

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2022 – Mid-February - Edition CXXXVI

Next Meeting

FEBRUARY 19, 1:00 pm, Panera Bread, at the intersection of Route 50 and I-79 on Bridgeport Hill. The Weston steak restaurant has gone out of business.

Moving Forward Can the WVRA Continue?

You can read the minutes from the January meeting on one of the following pages. However, I would like emphasize that we finished the meeting without three offices being filled. Those are President, Secretary/Treasurer and Unit Representative for the TASAS. We are required to fill those offices by our by-laws and I believe they must be filled to remain a non-profit organization under the laws governing 503 (c) groups. It may be time to think about disbanding as a non-profit and re-organizing as a social club or something similar.

A couple of members were approached about volunteering to be an association officer, but were not interested. I will give Jim Barnes credit for trying to hold this organization together. But without volunteers, it will be hard. Somebody at the last meeting said Rick Bird might have reenactors interested in joining the WVRA.

Two items were not addressed at the meeting. One is sponsoring Beverly Heritage Days and the other a request from members Pam and Art Dodds to assist with a Laurel Hill reenactment.

Just a reminder that Article 1, Section 4 of our Constitution and Bylaws states: "If at any future date the WVRA should cease to function, the last Executive Board will see that all Association property is sold to the highest bidder, and that the proceeds, together with any treasury funds remaining after payment of any outstanding debts of the WVRA, shall be

paid to a non-profit battlefield preservation organization."

I will add that Article 3, Section 4 of said document states "Important group decisions of the WVRA will be made in a way that lets every member participate in the decision, whether they are able to be present at General Meetings or not. This process is call Full Ballot Procedure in the WVRA."

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 covers only 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."

I would suggest contacting Roger House if you have questions about the Daniel Lady Farm events (csacannon@aol.com)

Sponsored
None at this time

Sanctioned (per by laws)
None at this time

**Other Events recommended
by WVRA members**

2022
Rifle Rally – March 5, 11 am, Elkins W. Va.
Check Beverly Heritage website for information

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Civil War Symposium, Beverly IOOF Hall,
Beverly, W. Va. – April 2,
beverlyheritagecenter.org

Artillery School, Jackson's Mill, Weston, W.
Va - April 8-10, csacannon@aol.com

Fort Mulligan living history, (Petersburg,
W. Va.), April 16 ranger749@yahoo.com

Battle of Buchanan, Va April 22-24

160th Battle of Shiloh, April 23-24, Daniel
Lady Farm in Gettysburg [EVENTS](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))
danielladyfarm.com

Wild West Show, May 7-8, Daniel Lady
Farm, Gettysburg [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))

160th Seven Days Campaign, May 20-22,
Old Town, Maryland

Old Bedford Village (Bedford , PA) June
11-12

American Military Field Days Timeline,
June 11-12, Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg,
[EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))

Canaan Valley State Park, June 17-19,
contact Rick Byrd firstwvcav@frontiernet.net

Civil War Antique and Relic show June
24-26, Gettysburg, [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))

Philippi – June 3-5, Philippi, W. Va.

159th Gettysburg, July 2-3, Daniel Lady
Farm in Gettysburg. [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))

Beverly/Rich Mountain, July 8-10

**Wild West Show, August 6-7, Daniel
Lady Farm, Gettysburg** [EVENTS](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))
danielladyfarm.com

Battle of Dry Creek – White Sulfur Springs,
West Virginia, August 19-21

Fort Mulligan, August 19-21, Petersburg, W.
Va. ranger749@yahoo.com

160th Antietam / Sharpsburg, September
17-18, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg. [EVENTS](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))
danielladyfarm.com

Hardy County Living History, (Moorefield,
WV) Sept. 24

Apple Harvest Festival, Oct. 1-2,

Burlington, W. Va. ranger749@yahoo.com

Droop Mountain, Oct. 7-9

Cedar Creek, Strasburg, Va., Oct. 14-16

Fall Harvest Days at the Farm, Oct. 15 &
22, Daniel Lady Farm Gettysburg, [EVENTS](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))
danielladyfarm.com

World War II event (theme to be
announced), Oct 29-30, Daniel Lady Farm in
Gettysburg. [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))

Halloween Cowboy History Show, Oct.
29-30, Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, [EVENTS](http://EVENTS(danielladyfarm.com))
danielladyfarm.com

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

Events recommended by friends of WVRA Civil War

Battle of Saltville – Saltville, Virginia, August
19-21 tentative date

Jeb Stuart Event - Ararat, Virginia, Sept. 30 –
Oct. 2

Membership Renewal

It is time for members to renew their annual
membership; new members to join or for former
members to return to the fold. Dues are \$15 per
year per person and \$25 per year for a family. If you
wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter there
is an additional \$15 fee. The Email version of the
newsletter is included in the membership. Check
payable to WVRA. Dues can be sent to C. L.
Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV
26301. DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIPS TO THE
PO BOX IN BUCKHANNON.

Members who have renewed for 2022

1st West Virginia

Rick Byrd*

Keith Kopshina

Kevin Skaggs

Jack Rush

John Ziolkowski

Ross Witherall

David Starliper*

Mike Phillips

Chuck Critchfield

Ron Wenig

Jim Barnes

Bill Donegan

Matt Farner*

John Brindle*

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Ross Wetherell

*potential cavalry unit

25th Virginia

Jeff Goff

Tag Ireland

Tim Glaser

Greg Watterson

Ken Connell

John Webb

Jim Allman

Bill Brisendine

TASAS

Sherry Goff

Kenny Goff

Peter Baxter

Debbie Wenig

Linda Barnes

Pam Dodds

Jan McCready

Katie Goff

Morgan Goff

Phyllis Baxter

Debbie Rush

Art Dodds

Linda Donegan

Artillery

David Judy

Roger House

Susan Judy

General

Bill Burrus

Judy Kopshina

Vinnie Mastroianni

Bill Snyder

Kyle Kopshina

Pam Critchfield

Hunter Lesser

Newsletter Mailed

Bill Snyder

Jack R. reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Bill B. moved to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Jim B. Motion passed.

Jack R. read the latest Treasurer's report. There were no questions or corrections. Motion made by Dave J., seconded by Chuck C. and the report was approved.

New Business:

A slate of officers needs to be completed for the coming year.

Officers:

President:

Vice President: Ken Connell

Secretary: Jim Barnes said he might do it if no one else is nominated

Treasurer:

Newsletter: Chuck Critchfield

Webmaster: Peter Baxter said he would do it for one more year (until 2023)

25th Va Rep: Bill Brisendine

1st WVa Rep: Chuck Critchfield

Artillery Rep: Dave Judy

TASAS:

Jim Barnes nominated Chuck C. to be the 1st WVa Rep, seconded by Jack R. Since the three of us were the only members of the 1st present. Motion passed.

Ken Connell said he would ask Sheri G. if she would be secretary and John W. to be treasurer. (Subsequent to the meeting Ken emailed that both Sheri and John declined the nomination.)

Chuck C. made the motion that Jim B. continue as president and Jack R. continue as secretary/treasurer until June 30, 2022. The group will try to find replacements. Linda B. seconded the motion. Motion passed. If no one can be found, the future of the organization will need to be discussed.

Chuck C. made the motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation, Dave J. seconded, Motion passed unanimously. Military elections will be held at a later date.

Jim and Linda B. are going to set up a recruiting at the Morgantown Gun show the next weekend. He would like to have additional help.

Rick Byrd will be recruiting at the Gettysburg event next weekend.

Chuck C. made the motion to make the \$100 allocations to each unit for the 2022 reenactment year if the funds are available. Dave J. seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

January 1-31, 2022

Beginning balance \$2,506.53

Credits

Memberships \$ 175.00

Debits

None

Ending Balance \$2,681.53

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

MINUTES

WVRA Meeting

January 15, 2022

Panera Bread Clarksburg

(NOTE: these minutes were included in the last issue. But are printed here as they are relevant to the February meeting)

Twelve members were present. President Jim Barnes called the meeting to order at 1:14 PM.

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It appears that the hobby is dying. We need to get young people involved. We need to mentor and sponsor them. Lend them uniforms, guns etc. to help with the high cost. We have given scholarships in the past and should consider again.

The next meeting will be February 19 at the Clarksburg Panera Bread Restaurant.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00. Chuck C. made motion, Jim seconded, motion passed.

Respectively submitted,
J. Rush
January 22, 2022

Upcoming Events

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

Fort Muilligan

Please add to this a second Ft. Mulligan event on Aug. 20. We will give a pound of powder and a meal to all who serve in our reenactment on this date. (The other date, April 16 is a living history without amenities.) All are still invited to attend.

- Dave Judy

Civil War Symposium

Rick Wolfe recently announced the revival of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation's annual Civil War Symposium. This 12 noon – 5 pm event will be held on Saturday April 2, 2022 at the IOOF Hall in Beverly, West Virginia. This year's symposium (originally scheduled in 2021) is titled Rascals, Rangers, & Swamp Dragons.

The featured speakers include:

1 pm – Steve French on McNeill's Rangers in the Gettysburg Campaign

1:50 pm – Sheridan's Scouts – Allan Tischler

3:00 pm – The Bushwhacker's War – Hunter Lesser

3:50 pm – Swamp Dragons – Cameron Mallow

Tickets are \$30. For reservations and information visit www.beverlyheritagecenter.org or call 304-637-7424

Civil War Roundtables

The SJCWRT meets the second Tuesday of each month except December and the summer months. This month's presentation will be at the FOP Restaurant in Nutter Fort (the FOP does NOT put another group in our room so the only thing we have to compete with is the radio background music.

The Mason-Dixon Civil War Roundtable is meeting again in Morgantown. Meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month. Check their website for more information. I believe their talks will resume in February.

United States Volunteers Annual Meeting



Chuck Critchfield and Ron Wenig before the annual United States Volunteers meeting in Gettysburg, January 21. Kevin Skaggs was unable to attend because of work requirements. He has forwarded a report of the meeting, which I have edited down to the parts important to the 1st West Virginia:

1. Report of Colonel Kevin Skaggs, U. S. Army, commanding First Regiment, United States Volunteers.

HEADQUARTERS First Regiment, Gettysburg, Pa., January 22, 2022.

SIR: I have the honor to report the result of the annual meeting of the United States Volunteers on the 22nd instant:

A little before 9 a.m. General David Childs, commanding officer, U.S.V., took his position at the center of the formation facing the men. The General addressed the men and charged all members to work together and by

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doing so, collectively the unit would better itself. The General gave an update on the state of the unit, offered up potential events for the unit to participate in and explained in great detail how he wished the unit would act and behave as a brigade rather than individual smaller units. The general described and used the late activities of the Cedar Creek engagement of October 2021 as an example of how the U.S.V. should operate. Other important business was conducted and need not be repeated verbatim in this report, the Colonel in his experience having knowledge of what that might be.

Being now satisfied that the entire U.S.V. was in agreement with his report, the general dismissed each regiment at 10:00 a.m. to discuss necessary items that could impact the regiment's performance.

Lt. Colonel Dewey (6th New Hampshire) called the regimental meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and business was conducted within the security of the ballroom.

A letter presented by the commanding general to the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce was read. The letter was a request by the general on behalf of the U.S.V. asking for interventive support in our request for more reasonable and affordable camping accommodations during the annual Remembrance Day weekend. The regiment agreed to lend its support to this and another letter that clarified the units' position on the removal of flags, statues, and other historical items. Major Child would later distinguish himself in how he offered up the regiment's edict and revision suggestions to both letters.

Col. Dewey then presented the following events to the regiment to consider offering its support to. Offered is the complete list with only those the first regiment deemed important enough to support listed as our max effort events.

- April 1-3: Shiloh event in Tn AND the 6thNHV Spangler Springs NPS living history in Gettysburg
 - April 22-23: Lincoln Train*
 - May 13-15: McDowell event
 - May 20-22: USV/ANV Seven Days battle
 - Aug 5-7: Cedar Mountain (on the original site)
 - July 2-3: Battle of Gettysburg (Daniel Lady Farm)**
 - Sept 16-18: Battle of Antietam (Daniel Lady Farm)**
 - Oct 15-16: Battle of Cedar Creek
 - Nov 18-20: Remembrance Day
- Max Effort events for the First Regiment:
- May 20-22 USV/ANV Seven Days Battle (Old Town, MD)
 - Oct 15-16: Battle of Cedar Creek
 - Nov 18-20: Remembrance Day
 - Dec 9-11: Slaughter Pen Farm Historic Site (living history)

**nice event, not max effort worthy but units should attend if they wish*

***These events are nice, but there are questions on safety and other procedures at DLF events that prevent*

us from making this a max effort. Again, units may attend if they wish.

Col. Dewey also reported changes to the regiments line companies. The 148th Pennsylvania is conceding its status as a line company and will now fall under the 11th Pennsylvania. The same with the **1st West Virginia, they being under the command control of the 2nd Connecticut Heavies.**

At 2 p.m., General Childs reconvened the main meeting and present the various Soldiers of the Year to the men. Each was presented with a shiny new metal cup, engraved with their new status, each was given a hardy round of applause before returning to their respective units. Other mundane items were reviewed with the men and the unit was dismissed in good order a little before 3 p.m.....

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Kevin Skaggs,

Colonel, Commanding First Regiment, United States Volunteers.

Captain R. Edmund Schultz, Regimental Adjutant.

Ohio University

We call attention to the following regulations in relation to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio:

By a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio University, at Athens, Ohio, and by a subsequent joint resolution of the General Assembly, any honorable United States Volunteer, a citizen of Ohio, who has been "disabled in the service," is entitled to admission into any of the Departments of the University, tuition free.

- Mount Vernon Republican, Aug. 2, 1864

Desperately Hunting Havelocks

By Hunter Lesser

It seemed like a great idea. Anxious to take part in an early reenactment of the Battle of Rich Mountain, I dressed up in a Civil War uniform and joined others on the field. My outfit was not entirely authentic, but there was an ace up my sleeve—I was wearing a havelock.

The havelock, a cotton cover that fits over a kepi or forage cap, is designed to keep the sun off a soldier's neck. Named for Sir Henry Havelock of the British army, this little piece of

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cloth was standard equipment for the volunteers of 1861. Or so I thought.

Women fashioned havelocks by the thousands for raw recruits marching off to war. The cover of *Harper's Weekly* for June 29, 1861 revealed a full-page engraving of ladies sewing havelocks for the volunteers. I scrutinized prints of the Battle of Rich Mountain in *Harper's* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated* and found soldiers wearing havelocks. The elusive cloth covers turned up in a number of related prints as well.

Armed with such sources, I proudly wore my havelock to the Rich Mountain reenactment. It was a blistering hot July afternoon; that havelock was the perfect period accouterment to ward off sunburn or heat stroke. Nobody else had one. I'd stand out as an authentic soldier of 1861!

But my comrades in arms didn't see it that way. Some teased me unmercifully. No matter, I'd show them. Returning home, I hunted for first-person written accounts of soldiers wearing havelocks at Rich Mountain. But I didn't find a single one—for the entire campaign. Even more troubling, the engravings that most accurately depicted the battle revealed nary a havelock.

Years later, after combing through hundreds of soldier accounts for other projects, I finally found mention of havelocks during the 1861 West Virginia campaign. A "havelock" letter even popped up for sale online, written by an Ohio soldier before the Rich Mountain fight—you can bet I bought it with childish delight.

My reproduction havelock (worn only once) proved to be impractical. Although designed to keep the sun off the wearer's neck, it did not allow air to circulate, making me even hotter. Apparently Civil War soldiers came to the same conclusion. Havelocks were rarely seen after 1861. If not tossed away, they might have been used as handkerchiefs, coffee filters, dishcloths,

or cut up for patches to clean muskets. I'll keep my havelock as an example of the valuable insights garnered by reenacting—a salute to those dedicated folks who bring history to life.



Havelocks depicted at the Battle of Rich Mountain
(*Harper's Weekly*, July 27, 1861)

For Sale

(Editor's note: Jim Barnes sent this to me for Tyler Claypole. I have reprinted word for word. I assume the numbers in the last paragraph are prices for the respective items. So if you need clarification, contact Mr. Claypole)

**UPDATE – Tyler will sell the whole lot for \$500.
(August 2021)**

one confederate officer complete jacket hat and pants
and union naval uniform complete with pants And
confederate artillery uniform with pants and hat And
union cav officer uniform with pants and hat And
confederate butternut gray uniform with pants and
vest

Pants are 32 waist. Jackets are large.

The naval uniform is 150 Union cav officer 300
Confederate officer 500 Confederate shell jacket is 150
Butternut gray is 225

Contact Tyler Claypole at 304-376-9043.

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

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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)

From Debbie Moore

Civil War Items:

Day dresses, ball gowns, shoes, parasail, patterns, jewelry, ladies articles, clothing, haversack, camping articles. For further information or to set up a time to come and see, call Debbie at 304-798-3490 9-6. Will sell at reasonable offer.

Feb. 2022

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

Current WVRA Officers

Jim Barnes - Interim President*

Ken Connell - Vice President

Jack Rush – Interim Secretary/Treasurer*

Vacant - 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.

***Interim offices expire June 30, 2022. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting.**

Unit 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

DANIEL LADY FARM – the Daniel Lady Farm (DLF) just east of Gettysburg, is becoming the home to many reenactments. As sponsors and other locations shy away from reenacting because of exterior pressures political and economical, the DLF has stepped up to host many events. That is self evident in looking at the schedule. I have received mixed reviews about DLF. WVRA member Roger House speaks highly of DLF events. At the recent USV annual meeting, I talked with about a half dozen reenactors who had attended DLF events and received negative reviews.

CREDIT to Jim Barnes for trying to keep this organization together.

BILL DONEGAN – Bill had surgery for colon cancer. Linda reports the follow up visit went well and he got good reports. No chemotherapy will be needed. The cancer was caught early. Linda wishes to thank members for their prayers and support.

THE BYLAWS require that I post upcoming events. I have received an extensive list from WVRA members Rick Byrd, Roger House and Dave Judy which I have edited and listed.

RALPH McCREADY – I will miss Ralph. He was a good reenactor. I was always pleased to see him show up. Ralph came to the WVRA after the 15th

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Ohio group disbanded. I have searched high and low for some images of him amongst my reenacting photos with little success. I thought I had a picture of him doing the "horns of fire" ritual. But can't find any pictures. It would have been such a good tribute to the man. Jan and Sean also came with Ralph to many events and then Sean's family started coming. A great bunch all around.

THANK YOU – David Judy, Roger House, Jack Rush, Jim Barnes, Rick Byrd and Peter Baxter for assistance with this issue.

"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

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."

- Robert Penn Warren



In memory of Mark Poling, former member who passed away in 2021. I was able to locate a picture of him at Bartow at the ceremony held there a few years past.



150th Antietam, 2012: Front row – Garth Lindley, Mat Gillespie, Ross Wetherell, and Jim Barnes. Back Row – Mark Tennant, Greg Bonner, Chuck Critchfield, Nathan Gillespie, Sean McCready, Ralph McCready and Terry Hayhurst hiding behind Ralph.

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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