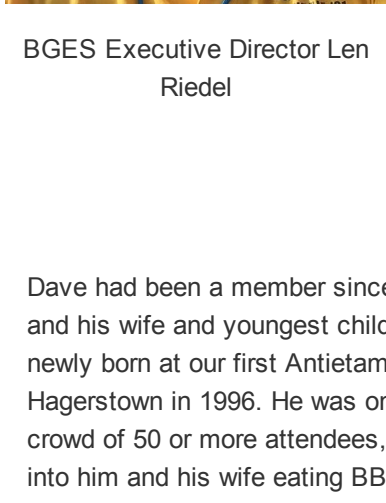




March 2021



"Silence Comes (in many colors)" by BGES member [Jeff Fioravanti](#)



BGES Executive Director Len Riedel

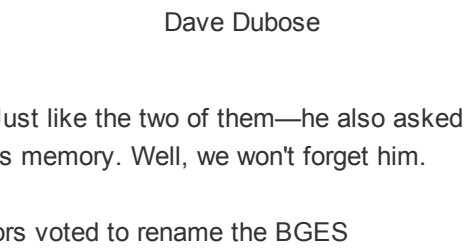
HQ Communiqué

It's March already and things are hopping here. January and February were not slow for BGES—some happiness and some sadness, but we "Endeavor to Persevere."

We lost some dear friends and supporters whom I had gotten to know over the years: Velma Crawford, Ken McGraw, Jeanette Christman, James Russell, Laurie Lowe, and, most recently, David Dubose. I got to know all through BGES—some wonderful people. But it is one whom I specifically need to focus on, because he epitomized the spirit of the BGES. That was David Dubose.

Dave had been a member since I first met him and his wife and youngest child, who was newly born at our first Antietam symposium in Hagerstown in 1996. He was one face in a crowd of 50 or more attendees, and I later ran into him and his wife eating BBQ downtown the evening after the program ended. Thus began a lifelong friendship and partnership that truly was a win-win and win. We had a new monthly giving program that had just started, the BGES QuarterGuard Program. He was the first to sign up at \$25 a month. He never stopped giving—294 consecutive months—increasing annually until he was donating \$86 a month at the time of his death. He made arrangements to continue donating after his death, and his wife

Trish just sent in the first gift after his passing. Just like the two of them—he also asked his friends to support BGES with gifts to us in his memory. Well, we won't forget him.



Dave Dubose

I am proud to announce that the Board of Directors voted to rename the BGES QuarterGuard Program Dubose's Rangers. It is an elite group—presently 5% of the organization's members are enrolled in the Ranger Battalion. Dave was the first captain of the organization, and that mantle has now passed to Captain Laurie Schiller, a member of our Board of Directors whose donations range back more than 20 years.

Dave's second win was in Education. Dave was a path setter! He may have donated monthly to BGES, but, on top of that, he never missed supporting a BGES project. His and his family's names are on cannon, interpretative signs, and other lists around the country. Whenever BGES had a fundraiser for any purpose, including capital gift gifting, debt reduction, and the sort, Dave was all in. More than 100 various other donations—all told over 400 donations in his nearly 25 years! In addition, despite challenging health issues that would have floored a lesser man, Dave served four years on the BGES Board of Directors as our Secretary/Treasurer.

Finally, Dave was completely immersed in the Civil War and history. Trish supported his passion, and Dave used BGES battlefield tours to relax and socialize. He attended more than 60 in his life, and he was second only to Char Lambert, who attended more than 80. Had Dave's health not intervened, he no doubt would have been top of that list as well. It was often during these tours that his fortitude and integrity showed forth. He had multiple cancers and beat them. Sometimes he couldn't walk with us; other times he had to abandon tours and return home. Yet never once did he ever complain about his lot in life, and the admiration from his countless friends in BGES grew. Sidelined on his birthday two years ago, over 50 BGES members reached out to him with phone calls and cards. In January 2020, 5 historians and 20 friends all came to Jacksonville at their own expense to honor him at a symposium we set up just for him. He came in his wheelchair, for now he had pulmonary fibrosis, and was on oxygen in need of a lung transplant. He could not endure the lectures and left after one night, but he joined us for a dinner in his honor. It was the last time his friends would see him.

Dave got his lung in June 2020, and we all had high hopes. But complications set in, and by the fall he was back in ICU. On February 14, Trish sent me a message that he was going on hospice care. As happens, family and friends flocked to see him and say goodbye. I asked Trish if he wanted to speak with me, and she came back and said yes. Shortly before he passed, I spoke to him and in an intensely personal and private moment he responded. Trish asked me to keep speaking to him, and so I reminisced for nearly 20 minutes until his children arrived. Dave passed shortly thereafter on February 17. I told him he had the patience of Job. Billy Joel sang a true tribute for Dave—"Only the Good Die Young." David Dubose was only 62.

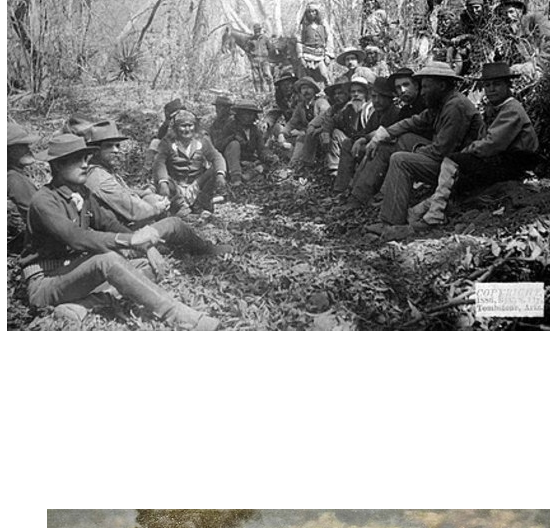
Dave will be laid to rest on April 10 in Jacksonville, Florida. BGES members and friends are welcome. I will be there for him and Trish, as they were always there for the BGES and me.

Until next month, Endeavor to Persevere.

—Len Riedel
BGES Executive Director

March Happenings: The Spring Campaign

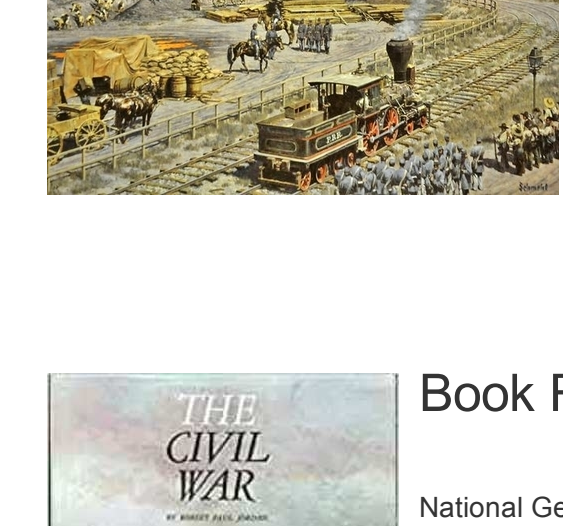
Welcome to the March 2021 issue of *Holding the Line*! This month we hear from Dave Collins and the launching of a brand-new tour that's a historic first for BGES. It's slated for June 11-13, 2021, and you won't want to miss it. We also chatted with Paul Magid, who has spent more than a decade writing about Gen. George Crook and shares some fascinating insights into this intriguing man. Executive Director Len Riedel recently read the illustrated *The Civil War* by National Geographic, a vintage book dating from the sixties. Does he think it holds up? And we visit some lesser known Civil War sites in Pennsylvania, to accompany any tour to Gettysburg. Enjoy them virtually—or start planning a trip for when it's safe to travel again. Enjoy!



Tour Talk: Civil War 101

BGES is embarking into new territory with the kickoff of its Civil War 101 series. First stop: Gettysburg—and don't forget to bring the kids and grandkids!

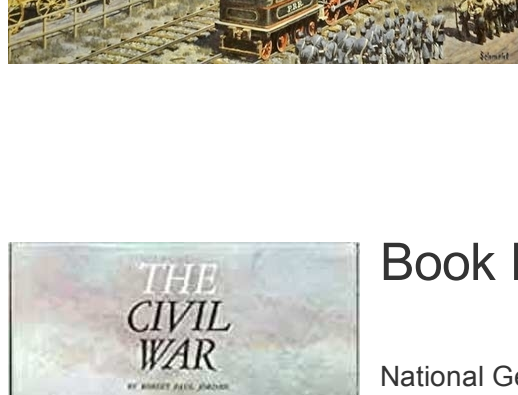
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Everything George Crook

Paul Magid has written the seminal three-volume series about Gen. George Crook. What motivated him and, after spending more than a decade to complete them, what is keeping him busy now?

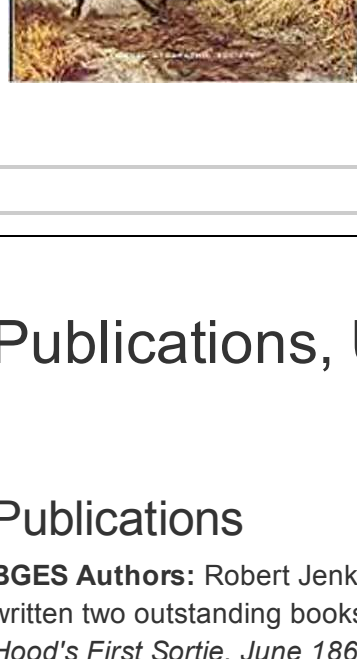
[Read More](#)



Travel Guide: The Other Pennsylvania

Gettysburg is Pennsylvania's Civil War claim-to-fame, but there are other sites to visit in this northern state.

[Read More](#)



Book Review

National Geographic published an illustrative guide to the Civil War in 1969. How does it hold up? Is it worth a read? See what Executive Director Len Riedel has to say.

[Read More](#)

Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

Publications

BGES Authors: Robert Jenkins is an expert in the Atlanta Campaign, and he has written two outstanding books on the subject: *The Battle of Peachtree Creek: Hood's First Sortie, June 1864* (2014), an excellent interpretation of the battle, and *To the Gates of Atlanta: From Kennesaw Mountain to Peachtree Creek, 1-19 July 1864* (2015), which delves into the struggles of both the Union and Confederate armies in the final months of the Atlanta Campaign. Jenkins is a regular BGES tour leader, beloved for his animated and detailed interpretation, and his knowledge and wit translates fearfully onto the written page. As one reviewer wrote about *To the Gates of Atlanta*: "I thoroughly recommend this book for the significant truth that it reveals: The Civil War was far more than a series of major battles. ... Robert Jenkins brings these men back to life for us to contemplate their stories and their sacrifice." Join him in person on April 21-23, 2021, on his upcoming BGES tour *"The Atlanta Campaign on the Weekends: The Battles of Dalton—Chapter 1 of the 1864 Georgia Campaign."*

In Camp Along the Monocacy: The "In Camp Along the Monocacy" newsletter has been temporarily suspended while Len gets the Dispatches and Video Archives settled. Look for it again by the summer. To see what you are missing, click [here](#) (and scroll down) to visit the archives of the past newsletters.

Upcoming Tours

See [latest schedule here](#).

April 8–11, 2021: "Shiloh, Bloody April" with Greg Mertz, from Pickwick Landing, Tennessee

April 21–23, 2021: "The Atlanta Campaign on the Weekends: The Battles of Dalton—Chapter 1 of the 1864 Georgia Campaign," with Robert Jenkins, from Dalton, Georgia

April 23–25, 2021: "The Atlanta Campaign on the Weekends: The Battles AROUND Resaca—Chapter 2 of the 1864 Georgia Campaign," with Robert Jenkins, from Dalton, Georgia

June 2–6, 2021: "Not Welcome Here: Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne Invades New York," with Scott Patchan, from Lake George, New York

June 11–13, 2021: "Civil War 101: Gettysburg," with Dave Collins and Len Riedel, from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

June 20–29, 2021: "Custer's Trail," with Neil Mangum, from Bismarck, North Dakota

Upcoming Zoom Presentations

Get to know the historians we have selected for our 2021 programs via lively Q&A or lecture every Wednesday at 8 p.m. Each program will be announced the day after the previous interview was conducted and will require registration to receive the sign-in credentials and the instructions.

March 10, 2021: Dennis Frye: John Brown and Stonewall Jackson Interview

March 22, 2021: Norm Dasinger/Brian Steel Wills, Forrest/Staight Interview

March 29, 2021: Darryl Smith, John Hunt Morgan Interview

Investors' Reports

Detailed reports for donors and prospective donors are available for download from our website on [Our Mission](#) page.

BGES Recruiting Station

Membership

As a member of BGES, you will be part of a community devoted to saving our Civil War. You will receive our e-newsletter, updated info on upcoming tours, and access to some of our greatest historians. [Join here](#).

Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here](#).

Dubose's Rangers

We would also like you to consider joining the [Dubose's Rangers](#) (formerly the QuarterGuard Program), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis. The program is named in honor of the late David Dubose, who passed on February 17, 2021. He donated to BGES over 400 times in his life including every month from June 1996, and he has made provisions to continue donating every month in perpetuity.

BGES Major Gift and Legacy Program

What Will You Be Remembered For? Be part of BGES's future by making an endowment or legacy gift. [Contact us](#) if you would like to make an endowment or legacy gift.

