

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
2023 – May Edition *CLII*

## Next Meeting

None scheduled at this time. The Executive Committee has not scheduled a meeting yet.

## Upcoming Events

*Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover 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."*

### Sponsored

22-23 - Beverly Heritage Days, July 2023.

### Sanctioned (per by laws)

Aug. 19 – Fort Mulligan Days, Petersburg, W. Va.

September - Hardy County Living History, Moorefield, W. Va.

7-8 – Apple Harvest Festival, Burlington, W. Va.

Oct. 13-15 – Droop Mountain, W. Va., near Hillsboro, W. Va. [Battle of Dry Creek](#)

## Other Events recommended by WVRA members

### May

5-7 – Chancellorsville, Paw Paw, Maryland (USV Max effort) register on ANV website.

12-14 – Martinsburg Roundhouse –

Martinsburg, WV,

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

19-21 - Fort Loudon, Fort Loudon, Pa., Time

line event, <http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

### June

2-4 - Philippi, Philippi, W. Va.

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

9-11 - Old Bedford Village, Bedford, Pa.

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

16-18 – Canaan Valley State Park, Davis, WV

Contact Rick Byrd

21-25 – Gettysburg, Blackhorse Tavern Road, Gettysburg. (USV Max effort)

### July

30- 2 – Gettysburg, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg, Pa.

14-16 – Fight at Funkstown, Funkstown, Md.

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

### August

4-5 – West Virginia tactical (USV backed event)

18-20 – Dry Creek, White Sulphur Springs [Battle of Dry Creek](#)

### September

22-24 – Lost River State Park, Mathias, W. Va.

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 – Barboursville, W. Va.

### October

21-22 – Cedar Creek, Middletown, Va.

### November

4-5 - Guyandotte, W. Va.

4-5 – Droop Mountain (contact Jason Studenwalt)

18-19 – Remembrance Day, Gettysburg.

### December

11-12 Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Christmas

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>

## IMPORTANT

### State of the WVRA May 2023

On April 22, the archives and documents of the secretary/treasurer office of the WVRA were transferred to Secretary/Treasurer Rick Byrd by Chuck Critchfield, interim treasurer. At the same time Rick, Chuck and Jim Barnes met with Huntington Bank to complete the paperwork required by the Bank to enable Rick to issue checks and access the on-line banking.

As of May 7, we have only 43 dues-paying members. We had 60 last year. We have three new members this year, which means we have 20 members who did not renew. Members who have not renewed will be dropped May 1.

## Membership and Newsletters

This is the final appeal members to renew your WVRA membership for 2023. According to the WVRA By Laws, members who have not paid by May 1 are dropped from the list of members.

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You must be a member to be covered by the WVRA insurance policy.

Dues remain the same - \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families. Those wishing to have the newsletter sent to them in the US Mail, can arrange to have that done for \$15 additional. Please complete a membership form. **Please make checks payable to the WVRA – not me!**

Send your membership form and dues to me at C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV, 26301

## 2023 Member Renewals

### 25 Virginia

Bill Brisendine Tag Ireland  
Greg Watterson Tim Glaser  
Ken Connell

### 1st West Virginia

Mike Phillips Chuck Critchfield  
Jack Rush David Starliper  
Patrick Carroll Chris Carroll  
Jim Barnes John Ziolkowski  
Ron Wenig Bill Donegan  
Nikolai Korolev Rick Byrd

### TASAS

Bill Snyder Peter Baxter  
Phyllis Baxter Art Dodds  
Pam Dodds Debbie Rush  
Ward family (4) Linda Barnes  
Debbie Wenig Linda Donegan  
Pat Carroll

### General

Keith Kopshina Kyle Kopshina  
Dirk Behanna Judy Kopshina  
Hunter Lesser Andrew Stover  
William Burrus

### Artillery

David Judy Susan Judy  
Kenneth W. Snyder Janice Snyder

## Treasurers Report

For the period April 1-30, 2023

Submitted by Rick Byrd, Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance	\$1,531.68
Deposits	
None	\$0.00
Debits	
None	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,531.68

## Insurance

The new limited liability insurance policy went into effect on April 23, 2023. If you need a copy of the insurance certificate, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Rick Byrd. Only current 2023 members are covered.

## Upcoming Events

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

## Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Center and Rich Mountain Battlefield have started planning for Beverly Heritage Day 2023 on July 22-23. This will again be a timeline event -- we always welcome suggestions for themes, scenarios, and activities. We ask WVRA and participating units and individuals to send us feedback now on suggestions, plus we welcome participation in our planning committee.

[Upcoming Events : Beverly Heritage Tourism \(beverlyheritagecenter.org\)](https://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)

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## Event Reviews

None at this time

## Other Features

None at this time

## For Sale

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)

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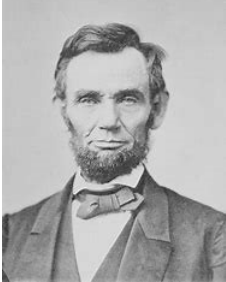
New Civil War History of Harrison County  
*A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia  
1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War  
1856-65. By Pete Taylor*

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.  
July 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  
Google shareholders meeting

*"But the next year, when these same soldiers fought in the front lines of Sherman's Atlanta campaign, where it 'the sun don't beat down in red-hot rays...it rains in fearful torrents, and the ditches in which they lie fill with water...covered with mud, ticks, body lice...and if they lift their heads six inches from the ground a sharp shooter sends a ball whizzing through their brains...the men are in better spirits, there is less grumbling, less swearing, less cussing officers, less wishing old Abe and the whole government was in hell, and every conceivable blasphemy, such a soldiers practice, then I ever heard in the army before.'"*

- James M. McPherson, *For Cause & Comrades – Why Men Fought in the Civil War*, p. 32 where was arguing the front-line soldiers had better morale than rear echelon soldiers.

*"Battle is the ultimate of soldiering. All else in warfare is but incidental to the vital closing of opposing forces in combat."*

- Bell Irvin Wiley, *The Life of Billy Yank- The Common Soldier of the Union*, p. 66.

*"Without slavery, the problems between the sections could probably have been worked out by the ordinary give-and-take of politics; with slavery, the became insoluble. So in 1861 the North and the South went to war, destroying one America and beginning the building of another which is not even yet complete."*

- Bruce Catton, *The Civil War*, p. 9

### 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)

## 2023 WVRA Officers

Andrew Valentine - President  
Art Dodds - Vice President  
Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer  
Pam Dodds - TASAS)  
Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)  
Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)  
Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)  
Webmaster - Tim Glaser  
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)**

ATTENTION - Please do not send any correspondence to the former 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

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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. I certainly have expressed some opinions that others might want to rebut. My health, or should I say, the uncertainty over my health has kept me out of the field. So, I am relying on those active at events for event reviews.

**OPINION** – We are four months into 2023 and the membership rolls of the WVRA show only 43 members. This is a big decrease. Only about half that number voted in the elections. Interest in the hobby is down. The age of the participants is up.

Last December it looked as though we would not have any volunteers to serve as officers. If we failed to elect officers the question would become, can we, or should we continue as an organization. We could have dissolved and let the individual members go their own way. And we had an offer to be absorbed by the Valley Division. I know there was support within the membership to join the Valley Division and there was opposition to that proposal also. Anyway, members stepped forward and we have the number officers required by the by laws of the WVRA.

Now, I am not criticizing anyone. I know that I participated in only one reenactment last year. Hardly an active member. I thought when I retired a few years back, I would have time to reenact when I so desired. But I found myself in the same situation – I had to ration the reenacting weekends to a few every year. Then health issues hit during the pandemic. Now my Civil War weekend trips are spent doing additional research on the regimental history I am writing.

It has been sad to continue to see long time members retire or pass away. In any event, I believe we will be facing the same situation again next fall. Think about it now.

**THANK YOU** to Jim Barnes for continuing his efforts to recruit new members.

**ADDRESS** – The WVRA has a new official address. The new address is WVRA, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV, 26253. However, any correspondence about dues, membership, newsletter, etc., should be sent to me. We will continue to check the old Buckhannon PO Box until it expires later this year.

### **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch** **The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association** **May, 2023 - Edition CLII**

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  
608 Skyview Drive  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
[ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com)

*"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

*All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.*

- Paraphrased from several historians

*"The People made their recollection fit in with their suffering"*

-Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War