

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2021- February - Edition II

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE that all of the events in 2021 are dependent on the status of the pandemic. Please ensure that the event is not cancelled before attending.

Civil War Sponsored

None at this time

Sanctioned

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

Bentonville - CANCELLED

160th Anniversary Bull Run, April 23-25

- Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg

Chancellorsville May 1-2, 2021 - NPS

Event - CANCELLED

New Market - CANCELLED

Stonewall Jackson Civil War

Roundtable, Second Tuesday of each

month - PWA Building behind the Courthouse
in Clarksburg

Gettysburg, July 1-3 - at the movie site in
Gettysburg. - CANCELLED

Beverly Heritage/Rich Mountain

Antietam, Sept 18-19 - Daniel Lady Farm,
Gettysburg

Cedar Creek, Oct. 16-17 - Middletown, Va.

Other

Blue Gray Reunion, June 3-6, Phillipi

160th Anniversary of Ball's Bluff, Oct. 9-10 - near Leesburg, Va.

Other Time Periods

None at this time.

No Annual Meeting

No meeting is scheduled at this time. Because of concerns over Covid-19, the meeting is postponed until further notice. Any questions can be directed to the Executive Committee.

-- IMPORTANT NEWS --

Executive Committee Action January

The following proposal was unanimously approved by the five voting member of the Executive Committee on January 21.

The Executive Committee authorizes and directs Secretary/Treasurer Jack Rush to renew the liability insurance. This includes paying for said insurance.

Keep in mind the Executive Committee action listed below from last fall.

(October)

The following two proposals were approved by the five voting members of the Executive Committee in an email vote the last week of October.

PROPOSAL #1 "In light of the current pandemic and its effects on the hobby, the Executive Committee postpones the election of new officers of the WVRA until such time that the Committee determines that it is prudent to hold the 'annual meeting' in accordance with procedures described in the by laws."

PROPOSAL #2 "The President shall have the authority to temporarily appoint, until the next duly conducted Association election, members to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee."

If any member has a concern or question about this action, please contact President Jim Barnes or myself. These actions were simply in response to how the pandemic is affecting group meetings at the moment. Executive committee members are listed near the end of every newsletter. Members are encouraged to work through your Unit Representative. If you currently do not have a Unit Rep., work through an officer. Reminder to General Members, the WVRA President serves as your Unit Representative.

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Emailing the Newsletter

I continue to encounter issues with emailed newsletters from other organizations. It appears that if the list of recipients is too large, the email is labeled as SPAM. Therefore, I may experiment with smaller email lists, rather than sending emails to entire units.

Membership

I can report to you, that as of today, January 10, 2021 we have 36 members who have renewed. Last year we had 63 members.

I am not going to cajole or beg you to renew. If you want to renew, please do so.

It is past time to renew your membership in the WVRA for 2021. To be a member you must pay dues. To **be eligible for the group insurance you must be a member.** Return the membership form and dues to : C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg WV 26301

1. 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 \$15 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership. Family memberships are limited to family members college age or younger residing within the household.
2. **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.

2021 Membership Renewals

Artillery

David Judy Susan Judy
Roger House

1st West Virginia

Jim Barnes Keith Kopshina
Mike Phillips* Jack Rush
Chuck Critchfield Kevin Skaggs
John Ziolkowski Chris Carroll
Patrick Carroll

25th Virginia

Ken Connell Tag Ireland*
Dirk Behana Jim Allman
Tim Glaser Greg Watterson
John Webb

TASAS

Peter Baxter* Phyllis Baxter*
Bill Snyder* Linda Barnes
Pamela Dodds Art Dodds
Debbie Rush Patty Carroll
Abby Ward William Ward

General

Larry Teets Senator Hunter Lesser
Matthew Price William Burruss
Barry Miller Rebecca Miller

Newsletter mailing

Bill Snyder Tag Ireland

* - indicates lifetime members

If you think I have left your name off the list, please contact me.

Treasurer's Report

January 1 through January 31, 2021

Beginning balance	\$2,855.08
Credits	
Memberships	\$ 237.00
Debits	
Reimbursement for	
Newsletter expenses	\$ 40.14
Ending Balance	\$3,051.94

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

Upcoming Events

Gettysburg

Received from David Childs, commander of the USV:

*"The Gettysburg event being planned for the movie site has been **canceled** for any number of reasons that you might suspect; from Covid fears to monuments to there being two overlapping events in an off-year. The good news is that registration had never started."*

The Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable

The SJCWRT has meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. On February 9, Col. Pete Taylor is the scheduled speaker, His topic

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is to be determined. The current scheduled location is the Progressive Womens' Association located directly behind the Harrison County Courthouse. The location is subject to change in later in 2021. Anyone attending is required to wear a mask. I have no word on the Morgantown round table.

Living History Monroe County

(Editor's note: I have sent Chris an email asking for a contact address and whether he wants Civil War attire or 1901 attire. I have not received a response at publication time.)

Chris Johnson (former WVRA member) is planning a living history August 27 through 29, 2021 in Union, Monroe County to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Monument to Confederate Soldiers of Monroe County.

There will be an encampment Friday through Sunday, with a picnic social on Saturday. Circa 1901 attire. Veterans and families, dignitaries, locals - it was quite the spectacle in 1901. There were 10,000 people, parade, floats, etc.

Event Reviews

By Jim Barnes

Just before Christmas, I got an unusual request for a living history presentation. A local Monongalia County reenactor, Tyler Claypole, formerly a member of the Barbour Grays, approached me and asked if I would give a presentation about WWII at a young fellow's birthday party. It seems that Tyler's employer's 8 year-old son, Ben, is a history buff with a strong interest in WWII, especially the Battle of the Bulge. They asked if I could come out in period attire and maybe fire off a round or two and discuss the battle.

I agreed to do so, noting that I didn't have an appropriate American firearm that I could use, but would they mind if I came as a German. There were no objections, so I agreed to do so.

On January 2nd, I met Tyler (who came in Civil War garb to give a presentation on that period) and we proceeded to his employer's home. The family lives out in the country, so I didn't have to worry about making any noise.

As it turned out, I had a great time. The family was very friendly and welcoming and expressed a great deal of appreciation for the visit. The father is an Iraq War veteran and is very interested in military history himself. The birthday boy was very knowledgeable about the war and the battle and asked excellent questions. With his dad's permission, I let him fire a blank through the Mauser. The lady of the house had prepared an excellent meal using WWII era recipes to show their appreciation.



Figure 1 Jim Barnes (left) and Tyler Claypool (right rear)

It was a nice experience and hopefully will encourage Ben to continue his interest in studying history.

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Other Features

A Mistaken Mistress

The *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* reported on the proceedings of a court martial trial at Charleston in which Captain William A. West (Co. I, 1st West Virginia Cavalry) was discharged from Union service. Among the charges against him was "keeping his wife in camp, dressed in the uniform of a soldier." The newspaper printed a retraction on May 13, 1862: "We are requested to state that this is a mistake--it was another man's wife that West had in camp, and not his own. We make the correction with pleasure."

- Submitted by Hunter Lesser

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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 31, 1866

Cure for Chronic Dysentery

*to 1 oz of Venus Turpentine or any other clear Semi liquid turpentine will do add 1. oz. Laudnumn. or mix with the turpentine @ Small quantity of pulverized opium. then take as much wheat flour as will make of the mass. @ Stiff dough if opium is used Water maybe added & then thoroughly worked together divide in Pills of comon Size dose 1 Pill before eating & at any time when griping pain Diet plain & nourishing use no Stimulants
this formed in Woods Practice*

- found in the diary of Charles Van Houten, 121st Ohio Vol. Infantry and a soldier sent home twice during his 2 1/2 years of service, to recover from "diarrhea."

=====

"A soldier on the Picket Line on a dark night, and expecting the approach of the enemy at any moment, is in a very trying situation. Should he fail to give the alarm of the enemy's approach in time, the result to his own troops in the rear may be disastrous, and again, if he gives a false alarm he is censured. If he has the misfortune to be found asleep at his post, the penalty is death. with these things in his mind, added to the constant watching and listening, there is always a strain on a soldiers, nerves. And should he be nervous, which is not always the sign of a bad soldier, he may imagine objects in front of him (such as bushes, tufts of grass, etc.) moving., and are people, and then the noise of the wind through the forest trees, or the falling of leaves he may fancy to be the sound of marching coming towards him, so he tries to steady his nerves and keep cool. Then these visions vanish for a while only to be renewed again in some other form."

- Private Nicholas Pomeroy, 5th Texas Infantry as quoted The Struggle fo Chattanooga by Richard Baumgartner and Larry Strayer.

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org
Beverly Heritage Center -

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

www.wvmasondixoncwrtable.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

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Current WVRA Officers

Jim Barnes - President

Ken Connell - Vice President

Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant - Unit Rep (TASAS)

Vacant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Peter Baxter

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

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

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 `` 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

PERSONALS - Bill Snyder sent a Christmas card to the WVRA wishing the organization a Merry Christmas.

THANK YOU - Peter Baxter, Senator Hunter Lesser, Jack Rush and Jim Barnes for their contributions to this issue

IF YOU WOULD LIKE to create your own historical record, jot down your recollections of January 6, 2021 and keep it for future generations to read. I also invite you to submit for publication in this humble publication, any stories of your family military history or your favorite reenacting stories.

THE MOVIE 1917 got a lot of attention when it was released in 2019. I just re-watched the 9 minute opening sequence which is one long unedited take. Quite a feat in movie making. But what really intrigues me is the movie set - or the background .

The sets and the costumes are what makes this movie stand out to me. The story line is not that outstanding. The actors are fine. But the landscape, uniforms, and trenches transport the viewer to a different experience.

This leads to another movie I recently had a discussion about - The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance which has a very fine story line and wonderful actors. But the sets are cheesy and take away from the overall experience. This movie resembles a stage play that was converted to a movie.

I will never forget my original reaction to the opening shot in 1917. The two soldiers, fully equipped lounging behind the line in a green field absolutely no evidence of war or any disturbance to the natural environment. Everything close to the lines in 1917 was mud and dirt. Low-lying northern France was wet all the time. But then the soldiers, awakened to action by a sergeant, slowly stroll towards the front line and the background goes progressively from a green field, to mud and chaos of the front line trench. What a transition. I loved it.

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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

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"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

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

- Robert Penn Warren