

# ***Trans-Allegheny Dispatch***

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2022- Late January - Edition CXXXV

## **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.**

## **MINUTES**

**WVRA Meeting**

**January 15, 2022**

**Panera Bread Clarksburg**

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

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)

25<sup>th</sup> Va Rep: Bill Brisendine

1<sup>st</sup> WV Va Rep: Chuck Critchfield

Artillery Rep: Dave Judy

TASAS:

Jim Barnes nominated Chuck C. to be the 1<sup>st</sup> WV Va Rep, seconded by Jack R. Since the three of us were the only members of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

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January 22, 2022

## Moving Forward

### Can the WVRA Continue?

You can read the minutes from the meeting. 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.

## 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 would help to make them "official."*

### Sponsored

**None at this time**

### Sanctioned (per by laws)

**None at this time**

### Other Events recommended by WVRA members

#### 2022

**Wild West event**, April 23-24, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg

**160th Battle of Shiloh**, May 14-15, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg

June 24-26 Antique and Relic show

**159th Gettysburg**, July 2-3, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

**Wild West event**, August 20-21, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg

**160th Antietam / Sharpsburg**, September 17-18, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

**World War II event** (theme to be announced), Oct 29-30, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

### Events recommended by friends of WVRA Civil War

**Battle of Buchanan**, Va April 22-24

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

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

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

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

**Droop Mountain** – Droop, West Virginia, Oct. 7 – 9

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Cedar Creek – October

## **In Memory Of Ralph McCready “Himself” 1945-2022**



Ralph McCready as Allen Pinkerton talking to students and teachers at University High School in Morgantown

Ralph C. McCready, “Himself”, 76 of Chandlersville, passed away peacefully at his home with his loving wife of 50 years by his side and under the care of Shriver’s Hospice.

Ralph was born on October 20, 1945 in Wheeling, West Virginia. He is the son of the late Clarence Clay and Pearl Margaret (Scott) Hess McCready. Ralph worked as an optician for The Eyesight, as well as Wilson Optical in Cambridge, where he retired in 2008 after 22 faithful years of service. Ralph was a tinkerer. He loved woodworking, he participated in Civil

War Reenactments for over 30 years, and he was proud of his ornery Irish heritage. He was a member of High Hill Presbyterian Church, where he served as a Deacon and he was the immediate past president of the Southeastern Ohio Round Table.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Janet (Dickson) McCready, whom he married April 24, 1971; his three children, Christine (David) Cornelius, Mollie (Michael) Holleran, and Sean (Devan) McCready; his five grandchildren, Grace, Madison, Alexander, Cooper and Kaiden; his twin-brother, Joe (Rose Marie) McCready; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Ralph is preceded in death by his three half-brothers, and his three half-sisters.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions in Ralph’s name to High Hill Presbyterian Church, 7185 High Hill Road, Chandlersville, OH 43727 or to Shriver’s Hospice Foundation, PO Box 8, Zanesville, OH, 43702.

Visitations will be 2 pm to 5 pm on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at the Farus Funeral Home of Duncan Falls where funeral services will be 1 pm on Monday. Tim Berger will officiate the service. He will be laid to rest in Mount Zion Cemetery, Chandlersville.

An Irish Wake will be held at a later date.

- From Ralph’s Obituary

## **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.

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## Members who have renewed for 2022

### 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia

Rick Byrd	Mike Phillips
Keith Kopshina	Chuck Critchfield
Kevin Skaggs	Ron Wenig
Jack Rush	Jim Barnes
John Ziolkowski	Bill Donegan

### 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia

Jeff Goff	Ken Connell
Tag Ireland	John Webb
Tim Glaser	Jim Allman
Greg Watterson	Bill Brisendine

### TASAS

Sherry Goff	Katie Goff
Kenny Goff	Morgan Goff
Peter Baxter	Phyllis Baxter
Debbie Wenig	Debbie Rush
Linda Barnes	Art Dodds
Pam 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

## -- IMPORTANT NEWS --

### Temporary Executive Committee Guidelines No Longer in Effect (October, 2020)

The following two proposals were approved by the five voting members of the Executive Committee in an email vote the last week of October, 2020. **NOTE – at the September, 2021 meeting, a motion was made and accepted to continue these actions until the next election of officers. SECOND NOTE: At the January, 2022 meeting, election of officers was held and as a result, these guidelines are TERMINATED.**

PROPOSAL #1 “In light of the current pandemic and its effects on the hobby, the Executive Committee postpones the election of new officers of the WVRA until such time that the Committee determines that it is prudent to hold the ‘annual meeting’ in accordance with procedures described in the by laws.”

PROPOSAL #2 “The President shall have the authority to temporarily appoint, until the next duly conducted Association election, members to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee.”

If any member has a concern or question about this action, please contact President Jim Barnes or myself. These actions were simply in response to how the pandemic is affecting group meetings at the moment. Executive committee members are listed near the end of every newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report

December 1-31, 2021

Beginning balance	\$2456.53
Credits	
Memberships	\$ 195.00
Debits	
USV Dues (1 <sup>st</sup> W. Va.)	\$ 75.00
PO Box reimbursement	\$ 70.00

Ending Balance \$2,506.53

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

## Upcoming Events

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

### 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, 2002 at the IOOF Hall in Beverly, West Virginia. Speakers include Steve French, Allan Tischler, Hunter Lesser and Cameron Mallow.

- Mason-Dixon Ledger, Dec. 2021

### 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



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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). February's presenter is yours truly and the topic is titled "An Ordeal That Will Cause Many Tears to Fall."

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.

## 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 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)

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### Other Sites

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

Beverly Heritage Center -

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

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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)

## 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.**

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

**USV Annual Meeting** - I attended the annual meeting of the United States Volunteers, the umbrella group for Federal reenactors, January 22, in Gettysburg. A number of issues were discussed including a statement entitled "USV National Policy on Monument Protection" in which the USV stated their commitment to saving Civil War and historical markers around the country. As always, Pam and I took a number of hikes around the battlefield, including a walk down East Confederate Avenue (in 20 degrees weather) past the

plaques for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry regiments which fought at Culp's Hill on July 2 and 3.

**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.

**THANK YOU** - Jack Rush and Hunter Lesser for contributions to this month's Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Thank you to Peter Baxter for posting on the WVRA website.

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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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"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



The Hero of Rich Mountain