

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2016 – Edition 10 – September

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

Elmwood Manor – Union, West Virginia, August 26-28, 2016, contact Chris Johnson at 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

Other - 2016

Jackson's Mill – September 2-4, 2016

Sidney, Ohio – Sept. 16-18, 2016 (suggested by the USV)

Cedar Creek – October 14-16, 2016,
www.ccbf.us

campaigns of the Army of the Potomac through 1862 and as commander of the 2nd Division “won the first claimed victory of the Federal horse over Confederates at Kelly’s Ford, Virginia, in March of 1863 – an action said to have been the turning point of cavalry fighting in the Eastern theater.” After the Chancellorsville campaign he was removed from command in the Army of the Potomac’s Cavalry Corps.



Figure 1 - William Woods Averell

Averell was transferred to the Department of West Virginia and in November 1863, he conducted what is called Averell's West Virginia Raid against the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. He received a brevet promotion to lieutenant colonel in the regular army after leading the Federal troops to victory at Droop Mountain on November 6, 1863, and to colonel for actions at Salem, Virginia on December 15, 1863. In the spring of 1864, he led another cavalry raid toward Saltville but was stopped at Cove Gap. He later commanded a cavalry division under Maj. Gen. David Hunter’s failed raid on Lynchburg. He fought under Phil Sheridan in the Valley until being relieved after the Federal victory at Fisher’s Hill, for reasons similar to his relief after Chancellorsville.

- From various sources

NEXT MEETING

Jackson’s Mill event, Saturday, September 3. More details as when they become available. Check Facebook page.

CORRECTION

My apologies for misspelling Major General William Woods Averell’s name in the last issue. I had been reading this summer of Earl Averill (baseball fans will know about Earl).

According to *Generals in Blue* by Ezra J. Warren, Averell was a native New Yorker who graduated from West Point in the mid 1850’s. After garrison duty, he spent two years “service against the southwestern Indians.” Severly wounded during that service, he recuperated until the outbreak of the Civil War.

After serving as an adjutant to Andrew Porter, he was commissioned Colonel of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry. He served in all of the

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Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$4,260.55
Debits: 7/20 50.00 Flood Donation
7/15 3.00 Bank Service Charge
7/25 22.95 Web Com

Total: 72.95
Credits: None
Ending Balance: \$4,184.60

- Submitted by Jim Barnes

Jackson's Mill Event

Jason Studenwalt has posted the following on the Conference of West Virginia Reenactors page on Facebook: battles are scheduled for 11 am and 3 pm on Saturday, September 3 and also on Sunday September 4. Camping is behind the church entrance near the Mary Conrad Cabin. Participants may arrive all day on Friday, September 2. But the gate will close on Saturday morning. There will be parking for day trippers. Jason will post more information as it becomes available.

Flood Donation

The WVRA made an initial donation of \$50 to flood relief efforts in Southern West Virginia after the June floods of this year. WVRA member Bill Brisendine's hometown of Clendenin, West Virginia was hit very hard by the flash flooding. I am sure many of you saw pictures on Facebook from Bill and others of the massive devastation in Bill's Kanawha County hometown. Also Tim Boggs from White Sulphur Springs posted pictures of the massive flooding in Greenbrier County.

We received the following form the West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WV VOAD):

Dear WV Reenactors Association

Thank you for your generous donation to WV VOAD. Your contribution will support long-term flood recovery for individuals and families, and help rebuild the communities that experienced the devastation of West Virginia's 2016 summer floods. Your gift is life-changing.

Thank you

Jenny Gannaway

Chair, WV VOAD Board of Directors.

West Virginia Soldiers and Sailors Monument

In 1883, when Wheeling was capital of West Virginia, a monument was erected dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of United States who died in the Civil War. The Soldiers Aid Society of Wheeling is credited with the project.

Originally placed at the former Wheeling City-County building downtown, it was moved in 1926 when the building was demolished to the Leatherwood Cloverleaf – but was never assembled due to controversy over the location. In 1956 it was moved to the Linsly School and erected there. Two years later it was moved to Wheeling Park.

Atop a hill in a remote part of Wheeling Park the monument has been vandalized and basically out of sight. According to an article in the State Journal (W. Va. Chamber of Commerce publication) when it was moved the movers switched the soldier and the sailor to the wrong side of the statue. Also each is missing part of a boot and the soldier lost his gun. The final insult came when Lady Liberty at the peak of the memorial, lost her sword.

After 58 years, there is support to move the wayward memorial back to town, at the Independence Hall. A drive is underway to raise the \$75,000 needed to move the 44-ton monument (The Intelligencer says 25 tons) and restore the missing parts. 304-238-1300.

- From various internet sources

Morgantown Teacher Honored by Civil War Trust

A WVU alumnus received a national award for his work as a high school social studies teacher. It took a twist in professions for Phil Caskey to discover his new passion.

A three-time WVU degree holder and current University High School social studies educator, Caskey was named the 2016 Civil War Trust National Teacher of the Year. He was honored in July at the Trust's Summer Teacher's Institute, in Richmond, Va.

Caskey earned his bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations in 1999 and master's in sport management in 2001, both from WVU. He began his career with the WVU athletics department as an assistant sports information director. In fall

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2007, former Sport Management Professor Dallas Branch invited Caskey to teach a sport management class analyzing sports publicity and public relations.

A 21-year Morgantown resident, Caskey recently completed his third year as a social studies educator at UHS, and his third overall in secondary education, where he teaches the subjects of American Civil War Studies, Civics and Advanced Placement Research. His Civil War studies class has counted nearly 100 students in the past two years.

He created the course from scratch prior to the 2014-'15 school year. Many of his lessons involve historical simulations, cross curricular ventures, primary and secondary source analyses, after-action reports and field trips.

The Civil War Trust is the largest and most effective nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. Although primarily focused on the protection of Civil War battlefields, the trust also seeks to save the battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. Through educational programs, and heritage tourism initiatives, the Trust seeks to inform the public about the vital role these battlefields played in determining the course of the nation's history.

Information submitted by Mark Tennant. Information obtained for the Morgantown area Civil War Roundtable. I assume it is a press release.



West Virginia Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Wheeling Park.

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

“Immediately after the term of service of the three months’ men, recruiting for the three years’ regiment began in Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties, and among the friends of the Union cause in Martin’s Ferry (Ohio)...” wrote C. J. Rawlings in his “History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry. The original 1st, enrolled for 90 days only had returned to Wheeling to muster out and now the former surgeon of the 90-day regiment, Dr. Joseph Thoburn, received his appointment as Colonel of the 3-year regiment.

Before the three-year regiment was organized Rawlings reports that Companies A, B, E and K of the 90-day volunteers, “under their former officers,” and a couple companies of the 6th Virginia (Loyal) were called out in response to an alarm and sent towards Fairmont. This force was charged with protecting the “fine railroad bridge” at Fairmont.

Meanwhile “great activity was displayed in enrolling men” for the three-year regiment. Soon two companies from Brooke County were organized for the First Regiment. One from Martin’s Ferry, Ohio and one from Cameron in Marshall County followed. A quartermaster’s depot was established in Wheeling to fill the equipment needs of the 1st, 2nd, and 6th forming at Camp Carlisle. On the 26th Captain Weddle’s Company A had filled its ranks. In early October Hancock County submitted a company followed by a company from Wetzel County.

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Note – many members of the 1st have copies of the Civil War Letters and Diary of Jshua Winters on Company G. He mustered into service on October 30. His diary and letters begin several weeks thereafter.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

I neglected to thank member Peter Baxter last issue. Peter has been very helpful with the publication of the Dispatch. Thank you to Mark Tennant for information for two articles in the this month's Dispatch. Thanks to Jack and Tonya Daft for their efforts around the Averell film in Fairmont.

POLITICS – the 1st West Virginia came to a realization years ago that politics should not be discussed around the campfire (or probably anywhere else for that matter) since the group had a surprisingly wide range of political opinions at that time (early 90's). The 155th Bull Run reenactment only emphasized the wisdom of that realization. Too much political talk.

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. I talked with WVRA member JR Moore who is interested in selling his reenacting gear. His health has not been great, but he and Debbie hope to get out to see us at a reenactment in the future. While at Ruby Hospital later in the month, I ran into Debbie. JR was hospitalized at the time.

My apologies to the WVRA members I told that I would be at the showing of the Averell's Raiders film. I attended a funeral in South Carolina that day for a friend that I had grown up with in Fairmont. I spent 22 hours on the road in a 48-hour period to get there and get back. I did speak with Jack Daft and he gave the event a favorable review, although it was very hot and attendance was light. He mentioned that some spectators arrived by boat on the Monongahela.

Here is my first reminder. We need to nominate new officers for the 2017 season. The term of office for our current officers (listed elsewhere in the Dispatch) ends on December 31. We need to give thought to the future of this organization as the interest in active reenacting continues to diminish and the interest in living history increases.

Go to you tube and type in "civil war lectures" in the search space. There are a large number of interesting talks by some of the top Civil War historians. I have finished a series of lectures by Gary Gallagher about Gettysburg. He is an interesting speaker.

I have been told that the Carnifex Ferry reenactment in September is not a campaign/hard core/immersion event this year.

The rumor mill says Mike Smith has retired from Droop Mountain State Park. I have not verified that. Also in the rumor mill, a 2017 immersion event is being planned somewhere adjacent to the state park.

In the next issue of the Dispatch, I will report on the event at Union, West Virginia.

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](#)

Chuck Critchfield – editor

608 Skyview Drive

Clarksburg, WV 26301

Ccritch608@yahoo.com