

# **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch**

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition XI - October

## **Upcoming Civil War Events**

### **Sponsored Events**

**None at this time**

### **Events Recommended by WVRA members**

**2018**

**Cedar Creek - Cancelled**

**Remembrance Day - November**

### **Other Events**

**Dennis Frye** - speaking in Clarksburg Oct. 9

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

**Droop Mountain** - October 12-14, 2018, (battleofdroopmountain.com).

### **Other Time Periods**

**Nothing at this time**

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

artillery demonstration and a small attack on the artillery. There was also drill in camp on Sunday.

Jack R. asked about the \$50 memorial donation to be made in the name of Gary Goetze to an appropriate Civil War organization. This has not been completed. Mark Tennant took responsibility to follow up with the Goetze family concerning what organization would be preferable. If nothing can be determined a contribution will be made in his name to the Civil War Trust.

The group got a letter from Wheeling about what they have accomplished this year. We had given them money to help move the Soldier and Sailor memorial. The letter will be published in an upcoming newsletter.

The Droop Mountain Reenactment will be October 12-14. The Artillery will be going as well as Ken C., Jim A., and Jim and Linda B.

The Artillery will be going to Friendship Hill September 21-23 to do demonstrations and a living history.

Mark T. brought up giving more money to help purchase the Wheeling Ambulance. At the Mason Dixon CWRT, Rick Wolf said they were still short about \$1000. Mark made a motion to give \$100.00 to Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation. After a lively discussion nine voted for the motion and three voted against. The Treasurer will send check to RMBF.

A discussion was held about the income and expenses of the group. Jack R. went over the expenses and income listed in the past years treasurer's reports. As you would expect the income was from memberships. The major expense was the liability insurance. The second expense category was memorial contributions and the third was newsletter expenses. The monthly balance stays around \$3000.00.

The group needs to be thinking about nominations for officers for next year. The formal request will be in an upcoming newsletter.

The next meeting will be held at the Droop Mountain Reenactment. Time and place to be advised. Stormy B. volunteered to record the meeting minutes in the absence of Secretary Jack R.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for the Droop Mountain Reenactment. Time and location to be announced. Nominations for 2019 officers need to be made over the next several weeks. For a list of the current officers see the end of this newsletter.

## **Meeting Minutes - September 9**

WVRA Meeting

September 9, 2018

Steer Steak House Weston

12 members present

President Jim Barnes called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

The minutes from the April meeting were published in the newsletter. Since there were no additions or corrections, Chuck C. made motion to dispense with the reading of them and approve. John B. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Jack Rush reviewed the past 4 months Treasure's reports. There were no questions and the reports were approved as read.

John B. talked about the Jackson Mill event. Not enough soldiers. They did an honor guard for the Traveling Vietnam War Memorial. They also did an

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Jim A. moved and Ken C. seconded a motion to adjourn. Thanks to all who attended the meeting.

Respectively submitted,  
J. Rush  
September 12, 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Droop Mountain (The First)

There are two Droop Mountain events being held this year. The first event will be held October 12-14, 2018 at Droop Mountain State Park. The second is the Averell's Advance event in November and is a campaigner event.

There seems to be interest within the WVRA to attend the first event in October so I contacted the organizers. But to date I have no response that I can find. However, I found a nice website for BOTH the Dry Creek and Droop events at the web address of [battleofdroopmountain.com](http://battleofdroopmountain.com). Registration, schedule and other details for BOTH reenactments can be found at this site. There does not appear to be any on-line registration.

### Treasurer's Report

For the period August 1 through August 31, 2018

Beginning Balance	\$3,673.26
Credits	
Membership	\$30.00
Debits	
Newsletter Costs	\$41.16
Ending Balance	\$3,662.10

*Submitted by Jack Rush September 3, 2018*

## AFTER ACTION REPORTS

### Remagen Event

By Jim Barnes

On the weekend of August 4-5, WVRA members Jim and Linda Barnes and Ron and Debbie Wenig took part in the WWII reenactment of the taking of the Ludendorff Bridge, recalled in Ken Hechler's book, "The Bridge at Remagen," which was in early March 1945 one of two remaining bridges across the river Rhine in Germany when it was captured during

the Battle of Remagen by United States Army forces during the closing weeks of World War II.

The annual event is held at Tidioute, Pennsylvania around the iron bridge crossing the Allegheny River. This small town with a population of less than a thousand, is located on the edge of the Allegheny National Forest about 120 miles northeast of Pittsburgh and is a very scenic location for such an event.

Linda and Debbie portrayed German civilians fleeing the town in advance of U.S. Army forces as the U.S 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division nears the town. In the original battle, the Germans attempted to blow up the bridge just ahead of the Americans, but due to their being issued inferior explosives, the bridge refused to fall. The reenactment event promoters hire professional a pyrotechnics company to provide the impressive explosions.

This year, Ron and Jim served on a flak gun crew for the ill-fated German defenders. As such, they are overwhelmed and the still-standing bridge is captured by the on-rushing GIs.

Because of its remote location, Tidioute is largely dependent on tourist dollars and this event draws in from 1500 to 2000 tourists and their money every August.



Figure 1 Stug III self-propelled assault gun. (Photo provided by Jim Barnes)

### Brownsville Steam Show

By Jim Barnes

On the weekend August 11-12, 2018, WVRA members Jim and Linda Barnes and Bill Burress and Bill's wife, Sandy, set up a WWII living history camp at the National Pike Steam, Gas and Horse Association show at the Association's property off Rt. 40 outside of Brownsville, PA.

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The event is historical in nature due to its focus on the restoration and preservation of historic machinery and vehicles. Additionally, Reenactment groups are welcome to register to set up camps for the education of the public. The 40<sup>th</sup> PA Civil War reenactment group also had a camp set up near the WWII camp.

Antique farm and construction equipment, steam engines, a virtual coal mine and rock crushing are featured. There is also a flea market and antique car show. There was a bandstand featuring live music throughout the weekend and a polka band played through much of Saturday. There are a number of food vendors on the grounds as well.

Bill and Sandy stayed for the whole weekend, but Jim and Linda opted to make a day trip of it and brought only the small GI display this time. Bill drove over from Ohio in his 1942 Dodge command car and needless to say, this vehicle generated a good bit of interest.

We had the opportunity to talk with a lot of members of the public and also had the privilege of talking with a couple of WWII veterans who enjoyed the display.



Figure 2 - Sandy Burress, Bill Burress and Linda Barnes with the 1942 Dodge command car. (photo provided by Jim Barnes)

## Jacksons' Mill

By Stormy Brasuk

THURSDAY: We arrived a day early to set up our camp. We set up next to the 31st Virginia Company I, Lewis County Rangers.

FRIDAY: We were advised that the Vietnam mobile wall was arriving; we along with Jason Studenwalt (of the Lewis County Rangers) decided to give them

an honor guard as they entered the event. We represented as the 1st West Virginia Battery B (Union) Artillery and they as the 31st Virginia Company I (Confederate) Lewis County Rangers. We were thanked for honoring them and were told they were very moved by our tribute. It was our honor to participate in this. The local paper (the Lewis County Democrat) asked to take our picture and told us it would be out on Wednesday.

SATURDAY: at 11:00 am we took to the main field for an artillery demonstration. After 3 shots the 31st Virginia charged the cannon and took the gun in a fine soldier demonstration. We then invited the crowd closer and let the kids pull the practice pin so they could get the feel of how to fire the cannon. No shortage of volunteers here ; they loved it, and so did their parents! At 3:00 pm we again took to the main field for a demonstration this time we coordinated our firing with the soldiers volley. It was a very impressive demo and the crowd was very pleased. Our 4th shot brought out the thunder clouds but it didn't begin raining till after our last shot. It was just a passing shower and thankfully cooled the temperature down a wee bit.

SUNDAY: Due to a car show in the main field area we did cannon demo's at the camp site. We did our first demonstration at 11:00. After speaking to the crowd we fired 3 shots then infantry took over with a bayonet demonstration. We did a second demonstration at at 2:00 and were pleased to be visited by Channel 12. The reporter stayed for the demonstration and visited with us and also interviewed Major John H Brasuk for the news. He also took some pictures which you can see on their web site at [www.wboj.com](http://www.wboj.com).



Figure 3 - Jackson's Mill in the artillery camp (photo provided by Stormy Brasuk)

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## FestiFall 2018

By Stormy Brasuk

September 22 and 23 Friendship Hill National Historic Site (near Point Marion). Time period: 1812

(We were asked to do close to 1812 or Mexican war )

Friday : we arrived set up camp and readied our displays. Afterwards we made dinner and spent a lovely evening relaxing in camp.

Saturday : The festival opened at 11:00.

Our displays received a lot of positive attention from the considerable crowd. We demonstrated how the cannon is fired and the implements/tools are used. We invited the kids to pull the practice pin ,to their great delight.

The festival closed for the day at 5:00 after a very good and very busy day.

Saturday night brought us a bit of a thunderstorm but it passed quickly.

Sunday : the festival again opened at 11:00 to a beautiful if a bit cooler day. The crowds were even bigger today. We again demonstrated cannon drill allowing kids and adults alike to pull the practice pin . This enabled them to get a bit of a feel on how it is fired. We had many good questions and interested individuals, some of which showed a interest in joining our group as cannon crew.

There were many interesting vendors at this event including some really good food.

Over all a really nice event with a relaxing atmosphere.



Figure 4 Linda and Jim Barnes with John Brasuk at Friendship Hill (near Point Marion , PA) living history. (Photo provided by Jim Barnes)

## Fort Henry Days

By Jim Barnes

On Sunday, WVRA members Jim and Linda Barnes accompanied by Jim's granddaughters, took part the reenactment of the 1777 siege of Fort Henry by Native American allies of the British. Scenarios alternated through the weekend as the Saturday battle featured the 1792 attack by natives as well as British regulars and Loyalists. In 1777, the attackers included members of the Shawnee, Wyandot and Mingo tribes.

The event featured a number of period sutlers as well and continuous musical presentations as well as a Punch and Judy puppet show and historical lectures. The camps represented Native, British and American colonial forces.

The reenactment began with some being spirited away by attackers hidden in a cornfield. Efforts to find the girls came to naught. Militia reinforcements arrived but left when no apparent threat appeared. After the militia departed, the natives began their attack on the village and fort, but were held off by the settlers in the fort. Eventually, hearing the gunfire, the militia returned and helped drive off the attackers.

This is good event and if you preregister and attend on Saturday, you can get a very good meal in the evening.



Figure 5 - Musicians from Fort Henry reenactment (photo provided by Jim Barnes)

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## OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

### Soldiers and Sailors Monument

The following is a one-paragraph excerpt from a Wheeling HERITAGE letter to President Jim Barnes describes "impressive results" at Wheeling House in the first half of 2018.

"We have also made headway on several historic preservation initiatives that tell our story, culturally enrich Wheeling, and economically stimulate the economy by making more funding opportunities available. The Soldiers and Sailors monument relocation adjacent to Independence Hall is underway. The foundation for the monument is in place, and the relocation should begin in July. During this two-year effort, we raised more than \$150,000 for the relocation through public, private and individual contributions."

The letter was signed by Jake, Dougherty, Executive Director, Wheeling Heritage, 1400 Main Street, Wheeling, West Virginia, 26003.

### 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 [rfreeman1373@gmail.com](mailto:rfreeman1373@gmail.com) for more information. (These items were still available recently).

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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. me.

### 155 Years Ago

On hiatus until further notice.

### They Said It (or didn't)

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

*"The George H. Thomas Post No. 5, Department of ~~sk6jklkjkl~~ A. R. protests against the exhibition called "The Birth of a Nation."*

*"First. Because it contains slanderous representations as to the soldiers who fought to preserve the Union, and caricatures the history of the war.*

*"Second. It represents the infamous Ku Klux Klan as a society of patriotic and chivalrous men.*

*"Third. Its whole influence is to excite and intensify hatred of the negro race and to perpetuate sectional bitterness."*

from Motion Picture World, volume 25, August 1915

Thanks to Eric Smallwood for posting this on Facebook.

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*"No society can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law."*

-- Thomas Jefferson

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*"My Lords, this ruinous and ignominious situation, where we cannot act with success, nor suffer with honour, calls upon us to remonstrate in the strongest and loudest language of truth to rescue the ear of Majesty from the delusions which surround it. The desperate state of our arms abroad is in part known: no man things more highly of them than I do: I love and honour the English troops: I know their virtues and their valour: I know they can achieve anything except impossibilities: and I know that the conquest of English America is an impossibility. You cannot, I venture to say it, you CANNOT conquer America...."*

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, Secretary of State to George II in address to the House of Lords, November 18, 1777.

### Sites of Interest

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

[WVRA.org](http://WVRA.org) – our website

<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrt.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 Barnes

Vice President – Ken Connell

Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*

Website – Peter Baxter\*

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

25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep – Bill 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

Brasuk. Both members made numerous contributions to this newsletter. I hope that I have not missed any submissions. A special thanks as always for Peter Baxter's able help.

PERSONAL - Jack and Tonya Daft ask that you keep their family in your prayers. Has anyone seen or heard from Bill Snyder?

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.

## Editor's Corner

*The Editor's chance to speak*

LET ME REMIND the readers of this publication that the opinions expressed in this newsletter **are not necessarily** the opinions of the WVRA. And believe you me, we have members who are 180 degrees apart on a few subjects as has been demonstrated once again recently.

EDITORIAL - The recent contact by a member of the international news organization Reuters, has led to a number of opinions being expressed on the WVRA-TASAS Facebook page. Most expressing distrust or dislike of the media and/or reporters. Let me suggest that if you distrust or dislike reporters/media or are distressed by this, then don't participate in an interview at Droop Mountain - if the individual even shows up.

THE EDITOR WELCOMES articles and pictures from time periods other than the American Civil War as the WVRA has opened its ranks to historical reenactors of all time periods of AMERICAN history. That should be obvious in this Edition.

DROOP MOUNTAIN registration information is now available on line. The WVRA is not sponsoring this event. I have seen information on Bulltown on line also. There seems to be interest from WVRA to return to the Droop reenactment.

THANK YOU to everyone who made contributions to this issue including Jim Barnes and Stormy

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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)

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