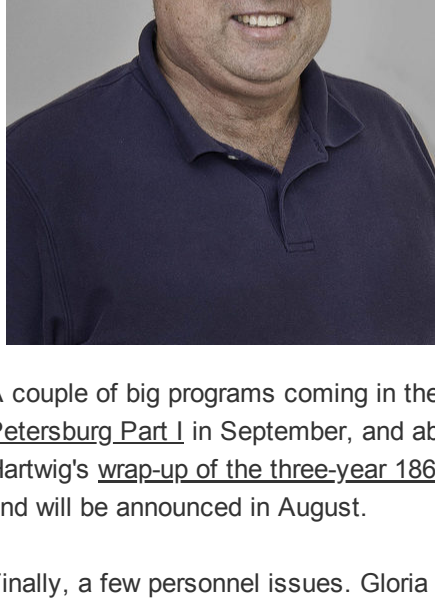




August 2019



"Our Loss at this Place was Fearful" by BGES member Jeff Fioravanti



HQ Communicué

My, what a lovely summer this has been. However, we did suffer a first in our programming: Heat forced us to cancel a weekend of activities for Monocacy and the Wounded Warriors. With projected heat indices nearing 120, we made the decision to move to a cooler part of the year with the Monocacy being rescheduled for October. Other than that, the water has been lovely, and we are soon off to the Pacific Northwest where 15 lucky clients will be doing the Nez Perce with Neil Mangum and me. Without question, the scenery is the prettiest we will have ever experienced.

A couple of big programs coming in the fall. About 20 people will be doing Wil Greene's [Petersburg Part I](#) in September, and about the same will be doing Tom Clemen's and Scott Hartwig's [wrap-up of the three-year 1862 Maryland Campaign](#). The 2020 schedule is ready and will be announced in August.

Finally, a few personnel issues. Gloria Swift has been named the BGES's Historian and is doing more historian type stuff, and my wife, Pam, retired from her 25-year professorship and is now our Membership Coordinator. Gloria is and will be focusing on historical aspects of our operation on Facebook and email. Overall, I think you will be well educated by Gloria's new role. Next month I will report on the annual board of directors' meeting, which starts on August 1 in Chatham.

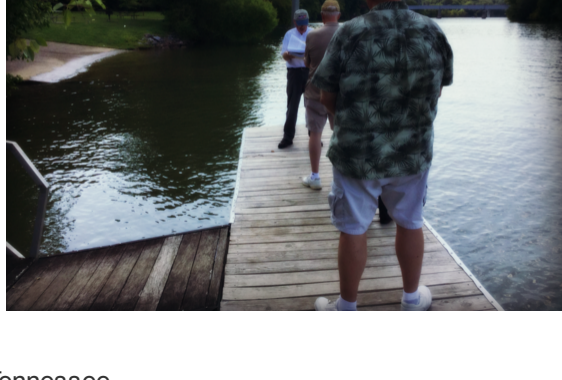
—Len Riedel, Executive Director



July Happenings: The Summer Campaign

Welcome to the August edition of *Holding the Line*! In this issue you'll read about BGES's upcoming tour that deep dives into J.E.B. Stuart's ride

behind McClellan's line that changed the tides of war; a field report on the recent tour to East Tennessee by our fearless leader, Len Riedel; and your very own plan of attack to visit the best Civil War sites of Richmond, Virginia. We also chat with BGES member Kimble Johnson, who was instrumental in establishing a Mississippi Monument at Shiloh, a significant omission for decades.



Field Report from East Tennessee, by Len Riedel

Len Riedel is the mastermind behind BGES' vast programming. This time, he takes a back seat (literally) on a recent Field University program exploring the Civil War's effects in East

Tennessee.

[Read More](#)

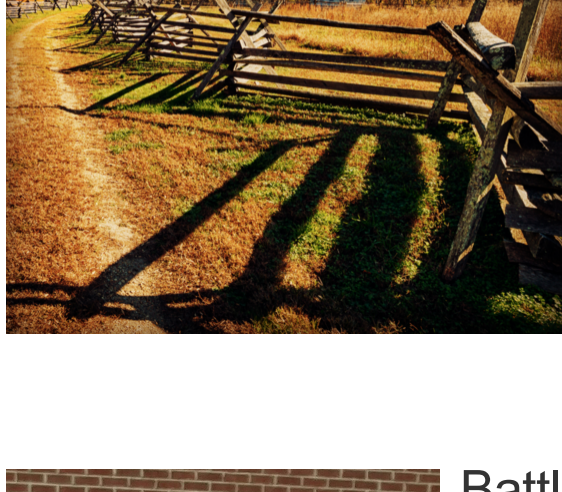


Upcoming Tours: Stuart's Ride Around McClellan

J.E.B. Stuart's covert ride behind the lines of McClellan's Federal Army of the Potomac in 1862 led to Lee's crushing of McClellan's Peninsula campaign. Led by Executive Director Len Riedel, BGES is heading there on September 29, 2019, to study this daring mission. We caught up with Len to ask a few questions about what to

expect.

[Read More](#)



Travel Guide: Richmond, Virginia

As capital of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, boasts a bounty of Civil War sites. Plan your own self-guided tour to discover this historic city on the James River.

[Read More](#)



Battle of Monocacy Redux

We weren't able to hold Gloria Swift's tour of the Monocacy battlefield this past July due to the East's dangerous heat wave, so we moved it to October 5, 2019. Don't miss your chance to experience the fascinating story of the "battle that saved Washington," surrounded by the Mid-Atlantic's gilded beauty.

[Read More](#)

BGES Members Making a Difference



For the longest time, Shiloh National Military Park had no monument dedicated to the brave Mississippians who fought in the battle, as well as to all Mississippi troops. Kimble Johnson changed all that. We chatted with Kim, a Citadel graduate and retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, to find out how he planned, fundraised, secured commission, and got the Mississippi Monument designed, sculpted, and installed at Shiloh.

[Read More](#)

In Memorium

Dr. Richard Sommers, author of *Richmond Redeemed*, recently passed away after a bout with cancer. Dick was widely regarded as one of the two most knowledgeable men on the Civil War (the other being Ed Bearss). He was a stalwart at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barrack's, Pennsylvania. A longtime BGES member, Dick will be missed. A public memorial service will be held on September 29, 2019, at 2 PM with readings from his *Richmond Redeemed*. The location, near Richmond, will be announced and all are welcome.

Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News



Publications

BGES Authors: *The Vicksburg Assaults*, edited by Stephen Woodworth and Charles Gear and published in April 2019, presents five essays that delve into Grant's failed assaults against Confederate defensive lines around Vicksburg. Parker Hills, who will be featuring the fighting on those two days during his October Vicksburg tour for us, penned two of the essays. For those of us headed out on the tour—and those who simply want to know more about why Grant had lay siege to the city—this book provides much grist for discussion and thought.

In Camp Along the Monocacy: Our members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, will be released to members only later this week. It features articles by both Gloria Swift and retired professor Paul Severance on the Lincoln conspiracies and summary justice. If you are a BGES member and you are not getting this bi-monthly electronic newsletter, email Gloria at BGESHistorian@yahoo.com and ask to be added. You can review archived copies about six months after they are released to the membership.

Upcoming Tours

August–September 2019

August 10, 2019: BGES Wounded Warrior Tour to Harpers Ferry, a private tour for American soldiers, Marines, airmen, and their families who have been wounded in combat.

August 11, 2019: [Jackson Checks Pope at Cedar Mountain](#)

August 16–24, 2019: [The Tragic Destruction of the Nez Perce](#)

September 4–8, 2019: [Washington Creates, Trains, and Fights an Elite Army](#).

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](#).

Quarter Guard Program

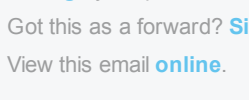
We would also like you to consider joining the [Quarter Guard Program](#), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis.

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.



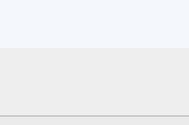
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