

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2022 – May - Edition CXXXIX

## Next Meeting

JUNE 4, 4:00 PM at Philippi during reenactment. Near the picnic area.

## 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](mailto:csacannon@aol.com))

### Sponsored

**Beverly/Rich Mountain, July 23** (see below)

### Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

2022

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

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

**Canaan Valley State Park, June 17-19,** contact Rick Byrd [firstwvcav@frontiernet.net](mailto:firstwvcav@frontiernet.net)  
**Civil War Antique and Relic show** June 24-26, Gettysburg, [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](https://danielladyfarm.com)  
**Philippi – June 3-5,** Philippi, W.Va.

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

**Wild West Show, August 6-7, Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg** [EVENTS \(danielladyfarm.com\)](https://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](mailto:ranger749@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Apple Harvest Festival, Oct. 1-2,** Burlington, W. Va. [ranger749@yahoo.com](mailto: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 \(danielladyfarm.com\)](https://danielladyfarm.com)

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

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

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

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## 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

## Treasurer's Report

April 1-29, 2022

Beginning balance	\$2,651.58
Credits	\$ 0.00
Debits	
Insurance	\$ 661.61
Checks	\$ 53.17
Ending Balance	\$1,936.75

Submitted by Tim Cox, Treasurer, WVRA

## Insurance

Treasurer Tim Cox has received the certificate of insurance. Both Tim and I have a copy of the certificate. If you require a copy please send Tim or me an email requesting a copy and we will email you a PDF copy of said certificate.

- Chuck Critchfield

## Upcoming Events

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

## BEVERLY!!!!

**Please note that the date of Beverly is July 23. It was listed incorrectly in the March edition of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Watch this space for more details. Remember we have voted to sponsor this event.**

Featuring:

- History Mystery participation scenario focusing on occupied Beverly
- Living History Timeline from 1750 – 1970 military and civilian
- Demonstrations, displays, and activities

Food – free meal for reenactors and volunteers,  
plus pie sale and other treats

Period camps welcome all weekend, with primary  
visitor activities on Saturday

FREE – participants preregister please, so we can  
plan for you!

Watch for more information in upcoming WVRA  
newsletters and at

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

304-637-7424

[info@beverlyheritagecenter.org](mailto:info@beverlyheritagecenter.org)

## Fort Mulligan

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 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.

There is no charge for attending these  
sessions. Dinner is available at the SJCWRT.

In the March meeting of the SJCWRT, Rick  
Wolfe gave an interesting presentation about Civil  
War ID tags and passed around some of his  
collection. I was surprised to learn many Federal ID  
tags (there are few if any Confederate ID tags) had  
George B. McClellan on one side.

In the March meeting of the MDCWRT,  
WVU adjunct professor Zack Cowsert gave a talk  
about the sacking of the Copperhead newspaper, the  
Crisis, in 1863 in Columbus. It was sacked by  
members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Cavalry, reorganizing at  
Camp Chase.

## 160<sup>th</sup> Seven Days

I am hoping, health permitting, to attend  
The Seven Days Battle of Gaines Mill and Frayers  
Farm in Old Town, Maryland on May 21 and May 22.  
If anyone is interested in joining me, please let me

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know. I will fall in with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut as I have been doing recently.

This is a non-spectator weekend and will be held in Old Town, about 20 miles east of Cumberland along the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. The event is being staged by the United States Volunteers and the Army of Northern Virginia reenacting groups. Old Town is remote and there are no stores or gas stations nearer than Cumberland or Paw Paw, West Virginia. There will be no food vendors on site. So bring your food with you. I have been through Old Town numerous times and can verify it is remote.

The Saturday scenario is Gaines Mill and Sunday will be Fraysers Farm.

If you are interested I will send you the registration information. Deadline is May 1, 2022.

- Chuck Critchfield

## **Event Reviews**

### **Fort Frederick 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair**

By Jim Barnes

The Fort Frederick Market Fair was held on April 21 to the 24 for the first time since 2019. The lapse, of course, was due to Covid restrictions. This is an event that nearly anyone who has ever attended will be addicted to. Linda and I attended as well as WVRA members, Ron and Debbie Wenig.

Fort Frederick was built during the French and Indian War by the colony of Maryland to protect the frontier from attack. Being a large masonry construction rather than the more common wooden palisade, the fort was never threatened. It was too far for the French to bring cannon, and their native allies had no hope of storming the massive 18-foot stone walls. The fort was also used during Pontiac's Rebellion and again during the American Revolution as a prison camp for British POWs. The state sold off the land in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the area around it was farmed. During the Civil War, Union troops garrisoned the fort and aimed a cannon over the Potomac toward Confederate lines. The Confederates made some attempts to dislodge the Yankees but were unsuccessful. The fort and the land around it were sold again for farming, but the state bought it back in 1922 and archaeological studies were begun as well as work to restore the fort. The CCC did much of the restoration work in the 1930s.

**Ron and Debbie Wenig at Fort Frederick Market Fair.**



The market fair celebrates the history of the fort and the frontier with numerous activities as well as a large number of period sutlers purveying goods to the hundreds of reenactors who come to shop and visit friends. Period camping is allowed, and many of the campers put out used goods on blankets in front of their tents to sell. The cagey shopper can pick up some real bargains that way.

Most of the reenactors dress in 18<sup>th</sup> century garb, but the event is open to the general public and many shoppers are in street clothes.

This is a great event and we are overjoyed to see it come back.

### **School of the Longhunter**

By Jim Barnes

On April 1 and 2, Linda and I attended the annual School of the Longhunter. Also in attendance were WVRA members Ron and Debbie Wenig. This is a yearly symposium style event that provides expert speakers on various aspects of 18<sup>th</sup> Century life in this area as well as hands-on demonstrations of pioneer skills and other fun and informative activities.

This year, we had the following agenda:

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A discussion of the life of frontiersman, Simon Kenton; Long distance shooting with a flintlock rifle; Riving Boards and Making Pegs: Taking Your Cabin to the Next Level; Cordage: A Practical Look and How to; Washington's Small Beer and Brewing in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (with samples): More Than Just Squirrel Cookers: Equipment of the Longhunters; Forting up; and The Popularity of Chocolate on the Frontier.

In addition, there was a "fort feast" on Friday night and an auction to benefit the fort on Saturday night. The event closed Sunday morning with a church service. Despite cold and blustery weather, I think everyone had a great time.

This is a great event and worth the charge. I highly recommend it.

## Morgantown Gun Show Recruiting Table

By Jim Barnes

On Saturday, March 26, Linda and I spent the day publicizing the WVRA with a recruiting table at the Morgantown Gun Show at Milan Park. This is a large event and attracts people from all around our area. I always bring along a few firearms as they never fail to attract attention.

Jim and Linda Barnes at Morgantown Gun Show



We probably handed out more applications and business cards than usual this time, but realistically, only the occasional person is going to follow up. Nonetheless, I think this is a venue that is more likely than most to attract people who would be interested in reenacting.

So far Showmasters, who promote the event has been kind enough to give us a free table since we

are a non-profit. If nothing else, it does keep our organization name out in front of the public.

## Other Features Movie Review

*I haven't done or received a movie review in a while. Here are a couple I watched on Netflix.*

### The Forgotten Battle

This movie is set in 1944 around the Dutch town of Antwerp. The Allies are closing in on the German army which is preparing to retreat across the river Schelde to the north bank from where it could prevent Allied shipping from reaching the vital port of Antwerp.

The ensemble cast begins in separate vignettes. Dutch woman working for the Nazis and her brother a resistance fighter; a German soldier fighting off the Allied onslaught; a British glider pilot lost after crashing; and probably a few others I have failed to remember. The stories of all these individuals merge at the end of the movie.

A Dutch film inspired by the true events with subtitles. Plenty of action if you are looking for combat. This movie is not the typical war movie of our youth. But more like the Private Ryan, Band of Brothers gritty realism. I recommend it.

### The Bombardment

A World War II story set in Copenhagen in 1945 from a Danish film company. The Gestapo is very close to cracking the Danish resistance movement. The Gestapo has captured key resistance members and are preparing to interrogate them in Gestapo headquarters in Copenhagen. The British must decide whether to bomb and destroy the Gestapo headquarters and kill everyone involved, including the resistance members, in order to save the whole movement.

Another ensemble cast that includes Danish citizens in the resistance, working for the Nazis, normal citizens trying to survive, a struggling Catholic nun and British airmen. Once again everyone is brought together in the final scene.

Dialogue is overdubbed in English but that does not distract from the film. Again, not your typical war movie. The good guys and the bad guys are not always easy to pick out in the chaos and confusion of war. Not much action. Not a movie for those wanting a happy ending. It is tragic. Graphic enough at times to make the sensitive squirm. Anyway, I recommend it.

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## 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 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.**

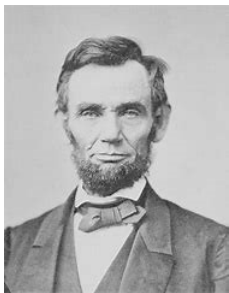
Miss everyone! Best,  
Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia)

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

## 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

*"You perhaps would inquire how I felt during the fight. I had no time to think, only to do my duty as a soldiery. I will tell you how I felt the night before going into battle. I knew the battle would be a dreadful one and perhaps I would be among the slain. I thought of home, of my two boys, my aged parents & all the rest of you. I spent most the first part of the night in prayer & then lay down to rest."*

- Letter of Harvey Chapman to his sister, after the battle of Chickamauga as published in The Man Who Carried A Drum.

## Other Sites

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

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)

## 2022 WVRA Officers

**Andrew Valentine - President**

**Ken Connell - Vice President**

**Tim Cox - Treasurer**

**Jim Barnes - Secretary**

**Phyllis Baxter - 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.**

## Unit Field Officers

**(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)**

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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

**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.

**THE BYLAWS** require that I post upcoming events. I have received an extensive list from WVRA members

**SMALL REENACTMENTS** continue to spring up with every little festival in West Virginia while large reenactments are probably a thing of the past. Tonya Daft forwarded my two announcements in the space of a week for events that were in the very near future. I passed them on to the Unit Representatives for their consideration.

**THANK YOU** – Tim Cox for the Treasurer's Report. A special thank you to Jim Barnes for his three event reviews. **ISN'T IT GREAT TO HAVE EVENT REVIEWS!?** It means things are returning to some semblance of normal. If any other member would like to do a review please do so. It doesn't have to be long, or fancy with pictures. Just some idea of how the event went and how you feel about it.

**SO YOU THINK THE WAR IS OVER** – Last month was Confederate History Month. This always leads to a lot of interesting posts on my Facebook Groups page. Most interesting of course, are the "discussions" over the cause of the American Civil War. Anyway, there were some points that were raised that I felt like finally doing some additional research. Some posts advanced the claim that very few Southerners owned slaves.

One claim said that only 1% of Americans owned slaves at the time of the Civil War. Well when you compare the white population of the United States to the black population of the United States, the black population is only 1% of the white population. Technically correct, but misleading.

More commonly, the posts claim that only 3% of the Southern states population owned slaves. Technically correct, but misleading. In reality, when comparing the black population of the 11 states that seceded, to the white population, that rate is a bit over 5%. However, the more telling statistic, would be the number of families that owned slaves. And that rate is somewhere between 20 and 30%. In South Carolina and Mississippi, the rate hovered around 50% according to one source. Some families owned one slave and some owned over 200.

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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

*"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