3,025.01

Submitted by Jack Rush

Insurance

From the minutes of the June meeting:

"The Certificate of Insurance was handed out to all members in attendance at the meeting. It was suggested that a PDF of the Certificate be sent to all of the members. M. Tennant made the motion that the

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

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*PDF be sent to the members with the next newsletter.
Seconded by Jim Allman. Motion Passed. J. Rush will
send the PDF to C. Critchfield."*

I sent by email, a PDF copy to all members of record who have an email address. Remember this insurance only covers members who are known to the treasurer and editor as dues paying or legacy members. There are a handful of members who have no email address. There have been some people over the past few years claiming to be members, who are not. We have some people who were long time members, who everyone assume are still members - who are not. So if you get a request from somebody for a copy of the Insurance form, be sure they are a member.

Upcoming Events

Burlington

Burlington is Oct. 5-6 on the river next to the Fire House on US Rt 50. Reenactors may encamp on Friday the 4th and stay through Sunday the 6th. Ice, porta-jons, firewood, and most food will be provided. No registration is required but notify me through e-mail at : ranger749@yahoo.com. My contact phone number is 304-749-7957 (This is the correct phone number) There will be artillery on both sides. We could use some Union troops.

David Judy

Clarksburg - Meet the Generals

Also, I received a call from Al Ford, who is working with the Clarksburg Historical Museum (located in the old Hope Gas building) about a fund raiser they are having on Thursday, October 3. They are having a Civil War "Meet the Generals" at the Robinson Grand Theater from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Lee and Grant will be there to address the crowd and they are asking for other reenactors from that time period to attend as well for atmosphere. Those reenactors attending in period correct attire will be admitted for free. I told Al that probably someone could come for that. Linda and I will try to make it. For questions, the contact person is Al Ford, 304-844-4853.

-- submitted by Jim Barnes

Camp Bartow

The WV Land Trust plans an open house celebration on **Saturday, October 5th at Camp Bartow** in Pocahontas County. The event will feature the dedication of a new walking trail & Civil War interpretation of the WVLT property opposite the historic inn "Travellers Repose." **Reenactors (both men & women) are needed for living history** to "bring the past to life." Both Union & Confederates will be featured.

No camping or shooting reenactment is planned, but reenactors can parade along the historic Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike & take part in scenarios along the new trail. If anyone has a pet role, please feel free to offer. They're looking for quality, not quantity.

Thanks for passing the word to WVRA members via newsletter, email, Facebook, etc. Any questions should be directed to: Jessica@wvlandtrust.org or WV Land Trust at 304-413-0945.

- Submitted by Hunter Lesser

Droop Mountain

(Editor's Note: from the website for the reenactment. I have had no member tell me they plan to attend.)

Reenactment At Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park, October 11-13, 2019

The reenactment is held on the actual battlefield of the 1864 Battle of Droop Mountain located at the Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. The Park is located on US 219 about 29 miles North of I-64 and is several miles South of the Town of Hillsboro, WV at the top of Droop Mountain.

There will be a skirmish at 2:30 on Saturday afternoon and the reenactment of the Battle of Droop Mountain will be held at 1:30 pm on Sunday. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR SPECTATORS.**

The event in 2019 will include a pulled pork dinner for reenactors at 6 pm on Saturday to be served at Registration.

The Sugar Run Band will perform Civil War Era music at a Military Style dance which is also open

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

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2019 - October - Edition X

to the public from 7 pm to 9:30 pm on Saturday followed by a 10 pm night firing of the cannons.

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-droop-mountain>

Martins Ferry

Received this summer:

We are currently planning the 2019 Martins Ferry Christmas Parade to be held Friday, November 29, 2019. We would love to have the West Virginia Reenactors be a part. Please advise. If you have any questions and/or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. Grove Spencer, Christmas Parade Planner, 430 1/2 North Zane Highway, Martins Ferry, Ohio, 43935

Civil War Roundtables

The Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable has resumed its schedule of speakers. They meet the second Tuesday of September - November and January - May at Eat'n Park at the Bridgeport Exit(119) of I-79 at 7 pm. October's presentation is "*Boys, give them rocks*" about the Confederate defense at Second Manassas. Note - that this October presentation is at the Waldomere on Pike Street downtown Clarksburg.

The Mason-Dixon Roundtable (Morgantown) has not sent out any announcements yet. Their website is listed below. I understand that they had some sort of meeting in Sept. They usually meet the third Tuesday of the month.

Event Reviews

Fort Henry Days 2019

The Fort Henry Days celebration is held every Labor Day weekend at Oglebay Park near Wheeling, WV. Built in June 1774, Fort Henry was not erected by any specific plan or design, but was one of a number of similar forts built to protect settlers on the frontier in the middle years of the 1770s. The outbreak of the [Shawnee War](#), or [Lord Dunmore's War](#), was the immediate reason for its construction.

[Ebenezer Zane](#) and John Caldwell began the fort, which was completed with the help of Captain William Crawford, Colonel [Angus McDonald](#) and 400 militia and regulars from Fort Pitt. A letter

preserved in the Pennsylvania Archives shows that Dunmore's agent in the area, John Connolly, told Crawford "to proceed to Wheeling and complete the fort."

The fort was subject to two major sieges, two notable feats ([McColloch's Leap](#) in 1777 and [Betty Zane's](#) trek through the battle in 1782) and other skirmishes.



Figure 1 Linda and Jim Barnes. It is good to see Linda out and hopefully doing better.

The reenactment of the 1782 attack on the fort was the focus of this year's event. The first year that we attended, I was a Tory assisting the Indians and got to take a pot shot at Betty Zane when she ran back to the fort from the blockhouse with the gunpowder. (I must have missed. She made it.) The last two years, I have helped defend the fort. This year the natives were assisted by British rangers in green uniforms which was a nice touch. I don't know how they recruit their Bettys, but this one was as fast as the one two years ago. I imagine she is on a track team somewhere.

This is a nice, laid-back colonial-era event with a good selection of sutlers selling 18th century goods. There were also dancers, period musicians, historians discussing various subjects related to the fort, and numerous activities for the tourist set among the different living history camps. The Montgolfier brothers must have been around somewhere as there was a hot-air balloon on the grounds.

Jim Barnes

other time periods

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2019 - October - Edition X

BLAIR MOUNTAIN: PLANNING MEETING FOR THE BATTLE OF BLAIR MOUNTAIN CENTENNIAL TO BE HELD IN WELCH, WV ON NOV. 2ND

Plans to commemorate West Virginia labor history are developing only steps away from the historic shooting of Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers on McDowell County's Courthouse Steps

The West Virginia Mine Wars Museum and a variety of local, state, regional, and national partners are spearheading a campaign to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Blair Mountain, a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Battle of Blair Mountain in September 1921 was a five-day battle and the culmination of two decades of conflict and violent unrest for labor and civil rights in the coalfields of southern West Virginia.

The next wave of organizing for the Centennial Project will take place in McDowell County, within sight of the courthouse steps where Chief of Police Sid Hatfield and his companion Ed Chambers were gunned down by operatives of the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency--an event that further stirred outrage among miners whose fundamental and civil rights were being suppressed.

On November 2, 2019, the Mine Wars Museum and partners will host a collaborative session to discuss events, create a shared vision, and solidify plans for the Battle of Blair Mountain Centennial set for Labor Day Weekend, 2021. This meeting is part of a bold effort to coordinate West Virginia southern coalfield counties to organize their collective work into one weekend of interpretive and educational activities.

The Battle of Blair Mountain Centennial is as grassroots as the labor history it aims to commemorate. Teachers, community leaders, historians, museum staff, and other members of the public are invited to make their mark on the planning process. Only by banding together as courageous coal miners did in 1921 can we hope to make an impact worthy of this unique American legacy. Previous planning sessions have already generated ideas and momentum for Centennial events, from informative game nights to digital walking tours through Clio. Attendees are encouraged to bring Centennial ideas to add to our growing timeline of 2021 Labor Day Weekend events, to be released at the end of this year.

Those interested are encouraged to RSVP by contacting the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum Director Kenzie New at 304-923-4027, visiting www.blair100.com, or by emailing wvminewarismuseum@gmail.com. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

The November 2 gathering will be the final meeting of 2019 for the Centennial Project. 2020 meeting dates have not been released.

When: November 2, 1:00-5:00pm

Where: Jack Caffrey Cultural and Arts Center, 143 Wyoming Street, Welch, WV 24801

What: Planning Meeting for Battle of Blair Mountain Centennial

Who: West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, National Coal Heritage Authority, The Battle of Homestead Foundation, United Mine Workers of America, Clio, will host the event. All members of the public are invited to attend.

- Submitted by Jim Barnes

Other Features For Sale

Tim Koch (or Cook?) a reenactor in the Morgantown area is selling a large group of Civil War reenacting equipment from weapons to clothing. The list I received is too long to type here and the list is over a month old by now. I imagine most of his weapons are sold by now. For more information call Tim at 304-906-552.

I am selling my Stonewall Jackson impression uniform based on the uniform given to Stonewall by Jeb Stuart. Frock coat, pants, kepi and riding boots. ccritch608@yahoo.com or text me at 304-476-2632.

-- Chuck Critchfield

Tonya Daft was contacted by Robert Adams (304-599-0064). He apparently has 20th Century reenacting items for sale. Jim Barnes is trying to contact him. Nobody in the organization seems to have any knowledge of him.

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"They Said It (or didn't)"

"Never interfere with the enemy when he is in the process of destroying himself."

-- Napoleon

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

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"Historians customarily write about past events as if each one occurred in isolation, neatly encapsulated in a sealed container, or chapter, which keeps it from being mixed up with other events in their own containers. This practice is based on a sound assumption that both the writer and the reader can best do one thing at a time. The alternative would be to make history as chaotic as a dictionary of dates. Yet a realist will always want to remember that this neat historical order is only a convenient fiction, and sometimes a deceptive one, and that diverse events constantly impinge upon and modify one another."

-- David Potter

"At the North you overvalue the intellect. At the South we rely upon character. And if ever there should be a collision that shall test the strength of the two sections, you will find that character is stronger than intellect, and will carry the day."

-- John Calhoun

"Gentlemen can always fight better than rabble."
-- Margaret Mitchell characters in Gone With the Wind.

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org
Beverly Heritage Center -
www.beverlyheritagecenter.org
Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable
www.wvmasondixoncwrt.org/

WVRA Officers 2019

Jim Barnes - President
Ken Connell - Vice President
Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer
Diane Tennant - Unit Rep (TASAS)
Mark Tennant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)
Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)
Unit Rep (artillery) - TBD
Webmaster - Peter Baxter
Editor - Chuck Critchfield

ATTENTION - 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 liability insurance policy purchased by the WVRA, you must be a member of record.

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.

As newsletter editor, I encourage submissions from members or readers, that are related to American history. I retain the right as editor to make a final decision on the content of this publication. Abusive or political submissions will not be published.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU to Peter Baxter, Jim Barnes and Jack Rush.

PERSONALS - Keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers. It was nice to see Hunter Lesser featured in a recent edition of GOLDEN SEAL magazine.

PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL TO MY ADDRESS and not to the PO BOX in Buckhannon. We have received some announcements recently at the PO Box which we do not inspect on a regular basis.

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2019 - September - Edition IX

This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 per year fee.

The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA.

WVRA website - wvra.org

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"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world" - Robert Penn Warren