

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 12 - October

## Upcoming Civil War Events

### Sponsored Events

None at this time

### Events Recommended by WVRA members

**Cedar Creek** – October 14-15 USV Sanctioned  
**IIOF Cemetery** - November 10 (after parade)  
Clarksburg

### **Other – 2017**

**Droop Mountain** - October 14 & 15 (contact your unit representative)

### **2018**

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

### **Other Time Periods**

None submitted at this time

WVRA members, if you plan to attend, let your Unit Representative know.

## Cedar Creek

Cedar Creek is October 13 through 15. A couple members of the 1st West Virginia have registered. <https://www.ccbf.us/>

## IIOF Cemetery Clarksburg

Submitted by Tonya Daft

*They are still having problems getting an ok from Clarksburg to work on the Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Clarksburg. They need to repair and replace the headstones and to work on maintaining the cemetery. But Shaun (Jedju) wants everyone to help with a dedication again to the IIOF Cemetery in Clarksburg (Chestnut Street) see his email below and his contact information if you are interested....**Tonya***

I have a date on a Veteran's Day Commemoration event, November 10th, I am planning it to be after the Clarksburg Veteran's Day Parade so I am not yet sure of a time, I am also inviting numerous military members and organizations, I already have a platform donated to be used as the speaking area. The event is for the former IIOF Cemetery, I am still waiting on information from the city pertaining to the Jackson Cemetery in order to put together an effort to reset and restore the grave markers. Here's my phone number 609 346 4456. Thank you for your time..... **Shaun Jedju**

*Editor's Note - Senator Carlisle is buried in this cemetery. This is the same cemetery in Clarksburg, where we have honored these folks in past years.*

## Film Project

*Editor's note - this was submitted by Tonya Daft and all questions can be directed to her. Contact information can be found at the end of this story.*

This is **Calvin Grimm** with Lost Valley Studios. Here is a summary of the film project we are working on and would like your reenactment group to participate in:

"River of Hope" (working title) tells the real-life story of a Confederate sympathizer in the Kanawha Valley, West

## Next Meeting

A date was not established for a meeting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Droop Mountain

Based on information received from Tim Walker of Bryan's Battery, I have put together the following:

A Droop Mountain reenactment will be held Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15. The registration is \$10.00. If reenactors want to send in early registrations, they can send them to Bryans Battery at 267 Fern Hollow Drive, Hillsboro, WV 24947. There is no discount for early registration. checks can be made out to Bryans Battery, Inc.

Reenactors may set up on Friday. Water will be provided by Droop Mountain State Park and Byran's Battery will have firewood.

Tim added: Next year at the 155th, which will be held closer to the November 6th anniversary of the battle (first weekend in November, 2018 ---

**November 3 and 4, 2018**), we hope to have pre-registrations; a website (there is supposed to be a Face Book page for this year's event, but I have not personally checked it); musicians for a Saturday evening dance; and a better meal - but we just couldn't pull all that together for this year. I appreciate any support you guys can give.

# **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch**

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 12 - October

Virginia (Sam Cabell) who marries his African American slave (Mary Barnes), who goes on to found the first college for African Americans in West Virginia.

The story begins in the 1840s as the couple travels back to West Virginia and eventually settles along the Kanawha River near what is now the town of Institute. It progresses through the tumultuous beginnings of the Civil War, which saw Kanawha Valley residents divided between Union and Confederate sympathies. As the war begins, the Valley being occupied by both armies and changing hands forcefully multiple times creates a strained life for Sam Cabell, Mary Barnes, their children, and their community.

The local engagements of the Battle of Scary Creek and the Battle of Charleston both greatly affect their livelihood and home. As the war comes to a close, Sam Cabell, although married and living with one of his former slaves and their mixed-race children, sustains his heritage to "old Virginia". His sympathies and discourse for the defeated Confederate cause result in returning Union army veterans conspiring to kill him at his own home in Institute. Turning tragedy into prosperity, his African American widow Mary Barnes then works with the Governor of West Virginia, Aretas Flemming, to found what would become West Virginia State University - the first college for African Americans in West Virginia.

That about summarizes the film, and the three aspects I would like your reenactment group to assist with are:

- 1) Reenactment of the Battle of Scary Creek
- 2) Reenactment of the Battle of Charleston
- 3) Filling spots as military officers and soldiers during sporadic other scenes

The biggest logistical challenge will be finding a suitable place to reenact the Battle of Charleston. The location requires two somewhat substantial rivers meeting (resembling the Kanawha and Elk Rivers) and also featuring an old-fashioned bridge across one of the bridges - the one which was cut/destroyed by the Union Army as the fled Charleston was a suspension bridge, but anything "old fashioned" will work. We obviously won't be destroying or harming the actual bridge - I will do that with special effects

As I mentioned before, the filming of the battle scenes for the project will likely be in the early spring of 2017. Historically, Scary Creek was fought in July

and Charleston was fought in September. Clear spring days should mimic July and September accurately enough for our purposes.

I greatly appreciate your time, and I really look forward to hearing back. I'm very excited about this project.

Take care and best regards,

**Calvin Grimm**

Owner/Director - Lost Valley Studios, LLC

*(Tonya's note: I think he meant 2018 because he has not started yet...Tonya. Please contact me if you have any interest so I have contact information for everyone. [Tonya Daft \(304-825-6103\)](mailto:Tonya.Daft@304-825-6103)...[rebeld4h@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeld4h@yahoo.com)...Facebook Tonya Fluharty Daft by private message)*

## **Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable Event**

The Stonewall Jackson Civil War Round Table of Clarksburg is hosting Ron Coddington, author and one of the foremost experts on Carte de Visite in the Civil War will speak in Clarksburg on October 10, 2017, at 7 pm at the Waldomore.

Ron Coddington, who is author of a number of books related to photography in the Civil War, will, speak about the "The Rise and Fall of the Carte de Visite in Civil War America."

Coddington's books include "Faces of War," "Faces of the Confederacy," "African American Faces of War," and "Faces of Civil War Navies." (editor's note: these 4 titles are the short versions of very long titles). He also wrote a regular column in the "Civil War News" entitled "Faces of War." All of these publications featured profiles of soldiers from the Civil War and original carte de visites of those soldiers.

This event is FREE and open to the public. The Waldomore is located on Pike Street in downtown Clarksburg and is next to the Library. Parking is available behind the Library and if that is full, the city parking garage and Jackson Square parking is located within a block of the Waldomore. You may remember the Waldomore, as we had a living history there year's ago. For more information contact Rick Wolfe at [ra\\_wolfe@msn.com](mailto:ra_wolfe@msn.com).

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017– Edition 12 - October

## Treasurer's Report

August 30, 2017

Beginning Balance:	\$4,209.51
Credits (memberships):	\$20.00
<u>Debits:</u>	
Donation for meeting space	\$30.00
Ending Balance:	\$4,199.51

Submitted by J. Rush, Treasurer

Jack Rush reports that the mysterious web hosting site has stopped taking automatic withdrawals from our checking account. Peter Baxter and Jack are investigating.

### WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes

Vice President – John Brasuk

Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*

Website – Peter Baxter\*

1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep – Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant

25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep – Tim Glaser

1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – Stormy Brasuk

TASAS – Diane Tennant

\* Non-voting member of executive board

## 155 Years Ago

### First (West) Virginia

In early September of 1862, the First (West) Virginia Infantry the "worn and haggard" ranks of the regiment marched in a "spiritless" fashion in Northern Virginia in response to perceived Confederate threats after the battle of Second Bull Run. The battle of Chantilly raged within sound of the boys on September 1.

The rest of the month would be spent in the defenses of Washington City while the Army of the Potomac chased the Army of Northern Virginia into Maryland. At some point "application was made for the return of the regiment to Western Virginia to recruit the men and fill up the ranks..."

Back home in the Northern Panhandle of Virginia word was received that the "First Virginia at the

Manases Junction was all kild or taken prisnors but two offesers..." Joshua Winters letter of September 4 reporting that he was well and giving a more realistic summary of casualties from the battle, arrived at home around the 20th of the month. His relieved mother wrote back that she was thankful that he "had been spaird thruh all the dangers of hard fitting."

- From *History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry* by C. J. Rawling. *Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters*, edited By Elizabeth Davis Swiger.

## 12th (West) Virginia Volunteer Infantry

155 Years ago, the 12th Virginia Volunteer Infantry was mustered into service on August 30 at Camp Willey on Wheeling Island in Wheeling, Virginia. Field Officers were Colonel John B. Klunk of Grafton, Lt. Colonel R. S. Northcutt of Clarksburg and Major Francis P. Pierpont of Harrisville. The 10

A – Marshall

B – Marshall

C – Marshall

D- Ohio

E – Harrison

F – Marion

G – Harrison

H – Taylor

I – Marion

K – Brooke

(THIS IS THE CORRECTED VERSION. Thanks to Mark E. Paul, editor of "A Company of Boys in Blue" an account of the 12th West Virginia as told through the writing of Thomas Jefferson Orr, Company D, 12th West Virginia Infantry)

It didn't take long for the 12th to "get into the war" as they were shipped to Clarksburg divided into detachments, one be sent to Beverly. Apparently in response to Albert Jenkins' raiding into the southern part of present-day West Virginia. By the first day of October the regiment was reunited at Buckhannon.

Thomas J. Orr of Co. D. reports that much of the first month was spent "in drilling and familiarizing ourselves with the school of the soldier." Orr remarks that the boys became acquainted with Major Frank P. Pierpont, the governor's nephew and "one of Nature's noblemen, and in every way qualified to fill the position to which he was assigned."

From the History of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry by William Hewitt.

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 12 - October

## Sites of Interest

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

## Lafie Lynn Marks

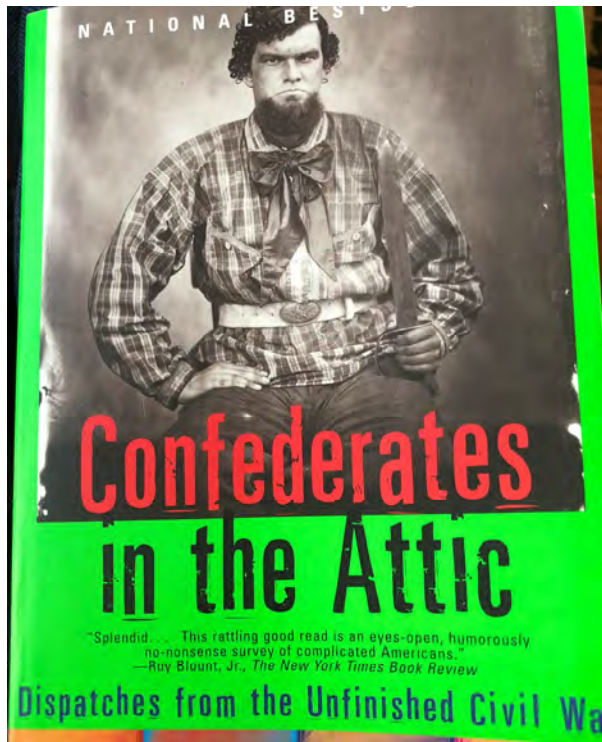
1945-2017

I learned just as I was wrapping up this newsletter that WVRA member Lynn Marks of the 25th Virginia passed away Sept. 28, 2017. The obituary can be viewed on the WVRA-TASAS page on Facebook. Funeral Services are October 4 at Ellyson Mortuary in Glenville at 1 pm.

Lynn was a veteran of the United States Army and was stationed in Vietnam and Korea during the Vietnam War. He retired from the Big Bend Post Office in 2005. I don't seem to have any pictures of Lynn and was not able use the picture that Sheri Goff posted on Facebook.

## Book Review

*Confederates in the Attic - Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* by Tony Horowitz.



Remember when this book came out in 1998? It caused quite a stir in the reenacting community

because of the man on the cover. I won't call him a reenactor, because he wouldn't consider himself a reenactor. His name, if you don't recall, is Robert Lee Hodge. And with a name like that, you would have to portray Confederates. Right?

Mr. Hodge is the guy who soaked his buttons in urine to get the correct patina, practiced bloating, won't reenact the battles and was in general the hard core reenactors' true hard core reenactor.

But this book is about much more than reenacting. And in fact, the author's experiences as a reenactor were the least feature of this book. Much of that writing was a retelling of stories we have all heard around the campfire.

The rest of the book is a bit unsettling -- especially in light recent events in Charlottesville. The author tours the south in search of the Civil War in the late 90's and.....he finds it. This journey is very interesting and the book moves quickly from state to state. He manages to find folks who are still interested in the Civil War; still living the Civil War; still mad about the Civil war and still fighting the Civil War. He meets Daughters, Sons and Children of the Confederacy organizations, Klansmen; and other various Southerners still with an interest in that time period and living the Lost Cause interpretation of its history. This book reveals a lot of people that I bet some of us didn't know existed.

Now, I would recommend this book. I think you as a reader of this book will enjoy or dislike this book. Other reviews of this book have ranged from "hilariously funny" to "chilling" and "unsettling." Although written in 1998, it fits very neatly into the ongoing culture war narrative we see played out today. When I finished the book, my first reaction was "this can't be for real."

## Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

SO YOU THINK that the Civil War is ancient history...again, thanks to Charlottesville, the American Civil War is still a hot news topic. The removal of Confederate-related monuments is still a hot topic. I voiced my opinion last month and got no responses from you, the readers.

ONE OF THE FACEBOOK posts making the rounds again in the wake of the mess in Charlottesville, is

# **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch**

*The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association*

*2017– Edition 12 - October*

the post that claims that Confederate veterans were given the status of US veteran by a 1958 law. Therefore, as US veterans, desecration of some Confederate memorials may rise to the same level as desecration of a US veteran memorial.

This time, I decided to research a little more. The 1958 "law" that some reference in these posts was an amendment to a 1958 Congressional act to increase pensions for widows and orphans of deceased Spanish War Veterans. The amendment sponsored by Russell Long of Louisiana, also increased pension and widows of US veterans of the Civil War, Indian wars and widows of Confederate veterans. Some interpret this to mean that Confederate veterans have been given the same status as US veterans. Most experts say that this act of Congress does not confer that status.

The 1920's Congressional act permitted the US government to pay for headstones for Confederate veterans in certain circumstances. There is also reference in one of these posts to public law 810, which nobody has been able to find. In no case does either of these acts pardon Confederate veterans. President Andrew Johnson did that in 1868. Ironically, when Confederate veterans were alive after the war, they bristled at anything that appeared to equate them with Union soldiers.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch. Thanks to Tim Walker for information on Droop. Thanks to Sheri Goff for the Facebook posting on Lynn Marks. RIP Lynn.

CHARLOTTESVILLE - If anyone has any thoughts on Charlottesville, please feel free to send your thoughts. I reserve the right to edit for clarity and profanity.

CONFEDERATES - Once again, I suggest to you boys in gray, that most of what I print here in this newsletter seems to be Federal in nature. I welcome anything Confederate-related.

DROOP MOUNTAIN - Once again (again), since I've been asked, there was confusion over this year's Droop reenactment. The WVRA left that last Droop reenactment with the understanding that Bryan's Battery would organize the next (2017) reenactment with our help. However, Bryan's Battery left with the understanding that we (WVRA) would organize with their help.

QUIZ - Camp Bartow was named for whom? Once again, Mark "Quiz Whiz" Tennant got the correct answer.

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

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.

## **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch**

The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017 – Edition 12 – October

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

"History is lived forward but it is written in retrospect. We know the end before we consider the beginning and we can never wholly recapture what it was to know the beginning only"

- C. V. Wedgwood, English historian