

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2017- Edition 9 - Rich Mountain

Upcoming Civil War Events Sponsored Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Camp Bartow/Travelers Repose - August 12
War Comes to Monroe County - Union, W.
Va., August 25-27

Cedar Creek - October 6-8 USV Sanctioned
Other - 2017

Jackson's Mill - Labor Day Weekend

Droop Mountain - October 14 & 15

Other Time Periods

None at this time

Next Meeting

No meeting is scheduled at this time. Stay tuned

Beverly Hertigate Days: Centuries of History & Rich Mountain Reenactment

Pleasant weather; pleasant location and pleasant friends describes the Rich Mountain reenactment portion of the this event.

This year, because of the small pre-registration, we set up camp in the Field of Fire. Which put us in close proximity to the bathrooms, water, and parking. Friday was a nice night, spent talking with Ralph and Jan McCready, Kevin Skaggs, Ross Wetherell and his hephew, Tim Glaser, Rich Byrnd and Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant. Saturday, we hung around camp and talked to the few spectators 15-20 who wandered over for living history. We left the subject of discussion to the spectators. Saturday, we had no Confederates show up except Captain Jeff Goff, so the 8 or 9 Federals did a demonstration for the 20 or so spectators and it turned out great. We were close to the crowd and were able to interact with spectators who had a number of questions. Dinner was sent over from Beverly and we gathered under the shelter for an intimate little supper graced by the arrival of Diane Tennant. Thanks to Jan for her work in getting things warmed up.

Sunday, we worked hard to get 4 young folks up to speed and ready for the reenactment. I think three were AmeriCorps volunteers. Four Confederates appeared for the 2 pm battle and the Federal force

outnumbered them 2 to 1. We put on a little show for the crowd, once again using the old Federal camping area closer Camp Garnett's entrenchments.



Figure 1 - It was good to see Bill Brisendine (recently retired), Mark Tennant, Jeff Goff and Ed ChapdeLaine

Like all West Virginia reenactments of this year, this was a small event. I can't speak for the Beverly Living History as I was required to stay close to camp as the official site 'manager.' So I request that anyone who was in Beverly, please feel free to send a review of the proceedings in town.



Figure 2 - The armies at Rich Mountain after the reenactment

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp Bartow

The West Virginia Land Trust will host a celebration and tour of their recently acquired property at Camp Bartow (Bartow, W. Va.) on August 12.

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The WVRA has been invited to attend and participate. Artillery is welcomed and early war impressions are encouraged.

As of press time, no further details were available.

Droop Mountain

This email was sent in reply to Jim Barnes' efforts to find out what was happening about Droop.

"Jim, we will be putting the event on Oct. 14 & 15. Since we only learned that the WV Reenactors Assn was not going to do it this year we did not want to see the event disappear so will do it this year without much advanced planning (We had volunteered 2 years ago to assist them this year and take over the event after that.)"

Not sure if there will be a dance or meal this year, but we will have the event. Our advanced planning will be for next year (2018), the 155th anniversary of the battle. We will try and hold it close to the actual battle anniversary (November 6th, 2018. Not sure yet if it will be the weekend before or the weekend after since we just learned that a group of campaigners have scheduled an event celebrating the Union advance on Droop for the first weekend in November, 2018. Maybe we can join forces with them if I can figure how to contact them.

We should have a good artillery showing this year. Not sure about infantry since it the same weekend as Cedar Creek this year." - Tim Walker of Bryan's Battery.

Editor's note - see the Editor's Corner

Union

Chris Johnson, former WVRA member, is once again putting on "War Comes to Union!" a living history event in the town of Union, way down in Monroe County August 25-27. Last year, and this year, infantry reenactors will have 3 scenarios and a demonstration to present to the public. Chris kept us hopping last year, with the interesting scenarios. Please contact Chris at 304-772-4712 or wvaca@hughes.net.

Jackson's Mill

Jackson's Mill is schedule for Labor Day weekend but I have no further information.

Bulltown

I have no information on Bulltown.

Dry Creek

One rumor heard at Rich Mountain says Dry Creek has been canceled. Yet I see Facebook posts saying it is not. Anyone interested should contact the 26th Virginia.

Treasurer's Report

5/1/17 to 5/31/17

Beginning Balance:	\$4,209.51
Credits (memberships):	\$0.00
Debits:	
Web.com (3/03)	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$4,209.51

Submitted J. Rush

7/17/17

Jack Rush reports that the web mysterious web hosting site has stopped taking automatic withdrawals from our checking account. Peter Baxter and Jack are investigating.

History

"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 some sometimes a deceptive one, and that the diverse events constantly impinge upon and modify one another.

David M. Potter from "The Impending Crisis - America Before the Civil War 1848-1861"

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 Tennant
25th Va. Rep - Tim Glaser
1st Va. Cavalry - John Brasuk
Artillery - Stormy Brasuk
TASAS - Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

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Figure 3 Kevin Skaggs and his new set of catridge tearers with Jay Allman

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org – Beverly Heritage Center

WVRA.org – our website

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

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

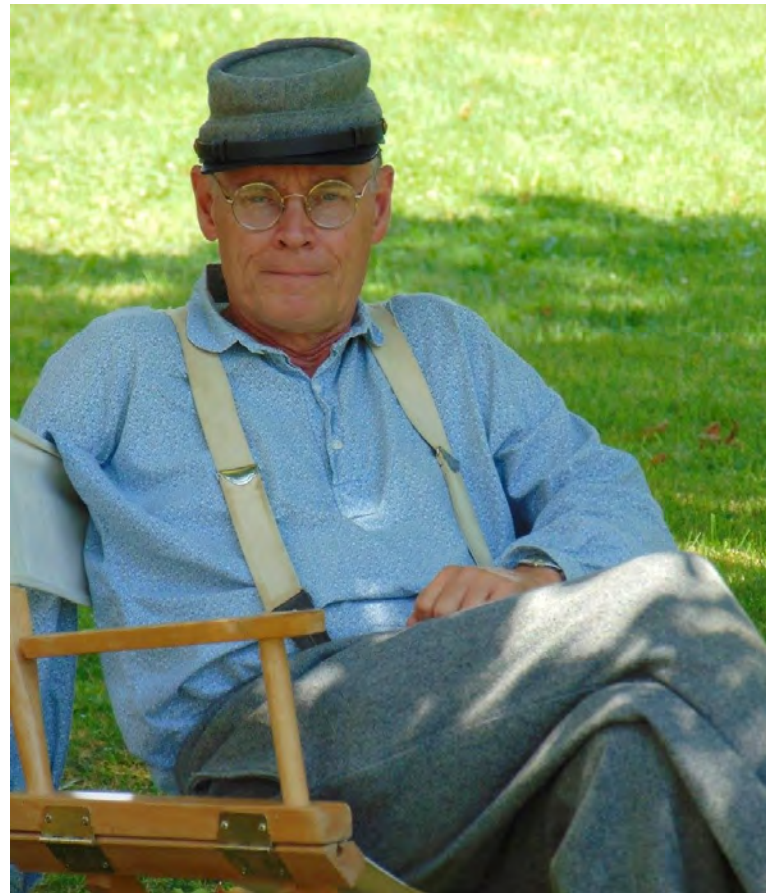


Figure 5 - John Webb talks to the public in Beverly



Figure 4 - Jim Barnes helps honor those who gave their life at Rich Mountain by reading their names at the little ceremony before the battle.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

PERSONALS – It is good to see Ed ChapdeLaine at Rich Mountain/Beverly Heritage event. He was walking on a cane and still shopping for a truck to load his gear into for travel to events. However, he was up and running - albeit at a slower pace. Also Bill Brisendine was back from his trip out west, where he visited many national landmarks including Mount Rushmore and the famous Roy Shreve in Idaho. We express our condolences to Bill, who lost his sister shortly after his return. Your editor has entered physical therapy for his injured right foot and may be out of action for 2 months.

RICH/BEVERLY - Some discussion was held informally as to the future of the Rich reenactment. The attendance has been dwindling for years as the participants in the hobby have been doing so. Add to that, the number of reenactments in West Virginia continues to grow at a time when just maybe, we ought to shrinking the hobby to where it was 30

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years ago. At that time there were a few reenactments that were available but they attracted larger numbers.

DROOP - As you can see above Bryan's Battery is moving ahead with a Droop reenactment. We wholeheartedly concur with Bryan's Battery's efforts to keep that wonderful event alive. Unfortunately the event is the same weekend as Cedar Creek and because the fate of the event has been so long in limbo, some reenactors will not be there that might have otherwise. We are also hearing rumors that the battlefield markers and facilities are suffering from vandalism. Which is something we could help with in the future. Apparently the superintendent has other parks to worry about and is not present at Droop a lot.

Some mention was made of returning Droop (in the future) to actual date of the battle -- early November. Those who attended the first Droops remember the early November weather being the reason we switched to October.

Finally in response to Mr. Walker's letter, it was the understanding of the WVRA that Bryan's Battery was taking over the event and we would provide help. Bryan's obviously thought otherwise as stated in Walker's letter. When this misunderstanding became known in the spring, the WVRA offered to assist by paying for the meal and helping with the military organization. I will add that Mr. Walker has been wrestling with a serious health issue.

NRA – the executive committee is investigating the possibility of insuring the entire group under a policy from the NRA. Tim Glaser has volunteered to lead this project.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch. Thank you to Sherri Goff for the Philippi pictures. Thank you to Mark Tennant for the review of Grafton. Thank you to the person who sent the article on Camp Bartow/Travelers' Repose. It was pretty much like the article in last month's Dispatch, so I did not publish. Thank you to the Donegans for the pictures.

TRIVIA QUESTION – Congratulations to Mark Tennant who successfully answered the TRIVIA QUESTIONS in the last Dispatch. I once heard Gary Gallagher, famous Civil War historian say that every student of the Civil War, no every student period, should know the five components of the

Compromise of 1850. After all the Compromise plays a big role in the coming of the Civil War. Can you name them? Answer? 1) California admitted as a free state (no slavery) 2) The remaining territories won in the Mexican war would use popular sovereignty to decide the slavery issue in the future 3) Texas would drop it's claim to part of New Mexico and the Federal government would assume responsibility for Texas' 10 million dollar dept 4) Trading of slaves is abolished in Washington, DC 5) Congress strengthens the fugitive slave act. A question for next time? Answer, "In which battle did John Brown fight for the Confederacy and Jefferson Davis for the Union?" There were a number where Union General Jefferson C. Davis commanded troops in blue while Major General John Calvin Brown commanded opposing Confederate troops for the Army of Tennessee

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.

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

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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