

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2022 – November Edition CXLV

Next Meeting

I think a meeting may be scheduled soon. Nothing definite at this time.

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE that all of the events in 2022 are dependent on the status of the pandemic. Please ensure that the event is not cancelled before attending.

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

2022

**Remembrance Weekend Military Yard Sale
and Swap Meet**, Nov. 18-19, Daniel Lady Farm,
Gettysburg, [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](https://www.danielladyfarm.com)

NO NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Status of Nominations Listed Below

To my knowledge, no additional nominations were received for any office within the WVRA. There was some response from current officers about running for office in 2023. That leaves the

organization with just ONE office with a nomination as I assemble this newsletter. Here is the status of the nominations for 2023 WVRA officers

To date, here are the incumbents and any nominations (only one to date):

President

2022 Andrew Valentine
2023 NO Nominations

Vice President

2022 Ken Connell
2023 NO Nominations

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 NO Nominations

Webmaster

2022 Peter Baxter (retiring)
2023 Tim Glaser is nominated

Unit Reps

1st West Virginia
2022 Chuck Critchfield
2023 NO Nominations

25th Virginia
2022 Bill Brisendine
2023 NO Nominations

TASAS
2022 Phyllis Baxter
2023 NO Nominations

Artillery

2022 David Judy
2023 NO Nominations

If we are to continue as an organization, we will need leadership. Please do not nominate a member without their knowledge and approval. Keep a clear eye and watch for the announcement of any upcoming meetings.

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Treasurer's Report

October 1-29, 2022

Beginning balance	\$2,061.75
Credits	
Membership	\$ 0.00
Debits	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$2,061.75

Submitted by Tim Cox, Treasurer, WVRA

Insurance

Treasurer Tim Cox has received the certificate of insurance. Both Tim and I have a copy of the certificate. If you require a copy please send Tim or me an email requesting a copy and we will email you a PDF copy of said certificate.

- Chuck Critchfield

Upcoming Events

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

Two Droops

Yes, Virginia, there are two Droop Mountain events this year.

The annual event is being held at the Park on October 7-9 of this year. I assume that the same link as last year <https://battleofdrycreek.org> can be used to get information on this year's event.

Jason and Ronna Studenwalt are involved with a fund-raising event at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park on November 4-6. The event is entitled **Echols Last Stand** and currently there is a Facebook page dedicated to this event.

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Event Reviews

Fort Henry Days

By Jim Barnes

Fort Henry Days is a Revolutionary War reenactment which is held at Oglebay Park near Wheeling, WV, over Labor Day weekend each year. Started in 1997, this year marked its 25th anniversary. The event recreates two different scenarios, one set in 1777 when a large force of

British-allied natives attacked the fort. The other event involves the 1782 attack, this time by a force of Shawnee, Mingo and Wyandot warriors as well as British troops.

It might be noted that, although Washington had defeated Lord Cornwallis in the fall of 1781, the treaty actually ending the war was not signed until 1783. During the interim, while there was no fighting of any consequence on the east coast, the British authorities in Detroit continued to support Indian attacks on the frontier.

The WVRA contingent for this year consisted of Jim and Linda Barnes and Ron and Debbie Wenig. Other familiar faces encountered over the weekend included former WVRA members Jay Kelly and Lee Miller.

The reenactment takes place at the Levenson Shelter, which is located more or less between the park lodge and the Good Zoo. The sponsors erect a pre-fabricated fort and settlers' cabins as well as a temporary corn field (real cornstalks fastened to stakes) and several hay stacks. This gives the attackers a lot of cover which they use to get close to the fort.



There is a lot of action and anyone who can handle a flintlock is welcome to defend the fort when the fiercely painted warriors and the Brits attack. If they are running short on attackers, you may have the opportunity to be a Tory! This year a company of Redcoats showed up to help the natives, so we joined a militia company who came to the fort's rescue.

This is a fun event which includes lectures on 18th century life, both settlers and natives, live period music, quite a few sutlers, a period dance troop, food

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vendors, and even a Punch and Judy show for the kiddies. We encourage all to check it out.

Fort Ligonier Days

By Jim Barnes

On the weekend of October 15-14, Linda and I traveled to Ligonier PA, for Fort Ligonier Days. This celebration commemorates the October 12, 1758, attack on the fort (then called Loyalhanna) by the French and their native allies. In the original battle, the French forces consisted of 440 Marines, and 150 Delaware Indians. The British forces, about 2000 in total, retreated into the fort, which was impervious to attack without artillery, which the French lacked. In the end, the French and Indians contented themselves with sniping at the fort and looting the British camps outside the fort, making off with, among other things, about 200 horses.

The fort was built as part of the Forbes expedition to take Fort Duquesne at the present site of Pittsburgh. The attack did little to slow the British advance, and on November 24, the outnumbered and under-supplied French forces abandoned their fort and blew up the powder magazine. The British soon began construction of Fort Pitt on the site.



This is pleasant event at a well-restored historical site. The restoration of the fort is extremely well done. There is also a well-appointed modern museum adjacent to the fort for your edification. The battle reenactment and living history displays are part of a larger community celebration with food vendors, a parade led by the reenacting units, and many other activities. I must say that the crowd this year was the largest that I have ever seen at this event. Literally thousands of people lined the streets for the parade and they just kept coming in all day.

Ligonier is a great place to visit even when there is no special event going on. I encourage anyone with an interest in history to check it out.

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)

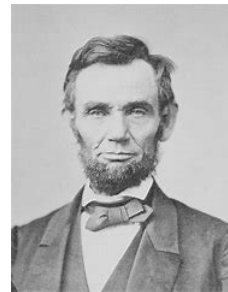
New Civil War History of Harrison County
A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia 1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War 1856-65. By Pete Taylor

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.



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

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- Abraham Lincoln, February 30, 1866
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“And now, sir, permit me to say that the unprecedented measure you propose transcends, in studied and ingenious cruelty, all acts ever before brought to my attention in the dark history of war.”

In the name of God and humanity, I protest, believing that you will find that you are expelling from their homes and firesides the wives and children of a brave people. I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant.”

- Part of John Bell Hood’s in response to William Sherman’s order to evacuate all citizens from Atlanta in September, 1864

“I say it is kindness to these families of Atlanta to remove them now, at once, from scenes that women and children should not be exposed to, and the ‘brave people’ should scorn to commit their wives and children to the rude barbarians who thus, as you say, violate the laws of war, as illustrated in the pages of its dark history. In the name of common-sense, I ask you not to appeal to a just God in such a sacrilegious manner. You who, in the midst of peace and prosperity, have plunged a nation into war – dark and cruel war...”

- Part of William T. Sherman’s answer to John Bell Hood’s response, September, 1864

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
Tim Cox – 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

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 – Tim Cox for the Treasurer’s Report. Thank you to Jim Barnes for the event review. Thanks to Peter Baxter for placing on the website.

IT IS TIME TO NOMINATE officers for the upcoming year. To my knowledge, no officers were nominated since the last issue of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Tim Glaser last year agreed to run for Webmaster in 2023 and is currently the only candidate nominated. If we fail to elect officers, I think we will need to discuss alternatives.

IT IS TIME TO SUBMIT SCHEDULES for 2023. I hear complaints that event schedules are published too

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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.

THE BATTLE OVER OUR HISTORY has been interesting. One thing has surprised me recently. Ken Burns' recent documentary on the United States and the Holocaust, shows how our country had a very mixed record to the Nazi's efforts to wipe out the Jewish population and other unwanted people of Europe. Burns says that ultimately, we fought a war that wiped out the Nazis and ended the problem. But, we provided limited opportunity for Jewish exiles to immigrate to the United States before and during the war. I expected a backlash since the series presented the bad side of that story – especially in these days of "culture wars." I haven't seen any yet.

THE 105th OHIO's amazing journey at Chickamauga was something I had forgotten about. This week I re-read the story of their attack on the second day at Chickamauga. Longstreet's attack on September 20 crushed the right flank of William Rosecrans Army of the Cumberland. After the breakthrough, the Confederates wheeled right and began to roll up the Union line. Federal regiments turned to face the Southern onslaught, one-by-one. And one-by-one the blue-clad units were flanked and scattered. Union resistance began to become more organized as the Confederate tide rolled northward. The 105th Ohio Volunteer Infantry was ordered to attack in order to buy time for units to its rear to adjust and organize a defense. The 105th moved forward and hit the far-right regiment in the Confederate advance, the 2nd Georgia of Henry Benning's Brigade. This surprise attack sent the Georgia troops running or surrendering. The 105th did not stop gather the prisoners but kept on advancing in line of battle. There was no organized opposition in their front as they slipped through a seam in the Confederate forces. Advancing they overtook wounded and stragglers who surrendered, but again were ignored. After several hundred yards, realizing they were in the rear of thousands of Southern troops (at least four brigades of Evander Law's Division), the Buckeyes hit a road, made a right

turn and headed west behind the Confederates and completing a circuit around a large portion of the Braxton Bragg's army.

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch **The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association** **November, 2022** **- Edition CXLV**

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.

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Fort Ligonier Days, 2022

*"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