

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
September 2023 – Edition CLVI

## 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) September

**22-24** - Hardy County Living History, Moorefield, W. Va.

**7-8** – Apple Harvest Festival, Burlington, W. Va  
[ranger749@yahoo.com](mailto:ranger749@yahoo.com)

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

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

### August 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](http://battleofdrycreek.org/battle-droop-mountain)  
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/>

## CORRECTED MINUTES

### 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 History Museum in cooperation with the City of Clarksburg (correction) 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 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.

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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 \$1,526.68

Deposits

None \$0.00

Debits

None \$0.00

Ending Balance \$1,526.68

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. **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.

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.

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## Event Reviews

None at this time

## Other Features

None at this time

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## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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,

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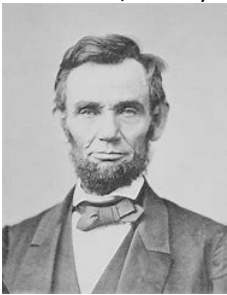
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no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

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

*"It is now eight months since the regiment entered Camp Chase. In that time each soldier has made many acquaintances in his regiment. We have discovered that the character and standing of a man as a citizen at home is no certain criterion by which to measure him as a soldier. The man who, as a citizen, was recognized bully of his neighborhood, and who was always ripe and ready for a fight with his neighbors, is the first to falter and shrink from duty, and to show the white feather when danger threatens; while the modest timid, bashful man, becomes the trusty, fearless soldier, who would suffer rather than desert his post or disobey an order. The reckless dare-devil improves in his morals, while the conduct of hos*

*more professing comrade becomes greatly modified. In some instances the man of great proportions and strength becomes a prey to disease, grows weak and helpless, and finally finds his way to the hospital, or is a constant attendant at the surgeon's call, while the spindling boy of sixteen has rounded into hardy manhood, and seems to thrive on duty, danger and exposure. Thus, it seems that no human foresight could determine who would or who would not render valuable service to the country.*

- Sergeant Francis McAdams, 113<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, April 20, 1863, while garrisoning Franklin, Tennessee.

### Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)

Beverly Heritage Center -

[www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

[www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/](http://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](http://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

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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.

**FROM RICK BYRD** – (*I asked Byrdie for an update on his health that I could post in the newsletter for the members*) Chuck: There is no more info from the doctors or the hospital. I am not bleeding internally anymore or at least it doesn't appear that I am. The last time I heard from the doctor was about 10 days after I got home from the hospital. Still no reason for the bleeding was found though before the doctor hung up, he mentioned that they found something odd in my stomach then click h\*e hung up. No explanations or any info for when i was to do the out-patient exam by taking a camera pill to swallow and have it travel through my digestive system to the end taking a photo every 4 seconds. That hasn't happened yet. I am to see my cardiologist on the 12th and maybe then he can fill me in since he to is associated with the WVU Medical System as is Ruby Memorial where I was for the internal bleeding testing. Byrdie

**THE CIVIL WAR TOUR** of Clarksburg got started in August. The reports that I got back were a bit contradictory. One report said that it went well. Another report that said that it needs some work. Members, including Keith Kopshina of the WVRA took part. The last word I received indicates that Clarksburg plans to continue these tours. If you are interested in participating as a civilian, please contact Pam Dodds, Unit Representative for the Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society.

**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 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.

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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](http://wvra.org)  
Chuck Critchfield - Editor  
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Clarksburg, WV 26301  
[ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com)

*"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