

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

January 2019 – Edition I

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

None at this time

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Beverly - ?

University High School - ?

Other Events

Cedar Creek (155th) - October 18-20

Other Time Periods

Nothing at this time

Editor's note - if you plan to attend events, please work with your Unit Rep.

Next Meeting

Saturday, January 12, at 1 pm at the Weston Steakhouse. We will be voting on officers for the WVRA in 2019. This is the annual meeting. Currently I am unaware of any events other than a possible event at Beverly, for consideration or discussion.

Membership Renewal

It is time for all interested members to renew their membership for 2019. Also, if you want to receive the newsletter through US Mail, it is time to submit the \$10 fee to cover mailing costs. Details can be found on the membership form included with this newsletter. Keep in mind that you must be a member to be covered by our liability insurance policy.

Since this edition of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch* has an absentee ballot, it will be sent via US Mail to those members who have a mailing address on file.

Election of Officers

Attached is an absentee ballot to vote for WVRA officers at the annual meeting on Jan. 12. Keep in mind nominations can be made from the floor. To date here are the nominations made.

Nominations

President - Jim Barnes

Vice-President - Ken Connell

Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Rush

Webmaster - Peter Baxter (unconfirmed)

Newsletter - Chuck Critchfield

Unit Rep (25th Va) - Bill Brisendine

Unit Rep (TASAS) - Diane Tennant

Unit Rep (1st Va) - John Brasuk

Unit Rep (1st W. Va.) - Mark Tennant

Unit Rep (Lurty Bty) - Stormy Brasuk

Please return the absentee ballot to C.L. Critchfield at 608 Skyview Drive in Clarksburg, WV, 26301. By January 10. It can also be sent to any officer of the WVRA.

Military officers for each of the military units and Unit Representatives for each the organizations within the WVRA will be elected by the individual organizations. The Unit Representative is the administrative leader of each organization. The military leader is NOT the administrative leader unless elected to that post also.

Membership Renewals - 2019

GENERAL

Hunter Lesser

TASAS

Phyllis Baxter

Peter Baxter

Bill Snyder

Linda Barnes

Art Dodds

Pam Dodds

Debra Rush

Jennifer Smith

1st West Virginia

Mike Phillips

Jim Barnes

Chuck Critchfield

Kevin Skaggs

Burdell Waffler

Jack Rush

Ed Chapdelaine

Rick Byrd

Keith Kopshina

25th Virginia

Tag Ireland

Dirk Behana

Bill Brisendine

Tim Glaser

ARTILLERY

Thurm Shaver

David Judy

Susan Judy

Newsletter

Tag Ireland

Thurman Shaver

UPCOMING EVENTS

RELIC HUNTING BEFORE

COMPUTERS

The Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable (SJCWR) regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8 at 7 pm at the Eat n' Park Restaurant at the intersection of I-79 and US Route 50 in the Clarksburg/Brigdeport area.

Dave Reed will talk about his relic hunting when a lot of footwork and book research was important before going into the field. Dave is an original member of the SJCWR,

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a long time relic hunter and the former owner of a hobby shop. He has an immense knowledge of local Civil War sites thanks all the research he has done. If you plan to eat a meal before the presentation, come early.

across the Charles River to the USS Constitution and the Bunker Hill monument. A very enjoyable trip that I would recommend to all who have an ability and interest. - C. L. Critchfield

Treasurer's Report

For the period December 1 through December 30, 2018

Beginning Balance	\$3,312.10
Credits	
Memberships	\$180.00
Debits	\$ 62.00
Ending Balance	\$ 3,430.10

Submitted by Jack Rush January 2, 2019

OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

FOR SALE

Former member Rob Freeman is selling some of his Civil War period clothing that was worn by himself and his father. He is selling shirts, a military vest and civilian vest, a almost new Union frock coat, a Confederate sack coat with Virginia buttons and two pairs of sky blue pants. Contact Pam Nicholson jmpnicholson@aol.com or Rob at rfreeman1373@gmail.com for more information. (These items were still available recently).

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

BOSTON?

During my recent trip to Cape Cod, my wife and I decided to spend a Sunday in Boston, that most historic of American cities. So early on an October Sunday morning we ventured into town.

In doing my research, I discovered that Boston had a Freedom Trail that led from Boston Commons to the Bred's Hill in Charlestown. This 2.5 mile trail is marked by a red line that winds its way along sidewalks, across streets and bridges and in one instance through a building. Eleven of the 16 stops on the Freedom Trail are sites where events in the American Revolution took place.

On that cold and windy October Sunday morning, we arrived at Boston Commons and parked beneath the commons in a giant underground parking lot. Upon climbing the steps to the famous Commons area we were struck by Civil War history first. Boston's large monument to her sons and daughters that served in the Civil War dominated the center of the park. Off to the north was the Robert Gould Shaw memorial directly across the street from the Massachusetts State House.

From there we visited the Granary Grave yard home to the remains of many a fine patriot like Revere, Adams and the victims of the Boston Massacre. Following the red line we saw the site of the Boston Massacre, Old South Meeting House, Faneuil Hall, the Old North Church, Revere's house, and then

155 Years Ago

Christmas in the Civil War

Many beloved holiday traditions have been celebrated since the Civil War. Often posted far from home, soldiers sought solace in customs like caroling, gift exchanges and decorating.

One soldier, Alfred Bellard of the 5th New Jersey Infantry Regiment, recalled a small tree, "decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges," that added festivity to life in a winter camp. Another soldier, from the 17th Maine, recorded that he and his fellow troops eagerly awaited the "sundry boxes and mysterious parcels" directed to them "with feelings akin to those of children expecting Santa Claus."

Yet, despite troops' efforts to partake in holiday celebrations on the front, the season also served as a reminder that soldiers were separated from their loved ones and the comforts of home. Soldiers preparing for the bloody Battle of Stones River in late December 1862 or shivering in the trenches outside of Petersburg in 1864, found little respite on Christmas or New Year's Day.

At home, families did their best to celebrate the holiday, but wondered when the vacant chair would again be filled.

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As we approach the end of 2018, please take a few moments to remember how soldiers in both blue and gray experienced the holiday season.

-- From the American Battlefield Trust website

They Said It (or didn't)

The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world. - Robert Penn Warren

"No society can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law."

-- Thomas Jefferson

"Peace is that brief glorious moment in history when everybody stands around reloading." - **Falsely** attributed to Thomas Jefferson. No evidence he said this and the language used here is not typical of Jefferson. This quote makes the rounds on Facebook from time to time. (Monticello website)

"You cannot believe everything that you may read on the internet" -- Abraham Lincoln

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org – Beverly Heritage Center

WVRA.org – our website

<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrtable.org/> -- W. Va.

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

WVRA Officers 2018 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes

Vice President – Ken Connell

Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website – Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep – Mark Tennant

25th Va. Rep – Bill Brisendine

1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – Stormy Brasuk

TASAS – Diane Tennant

*Union Rep - Debbie Rush ***

*Confederate Rep - Sherri Skidmore Goff ***

*20th Century Rep - Linda Barnes ***

* Non-voting member of executive board

** Not members of executive board

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

LET ME REMIND the readers of this publication that the opinions expressed in this newsletter **are not necessarily** the opinions of the WVRA. And believe you me, we have members who are 180 degrees apart on a few subjects as has been demonstrated once again recently.

I HAD HOPED to get this issue out before Christmas, but events conspired to prevent that from happening. This will be a short edition, dedicated to the business of the annual meeting and membership renewals.

THANK YOU to everyone who made contributions to this issue. I hope that I have not missed any submissions. A special thanks as always for Peter Baxter's able help. - MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

PERSONALS - Please pray for Jennifer Smith who is experiencing serious health issues.

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 of record.

There are two Facebook pages currently in use as avenues of communication by WVRA members. One is the WVRA-The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society group page. 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 continue to use the WVRA-TASAS page to post announcements as it has been the page getting the most use (by far) over the past 3 years.

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 per year.

The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA

WVRA website - wvra.org

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