



## Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation Quarterly Newsletter and Members Update

### New Executive Director Named

Long-time RMBF Executive Director Phyllis Baxter recently passed the torch of leadership to RMBF staffer Michelle Depp, making her the new Executive Director of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation. Depp joined RMBF in 1998 in the capacity of office manager. Hailing from Punxsutawney, PA, Chel holds a bachelor's degree in history from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA with a minor in anthropology/sociology. Since joining the staff, she has coordinated many fundraising events and programs including the 2001 Civil War Symposium and the bi-annual reenactment event as well as coordinating with partner organizations on activities such as Beverly Heritage Day and Old Fashion Christmas.

Baxter steps down after holding the position since the early 1990's in order to focus on her commitments to other preservation organizations and her position as coordinator for the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area Project. The Board thanks Phyllis for her tireless efforts over the years and generous donation of her time and talents to help the Foundation grow.

"Phyllis Baxter is a hard act to follow in West Virginia historical circles. She has been a great teacher and I hope that I can live up to the standards she has set for the growth of the Foundation," commented Depp. "I have been working with a great Board of Directors whose backgrounds compliment the needs of the Foundation in a variety of ways and I look forward to my continued work with them in the growth and progress of the site and the Foundation.."

### Logan House

RMBF continues to work with the West Virginia Division of Highways on the potential move of the historic Logan House back on its current site in order to

protect and preserve the house from highway encroachment. Right now, RMBF is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding on the project, defining the terms and conditions of the potential move. Additionally,

RMBF has applied for Transportation Enhancement Funds to assist with the rehabilitation of the house after its move. Anyone interested in more information on this project or to be involved can contact the office.

#### Foundation Information

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26253

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(304) 637-7424

Web site:  
[www.richmountain.org](http://www.richmountain.org)

Winter Hours:  
Mon-Fri  
9am-4pm  
Or by  
appointment

#### Events Schedule

- *Park Day (clean-up) May 7*
- *Annual members meeting and banquet—Tentative May*
- *Reenactment —July 9-10*
- *Old Fashion Beverly Christmas—1st Sat of December Annually*
- *2006—Immersion Event, ANW Reunion and Beverly Heritage Day!—Watch for details!*

## Civil War Legends of Rich Mountain & Beverly, WV

Civil War Legends of Rich Mountain and Beverly, WV is a collection of 143 stories on numerous subjects from approximately 60 different people who were interviewed by late Beverly resident Mary Genevieve Ward in 1932. The collection was taken as a part of her requirements towards an advanced teaching degree at George Peabody College. Local historian Randy Allan (former RMBF Board member) has added a ten page addendum of local Civil War memorabilia most of which has never been made public before. This book is a truly valuable late addition to the Civil War history of Beverly and the vicinity. It is available now, years after Miss Ward's death as she did not want it made public in her lifetime. Copies are available by contacting RMBF at our office/website or Randy Allan directly at PO Box 239 Beverly, WV.

RMBF will receive \$1.00 per copy donation by mentioning this listing in the newsletter.

### Army of the Northwest Reunion Planned

RMBF is pleased to announce plans for the **Army of the Northwest Reunion** to be held in Elkins, WV tentatively August 17-20, 2006. This event will feature the 31st and 25th Virginia Regiment's history and heritage as a part of the celebration of the lives and sacrifices of these men. The reunion will feature both an educational component of site tours and lectures and a reunion component to bring together the descendents of the soldiers of these regiments. A day of living history and socializing for descendent plus a keynote banquet are also slated for the event

RMBF is seeking out descendents to begin compiling a database for mailings and updates on the plans and schedules for the event. Information you should include in your contact: your name, address, and email; from whom you're a descended/lineage and any information regarding their service to these particular units. Forward that to Victor Thacker at [vthacker@meer.net](mailto:vthacker@meer.net) or to RMBF attn: Victor Thacker.

Watch the newsletter and website for more details on this exciting 2006 event!

**Site Vandalism** RMBF recently discovered site vandalism on both Camp Garnett and Field of Fire as a result of joy-riding individuals with no respect for the site and its history. The local police have filed reports and are seeking information on the destruction that will cost RMBF in the neighborhood of \$2,000 to repair. The vandals hit the site sometime in the early weeks of January during a spell of warm weather that resulted in soft ground perfect for "mudding" on the grounds. Rutts that are shin to knee deep litter the site and will not be able to be repaired until the spring comes and the ground softens again.

Anyone local with information is asked to contact RMBF or WV State Police in Elkins.

## First Campaign Signs

The West Virginia State Civil War Task Force has been working for over a year on the creation of interpretive signs to be placed along the route of the First Campaign of the Civil War from Wheeling to Camp Allegheny on the Virginia state line.

The West Virginia Di-

vision of Tourism has provided the funding for this project and has been working with the Task Force on creating approx. 20 signs that will include the history of the site near which it will be placed (such as Independence Hall, Philippi, Webster, Corrick's Ford, and Roaring Creek) as well as interesting sidebars about people and events rela-

tive to those site.

RMBF has been assisting with those signs and has been told that they will be complete and installed by this summer. It's a great leap forward in the interpretation of the Civil War History of the state and the beginnings of the "West Virginia Civil War Trails."

## RICH REENACTMENT July 9-10, 2005

RMBF and the West Virginia Reenactors Association will be partnering this year to host the 144th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Rich Mountain. A weekend of living history, skirmishes and scenarios is open to the public for viewing.

A highlight of the weekend will be a benefit auction of Civil War memorabilia held at Field of Fire. The auction will feature Civil War relics for the collector, buff or just supporter of the Foundation. RMBF's goal is to raise funds for the continued upkeep of the site and visitor

Center.

Our keen-eyed experts are scouring the countryside for items to fill the auction line-up. Anyone with an item they wish to donate to the event can contact Chelley at the office—we'd be pleased to accept it!

### GRANTS

RMBF has partnered with both Historic Beverly Preservation and the Randolph County Development Authority for two separate Transportation Enhancement Grants in the '05 cycle. The first is for rehabilitation funding for the Logan House after the proposed move of the structure. HBP would serve as the sponsor agency enable RMBF to rehabilitate the

house for the possibility of returning the genealogy library to Beverly and interpreting the medical/Civil War history of the house. The second grant application with the RCDA would be for the acquisition of the Elkwater Encampment site in a proposed trade agreement with the current owners does not get approved by Federal DOH. RMBF will wait to hear from the WVDOH until this fall—we'll

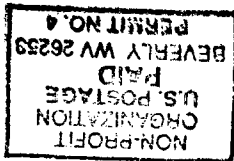
keep you posted on the outcome.

RMBF has also applied for American Battlefield Protection Funding for a proposed archival/research facility and digital archive project. The project, if funded, would enable RMBF to catalog, record and properly store current archival materials and also create a digital version for greater accessibility of the documents.

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Rich Mountain Battlefield



## Morgantown Civil War Roundtable Symposium

The Third Annual Spring Symposium of the Morgantown Civil War Roundtable will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2005. The event will be held at the Ramada Inn, Morgantown, WV. Featured Topics and Speakers are:

Keynote:

**The Strange Career of the 35th Star:**

**—West Virginia Statehood Reconsidered**

**—Dr. Stuart McGhee**

Jackson's Valley Campaign—Lt. Col. Peter Taylor

Confederate Guerilla Surprise: The Capture of Crook and Kelley—Jack Bowman

The Battle of Western Virginia-A Key Struggle—Hunter Lesser

Civil War Dress at the Home and on the War Front—Michael Foley

**For Registration Information contact: Jack Bowman at 304-597-5537**

**or [fbowman@adelphia.net](mailto:fbowman@adelphia.net)**