

The Official Newsletter of The WVRA

# TRANS-ALLEGHENY



# DISPATCH



SEPTEMBER 2011 EDITION

Official Newsletter of The West Virginia Re-enactors Association

*WVRA pamphlets are available. Please help recruit new members!*

## Julia Pierpont Day

### Remembering Our Civil War Soldiers

Memorial Services Held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Fairmont.

#### Calendar of Events

AUG 5-7

Laurel Hills

**WVRA MEETING**

**AUGUST 6**

~~~~~

SEPT 9-11

Carnifax Ferry

**WVRA MEETING**

**SEPT 10**

~~~~~

Oct 7-9 Bulltown

**WVRA MEETING**

**OCT 8**



**Check Out Our Web Site**

at:

**[www.wvra.org](http://www.wvra.org)**

*Web Masters*

*Donnie Stewart &*

*Lisa Johnson*

*Check Out : West Virginia Reenactors Association on facebook*

#### **WVRA Reminders...Dues.....Newsletter Deadlines**

Articles, pictures, or information to be included in the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch **MUST** be emailed by

**SEPT 15** to

**rebeld4h@yahoo.com**

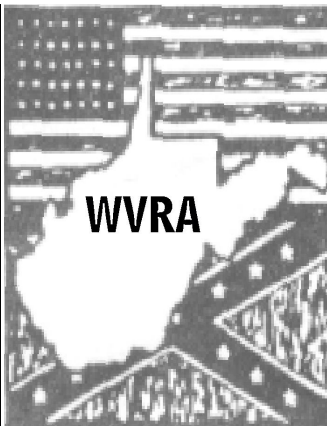
\*\*\*\*\*

Or mailed by **SEPT 10** to:

**Jack & Tonya Daft**

**479 Plum Run Road**

**Mannington WV 26582**



**DUES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH EVERY YEAR**

**WVRA Individual Membership dues are \$15**

**FAMILY dues are \$25 printed newsletter is \$15**

mail to :

**WVRA TREASURER**

**Chuck Critchfield**

**608 Skyview Drive**

**Clarksburg WV 26301**

SCHEDULE FOR TV19 JULY, 2011 \*\*Programs repeat every 12 hours\*\*

Can be seen on web at <http://gfcc.peg.tv>

**TIME PROGRAM DAY TAPED LENGTH**

7:00 Thursday 3 Rivers Parade & Opening 05/26/11 1:00:40

8:00 Friday 3 Rivers: at Park & Razzle 05/27/11 30:53

**8:00 Friday- 3 RIVERS: AT PARK & RAZZLE 05/27/11 31 minutes**

Friday afternoon at the Park is enjoyed among the crowd and activities offered. **Tonya and Jack Daft portray a Southern Civil War family in southern Virginia;** Kids Day in Park is shared by NASA; New Mystics Theatre Jeremy Madia and Maggie Ludwig share a dialogue in singing and speech on prejudice; portions of Pepperoni Bake Off Contest is shown. In the evening, the singing 80s and 90s singing group, Reflex, presents some of their music.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: TV station on web 24 hours a day at <http://gfcc.peg.tv>  
Web site for program listing at <http://www.tv19.org>**



*A large salute and heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone that has supported and contributed to the WVRA DISPATCH for the month of September...Thank You Chuck Critchfield, Tonya Daft, Dora Grubb, Gerald Swick, Tim Glaser, Jodi Burnsworth, The Baxters, The Wattersons, Marion County Historical Society, Historic Beverly, Mike Phillips, RMBF, HistoryNet & Hunter Lesser.*

**STONEWALL JACKSON AT FRENCH CREEK IN UPSHUR COUNTY**  
Submitted by Mike Phillips



**IMPORTANT**  
The WVRA Dispatch needs pictures and articles on Philippi, Corricks Ford, Laurel Hill, Rich Mountain, and anything else the membership has participated in. Please send in JPEG format

For timely discussions about CW events, clothing, firearms, and yes, even personalities in the hobby,  
Go To [www.authenticcampaighner.com](http://www.authenticcampaighner.com)

Or [www.cwreenactors.com](http://www.cwreenactors.com)

The link <http://www.wvra.org/>



Chel Depp  
Executive Director  
Rich Mountain Battlefield  
Foundation/Historic Beverly Preservation  
PO Box 227 Beverly, WV 26253  
304-637-7424  
[www.richmountain.org](http://www.richmountain.org)  
[www.historicbeverly.org](http://www.historicbeverly.org)

**Need equipment?  
Sutlers are listed on the  
web site.**

**WWW.WVRA.ORG**

## MODERN DAY TELEGRAM LETTERS

Hi WVRA friends,

Rich Mountain Foundation is pre-ordering some polo shirts with the Rich Mountain 150th logo embroidered on them. They will be a light straw yellow color in sizes S, M, L, XL, and 2X. Retail price should be about \$25 (maybe a little more for the 2X). If you would like one of these, please reply to me ASAP with your size and number you want. We are trying our best to get these in time for the reenactment, but must order very soon. We will order a few extras, but are relying primarily on pre-orders for these shirts. We will also have new 150th t-shirts, and enamel pins, at the reenactment. ALSO, if you or anyone you know is interested in attending who has not yet signed up for the event July 9 & 10, please have them send in registration now. See you there! Phyllis

### Treasurer Reports

As required by the by-laws, I am submitting a monthly treasurer's report for JULY

We currently have \$2808.46 in the banking account

We have \$40.00 in dues to deposit, which will bring our account to \$2848.46.

We have \$450.00 designated to be spent by the various units.

That leaves us with \$2398.46 available for the WVRA.

In the past month we have received 4 membership dues. I have paid expenses related to the dance and the automatic deduction for the web site also was paid.

Chuck Critchfield



### The Battle of Rich Mountain ~ 150th Anniversary Western Virginia: The First Campaign

#### First Campaign Tour: July 6-8

- Guided bus tour of battlefield sites at Philippi, Laurel Hill, Corricks Ford, Rich Mountain, Camp Elkwater and Cheat Summit Fort - \$170 per person

#### July 6 - Reception\* (6pm)

Speaker Hunter Lesser "The First Campaign"

Randolph County Community Arts Center, Elkins

#### July 7 - Keynote Address\* (8pm)

Speaker: A. Wilson Greene

Harper-McNeely Auditorium, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins

#### July 8 - Concert by Blue and Gray Choir\* (8pm)

Randolph County Community Arts Center, Elkins

\*FREE to the public through sponsorship by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission

**Rich Mountain Anniversary Reenactment** at the Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site *All schedule events FREE to spectators.*

**July 9** - all afternoon: Encampments, Living History, Battlefield Tours, Display and Demonstrations by the Loomis Battery. 3:30pm: Battle Skirmish. 6pm: Dinner BBQ (by advance ticket \$8). 8pm: Camp Dance by the Rich Mountain String Band

**July 10** - 1:30pm: Memorial Ceremony. 2pm: Battle of Rich Mountain Reenactment

**July 11** - 6pm: Commemoration Ceremony at Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site - *"Rich Mountain 150 Years Later"*

**July 9-11** - US Signal Corps telegraph operations at the Beverly Heritage Center

To register for the First Campaign Tour or the Battle of Rich Mountain Reenactment, please contact the Beverly Heritage Center at (304) 637-7424 or email richmt@richmountain.org. Reenactment information can also be found on our website at <http://www.richmountain.org/reen11/reen2011.htm>



# Carnifex Ferry Battle Reenactment

September 10-11, 2011



## Dear Unit Representative,

Your unit is cordially invited to attend this year's event to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Carnifex Ferry. This event is hosted and sponsored by West Virginia State Parks.

The event will be held at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park, south of Summersville, W.V. The campsites, activities and battle reenactment will take place on the actual site of the 1861 Battle of Carnifex Ferry. (See enclosed map on details of how to get to the site.)

## Registration

Registration fees postmarked before July 1, 2011, are \$10 per participant age 16 and older (this applies to civilian impressions also). On-site registration and those postmarked after July 1, 2011, are \$15. Substitution for "no shows" will be allowed. Registration fees will go toward covering the cost of amenities and preservation.

## Activities

The activities for this event will differ from the activities that we have had here in years past.

- The reenactment of the Battle of Knives and Forks will take place on Saturday morning at Kessler's Cross Lanes.
- We have been asked to provide at least 1 unit to march in a parade at Summersville. Those who wish to participate may do so.
- Saturday evening entertainment will consist of a band and the traditional camp show.
- The reenactment of the Battle of Carnifex Ferry will take place on 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon.
- Other living history activities such as sick calls, army discipline, mail call, etc., are encouraged. If you have any special activity your and your unit wishes to do, please let us know so that we can put it on our final schedule.
- While the public is gathering on Sunday morning, several demonstrations, such as weapons demonstrations, political rallies, etc., will take place. We, again, encourage your involvement in these activities.
- There will be a non-denominational church service for the reenactors on Sunday morning.

## Saturday Evening Entertainment

Saturday evening at approximately 6pm, there will be a band performing in front of the museum. If there is enough interest (willing participants), we will incorporate elements of the camp show. The inspiration for the camp show comes from the shows the soldiers of the Civil War organized in their camps and from the usual type of activities that reenactors participate in around their campfires. We simply bring these two concepts together for all to enjoy.

We encourage all with any "talent" or special presentation to participate. Most of our program comes from members of our guest units. Your presentation can be serious or comic, period or non-period.

*Please contact us if there is anyone in your unit that would like to participate so we can plan accordingly.*

Sorry everyone did not receive this information in time to make the deadline for early enrollment in the newsletter. It was emailed by Tim Glaser to the email list but those receiving a newsletter by mail did not receive it in time. Wish I knew how to keep this from happening, but if I do not receive the information in time I cannot put it in the newsletter. And lately we have had so much information to get out to everyone that the newsletters have been done ahead of time just so I can get the important info out to you in time. This info I received June 5 and the newsletters were already done and mailed. Again for those of you that do not have internet I am sorry for the delay. THANKS Tim for the email info.

# Carnifex Ferry Reenactment

September 9-11, 2011

– Registration Form –

Please return this form by July 1, 2011.

Enclose \$10.00\* fee for all persons age 16 and older, civilians included. Make checks payable to: "Carnifex Ferry State Park"

Please Print or Type

Name of unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Number & type of tents in military camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tents in civilian camp: \_\_\_\_\_  
"Brigading preference, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total fee enclosed:  
(Number of participants age 16 and older x \$10.00\*) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return registration to:**

Number you are registering: U.S. \_\_\_\_ C.S. \_\_\_\_

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park  
1194 Carnifex Ferry Rd.  
Summersville, WV 26651

Infantry \_\_\_\_ Cavalry \_\_\_\_ Artillery \_\_\_\_

Civilian or other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All those attending the event must register on site and complete a waiver form in order to participate in the event.

Please indicate beside name if individual is willing and equipped to galvanize, if necessary.

\*Registration fee is \$15 on-site or if posted after July 1, 2011.

Please print clearly each person registering and identify by rank or if civilian. Use the back of this sheet for additional names.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_

- 13. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. \_\_\_\_\_

## Michigan Artillery Returns to Rich Mountain.

By Hunter Lesser

In 1861, a battery of Michigan cannoneers invaded Virginia, fought the first campaign of the Civil War, and helped secure statehood for West Virginia. Now, one hundred and fifty years later, they're coming back. Members of Loomis Battery, First Michigan Light Artillery, will bring their big guns to West Virginia as part of the First Campaign Tour and Battle of Rich Mountain 150th Anniversary Reenactment on July 8-10.

One of those cannons—a 10-pounder Parrott known as No. 23 is a true Civil War veteran. Manufactured in 1861 at the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, New York, No. 23 was one of six Parrott guns issued to the battery and among the first offered to the U.S. Army. Parrott cannons were rifled, with projectiles that could hit a target up to a mile away. Loomis Battery received the new guns for their performance in drills. At the Battle of Rich Mountain, they were armed with older 6-pounders.

On July 8, 2011, No. 23 will return to the earthworks at Camp Elkwater near Huttonsville, West Virginia, where it fired at Confederates under General Robert E. Lee 150 years ago. Participants in a First Campaign Tour will witness this once-in-a-lifetime event. Registration is still open for the July 6-8 tour of First Campaign battlefields and sites. Soldiers of the original Loomis Battery, based in Coldwater, Michigan, earned a stellar reputation during the Civil War. Members of the modern battery carry on that tradition. With origins in 1959, they are one of the oldest and most prestigious Civil War artillery units in the country. Founding member Matt Switlik literally wrote the book on antique artillery use, safety and manufacture (*The More Complete Cannoneer*, 1990). The guns of Loomis Battery join the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in a yearly Fourth of July Salute to America performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. They provide artillery special effects for films, including *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (2003). The battery sponsors a unique live fire historic artillery competition each year with the Army National Guard at Camp Grayling, Michigan. The Henry Ford Museum currently features a special exhibit on Loomis Battery that includes, among other items, a Parrott shell fired at Bartow, W. Va., during the Battle of Greenbrier River. Visitors to the Rich Mountain 150th Anniversary Reenactment will have a rare opportunity to see demonstrations and living history by Loomis' Battery, view the original Parrott cannon and reproductions of the 6-pounder cannon and equipment used at Rich Mountain. An informative photo exhibit about the battery will also be on display. Other free activities at the Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site include encampments, battlefield tours and demonstrations throughout the afternoon on July 9 and 3:30 p.m. skirmish. The reenactment battle will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday July 10. A special ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. July 11, the actual anniversary date. Evening activities commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary are also free to the public. A presentation on the First Campaign will be given at the Randolph County Community Arts Center July 6. Keynote speaker A. Wilson Greene will discuss the importance of the legacy of the First Campaign and subsequent military action in West Virginia on July 7 at the Harper McNeely Auditorium of Davis & Elkins College. The RCCAC is also the site of the July 8 concert by the Blue & Gray Choir. The appearance by Loomis Battery and other public activities are sponsored by Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation with support from the West Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. For more information or to register for the tour, see [www.richmountain.org](http://www.richmountain.org) or call 304-637-7424.

## *Waldo Porter Johnson and the Civil War*

Wayne Farley of Bridgeport sent me a copy of a letter in his possession. It was from Waldo Porter Johnson in Missouri to Johnson's father, William, in Bridgeport – brother of Joseph Johnson, the only Virginia governor from west of the Alleghenies. Waldo had quite a political career himself.

Born in Bridgeport on Sept. 16, 1817, he graduated from Rector College in Pruntytown in 1839, studied law and practiced in Harrison County before pulling up stakes and heading for Osceola, Mo., in 1842, according to "Biographical Directory of the United States Congress."

He joined the First Missouri Regiment of Mounted Volunteers during the Mexican War but left them in 1847 to take a seat in the Missouri legislature. Elected circuit attorney in 1848, he became judge of the seventh judicial circuit in 1851 but resigned the following year to resume his own legal practice.

The letter Wayne Farley shared with me was penned in Jefferson, Mo., on Mar. 19, 1861. It announced his safe arrival there a week earlier. The legislature was in the process of electing a new U. S. Senator – this was well before the 17th Amendment allowed for direct election of senators by the people – and he was a nominee. He received 81 votes, seven more than was required to send him to Washington, he informed his father.

He said if Congress was called into session that summer, he would pass through Virginia on his way there. He hoped the session would not be necessary, so he could put his personal and professional affairs in order before going to the nation's capital.

He had already been in Washington City that year as a delegate to a "peace conference" orchestrated by former president John Tyler. It called for representatives from all states to meet in an annex of Washington's Willard Hotel in February to try to preserve both the union and slavery.

On the morning of Feb. 23, a servant delivered a note to Virginia's James A. Seddon at the conference. It read, "Mr. Lincoln is in this hotel." Seddon read it silently and passed it to Johnson, who exclaimed, "How the devil did he get through Baltimore?" That blurted statement led at least one delegate, Lucius Crittenden, to believe rumors were true about a plot to assassinate the president-elect as he passed through Baltimore, according to Harold Holzer's "Pre-Civil War Peace Conference," which "America's Civil War" published on HistoryNet.com, November 2010. (Obligatory disclosure: I'm senior online editor for HistoryNet.)

Was Johnson privy to a plot to kill Lincoln before he could take office? Other than his pro-Southern sympathies, there is little to indicate he was. More likely, he was surprised Lincoln had slipped through Baltimore without anyone knowing it.

At the end of February, the peace conference adopted a lukewarm proposal for a 13th Amendment that would preserve slavery where it existed and virtually insure any new territories would permit slavery but banned the selling of slaves in Washington City.

The Senate crushed the proposal 28–7.

The wish Johnson expressed to his father that he would not have to return to Washington in the summer was in vain. Lincoln called a special session to convene July 4.

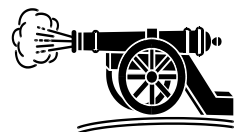
After the Union defeat at Bull Run on July 21, Johnson proposed another peace conference to meet in Louisville but that proposal, too, was soundly rejected. He left Washington and visited his relatives in Virginia before returning to Missouri.

Expelled from the senate January 10, 1862, for disloyalty to the government, he joined Fourth Missouri Infantry, Confederate, and fought at Pea Ridge and Corinth, rising to lieutenant colonel before being appointed to the Confederate senate, according to "Dictionary of Missouri Biography," edited by Lawrence O. Christensen, et al (University of Missouri Press, 1999).

Wayne Farley informs me that Johnson's wife, Emily Moore, and their family lived in Clarksburg as exiles. They joined him in Canada after the war until he was pardoned in 1866.

Contact Gerald D. Swick at jagdhistory@comcast.net. Subject: O, LA column

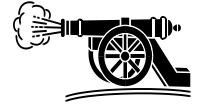
Gerald D. Swick 615-445-8949 Once, Long Ago: June 12, 2011



## THE CANNONS AT PHILIPPI

*You'll see today's column is about the two cannon used at "the first land battle of the Civil War." It's an outgrowth of research I did for an article that is in the latest Wonderful West Virginia magazine. For nearly a century it has been believed those guns wound up in Wellington, Kansas, where they still guard the town hall. I decided to see if I could prove or disprove those are the guns, so last autumn I went to Wellington. That began about six months of research.*

*My thanks to my brothers Howard and Clinton for accompanying me to Wellington and helping to go through sources in the library there last year. Gerald D. Swick 615-445-8949*



Once, Long Ago: June 5, 2011

Ohio cannons opened the Battle of Philippi

In the pre-dawn light of June 3, 1861, a flash and hollow boom came from Talbott (Talbot) Hill across the Tygart River from Philippi. A smoothbore cannon had just announced that the first inland clash of the Civil War between significant numbers of troops had begun.

Seconds later, the cannon's twin repeated the message, and Secessionist militia who had been sleeping in Philippi realized they had tarried too long in the town.

Thus began the battle of Philippi, the 150th anniversary of which is being commemorated in this weekend's Blue and Gray Reunion there.

The Confederates had no artillery at Philippi, and the attacking Federals were lucky to have two guns with them that night. The story of how that artillery came to be available to them goes back to 1837, when an independent infantry company called the Cleveland Grays formed in Cleveland, Ohio.

Two years later, the Grays invited the renowned Fay's Light Artillery Company from Buffalo, N.Y., to take part in a special encampment. The Ohioans were so impressed by Fay's gunners that they decided they wanted some artillery, too. It would look spiffy in parades.

They procured a locally manufactured six-pounder made of iron – not the best material for artillery pieces – and one of their number, David L. Wood, a former member of Fay's Company, quickly drilled the Grey's gunners into a respectable crew.

By 1845, the artillerists decided they should break away from the Grays' infantrymen and form their own unit called the Cleveland Light Artillery. By that time, they had acquired two 12-pounders. Cannon of the time were identified by the weight of the ball they fired, hence, six-pounder, 12-pounder, etc.

No state law required the Ohio legislature to provide guns for local artillery batteries, but in the early 1850s, the legislature was coaxed and cajoled into furnishing four new guns for Cleveland's battery, which had developed a reputation for its skill in gunnery drills.

The laws changed in 1859, when it was obvious the nation was sliding closer to civil war. The legislature authorized "artillery regiments" comprised of six one-gun companies. During the war, the terminology would change "regiment" to battery and "companies" were redesignated as sections.

To meet the new regulations of 1859, the Cleveland Light Artillery added one company each from the nearby towns of Brooklyn and Geneva.

On April 20, 1861, just eight days after the shelling of Fort Sumter in South Carolina started the Civil War, Ohio's adjutant general telegraphed Col. James Barnett, commander of the Cleveland Light Artillery, to bring his 160 men and their six guns to Columbus. Arriving at the state capital, the regiment was immediately ordered to go defend Marietta.

From reports, it appears the Cleveland Light Artillery was one of the few units with decent armament, the six-pound smoothbores the legislature had purchased for them.

**Ammunition for those guns was another matter. When Col. Barnett was ordered to send two guns across the river to Parkersburg on May 28, he responded that he was entirely destitute of ammunition. That same day, 200 rounds of solid shot and 100 of canister were rushed to him from Columbus.**

**The next day, companies D and F (Cleveland and Geneva) crossed the Rubicon — or, in this case, the Ohio and joined Ohio and Indiana infantry on a rail journey to Grafton.**

**By 4:00 a.m. on June 1 they reached Clarksburg. On the night of June 2, they began a rain-soaked march from Webster to Philippi and secured their place in history as the only artillery at "the first land battle of the Civil War."**

**That any competent gunners and adequate cannon were available for that fracas was only due to the years of training at Cleveland, in a unit that originally was primarily meant to just look pretty in parades.**

**Most of today's information comes from "Reminiscences of the Cleveland Light Artillery" (Cleveland Printing Co., 1906), which includes a photo of the six-gun unit at Marietta.**

**Contact Gerald D. Swick at [jagdhhistory@comcast.net](mailto:jagdhhistory@comcast.net). Subject: O, LA column**

## **WVRA June Secretary Report** by substitute secretary Katrina Watterson

Beall calls the meeting to order. Minutes of last meeting not read (in newsletter).  
Treasurer report \$2300 - \$2400, plus unit money of around \$450.



### **Old Business**

Corricks Ford~12 – 15 from 1<sup>st</sup> WV going

Rich Mountain~ Passing out flyers @ Philippi : Starts on July 6 : July 9 – 10 : Wedding @ 11:00 in Union Camp Garnett at bridge : Battle across creek in woods – 1:00 : Unscripted tactical before 11:00 : Meal Saturday evening - \$6.00 : Ladies tea in confederate field 10:00 : Reception of wedding at the dance, 60 bottles of wine donated : Sunday – church with communion : The location of Sunday's battle depends on the # of people, on farm or bottom of field of fire. Monday – commemoration ceremony of top of hill, time TBD : Make parking clear to people at registration.

Bulltown – 2<sup>nd</sup> week on October

Laurel Hill – 150<sup>th</sup> ~ August 5 – 6? 17<sup>th</sup> took it over? Mark Tennant & Tim will find out more.

Do Droop Mountain ~ Aug 31 – Sept 2 in 2013?

### **New Business**

September meeting – do ceremony in cemetery near Mannington? (Tonya suggested)

Have at Carnifax Ferry? (Beall's suggestion) , Will decide at Rich Mountain

Beal's take on Clarksburg event of May 14 : No Yankees , More like a fair than a reenactment.

A lady came up to promote Civil War Day @ Old Economy Village, Beaver, PA on July 16, 2011. She left her card: "Rue de la Paix Reproductions" Jacqueline and Emily Lapisarde 724-785-7931 312 Van Buren Ave. Brownsville, PA 15147 [RuedelaPaixrepros@gmail.com](mailto:RuedelaPaixrepros@gmail.com)  
<http://ruedelapaixreproductions.wordpress.com> . More information about Old Economy Village can be found @ [OldEconomyVillage.org](http://OldEconomyVillage.org).

Tim moved to adjourn. Mark seconded. So moved.

*The minutes were in a longer format and had to be cropped to fit newsletter. Wording was not changed.*

## David Hunter Strother



One of West Virginia's most colorful 19th century characters will come to Beverly on June 18. David Hunter Strother, who wrote under the pen name of Porte Crayon, will be portrayed by Don Teter of Monteverille at the Beverly Heritage Center at 7 p.m. The presentation is free to the public through the History Alive! program of the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Strother was one of the most accomplished and diverse men of the new state of West Virginia. Born in Martinsburg, he trained as an artist in Europe and gained fame as Porte Crayon writing and illustrating for national magazines. He illustrated several early travel stories including *The Blackwater Chronicle* that shared the exploits of an 1851 expedition of sportsmen into Canaan Valley. From Charles Town, he reported and illustrated John Brown's capture, trial and execution for *Harper's Weekly* in 1859. During the Civil War, Strother served as a Union officer and topographer who saw action in several major battles. He was one of the founders of the West Virginia Historical Society and a speaker at the first

commencement held at West Virginia University.

Teter is a professional surveyor and published historian who brings to this character his meticulous research, a background and personal experience in mapmaking and topography, as well in depth knowledge of the history of Randolph and surrounding counties. "I had wanted to study more of Porte Crayon's extensive published material for years, and History Alive! gave me the opportunity and incentive to do it," Teter said.

This visit from Porte Crayon is a featured activity of Lemuel Chenoweth Day in Historic Beverly. Sponsored by the Lemuel Chenoweth House Antiques and Museum and Historic Beverly Preservation all day on June 18, Lemuel Chenoweth Day will include costumed living history and demonstrations in honor of Chenoweth's birthday. Chenoweth was the famed 19th century bridge builder and carpenter from Beverly who built the Philippi Covered Bridge, among many others.

Strother is one of the many available character presentations offered through the West Virginia Humanities Council's History Alive! program as a means of exploring history by interacting with noteworthy historical figures. These programs provide audiences with the opportunity to question those who have shaped our history. Humanities scholars have carefully researched the writings, speeches and biographies of the characters they portray and whenever possible, use their original words. The West Virginia Humanities Council is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing educational programs in the humanities for all West Virginians.

For more than 30 years, the council has been providing educational programs in the humanities across the state. This West Virginia Humanities Council program is being hosted by Historic Beverly Preservation and is supported with additional financial assistance from the Office of the Secretary, West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. For more information about History Alive! call the West Virginia Humanities Council at 304-346-8500 or visit the website [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org). For more information about this program or Lemuel Chenoweth Day, call the Beverly Heritage Center at 304-637-7424 or see [www.historicbeverly.org](http://www.historicbeverly.org).

THE CHENOWETH HOUSE~~~~~>



## Historic Beverly Celebrates Lemuel Chenoweth

The life and craft of Lemuel Chenoweth will be showcased in Historic Beverly this Saturday, June 18 during the annual Lemuel Chenoweth Day. Chenoweth was the famed 19th century bridge builder and carpenter from Beverly, who built the Philippi Covered Bridge.

Sponsored by the Lemuel Chenoweth House Antiques and Museum and Historic Beverly Preservation, Lemuel Chenoweth Day will include feature greeters and demonstrators in period dress. Lemuel Chenoweth Day was first established on June 15, 1983 in honor of Chenoweth's birthday, by then West Virginia Governor Jay Rockefeller. It has become an annual event in historic Beverly.

Randy Allan, owner of the Chenoweth House, will portray Chenoweth as he offers tours of the house. The post-and-beam house demonstrates the skill of a master carpenter, and many design and stress features in its construction reflect his occupation as a self-educated architect and our candidate as America's most accomplished builder of covered bridges, Allan explained. The tour will show where Union soldiers stayed during the Civil War, as well as the unique house structure, Indian and Civil War artifacts found during restoration of the house, antique furnishings and paper artifacts, and Chenoweth's model sawmill.

Lemuel Chenoweth built his home in Beverly in 1856. The house was next to the Beverly covered bridge that Chenoweth built in 1847, which was the first of many such bridges he built on western Virginia turnpikes. The house is located overlooking the Tygart River one block west of U.S. 250-219 on Rich Mountain Road in Beverly. The Beverly Heritage Center, facing the Town Square in Beverly, will also be open all day with tour guides in period dress, museum exhibits, and gift shop. The print shop in the Beverly Heritage Center will be operating from 9 am to 11, and from 4 to 7 pm. This summer is the 150th Anniversary of the First Campaign of the Civil War, said Phyllis Baxter of Historic Beverly Preservation. Chenoweth Day is your chance to come see our exciting Civil War museum exhibit in the Beverly Heritage Center and to learn about all of the upcoming 150th commemoration activities. At 7 pm, in the Courthouse of the Beverly Heritage Center, Don Teter will portray David Hunter Strother. Strother was famous as Porte Crayon, 19th century writer and illustrator whose works included *The Blackwater Chronicle* about the 1851 expedition of sportsmen into the Canaan Valley. He also served during the Civil War as a Union officer and topographer.

This History Alive! presentation is free to the public with the support of the West Virginia Humanities Council with additional financial assistance from the Office of the Secretary, West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

The Soldier's Skillet, a brand new eatery with a historic theme, will be open Saturday from 10:30 to 9 pm, on Main Street across from the Town Square. Billy Davis, owner and chef of the new restaurant, said "we feature home cooking and homemade baked goods, with entree names taken from soldiers life."

The Randolph County Museum will be open during Chenoweth Day, with an extensive collection of Randolph County artifacts and memorabilia. The Stalnaker Cabin and Subscription School behind the Museum will also be open.

The David Goff House will be open for tours, and as a preview of the expanded Historic Beverly Antique Mall. Beverly Books and Antiques is moving to the Goff House, and will be bringing new consigners and antiques for shoppers to explore. Cornucopia will also be open with unique gifts and home decor items.

For more information about Chenoweth Day or activities in Beverly, contact the Beverly Heritage Center, 304-637-7424 or [www.historicbeverly.org](http://www.historicbeverly.org).

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE WVRA ASSOCIATION



REENACTING THE ERA  
OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



[www.wvra.org](http://www.wvra.org)



SEPT 2011 ISSUE  
WEST VIRGINIA  
REENACTORS ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 2133 BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

NEXT WVRA MEETINGS

LAUREL HILL AUG 6



CARNIFAX SEPT 10



BULLTOWN

October 8



The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect any official view of the  
WVRA or its members.



The Trans-Alliegheny Dispatch  
c/o Tonya Daff, Editor  
479 Plum Run Road  
Mannington, WV 26582