

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2019 - March - Edition III

Upcoming Events

Civil War

Sponsored

Beverly Heritage Days, July 12-14

Sanctioned

None

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

Civil War Symposium, April 6, Beverly, WV
University High School - TBD

New Market, May 18-19, 2019, New Market,
Virginia (USV)

Fort Mulligan, August 17, Petersburg, WV -
see Dave Judy

Shenandoah 1864, Oct. 4-6 (USV)

Burlington, WV Oct. 4-6 - See Dave Judy

155th Cedar Creek, Oct. 18-20, 2019 (USV)

Other Events

Droop Mountain, October 11-13, 2019
<https://battleofdroopmountain.com>

Other Time Periods.

World War II

May 4 **Bataan Death March Memorial**
- Wellsburg, WV

June 7-9 Butler PA **Jeep Fest**

June 22-23 PA **Trolley Museum**

September 6-8 **Brooke County WV Fair**

WW II Battle Reenactments:

August 2-4 **Operation Market Garden**,
Tidioute, PA

August 16-18 **D-Day**, Conneaut, Ohio.

18th Century:

April 5-7, **School of the Longhunter**,
Pricketts Fort, Fairmont, WV

April 25-28 **Fort Frederick Market Fair**,
Big Pool, MD.

Memorial Day Weekend, (possible) **French
and Indian War encampment**

July 5-7 **Siege of Fort Niagara**, Niagara
State Park, NY

August 23-25, **French and Indian War
Muster**, Fort Frederick MD

Labor Day Weekend - **Siege of Fort
Henry**, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV.

Miscellaneous

June 21-23, **Wild West Weekend**, Old
Bedford Village, Bedford, PA.

(Editor's Note: All events listed under the
heading "Other Time Periods" were
suggested by Jim Barnes and questions
about those events should be directed to
Jim.)

Next Meeting

The next meeting has not been
scheduled as of press time.

Minutes from February Meeting

WVRA Meeting
February 10, 2019
Steer Steak House Weston

16 members present President Jim Barnes called
the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

The minutes from the January 19 meeting had been
published in the newsletter. Since there were no
additions or corrections, Bill B. made motion to
approve. Jim A. seconded the motion. Motion
carried.

The Treasurer's report also had been published.
There were no questions or corrections, Mark T.
made motion and Bill B. seconded and the report
was approved.

Chuck C. gave membership report. There are 49
members currently renewed.

The meeting broke into unit meetings:

1st W Va The UHS reenactment is probably
not happening. Not enough reenactor interest.
Some of the 1st are interested in attending New
Market and Cedar Creek.

25th Va A new member John Arnold was
present.

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TASAS - They are going to sponsor a "Through the Ages" Tea at the Beverly Timeline Event.
No Artillery or Calvary at the meeting.

Old Business:

Insurance. The insurance company is working on sending a Certificate of Insurance. It will be handed out when received.

A vote was held on sponsoring the Beverly Heritage Event. The vote passed unanimously.

New Business:

John Arnold said that the city of Parsons wants to do a Corricks Ford event again. They are proposing a date of July 26, 27, and 28th. He would like for our group to participate. It was decided to discuss this again after more info becomes available.

No meeting was scheduled at this time. More info is needed about Corricks Ford. This may need to be discussed at an Executive meeting. A group meeting might be scheduled for April. Date will be advised when a decision is made.

Respectively submitted,
J. Rush

February 20, 2019

Books

The WVRA received a donation from an individual in Charleston a number of years past. The donation consisted of a complete set of the "*War of the Rebellion Official Records*" otherwise known as "THE O.R." This donation has been generously stored at the home of Jack and Tonya Daft since then. The Dafts requested that books be relocated.

Chuck Critchfield received the books from Tonya on February 17 and is temporarily storing them at his church in Clarksburg until a permanent home can be found for them. The WVRA has sent a feeler out to the Beverly Heritage group but as of the publication date of this newsletter, we have received no response from that organization

Some of the books are still shrink wrapped and a handful have suffered some water damage caused by a leak in the roof of the Daft's storage building.

Treasurer's Report

Feb. 1 - 28, 2019
Beginning balance \$3556.59
Credits
Memberships \$105.00
Debits
Donation to CE Church \$15.00
Ending Balance \$3646.59
Submitted by Jack Rush

Insurance

There have been several inquiries about insurance. Jack Rush has received the Certificate of Liability Insurance and will bring a copy to the next meeting of the WVRA.

Membership

Listed below are the members who have renewed membership or joined the WVRA. Please renew your membership today. You must be a member of record to be covered by the WVRA liability insurance. The membership renewal grace period will soon be over, so renew at the next meeting. Remember that if you want the newsletter mailed, a \$10 fee is necessary (and a mailing address!!!!)

Please note the following: Tony Shaffer, my mail to your mailing address came back undelivered.

Membership Renewals - 2019

GENERAL

Hunter Lesser William Burruss
Aaron Bosnick

TASAS

Phyllis Baxter Peter Baxter
Bill Snyder Linda Barnes
Art Dodds Pam Dodds
Debra Rush Jennifer Smith
Linda Donegan Debbie Wenig
Sherri Goff and family Diane Tennant
Mary Mullenax

1st West Virginia

Mike Phillips Jim Barnes
Chuck Critchfield Kevin Skaggs
Burdell Waffler Jack Rush
Ed Chapdelaine Rick Byrd
Keith Kopshina Bill Donegan
Ron Wenig Chris Taylor
Ralph McCready Mark Tennant

25th Virginia

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Tag Ireland	Dirk Behana
Bill Brisendine	Tim Glaser
Ken Connell	Jim Allman
Jeff Goff	Gregg Watterson
John Arnold	Roy Teter
ARTILLERY	
Thurm Shaver	David Judy
Susan Judy	
Newsletter	
Tag Ireland	Thurman Shaver

at the IOOF Building, in historic Beverly, West Virginia.

-- 12:00 to 12:50 Registration

-- 12:50 to 1:00 Welcome

-- 1:00 to 1:50 "Inhospitable and Dismal Country: Nature and the 1861 West Virginia Campaign" – John M. McMillian

-- 1:50 to 2:40 "Patriots & Petticoats: The Volunteers of 1861" – Hunter Lesser

-- 2:40 to 3:00 Break

-- 3:00 to 3:50 "West Virginia's First Soldiers: 1st Virginia Volunteer Infantry" – Rick Wolfe

-- 3:50 to 4:40 "Looming Civil War" - Jason Phillips

-- 5:00 Opening of the "The First Campaign"

Display with a beer and wine social (This opening is free and open to the public)

-- 6:00 Dinner

Symposium Cost \$30 Student Price \$15

Optional Beverly Heritage Center dinner with a social starting at 5:00

Dinner \$45 Symposium and Dinner \$70

Contact: Beverly Heritage Center -

Info@beverlyheritagecenter.org - 304 637 742

Upcoming Events

University High School

I have exchanged emails once again with Phil Caskey at University High School. He is not sure that UHS will be able to hold its annual living history this year. More information when it becomes available.

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History

July 12, 13, 14, 2019
Beverly, West Virginia

Living Historians and Reenactors from 1750 through 1950 are invited to join the Beverly Heritage Center for our timeline heritage event to share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. Living history camps will include Native American, Pioneer, Civil War, and World War II eras with scenarios welcome for any part of our timeline, military and civilian. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, heritage crafts and displays are all welcome. Planned scenarios and demonstrations are strongly encouraged. This event is FREE with pre-registration, and includes camp amenities and one meal. For information and registration see www.beverlyheritagecenter.org (watch for updates coming soon) or call 304-637-7424.

Annual Civil War Symposium

"Looming Civil War"

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation will present its annual symposium on April 6, 2019

"Voices of the Civil War"

Mar. 23, 2019

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Hancock Welcome Center

The Liberty University Department of History is pleased to announce the 2019 Civil War Seminar - "Voices of the Civil War." [Join us](#) in exploring Civil War history with honored guest speakers.

Civil War-themed books will be available for [purchase](#).

Guest Speakers

Russell (Rusty) Hicks, one of the nation's top collectors of Civil War artifacts

Christopher Jones, Liberty University Professor of Civil War studies

Michael Hardy, North Carolina Historian of the Year (2010) and Civil War expert

Lucas Peed, Civil War Reenactor and LU History Graduate Student

<https://www.liberty.edu/academics/arts-sciences/history/index.cfm?PID=16259>

-- submitted by Hunter Lesser

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After Action Reports

Robert C. Byrd High School JROTC

Your editor had the pleasure and honor to make a presentation to four Junior ROTC classes on February 26. At the invitation of the cadets, their leader retired Lieutenant Colonel Joel Sandy, and former leader retired Lieutenant Colonel Pete Taylor I talked to about 60 cadets from RCB and a few from Bridgeport about the common soldier of the Civil War.

After talking to them about reasons behind joining the army in 1861, I talked about and showed them the basic equipment of the soldier. In the shorter 45-minute classes had just enough time to join the cadets outside the school for discussion and demonstration of the .58 caliber Enfield rifled-musket. In the two longer 90-minute classes and I had time for expanded discussion and at the end of the class a little 19th-century drill which they could compare to their 21st-century drill.

These high school students were more attentive than the average high school students, as they were already students of military science through their JRTOC classes at RCB. It was a very enjoyable experience for me and the feedback I have received indicates the students enjoyed the presentation also.

Lieutenant Colonel Sandy and First Sergeant Brownfield were most cooperative and appreciative. The administration at the school provided me with a signed letter granting me permission to bring my Enfield to school grounds and to fire the weapon. This is a step I recommend to all reenactors regardless of the type of weapon you are bringing on the grounds. It only takes one disgruntled student or parent to stir up trouble.

-- Chuck Critchfield



Figure 1 - Teaching the RCB JROTC cadets how to form a company in the 19th century. I have them in a single line by height and am now telling them "elbow to elbow!"

Other Features

Where The Longest Day Lives On

By: Kate Bachelder Odell

Colleville-sur-Mer, France -- Americans love to complain about you people's ignorance of civics and history. The solution could be better teaching or curricula, but here's another idea: experience. Israel and private philanthropists sponsor 'birthright' visits for young Jews from around the world. Perhaps American philanthropists could send young Americans to Normandy to see the D-Day beaches and American war cemeteries.

There's no shortage of World War II books and movies, but art can't do justice to Omaha Beach, where the invading Americans took awful losses trying to reach bluffs hundreds of yards away. When driving around the region - the invasion stretched 50 miles - you start to feel for Brig. General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. The 26th president's eldest son came ashore with the first wave of troops. On landing a mile away from the target spot on Utah Beach, he is reported to have said: "We'll start the war from right here."

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There are confounding realities, too such as the La Fiere bridge, which inspired a scene in "Saving Private Ryan." IN the movie, it looks important. In reality, it's a small path over a dumpy creek. You wonder if at times the GIs though this was a stupid and futile task, hunkering down for days holding this piece of ground. But they held it anyway.

The late historian Stephen Ambrose attributed much of Operation Overlord's success to individual decisions by young men. "it all came down to a bunch of 18-to-20 year olds," he writes. "They magnificently trained and supported, but only a few of them had ever been in combat. Only a few had ever killed or seen a buddy killed." The "literature they read as youngsters was antiwar, cynical, portraying patriots as suckers, slackers as heroes." That doesn't sound far off from today.

"If the noncoms and junior officers failed to lead their men up and over the seawall to move inland in the face of enemy fire," Ambrose observed, "why, then, the most thoroughly planned offensive in military history...would fail." Pondering that might inspire more interest in history than memorizing questions for the Advanced Placement exam.

Some might sign up for a Normandy trip in hopes of sneaking a taste of calvados, the region's apple brandy. The GIs drank it, too. Bonus: Cell reception in the area is close to nonexistent, so students have to set down the smart-phones and look around.

It's hard, even for snarky teenagers, to be unmoved by the Omaha Beach cemetery's endless rows of white crosses and Stars of David. Forty-five pairs of brothers are buried here, including Teddy Roosevelt Jr., who died of a heart attack a month after D-Day, and his younger brother Quentin, killed in World War I.

As it happens, the connection between war and memory is the subject of a new history of the American Battle Monuments Commission by Tom Conner, a military historian at my alma mate, Hillsdale College. In one passage, Mr. Conner recalls a superintendent of the American cemetery, who told a group of visitors that those buried on the grounds are "still serving their

country." American high-school students should witness it.

-- *From the Wall Street Journal and submitted by Hunter Lesser. (Editor's note: Are there lessons to be learned here? We have sponsored students from UHS to visit Gettysburg in the past.)*

Silenced Forever

From the files of "You Think the Civil War is Over?" comes this story courtesy of Hunter Lesser and the Civil War News.

As you may recall, the Confederate memorial standing on the campus of the University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill campus was illegally torn down by a mob of protestors last summer. Although the Confederate soldier atop the monument was toppled, the base of the statue, nicknamed "Silent Sam," remained along with the affixed plaque honoring the Confederate veterans of the University.

Carol Folt, the Chancellor of UNC-Chapel Hill, sometime later in 2018 decided that the base of the statue had to be removed. "The presence of the remaining parts of the monument on campus poses a continuing threat both to the personal safety and well-being of our community and to our ability to provide a stable, productive education environment," according to the Chancellor.

Folt announced on January 14 her resignation from the Chancellor's post, effective at the end of the semester. The article that Hunter passed on to me is not clear about the reason for the resignation or if it had anything to do with Silent Sam. But what is clear is, that due to the reaction of UNC-Chapel Hill alumni to the removal of the base and plaque, the University System's Board of Governors, on the day after her resignation, directed her to vacate her office by January 31. The Chairman of the Board of Governors stated "We are incredibly disappointed at this intentional action."

So, the war goes on.

-- Chuck Critchfield from article submitted by Hunter Lesser

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155 Years Ago (March 1864)

My continuing effort to remember the men who fought with the 1st and 12th West Virginia through the writing of Joshua Winters and Thomas Jefferson Orr.

The 1st West Virginia spent much of the cold winter of 1863-64 guarding the B&O. The regimental strength was much reduced after four companies had been captured at Moorefield. Remember that about 200 members of the 1st Regiment had "re-enlisted for the war." In March the "entire battalion, consisting of less than 400 men," was granted veteran furlough. Furlough was spent at home on the condition the men reassemble on April 1 at Webster in Taylor County. Jonathan Winters diary is full of references to his furlough. Winters took advantage of his time away from the military. His diary describes in very limited detail all his social engagements before he boarded a train in Wheeling on April 1 and suffered a tiresome ride to Webster.

The 12th meanwhile was to be found guarding the railroad a short distance away at Cumberland that month. The 12th was still recovering from its rough handling at the battle of 2nd Winchester. Additional recruits joined the regiment over the winter and Major Curtis was promoted to the colonelcy of the 12th Regiment. Thomas Jefferson Orr remained on detached duty at Harpers Ferry as a clerk in the camp of the First Division (Sullivan's) of the Department of West Virginia. His letters from March are for the most part personal in nature. He did complain that his duties are "the same old thing every day....Some days nothing at all to do, other days more that I can get done." Back at Cumberland on March 12, the new departmental commander Franz Sigel reviewed the 12th. At a second surprise review Sigel was impressed by "its high attainment of drill." By the end of the month the 12th was ordered to travel by train to Webster, just like the 1st regiment, where a

force was gathering for invasion of the Shenandoah.

Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters
Edited by WVRA member Elizabeth Davis Swiger.
History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry, by C. J. RAWling. *A Company of Boys in Blue* by Mark Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr. *History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry* by William Hewitt

Other Time Periods

Jim Barnes submitted a list of suggested events seen above.

#####

"They Said It (or didn't)"

"This is the bitterest place (Lewisburg) I ever saw - people are all secesh except one and that one keeps his mouth shut. The women say they would like to cut our throats & even said so in the presence of one of our officers..."

-- Tom Taylor, 47th Ohio, to his wife Netta, undated but probably May of 1862. From Tom Taylor's Civil War, by Albert Casteel.

An Army Corps On The March by Walt Whitman (1865)

*With its cloud of skirmishers in advance,
With now the sound of a single shot, snapping
like a whip, and now an irregular volley.
The swarming ranks press on and on, the dense
brigades press on;
Glittering dimly, toiling under the sun -- the dust-
cover'd men,
In columns rise and fall to the undulations of the
ground,
With artillery interspers'd -- the wheels rumble,
the horses sweat,
As the army corps advances.*

"Oh no, honey. I can't read little things like letters. I read big things like men."

-- Sojourner Truth as quoted in Antietam Shadows by Dennis E. Frye

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Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org
Beverly Heritage Center -
www.beverlyheritagecenter.org
Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable
www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

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)
No vote yet - Unit Rep (1st Virginia Cavalry)
Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)
No vote yet - Unit Rep (artillery)
Webmaster - Peter Baxter
Editor - Chuck Critchfield

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 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.

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. Thank you to Hunter Lesser for his submissions to the *Dispatch*.

HOUSEKEEPING - My emails to Tonya and Jack Daft bounce back to me as undeliverable. I mailed a newsletter to Tony Shaffer in December but the US Post Office returned it as undeliverable.

SO YOU THINK THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER?!? - In this edition of the Dispatch I have devoted a whole article to this subject (see above). It is another chapter in the illegal removal of Sad Sam.

PERSONALS - It was good to see Tonya Daft last month as she delivered the books belonging to the WVRA that she and Jack had most generously been storing for the past few years. Please keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers.

CONFEDERATES - Once again, I tend to concentrate on the Federal soldiers we portray (see above under 155 Years Ago). If my Confederate comrades would like to do the same, I encourage them to do so.

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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.

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