

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2020 - December - Edition *XII*

Upcoming Events

**Civil War
Sponsored**

None at this time

Sanctioned

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

2021

**Chancellorsville May 1-2, 2021 - NPS
Event**

No Annual Meeting

No meeting is scheduled at this time. Because of concerns over Covid-19, the meeting is postponed until further notice. Any questions can be directed to the Executive Committee.

-- IMPORTANT NEWS -- Executive Committee Action

The following two proposals were approved by the five voting members of the Executive Committee in an email vote the last week of October.

PROPOSAL #1 "In light of the current pandemic and its effects on the hobby, the Executive Committee postpones the election of new officers of the WVRA until such time that the Committee determines that it is prudent to hold the 'annual meeting' in accordance with procedures described in the by laws."

PROPOSAL #2 "The President shall have the authority to temporarily appoint, until the next duly conducted Association election, members to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee."

If any member has a concern or question about this action, please contact President Jim Barnes or myself. These actions were simply in response to

how the pandemic is affecting group meetings at the moment. Executive committee members are listed near the end of every newsletter. Members are encouraged to work through your Unit Representative. If you currently do not have a Unit Rep., work through an officer. Reminder to General Members, the WVRA President serves as your Unit Representative.

Membership

It is time to renew your membership in the WVRA for 2021. To be a member you must pay dues. To be eligible for the group insurance you must be a member. A membership form is included with this newsletter. Return the membership form and dues to : C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg WV 26301

1. 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 \$15 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership. Family memberships are limited to family members college age or younger residing within the household.
2. **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.

2021 Membership Renewals

Artillery

David Judy

Susan Judy

1st West Virginia

Jim Barnes

Keith Kopshina

Mike Phillips

Jack Rush

Chuck Critchfield

25th Virginia

Ken Connell

Tag Ireland

Dirk Behana

TASAS

Peter Baxter

Phyllis Baxter

Bill Snyder

Linda Barnes

Pamela Dodds

Art Dodds

Debbie Rush

General

Larry Teets

Senator Hunter Lesser

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Liability Certificate

A PDF copy of the WVRA's liability or insurance certificate was emailed to members with an email address on April 6. That email also contained the April newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact me at ccritch608@yahoo.com

Association on November 10, the birthday of the USMC!!

Other Features

Ambrose Bierce

Hunting season is in full swing. It's a reminder that Civil War soldiers enjoyed such pursuits when time allowed. Ambrose Bierce (9th Indiana Infantry) was probably closest to the truth when he confessed that "we were the original game-preservers of the Cheat Mountain region." In that spirit, here are two hunting tales from another Indiana soldier campaigning in West Virginia:

"Bear or Bose, Which?--The cook for the officer's mess came in one day from a hunt in the mountains, reporting he had killed a young bear, and would serve it for dinner to-morrow. 'Invite a friend,' said he. To-morrow came; the friends were there, of course; it was a splendid camp dinner, and enjoyed by all. But-- And here comes the nub of the story: A huge, black, long curly-wooled mastiff that belonged in camp was missing about that time, and there is to this day doubt in the minds of many among us whether that was a Bruin or Bose dinner."

"It was about mid-October we had one of the monster floods [at Elkwater], several camps from one to three feet underwater, ... a large wild buck deer came bounding into and through the camp. In a minute five thousand or more men were in pursuit--camp guards throwing down their arms and joining in the race: all excited, save the buck--he coolly threw his head back, and trotting down to the river, plunging into its troubled waters, swam for life and liberty; meanwhile thousands of brave, but excited men stood looking upon, or participating in the chase, and each wondering at the other fellow's stupidity in casting aside his gun at so opportune an occasion."

(From Thomson, Orville. *Narrative of the Service of the Seventh Indiana Infantry in the War for the Union*).

-- submitted by Hunter Lesser

Treasurer's Report

November 1 through 30, 2020

Beginning balance	\$2,814.08
Credits	
Memberships	\$ 180.00
Debits	
	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$2,994.08

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

Upcoming Events

Civil War Roundtables

The Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable

The SJCWRT has meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. The past two meetings have started at 7 pm at the Clarksburg Progressive Women's Association. However the time and location is subject to change in 2021. Anyone attending is required to wear a mask. I have no word on the Morgantown round table.

Event Reviews

US Marines During the Civil War

The November meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable featured Stephen Bockmiller and his talk on the United State Marine Corps' role in the Civil War. His entertaining presentation was made at the Clarksburg Progressive Women's

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FREE!!!

Two children's camp dresses, two teenage camp dresses, one adult camp dress (size 14). Contact Porter Stiles through Instant Messenger or Facebook for pictures and further information. FREE!!!!

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"They Said It (or didn't)"

Quotes, misquotes and fabrications attributed to the famous, nearly famous, not famous and infamous.

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

-- Abraham Lincoln, February 31, 1866

*"I was galloping along a secluded portion of the road when I discovered something that looked like calico in a niche formed by what they call a crook fence. I soon perceived clearly the object of my gaze. There was a man and a woman in a horizontal position - the man uppermost. I got within four rods before they discovered me. The pair jumped instanter, and a more foolish looking couple I never saw. The man began to ask questions about his regiment - and that he and his **wife** had got left behind and they had set down to rest."*

- Letter of James K. Magie (78th Illinois), Division Postmaster riding between Nashville and Franklin in the spring of 1863.. The letter was to his wife.

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

- The entire language of Amendment II to the United States Constitution which is rarely used in most of the Facebook posts I see.

"Let us arm, let us arm speedily, lest darkness come upon us while we are on our way and find us unprepared."

- Louis A. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of War, 1939. Mr. Johnson was Secretary of Defense under Harry Truman and is buried in Clarksburg. This is inscribed upon his tombstone

"(I)t is expected that we will move again soon there is no rest for Sherman's army as long as there is a reb left who dares to fight us but as the old saying is the hotter the war the quicker the peace and old billy believes in it."

- Albert Slack, 121st Ohio Vol. Inf., March 1865 while Sherman's army waited on the next move.

"(Perhaps) God has instituted the present troubles to rid the country of the predominance of slavery in its public affairs. The whole country, North as well as South, has been instrumental in the endeavor to spread it over the continent, and to force it on unwilling people. While the South has been actively propagating and perpetuating the institution, the North has winked at the wrongful business and encouraged it. --- Therefore, in the coming troubles, the North must not expect to escape the penalty of her lack of principle. She must suffer, like the South."

- Evansville (Ind.) Journal, April 20, 1861

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 -

Current WVRA Officers

Jim Barnes - President

Ken Connell - Vice President

Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant - Unit Rep (TASAS)

Vacant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Peter Baxter

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

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

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So I thought, finally a relative with some history of combat.

But it was not to be. Ford3 holds his muster rolls which show that Menear was sick at home by November of 1861 and sick throughout 1862 in army hospitals around Cumberland, Md. and Grafton. He returned to service briefly in 1863 before returning the hospital sick with chronic rheumatism. He entered the Veteran Reserve Corps and served to the end of his three-year enlistment. The final entry in his muster roll file was a report from 1878 that he never officially entered the Veteran Reserve Corps.

So I have five direct relatives. One participated in the battle of Perryville, where he was captured by the men in Braxton Braggs army. Another relative participated in the Tullahoma Campaign and was present at the Battle of Chattanooga. The rest, saw little major action and like millions of others, just did their duty...routine and monotonous as it may have been. Illness took three out of the Army like so many other volunteers on both sides.

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

The American Battlefield Trust recently posted videos of its tour through West Virginia, including stops at Philippi and Rich Mountain. At each stop the President of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, Rick Wolfe, was one of the featured presenters. Quite an honor for a local man to get exposure on the national stage.

I AM RUNNING LATE with this issue. Between Thanksgiving and a bout of vertigo, I let the newsletter slip through the cracks.

THIS ISSUE of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch is being mailed through the US Mail to all members who have not renewed and have a mailing address on file with me. Those who have renewed or do not have a mailing address on file with me will not be mailed a copy of this issue with a membership renewal form.

SOME OF YOU may have seen a few issues past, that I discovered a fifth direct relative served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Hiram Menear of Preston County, my great-great-grandfather, joined Capt. Kirk's Company of Virginia Volunteers in June of 1861. This Company would become shortly thereafter, Co. C of the 3rd Virginia Volunteer Infantry. I will add that the 3rd became the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry and finally the 6th West Virginia Cavalry later in the war. Fourth Sergeant Menear served his entire three-year term of service.

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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.

WVRA website - wvra.org

Chuck Critchfield - Editor

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Clarksburg, WV 26301

ccritch608@yahoo.com

"We tend to create stories that appeal to us. Then we impose those stories on the past."

- A Wallace Collection video produced on the 500th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt -found on You Tube

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."

- Robert Penn Warren