

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2021- July - Edition VII

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE that all of the events in 2021 are dependent on the status of the pandemic. Please ensure that the event is not cancelled before attending. A number of these events were submitted to me without a "to be announced" date. So some of those TBA events may have already been held.

Sponsored

None at this time

Sanctioned

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

Beverly Heritage/Rich Mountain, July 10. See below

Fort Mulligan, Aug. 21, Living History/ Skirmish, Petersburg, WV (SEE BELOW)

Antietam, Sept 18-19 – Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg

Hardy Co. Heritage Weekend, September 25, Moorefield

Apple Harvest – Oct 2-3; David Judy ranger749@yahoo.com (SEE BELOW)

Cedar Creek, Oct. 16-17 – Middletown, Va.

Other

Misc. – TBA, **Machine Gun Shoot.** Sponsored by DNA Guns. Many historic weapons available for rent. Admission \$10.00. Trickett Hill Road, Morgantown, WV 26508. GPS 39.5137999, -79.947000

18th Century, TBA, **Siege of Fort Randolph,** Point Pleasant, WV. www.facebook.com/fortrandolph, Contact Craig Hesson, 304-675-7933, chesson1774@suddenlink.net, or Deb Cassady, ftrandolph@yahoo.com, fortrandolph.weebly.com;

Early 20th Century -TBA, Brownsville, PA. Brownsville Steam, Gas and Horse Association, 31st Annual Reunion,

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Pike-Steam-Gas-and-Horse-Association/141862562548542>

Civil War – TBA, **Julia Pierpont Day,** Marion Co. Historical Society, Fairmont, WV. <https://www.facebook.com/marionhistorical/>

Old West – TBA, **Wild West Weekend.** Old Bedford Village, Bedford, PA. <http://www.oldbedfordvillage.com/events.php>

Appalachian Heritage Days – September 9-10, Chief Logan State Park. <https://appalachianheritageday.weebly.com/>

White Sulfur Springs (Dry Creek)– August 21-22, Greenbrier State Forest 2021 Battle of Dry Creek | Battle of Dry Creek

Sep. 25-26 **Blountville,** Tn. <http://www.historysullivan.com>

Oct. 2-3 **Jeb Stuart Birthplace,** Ararat, Va. <http://www.jebstuart.org>

160th Anniversary of Ball's Bluff, Oct. 9-10 – near Leesburg, Va.

Droop Mountain – tentatively scheduled for Oct. 8-10. Website: 2021 Battle of Dry Creek | Battle of Dry Creek

Next Meeting

The Executive Committee hopes to have a WVRA meeting in the next several weeks. So keep yours open for the announcement.

-- IMPORTANT NEWS --

Temporary Executive Committee Actions 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.

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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. Members are encouraged to work through your Unit Representative. If you currently do not have a Unit Rep., work through an officer. Reminder to General Members, the WVRA President serves as your Unit Representative.

Treasurer's Report

June 1-30, 2021

Beginning balance	\$2,474.40
Credits	
None	0.00
Debits	
None	0.00
Ending Balance	\$2,474.40

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

Liability Insurance

I received an electronic copy of the certificate of liability insurance for the WVRA thanks to Treasurer Jack Rush's hard work. If you would like a copy, email a request to me (Chuck Critchfield). Put WVRA in the title line if you can. You must be a member of the WVRA.

Upcoming Events

Rich Mountain Fun Run Memorial March

Join the Beverly Heritage Center for the 160th anniversary of the Union victory at the Battle of Rich Mountain! For July 10th, 2021, we are recruiting

reenactors to help with programming, participating, and public education. The March will start on the Battlefield at the top of Rich Mountain and continue for 5.1 miles, ending in the historic town of Beverly. As visitors arrive at the Battlefield in the morning, our hope is that our participants will be able to interact with you. After all the runners/walkers make their way down the mountain, the finale of the event will feature Union troops marching into Beverly just like they did after the battle was won. We will have a space reserved for reenactors to camp if they are interested. Please contact us for further details at the Beverly Heritage Center by phone at (304) 637-7424 or via email at info@beverlyheritagecenter.org.

Fort Mulligan

On August 21, a living history and skirmish is planned at Fort Mulligan in Petersburg, W. Va. Free lunch to all participants and free powder to skirmishers. Reenactors may encamp on Friday the 20th and stay through Sunday the 22nd. Contact WVRA member David Judy at ranger749@yahoo.com for more information.

Apple Harvest Festival

There will be an Apple Harvest Festival this year on Oct. 2-3 in Burlington, W. Va., with a parade on Saturday and fireworks on Friday Oct. 1 at the Firemen's grounds. We will set up on Friday with living histories and hopefully draw some Federal troops to skirmish on Saturday and Sunday. Let me know ASAP if you will be attending. David Judy ranger749@yahoo.com

Living History Monroe County

There will be a Civil War encampment (CSA), and Living History demonstrations Friday thru Sunday. 1860's thru 1901 attire preferred but not mandatory. Saturday is the main event "Social" with ceremonies, demonstrations, Picnic BBQ, and remembrances.

This event is hosted by the 'Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp Beirne Chapman #148', Union, WV, and will occur on its private property at Monument site. The Monument is located on north side of town, on US-219, across from Elmwood Manor and

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behind the Presbyterian Church. – Submitted by
Chris Johnson
Camp Beirne Chapman #148
PO Box #518
Union, WV, 24983

Event Reviews

None at this time

Other Features

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Book Review: Valley Forge

Valley Forge by Bob Drury and Tom Glavin is the story of Washington's efforts to keep the Continental Army together during the winter of 1777-78, starting a few months earlier with the frustrating defeat at Brandywine Creek and concluding with the narrow American victory at Monmouth in June 1778.

I picked this book up at Ollie's in Morgantown for 5 dollars and really didn't have high hopes for it; however, I was pleasantly surprised at the quality of the writing. The authors have crafted a riveting story with well-fleshed out characters. It is non-fiction, but it reads like a good novel.

The portrait of Washington is impressive, and he, his various subordinates, and his rivals come alive as real and interesting people. The description of garrison life in the Valley Forge encampment is harrowing. It is amazing that so many managed to survive and triumph over such wretched conditions.

At a time like this, when our country is so divided and so many seem to have lost appreciation for what we have here, a book like this reminds us what freedom-loving people are willing to go through for their beliefs. I recommend this book. It is available from Amazon and other sellers.

- Jim Barnes

A Pandemic Postcard

By Hunter Lesser

The study of history is a constant reminder that today's events are not unique. Although the setting and details may be different, if one looks hard enough, the "novel" events of modern life echo from the pages of the past. Knowledge, inspiration and more are there for those who seek it.

The COVID-19 pandemic is no exception, as revealed—oddly enough—by an old postcard commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Philippi. Written to "Miss Augusta Bradford" of Dandridge, Tennessee, by her brother Marshall, it begins: *"Dear Gus: This is [a] picture of the first battle of the Civil War. But few people of the U.S. know this. I thought perhaps you would like to know this."*

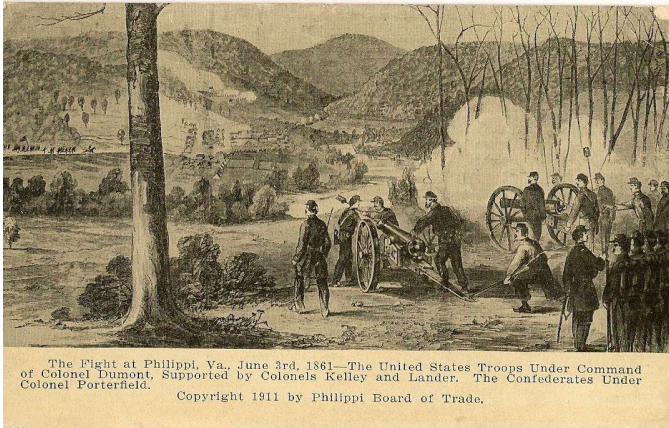
Curiously, the card is postmarked at "Philippi, W.VA." on July 6, 1918—during the deadly "Spanish flu" (H1N1) pandemic that ravaged the globe for more than two years, killing at least 50 million people worldwide, and some 675,000 in the United States. Considered one of the deadliest pandemics in history, it struck all ages with equal ferocity, often killing young, healthy people. With no vaccine available, public health officials relied on many of the measures used during our current COVID-19 pandemic—masking, quarantines and social distancing. This sparked some of the same controversies that rage today!

Much like the COVID-19 pandemic, the source of the pandemic of 1918 remains a mystery. But the advent of World War I (1914-1918), with its unprecedented movement of soldiers and civilians, was clearly a contributor. And therein lies the rest of our tale.

Marshall Bradford makes no mention of the pandemic in his postcard, although it was written only days before the deadly "second

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wave” hammered the United States (the siblings would survive). But he does reveal fears of another sort: *“Be good and keep your eye on the old French Broad River, [Tennessee] though I hardly think the Germans can pass [?] with her home guards.”*

He was worried about a rumored German invasion. A reminder that, despite the terrible cost and suffering of our present ordeal with COVID-19, it might have been worse!

A “Pandemic Postcard,” marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Philippi.

“Classified Ads” 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)

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 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)

“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 31, 1866

*“Studying history will sometimes disturb you.
Studying history will sometimes upset you.
Studying history will sometimes make you furious.
If studying history always makes you proud, and happy, you probably aren't studying history.”*

- Collin Humble (Facebook posting)

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 -

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Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -
www.ShenandoahAtWar.org

Current WVRA Officers

Jim Barnes - President

Ken Connell - Vice President

Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant - Unit Rep (TASAS)

Vacant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Virginia Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Peter Baxter

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

I CONTINUE to read newspapers from 1862-85 as part of my research into the 121st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The newspapers of the Northern states in that period are either Democrat or Republican. And those newspapers display a bias that greatly exceeds the mainstream media of today.

SO YOU THINK THE WAR IS OVER? – I listen and read about Critical Race Theory. I was going to say that the “discussion” over this academic theory echoes back to the Civil War. But discussion is an inaccurate description. One political party is using it whip up its supporters and CRT has grown into a monster. Try to find a neutral description before forming an opinion.

Also, I was reading through a few Facebook posts on Civil War group sites. The debate over the cause of the Civil War will never end. However, I must say I have learned some interesting and rather “novel” theories.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST is currently campaigning to raise money to purchase a portion of the 2nd Winchester battlefield. A portion of the field through which the 12th West Virginia marched. On a recent trip to Culp’s Hill I learned that the 25th Virginia was very active on that end of the Gettysburg battlefield.

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. I am not sure who is administrator to 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

THANK YOU – Thanks to Jack Rush, Hunter Lesser and Jim Barnes for contributions to this month’s Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Thank you to Peter Baxter for posting on the WVRA website.

POD CASTS – I continue to enjoy a couple of podcasts about Gettysburg – Addressing Gettysburg and Battle of Gettysburg Podcast. Both have Facebook pages also and Addressing Gettysburg has a YouTube channel. Very interesting podcasts that will reach beyond the Gettysburg campaign on occasion.

ILL HEALTH kept me from attending Gettysburg and Beverly. I hope to get out in the field by fall.

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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.

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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