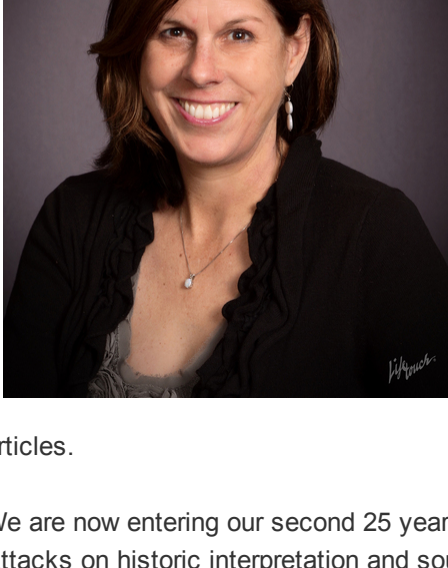




April 2019



## HQ Communiqué

I am delighted to introduce you to a new feature of your membership. Our monthly electronic newsletter will focus on the wide range of BGES activities and people that have made us successful over these past 25 years. We have enlisted Barbara Noe Kennedy as the editor. Barbara is a travel writer who has a long and documented interest in historical and travel writing. She worked as a senior editor at National Geographic Travel Publishing, overseeing the production of hundreds of books. Bright and energetic she is also the editor of the BGES Blog on our website. She reaches out directly to her wide network, presenting pithy and interesting

articles.

We are now entering our second 25 years. The world has changed over the past 25. Attacks on historic interpretation and sound-bite criticisms of historical figures are as corrosive as building modern structures on Hallowed Ground. BGES is the only National Civil War education group in the country. This newsletter is the official kickoff of our effort to grow the group and expand our influence. You can help by sharing this with your friends. It is the core of our sustainability.

Thanks for your support.

Len Riedel, Executive Director, BGES

## April Happenings: The Spring Campaign

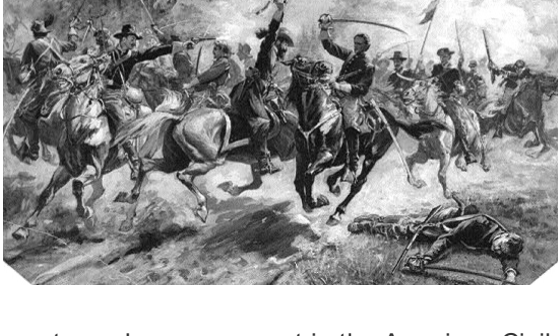
Welcome to the April issue of Holding the Line! April 25 marks the 25th anniversary of Blue and Gray Education Society! In this issue you'll read about an upcoming tour at Brandy Station that promises to be riveting; BGES' work to continue the restoration of one of the nation's most famous courtrooms; and the massive project that one historian has taken on to digitalize every single record related to our 16th president's presidency. You'll also get to know two of our members who are making a difference, Jeff Fioravanti and Col Ben Buckley; and hear what's going on with our Wounded Warriors program, now in its 13th year.



## A Society-wide Celebration of BGES

In honor of BGES' 25th anniversary this month, members have been sharing some of their favorite memories, which will be published several times a week between April 1

and April 25. Be sure to check the [BGES blog](#) often!



## BGES Field University: Stuart is Surprised at Brandy Station

A surprise attack at dawn on June 9, 1863, on J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry at Brandy Station, Virginia, resulted in the

largest cavalry engagement in the American Civil War. Join us on a riveting tactical study of the battle on May 4-5, 2019 led by Clark Bud Hall. Hall was a leading advocate in saving the battlefield. We'll follow the course of the battle over a wide-ranging area and assess the battle's enormous strategic implications not only for Gettysburg, but for the remainder of the war.

[Read More and Register](#)



## Saving Our Civil War: Co-Conspirators' Courtroom at Fort McNair

Eight co-conspirators in Abraham Lincoln's assassination were tried and

convicted at a third-story courtroom in Fort Lesley J. McNair's Grant Hall, in Washington, D.C. BGES is in the process of continuing the restoration of this infamous piece of history. We caught up with BGES member Ben Buckley, one of the project's key players for an update.

[Read More](#)



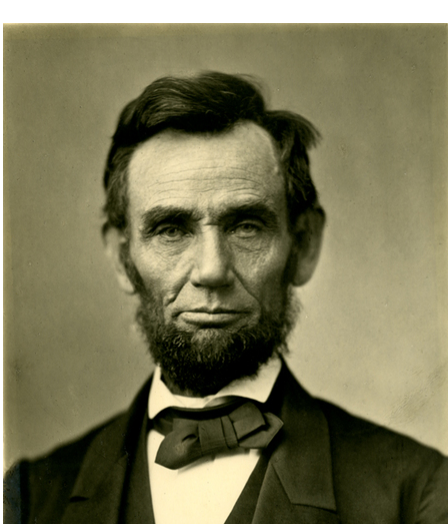
## To Care for Those Who Have Borne the Battle

Executive Director Len Riedel kicked off the BGES' 13th season of Wounded Warrior tours for wounded military members and their families with an April 14 trip to Chancellorsville. Accompanied by founding BGES member Vinny DiMattina (BGES member #10, since 1994), the group did a whirlwind summary of this important campaign, noteworthy for the mortal wounding of Stonewall Jackson. The day-

long tour was the first of 10 in 2019.

The tours continue to achieve their primary purpose of providing mentorship and therapeutic outing that helps transition warriors back into American mainstream life. While no one in BGES is paid for these trips, necessary expenses are covered by BGES member donations. You can contribute by [clicking here](#).

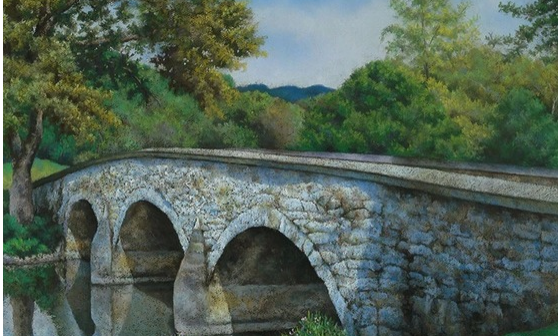
[Read More](#)



## Revealing Our Past for Our Future: The Lincoln Archives Digital Project

Historian Karen Needles has undertaken quite the task. Since 2002 she has been digitalizing all records created during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. We caught up with Karen to get a first-hand look at this enormous endeavor.

[Read More](#)



## BGES Members Making a Difference

**Jeff Fioravanti**, a Quartermaster member of the BGES, is a talented landscape artist whose evocative images have brought the natural beauty of the battlefields to living rooms across the country. His painting, Skirmish Line is our header image. He has finished a new work featuring

Burnside's Bridge at Antietam. The colors are particularly spectacular, and you may find it an excellent match for your den or living room. [Click here for a better image](#).



**Col. Ben Buckley** has been a member of BGES for a number of years. While serving on the BGES Board of Directors, he squired several of our projects to successful completion. His biggest passion, however, is for the Honor Flights that bring World War II veterans to Washington for a day of sightseeing and honor as they visit the various memorials around the D.C. area. The 80-plus-year-old Buckley has done more Honor Flights than he can recall. He also is the retired commander of the 11th Pathfinders Company—a Vietnam-era combat unit.

They maintain a fraternal Facebook group and host annual reunions in the D.C. area.

## Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

### Publications

**BGES Authors:** A. Wilson Greene has published a new book on the Petersburg Campaign. It's available from Amazon here: [A Campaign of Giants -- The Battle for Petersburg](#).

**Tour:** May 30 - June 2, 2019: [A Military Perspective of the Gettysburg Campaign](#).

**Tour:** June 11-16, 2019: [Death in Montana: The Last Stand of George Armstrong Custer](#)

### In Camp Along The Monocacy

Our members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift is published every several months and distributed to all members. It contains detailed stories and information. Download prior issues, in PDF format from [our website here](#).

### Upcoming Tours

**Tour:** May 4-5, 2019: [A Great Clash of Sabers: Stuart is Surprised at Brandy Station](#)

**Tour:** May 30 - June 2, 2019: [A Military Perspective of the Gettysburg Campaign](#)

**Tour:** June 11-16, 2019: [Death in Montana: The Last Stand of George Armstrong Custer](#)

### Investor's Reports

Detailed reports for donors and prospective donors are available for download on 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](#).

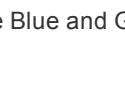
Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here](#).

### Quarter Guard Program

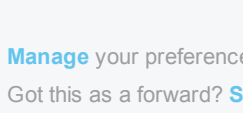
We would also like you to consider joining the [Quarter Guard Program](#), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis.

### BGES Major Gift and Legacy Program

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



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