

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2017– Edition 7 – June

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Rich Mountain – July 14-16 Beverly and on the battlefield.

Events Recommended by WVRA members

McConnelsville, Ohio – July 8-10
irishman1020@hotmail.com (740) 638-2126
War Comes to Monroe County - Union, W. Va., August 25-27

Cedar Creek – October 6-8 USV Sanctioned
Other – 2017

Gettysburg – July 1-3

Jackson's Mill – Labor Day Weekend

Other Time Periods

None at this time

multi-period camps in Beverly. Battle reenactment, living history scenarios, displays and music from the range of periods will bring exciting and educational activities for our visitors. Activities for spectators and participants will be shared between the two locations.”

Go to beverlyheritagecenter.org to learn how to register free until May 31. Also the link can be found on the WVRA-The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society Facebook page.

30th Annual Malta & McConnelsville Civil War Encampment Days

Ralph McCready has forwarded the following intelligence concerning this reenactment on July 7, 8, and 9 in and around McConnelsville, Ohio in Morgan County.

We will provide three meals, powder ration and we rent the community pool next to the camp ground for two hours on Saturday evening so the reenactors can cool off before the dance.

Saturday we have a small skirmish downtown and lay a wreath at the Civil War memorial in the town square. Sunday we break camp and move to Dr. Richmond's farm about five miles out of town. The battlefield is set up like an amphitheater with spectators watching from the top of a hill. At the bottom of the hill are buildings to simulate a town in the 1800's.

This year we were reenacting the battle of Corydon, Indiana, the first town John Hunt Morgan hit when he entered Indiana. It was defended by 450 militia, while Morgan brought over 2,000 men across the Ohio. Most of the militia had old muskets and squirrel rifles with the exception of one company who had Henry rifles. The militia held off the first assault thanks to the repeating Henry rifles. Then Morgan brought up the artillery and ended the fight.

We are inviting anyone with a repeating rifle to help out. We end the battle with nine artillery pieces which make a good show with over 35 ground charges and special effects in the town.

Contact Ralph McCready, Irishman1020@hotmail.com or 740-638-2126 for more information.

New By-Laws

The By-law revisions were approved at the March meeting. The primary changes were detailed in the last meeting, but once again the main change will allow other time period reenactors to join the WVRA. Also the new by-laws combine the office Secretary and Treasury into one office when that is needed.

Anyone wishing a copy of the by-laws can contact me to obtain a copy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Centuries of History featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain

The WVRA has voted to SPONSOR the Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History, Featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain Reenactment on July 14, 15 and 16. Activities will take place at Beverly and at Field of Fire location at Camp Garnett. We voted overwhelmingly to participate, so please register now.

This year will be a "better-than-ever joint event to commemorate the Battle of Rich Mountain and history of nearby Beverly, Randolph County. Civil War camps and reenactment on the Battlefield park property will be joined by timeline living history and

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New Market

The annual New Market reenactment was held in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley May 19 through 21 on the New Market Battlefield. Four members of the First West Virginia were spotted at the event: Bill Donegan, Chuck Critchfield, Mark Tennant and Kevin Skaggs.



Figure 1 Bill Donegan, Chuck Critchfield and Mark Tennant at New Market

The 2017 reenactment was much like past reenactments at New Market. The setting on the actual battlefield was beautiful. The two main reenactments took place around the Bushong House. There was plenty of water, firewood, port-a-johns, sutlers, etc.

However, this year, thanks to Kevin Skaggs and the 1st Regiment of the United States Volunteers, the ceremony honoring members of the First West Virginia that died at New Market or died of wounds suffered at New Market, was expanded. After Saturday's reenactment, the 1st Regiment, joined by the Cavalry, General Markijohn and a few others, were assembled near the spot where the 1st West Virginia fought (the actual spot is probably under I-81). Kevin provided 9 reenactors with the names of one of the honored veterans along with additional information about that veteran which was read aloud to the assembled reenactors. The ceremony was very moving and our thanks go out to the members of the 1st Regiment for participating.

Additionally on Saturday morning we did have a tactical designed to resemble First Kernstown. The tactical was held on the "other side" of I-81 between the modern highway and Route 11, the old Valley Turnpike. I failed to see much resemblance to First Kernstown, but it was a good stretch of the legs early in the morning. Marching under I-81 through the tunnel is always interesting.



Figure 2 United States Volunteers in line between the Bushong House and the Barn at New Market. Mark Tennant and Chuck Critchfield carrying the colors.

Kevin Skaggs did so much to make the memorial to the fallen of the First West Virginia, that I wanted to recognize him with a photograph....except when I got home the only picture I had of him, is this one. Unfortunately with his back to the picture talking with USV 1st Regiment commander David Childs (left) and USV commander General Darrell Markijohn (center). Kevin purchased the flags and did the research on the nine who died at New Market or from wounds.



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Thank you to Linda Donegan for the pictures.

Overall, it was a good reenactment with good friends, good weather, and remembering the veterans.

- C. L. Critchfield

Soldiers and Sailors Monument

WHEELING, W.Va. (AP) — A plan to relocate a Civil War monument from Wheeling Park to a grassy area at West Virginia Independence Hall has been postponed.

The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register (<http://bit.ly/2ryOSIN>) reports a monument committee met last week to discuss the relocation, which was announced last year.

Committee co-chair Margaret Brennan says the ground outside Independence Hall presents potential issues. The committee brought in a special geotech engineer to survey the land. Brennan says officials don't want the 25-ton Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument to sink.

She says the project will take more time than estimated to ensure it's done effectively. She says the relocation will eventually be put out for bid.

That, along with the ground issues, has added to the project's cost. Brennan says the committee needs to raise more money.

From "THE INTELLIGENCER"

WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes
Vice President – John Brasuk
Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush
Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*
Website – Peter Baxter*
1st W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield
25th Va. Rep – Tim Glaser
1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk
Artillery – Stormy Brasuk
TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

*** 155 Years Ago ***

Will return in future issues.

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org – Beverly Heritage Center
WVRA.org – our website
<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrt.org/> -- W. Va. Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)
Civil War Trust – civilwar.org

REVIEWS

Living History – Morgantown

Covenant Christian School in Morgantown hosted a Pioneer Days living history program on Friday, May 5. The event was organized by former WVRA artillery reenactor Tiffney Batton.

Groups of students from her school and the Morgantown Christian Academy made the rounds to a number of stops in the living history program at the school. The students ranged in age from kindergarten through middle school. The program was fun and well-organized. Tiffney has promised to send pictures. Once they are received, I will publish them.

Droop Mountain

Nothing new to report. Bryan's Battery and the WVRA have been discussing the possibility of holding the Droop Mountain reenactment in October of 2017. The WVRA has offered to help and is waiting to hear from the battery. Stay tuned for further developments.

Military Organization

Civil War

1st Virginia Cavalry

UNIT REP - John Brasuk

Captain - John Brasuk

Sergeant -

Corporal -

Events - TBD

1st West Virginia Infantry

UNIT REP - Mark Tennant

Captain - Chuck Critchfield

Sergeant - Ross Wetherell

Corporal - Vacant

Events - UHS Living History, New Market, Beverly/Rich Mountain

25th Virginia Infantry

UNIT REP - Tim Glaser

Captain - Jeff Goff

Sergeant - Greg Watterson

Corporal - Jay Allman

Events - Berverly/Rich Mountain

1st West Virginia Artillery

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UNIT REP - Stormy Brasuk

Battery A

TBD

Battery B

Sergeant - Stormy Brasuk

Events - Reenactor Appreciation at Gettysburg,
March 10-12, the UHS event and Artillery School.

Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

UNIT REP - Diane Tennant

Union Rep - Debbie Rush

Confederate Rep - vacant

Events - TBD

County, WV, by Roy Bird Cook, he might be able to oblige.

TRIVIA QUESTION – Nobody attempted an answer to this question except when brought up at New Market. "In Whitelaw Reid's definitive study of Ohio regiments in the Civil War, which West Virginia unit is listed as one of the regiments from Ohio?" The Fourth West Virginia Infantry. I once heard Gary Gallagher, famous Civil War historian say that every student of the Civil War, no every student period, should know the five components of the Compromise of 1850. After all the Compromise plays a big role in the coming of the Civil War. Can you name them? I had no takers to this question. A question for next time? How about, "In which battle did John Brown fight for the Confederacy and Jefferson Davis for the Union?"

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

PERSONALS – Jim Barnes has been experiencing some health issues which have kept him out of the field recently. Ed ChapdeLaine has suffered some setbacks in his recovery from a broken leg that will delay his return to the field. Jack Daft has likewise undergone a procedure that has kept him out of the field. I ran into former member Chris Johnson at New Market. His hip continues to limit his involvement in reenacting.

NRA – the executive committee is investigating the possibility of insuring the entire group under a policy from the NRA. Tim Glaser has volunteered to lead this project.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch. Thank you to Linda and Bill Donegan for the New Market pictures.

SO YOU THINK the Civil War is Ancient History? Once again it has emerged into the national discussion thanks to our President's efforts. His comments about Andrew Jackson and the Civil War once again brought our national tragedy into the political discussion. In addition, the removal of Confederate monuments from New Orleans has received a lot of attention. Driving back from New Market, Mark Tennant and I caught sight of the large rectangular Confederate flag flying alongside Corridor H near Moorefield. This flag received a bit of publicity among reenactors on Facebook recently. Somebody posted on Facebook that the Morrill Tariff was the real reason for the Civil War. So it goes on and on.

FOR SALE –Hunter Lesser has advised that anyone who wants a signed copy of *The Civil War in Lewis*

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 respective insurance policies that the 1st West Virginia and the 25th Virginia infantry units participate in, you must be a member of record. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1st W. Va. members are covered under the USV insurance. Insurance questions about the 1st Virginia Cavalry should be directed to the Unit Representative.

Yours truly, has no connection to the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page and takes no responsibility for it. Nor do I have any responsibility for the WVRA Facebook page. I would suggest that the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page seems to have more up to date information.

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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

Facebook – [WVRA – TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid Society](https://www.facebook.com/WVRA-TransAlleghenySoldiersAidSociety)

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