

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
December 2023 – Edition CLVIX

## 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."*

### Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

### Other Events recommended by WVRA members

None at this time

## Treasurers Report

For the time period November 1-30, 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

## Where Things Stand

As of this day, Dec. 5, I am aware of no nominations for officers in the WVRA. Nobody responded to me and no other officer communicated with me to say somebody had been nominated. Additionally, no officer communicated to me that they would not be willing to stand for re-election.

I am hesitant to send out membership renewal forms or new member applications until the membership discusses the dues for 2024. At times this year, we have mentioned that dues no longer cover the cost of insurance. While we

have a balance of \$1500 right now, that might be depleted in 2-3 years.

At some point we will have to conduct the annual meeting to elect officers and discuss the future of the WVRA.

If we do not have sufficient interest to elect a slate of officers, then the membership will have to discuss the future of the association.

A list of current officers can be found near the end of this newsletter.

## 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.

### Clarksburg History Museum

The Clarksburg History Museum plans to resume its Civil War tours in the spring. Once I have any details, I will publish. Pam and Art Dodds have been the contact for civilian impressions. Keith Kopshina is the contact for military impressions. I can provide general information.

The Clarksburg History Museum is seeking a reenactor who does a first-person Stonewall Jackson impression. Interested parties should contact Marsha Viglianco at [daycareflowers@aol.com](mailto:daycareflowers@aol.com).

### Clarksburg Cemetery Request

I was contacted by Shaun Jedju who has been involved with restoring cemeteries in Harrison County including the cemetery where John Carlile, Nathan Goff and other Civil War veterans are buried. He is seeking a reenactor

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with knowledge of Civil War era burials, burial customs, and related knowledge. He can be contacted at [shaunmjedju@hcwvc-pa.org](mailto:shaunmjedju@hcwvc-pa.org).

## Movie Production

A film maker contacted the Association with a request for reenactors. He is making a horror film and needs 6-8 “dead Confederates.” The filming is taking place near Harper’s Ferry. Contact Chuck M. Obrongie at 813-417-4131 for more information.

## Event Reviews Other Features Bruceton School



Pam and Art Dodds made a presentation to fifth grade students at Bruceton School in Bruceton Mills, Preston County, as Governor and Julia Pierpont. Chuck Critchfield also made a presentation about the life of a soldier. In this photo Pam sings a period song. The presentation was made to three classes in the school cafeteria.

## 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)

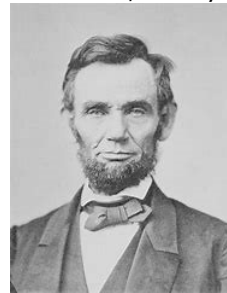
New Civil War History of Harrison County  
*A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia  
1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War  
1856-65. By Pete Taylor*

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, 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](http://www.battlefields.org)

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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 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 IS TIME** to elect WVRA officers for the coming year (2024). Please consider running. Let me or another officer (see list above) if you are interested. If you are a current officer who is NOT willing to run again, please let me or another officer now that. To date I have received no word

of any nominations. I have heard nothing about any upcoming meetings.

**A REMINDER** to any member who is invited to a public school to talk to students. If you are bringing a fire arm or edged weapon, get written permission from the principal or board of education to bring that weapon on school property. I was recently denied permission at a school in West Virginia. I continually hear reenactors brag that "no school in West Virginia would turn down a request to bring a fire arm on property." Don't make that assumption.

**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.

**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. THE OLD BUCKHANNON PO BOX IS EXPIRING. If any mail comes to the Beverly 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  
608 Skyview Drive  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
[ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com)



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**McGavock Confederate Cemetery** on the grounds of Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. The Army of Tennessee swept through Carnton's grounds in 1864 on their way to attack the Union lines outside of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Franklin. The next day, the bodies of Patrick Cleburne, Hiram Granbury, John Adams and Otho Strahl, all Confederate generals, lay on the back porch of Carnton. The plantation house served as the largest Confederate hospital in the area. Blood stains are still evident on the floor of the bedrooms. The McGavock family, the owners of Carnton, set aside two acres a few hundred yards from the mansion as cemetery for almost 1,500 Confederate soldier remains. Work got underway in 1866 to raise money for the work. The graves are arranged by state. The Mississippi section contains 424 bodies; Tennessee 230; Missouri 130; Alabama 129; Arkansas 104; Texas 89; Georgia 69; South Carolina 51; Louisiana 19; Kentucky 5; Florida 4, and North Carolina 2. There are 225 bodies interred in the Unknowns section. The mansion and grounds are now part of the Battle of Franklin Trust. This picture does not give the viewer a true idea of the sweeping nature of the long narrow cemetery that slowly slopes downhill towards the trees.

*"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



Wilder Brigade Monument or Wilder Tower on the Chickamauga battlefield. It honors the Lightning Brigade, led by Colonel John Wilder. The Brigade was armed with 7-shot Spencers and mounted on horses and mules.