

***Living Historians and Reenactors from 1750 through 1950
are invited to join us for:***

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History July 13, 14, 15, 2018 Beverly, West Virginia

Join us in 2018 for our timeline heritage event to share the history of settlement, conflict, and daily life in the Tygart Valley. Beverly, West Virginia was the original county seat of Randolph County, and was a crucial crossroads through settlement, Civil War and 20th Century history. Located 6 miles south of Elkins along US Rt 219, Beverly is an active heritage tourism destination with town historic district, Rich Mountain Battlefield, and multiple museums and shops anchored by the Beverly Heritage Center. Beverly Heritage Days is our primary heritage event of the year.

Living history camps will include Native American, Pioneer, Civil War, and World War II eras. For this year we are seeking additional representation from post-Civil War periods, including World War I and civilian life. Living history, first person impressions, demonstrations, heritage crafts and displays are all welcome. The event will welcome music from a variety of periods, and a “timeline” dance Saturday evening will feature music and dancing from 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Living History

The timeline of living history will be featured all day Saturday and Sunday through mid-day, with camps open from Friday through Sunday. Pioneer (ca 1750 – 1820) and Native American camp will be set up near the Stalnaker Cabin, hosted by Tygart Valley Pioneers. Civil War living history camp will be around the Beverly Jail. World War II camp at the southern end of town will feature Allied (GI and Russian) and German (no SS please) scenarios and displays. Other periods within our time frame, military or civilian, are welcome. We will have a World War I exhibit featured, and would love to have living history from that period as well. In addition, we want to feature civilian life through all periods, including home life and a variety of occupations and trades. First person or planned scenarios are especially encouraged – let us know what you can do and we will put it on the schedule. We are planning a schedule of featured presentations in addition to ongoing activities in camp. Activities for children are great, and displays, crafts, demonstrations, music, or food related to our “Centuries of History” will all be considered. Please register early and let us know your impression, so we can make plans and promote your presentation as a part of the event.

The History

From the first settlement attempt in 1753, and the 10 families who came to stay in 1772, settlers fought to secure the frontier from Indians who claimed the mountain lands. In 1790, Beverly, (West) Virginia was founded as the original county seat of Randolph County. The town was a crucial crossroads through settlement, Civil War and 20th Century history.

On July 11, 1861, an outpost of Confederates with one cannon defended a mountain pass outside Beverly against a Federal attack in the BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN. Following a spirited defense, the Confederates were forced to abandon their position controlling the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. This early war action was a major victory for commanding General George B. McClellan, who was named to command the Army of the Potomac as a result. The Federals occupied Beverly, retained control of northwestern Virginia, and two years later the state of West Virginia was formed.

Following the Civil War, Beverly grew and changed along with the new state of West Virginia. Industrialization brought new cities, and Beverly lost as county seat to Elkins in 1899. The 19th century agricultural and trade community changed with boom then decline of logging and mining industries, the Great Depression, and World War II, shaping today’s community.

Programming

We are planning ways to make this event even better than ever, including some different programming from previous events. Plans under discussion, based on participant interest, include:

- Scheduled presentations on the Beverly Heritage Center patio. 10 to 20 minute demonstrations, talks, or activities on civilian or military topics, by individuals or groups. Some examples include fashion topics from different periods, first person or demonstrations including workers (coal miner or wood hick) especially for in-between periods of history not represented in the camps. Demonstrations are also welcome in camps or in the Town Square, such as drill or firing demonstrations – please let us know your plans so they can be included on the schedule.
- A history parade down the side streets of Beverly, crossing Main, and back. About 6 blocks. Military and civilian groups and individuals from all periods, musicians, and period appropriate vehicles would all be welcome. NO non-historic participation – no cars with politicians, twirlers, or fire trucks!
- Civilian Social – modeled after a Civil War era Tea, but with food and readings from all periods.
- A Civil War era skirmish to end the event on Sunday afternoon. This would be held on flat ground near the river, with spectator seating along the railroad bank. All reenactors of any period would be welcome to participate to the extent we can find reasonably appropriate gear to loan (training and safety inspection prior to skirmish). Those earlier than Civil War could be “bushwhackers”. We will end the skirmish with Q&A with spectators.

Music

An outdoor stage Saturday and Sunday will host an assortment of musical performances appropriate to the range of periods. Musicians in camps, in the Beverly Heritage Center, or at the Battlefield camps are also welcome. A “Through the Centuries Dance” Saturday evening in Beverly will mix a variety of dances from colonial line dances, to Civil War era quadrilles, to the Lindy Hop.

Amenities

Camps in Beverly will be located in the large lawns within the town. Water and portopots will be available near camps, with running water toilets and a shower available at Beverly Heritage Center during open hours. Firewood and hay will be provided and ice will be available for purchase.

Saturday lunch of grilled pork sandwich meal will be provided to pre-registered participants. You MUST pre-register by July 6 to get a lunch ticket.

Draft schedule (details subject to change, more will be added as plans are confirmed):

Friday July 14 – Afternoon camps available

7:30 pm special program

Saturday, July 15

10 am- 6 pm Camps and activities open Beverly

Living History - Each camp is encouraged to schedule your own activities & demonstrations
Music, crafts, demonstrations, displays, children’s activities - ongoing

11 am Parade of History

11:45 Lunch - pork BBQ by RMBF (provided for pre-registered); Pie sale on Goff House porch

1:30 Presentations – scheduled on BHC patio

3:00 Civilian Social – on BHC patio

8 pm Through the Centuries Dance, IOOF Hall, Beverly.

Sunday, July 16

10 am – 2:00 pm Camps and activities open, Living History, music, demonstrations, etc

2 pm Skirmish (near river in Beverly) with audience Q&A afterwards

Selling Goods

Sutlers or other merchants of period appropriate goods are welcome. There will be no vendor fee, although pre-registration is required and a donation to support the event is encouraged. Craft demonstrators or camp participants who wish to sell within the period camps may do so with permission from the camp provost, as long as their display is period appropriate to that camp. A merchants' area will be available near the Beverly Heritage Center. Merchants with modern goods or display will be placed in the BHC area, and only with advance approval. Please indicate your preferred location in your pre-registration.

Registration

This event is FREE with pre-registration. Pre-registration is expected, and is required by **July 6** to get the participant meal. Please pre-register and provide information about your impression and needs by May if possible, so that we can plan and promote the event.

For information and registration see www.beverlyheritagecenter.org Watch for continuing updates!

You may register by individual, family, or unit. Please give us contact info (email if you use it) for everyone attending.

You can register in any of these ways:

On-line registration form at <http://beverlyheritagecenter.org/BHD2018participant.html>

Print registration form from website, or fill out hard copy. Return by email, mail, or at BHC.

Email all relevant information to: Christopher Taylor bhcamericorps1@gmail.com

Mail to: Beverly Heritage Center, PO Box 227, Beverly WV 26253;

Hand deliver to Beverly Heritage Center, #4 Court Street, Beverly

Call for information or to register – we can take your info over the phone: 304-637-7424

Please also communicate with the provost contact for your period to ask specific questions and discuss impressions. This is very helpful for our planning, but does not replace your actual registration.

Frontier Karl Mulac gryffynklm@aol.com

Civil War Chuck Critchfield ccritch608@yahoo.com

WWII Jim Barnes (Allies) jd621hs@gmail.com

Eric Satterfield (Axis) defenderarmsllc@hotmail.com

Musicians Les Caraher elkinsfiddler@gmail.com

Other periods, impressions, crafts, demonstrations – Jenny Bravener bhcamericorps2@gmail.com

Vendors Darryl DeGripp info@beverlyheritagecenter.org

Event chair Phyllis Baxter phyllisb@meer.net

For more information:

Beverly Heritage Days: Centuries of History

Beverly Heritage Center

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Hosted by West Virginia Reenactors Association www.wvra.org