The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

Next Meeting

None scheduled at this time.

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

22-23 - Beverly Heritage Days, July 2023.

Sanctioned (per by laws)

Aug. 19 – Fort Mulligan Days, Petersburg, W. Va.

September - Hardy County Living History, Moorefield, W. Va.

7-8 – Apple Harvest Festival, Burlington, W. Va Oct. 13-15 – Droop Mountain, W. Va., near Hillsboro, W. Va. <u>Battle of Dry Creek</u>

Other Events recommended by WVRA members April

1-2 – Campbell's Run – St. Thomas Township,

Pa. http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

14-16 – Monterey Pass – Waynesboro, Pa http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

15 – Jackson's Mill, Lewis Co., W. Va. –

Artillery school (contact David Judy for more information)

29 - Buchannan, Virginia

May

5-7 – Chancellorsville, Paw Paw, Maryland (USV Max effort) register on ANV website.

12-14 – Martinsburg Roundhouse –

Martinsburg, WV,

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

19-21 - Fort Loudon, Fort Loudon, Pa., Time

line event, http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

June

2-4 - Philippi, Philippi, W. Va.

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

9-11 - Old Bedford Village, Bedford, Pa. http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

16-18 – Canaan Valley State Park, Davi, WV Contact Rick Byrd

21-25 – Gettysburg, Blackhorse Tavern Road, Gettysburg. (USV Max effort)

July

30- 2 – Gettysburg, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg, Pa.

14-16 - Fight at Funkstown, Funkstown, Md. http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

August

4-5 – West Virginia tactical (USV backed event) 18-20 – Dry Creek, White Sulphur Springs <u>Battle</u> of Dry Creek

September

22-24 – Lost River State Park, Mathias, W. Va. http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 – Barboursville, W. Va

October

21-22 - Cedar Creek, Middletown, Va.

November

4-5 - Guyandotte, W. Va.

4-5 – Droop Mountain (contact Jason Studenwalt)

18-19 - Remembrance Day, Gettysburg.

December

11-12 Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Christmas http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/

IMPORTANT

Association Elections Concluded!!

Record Absentee Returns

Only six members braved the cold temperatures at outside enclosed patio of the surprised Brickside Bar & Grill to attend the Annual WVRA meeting on March 11. However we had a record 19 absentee votes to add to the eligible voters present.

All nominated association officers were elected. No military officer nominations were considered as there were not enough members present to hold unit meetings. Four events were confirmed as WVRA sanctioned events and Beverly Heritage Days was confirmed by the membership. Because of the large number of abstentions, no event was confirmed unanimously.

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

WVRA Minutes

West Virginia Reenactors Association Minutes March 11, 2023

Members present Art and Pam Dodds; Jack and Debbie Rush, Bill Brisendine, and Chuck Critchfield.

At 1:10, the members present determined that Chuck Critchfield, Interim Treasurer, was probably the ranking member present. Chuck called the meeting to order.

Reports

Art moved and Pam seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes have been published in the last two newsletters any corrections or additions have been included. The motion carried unanimously.

Chuck made the Treasurers Report

Period of Jan. 1, 2023 – Feb. 27, 2023

Beginning Balance				\$2,112.75
Credits				
		Memberships	\$340.00	
	Total Credits			\$340.00
Debits				
		Tim Glaser (web hosting fee)	\$71.88	
		Tim Glaser (domain transfer fee)	\$16.99	
		Returned check	\$15.00	
		Chuck Critchfield (unit money USV membership)	\$75.00	
		Chuck Critchfield (mailing and copying cost newsletter #149)	\$68.22	
		Returned check fee	\$13.00	
	Total debits			\$260.09
Ending Balance				\$2,192.66

Treasurer's Notes

1. I am reporting two months. This contains a correction to January's report. The credits reported in January's report were underreported by \$25.00.

2. The returned check was later made good. Looking forward

The insurance cost was about \$660 last year. I anticipate costs have risen. We have approved unit moneys and there is \$325 outstanding at this time. That leaves a potential liability of almost \$1,000. If all 2022 members renew, we may receive between \$200 to \$300.

The PO Box has been renewed

At this point Jack Rush reported that the Beverly Heritage group had agreed to let us use their P.O. Box in place of the P.O. Box in Buckhannon. The new address is:

West Virginia Reenactors Association

PO Box 227

Beverly, WV 26253

(Physical address is 4 Court Street)

Chuck will look into what documents need to be changed.

The IRS form 990-N has been filed

The current liability insurance has been amended to show Chuck as the current contact person. Insurance expires in April and we must wait until 30 days prior to renew.

Membership Report

We 42 members as of March 9, 2023. Of those 39 are renewals and three are new members. We had 60 members last year, so that leaves 21 who have not renewed.

Jack moved and Pam seconded a motion to accept the Treasurers report. The motion carried without descent.

Bill initiated a discussion about tax exempt status. No action taken as a result.

Bill announced that Roy and Betty Shreve planned to move back to the area.

Old Business

Chuck reported that he had 19 absentee ballots. He cautioned the three members present who had submitted absentee ballots and unless they wanted to change their vote, they should not vote in the upcoming elections. That left 3 voters.

The floor was opened for nominations. Having received no further nominations, Bill moved and Pam seconded that the nominations be closed. Motion carried unanimously.

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

Chuck reported that since there were only three voters present it would not change the outcome of the absentee balloting. Jack moved and Chuck seconded a motion to elect by acclamation the five WVRA level officers. The motion carried unanimously.

ANDREW VALENTINE – President ART DODDS – Vice-president RICK BYRD – Secretary/Treasurer TIM GLASER – Webmaster CHUCK CRITCHFIELD – Editor

Chuck reported that he had to disqualify over a dozen votes for unit representatives as they had been cast by members who did not belong to that respective unit. Due to a lack of members present and for the reasons stated above, no unit meetings were held to elect unit reps and the results of the absentee balloting were used to determine the winners

CHUCK CRITCHFIELD – 1st West Virginia BILL BRISENDINE – 25th Virginia PAM DODDS – TASAS DAVID JUDY – Artillery

Chuck reported that there were not enough voting members present to change the outcome on the votes on sponsorship and sanction. As a result, the results of the absentee ballots were used.

> BEVERLY – Sponsored BURLINGTON – Sanctioned MOOREFIELD – Sanctioned DROOP – Sanctioned FORT MULLIGAN – Sanctioned

Chuck reported that Rick Byrd was unable to attend due to illness and the Judy's were unable to attend due to inclement weather.

Pam reported that there would be a History Expo March 25, at the Marion County Court House. The Marion County Museum, adjacent to the Court House would be open. She did not know the hours but said she would get them to Chuck for publishing on the Facebook page. She and art would be hosting a dancing segment at noon.

Bill suggested that we consider Giovanni's in Weston for our next meeting

No date was set for the next meeting. Submitted Chuck Critchfield March 11, 2023

Membership and Newsletters

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!

According to the by-laws of the WVRA, any member who has not paid dues by May 31, will be dropped as a member. You must be a member to be eligible for insurance.

Send your membership form and dues to me at C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV, 26301

The monthly newsletter will be sent by email to all members with an email address. The email with the notice for the annual meeting, will be sent by United States mail. Members wishing to have the newsletter mailed to them each month can do so for a fee of \$15 to cover mail and copy costs.

2023 Member Renewals

	25 Virginia		
endine	Tag Ireland		
tterson	Tim Glaser		

Bill Brisendine Greg Wattersor Ken Connell

Mike Phillips
Jack Rush
Pat Carroll
Jim Barnes
Ron Wenig
Nikolai Korolev

Pat West Virginia
Chuck Critchfield
David Starliper
Chris Carroll
John Ziolkowski
Bill Donegan

Bill Snyder Phyllis Baxter Pam Dodds Ward family (4) Debbie Wenig

Keith Kopshina Dirk Behanna Hunter Lesser William Burrus TASAS
Peter Baxter
Art Dodds
Debbie Rush
Linda Barnes
Linda Donegan
General

Kyle Kopshina Judy Kopshina Andrew Stover

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

Artillery

David Judy Susa Kenneth W. Snyder Jani

Susan Judy Janice Snyder

Treasurer's Report

West Virginia Reenactors Association

Treasurers Report

Period of March 1-30, 2023

Period of March 1-30, 2023							
Beginning				\$2,192.66			
Balance							
Credits							
		Memberships	\$55.00				
	Total			\$55.00			
	Credits						
Debits							
		Lockton Affinity	\$675.98				
		Insurance					
		NRA	\$40.00				
		Memberhip					
	Total			\$715.98			
	debits						
Ending				\$1,531.68			
Balance							

Looking forward

We have approved unit moneys and there is \$325 outstanding at this time. That leaves a potential liability of almost \$1,000.

C. L. Critchfield - Interim Treasurer

Insurance

Our current insurance policy expires April, 23, 2023. The paperwork to renew that policy has been filed along with the annual premium. We are awaiting the response from Lockton Affinity, LLC.

You must be a dues-paying member of record to be covered. Until such time as the new policy goes into effect, the current policy is still in use. Requests for copies of insurance certificate should be made through the secretary/treasurer. All requestors will have to be verified as members. Do not pass these policy certificates on to anyone else without confirming that the requestee is a member. Unfortunately, we have had requests in the past from former WVRA members.

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 have started planning for Beverly Heritage Day 2023 on July 22-23. 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 suggestions, plus we welcome participation in our planning committee.

- Phyllis and Chris

Event Reviews

None at this time

Other Features

Straw Blowers and Sheepskin Fiddlers

By Keith Kopshina

The 1861 regulations describe the regimental band as optional but the musicians of the Field Music were indispensable to military operations. These musicians were the "radio" communications of the era. The field music in the infantry was composed of the fife, drum and the bugle.

"If one considers that the choices of interior communications of a body of men were by (a) by the written word, (b) an oral command, or (c) the sounding of the field musicians instruments, it can readily be determined which would be more effective."

-George Carroll US Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps

The music that the field music played conveyed specific orders that required specific responses by the troops.

Buglers were posted at the brigade and division level. The buglers would send orders through the levels of command and at length the "Straw Blowers and Sheepskin Fiddlers", would relay the signals to the soldiers in each company. Each company had one fifer and one drummer.

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

"As the first beams of the rising sun began to tinge the eastern skies, the clear notes of the bugle sounding reveille from the headquarters are heard, repeated in turn by the regimental buglers. The drums of one regiment commence their noisy rataplan, which is taken up by another, till every drum corps of the brigade, with accompanying bugles and fifes joins in the din, and the morning air is resonant with the rattle of drums, the shrill noted of the fife or the clairon tones of the bugle."

- EOG Union p.229

The music of the fife and drum were comprised of several types which included the regulatory calls, tactical calls, as well as marching, entertainment, and ceremonial music.

Examples of these are:

- *Regulatory reveille, surgeons call, fatigue call
- *Tactical cease firing, right face, front, the parley
- *Marching the cadence insured the troops would arrive to the battlefield in a concentrated, effective force and at a specific time
- *Entertainment parades, dances,
- *Ceremonial dress parade, funeral music, drum soldiers and unwanted women out of camp

The music was frequently on duty as drummers or fifers playing the various duty calls, as many as 50 per day, along with other music for parade and entertainment.

The practice of using music to direct troops in battle is an ancient one. Men who could vocally direct troops in battle are accounted in diaries as exceptional. A drummer in the Union Army, Delavan Miller, noted the military skill of his regiment for guests on a Sunday afternoon.

"The Colonel demonstrated how he could move the entire unit through a series of maneuvers and back again, without a single spoken order, only by whispering the commands to his Drum Major."

Stonewall Jackson Display

The Clarksburg History Museum has created a storefront window display on Main Street in Clarksburg. It is an interpretation of what Jackson's birth home may have looked like. It is located in the building now located on the site of the Jackson home, across the street from the Harrison County Court House.



The Stonewall Jackson home display in Clarksburg. Please excuse the window glare that distorts the picture just a bit.

Civil War Symposium



WVRA Member Hunter Lesser speaks at the annual Civil War Symposium at Davis & Elkins College.

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation and Davis & Elkins College presented "War in West Virginia: The First Campaign and the Struggle for

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

Statehood" on April 1, at the College. The speakers included Hunter Lesser talking about the first campaign in West Virginia; Rick Wolfe talking about the first battle of Romney, and Kristin Bailey's presentation on West Virginia Statehood.

This year's symposium was a change from the Beverly location, and a change in format. The campus provided a more spacious location. The presentations were excellent and certainly on par with any national or regional program of like nature, that I have attended.

- Chuck Critchfield

CELEBRATING A PASSOVER SEDER IN THE MIDST OF THE CIVIL WAR

(from a press release)

A new Civil War Trails sign was unveiled at 100 Rotan St., Fayetteville, West Virginia, on the 161st anniversary of the historic Passover Seder which took place there in 1862. Guest speakers Dr. Joseph Golden from Temple Beth El., in Beckley, Ennis Smith, Director of Destination Development for the West Virginia Department of Tourism, and other elected and local officials participated in the program.

This is the first Civil War Trails site in the nation which champions the story of Jewish soldiers. The men under the command of the President to-be Rutherford Hayes who were camped in the wilds of West Virginia managed to pull together all the items required to properly observe the Passover holiday. Drew Gruber who oversees the multi-state Civil War Trails (CWT) program said, "In the midst of our nation's darkest hour, these soldiers came together, enabled by the larger community and in doing so they offered peace and hope to a nation at war."

This project is the result of several years of dedication by local historians, *Temple Beth El* in Beckley, *Love Hope Center for the Arts* and the *New River Gorge Convention and Visitors*

Bureau (CVB). Dr. Joseph Golden, Secretary of the Temple Beth El congregation reads from the soldier's diaries during their own celebrations Passover and has researched the story of the 1862 Seder. Despite being a historic story it rings true for community the Jewish today. "Commemorating this Passover Seder celebrated by 20 Jewish Union soldiers has importance to the Jewish community in Fayette and Raleigh Counties. Although we are a minority, and they were a minority in the Union Army, they were and we are part and parcel of the diverse fabric that make up this nation of ours" said Dr. Golden.

Be sure to snap a selfie with the new sign and check in @lovehopearts, #civilwartrails, #signselfie, #gogorge. To begin planning your trip to visit this site request a free brochure at newrivergorgecyb.com.



CWT Passover- Jason Shaffer, Operations Director for Civil War Trails, Inc. installs the 'trailblazer' sign which helps travelers find each location. With over 150 Civil War Trails stops across West Virginia and with over 1,400 across 6 states these signs, coupled with brochures, and digital ads help ensure visitation to each site. Courtesy, Civil War Trails, Inc.

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

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.



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

"A small riot was in progress this forenoon at Alexandria caused by the provost guard seizing liquors from some of the Secesh bar rounds. Two or three companies of the 38th New York Regiment went down to quell it. Several were arrested and

sent to the slave pen. The people of Alexandria contrive to sell whiskey to soldiers who go there from the camps on a few hours' furlough. The soldiers are generally robbed of their money and up in the guard house. All liquors are confiscated and seized by the provost marshal Captain Andrew Porter, but it can be had at all times nevertheless by those who know where to find it. The soldiers get drunk, fight among themselves, and are arrested. The slave pen is used as a jail and many dozens are there every day and night to sober up before they can return to their camps."

- Private Robert Knox Sneden, 40th New York, Feb. 12, 1862

"There was a member of our company named Chrisman...He and I were in file together, he in the rear rank and I in the front. As we were going into battle (New Market) he said to me 'Miller, I hope I will be killed today.' I replied, "...you ought not to talk that way." "Well, I don't care what becomes of me,' he said. In the confusion that ensued, we changed places, he taking the front rank and I the rear. We lay down in line of battle, awaiting a charge which the enemy was making upon us. Chrisman lay in front of me, and as he was large of body I crouched behind him for shelter. Soon I heard a dull sound something striking, and Chrisman stretched himself out full length, dead from a bullet through the heart. Our conversation, and the fact that it as only by accident that we changed places, thus taking his life and saving mine, made an impression on me that has never worn off."

 James N. Miller, Co. A 12th West Virginia Infantry

Other Sites

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

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable - www.wvmasondixoncwrt.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

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association 2023 – April Edition *CLI*

2022 WVRA Officers

Andrew Valentine - President
Art Dodds - Vice President
Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer
Pam Dodds - TASAS)
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 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. Thanks to Keith Kopshina and Jim Barnes for their contributions to this edition of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch*.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING – Six members showed up for the meeting in March. Twenty-one 2022 members have not renewed. No military officers have been voted upon for three years Expenses, thanks to the insurance policy, are exceeding income from dues. If this trend continues, we will once again have to consider the future of the organization. Should we continue? Should we re-organize? Should we merge with another organization? The annual cost of insurance exceeds the amount of money that dues annually provide to the treasury. Will dues have to be raised? Do we discontinue the unit moneys?

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

April, 2023 - Edition CLI

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 608 Skyview Drive Clarksburg, WV 26301 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