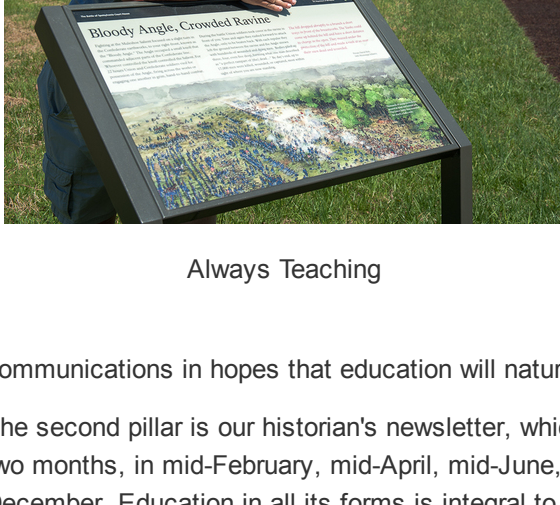




December 2019



"What Carnage! (Fredericksburg, VA) by BGES member [Jeff Fioravanti](#)



Always Teaching

HQ Communiqué

As our 2019 schedule winds down, I would like to look forward. We find ourselves fully involved in creating an international communications network anchored on four pillars. This newsletter is a front door to the vibrancy of our group in order to educate our own members about those within us and what we are doing. It is also focused upon the 2,500 email followers who receive our

communications in hopes that education will naturally lead to support and membership.

The second pillar is our historian's newsletter, which comes to our current members every two months, in mid-February, mid-April, mid-June, mid-August, mid-October, and mid-December. Education in all its forms is integral to our reason for existence. With 4 books, 20 scholarly monographs, more than 500 tours, artifact restorations, battlefield brochures, and nearly 200 interpretative markers, we are educators and you are colleagues and students.

The third pillar is educational outreach, as represented in our "Blue and Gray Dispatch." Managed by our historian, there already are some 15 contributors. We send the Dispatches on Tuesdays and Fridays. The target audience is an outlying group of organizations, Round Tables, historical societies, and key webmasters that can use these informative and interesting topics to educate their own groups in hopes they will connect with BGES in other areas.

Finally, we reach out, into, and through Social Media, primarily Facebook, to educate and promote BGES and our activities. Facebook postings are topical and often entertaining as well as informative. With more than 1,500 people following us and some 250 friends who donate through FB, this important portal helps folks learn about us.

Members will soon get an important snail mailing. Be on the lookout, and please read through it ... good stuff. Thank you all for your continued support. It is inspiring.

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

December Happenings

Welcome to the December edition of "Holding the Line!" In this issue you'll read about BGES member Sam Hood's fascinating family history, which resulted in several books about the Civil War; BGES member John Bonansinga's experiences of a recent BGES tour focusing on Antietam; and Waite Rawls, our featured member making a difference. You'll get an update on the 2020 tour registration—the first tours of the new year kick off in February. Note that we have a new kind of tour entering the retinue—tours for novices. We've also included a travel guide to the Grand Gulf–Raymond Scenic Byway, a behind-the-scenes look at Vicksburg.



On the Side of History: An Interview with BGES Member Sam Hood

Sam Hood has an interesting descendant—and he's written several books about him.

[Read More](#)



History 101

A new kind of tour hits BGES in 2020: Revolutionary War 101 and Civil War 101.

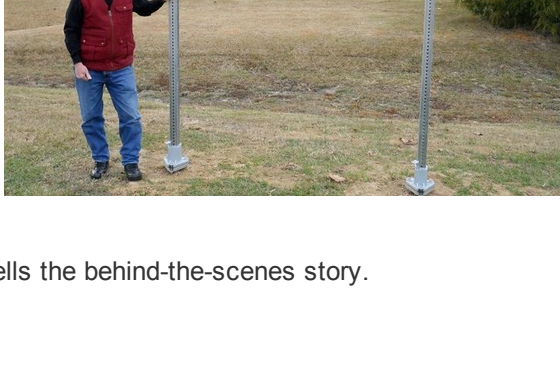
[Read More](#)



A Field Report from Antietam

John Bonansinga reports on his experience at the recent "Maryland Campaign Part 3, The Battle of Antietam."

[Read More](#)



Travel Guide: Grand Gulf-Raymond Scenic Byway

Before Grant attacked Vicksburg in 1863, he needed to transport reinforcements and supplies. The Grand Gulf–Raymond Scenic Byway

tells the behind-the-scenes story.

[Read More](#)

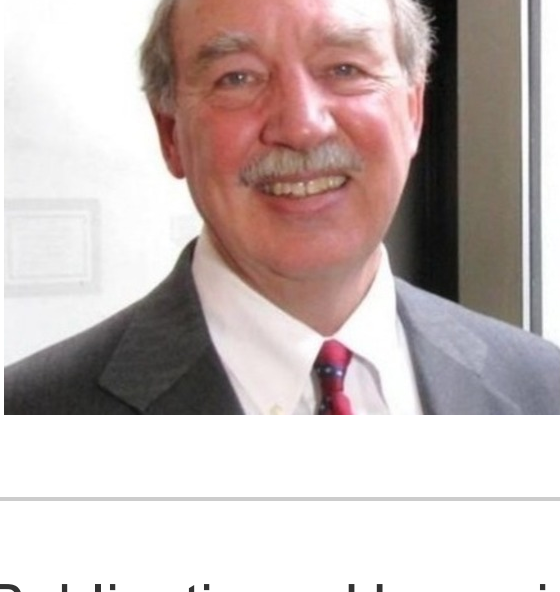


2020 Tour Update

Keep an eye out for registration forms, which we will start to post soon. The official list already has been announced, which you can check out [here](#). And remember, 2019 isn't over yet! While the fall tours are filling up rapidly, there still are seats available for some amazing tours.

[Read More](#)

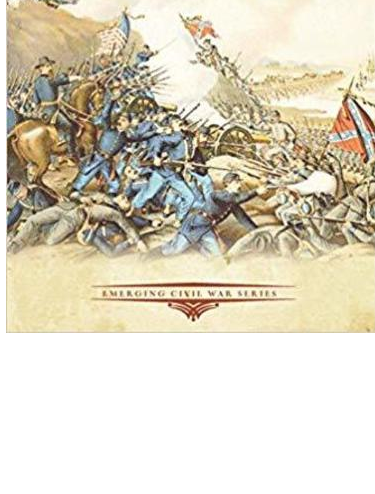
BGES Members Making a Difference



With several descendants who fought for the Confederacy, Waite Rawls always felt a connection to the Civil War. After years working as an investment banker, he realized the Civil War was calling him. And so he decided to do something about it.

[Read More](#)

Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News



Publications

BGES Authors: Historian William Lee White, who has spent much of his life as a park ranger at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, has written a star-rated book about the Battle of Franklin, "[Let Us Die Like Men: The Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864](#)." The narrative follows the events leading up to and at the battle, starting after the fall of Atlanta in September 1864. It's an important book for armchair readers interested in learning the blow-by-blow account of this terrible battle, as well as those visiting the site themselves. It's received many accolades, including *Midwest Living*, which stated it reads "with all the drama of a deftly crafted novel." Note that Lee will be leading the upcoming tour, "[Bitter Fight on the Banks of the Stones River](#)."

In Camp Along the Monocacy: Our members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, will be released online to members in mid-December. It focuses on Sea Coast fortification—the how and why they became obsolete during the Civil War. 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

December 2019

December 5-7, 2019: [Bitter Fight on the Banks of the Stones River](#)

December 8, 2019: [Terrible, Terrible Franklin](#)

[December 13-15, 2019: Civil War Charleston](#)

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

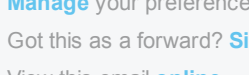
We would also like you to consider joining the [Quarter Guard Program](#), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis.

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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