

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2023 – January Edition CXLVIII

Next Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. at the Mountain State Brewing Company at 740 Genesis Blvd., Bridgeport. Exit 124 (aka Jerry Dove exit; aka FBI ext; aka Charles Pointe exit). *If you plan to attend let President Andrew Valentine or me know.*

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."

Sponsored

None at this time

Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

July

Beverly Heritage Days, July 2023.

October

Burlington Apple Festival

IMPORTANT

Upcoming Meetings to Determine Future of WVRA

Please take note that discussion about the future of the WVRA began in the December meeting. (Please see notes below). We cannot ignore the fact that interest in the organization is waning. We do not have nominations for all officer positions. A committee was formed to investigate the possibility of the WVRA becoming a part of the Valley Division.

In my opinion, there seem to be a number of options being tossed around at this time. First if we do NOT get a full slate of officers, we can: 1) join the Valley Division; 2) disband the organization per the by laws; 3) change the by laws and continue as the WVRA. If we do get a full slate of officers: 1) continue as the WVRA; 2) join the Valley Division anyway.

You are invited to attend the next meeting to discuss. Once we have a recommendation and a motion to vote upon, all dues-paying members will get a chance to vote.

NOMINATIONS STILL NEEDED!!!

Status of Nominations Listed Below

Some nominations were received at the December meeting (see list below). However, to continue we still need to fill some key positions in the WVRA. Please consider running for office.

President

2022 Andrew Valentine

2023 Andrew Valentine

Vice President

2022 Ken Connell (not interested in running again.

2023 Art Dodds

Treasurer

2022 Tim Cox (he is moving and is not able to run again.)

2023 NO Nomination

Secretary

2022 Jim Barnes (is not running again)

2023 NO Nominations

Newsletter Editor

2022 Chuck Critchfield

2023 Chuck Critchfield

Webmaster

2022 Peter Baxter (retiring)

2023 Tim Glaser is nominated

Unit Reps

1st West Virginia

2022 Chuck Critchfield

2023 Chuck Critchfield

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25th Virginia

2022 Bill Brisendine

2023 Bill Brisendine

TASAS

2022 Phyllis Baxter

2023 Pam Dodds

Artillery

2022 David Judy

2023 Roger House

Please do not nominate a member without their knowledge and approval. Keep a clear eye!

WVRA Minutes December 3, 2022

On this date, a general meeting of the WVRA was held at the Mountain State Brewing Co. located off Jerry Dove Drive, Bridgeport, WV.

Members present: WVRA president Andrew Valentine, Vice President Ken Connell, Treasurer Tim Cox, Secretary Jim Barnes, Newsletter Editor Chuck Critchfield, members Linda Barnes, Bill Brisendine, Sherri Goff and Geoff Goff and Roger House.

President Valentine called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Jim offered to read the minutes as published in the newsletter. Bill moved that the minutes be accepted as printed. Ken seconded. The motion passed.

Tim gave the treasurer's report. The organization currently has \$2,061.75 with no outlays this past month. Chuck moved to accept the report and Jim seconded. The motion passed. Tim is leaving the area and giving up the treasurer's position. He deserves a big thank-you for his work.

Old business: The discussion about some type of merger with the Valley Division was brought up. Jim made a motion to have a committee to study the issue and possibly make a recommendation. Chuck seconded the motion and it passed with one nay vote. Jim, Chuck, Roger and Bill with comprise the committee.

Jim gave a report on the items donated to the unit by Debbie Moore. (See the attached addendum). The Artillery unit has agreed to store unit items in one of their trailers. Jim moved that we convey the items, plus the clothing and leathers already in the inventory, to Dave Judy for storage. Chuck seconded. It passed. Since Dave was unable to attend due to a prior commitment, Andrew agreed to take charge of the items and get them to Dave.

New business: Roger discussed the events being held at the Daniel Lady Farm this coming year. They are concentrating on the Gettysburg event. Roger also mentioned other events the Valley Division is also looking at. He said he would supply a complete list.

Jim discussed Beverly Heritage Days. We will wait to hear more about the date before considering further.

Dues are due January 1st. Chuck will be sending out a renewal form to the membership.

Discussion about nominations for officers. Since Tim Cox is moving out of state, a nominee for treasurer is a priority. Also, Ken said he would not run for Vice-president again and Jim will not be running for secretary again, so nominations for all these offices are needed. Secretary and Treasurer can be combined if necessary. All members are encouraged to consider helping out with these nominations. Andrew has agreed to run for President again and Chuck is willing to continue putting out the newsletter. Chuck has agreed to handle the treasurer's duties until the election is held.

Tim Glaser has agreed to take over as webmaster for the Website as Peter Baxter is retiring from that position. Peter has done a great job over the years. Bill agreed to be unit rep for the 25th Va. again and Chuck as 1st WV rep. Also, Phyllis nominated Pam Dodds as unit rep for the Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aide Society via email prior to the meeting. Roger said he would be willing to be Artillery rep if Dave doesn't want it.

Nominations for the vacant positions will be the main topic of the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 21 at 1:00 at the Mountain State Brewing Co. Bridgeport.

Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting and Jim seconded. Motion passed.

- Submitted by Jim Barnes

Addendum WVRA Inventory 2022

1. 3 pair Brogans – Size 12
2. 1 pair officers' riding boots (I think they are altered East German Jack boots).
3. 1 Union blue vest. Well worn.
4. 1 holster for cap and ball revolver.
5. 1 Cannon primer box. 2 primers inside.
6. 1 officer's belt cartridge box. (it has 31 blank cartridges in it. Probably for a Henry. Cut-down 30-30 Winchester shells.)
7. 3 pair of sky blue trousers. Size 38-40 I would guess.
8. 2 pair of red suspenders.

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9. 1 red handkerchief.
10. 1 large camp coffee pot.
11. 2 blue forage caps. Well worn.
12. 3 slouch hats. (2 are black, one is light brown.)
13. 4 shirts. (1 gray plaid, 1 red, and 2 white.)

MEMBERSHIP Renewal

It is time to renew your WVRA membership for 2023. 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

2023 Member Renewals

Bill Brisendine	25 Virginia Tag Ireland
Mike Phillips	1 st West Virginia Chuck Critchfield
Bill Snyder	TASAS
Phyllis Baxter	Peter Baxter
Pam Dodds	Art Dodds
Keith Kopshina	General
Dirk Behanna	Kyle Kopshina Judy Kopshina

Treasurer's Report

WVRA Year End Treasurer's Report January 1 - December 30, 2022

Beginning balance	\$2,506.53
Credits	\$ 545.00
Memberships	\$ 545.00 (Note 3)
Debits	\$ 938.78
Unit Money	\$100.00 (note 1)
PO Box	\$ 74.00
Checks	\$ 53.17
Memorial	\$ 50.00 (note 2)
Insurance	\$661.61
Ending balance	\$2,112.75

Note 1 - The Artillery Unit is the only unit to request and be paid in 2022. The 1st West Virginia requested \$75 but the check was written in late 2021 and is NOT included in this report

Note 2 - Memorial for Ralph McCready

Note 3 - This total represents checks deposited for membership in calendar year 2022. The actual total membership dues received in 2021 and 2022 for membership in 2022 was \$695. When compared to the actual debits for 2022, this shows a shortfall of \$243.78 between credits and debits.

Tim Cox was Treasurer until December.

- Submitted by Chuck Critchfield, Interim Treasurer

Upcoming Events

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

Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Center and Rich Mountain Battlefield are beginning planning for Beverly Heritage Day 2023. The most likely date will be Saturday, July 22, although July 15 is a possible alternative if there are significant conflicts for July 22. This will again be a timeline event -- we always welcome suggestions for themes, scenarios, and activities. We ask WVRA and participating units and individuals to send us feedback now on dates and suggestions, plus we welcome participation in our planning committee. We will make date decision and send a request for WVRA sponsorship in January.

- Phyllis and Chris

Event Reviews

Book Review

In the Hurricane's Eye

Look closely at the subtitle of this book before you think you might know what it is about. "The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown." Combine the main title and the subtitle and you will have an idea that this is a narrative story about the

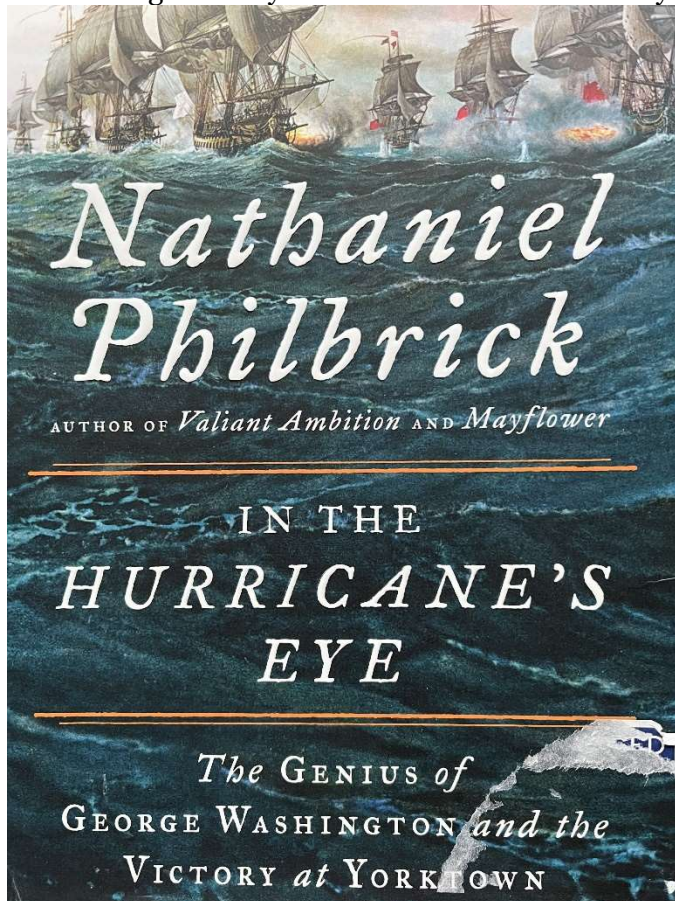
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Yorktown campaign, with an emphasis on the naval story.

Nathaniel Philbrick likes to write historical non-fiction that is connected to the sea. I read his book *Mayflower*, another very readable book, in which he challenges the standard telling of history with another side of the story. Some might even say he is revising history – I say he is not. Just telling part of the story that seems forgotten.

Most historical retelling of the Yorktown campaign will describe how the French navy was integral to trapping the British army under Cornwallis on the Yorktown Peninsula. Philbrick will convince you that the navies of Britain and France were the military forces that dictated success or failure in the Revolution. Without control of the sea, neither side was destined to win. At Yorktown, the French were the stronger navy and sealed the victory.



Included in the book is a discussion of the numerous events that led to the French navy sailing from the Caribbean Sea to the Chesapeake Bay. That incredible story includes hurricanes, Spanish diplomats, the sugar trade and money. Philbrick also concentrates on Washington's relationship with

the French army officers, LaFayette's role, British leadership failures on land and sea and the Carolinas Campaign leading up to the Yorktown campaign.

Philbrick's style is very readable. He creates a smooth-flowing narrative of the events of the 1780's, provides illustrations of many of the main characters and short thumbnail sketches of these characters at the end of the book. Of much interest to me were the diagrams of the naval battles and explanation of the nautical terms.

- Chuck Critchfield

Other Features

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.

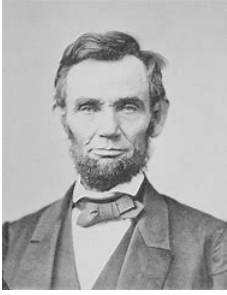
The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.
July 2022

They Said It (or didn't)

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

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"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

"When one is happy in forgetfulness, facts get forgotten"

- Historian Robert Penn Warren

"There is no God in war. It is merciless, cruel, vindictive, un-Christian, savage, relentless. It is all that devils could wish for, and it is painful that the existence of this war compels a reversion of the favorable opinion we had formed of the onward march of civilization."

- Surgeon John L. Hostetter, 34th Illinois Infantry
as quoted in *History of the 34th Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry* by Sergeant E. Payne.

"Tis far the best that the rebels have been pounded instead of negotiated into a peace. They must remember it...I fear that the high tragic historic justice which the nation...should execute, will be softened and dissipated and toasted away at dinner tables. But the problems that now remain to be solved are very intricate and perplexing."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journal*, April 1865 as
quoted in *Race and Reunion*, David Blight.

"Such is the way Sherman's army is doing: it looks bad, but it cannot be helped. 'If the people don't like it,' says one fellow, 'they hadn't ought to let us come down here.'"

- J.M. Brannum, 98th Ohio, November 27, 1864 as
printed in *The National Tribune*, April 26, 1900

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

2022 WVRA Officers

Andrew Valentine - President

Ken Connell - Vice President

Chuck Critchfield (interim) - Treasurer

Jim Barnes - Secretary

Phyllis Baxter - Unit Rep (TASAS)

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

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

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Peter Baxter

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 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

IT SEEMS THE PAST FEW YEARS that when we get to this point of the year, and it's time to nominate officers, we struggle to find volunteers. Somebody seems to step up each year to fill the opening or two. Thank you to those members who have done that in the past.

Failure to fill officer positions would violate the by-laws and threaten our status as a non-profit. Or so that is how I understand it. But the larger question becomes is there enough interest to

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continue the organization? Or is it time to reorganize? Most active members seem to do their own thing, rather than support the few events that are WVRA sanctioned or sponsored. And many members are just not able to get out in the field any longer. Very few members come to the periodic meetings. I get very little feedback from my group about issues.

The Valley Division has offered to bring us under their umbrella. That issue is being studied and surely will be voted upon should it be decided to consider that proposal.

Some decisions will have to be made. And votes taken. Let your voice be heard.

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.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for placing on the website.

IT IS TIME TO SUBMIT SCHEDULES for 2023. I hear complaints that event schedules are published too late for some reenactors to plan their work schedules. So if you have events for 2023, please send them to the newsletter editor now.

THE LOCAL CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLES are off to a great start this year. If you have any questions about the Stonewall Jackson (Clarksburg) or Mason-Dixon (Morgantown) roundtables, please contact me. We have some wonderful presentations. The Stonewall Jackson roundtable meets the second Tuesday of the month (but does skip December and summer months). Mason-Dixon meets the third Tuesday of the month. It skips some months also. If you would like more information, please contact me.

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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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*"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

"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

