

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2023 – August Edition CLV

Next Meeting

To be determined

Upcoming Events

Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar. Addendum, January 2022. I discussed this issue with the insurance expert of the USV and he agrees that this is a gray area. There is some question whether the liability insurance would cover WVRA members only at sanctioned WVRA events or all events. He further agreed that publishing events in the newsletter may help to make them "official."

Sanctioned (per by laws)

Aug. 19 – Fort Mulligan Days, Petersburg, W. Va.

September - Hardy County Living History, Moorefield, W. Va.

7-8 – Apple Harvest Festival, Burlington, W. Va

Oct. 13-15 – Droop Mountain, W. Va., near Hillsboro, W. Va. [Battle of Dry Creek](#)

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

August

18-20 – Dry Creek, White Sulphur Springs [Battle of Dry Creek](#)

September

22-24 – Lost River State Park, Mathias, W. Va.

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 – Barboursville, W. Va

October

13-15 - Droop Mountain, Hillsboro, W. Va.
battleofdrycreek.org/battle-droop-mountain

21-22 – Cedar Creek, Middletown, Va.

November

4-5 - Guyandotte, W. Va.

3-6 – Echols Last Stand, Droop Mountain (See Facebook page by that name)

18-19 – Remembrance Day, Gettysburg.

December

11-12 Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Christmas

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

WVRA Meeting

July 22, 2023, Beverly, WV

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice President, Art Dodds, in the absence of President Andrew Valentine. Present at the meeting were Art Dodds, Pam Dodds, Chuck Critchfield, Tim Glaser, John Arnold, Keith Kopshina, Bill Brisendine, Dave and Sue Judy, Jack and Debbie Rush, Jim and Linda Barnes, and Phyllis Baxter.

The Secretary's report was published in the most recent newsletter. Dave Judy moved to accept the Secretary's report, seconded by Jack Rush, and approved.

The Treasurer, Rick Byrd, was unable to be present but had provided the Treasurer's report by email. Chuck Critchfield provided that the Treasurer reported our funds are currently \$1511.68. Dave Judy moved to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Jack Rush, and approved.

Chuck Critchfield provided a newsletter report, summarizing that there are 6 to 7 new members, but that about 15 members still have not renewed their membership. We currently have 50 members providing membership dues almost sufficient to pay for insurance. It was recognized that numerous groups have suffered lower membership and funding.

There was a group discussion concerning the policy that insurance is more important than individual funding of reenactors (\$100 per person). Everyone concurred that funding would be available after the cost of insurance was covered.

Chuck Critchfield reported that the Clarksburg Historical Society is planning bus tours that will bring visitors to Clarksburg to observe an approximate 15-minute presentation of Senator John Carlile speaking to a crowd in 1861. Rick Wolfe has offered to portray Senator Carlile. Civilian reenactors

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have been requested for this event. Chuck Critchfield will be providing the event contact information to Pam Dodds, TASAS Representative, to discuss possibilities of WVRA providing civilian reenactors.

John Arnold inquired if there is any interest in a living history event at Corrick's Ford. Roger Ware has discussed this potential event with John Arnold. John asked for anyone interested in this event to contact him. Dave Judy provided that the reenactment schedule for the next year is usually finalized in November, so plans for an event at Corrick's Ford should be established relatively soon.

Chuck Critchfield reminded the members that we have had difficulties filling the officers' positions and encouraged us to all be thinking about who will be willing to serve as an officer.

Dave Judy moved to adjourn and all approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

- Pam Dodds

Membership

Just a reminder, that the May 1 deadline has passed. According to the By Laws of the WVRA, members who have not renewed by this date are dropped from the membership role. We have to establish a deadline because of the liability insurance. If you want to be covered, you must be a dues-paying member.

Dues remain the same - \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families. Those wishing to have the newsletter sent to them in the US Mail, can arrange to have that done for \$15 additional. Please complete a membership form. **Please make checks payable to the WVRA – not me!**

Send your membership form and dues to me at C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV, 26301

Treasurers Report

For the time period July 1 – 31, 2023

Beginning Balance	\$1,471.68
Deposits	
New Memberships	\$55.00
Debits	
None	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,526.68
As reported by Rick Byrd, Treasurer/Secretary WVRA	

Correction - Apology

I wanted to issue a correction or maybe just a clarification to something I said at the July meeting. At worst, I was wrong and at best it was just misleading. I misspoke about the memberships and costs.

As of July 23, 2023, we had 51 members in the WVRA. But we only had 34 memberships. Members don't pay dues. Memberships pay dues. You may wonder what in the blue blazes is he talking about? Here is what I mean. We have memberships with multiple members. For instance, my wife and I pay a family membership. That's two members, but one membership or \$25. We have families of five members who pay a family membership of \$25. So we have 51 members in 34 dues-paying memberships on July 23 with an average membership of \$17.21 (total dues/# memberships).

The insurance policy this year was \$715.98. Our dues are \$130 short. Nine individual memberships or six family memberships additional would cover the insurance.

Also we had over \$250 in additional costs (unit monies, internet fees or mailing costs). That would put our 2023 shortfall around \$400 to date.

I apologize for being off on my calculations. I had forgotten that to be eligible for insurance we had to also purchase a group membership in the NRA, which was another \$40.

- Chuck Critchfield, Editor

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Insurance

The new limited liability insurance policy went into effect on April 23, 2023. If you need a copy of the insurance certificate, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Rick Byrd. Only current 2023 members are covered. **Just a reminder** that you must be a member of the WVRA to be covered by the insurance. Additionally, you must abide by the by-laws of the WVRA to qualify.

Upcoming Events

For the complete list, see above. The following is any additional information submitted to the editor for the events listed above.

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Event Reviews

Pvt Arnold's 2 cent telegram

Good day ladies and Gentlemen of the West Virginia reenactor's Association- (WVRA.)

As a fellow member myself I just wanted to say a great thank you for all of our members that was able to participate in this year's Historical timeline event at the (Beverly heritage Days) festival. I wanted to say i heard several positive comments from local citizens and spectators there. I really wanted to thank the event managers who really did a wonderful Job.

As I and my S/sons came into camp a little late, I was welcomed, and staff took care of my family and myself well. what a great bunch of fellow reenactors made me feel like good ole times again.

Beverly has such a great setting and historically Significant attraction. It had been many years since I had been to Beverly and to the Museum there. I was impressed with the growth and professional development of the Museum. The other buildings being used. for the town to become historically revived was very

interesting, from the blacksmith to the restored schoolhouse and the very iconic schoolteacher was perfect.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to have met Hunter Lesser and Richard Wolfe at the Jonathan Arnold house and the very wonderful historical exhibits that was very educational. The Arnold's house was a great photo setting especially with the confederate supply wagon out in the yard in which a couple of us Yanks got captured by foraging the town. LOL 😊, possibly my ancestor relatives, Hmmm, I wonder?

The best Lemon aid I've ever had, I thank. the ladies at the Ice cream tent that made me a Awesome root beer float. I'll look forward to that each year now !

After making a couple strolls down the Beverly town pike My brogans "were a makin my dogs was a barken" ~ as they say. Then a ole buddy of mine Socko had his beautiful team of horses & wagon and gave me a ride. I think the visiting public/guests liked it, as my attire added to the atmosphere and experience of the times.

I was really happy to see all the great Pies available. I even foraged a bit and took one of the best apple Pies back home. Thank you to whom ever made those pies. Yum, Yum,,

I thought the confederate H.Q. telegram post was very interesting. As I spoke to some folks there, they said it was a really great turnout was better than in some past years. It was nice to meet fellow reenactors from other timelines as Colonial/ French& Indian / pioneer to Rev war to civil war, to WW2. A huge gratitude should be given to the Confederate Artillery it really adds a lot to the event.

Thank you.

No matter how perfect we would like events I shall be happy for whatever time we have together to and have good memories together. It reminds me of the game of Golf or fishing as for

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myself it's not about how good I get or how many fish I (cant) catch, it's about the company we have and enjoying our interests together creating pleasant lasting memories. With each other.



The Editor with John Arnold at the Arnold House in Beverly.

I would also like to thank my fellow reenactor Kieth for helping me with rudimental drumming instructions to a partial deaf veteran. Thanks Kieth. As our thoughts were of others who weren't able to be there with us this year Like Rick Byrd AKA- (Byrdi) and others were mentioned and concerns thoughts and prayers for them as we ended the event and had our meeting. Hopefully they can make next year's event. I look forward to meeting others that I may get to know & hopefully make friends within our organization.

As anything I may have forgotten to mention Others may please give more input as I am just conveying my own personal experience and I know others have good things to

- JOHN ARNOLD



Figure 1 Dave Judy was one of the more popular stops for spectators at Beverly History Day. Here he talks to a family before one his scheduled firing demonstrations. He fired his mountain howitzer, thrilling many spectators during the day.

Other Features None at this time

For Sale

From Bryan Cokeley

With regret, I am resigned to getting out of the hobby. 😞
I just don't seem to have the impetus to get to events with Hampton having left the state. He was in Texas; he now lives in Richmond. (Apparently, he took to heart those calls of "On to Richmond!") He turns 30 in May. He was 10 when we went to our first School of the Soldier. The passage of time. Maybe we all added 5 years this past year.
It seems wasteful for me to sit on all of this reenactment gear. I will keep my musket. I can make some young person a great deal on everything else – **a whole kit to get started in the hobby. If you know of someone interested, please let me know.**

Miss everyone! Best,
Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1st West Virginia)

New Civil War History of Harrison County
*A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia
1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War
1856-65. By Pete Taylor*

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

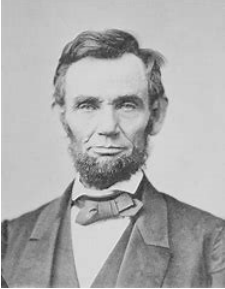
The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.
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They Said It (or didn't)

Quotes, misquotes and fabrications attributed to the famous, nearly famous, not famous and infamous.



"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet just because there's a photo with, a quote next to it."

- Abraham Lincoln, February 30, 1866
Google shareholders meeting

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!

- Daniel Webster

"Without slavery, the problems between the sections could probably have been worked out by the ordinary give-and-take of politics; with slavery, they became insoluble. So, in 1861 the North and the South went to war, destroying one America and beginning the building of another which is not even yet complete."

- Bruce Catton, *The Civil War*, p. 9

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org

Beverly Heritage Center -

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

Link to Clarksburg History Museum -

<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

Battle of Gettysburg Podcast -

Addressing Gettysburg podcast -

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -

www.ShenandoahAtWar.org

2023 WVRA Officers

Andrew Valentine - President

Art Dodds - Vice President

Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Dodds - (TASAS) Unit Representative

Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Tim Glaser

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Unit Field Officers

(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)

ATTENTION - Please do not send any correspondence to the former 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. Karl Mulac is the administrator of 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

ANY MEMBER who wants to contribute to the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch* is encouraged to do so. I get very few items from members. Anyone who has an opposite point of view to mine, I encourage them to respond. I certainly have expressed some opinions that others might want to rebut. My health, or should I say, the uncertainty over my health has kept me out of the field. So, I am relying on those active at events for event reviews.

KEEP RICK BYRD in your prayers.

OLD FRIENDS - It was great to see some old friends at the Beverly Heritage last month. I had not seen Tim Glaser in a few years....although we have been in constant email contact. Additionally, we were treated with a surprise visit from former members Roy and Betty Shreve, who have moved back to the area from Idaho. We had a good time catching up with Roy (didn't have a chance to talk much with Betty) who seems to be restored to good health after a scare a few years back.

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West Virginia Public Broadcasting was on the scene to get some footage for one of their productions. They were filming a court scene with a judge and an accused man. Roy needed little persuasion to take one of the parts in the brief scene. Tim Glaser was cast as the accused. Or so I heard.



We were blessed to reunite with old friends at Beverly Heritage Day. Tim Glaser (left on porch) returned from North Carolina with his telegraph equipment. Roy Shreve (red shirt), former member, entertains Debbie and Jack Rush with a story. See paragraph above.

ADDRESS – The WVRA has a new official address. The new address is WVRA, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV, 26253. However, any correspondence about dues, membership, newsletter, etc., should be sent to me. We will continue to check the old Buckhannon PO Box until it expires later this year.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW who is a member of the WVRA and who is not, please ask Rick Byrd or myself. I see folks claiming membership, when in fact they are not members. I usually publish the membership list in the newsletter for a few months for all to see. But some members are uncomfortable with the list being published.

THANK YOU to John Arnold, Pam Dodds for their contributions to this issues. Thank you to Vice President Art Dodds for running the July meeting and to Pam Dodds for taking the minutes.

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$15 per year fee.

The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA.

WVRA website - wvra.org

Chuck Critchfield - Editor

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The Beverly Heritage Day parade forms in front of the old Randolph County jail. Keith Kophina and Chuck Critchfield are in the front rank. Art Dodds is spotted towards the front porch of the jail.

"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 You Tube

"History is dangerous. It goes after our myths and our identities."

- Brig. Gen. (ret) Ty Seidule after receiving death threats for writing about history

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."

- Robert Penn Warren

All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.

- Paraphrased from several historians

"The People made their recollection fit in with their suffering"

-Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War