

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2018 – Edition VII - June

## Upcoming Civil War Events

### Sponsored Events

**Beverly (see below) - July 13-15**

### Events Recommended by WVRA members

**2018**

**Gettysburg 155 - July 5-8;**

[www.gettysburgreenactment.com/reenactors](http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/reenactors)

**Henderson Hall - June 16,17 near Parkersburg.**

**McConnellsville - August 3-5**

**Cedar Creek - October**

**Remembrance Day - November**

### **Other Events**

**Bulltown - October 12 -14, 2018 contact Sam Krafft (cwarcapt@yahoo.com)**

**Droop Mountain - October 12-14, 2018.**

### **Other Time Periods**

**Beverly Centuries of History - July 13-15**

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

Living historians from 1750 until 1950 eras are invited join our timeline heritage event to share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. Beverly, West Virginia was the original county seat of Randolph County, and was a crucial crossroads through settlement, Civil War and 20<sup>th</sup> Century history. Located 6 miles south of Elkins along US Rt 219, Beverly is an active heritage tourism destination with town historic district, Rich Mountain Battlefield, and multiple museums and shops anchored by the Beverly Heritage Center. Beverly Heritage Days is our primary heritage event of the year.

Living history camps will include Native American, Pioneer, Civil War, and World War II eras. For this year we are seeking additional representation from post-Civil War periods, including World War I and civilian life. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, heritage crafts and displays are all welcome. The event will welcome music from a variety of periods, and a "timeline" dance Saturday evening will feature music and dancing from 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

We welcome input and suggestions from WVRA or other participants, as we plan the activities for the. If you have a suggestion or would like to participate on the planning committee, please contact event chair Phyllis Baxter, [phyllisb@meer.net](mailto:phyllisb@meer.net) or call BHC at 304-637-7424.

Participant info / registration for Beverly Heritage Days is posted on the website. For the direct link, <http://beverlyheritagecenter.org/BHD2018participa nt.html> or go to [beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://beverlyheritagecenter.org) and there is a link on bottom left in the news block.

Beverly Heritage Days - Centuries of History is presented by Beverly Heritage Center and Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation. Editor's Note: nothing is planned at Camp Garnett or on Rich Mountain.

**PLEASE REGISTER TODAY SO WE CAN MAKE PLANS.**

## Next Meeting

None scheduled at this time

## Insurance Policy

Jack Rush has submitted the papers for the WVRA's liability insurance and received confirmation that we are now insured. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Committee. This covers members of the WVRA. If you have not renewed your membership, you are not covered.

Any questions about the policy should be directed to President Jim Barnes who worked hard to get this insurance. Thanks to Jack, who helped to file the paperwork!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Beverly Heritage Days**

Editor's Note - the WVRA has voted to make this a sponsored event.

## McConnellsville

The annual reenactment at McConnellsville, Ohio, will be held in August this year. Normally held in July, the event has been moved to August 3-5 according to WVRA member Ralph McCready (himself).

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Ralph writes: "This year we are changing the battlefield for Sunday's battle and having it at the fairgrounds. We will be reenacting Buffington Island. Have reenactors contact me for more information and registration forms. E-mail: [irishman1020@hotmail.com](mailto:irishman1020@hotmail.com) or phone: 740 - 638-2126.

## Treasurer's Report

For the period May 1 - May 31, 2018

Beginning Balance \$3,598.26

No activity to report

Ending Balance \$3,598.26

Submitted by Jack Rush June 1, 2018

## AFTER ACTION REPORTS

### New Market

Weather is always a topic of discussion at New Market. And it can vary from 29 degrees to 90 degrees. From worries of hypothermia to heat exhaustion -- and the 2018 edition of New Market did not disappoint.

Heavy rain had saturated the Shenandoah, and South Branch valleys for a few days by the time Mark Tennant and I arrived at Strasburg, Va. in the Valley. After we crossed the Allegheny Front and began descending into the South Branch Valley, the weather soured and rain began. The clouds were low and the rivers high. The South Branch was out of its banks at Moorefield - although not too far. The Shenandoah was soaked in. Massanutten's top was hidden behind clouds when we arrived.

After a stop at Cedar Creek (described elsewhere) we finally moved southward on I-81 arriving at a muddy New Market reenactment field. However, thanks to Mark's careful navigation we were able to unload our gear set up camp - all the time while watching the skies and checking the radar. It was obvious more weather was on the way, so we prepared our tents for the rain. Ross and his nephew joined us and that pair were set up in open ended dog tents!

It rained on and off all night. But by morning the majority of the precipitation was headed north and by noon we could see the top of Mount Jackson.

From this point on, the New Market reenactment, version 2018, was much like it's predecessors. The

Saturday tactical was canceled by poor weather but Saturday's battle was the normal scenario, unidentifiable as something historical.



Figure 1 - Look everyone! I didn't burn the biscuit!

We were joined on Saturday by Mike Phillips and his niece Megan Lough to form a color guard using the 1st regimental and National Colors. By the time of Saturday's battle, the sun was peeking out, baking the moisture out of the ground and creating a steam bath. The march to the battle near the Bushong House was through the largest poison ivy patch east of the Mississippi and which prevented anyone from taking hits there on Sunday.

We were camped with the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery, a good group of guys. Saturday evening was enlivened a bit by a visit to the 6th New Hampshire Contra Band to listen to their music and banter. As always, a treat to hear. The Smallwood brothers were spotted a couple streets below us, but I did not spot many other Federals or Confederates from the local area.

Kevin Skaggs warned me that Sunday's battle would bear little resemblance to the actual battle. And his prediction was accurate. On a warm Sunday afternoon we basically repeated Saturday's battle with the exception that the VMI group got to run full speed 100 yards to capture a cannon.



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Figure 2- Commander of the 1st Regiment of the United States Volunteers watches the approaching Confederates with confidence in his troops. Colonel Kevin Skaggs watches with his Lt. Colonel Ray Manzi and adjutant Jason Childs.

We were proud to serve under Kevin Skaggs, the newly elected commander of the First Regiment of United States Volunteers. Now Kevin has commanded the regiment before, in former commander Dave Childs' absence. And Kevin knows his stuff. So we had nothing but confidence in his skills, which he demonstrated quite well.

All amenities were fine. There were a decent number of sutlers. Crowds were the smallest I have seen. I suppose there were 300-400 reenactors per side counting all three branches. When you consider the amount of rain that had fallen, things weren't bad at all. There were spots of mushy, muddy, mud, especially right in front of our buffalo and port-a-johns. And one could find tire ruts worthy of World War I trenches. But there seemed to be no major problems and those few areas that were impassable to vehicles, seemed to have firm ground to one side or the other to allow passage.

- C. L. Critchfield

## Battle of Ravenswood

April 26-29

*(The following two reports were received from John Brasuk)*

Attending : Lurty's Company Horse Artillery  
1st VA Cavalry

Friday : School day

We talked to the students about the history of the civil War and the cannon.

Doctor Ed Falvo representing the 1st Virginia Cavalry, manned a station with his authentic doctor kit and talked to the students about the medicine procedures of the civil war era.

Saturday : street battle

Night fire cannon demonstration

After a short delay for the removal of a red dodge pickup in the firing area; we began firing the cannon providing support for 17th Virginia, Company F and the 19th Virginia Cavalry Company A.

Saturday Night: Cannon Demonstration

Five cannons from different companies participated including Lurty's Horse Artillery.

Major John H. Brasuk was placed in charge of the battery. Each cannon firing 3shots in sequence and concluding with "rolling thunder" in which entire battery fires in one-second intervals. The night was a great success.

Sunday Cannon demonstration

Lurty's Co Horse Artillery joined with 4 other companies in firing positions overlooking the Ohio river. The echo of the cannons were heard in the town. Major John H Brasuk was given command of battery from Colonel R A House.

Sunday battle

1st Virginia Cavalry took the field with 14 Ky Cavalry co f as skirmishers.

## Philippi Races

May 31- June 3

A forbidding weather forecast didn't stop Lurty's Company Horse Artillery from this event.

We arrived Friday.

Saturday :

We opened up on the federal battery around 1 pm we fired nine shots supporting our Rebel troops till they overtook and captured the federal guns. We were then asked by organizers to do a special cannon demonstration and fire an additional shot for a very

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special guest who had participated in the 1961 first battle (reenactment) of Manassas. We were honored to do so.

Saturday night skirmish :

At 10: 43 PM we commenced firing on the federal battery after eight well placed shots we silenced their guns and ended it at 11:23 pm.

Sunday cannon demonstration:

At 12:30 pm we gave an artillery demonstration for the public answering questions afterward.

Sunday Battle:

At 2:00 PM the battle reenactment began with the pistol shot followed by federal guns opening fire after 6 shots our gun retired as the troops passed us going into town.

New Market

We found the spot that we thought Rick had described to me between the Valley Pike and Interstate 81 on the back streets of New Market. We parked and guided around the prodigious mud puddles to do a quick inspection of the streets surrounding the church depicted in James Taylor's drawing above.

Still in no hurry to rush to a muddy Federal camp at New Market to set up in the rain, we ventured a couple miles south into the Cedar Creek Battlefield and stopped at the part of the NPS Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park called The Morning Attack Trails. Here the remnants of Thoburn's Division and other units from the VIII and XIX Corps rallied briefly in an effort to stop the Confederate onslaught or at the very least to buy time for other Federals to establish a defense. Once again we dodged small runoff streams, puddles and mud holes to visit the spot where the 8th Vermont made a stand and where the 8th Vermont monument stands. It continued to drizzle and the clouds remained low while we listened to the drone of tires on nearby I-81.

Using the map we gained at this stop we guided ourselves to the lower battlefield, nearer the fords of Cedar Creek, where the Army of West Virginia (aka VIII Corps) units bore the brunt of the initial surprise attacks. Here we finally found a display entitled Thoburn's Redoubt. The spot where his division had dug defensive works. It was eerily too coincidental how we had come to seek Thoburn in Middletown and found him here also. With Taylor's drawing of his death on the display marker.

Once we inspected the sign in the wet high grass we retreated to Mark's truck to further our efforts to find the ford on Cedar Creek where the Confederates would have crossed the creek. We did not have to descend much further when we turned onto a road that obviously led to the creek. A creek now showing a volume of water worthy of a river and a creek that was swallowing our road. The low water bridge in front of us was now collecting large amounts of debris and damming the raging torrent. Needless to say, we beat a hasty retreat, all the time keeping our front towards the enemy, until we found a place to turnaround and head back whence we came. A spooky ending to what started out to be a quick side trip to waste a little time.

- C. L. Critchfield

## OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

### Discoveries In The Valley

Mark Tennant and I arrived in the Valley of Virginia (aka Shenandoah Valley) the Friday before the New Market reenactment. A valley, I might add, that was drenched and overflowing. A valley with a ceiling so low that the clouds obscured the top of Massanutten. It was just a bit spooky, this dark, dreary valley.

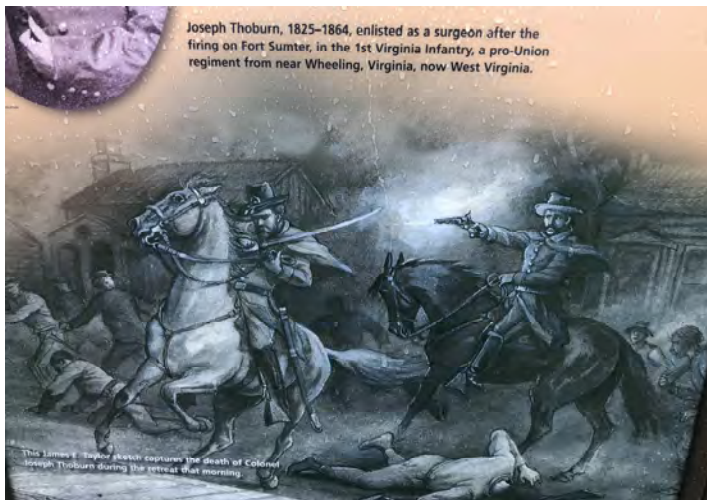


Figure 3 James Taylor's depiction of Joseph Thoburn's fatal wound at the battle of Cedar Creek. This is part of the sign we found at Thoburn's Redoubt.

Armed with new intelligence from Rick Wolfe, I wanted to make another effort to locate the scene of Joseph Thoburn's assassination by Confederate cavalry dressed in blue Federal uniforms. Another spooky assignment -- finding a death spot.

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## Thoburn Controversy

In Thomas A. Lewis' book "The Guns of Cedar Creek" he writes that Colonel Thoburn was killed on another part of the battlefield, earlier in the morning. His book describes Thoburn riding among his routed division as it retreated from its camps towards the Valley Turnpike. "Somewhere in the maelstrom, roaring and swinging his sword, Colonel Thoburn was laboring to stop the river of running men when a bullet found him, pierced his upper body, and he fell dying to the ground." Lewis cites page 204 of "Record of the 116th Ohio" by Thomas F. Wildes, who was the brigade commander at that time.

Page 204 of the 116th regimental does not, as far as I can tell, make mention of Thoburn's death as described above. So this writer is at a bit of a loss to discover how Lewis comes to the conclusion he was killed here when all other sources point towards his death in Middletown.

Truth be told, the evidence supporting Thoburn's death in Middletown while "busily engaged disentangling and pushing forward his retreating trains" is more reliable than Lewis' interpretation. This more reliable account coming from his obituary in the Wheeling Intelligencer and witnesses in Middletown. Furthermore, the lady you tended to Thoburn about "ten minutes after he fell" was Mrs. Mary E. Hoover. It would be interesting to determine, if possible, where the Hoovers would have lived in 1864. Thoburn fell from his horse at the "side of the street, on a vacant lot." Surely the lot was near the Hoover residence.

Wildes does write on page 219: *"The greatest loss we met was in the death of Colonel Thoburn. No better or braver officer ever lived. Every man in the division fairly loved him. Firm, yet kind hearted as a child, he impressed every one who met him as an honest patriotic, Christian gentleman. As a man he drew around him a pleasant circle of friends, constant and affectionate, who deeply and inconsolably mourned his loss. In disposition he was frank, manly, kind, and always cheerful. He was the soul of kindness to those he commanded, and the very soul of honor itself in all the relations of army life. he did not possess an impulsive nature. He was not a thunder-bolt on the field. He was a rock, rather. Fiery floods might break upon him, and yet he was always the same, always cool, strong, intrepid, brave and firm. While he was the soldier, every inch, he never forgot that he was also*

*a citizen and a gentleman, and that he was simply engaged in war because duty and patriotism called him there. Hence he took no interest or pride in the pomps or forms of military life. He was too sincere, too deeply in earnest in the cause of his country to give a thought to anything that did not pint directly toward the unity of the Nation and its restoration from the fell powers of treason and disunion. His young State of West Virginia and the Nation could ill afford to lose such a man as General Thoburn. "*

- C. L. Critchfield

## Colonel Toland vs. Contraband Whisky

"Volunteer," told me a good story of one of the gallant 34<sup>th</sup> Ohio and Colonel Toland.

During their stay at Barboursville, the Colonel noticed, one day, an extraordinary number of intoxicated soldiers in camp. Where they obtained their whisky was a mystery to the command. The orders were very strict in regard to its prohibition. After considerable effort, the Colonel succeeded in finding out the guilty party. The culprit had a little log hut on the banks of the Guyandotte River, and was dealing it out with a profuseness entirely unwarranted. The Colonel sent his orderly for Corporal Minshall, of Company G. On his arrival, the Colonel said:

"Corporal, you will take ten men, sir, and go to the whisky-cabin on the banks of the Guyandotte, seize all the whisky you find, and pour it out."

"All right," said the Corporal; "your order will be obeyed forthwith."

...On arriving at the cabin, they seized upon and "poured out" the whisky. After a thorough loading up, the Corporal returned and reported at head-quarters.

"You poured it out, did you?" inquired the Colonel.

"Yes, sir," categorically replied the Corporal.

The Colonel noticed a canteen about the Corporal's neck, and thought he smelled something, and, looking him steadily in the face, repeated:

"You poured it out, sir, did you?"

"Yes sir," emphatically replied the Corporal.

"And where did you pour it, sir?"

"In our canteens, Colonel," he replied.



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For a moment his eyes flashed with anger; but, on second thought, the joke struck him as being too good, and the pleasant smile so characteristic of the Colonel wreathed his face for a moment.

“Well, Corporal,” continued he, “I suppose that is some of the ‘poured-out’ in your canteen, eh?”

“Yes, sir,” he replied, with the utmost *sang froid*, and, at the same time, gracefully disengaging the strap from his neck, said, “Won’t you try some Colonel?”

I don’t care if I do,” said the Colonel; whereupon he imbibed, saying as he lowered the vessel, “Not a bad article—not a bad article; but, Corporal, next time I send you to pour out whisky I will tell you *where* to pour it.”

—Alf. Burnett, *Incidents of the War*

Submitted by Hunter Lesser

## The Blue and the Gray

*"Oh, mother, what do they mean by blue?*

*And what do they mean by gray?"*

*Was heard from the lips of a little child*

*As she bounded in from play*

*The mother's eyes filled up with tears;*

*She turned to her darling fair,*

*And soothed away from the sunny brow*

*Its treasures of golden hair.*

*"Why, mother's eyes are blue, my sweet,*

*And grandpa's hair is gray,*

*And the love we bear our darling child*

*Grows stronger every day."*

*"But what did that mean?" persisted the child;*

*"For I saw two cripples today,*

*And one of them said he fought for the blue;*

*The other, he fought for the "*

*"Now, he of the blue had lost a leg,*

*And the other had but one arm,*

*And both seemed worn and weary and sad,*

*Yet their greeting was kind and warm,*

*They told of battles in days gone by,*

*Till it made my young blood thrill;*

*The leg was lost in the Wilderness fight,*

*And the arm on Malvern Hill.*

*"They sat on the stone by the farmyard gate*

*And talked for an hour or more*

*Till their eyes grew bright and their hearts seemed warm*

*With fighting their battles o'er.*

*And parting at last with a friendly grasp,*

*In a kindly, brotherly way,*

*Each calling to God to speed the time*

*Uniting the blue and the gray."*

*Then the mother thought of other days --*

*Two stalwart boys from her riven;  
How they knelt at her side, and lisping, prayed  
"Our Father, which are in Heaven;"  
How one wore the gray and the other the blue;  
How they passed away from sight,  
And had gone to the land where gray and blue  
Are merged in colors of light.*

*And she answered her darling with golden hair  
While her heart was sadly wrung  
With the thoughts awakened in that sad hour  
By her innocent prattling tongue;  
The blue and the gray are the colors of God;  
They are seen in the sky at 'even,  
And many a noble, gallant soul,  
Has found them passports to Heaven."*

**Submitted by Jennifer Smith** with the following note: Author unknown. Marvin Miracle, 17th Virginia Dismounted Cavalry, Parkersburg, found the above poem in an attic of a house in Parkersburg in a scrapbook belonging to Dorr Cast, a state legislator from Wood County in the early 1940's. ( Editor's note: further on line research revealed these words are the final six stanzas of this poem, written by F. M. Finch and published in "The Ideal Speaker for Young People - Gleanings from the Poets for Home and School Entertainment," McLoughlin Brothers, 1905.)

## 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](mailto:jmpnicholson@aol.com) or Rob at [rffreeman1373@gmail.com](mailto:rffreeman1373@gmail.com) for more information.

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Jim Barnes reports that at the Clarksburg Gun Show, a National Guard recruiter stopped by and said he had a nice Civil War officer's desk he wants to sell if anyone is interested contact Jim Barnes.

## 155 Years Ago

June 1863

## The 1st West Virginia (finally)

June of 1863 was not a particularly busy time for the regiment. The regiment stationed at Mechanicsburg Gap two miles west of Romney, watching the road to New Creek or Keyser. In mid-June the 1st, along with the other troops in the area were ordered to New Creek and then to Cumberland where they arrive on June 20, 1863, the first day for the new

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state of West Virginia. Here the First joined the other units guarding the B&O while events to the Army of Northern Virginia on the move northward.

Joshua Winters' diary entries speak of routine topics until mid-month we talks about "grate excitement." Although he does not explain the reason for the excitement, word of Lee's advance certainly was getting around by that time. Later in a later to his sister he "i dont no what is a goin on. the railrode is all tor up from hear to Martainsburg, the excitement is all over hear." Although the command was alarmed by Lee's invasion of Pennsylvanias, they were unaffected any further by the end of the month.

*From "History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry" by C. J. Rawling and "Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winter - A Private in the Union Army Company G, First Western Virginia Volunteer Infantry" edited by WVRA member Elizabeth Davis Swiger.*

## The 12th West Virginia

June 1863

The 12th, on the other hand, stood right in the path of Lee's left flank as it headed towards the Potomac. When I last wrote of the 12th, the regiment remained in Clarksburg as the Jones-Imboden raiders returned to Virginia. June 2 orders were received to move and the boys of the 12th boarded a freight train and rode to Grafton where they caught the B&O for Martinsburg. By the 5th the 12th arrived in Winchester, Virginia.

Here under General Milroy, they set up camp began duties here on the front line of the Northern armies watching for the Confederates. At this point the 12th had not fought in a major engagement, and they were spoiling for a fight according to Hewitt -- a fight they would soon get. On the 12th the regiment engaged advance units of the Southern army in a stand-up fight. The 12th Regiment fell back into the defenses of Winchester not realizing that Ewell's entire corps was bearing down. By the time that Milroy realized he was being overrun by a much superior force, the Confederates were closing around the town.

The 12th began evacuation towards Martinsburg on the 15th but the Confederates were blocking the road north of town. Soon the regiment was ordered off the road and to the west in the direction of North Mountain. The 12th was one of the few regiments to escape the trap while "retaining their organizations." Although Hewitt admitted the regiment lost 200 prisoners in the escape. The remnants of the

regiment would finally reach and cross the Potomac and stop at Hancock, Maryland. Hancock being in an exposed position, the 12th and 116th Ohio and a Pennsylvania Cavalry unit marched 35 miles northward into Pennsylvania where it would remain for the remainder of the month.

Thomas Jefferson Orr relates the story of the regiment in it's flight from Winchester reached North Mountain but faced the prospect of having to fight it's way past Southern cavalry reported to be ahead somewhere. After reaching the summit of the mountain "she led us along the crest" for several miles until the men were past the enemy force. "There she bade us goodbye and started for her home followed by many kind wishes for her safe return to her home and friends."

*"From "History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry" by William Hewitt and "A Company of BOYS IN BLUE" by Mark E. Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr. (Donated by Orr's descendant Mark E. Paul)*

As always, I welcome any similar information on the 25th Virginia or 1st Virginia Cavalry.

## They Said It (or didn't)

"80. Ques. Were the sufferings of the South ended by the surrender?

Ans. No; they suffered from poverty, negro rule, and military domination.

81. Ques. What organization was formed, to protect whites from negro rule?

Ans. The Ku-Klux Klan, organized by Gen. N. B. Forrest"

The final two questions from an United Daughters of the Confederacy pamphlet titled "A Catechism for the Children of the Confederacy of the North Carolina Division UDC." Thought to have been published in the 1930's. Taken from an article in the Asheville, N. C. newspaper.

## Sites of Interest

[Beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://Beverlyheritagecenter.org) – Beverly Heritage Center  
[WVRA.org](http://WVRA.org) – our website

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

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)  
Civil War Trust – [civilwar.org](http://civilwar.org)

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## WVRA Officers 2018 (executive board)

President – Jim "Hawkeye" Barnes  
Vice President – Ken Connell  
Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush  
Newsletter editor - Chuck "Pathfinder" Critchfield\*  
Website – Peter Baxter\*  
1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep – Mark "Burned Biscuits" Tennant  
25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep – Bill "Beal" Brisendine  
1<sup>st</sup> 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*

THANK YOU to everyone who made contributions to this issue - Hunter Lesser, Jenny Smith, Peter Baxter A big thank you to Jim Barnes and Jack Rush for completing the paperwork successfully for the WVRA insurance policy. And to the Brasuks who were the first in a while to submit an after action report on a reenactment.

THE CIVIL WAR TRUST has morphed into the American Battlefield Trust. This new title more accurately represents the mission of the organization which has started to spend money on saving Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields. The first big Revolutionary War field being saved is Princeton, N. J.

BILL SNYDER - has anyone had any contact with Bill? He has not responded to me. I dropped by his house but got no response.

SO YOU THINK THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER (chapter 10) - Recently on the a Facebook page that normally contains old pictures of Clarksburg appeared a picture of the KKK parading down a road, followed by others not robed. A couple of folks explained that this picture was a funeral procession outside of Shinnston probably in the 1920's. The comments that followed were remarkable in two ways. One person explained that negative comments about the KKK should not be recorded under this page because the Klan was still very active and would take action to silence its critics.

The other strain of comment centered around how the Klan used to police the local communities and when that stopped, crime surged. Just look at today's society. The implication was clear. The Klan was good.

THE WVRA has 62 members including one member from outside the Civil War era.

BEVERLY HERITAGE CENTER - announced that rehabilitation work on the 1841 Randolph County jail sitting behind the Heritage Center in Beverly, will start in 2018. Beverly is also embarking on our their annual growth campaign to provide funding for improvement projects. Please donate. [beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://beverlyheritagecenter.org).

PERSONAL - Jack and Tonya Daft ask that you keep their family in your prayers. We missed Jim Barnes at New Market and hope he is feeling better these days.

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 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 (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](http://wvra.org)  
Chuck Critchfield – editor  
608 Skyview Drive  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
[Ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:Ccritch608@yahoo.com)