

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2019 - December - Edition XIII

## Upcoming Events

Civil War

Sponsored

**Beverly Heritage Days** -- July 18-19,  
2020 (PROPOSED - not approved yet)

Sanctioned

None at this time

**ANNUAL MEETING** - January 25, 1pm,  
Weston Steakhouse.

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

**USV Meeting** - January 9-10, Gettysburg.  
Contact Chuck Critchfield for details

**Manassas Gap** - third weekend in March  
is <https://www.tattnallcountyga.com/the-battle-at-manassas.cfm>

**School of the Piece** -- April 18, 2020 at  
Jacksons' Mill - Contact Roger House for more  
information

**Morgan's Raid** -- April 24-26, 2020 at  
Meigs County Fairgrounds , Pomeroy , Ohio --  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Barboursville** -- tentatively May 8-10  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence** --  
June 19-21 at Cronwells Turkeyville Resort  
Marshall Michigan, Contact Roger House for  
more information

**Battle of Dry Creek** - August 14 - 16 at  
White Sulphur Springs W.Va

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Droop Mountain** --October -11

<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Guyandotte** -- Nov 5-8, 2020

(tentative) contact Roger House for more  
information

## Other Events

**2nd Day Chancellorsville** - National Park  
Service Event, Date to TBD, 2020

**Appomattox 155th Event** - Appomattox  
Nation Park, tentatively scheduled for Easter  
weekend.

## Other Time Periods.

World War II

None at this time

## Next Meeting

The annual meeting has been scheduled for  
Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 pm at the Weston  
Steakhouse. This restaurant is located at Exit  
99, one-half mile east of I-79. We will elect  
WVRA officers and vote on Beverly Heritage  
Days as a sponsored event.

## This Edition of the Dispatch

This edition of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch is  
being mailed to all members - except those who  
have told me they want the electronic edition  
only. It will contain membership form and  
ballot. It will also contain a ballot for voting on  
officers and the proposal to sponsor the Beverly  
Heritage Days event. There are members for  
whom I have no email or USPS mailing address  
who will not get this newsletter.

## Elections

It is time to begin the process of electing new  
officers for the West Virginia Reenactors  
Association. Nominations have been made and  
are STILL open currently for Association  
positions:

President - Jim Barnes \*\*

Vice President - Ken Connell

Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Rush \*\*

Editor - Chuck Critchfield \*\*

Website - Peter Baxter

\*\* - nomination accepted at November  
meeting.

We will vote on these offices at the annual  
meeting on January 25. Nominations can be  
made at that meeting also. Individual units

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will select their Unit Representatives at that time.

The President currently serves as Unit Representative for General members which includes other time periods.

Please send your ballots to current officers or to me, Chuck Critchfield, Newsletter Editor or Jim Barnes, WVRA President.

## Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History will be held in Beverly on July 17, 18, 19, 2020. This will again be a timeline event, with an emphasis on living history scenarios to bring stories alive for visitors. All periods from mid-1700s to mid-1900s are welcome, military and civilian. Demonstrations, displays, presentations, and children's activities are all welcome. Please share your ideas with us! [info@beverlyheritagecenter.org](mailto:info@beverlyheritagecenter.org)

- Phyllis Baxter

## Membership Renewal

It is also time to renew our memberships for the next reenacting year. Membership renewals are good from January 1 through December 31 of 2020. I will include a membership renewal application with this newsletter.

Keep in mind that in order to be covered by our insurance policy, you must be a member of record.

- Dues:** Dues are \$15 per year per person and \$25 per year for a family. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter there is an additional \$10 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership.
- Minors:** All members under the age of 18 need the signature of a guardian to join. Those under 16 will not be allowed to carry a firearm. Those under 14 may not participate in reenactment battles. In addition the WVRA complies with the particular rules at specific events regarding age.
- Meetings:** Will usually be held at the first Saturday of the month during the off-season. During the Reenacting season, meetings may be held at particular events as needed.
- Families:** All individuals should have their own memberships, although family memberships, covering the entire family can be used to save cost. This is limited to members and their home-based children.

**Memberships Received to date:**

1st West Virginia Infantry	Jack Rush
Mike Phillips	Keith Kopshina
Rick Byrd	Kevin Skaggs
Chuck Critchfield	
Jim Barnes	
25th Virginia Infantry	Bill Brisendine
Tag Ireland	Tim Glaser
Dirk Behana	
Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society	Debbie Rush
Phyllis Baxter	Linda Barnes
Peter Baxter	
Bill Snyder	
Artillery	Susan Judy
David Judy	
Roger House	
General	Abraham Price
Larry Teets	Matthew Price
Erik Herb	

If you think I have failed to list your membership and you have paid dues, let me know.

## Treasurer's Report

November 1-30, 2019

Beginning balance	\$2,993.88
Credits:	
Memberships	\$ 230.00
Donations	\$ 5.00
Debits:	
Donation to CE Church	
For meeting space	\$ 15.00
1st WV USV Dues	\$ 75.00
Ending Balance	\$3,138.88

Submitted by Jack Rush

## Upcoming Events

### Civil War Roundtables

**Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable** meets at Eat'n Park at the Bridgeport Exit(119) of I-79 at 7 pm. Come earlier if you plan to eat before the program. There is no charge for meetings, but if you plan to join the SJCWR, the annual dues are \$15.

January 14 - The Civil War in Harrison County by Lt. Col. Pete Taylor.

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February 11 - Steps to Secession by Chuck Critchfield

March 10 - Morality or War Experience? The Definition and Treatment of Mental Illness in the Union Army by Katie Thompson

April 14 - Captain John Young by Phil Hatfield

May 12 - A Desperate Fight for Life, The Skirmish at Middle Fork Bridge, July, 1861

## Rich Mountain Civil War Symposium

April 4, 2020

Beverly, West Virginia

Past Rich Mountain Civil War Symposiums have been held in the IOOF Hall near the Beverly Heritage Center followed by a dinner at the the BHC.

Steve French - McNeil Rangers

Allan Tischler - Sheridan Scouts

Hunter Lesser - Bushwhackers

Cameron Mallow - Swamp Dragons



Jim and Linda Barnes with Pam and Art Dodd

## Clarksburg Gun Show

By Jim Barnes

On Saturday, November 16 and Sunday the 17, the WVRA had a recruiting table at the Morgantown Gun Show, held at Milan Park near Morgantown. This is a big event with a lot of foot traffic, so it is an excellent venue to attend. Mark Tennant helped Linda and I on Saturday and this was a big help since we had planned to attend the Colonial Ball held at Pricketts Fort that evening. Mark stayed with the display so we could take off early to get into our colonial duds.

On Sunday, Linda and I came back for the second day of the show. Special thanks to the folks at DNA guns from Bunker Hill, WV for loaning us an M3 Grease Gun to drape over our WWII mannequin. **Additionally, three of them ended up joining the organization.** We also got some other parties interested. Overall, we seem to have had a successful weekend.

## Event Reviews

### Pricketts Fort Colonial Ball 2019

By Jim Barnes

On Saturday, November 16, Pricketts Fort held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Colonial Ball. Linda rushed home from the gun show to change into proper 18<sup>th</sup> Century garb, then headed on to the fort for the ball. The event was held in the Visitor's Center. It was a very nice evening with lots of dancing and good music. Greg Bray and his staff put together a a very nice selection of snacks and drinks as well.

Linda and I were joined at our table by WVRA members Art and Pam Dodds. It was nice to have some old friends there to enjoy the evening. We also talked to a number of other folks from different areas and made several new acquaintances.

This is a very nice local event and I recommend it to anyone interested in the time period or just wanting to enjoy a different dance experience.

## Other Time Periods

Nothing submitted or to report.

## Other Features

### For Sale

Tim Koch (or Cook?) a reenactor in the Morgantown area is selling a large group of Civil

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War reenacting equipment from weapons to clothing. As of October, he still had items remaining. For more information call Tim at 304-906-552.

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## "They Said It (or didn't)"

*"Historians customarily write about past events as if each one occurred in isolation, neatly encapsulated in a sealed container, or chapter, which keeps it from being mixed up with other events in their own containers. This practice is based on a sound assumption that both the writer and the reader can best do one thing at a time. The alternative would be to make history as chaotic as a dictionary of dates. Yet a realist will always want to remember that this neat historical order is only a convenient fiction, and sometimes a deceptive one, and that diverse events constantly impinge upon and modify one another."*

-- David Potter

*"We have met  
To uplift woman's fallen divinity  
Upon an even pedestal with man's"*

-- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1848 at first women's rights convention.

## **"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet just because there's a photo with a quote next to it."**

-- Quote attributed to multiple people including (sarcastically) to Abraham Lincoln

*"When government takes away citizens' right to bear arms it becomes citizens' duty to take away government's right to govern."*

- Quote **WRONGLY** attributed to George Washington making the rounds on Facebook lately.

*"Nations do not die from invasion; they die from internal rotteness."*

- Quote **WRONGLY** attributed to Abraham Lincoln. He did say something somewhat similar. This is making rounds of Facebook.

The part of the following quote from Abraham Lincoln underlined below is making the rounds on Facebook once again recently. This quote can be

found in notes Lincoln recorded while preparing for a speech in 1859. These same thoughts can be found in his Cooper Union Speech. The full Lincoln quote....

*"We must not disturb slavery in the states where it exists, because the Constitution, and the peace of the country both forbid us -- We must not withhold an efficient fugitive slave law, because the Constitution demands it.*

*"But we must, by a national policy, prevent the spread of slavery into new territories, or free states, because the Constitution does not forbid us, and the general welfare does demand such prevention - We must prevent the revival of the African slave trade, because the Constitution does not forbid us, and the general welfare does not require the prevention. We must prevent these things being done, by either congresses or courts. The people - the people -- are the rightful masters of both Congresses, and courts - not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert it.*

## 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/)  
Link to Clarksburg History Museum -  
<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

## 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)  
Vacant - Unit Rep (artillery)  
Webmaster - Peter Baxter  
Editor - Chuck Critchfield

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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. 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 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, Jim Barnes and Jack Rush. All three have faithfully assisted the editor or made contributions to the Dispatch. A SPECIAL THANKS to Jim and Linda Barnes for their efforts at the Clarksburg and Morgantown gun shows.

BEVERLY HERITAGE DAYS - Planning for next year's event is underway. If you have any ideas, please let me know or pass them on to WVRA member Phyllis Baxter. Beverly Heritage Center has kicked off its 2020 capital campaign to raise money for several projects including, replacement of HVAC systems, bank roof replacement, exhibit development, protection of Civil War graffiti, signage at Rich Mountain, and other related needs.

PERSONALS - Keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers.

THURM SHAVER - does anyone have an address for Thurm? He is not on line at all and he moved to a new location. But the address he gave me is not correct - at least the USPS keeps returning emails. Has anyone heard from Bill Snyder??

ANOTHER PERSONAL STORY - While reading Allan Eckert's That Dark and Bloody River - Chronicles of the Ohio River Valley and in particular his pages on the 1782 Battle of Upper Sandusky, I came across a reference to a John Orr. At this battle, William Crawford's 500-man Pennsylvania militia army was surrounded by a larger army of Native Americans and

British Rangers. There was a reference in Eckert's narrative of the battle, to a John Orr. My four-great grandfather John Orr was living in Southwestern Pennsylvania in 1782 when Crawford's army was recruited. After reading footnotes, I realized that there were other similarities. After researching on Ancestry.com, I found my relative's pension application which describes how he was shot through the hip at the Battle of Upper Sandusky. It is always a thrill to me to find these family connections to historical events. Grandfather Orr suffered through this defeat and the horrible retreat from the present day Upper Sandusky area back to the Ohio River.

THE CLARKSBURG HISTORY MUSEUM is apparently planning an exhibit on Stonewall Jackson in the near future. Details as they become available. The Museum is located on Main Street in Clarksburg across from the street from the Episcopal church where we have danced and met in the past. Check their website for their irregular hours.

I WILL MAKE MY REGULAR plea to the membership (or non-member readers) to contribute to the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Especially those members from other periods than the American Civil War.

PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL TO MY ADDRESS and not to the PO BOX in Buckhannon. We have received some announcements recently at the PO Box which we do not inspect on a regular basis.

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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