

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
October 2023 – Edition CLVII

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)

October

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

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

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

October

21-22 – Cedar Creek, Middletown, Va.

November

4-5 - Guyandotte, W. Va.

3-6 – Echols Last Stand, Droop Mountain

CANCELLED

18-19 – Remembrance Day, Gettysburg.

December

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

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

Treasurers Report

For the time period September

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

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. 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.

It is a busy fall schedule with three sanctioned events with Hardy County Heritage and **Burlington Apple Festival** events followed by **Droop Mountain**. Contact David Judy for more information about Hardy County and Burlington events.

The Clarksburg History Museum in cooperation with the City of Clarksburg has asked the WVRA for assistance with their '**civil war tours**' currently underway. Tours are scheduled for Oct. 4, 14, and 28. Civilian reenactors contact Pam Dodds (pamelart@hughes.net) for more information. Military reenactors can contact me (ccritch608@yahoo.com). Civilian reenactors are needed for a scenario at the Harrison Court House recreating John Carlisle's 1861 speech. Military reenactors would be involved in a brief scenario on Lowndes Hill at the Civil Trenches.

Please note the second **Droop Mountain** event in NOVEMBER has been cancelled. The annual reenactment is scheduled for October.

The **Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable** will present John Heiser, retired Gettysburg National Park Ranger and Historian, former manager of the park's research library, on October 10, at 6:30 at Waldomore on West Pike Street downtown. Mr. Heiser will make a presentation about "*The Great Reunion of 1913*" at Gettysburg.

The 1913 reunion featured 54,000 Civil War veterans camped on the battlefield. This presentation is made possible by a grant from the Cultural Foundation of Harrison County. Waldomore is adjacent to the Harrison County Library and free parking is available behind the

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library. For additional information call 304-592-5851 or 304-677-4027.

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Event Reviews



Keith Kopshina at the trenches on Lowndes Hill in Clarksburg, talking to a tour group from the Clarksburg History Museum. An artillery lunette can still be found at Pinnickinick Hill is in the background.

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

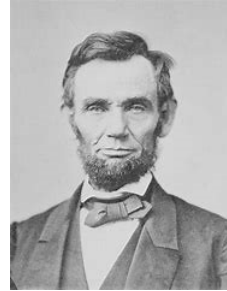
This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of

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.
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."

- Abraham Lincoln, February 30, 1866
Google shareholders meeting

"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

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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)

sent to me. We will continue to check the old Buckhannon PO Box until it expires later this year. If any mail comes to that PO Box, the Beverly Heritage folks will contact me.

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.

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. So, I am relying on those active at events for event reviews.

FORMER MEMBER Thurman Shaver passed away on October 1. Friends will be received at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home in Sutton, W. Va., between 6:00 to 8:00 p.m, on Friday, October 6. "Thurm" was one of a kind. He enjoyed reenacting and was a true Rebel. Rest in Peace.

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

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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 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

"History and memory aren't the same thing."

- Me