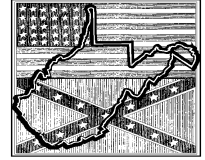


# BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN REENACTMENT



*July 8, 9, 10, 2005*

## **The BATTLE**

In the July 11, 1861 Battle of Rich Mountain, 310 Confederates with one cannon defended a mountain pass against an attack by 1,917 Federals. Following a spirited defense, the Confederates were forced to pull back from the battlefield and from their fortifications at Camp Garnett on the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. This action was claimed as a major victory by commanding general George B. McClellan, who, as a result of this success, was subsequently named to command the Army of the Potomac. The Federals retained control of Northwestern Virginia, and two years later the state of West Virginia was formed.

## **The EVENT**

2005 marks the 144th Anniversary of this important battle. It also marks the 14-year Anniversary of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, the caretaker of this rich historic site. In our short-lived history, RMBF has promoted, preserved, and protected this important piece of West Virginia and United States history for future generations. We are proud to sponsor the **"BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN REENACTMENT 2005"**

This event is the primary promotional and fundraising event for the site in 2005. This year, we are planning a variety of new approaches to the reenactment schedule in order to provide maximum enjoyment for both reenactors and spectators alike.

The Saturday battle, "The Skirmish Along the Pike" is designed to feature the actions along the historic Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike route leading up to the Battle of Rich Mountain. The Sunday battle is planned to feature a historically accurate reenactment of the actual battle, preceded by artillery and cavalry demonstrations as available. The battle had only one cannon (Confederate) engaged and limited cavalry, and may require some galvanizing of infantry. We ask your cooperation in presenting this historical portrayal, and promise that everyone, including artillery and cavalry, will have plenty of opportunity to participate in the weekend's events.

## **The ACTIVITIES**

This year's event will include a tactical battle for the enjoyment of the reenactors. As we did in 2003, reenactors will skirmish their way along the Pike from the Battlefield to Camp Garnett. The afternoon scenario will include a Federal recon of the Camp Garnett site giving way for Confederate victory. The traditional Ladies Tea and living

history scenarios will be included in the Saturday schedule. Anyone interested in participating in the living history scenarios may include their portrayals or ideas on the reverse side of the pre-registration sheet.

## **The CAMPS**

Camp sites will be in front of Camp Garnett, on the grounds of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site. Some camping areas may require carrying your gear a few hundred feet, especially if the ground is wet. Parking, after you unload, will be about 1/4 mile from the camps. Cars will not be allowed in camp after 9am Saturday (unless medically necessary.) Modern camping (no hookups) for reenactors will be located at the parking area. Camp for authentic civilian impressions will be provided between the military camps. With their commander's permission, civilians may also camp with their units in the military camps.

## **The SUTLERS**

The sutler area will be near the main activity area at Field of Fire Park. Pre-registration is a must in order to allot for spacing. The sutler fee is based upon the size of your setup. A sutler tent the size of a standard wall tent plus fly (About 12x12), or smaller will pay a fee of \$20. A setup larger than that will be charged \$30. This will include registration for 2 people, additional people will need to pay the \$10 fee (\$15 after June 9) per person charge. Please let us know the type of good you sell also. Sutlers must be authentic in their tent setup and appearance, as well as in the majority of goods they sell.

## **The AMENITIES**

We will provide basic amenities including firewood, hay, water, and portopots. A powder ration will be issued to those soldiers who have pre-registered. With the addition of the Field of Fire pavilion, showers are now available to reenactors for a minimal donation to help with water fees. Please bring your own towels, soaps, shampoos, etc as none will be provided.

Saturday, a picnic-style Bar-B-Que chicken dinner will be available by **ADVANCED TICKET**—cost of \$6 each. RMBF can cannot guarantee dinners to reenactors unless they are reserved. You may purchase tickets when you preregistrater, or any time until July 1. It is some distance from camp to stores and restaurants (no restaurants will deliver to the site due to distance) in town. Some food sutlers may be present, but please plan to bring your own food.

Sponsored by:  
**Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation**

Hosted by:  
**West Virginia Reenactors Assoc.**

### **The Schedule** (tentatively)

#### **Friday**

3 pm - 11 Registration Camp Garnett

#### **Saturday**

8 am-Noon Registration Camp Garnett  
9 am Tactical  
10 am Camps open to Public/Ladies Tea  
11-1 pm Living Histories in Camps  
2pm federal Recon of Camp Garnett  
3-5 pm Camp & Battlefield Tours  
Benefit AUCTION  
Cannon/ Rifle Demo (tent.)  
5pm Camps Close to Public  
5:30 pm BBQ  
8 pm Camp Dance

#### **Sunday**

9 am-1 Registration  
10 am Camps Open  
11am Church Service  
12:30 Dress Parade/Both Armies  
Form up for Battle  
1:00 Soldier Memorial  
2 pm "Battle of Rich Mountain"

### ***SUBMIT REGISTRATIONS TO:***

RMBF Reenactment  
PO Box 227  
Beverly, WV 26253

### **For questions or Info.:**

call (304)637-RICH or [www.richmountain.org](http://www.richmountain.org)  
email: [richmt@richmountain.org](mailto:richmt@richmountain.org)

### **ADDITIONAL LODGING INFORMATION**

Tourist Info. Center, Elkins (800)422-3304  
Developed Modern Camping w/ hookups  
Monongahela Nat. Forest (304)636-1800

### **Motels-Elkins**

Days Inn (304)637-4667  
Super 8 (304)636-6500  
Elkins Motor Lodge(304) 636-1400  
Red Carpet Inn 636-1990

### ***The Directions***

The Reenactment will take place at the Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site(RMBCWS)—Camp Garnett, 6.5 miles west of Beverly, Randolph County, WV. The nearest town with motels and services is Elkins, which is 10 minutes north of Beverly and about a 30-minute drive from the site. Look for sign to Rich Mountain Battlefield as well as temporary reenactment signs

### **To reach RMBCWS from Beverly:**

Turn off Rte. 250 west onto Rich Mountain Road. Follow the permanent RMBF signs 5 miles to the Battlefield at the top of the mountain. Continue following Rich Mountain Road an additional 1 1/2 miles further west to the bottom of the mountain. This is the Camp Garnett location where reenactor camping and registration will be located.

### **To Reach RMBCWS from the West (Rt.33):**

Exit Rt.33 at the Norton Exit (approx. 7 miles west from Elkins)—Rt151. Follow the roadway across the bridge. Turn left at Norton. Continue 4 miles, turn left to Mabie. Travel an additional 2 miles, then bear left on to Rich Mountain Road. Continue about 1.5 miles to Field of Fire Park. Camp Garnett, location of reenactor camping/registration, is just past Field of Fire.

Directional signs from both routes will be in place Friday. Also, the Rich Mountain Visitor Center is located in Beverly if additional directions or information are needed prior to going to the site.

### **To RMBF Visitor Center:**

Once in Beverly (Rt250/219), turn east at the town square at the intersection of 250/Files Creek Road (1 block south of the RMBCWS sign/Rich Mountain Road) RMBF Visitor Center will be the 4th building on the right(brown 2-story) with signs.

### **REGISTRATION**

Pre-registration is required for this event. Please preregister early so that we will not only know how many to plan for, but also so that if there are any problems or additional info. we need, we will have time to contact you. The registration fee is \$10 per person until June 9, after which it will be \$15. Sutlers—see The Sutler section. Dinner availability can only be guaranteed by advance ticket (\$6 for reenactors by July 1. Some dinners may be available on site but not guaranteed. Walk-ons are strongly discouraged. We will allow you to register on site if you are a member of a pre-registered unit. Walk-ons will pay full price and will not be issued a powder ration. Even if you are late registering, PLEASE at least give us a call so that we know whom to expect. If you want to substitute for a preregistered individual, you need a note from that person or from your unit commander. Battle participants under 18 years of age must have a release from their parents (see rules). Each reenactor, military, or civilian, is expected to be a member of a recognized unit under the responsibility of that unit's commander. We welcome participation from properly pre-registered independents or small groups of a unit—but we cannot have uncontrolled "cowboys" show up and disobey rules or legitimate "military" orders.

# Rules and Regulations

Rich Mountain is an *authentic only* event, and we will enforce these rules. We will be reasonable and we encourage newcomers. We reserve the right to require changes of inappropriate impressions, or to refuse participation if necessary.

## BATTLE LINES

- 1 All spectators are expected to stay behind designated lines during the battle. Period civilians may sit at the front of the line and are asked to help keep other spectators from pushing forward. **NO ONE**, including photographers, should be on the battlefield, or in any place they pose a safety risk or interfere with the view of the spectators.
- 2 Participants on the battlefield must be at least 13 years old and should have a role to portray. Any exceptions must be arranged in advance.
- 3 Soldiers must be 16 years of age to carry a weapon on the battlefield. Anyone under 18 who participates must have a parent or guardian signature for liability waiver—bring permission note if parent is not attending.
- 4 All women portraying soldiers should make all possible effort to disguise their real gender and to maintain their impression whenever spectators are present.
- 5 Nurses are asked not to run onto the battlefield during the battle. Nurses may do their impressions at the hospital area, away from the battlefield.

## AUTHENTICITY

- 6 We are attempting an early war 1861 impression at Rich Mountain. Militia uniforms and period civilian clothing are encouraged. Know what your impression is and please be as accurate as possible. Be careful to avoid 20th century anachronisms such as: synthetics, zippers, Velcro, elastic suspenders, leather hats, cowboy boots, modern style eyeglasses, wristwatches, modern jewelry, etc.
- 7 Non-standard camp equipment is OK if appropriate for early war. Many troops here, especially Confederates, did not have tents and made their own shelters in the woods. Avoid dog tents if possible.
- 8 All equipment must be approved by the Army Commanders, both for safety and for authenticity. No officers above rank of Captain without advance approval. Officers should bring enough troops to support their impression.
- 9 All artillery should be pre-approved in advance for authenticity and safety. Appropriate use in scenarios will be at the sole discretion of the host commander. No mortars, please.
- 10 Due to conservative attitudes in the area, then and now, please no women in underwear (“hookers”) or men without shirts in the camps.
- 11 All participants are expected to maintain authentic standards of dress, equipment, and deportment at all times. This is especially important when spectators are present, but as a courtesy to your fellow reenactors, please stay in 19th century after hours as well.
- 12 Attitude and atmosphere are subtle things, but important to any good living history. Your behavior, habits, and conversation express as much as what you wear. Be aware of

your language and 20th century slang and topics of conversation, and be discreet about inappropriate habits like cigarette smoking. The way we act and portray our 19th century forebearers shows respect for who they were and what they died for.

## SAFETY

- 13 By signing the waiver to participate in this event, participants voluntarily agree to be subject to all legitimate orders of their unit and army commanders. By signing the waiver, you agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of this event.
- 14 No alcoholic beverages allowed at any time weapons are in use, and must be discrete elsewhere. No controlled substances of any kind are allowed. Drunkenness, rude, or offensive behavior will not be tolerated. Army Commanders and event organizers will bar violators from further participation at the event.
- 15 The discharge of firearms within the designated camp or activity area is strictly prohibited. Guns cannot be discharged within 50 feet of any tents. Surprise raids on the camps are banned. No horses are allowed in infantry camps.
- 16 Weapons cartridges will be inspected prior to the tactical battle. Please make sure your weapons are clean, safe, and fully functional. No wax, staples, tape or other hazardous cartridges will be allowed. Cartridge papers should not be put into infantry rifles at anytime. You must pass inspection to participate in the events.
- 17 All reenactors should have a working knowledge of period military drill and discipline and safety rules. All artillery crews should have all necessary safety training. If you are inexperienced, please ask your company NCO’s for assistance—they will be glad to help you.
- 18 Swords, bayonets, and ramrods should only be pulled by order of the Army Commanders. No hand-to-hand combat will take place except by prior arrangement involving ALL concerned and approved by BOTH Army Commanders and RMBF event organizers. Showboating is strongly discouraged.
- 19 The cry “MEDIC” and/or a hat raised high on a rifle or sword point are used to signal an actual emergency. A raised hat will also indicate a dangerous situation of some sort (i.e.—an artillery misfire, etc.) Such signals will **STOP ALL ACTION**: Please use these signals only in an actual emergency.

## PROTECT THE BATTLEFIELD

- 20 Please respect the historic features of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site. Do not walk on earthworks, damage or deface boulders or trees, dig or move rock piles. No horses on or near earthworks. No artifact hunting or metal detecting. Collectors are invited to volunteer to help with our on-going archeological survey.
- 21 Please build fires only in designated areas. Do not build unnecessarily high fires and do not leave fires unattended at anytime. Return sod and remove rocks from fire pits and fields when you break camp.
- 22 Please keep litter picked up and dispose of it properly. Scatter bedding hay before you leave (especially in rutted or muddy areas).