

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
April 2024 – Edition CLXIV

Next Meeting

The next Scheduled meeting is at Beverly Heritage Days, July 20 at 4 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar. Addendum, January 2022. I discussed this issue with the insurance expert of the USV and he agrees that this is a gray area. There is some question whether the liability insurance would cover WVRA members only at sanctioned WVRA events or all events. He further agreed that publishing events in the newsletter may help to make them "official."

Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

All events are subject to change of date and cancellation.

APRIL

12-14 **Monterey Pass Battlefield**, Re-enactment of the Union Cavalry Fight Waynesboro Pa. **
26-28 **Buchanan**, Virginia @@

MAY

10 – 12, ?? Date is still questionable
Martinsburg Round House, Martinsburg WV**
17-19 **Fort Loudoun** Military Time Line. Fort Loudon Pa. **
18-19 **Daniel Lady Farm** event in Gettysburg @@

JUNE

1 –2 Battle of **Philippi**, (Philippi Races)**
7-9 **Old Bedford Village**, Bedford Pa**
21-23 ? **Canaan Valley State Park**, Resort,** Davis WV 12-15 Union troops are needed.

JULY

5-7 **Gettysburg 161st Anniversary** at the Daniel Lady Farm -Gettysburg Pa. **
12-14 Fight at **Funkstown** Md. **
20 Beverly Heritage Days

AUGUST

16-18 **Fort Mulligan Day** weekend (2024) Petersburg WV **

SEPTEMBER

??? **Monterey Pass Battlefield** Living History, Waynesboro Pa. (Washington Township)**
22 –24 **Hardy County WV Heritage Weekend**. Lost River State Park, Mathias WV or/and Reenactment Moorefield WV City Park.**

OCTOBER

11-13 **Droop Mountain Battlefield**, Re-enactment Droop Mountain Battlefield WV**
18– 20 **160th Cedar Creek**, Middletown Va**
24 – **Moorefield Middle School** @@

NOVEMBER

18-24 **Remembrance Week** with Saturday, Parade - Gettysburg Pa.@@

DECEMBER

7 – 8 **Harper's Ferry** WV Christmas.**

**** events above were submitted by Rick Byrd. Rick advises that more information can be found at the following: <http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>**

@@ events submitted by David Judy – ranger749@yahoo.com

Minutes

WVRA Annual Meeting March 24th 2024
The home of Art and Pam Dodds

Meeting was officiated by then Vice President Art Dodds. The Meeting was called to order at 3 PM. An introduction of those present were made with 10 members and 1 guest present for the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were published in a past newsletter so reading them, so a motion was made,

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seconded, and approved unanimously to accept them as they were published in the newsletter.

The treasurer's report given by Rick Byrd of \$1,856.50 with one expense to Chuck Critchfield for \$75.18 for postage and printing and mailing of the newsletter to present members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report and it was accepted by all those present.

The election of Association officers was conducted. Art opened the floor to nominations for each of the five positions. No further nominations were received and Chuck moved and Dave Judy seconded that the slate of officers be approved by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously. Art Dodds as President, John Arnold as Vice President, Rick Byrd as Sec/ Treasurer, Chuck as Newsletter Editor and Tim Glaser as webmaster. The number of attendees being so few, no unit meetings were held. Art canvassed the members of each unit that were present. When combined with the absentee ballots the following were elected without opposition. The 1st WV Inf Representative is Chuck Critchfield, 25th Va. Infantry Representative is Bill Brisendine, the Artillery Representative is David Judy and the Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society is Pam Dodds. This is now our 2024– 2025 Executive Board and Unit Representatives.

It was bought before the members to increase the dues or to leave them as is. A motion was made by Rick Byrd to raise the dues by \$10.00. With much debate the motion was voted unanimously down. WVRA will continue with dues at present being individual \$15 and family at \$25.00. David Judy made a motion to table the unit's funds until a later date and was seconded by John Arnold. The motion was passed.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the treasurer to proceed with paying for the liability insurance. With much debate whether to keep the insurance, the motion passed by a majority of those present to keep the insurance and so the treasurer will write out a check for \$743.16 to the WVRA insurer and mail it out this week (25th -29th)

David Judy brought up a listing of events that the WVRA Artillery will be participating in. The listing will be posted in the upcoming newsletter.

John Arnold brought up about having a position of a Quartermaster created to carry supplies for

perspective new re-enactors. Rick Byrd made a motion and it was seconded, to make it an appointed position by the Executive Board. The position will all depend a master plan that John will create and bring before the Executive Board, then will be consider at a later date. The motion passed. Also, a motion was made to sponsor Beverly Heritage Days in 2024. There was discussion about what constituted a sponsored event and what constituted a sanctioned event. After some debate the motion was passed by majority vote. A ballot to vote on sponsoring Beverly will be included in the next newsletter. *(The following was added by the Editor.) There was a discussion on the sharing of contact information. In the past there has been some protest when the contact information of all members was published in the newsletter. Therefore, that practice was stopped over 10 years past. However, contact information will be willingly shared with officers or unit reps in order to conduct the regular business of the WVRA. It was decided to have the next meeting at Beverly on July 20th at 4 PM. After a motion made by Rick and seconded by Chuck. Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Chuck. All voted in favor and meeting came to an end at 4:40 PM.*

-Submitted by Rick Byrd,
Secretary/Treasurer

EDITOR'S NOTE – If you have any revisions to suggest to the minutes, please contact Rick Byrd. firstwvcav@frontiernet.net

Secretary/Treasurers Report

For the time period March 1-31, 2024

Beginning Balance \$1,816.68

Deposits

Memberships \$155.00

Debits

Print/mail newsletter \$75.18

Insurance/NRA membership \$743.16

Ending Balance \$1,163.34

As reported by Rick Byrd, Treasurer/Secretary
WVRA

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Vote

As required by the WVRA By Laws, a motion was approved at the annual meeting to submit the Beverly Heritage event for sponsorship. Please see the ballot on page 10.

Membership

This is the final reminder to renew your membership in the WVRA for. I have attached a membership renewal form to this email. Dues remain \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families. Family memberships are restricted to parents and children up to college age.

Dues are needed to cover the cost of the liability insurance policy, mailing the newsletter once a year, unit money and miscellaneous expenses. If dues are not received by May 1, the WVRA by-laws stipulate that you will be dropped from the membership rolls.

If you would like the newsletter sent to you through the U.S. Mail, the cost is an additional \$15 to cover the mailing cost.

Membership Renewals

Greg Watterson	25 th Virginia
Tim Glaser	Tag Ireland*
	Bill Brisendine
	General
Hunter Lesser	Keith Kopshina
Kyle Kopshina	Joan Kopshina
Mary Mullenax	John Arnold
Emilija Arnold	Dirk Behana
Hunter Lesser	Bill Burruss
	1 st West Virginia
Ron Wenig	John Ziolkowski
David Starliper	Mike Phillips*
Chuck Critchfield	Allen Lloyd
Rick Byrd	Jim Barnes
Chris Carroll	Patrick Carroll
Nick Korolev	Ross Wetherell
Bill Donegan	
	TASAS
Debbie Wenig	Phyllis Baxter*
Peter Baxter*	Bill Snyder*
Art Dodds	Pam Dodds
Linda Barnes	Patricia Carroll
Brian Ward	Christina Ward
Abbi Ward	William Ward
Linda Donegan	

Artillery

David Judy
*Life members

Sue Judy

Upcoming Events

For the complete list, see above. The following is any additional information submitted to the editor for the events listed above.

Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Day is being planned for July 20, 2024. This will be a timeline event, with all relevant historical periods welcome for living history or programming. The event is organized by Beverly Heritage Center, and WVRA is again asked to sponsor (help host) the event. Anyone interested in helping with planning (occasional virtual meetings) please contact Phyllis Baxter phyllisbwv@gmail.com or Marisa Terwilliger info@beverlyheritagecenter.org. We will share more soon about plans and special features for the event - please put it on your calendars now!

Clarksburg History Museum

The Clarksburg History Museum plans to resume its Civil War tours in April. To date, the following tours are booked:

Saturday, April 6

Friday, April 19

Saturday, May 4

Saturday, June 1

Tours begin at 10:00 a.m. Pam and Art Dodds have been the contact for civilian impressions. Keith Kopshina is the contact for military impressions. Keith and I have been involved in the military portion of the tour on top of Lowndes Hill, above the Civil War trenches.

Preserving the Civil War: Sites, Symbols and Battlefields as Classrooms

Davis and Elkins College &
The Rich Mountain Battlefield
Foundation Present
A Civil War Symposium

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Saturday April 6, 2024

At Davis and Elkins College Senate

Commons

in the Myles Center for the Arts

9:00 am: Registration and Refreshments

10:00 am: "The Land Protection Process - Camp Bartow Case Study." - Ashton Berdine

11:00 am: "Preserving West Virginia's History." - Kyle Warmack

12:00 pm: Lunch Break – Lunch provided on site.

1:00 pm: "Preserving Antietam" - Dr. Tom Clemens

2:00 pm: "Fort Scammon: Preserving Charleston's

Forgotten Citadel." – Dr. Billy Joe Peyton

3:00 pm: Panel Discussion

Symposium Tickets:

Cost \$30

Students with ID \$5

For information and reservations visit

beverlyheritagecenter.org/rich-mountain-battlefield/
or call 304-637-7424

Civil War Artillery Introduction

By Allen Lloyd (WVRA member)

In December 1860 after the election of Abraham Lincoln the state of South Carolina, under Governor Pickens, seceded from the United States. The southern states were in a panic that Lincoln would end slave labor in the south with his arrival in Washington. Pickens with the help of General Beauregard seized the United States Arsenal in Charleston, SC on December 30th, 1860. Then on January 1st, 1861 the south made an assault on the United States vessel Star of the West, the first gunfire of the Civil War, the gunfire was from shore artillery.

Canons, or artillery pieces played a strategic role in the Civil War. Both the north and south were unprepared for any sort of an extended war in 1861. The United States had few field artillery pieces available in the east, the mobile field cannons that were mounted on horse-drawn carriages were almost entirely located in the western states and territories where the Army was engaged fighting

Indians. The south had none at the start of the war. Both sides needed artillery and needed them fast.

The 1860 census numbers show that the north had a manufacturing infrastructure, the south did not, being mostly agricultural. Here are the key numbers for making cannons:

Manufacturing Facilities - 1860

North/Firearm:	192
South/Firearm:	41

North/Gunpowder:	56
South/Gunpowder:	4

North/Ammunition:	5
South/Ammunition:	0

Of the 41 firearms manufacturers in the south, only one could cast metal into cannons. The south's solution was the purchase of cannons from the British and French. Both the Brit's and the French overlooked the fact that the south had little or no money to pay for the arms. It took but a short amount of time for the south to acquire field artillery for the war, the north began immediately to produce all sorts of artillery, some were guns to be mounted on riverboat steamers, some for coastal guns, and of course field guns for the Army.

The first land battle of the Civil War took place in Philippi, West Virginia on June 3rd, 1861. The north placed a single artillery piece on a hilltop overlooking Philippi where the college is located, and opened fire on the south's encampment down below in Philippi. The artillery crew's made the battle a blood-bath for the south. The south's troops had little means of defending themselves, they had no artillery, only a few of their men had flintlock shotguns, and they had little powder. The first land battle was an easy victory for the north. Even though Philippi was not much of a battle, two important lessons for both the north and south came from this battle. Artillery would be critical, and that attacks such as this one needed to have cavalry engaged to chase down enemy troops in retreat and take them as prisoners.

Battlefield tactics at the start of the Civil War was Napoleonic. Line up a bunch of soldiers and fire into

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the enemy's line of soldiers, re-load and do it again. Usually whoever had the most men to sacrifice won the battle. But as artillery came more into play and battlefield tactics changed, the outcomes of battles changed. The north dropped the Napoleonic method of stand and shoot until you got killed, men were trained to shoot, drop to the ground and reload, get up and shoot again. The north also began better training at West Point to have skilled artillery officers.

The Army during the Civil War was actually made up of two armies, the regular army and the volunteer army. Both the north and south used this organizational setup. The high command during the war was from the regular army. Most of the soldiers were part of the volunteer armies organized by the state's. The states provided the uniforms, and arms, including artillery. The smallest of states Rhode Island had the most sought-after state artillery. Rhode Island did not have a population big enough for a lot of infantry, and their most important task was the protection of shipping in Narragansett Bay. Rhode Island had plenty of artillery and highly skilled gunners.

A wide variety of artillery guns, and what they shot became available. The projectiles that were used ranged from 6 to 20 pounds for field artillery. The guns were cast in bronze, iron, or wrought iron. They used both smooth bore (no grooves in the barrel), and rifled bores (with grooves) throughout the war. Powder charges ranged from half a pound to two and a half pounds. Their range was from 1,000 to almost 3,000 yards. There were solid cannon balls used to batter things such as buildings, there were exploding cannon balls, and there were shells that were in effect like a shotgun blast throwing out a scattering of one-inch diameter iron balls.

There was also a gruesome artillery procedure used called Hot Shot that was used defending forts. It worked with any smooth bore cannon. A brick furnace was constructed, and a large copper kettle placed on the oven where they would melt lead. The gunner would charge a gun with powder, ram in a cotton wad, and then a runner would bring a pail of molten lead and pour the lead down the guns bore and fire. Men hit with hot shot died, even with what would normally be a minor wound, they went into

shock from the pain, there was no known remedy for shock at the time.

There was quite a lot of equipment involved in setting up artillery in battle. There was a two wheeled vehicle called a Limber that carried an ammunition chest. A two wheeled vehicle called a Caisson which also carried ammunition and a spare oak wheel. And, there was the gun carriage carrying the cannon. Moving all this took horse teams of two to six horses for each vehicle. This meant that a gun battery had to have food and water for both the gun crew and for the horses. All officers were targeted, with artillery the horses were also targeted, kill the horses then surround the artillery, take the gun, kill off the gun crew, turn the gun around and shoot at the enemy with their own gun. Even the horses needed training. The gun crews would practice with their horses tied up to see if any had a tendency to run off when the cannons fired, they would weed out the runners. Nonetheless, in battle the horses frequently broke loose and ran which meant that the gun and ammunition had to be abandoned. As a last resort for an artillery officer who had to abandon his guns, he would order the guns to be spiked. Usually, they would load the cannon, and then drive an iron spike into the small hole, known as a touch hole, which was bored into the cannon and used to light the gunpowder and fire the gun. Spiking the gun, made it useless because they had no way of getting the spike out.

Included with an artillery battery there was often a blacksmith who would keep the horses shod and he was able to fashion some of the metal pieces on the carriages. The harnesses used with the horses would frequently fail but there is no indication from records that they had a leather worker along, they rarely had spare harness.

All of the major battles included a lot of artillery. The first major event, in July 1861, was the First Battle at Bull Run in Virginia, the south called this battle First Manassas. The north had a troop movement of over 50,000 men from the Washington, DC area south to Manassas, VA. During these movements both sides would march with Infantry in front, then Cavalry, then Artillery, then the ambulances, with supply wagons in the rear. The south had about 35,000 troops in the Manassas area, they were dug in and ready for the north's attack. Lincoln feared that the south was

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amassing troops to take the capital and ordered this attack. The south's General Beauregard knew the north was in motion and set up artillery with plenty of cavalry and infantry at all roads leading to Manassas. Dust clouds telegraphed the north's approach. This battle was a humiliating defeat for the north. The south had their artillery in place and their gunners had ranged in their guns before the battle. The artillery won the battle. Lincoln had hoped to end the war with the attack on the South's forces accumulated in Manassas.

Oddly, the Army did not promote Artillery Officers the same as with Cavalry and especially Infantry. Artillery Officers rarely were promoted beyond Captain.

The U.S. Army had an artillerist who was quite an engineer, an inventor, a West Point graduate and artillery instructor who taught artillery at West Point. Robert Parrott, who had invented the most popular artillery gun during the Civil War known as a Parrott Rifle. The largest Parrott Rifle fired a 300-pound projectile, that gun weighed in at 13 tons.

Baltimore Police Riot, 4/19/1861 Arrest Maryland Legislature, 9/12/1861 – 9/17/1861

By Allen Lloyd

President Lincoln at the beginning of the Civil War knew that he had to protect Washington, D.C. at all costs, being that D.C. was the center of the government of the United States. Lincoln knew that Virginia would succeed from the union and side with the Confederacy, and they did on 4/17/1861. When Virginia succeeded, it put the Confederacy on the doorstep of the Capitol. If Maryland were to join the confederacy the capital would be surrounded, and the capital would need to be moved.

In these early days of the war both the north and the south chose a point to assemble troops. Lincoln chose Washington, D.C. Jefferson Davis chose Manassas, VA. Both sides initiated a 3-month enlistment thinking that the war wouldn't last long. Large numbers of volunteers joined the two

armies. The railroads were used to transport the new Confederate soldiers to Manassas, Virginia and to Union soldiers to Washington, DC.

The north had three main railroad lines that were used to bring troops into Washington. One came down from the New England states, one from the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area, and one coming from the west from Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Each of the three main-line railroads had terminals in Baltimore but had none in Washington. There was a short line railroad however that operated from Baltimore into Washington D.C. In other words the city of Baltimore had four railroad terminals, the men had to march through the city to get to the Washington train. Baltimore was also an important seaport. Soldiers were transported to Baltimore to one of the three main-line railroad terminals, or from ocean steamships, and then marched thru the streets of Baltimore to the short line terminal and transferred to the capitol.

Many of Maryland's citizens were wanting a ballot taken to succeed from the union. Many of Maryland's state legislators were southern sympathizers. Many newspaper editors were siding with the south as well.

Maryland's governor at the time was Thomas Hicks, he was pro-slavery but against succession. Hicks' mental state was in question during this period, the political crisis at hand kept him in a sick bed while he continued to try and run his state. Those with business with the governor had to take along a witness to what the governor said, even with that, he would frequently change his mind and argue about what he meant rather than what was said. Maryland also had what was known as the police commission, these commissions existed at both city and state level. All police activity was managed by these commissions. To open a business in Maryland you had to pay fees to the police commission. Corruption was rampant within the police commission.

Initially, as troops moved through Baltimore the army had the troops make their marches with unloaded weapons. The citizens of Baltimore who were pro-confederate turned out in numbers to harass the soldiers. They began throwing rocks and bottles at the soldiers, and eventually there were shots fired, killing a soldier. On April, 22nd of 1861 Colonel

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Jones of the Sixth Massachusetts Militia told his men:

The regiment will march through Baltimore in column of sections, arms at will.

You will undoubtedly be insulted, abused, and, perhaps, assaulted, to which you must pay no attention whatever, march with your faces square to the front, and pay no attention to the mob, even if they throw stones, bricks, or other missiles; but if you are fired upon and any one of you is hit, your officers will order you to fire. Do not fire into any promiscuous crowds but select any man whom you may see aiming at you and be sure you drop him... report continues ...

Reaching Baltimore, horses were attached the instant that the locomotive was detached, and the cars were driven at a rapid pace across the city. After the cars containing seven companies had reached the Washington depot the track behind them was barricaded, and the cars containing band and the following companies, viz: Company C, of Lowell, Captain Follansbee; Company D, of Lowell, Captain Hart; Company I, of Lawrence, Captain Pickering, and Company L, of Stoneham, Captain Dike, were vacated, and they proceeded but a short distance before they were furiously attacked by a shower of missiles, which came faster as they advanced. They "increased their steps to double quick, which seemed to infuriate the mob, as it evidently impressed the mob with the idea that the soldiers dared not fire or had no ammunition, and pistol-shots were numerously fired into the ranks, and one soldier fell dead. The order "Fire" was given, and it was executed. In consequence, several of the mob fell, and the soldiers again advanced hastily. The mayor of Baltimore placed himself at the head of the column beside Captain Follansbee, and proceeded with them a short distance, assuring him that he would protect them and begging him not to let the men fire; but the mayor's patience was soon exhausted, and he seized a musket from the hands of one of the men and killed him therewith, and a policeman, who was in advance of the column, also shot a man with a revolver.

They at last reached the cars, and they started immediately for Washington. On going through the train I found there were about one hundred and

thirty missing, including the band and field music. Our baggage was seized, and we have not as yet been able to recover any of it. I have found it very difficult to get reliable information in regard to the killed and wounded, but believe there were only three killed.

Congressman Charles Howard noted: "that any more forces from other States could, by any probability, then pass through the city to Washington without a fierce and bloody conflict at every step of their progress, and that whatever might be the result, great loss of life and imminent danger to the safety of the city would necessarily ensue. The board were equally unanimous in their judgment that, as good citizens, it was their duty to the city, and to the State of Maryland, to adopt any measures whatsoever that might be necessary at such a juncture to prevent the immediate arrival in the city of further bodies of troops from the Eastern or Northern States."

The political unrest continued throughout Maryland. Several of Maryland's congressmen approached the governor in the hopes that he would go along with them and prohibit the north's troops moving thru Baltimore. The governor refused, but did go along with a plan to burn railroad bridges leading into Baltimore. After several bridges were burned, the governor denied giving any such permission. The railroad companies repaired the bridges, trainloads of troops and the friction with Baltimore civilians continued.

Governor Hicks then called a session of the Maryland legislature. Instead of meeting in Annapolis, the Maryland capitol, whose citizens were leaning to the side of the confederacy, they held a session in Frederick, and the legislature decided against secession. This did not solve the problems in Baltimore.

The Civil War had not ended quickly as president's Lincoln and Davis had hoped. The 30-day enlistments were done away with by both sides. Both governments expanded their armies and navies. Troops continued passing thru Baltimore and in increasing numbers. Lincoln also moved troops into the Virginia counties bordering the U.S. capital.

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On April 13th, U.S. Brigadier General Butler declared martial law in Baltimore and from that point on the army patrolled the streets and made arrests. Under martial law the Army would not honor habeas corpus concerning civilian prisoners who were jailed. The turmoil continued throughout Maryland. As the Army occupied the Baltimore police stations, they found that the police had been building up their own arsenals of weapons, including artillery.

On September 11th an order was made by the U.S. Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, to U.S. General Banks, to arrest all of Maryland's legislator's. Cameron's order was brief and to the point

GENERAL: The passage of any act of secession by the legislature of Maryland must be prevented. If necessary, all or any part of the members must be arrested. Exercise your own judgment as to the time and manner, but do the work effectively.

Only a few legislator's escaped arrest, those being in poor health and bed-ridden. The prisoners were then taken by steamship from Baltimore to Fort Monroe, Virginia, for imprisonment. There are no records concerning the release or parole of the legislators. Fort Monroe would later be used to imprison Jefferson Davis following the end of the war.

This is a good place to bring up the news media during the civil war. Newspapers, that is all there were during the Civil War, no radio, no TV. Newspapers helped fuel the riots in Baltimore and the state of Maryland wanting a vote for secession, most of the papers being run by southern leaning owners.

But aside from Baltimore and Maryland, the reporting during the war was less than accurate and often just concocted to suit editors to sell papers or to push their political beliefs. Battles during the Civil War were fought mostly in rural farming areas. Most battles had no witnesses other than the participants. Once a battle was over, usually both sides moved on. Burial details were frequently civilians, farmers who lived nearby. Sometimes, after a battle the winning side would pick up the dead and place them on the porch of a nearby farmhouse leaving the farmer no recourse but to

make the burials, there were no ID's or dog tags back then so many of the graves were unmarked. When a reporter arrived, he would take any information the farmer had and then fabricate a story for the readers. Reporters would ride horse back to the battlefields and attempt to find anyone, who could provide a story. Usually it would be someone who heard the gunfire but didn't actually see anything. Most of the time the reporter would give victory to whatever side pleased him and make up details as needed. Officers were frequently infuriated with the news. The officer's would solicit the help of the War Department to provide accurate details but there was little that could be done once a story was printed. Papers back then never printed retractions. A hard-fought battle that produced a decisive win would frequently be reported as a victory for the other side. And many times, when a side won a victory contrary to the papers siding, they would conjure up a story of what we would call war crimes today.

A news story was published in a paper in Delaware of a 16-year-old girl living in Maryland with her grand-father, her name was Anne. The governor of Maryland had not objected to the burning railroad bridges. As it happened there was a railroad going across Grandpa's land and there was a bridge. One-night Anne noticed three men out at the railroad bridge, and she went out to find out what was going on. She asked what they were doing, and one man said, "we are going to burn this bridge." She told him that if he did, she would shoot him right between the eyes. Anne went back to the house and loaded her grand-fathers pistol, an old flintlock. The men set about to set the bridge on fire. Anne ran out and did shoot the man, right between the eyes. The other men ran without setting fire to the bridge. President Lincoln read about the affair and sent out men to bring Anne to Washington to receive a medal. She couldn't be found.

Service Available

I'm a retired Project Manager and since retiring I have researched the Civil War. My library includes "The War of the Rebellion," the "Supplement to War of the Rebellion," and the "Official Naval Records." Over 400 books averaging about 1,000 pages each. The reports are in the commanding officers' own words following their actions. Some reports are long and detailed, some are not so good, and there were a lot of events where there are no reports.

My plan is to offer to reenactor groups what information I have concerning their unit. I am also looking for someone to pass along my library and research database once I croak.

Allen Lloyd, WVRA Member

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For Sale

From Bryan Cokeley

With regret, I am resigned to getting out of the hobby. 😞
I just don't seem to have the impetus to get to events with Hampton having left the state. He was in Texas; he now lives in Richmond. (Apparently, he took to heart those calls of "On to Richmond!") He turns 30 in May. He was 10 when we went to our first School of the Soldier. The passage of time. Maybe we all added 5 years this past year.
It seems wasteful for me to sit on all of this reenactment gear. I will keep my musket. I can make some young person a great deal on everything else – **a whole kit to get started in the hobby. If you know of someone interested, please let me know.**

Miss everyone! Best,
Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1st West Virginia)

New Civil War History of Harrison County
*A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia
1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War
1856-65. By Pete Taylor*

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.
July 2022

Rifles

Here is the info on the rifles: Thanks so much for your help. If you need anything else - just let me know.. 03A3 Springfield \$975.00 Smith Corona Model 30-06

1903 30-06 \$1800.00 Double Heat Treated Receiver
Serial # 822355 Excellent Condition.

For Further information, please contact: Steve Manos at 304-753-9306 or email at dmanos@wvva.net

Thank you!

Dottie Manos

February 2024

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This was sent to me by a former WVRA member. I am printing it as it was sent to me. I do not know the seller.)

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org

Beverly Heritage Center -

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

Link to Clarksburg History Museum -

<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

Battle of Gettysburg Podcast -

Addressing Gettysburg podcast -

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -

www.ShenandoahAtWar.org

2024 WVRA Officers

Art Dodds - President

John Arnold - Vice President

Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Dodds - (TASAS) Unit Representative

Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Tim Glaser

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Unit Field Officers

(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)

ATTENTION - Please do not send any correspondence to the former 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. Karl Mulac is the administrator of 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

MANY THANKS to WVRA President Art Dodds for organizing the annual meeting. He did a good job keeping the unruly membership discussions under control and on task! And...many thanks to Pam and Art for hosting the meeting in their beautiful home in the wilds of Barbour County. The food and beverages were much appreciated. Thank you to Andrew Valentine for serving as president these past two years.

It was somewhat disappointing to see such a small turnout to the meeting. Yet it was encouraging to see that those that were there, were fully engaged in the issues brought before the annual meeting. After the election, the subject of insurance, finances, sponsorship and raising dues were

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thoroughly discussed and the votes on these issues were not unanimous. Which is change from recent history.

BY LAWS It may be time to revise the Association's by laws. The current by laws were written for a much larger group and for a time when reenactments were larger.

THANK YOU to Rick Byrd for all his efforts and contributions to this issue. Thank you to all members who served in an officers role in 2023 and those who agreed to serve in 2024. Thank you to new member Allen Lloyd* for his contribution to the newsletter and a big thank you to Hunter Lesser for yet another interesting story from 1861-65.

ADDRESS – The WVRA has a new official address. The new address is WVRA, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV, 26253. However, any correspondence about dues, membership, newsletter, etc., should be sent to me. If any mail comes to the Beverly PO Box, the Beverly Heritage folks will contact me. **My address will be changing May 1, so stand by.**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW who is a member of the WVRA and who is not, please ask Rick Byrd or myself. I usually publish the membership list in the newsletter for a few months for all to see. But some members are uncomfortable with the list being published.

LAST ISSUE for those who have not renewed their membership.

- A Wallace Collection video produced on the 500th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt -found on You Tube
"History is dangerous. It goes after our myths and our identities."

- Brig. Gen. (ret) Ty Seidule after receiving death threats for writing about history
"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."
- Robert Penn Warren

All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.

- Paraphrased from several historians
"The People made their recollection fit in with their suffering"
-Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War
"History and memory aren't the same thing."
- Me

Sponsorship Ballot

Please return this ballot to Chuck Critchfield at 193 East Gate Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508. Or email your vote to him at ccritch6082yahoo.com.

Each member is entitled to vote.

The motion has been made to sponsor the Beverly Heritage Days event, July 20, 2024.

Yes, sponsor Beverly Heritage Day event

No, do not sponsor the Beverly Heritage event

Abstain.

_____ Name of voter

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$15 per year fee.
The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA.
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"We tend to create stories that appeal to us. Then we impose those stories on the past."