

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2020 - March - Edition III

## Upcoming Events

### Civil War

#### Sponsored

**Beverly Heritage Days** -- July 18-19,  
2020 - See below

#### Sanctioned

None at this time

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

**Manassas Gap** - third weekend in March  
is <https://www.tattnallcountyga.com/the-battle-at-manassas.cfm>

**School of the Piece** -- April 18, 2020 at  
Jacksons' Mill - Contact Roger House for more  
information

**Morgan's Raid** -- April 24-26, 2020 at Meigs  
County Fairgrounds, Pomeroy, Ohio --  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Barboursville** -- tentatively May 8-10  
Contact Roger House for more information

**Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence** -- June 19-  
21 at Cronwells Turkeyville Resort  
Marshall Michigan, Contact Roger House for  
more information

**McConnellsville** - McConnellsville, Ohio,  
July 10-12 - contact Ralph McCready (all time  
periods welcome)

**Fort Mulligan** - August 14-15 at Petersburg.  
Contact Dave Judy 304-749-7957

**Battle of Dry Creek** - August 14 - 16 at White  
Sulphur Springs W.Va  
<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Burlington (Apple Harvest Festival)** -  
October 3-4. Contact Dave Judy for more  
information 304-749-7957

**Droop Mountain** --October -11  
<https://battleofdroopmountain.com/2019-battle-of-dry-creek>

**Guyandotte** -- Nov 5-8, 2020 (tentative)  
contact Roger House for more information

## Other Events

**Bentonville - March 21 and 22**

**Appomattox 155th Event** - Appomattox  
Nation Park, tentatively scheduled for Easter  
weekend.

**New Market** - May 15-17, 2020 - New Market,  
Va.

**Gettysburg - July 4 and 5, 2020** -  
Gettysburg at the Daniel Lady Farm,  
[info@GBPA.org](mailto:info@GBPA.org)

**Cedar Mountain** (Slaughter on the  
Mountain) - August 8 and 9. A Chris Anders  
event.

**Cedar Creek, Oct. 17 and 18, 2020** -  
Middletown, Va.

**Fredericksburg, Dec. 11-13, 2020**,  
Fredericksburg, Va.

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

## Other Time Periods

**18th Century** - April 2-5. School of the Longhunter,  
Prickett's Fort, Rt. 3 Fairmont, WV 26554.

<http://www.prickettsfortstatepark.com/events.html>

**18th Century** - April 23-26), 18th Century Market  
Fair, Fort Frederick State Park, Big Pool, MD.

<http://www.friendsoffortfrederick.info/index.htm>

**18th Century**, May 16, Siege of Fort Randolph, Point  
Pleasant, WV. [www.facebook.com/fortrandolph](http://www.facebook.com/fortrandolph),  
Contact Craig Hesson, 304-675-7933,

[chesson1774@suddenlink.net](mailto:chesson1774@suddenlink.net), or Deb Cassady,  
[ftrandolph@yahoo.com](mailto:ftrandolph@yahoo.com), [fortrandolph.weebly.com](http://fortrandolph.weebly.com)

**18th Century** - July 3-5, French and Indian War

Encampment, Old Fort Niagara's annual recreation of  
the historic Siege of 1759. Old Fort Niagara,  
Youngstown, NY.

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**18th Century** – July 9-12, Whiskey Rebellion  
Festival, Washington,  
PA. <http://www.whiskeyrebellionfestival.com/>

**Misc.** – May 2, Machine Gun Shoot.  
Sponsored by DNA Guns. Many historic  
weapons available for rent. Admission  
\$10.00. Trickett Hill Road,  
Morgantown, WV 26508. GPS 39.5137999, -  
79947000 (Sponsored by WVRA  
members.)

**Timeline** – November 7-8, Troops and  
Trains. RR Museum of Pennsylvania,  
Strasburg,  
PA. <https://rrmuseumpa.org/events/>

**WWII** – June 5,6,7, Reading Air Show, Reading  
Airport, Reading,

PA. <http://www.maam.org/maamwwii.html>

**WWII** – June 12-14, Bantam Jeep Heritage  
Festival, Butler,

PA. <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

**WWII** – July 31-August 2, Bridge at Remagen  
75th Anniversary Reenactment, Tidioute,

PA. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgeatremagentidioutepa/>

**WWII** – August 20-22, D-Day Reenactment,  
Conneaut, Ohio. <http://www.ddayohio.us>

## Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for the  
Beverly event. Exact time and location will  
announced at a later date.

## MINUTES

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**WVRA Meeting**  
**February 29, 2020**  
**Steer Steak House Weston**

Eleven members were present. President Jim  
Barnes called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

Phyllis B. made the motion to wave the reading of  
the minutes from the January 25th meeting since

they had been published in the newsletter.  
Seconded by Dave J. Motion passed. There were  
two additions to be made to the minutes. **It was  
noted by the newsletter editor that there  
were no candidates nominated by absentee  
ballot and all votes were for existing  
candidates. It was also noted that all  
absentee ballots voted to sanction the  
Beverly Heritage Days Event.**

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. There were  
no questions or corrections. Motion made,  
seconded and the report was approved.

### Old Business:

Phyllis B. brought updated information about the  
Beverly event. It will be held July 17-18. Think  
about scenarios you would like to do to support the  
theme of "less-told voices of women, people of  
color, Native Americans, and other groups who are  
under-represented in traditional history, in  
addition to stories of those in the military and the  
communities they impacted." Please let Historic  
Beverly know what you are planning so that they  
can promote it.

Online registration is open for those wanting to  
register for the event. If you would prefer to call,  
please call the Heritage Center at (304) 637-7424.

### New Business:

No Unit meetings were held. Each group talked  
about the events they were considering this year.

Chuck C. reported that there are 55 members so far  
this year. This is about the same number as this  
time last year.

Jim and Linda Barnes have been attending Gun  
Shows in the area to promote and recruit for the  
WVRA. This has resulted in several new members.  
They said that in the future they will only attend the  
shows held in Morgantown and no longer the ones  
in Clarksburg. They would be appreciative of other  
members helping during these events. Jim A. said  
that he recently attended the Gun Show in  
Fairmont and that it is very big. It might be a good  
venue for a recruiting event. Jim B. said he will  
check it out some time.

Jim B. stated that he would like to start a Frontier  
Group in the WVRA. This is possible with the

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changes that were made to the by-laws recently. This would have to be sponsored by current WVRA members and brought before the executive committee for consideration. After being approved by the executive committee, it would have to be voted on by the group.

## Events:

A list of the Upcoming Events, either Sponsored or Suggested, are listed in the latest edition of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch.

It was decided to have the next meeting at the Beverly Heritage Days Event, Saturday July 18 in the evening. Any updates will be will be published in the Newsletter or posted on the Facebook Page.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Respectively submitted,  
J. Rush  
March 3, 2020

## Membership Renewal

It is also time to renew our memberships for the next reenacting year. Membership renewals are good from January 1 through December 31 of 2020. I will include a membership renewal application with this newsletter.

Keep in mind that in order to be covered by our insurance policy, you must be a member of record.

- Dues:** 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 \$10 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership.
- 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.
- Meetings:** Will usually be held at the first Saturday of the month during the off-season. During the Reenacting season, meetings may be held at particular events as needed.
- Families:** All individuals should have their own memberships, although family memberships, covering the entire family can be used to save cost. This is limited to members and their home-based children.

**Memberships Received to date:**

### 1st West Virginia Infantry

Mike Phillips	Jack Rush
Rick Byrd	Keith Kopshina
Chuck Critchfield	Kevin Skaggs
Jim Barnes	Ed Chapdelaine
John Ziolkowski	Ralph McCready
Chris Carroll	Patrick Carroll
Bill Donegan	Chris Taylor
Ron Wenig	Ross Wetherell

### 25th Virginia Infantry

Tag Ireland	Bill Brisendine
Dirk Behana	Tim Glaser
Greg Watterson	John Webb
Jim Allman	Jeff Goff
Ken Connell	John Webb

### Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

Phyllis Baxter	Debbie Rush
Peter Baxter	Linda Barnes
Bill Snyder	Art Dodds
Pam Dodds	Jakob Lester
Sherry Goff & Kids	Linda Donegan
Brian Ward & family	Debbie Wenig

### Artillery

David Judy	Susan Judy
Roger House	

### General

Larry Teets	Abraham Price
Erik Herb	Matthew Price
William Burruss	Hunter Lesser
Eric Satterfield	Daneen Satterfield
Barry Miller	Rebecca Miller

If you think I have failed to list your membership and you have paid dues, let me know.

## Treasurer's Report

February 1-29, 2020

Beginning balance	\$3,399.88
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Ending Balance	\$3,399.88
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Submitted by Jack Rush

## Upcoming Events

### Beverly Heritage Days "Forgotten Stories"

Living Historians and Reenactors from 1750 through 1970 are invited to join the Beverly Heritage Center for our timeline heritage event to

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share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. For 2020, we will be focusing on the less-told voices of women, people of color, Native Americans, and other groups who are under-represented in traditional history, in addition to stories of those in the military and the communities they impacted.

Beverly, West Virginia was the original county seat of Randolph County, and was a crucial crossroads through settlement, Civil War and 20th 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 18th, 19th, and 20th century eras with scenarios welcome for any part of our timeline, military and civilian. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, presentations, displays, and heritage crafts are all welcome.

*Forgotten Stories* – We want to tell stories that are not usually told, including groups and individuals that are often not included in mainstream reenactments or history. We are researching some local history stories to share, and encourage you to come up with less heard voices and additional time periods to help make this event something different.

<http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org/calendar/events/BevHeritDays2020/BevHeritDays2020.html>

## McConnelsville

I am president of the Morgan County Reenactors Association. They have been putting on a reenactment in McConnelsville for the last 32 years (longest running reenactment in Ohio.) Last year instead of having the reenactment at a small park downtown which limited our camping space. We moved the reenactment to the fairgrounds. Last year we also had it the same time as Beverly.

This year we are having It one week before Beverly on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. I would appreciate it if you could list it on the events schedule in the newsletter. I will have more on the details at a later date.

Thanks, **Ralph McCready**, himself

## Actors Needed

I was contacted by Mikey D'Amico of Mountain Craft Productions, which is a small film making operation. They are going to make a film for the Marion County Chamber of Commerce about the history of Harrison County. They want to do it around the end of March or beginning of April. they want Civil War and Colonial period reenactors. Contact me (Jim Barnes) if you are interested.

-Submitted by Jim Barnes

## Civil War Roundtables

**Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable** meets at Eat'n Park at the Bridgeport Exit(119) of I-79 at 7 pm. Come earlier if you plan to eat before the program. There is no charge for meetings, but if you plan to join the SJCWR, the annual dues are \$15.

March 10 - Morality or War Experience? The Definition and Treatment of Mental Illness in the Union Army by Katie Thompson

April 14 - Captain John Young by Phil Hatfield

May 12 - A Desperate Fight for Life, The Skirmish at Middle Fork Bridge, July, 1861

## Rich Mountain Civil War Symposium

April 4, 2020

Beverly, West Virginia

Noon until 5 pm

Dinner at 6 pm

Past Rich Mountain Civil War Symposiums have been held in the IOOF Hall near the Beverly Heritage Center followed by a dinner at the the BHC. The fee for the symposium will be \$30 and \$70 for the symposium AND the dinner.

For more information or reservations call 304-637-7424 or [www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org).

Steve French - McNeil Rangers  
Allan Tischler - Sheridan Scouts  
Hunter Lesser - Bushwhackers  
Cameron Mallow - Swamp Dragons

## Gettysburg

Apparently there is now only one event scheduled to replace the annual Gettysburg reenactment. The

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remaining event is being organized by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm east of town.

This is not a site that has been utilized before and the farm is actually part of the edge of battlefield. The GBPA has 148 acres to stage the event and has already staged a "fall skirmish" as a dry run. The 157th event is scheduled for July 4 and 5 in 2020. Early registration is being accepted now.

The representatives from the GBPA put on quite an impressive presentation. It sounds like they have their stuff together. For more information see [www.GBPA.org](http://www.GBPA.org).

## Other Time Periods

Nothing submitted or to report.

## Other News

### Cedar Creek Bomb Update

*(Editor's Note: It was reported at the February meeting that the individual responsible for the bomb threat at the 2017 Cedar Creek event had been caught. After searching the internet for news, I found that there is a person of interest, but found no record of an arrest. I did find the following two recent news articles.)*

*(From the Northern Virginia Daily)*

A search warrant unsealed Tuesday about a year after it was executed reveals that the FBI sought phone records of a disgruntled former re-enactor and Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation volunteer as part of its investigation into threats and a pipe bomb found during the Cedar Creek Civil War battle reenactment in 2017.

Jeannette Shaffer, president of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, said she was shocked when she found out it was a former re-enactor and volunteer who was under investigation. "You would think they would be one of the last to threaten us," Shaffer said. She said she did not know the man well, only coming into contact with him a few times in the normal course of asking a volunteer to do something. "I was surprised that one of our volunteers was being investigated," she said. "We feel the volunteers we have active with us are good people."

According to an affidavit filed in the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Virginia in Harrisonburg in support of a search warrant, the logo of Antifa, a group that has shown up at demonstrations around the country to oppose fascism and white supremacist ideologies, was used on threatening letters sent to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, The Winchester Star, and others. The FBI, however, narrowed the investigation to one person, a former re-enactor.

There was no specific evidence in the search warrant affidavit to indicate whether the former re-enactor was involved in Antifa or whether the logo found on the letters was a ruse intended to throw off investigators.

Law enforcement agencies citing the ongoing investigation declined to answer that question. FBI Public Information Officer Dee Rybisky said Wednesday that the bureau could not comment further on the ongoing investigation. The Department of Justice also declined to answer whether the former re-enactor named in the documents was or has been arrested or is still the focus of the investigation. The Northern Virginia Daily has not been able to locate any arrest records in the case and is not naming the suspect until an arrest or charges have been made and verified.

The former re-enactor and volunteer appeared to have become disgruntled after an altercation in 2014 that resulted in him being asked to leave his Confederate re-enactor unit, the document states.

A typed, threatening letter sent to the foundation in 2017 reads in part: *"You need to cancel your coming up celebration of the Civil War on October 13, 14, 15, 2017. If you choose to continue with this farce of history, that clearly celebrates the war to keep African-Americans in chains, then we have no choice but to come and protest. We will come and disrupt and cause problems for all those who attend this atrocity of history. Several hundred of our supporters will attend, and slash tires, block traffic, harass Patrons, and reenactors. We will make Charlottesville look like a Sunday picnic! Many of us have dogs, so will bring dog feces to throw on people! We will also throw cups of human urine! We might resort to actually firing guns into the camps and at the*

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*reenactors! We will put poison in the water, we will use noise to disrupt the battles and sleep! These events must stop."*

## Antifa Falsey Accused (from Yahoo News)

In 2017, Antifa, a loose collection of left-leaning militant anti-fascist groups, was blamed by many for a series of violent threats mailed to a Virginia organization that hosts Civil War reenactments, as well as a pipe bomb planted at one of its annual gatherings. Now the FBI believes those threats likely didn't come from Antifa at all, but instead from a member of the Civil War reenactment group itself. A search warrant application seeking phone records for Gerald Leonard Drake, a former volunteer at the nonprofit Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation in Middletown, Virginia, was unsealed today in federal court

## For Sale

Tim Koch (or Cook?) a reenactor in the Morgantown area is selling a large group of Civil War reenacting equipment from weapons to clothing. As of October, he still had items remaining. For more information call Tim at 304-906-552.

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"They Said It (or didn't)"

**"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

"Stand upon the ground;  
Listen to the ground speaketh."  
- Dennis Frye

Two jokes from Jonas Arnalt (aka John Arnold)  
1. Hey I heard the the Yanks & Rebs had a swim & diving competition down on the Mississippi river.....A Yankee won it with a the cannonball dive.  
2. You know when President Lincoln told Gen. Grant jokes, he general-Lee didn't like them .

I look forward to seeing my fellow comrades this year when ever any of us can get together.  
Thank you - Pvt. Arnold

## The Death Watch

(From C. Aytch by Sam Watkins of the 1st Tennesee)

"Now, were I to tell something that happened in this 19th century exactly similar (to the soldier found amid the ruins of Pompeii), you would hardly believe it. BUt whether you believe it or not, it is for you to say. At a little village camped Hampshire Crossing (*somewhere in Hampshire County*), our regiment was ordered to go to a little stream called St. John's Run, to relieve the 14th Georgia Regiment and the 3rd Arkansas. I cannot tell the facts as I desire to. In fact, my hand trembles so, and my feelings are so overcome, that it is hard for me to write at all. But we went to the place that were ordered to go to, and when we arrived there we found the guard sure enough. If I remember correctly, there were just 11 of them. Some were sitting down and some were lyind down; but each and every one was as cold and as hard frozen as the icicles that hung from their hands and faces and clothing -- dead! They had died at their post of duty. Two of them, a little in advance of the others, were standing with their guns in their hands, as cold and as hard frozen as a monument of marble - - standing sentinel with loaded guns in their frozen hands!" (*Winter of 1861-62*)

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"I'd like to have two armies, one with lovely guns, tanks, little soldiers, staffs with distinguished and doddering Generals and dear little regimental officers, concerned over their General's bowel movements or their Colonel's piles; an Army to be shown for a modest fee at every fairground in the country.

"The other would be the real army, composed entirely of young enthusiasts in camouflage uniforms, who would not be put on display but from whom impossible efforts would be demanded and to whom all sorts of tricks be taught. That is the Army in which I should like to fight."

- The Centurions

Jean Pierre Lucient Osty

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## Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)  
Beverly Heritage Center -  
[www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)  
Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -  
[www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/](http://www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/)  
Link to Clarksburg History Museum -  
<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

## 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)  
Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia  
Infantry)  
Dave Judy (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. 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, Jim Barnes and Jack Rush. All three have faithfully assisted the editor or made contributions to the Dispatch. A **SPECIAL THANKS** to Jim and Linda Barnes for their efforts at gun shows.

**BEVERLY HERITAGE DAYS** - Planning for next year's event is underway. If you have any ideas, please let me know or pass them on to WVRA member Phyllis Baxter. Beverly Heritage Center has kicked off its 2020 capital campaign to raise money for several projects including, replacement of HVAC systems, bank roof replacement, exhibit development, protection of Civil War graffiti, signage at Rich Mountain, and other related needs.

**PERSONALS** - Keep Jennifer Smith in your prayers. Thank you to those WVRA members who have sent get well wishes or asked about my son. He is at home recuperating and I hope to have him back on his feet in April.

**MEMBERSHIP** - We stand at 57 members as of March 5 with the dues for three more members in the mail. I suspect that we will get to almost 65 as we have a few regular members who have yet to renew yet. Here are the totals from the past few years:  
2019 - 65; 2018 - 67; 2017 - 81; 2016 - 62; 2015 - 82.

**I WILL MAKE MY REGULAR** plea to the membership (or non-member readers) to contribute to the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Especially those members from other periods than the American Civil War.

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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.

WVRA website - [wvra.org](http://wvra.org)

Chuck Critchfield - Editor

608 Skyview Drive

Clarksburg, WV 26301

[ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto: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 YouTube

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