

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2019 - September - Edition IX

## 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.

## Message from the Editor

I apologize for this issue being late and frankly brief. Since the passing of my father just before the Beverly event, I have not been able to invest the amount of time in the Dispatch, that I have in the past.

## Gettysburg

Editor's Note: I have heard reports through the grapevine that not too many reenactors attended.

The following statement was issued by the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee.

*The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee (GAC) would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to all the reenactors, visitors and local staff that have participated in the Annual Gettysburg Civil War Battle Reenactments for the past 25 years; making those dusty old history books come alive. We are honored to have hosted over 100,000 reenactors, 500,000 visitors, and provided well over 1000 community staff positions. GAC has give hundreds of thousands of dollars to many worthy community organizations and supported our community economically. At this time, GAC does not anticipate organizing or hosting a 157th Reenactment. Please refer to Destination Gettysburg's Event Schedule for a wide array of historical, cultural and entertaining events in the Gettysburg and Adams County area throughout the year.*

## 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 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."*

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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](mailto: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](mailto:Jessica@wvlandtrust.org) or WV Land Trust at 304-413-0945.

- Submitted by Hunter Lesser

### 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

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October presentation is at the Waldomore on Pike Street downtown Clarksburg.

The Mason-Dixon Roundtable (Morgantown) has not sent out any announcements yet. Their website is listed below.

## Event Reviews

### D-Day

The reenactment of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy in 1944, was held on the shores of Lake Erie, at Conneaut, Ohio Township Park on the weekend of August 16-17. As this was the 75<sup>th</sup> year, the occasion was especially significant. Several WVRA members were in attendance, including Bill Burruss on the American side and Jim and Linda Barnes, Ron and Debbie Wenig and Aaron Bosnic on the German side.

There were several battles each day, representing various actions during the invasion. These involved airborne, infantry, artillery and armored units from the German, American, British and French Resistance forces. The Allied Air Forces were also represented as USAAF planes continued to buzz the beach and surrounding area.



Figure 1 WVRA Members Jim and Linda Barnes and Debbie and Ron Wenig

There were special receptions and activities for veterans and an official of the French government presented the WWII vets in attendance with medals for their service in freeing his country.

There were extensive camps open to the public, rides on WWII Higgins boats, rides in a C-47 Dakota (which was a D-Day veteran) and quite a few homefront displays.

Overall, it was a very large event, well-run and well-attended by the public. Parking was somewhat of an issue, but shuttles ran throughout the day. There was a lot to see and hear.

-- 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

## American Battlefield Trust Declares Preservation Emergency

The ABT is setting its sights on a preservation problem that does not involve land -- it is a crisis in history education. The ABT cites a number of statistics that show students today lack a proficient level of history knowledge. Colleges are requiring less American history to graduate. As the ABT writes we could "go on and on, but the message is clear: This is an alarm

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bell in the night. We are in imminent danger of losing our history...losing our country...and losing our future." The ABT goes on to emphasize that they don't blame the teachers. The increased emphasize on STEM classes, the increased non-education duties and need to be social workers all takes away from the time to teach.

ABT is seeking donations to help get students out of the classrooms and onto the battlefields; fund teacher institutes; traveling trunk programs, Generations programs; free Civil War curriculum; video presentations, smartphone apps and battle maps.

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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

*"Well, don't worry about it."*  
-- Lt. Kermit Tyler, to the Opana radar station on early on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when told about the large flight of unidentified planes approaching Oahu.

*Then out spake brave Horatius;  
The Captain of the Gate:  
"To every man upon this earth  
Death cometh soon or late.  
And how can man die better  
Then facing fearful odds,  
For the ashes of his fathers,  
And the temples of his Gods...."*

Horatius by Thomas Babington Macauley.

*"It seems to be settled that a force of at least 40,000 rebels has crossed the Potomac and taken position at Frederick, in Maryland, about sixty miles west of Baltimore, and about forty north from Washington. They have been permitted by the government to ccorsss without resistance. Telegraphic reports from the capital would almost lead us to believe that they had been invited there. - for we are assured that the Government is perfectly satisfied with their position, and that none of them will ever return. We hope this may*

*prove to be true; - but we would rather see it proved than give full credence to it in advance. As we remarked yesterday, we have too many of these official assurances already on hand unredeemed, to be especially eager for more.....*  
New York Times, Sept. 9, 1862

## Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)  
Beverly Heritage Center -  
[www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)  
Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable  
[www.wvmasondixoncwrt.org/](http://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

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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. Thank you to David Judy, Jason Studenwalt, Hunter Lesser, Mark Tennant, Jim Barnes for their contributions to this edition of the *Dispatch*

PERSONALS - We were very sorry to hear about Linda Barnes' injuries and subsequent surgery. Please keep Linda in your thoughts and prayers. Jim and Linda send their regrets as they have had to suspend reenacting activities for the present time. But it sounds like Jim hopes to resume in the fall. Please keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers. Thank you to all members who passed on condolences to me after the death of my father. I owe my interest in history to my father.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee that they do not plan to have a reenactment in 2020 just demonstrates the declining popularity of our hobby. It was reported to me that less than 1,000 reenactors participated in the 2019 reenactment. I have been in this hobby long enough to remember the days when there was no "big" Gettysburg reenactment - and also remember when there were three competing reenactments.

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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](http://wvra.org)

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