

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2021- May - Edition V

In Memoriam



Jeff Zickefoose
1958-2021

Jeffrey Van Zickefoose, 62, Buckhannon, died Tuesday, April 27 at home. The WVRA extends its condolences to his wife Lynelle and to the families of his daughters Emily and April. He was an early member of the 1st West Virginia Infantry and West Virginia Reenactors Association. He was elected captain and led Company A of the 1st West Virginia Regiment of Volunteer Infantry for a few years before retiring slowly from the hobby. He served as captain during the years that 1st West Virginia reenacted as part of the Kanawha Battalion and in fact I received a couple of reminiscences from his fellow company commanders in that organization. Other reminiscences can be seen in other parts of this publication.

We missed him many years ago in the hobby and now he is missed by all who knew him.

His full obituary can be found at polingstclair.com. By the time this newsletter is published the viewing and the funeral will be over.

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.

Sponsored

None at this time

Sanctioned

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

160th Anniversary Bull Run, April 23-25

– Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg

Chancellorsville May 1-2, 2021 – NPS
Event – CANCELLED

New Market – CANCELLED

Stonewall Jackson Civil War

**Roundtable, Second Tuesday of each
month** – PWA Building behind the
Courthouse in Clarksburg

Gettysburg July 3-4 Daniel Lady Farm,
Gettysburg

Gettysburg, July 1-3 – at the movie site in
Gettysburg. – CANCELLED

**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

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

Other

WWII Weekend, Freedoms Foundation at
Valley Forge. 1601 Valley Forge Rd. Phoenixville

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PA, 19460 – May, date to be announced <http://ww2weekend.org/about-us/>

MD. <http://www.friendsoffortfrederick.info/calendar.htm>

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,-79947000

WWII – June 4,5,6, **Reading Air Show**, Reading Airport, Reading, PA. <http://www.maam.org/maamwwii.html>

Civil War - June 5-6 **Fort Pocahontas**, Charles City, Va.
<http://www.fortpocahontas.org>

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;

WWII – June 11-13, **Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival**, Butler, PA. <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.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>

WWII – June 26-27, **Jacobsburg WWII Weekend. Living History and Tactical**. Boulton Historic Site and Jacobsburg Historical Society 402 Henery Rd. Nazareth, PA 18064. Battles Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Campfires and vehicles welcome. Website: <http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/> .

18th Century – May 22-23, **Revolutionary War Encampment**. PA Longifle Museum, J. Joseph Henry House, Jacobsburg Historical Society 402 Henery Rd. Nazareth, PA 18064. Battles Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Campfires and vehicles welcome. Website: <http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/>

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

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

18th Century- July 2-3-4, **French and Indian War Encampment**, Old Fort Niagara's annual recreation of the historic Siege of 1759. Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, NY. https://www.oldfortniagara.org/calendar/list/current_page,1/per_page,10

Time line event – Sat May 29-30, **Soldiers Through the Ages** https://www.oldfortniagara.org/calendar/list/current_page,1/per_page,10

Living History – July 3-4 – Droop Mountain – Sponsored by the 31st Virginia. Don't know if it's open to other groups

Time line event – May 29-30, **Military Timeline**, Historic Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, PA. <https://danielladyfarm.com/events>

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

June 3-6, **Blue-Gray Reunion**, Philippi, WV. Contact Edgar Brown 304-457-4265.

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

18th Century -No events scheduled due to Covid restrictions. **Fort Frederick**,

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

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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](#)

No Meeting Scheduled

No meeting is scheduled at this time. Because of concerns over Covid-19, the meeting is postponed until further notice. Any questions can be directed to the Executive Committee.

-- IMPORTANT NEWS --

Temporary Executive Committee Actions In Effect (October)

The following two proposals were approved by the five voting members of the Executive Committee in an email vote the last week of October.

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

April 1 through April 30, 2021

Beginning balance	\$2,499.40
Credits	
Memberships	\$ 25.00
Debits	
None	
Ending Balance	\$2,524.40

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

Liability Insurance

I received an electronic copy of the certificate of liability insurance for the WVRA just as I was preparing to email this edition of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. If you would like a copy, email a request to me (Chuck Critchfield). Put WVRA in the title line if you can.

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

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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.

The Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable

The SJCWRT has meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. The current scheduled location is the Progressive Women's' Association located directly behind the Harrison County Courthouse. The location is subject to change in later in 2021. Anyone attending is required to wear a mask. I have no word on the Morgantown round table.

The speaker for May 11 at 7:00 p.m. is Jon-Erik Gilot, curator of the Captain Thomas Espy Grand Army of the Republic Post in Carnegie, Pa. He is contributing historian with Emerging Civil War, a historic landmarks commissioner for the City of Wheeling and a board member of the W. Va. Independence Hall Foundation. He is former member of the 15th O. V. I. reenacting group. He will speak about the skirmish at Middle Fork Bridge, which took place July 6, 1861 in the run-up to Rich Mountain later in the month.

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 it's private property at Monument site. The Monument is located on north side of town, on US-219, across from Elmwood Manor and behind the Presbyterian Church. – Submitted by Chris Johnson

Camp Beirne Chapman #148
PO Box #518
Union, WV, 24983

Event Reviews

School of the Longhunter

By Jim Barnes

After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, Pricketts Fort held its School of the Longhunter, which is largely a symposium on various aspects of life on the 18th century frontier. This year, due to ongoing restrictions, all aspects of the event were held outside of the visitors' center in and around the fort. Topics discussed included: Rendering Fat: How bear and deer fat is rendered to make usable grease; Shoe packs, which was a discussion of how to make and use such winter footwear;; Perspective on Colonial Frontier Horns (powder horns); Care and Cleaning of Your Flintlock and the life of frontiersman Sam Brady.

There was also a show and tell of "Bring an original 18th Century item from your collection." On Saturday evening there was an auction to benefit the fort and a church service was scheduled for Sunday morning.



Shifty LaFete, Lord James and Lady Barnes, Trapper Wenig and his good wife Debbie.

It was great to be able to get back to attending a living history event. Pricketts Fort is a great location and provides an outstanding period atmosphere for reenactors of this time period. If you are interested in the early history of western Virginia, you may want to check out this event for next year.

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Other Features

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Reminiscences Of Jeff

Probably the porta-john story isn't appropriate at this time. The other one I remember best occurred at New Market, when we were marching to the battlefield, past the sutlers, I believe. There were cars parked facing the road and the parking lot had been marked off with manilla twine tightly fastened to short stakes. As first corporal, I was marching directly behind Jeff who was commanding the unit. As he passed the end of the parking line, he hit the last stake with his foot, which caused the line to snap back and wrap around my ankles, some what like a bolo and dropping me flat on my face. In fact, I was so tied up that I couldn't get it off. The First just marched on past me (so much for no man left behind☺). Fortunately, the captain of the next regiment in the column pulled out his pen knife and rescued me. I don't think Jeff even knew it happened until I told him later. It was so bizarre and ridiculous, that I thought it was funny even when I was still on the ground. In his own humble way, Jeff just said that he was the unit Gumby.

Jim (Barnes)

From Jimmie Epling (former captain of the 91st OVI)

Jeff was the commander of the 1st WV when were participating in Civil War re-enactments as the Kanawha Battalion. Jeff and the 1st WV joined with the 91st OVI, sometimes falling in with us. Many of you will remember him at Droop Mountain, Rich Mountain, Cedar Creek and many other places.

Jeff was a terrific guy. One memory I have of Jeff is at Cedar Creek where we formed one company and he served as Lieutenant. As Captain, I had given all the orders for the company to fire, except one. I became a "casualty", taking all by surprise, including

Jeff. He quickly realized there was no "fire" command and took over the company. (a picture of Jimmie is located on the last place of this edition of the Dispatch.)

From David Cooper 83rd Pa.

At Buffington's Island one year our unit went as the 83rd Pa. It so happens there were not enough confederates so Jeff and others galvanized gray. I had my extra confederate uniforms to loan out and Jeff focused in on my officers uniform with all its braid and chicken guts. He was so proud of wearing it he wore it almost all day in camp. I remarked to him "He was the only many I know who could strut while sitting down." He was every bit an Officer and a gentleman and I am fortunate our paths crossed.

(David's picture can be seen on the last page of this Dispatch.)

From John Ziolkowski

When I got started in reenacting Jeff Zickefoose was the C.O. He was always willing to help and was very patient with me. I remember him most when he allowed me to go to Catholic Mass on the Sunday of an event, and other CO's were understanding. The first picture I ever took was at the New Market event in 1993. There Jeff was there leading the troops. He will be missed.

John Ziolkowski

From the Editor

I had the honor of serving as first sergeant when Jeff was captain. Jeff commanded the company for a few years. He was well liked and respected by his peers in the 1st W. Va and in other organizations. He seemed to get along with everyone in a hobby where cooperation among commanders is the exception rather than the rule.

Jeff acquired a reputation for being clumsy. He knew that and joked about it himself. I

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think his clumsiness was somewhat exaggerated. We would give him a hard time about hayfoot, strawfoot. But when I became a company commander, I understood completely what he went through. One of the last reenactments we attended together he had relinquished command and he attended with April. He was a fine Christian gentleman who will be missed.

- Chuck Critchfield
-

Wandering Through The Grave Yard

While strolling through Elkview Cemetery just off Route 50's Joyce Street Exit in Clarksburg, in search of the Civil War tombstones I passed this memorial marker in one of the Maxwell family plots (the Maxwells were a prominent and wealthy family in the first half of the 20th Century in Clarksburg.) After little research some help from living Maxwell family members I put together the following:



Porter Wilson Maxwell, Commander, US Navy killed in action at Shikoku, Japan, July 24, 1945. Commander Dive Bomber Group VB-87 flying off the *USS Ticonderoga*. Listed as missing in action in the *USS Ticonderoga's* cruise book. Distinguished Flying Cross and Silver Star. One source says he is not buried at this stone in Elkview Cemetery, but is buried at Grafton National Cemetery. A Maxwell family member tells me he was cremated by the Japanese and tells me his ashes are definitely buried at Elkview. In 1948 a single Hellcat appeared in the eastern sky and flying at tree-top level buzzed over the grave of Porter in the Elkview Cemetery and then passed over his parents' home on East Main Street. He returned for a second run, dipping his wing over the grave in salute and then roared away, the powerfully loud engine shaking everything around.

Porter Maxwell was born in Clarksburg in 1913, educated in Clarksburg public schools, including Washington Irving High School before graduating from the United State Naval Academy in 1936. He served on a number of ships including prestigious assignments to battleships and eventually he entered the air wing of the Navy.

In August of 1942, flying his Dauntless dive bomber off the *USS Wasp*, he participated in the bombing of Tulagi and many other actions associated with the preparation of the landings at Guadalcanal, the battle of Guadalcanal and the defense of the same. The *USS Wasp* was torpedoed while Maxwell was flying a mission and he had to land on the *USS Hornet*. Eventually he flew out of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. All the while Maxwell served as XO and second in command to Squadron VS-71 eventually ascending to command after his commander was missing in action in November, 1942.

The squadron was deactivated soon after and Maxwell was returned to the States where he rotated to the Naval air stations in northern Florida to training naval air cadets. In October of 1944 Maxwell led about 40 planes out of Norfolk Naval Air Station away from an approaching hurricane to Benedum Airport outside of Bridgeport. The sound of the flight including a number of Hellcats with their roaring 2000-horsepower engines shaking houses to their foundations drew a lot of attention when they passed over Clarksburg. Maxwell returned to active service in January, 1945 on the *USS Ticonderoga* flying the powerful new Hellcat. By summer the squadron began the work of destroying Japanese naval assets in preparation for the invasion of Japan.

Porter was lost when his F6F-5 Hellcat was shot down near Kure, Japan, on July 24, 1945. He was commanding officer of Bombing Fighting Squadron (VBF) 87 from the decks of USS

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Ticonderoga (CV 14); he had taken command on January 2, 1945.

From an article on James Vernon, a pilot in Porter's squadron, in the Ventura County Star on August 6, 2008.

Much of the flying that group did involve trying to find the bases where kamikaze aircraft were hiding and put them out of commission before they attacked the American fleet. "Kamikazes killed about 10,000 American sailors," he said. "We tried to find them before they found us."



Commander Maxwell, from Bing.com images

During one such mission, Vernon was wingman to the squadron leader, Cmdr. Porter Maxwell. They were not facing fighter plane opposition, but there was a great deal of anti-aircraft fire from the Kure Naval Base, he said.

Flying south and then east of Hiroshima over Niihama Bay, Vernon said, "the skipper was on my left and all of a sudden, I noticed what looked like debris coming from his tail. It just seemed to fall apart."

Vernon recounts what happened next in his book, *"The Hostile Sky"*:

"The skipper's canopy opened, he stood up, his parachute streamed out and jerked him clear of the plane. The Hellcat hit the water with the skipper a few feet to the right of it.

His parachute didn't blossom to check his fall; he plunged feet first into the murky shallow water and disappeared." Another member of the squadron described the attack "Now running a high-speed strafing attack

across the Niihama airfield at Shikokku, Japan...AA fire...our skipper ...ran right into it. They had his range. The skipper lifts his plane gaining an altitude of 150 (now out over the water, the tail wing assembly is battered by hot burning enemy fire. The plane rolls to the right.").

- *From the US Naval Academy Memorial Hall website; Wings of Fire and Honor by Robert Haymond Maxwell, The Exponent Telegram, March 28, 2005 and accounts of Porter's niece Dr. M. Linn Maxwell*

"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

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hobby. If you know of someone interested, please let me know.

Miss everyone!

Best,

Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1st West Virginia)

House Bill 2174

The West Virginia House of Delegates passed House Bill 2174 which it would make it illegal to remove, relocate or change the plaque of any statues on public grounds without a first obtaining a permit from the state Historic Preservation Office. I am not sure if the Senate has considered HB 2174 as of March 30.

In reading through several news articles, it seems that this bill will also apply to the naming of schools, streets and other public entities. Discussion over the bill in the legislature was centered around Civil War monuments and memorials, especially Stonewall Jackson on the State Capitol grounds

Letters

Charles,

Would you "Please" add the list below to your upcoming events? If we support these events, maybe people will become educated on our true history and stop trying to destroying it. "Cancel Culture"

Thank You Sir, Ken Meador

(Editor's Note: Ken is a reenacting friend of the WVRA. Any events he submitted not already on the schedule, were incorporated in the upcoming events above.)

"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

"It has been claimed by those who oppose the President's emancipation proclamation that it would cause the resignation of a large portion of the officers in our army and would be disapproved by the great body of our troops."

The facts do not seem to warrant an assumption of this kind. No officers have resigned in consequence of the promulgation of the proclamation, and as regards the prominent ones it is well known that the great mass of them heartily approve it. As to the soldiers, four-fifths of them being Union men, it is safe to infer they approve it, and there some proof to that effect, as the following: It was charged the 104th Illinois regiment was opposed to the proclamation; to test it a vote was taken; and the balloting showed a vote of 844 for, 16 against. We doubt not a vote of the entire army would show a somewhat similar result."

- Delaware Gazette, (Ohio) Oct. 24, 1862

"If the hardtack got moldy it was usually thrown away as inedible, but if it just got weevily it was issued anyway. Heating it at the fire would drive the weevils out; more impatient soldiers simply ate it in the dark and tried not to think about it."

- Lincoln's Army by Bruce Catton.

"I have been reading the account of Magruder's victory at Bethel's Church. One poor young man found dead with a shot through his heart had a Bible in his pocket in which was written: 'Given to the defender of his country by the Bible Society.' How dare men mix up the Bible so with their own bad passions."

Mary Boykin Chesnut – 1861

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

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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.

record, jot down your recollections of January 6, 2021 and keep it for future generations to read. I also invite you to submit for publication in this humble publication, any stories of your family military history or your favorite reenacting stories.

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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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ccritch608@yahoo.com

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

PERSONALS - We mourn the loss of Jeff. I invite all members to submit their remembrances of Jeff for the next issue of the Dispatch. I had the pleasure of serving as first sergeant when Jeff was elected captain.

THANK YOU - Thanks to Jim Barnes, Jack Rush, David Cooper, Mike Butler, Jimmie Epling and John Ziolkowski for their contributions to this month's Trans-Allegheny Dispatch.

IT APPEARS that some of the pandemic restrictions are beginning to fade away and we may have reenactments this year. However, I detect little interest among the WVRA membership to participate. Membership is down by 1/3.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE to create your own historical



The officers of the Kanawha Battalion from the 1990's. Seated Major Mike Butler, commanding. From the left: Capt. David Cooper, 83rd Pa., Capt. Jeff Zickefoose, 1st W. Va.; Capt. Jimmie Epling, 91st Ohio and Jack Nuckols, Adj., 91st Ohio.

"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