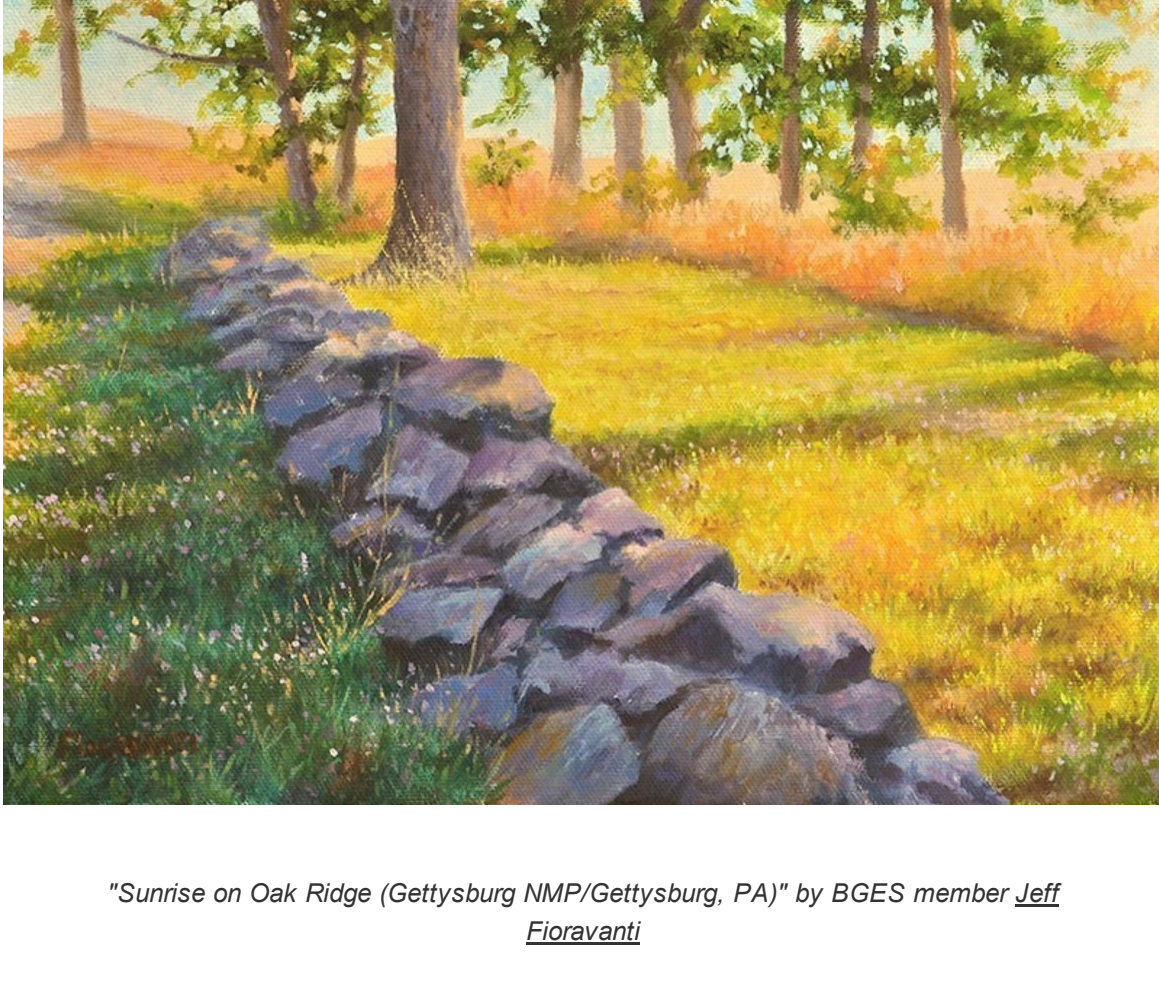




March 2020



"Sunrise on Oak Ridge (Gettysburg NMP/Gettysburg, PA)" by BGES member [Jeff Fioravanti](#)



Len at the historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, on the Texas Two Step tour

## HQ Communiqué

Greetings from England! Yes, even I take a vacation from time to time—going to see *Hamilton* in about an hour and then *Phantom of the Opera* tonight. Had a wonderful visit with my friends at the War Studies Department at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Thursday. As you might imagine, we enjoyed some robust discussions on wars past and current, including a very healthy discussion about Antietam and a recent exchange with the Virginia

Military Institute. Then we start a leadership program at Normandy on Monday, and we agreed that it might be just the thing, if combined with a few other key sites and issues, for a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience using D-Day. The ten-day program would include the travel to and from the USA—so seven or eight days on the planning and execution of D-Day with two days of participatory leadership training on Omaha and Utah Beaches. If interested, please send me an email at [bgesexecutivedirector@yahoo.com](mailto:bgesexecutivedirector@yahoo.com).

We have two tours in March, and while the first is upon us at Vicksburg, we do have spots yet available to join Wade Sokolowsky and Bert Dunkerly in North Carolina at the end of the month. Click [here](#) for details. You also will see that Bob Jenkins is starting his four-year weekend study of the Atlanta Campaign—with two programs a year, you will be richly rewarded in immersion with the series. [Part One](#) includes a trip and hike along the top—and I mean the top—of Rocky Face Ridge, where there was fighting. In May, both [Scott Hartwig](#) and [Gordon Rhea](#) are filling up about as expected—we are looking at perhaps 20 or 25 for Hartwig and 30 to 35 for Rhea. Both are not to be missed.

Membership was solid in February, and we now have over 400 (405) active members. If you are not or are in the past due category, you can [join](#) or [rejoin](#) now. Your support is not just desirable; it is essential to our future. We are seeking to add as many as 200 members this year, and that means every month must be robust. February was a little shorter, and I have been on the road for more than 20 days, but we have still added 10 more members. Not a passing fad, folks—we need to get serious and grow this organization, or watch it eventually wither and die.

March will find me completing the remainder of the registration forms even while we are sketching out 2021—already about 70% of the programs are agreed. You will get an earlier look and earlier opportunity to register for these events. I am also integrating carefully crafted mailing lists from our past revenue streams to reach out to people who have been with us or used our services, but are not currently members. We hope a fair number of them will see the benefit of what we are doing and will want to be a part.

Our Blue and Gray Dispatches have proven to be a great perk for members and a wonderful ambassador for who we are and what we do. With only 405 members, we find that a little more than 1000 people are opening each one consistently, and every one draws upward of 25 to 30 clickthroughs to our website. It is and can be correlated to our increased membership.

So as March dawns, I remain optimistic about our future. It is a path you are helping to construct. Thank you for your interest and financial commitment—it is the key!

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

## March Happenings: The Spring Campaign

Welcome to the March issues of *Holding the Line*! This month you'll read about Bob Jenkins' take on his upcoming tour in Georgia, as well as an exciting new BGES undertaking requiring your participation in helping us identify rare Civil War photos. We also offer a Civil War walking tour of the White House neighborhood in Washington, D.C., where President Abraham Lincoln ran the war. And last but not least, we pay tribute to an endearing member who has left an enduring impression on BGES through her accounting skills—and devotion to Civil War history.



## Upcoming Tours: The Battles of Dalton, with Bob Jenkins

A foremost expert on the Battles of Dalton talks about his Georgia childhood, the Great Locomotive Chase, and his upcoming BGES tour.

[Read More](#)



## The Medford Files

Do you know the who, what, when, and where of this photo? BGES is engaged in an exciting project that involves a collection of unidentified Civil War photos—and the request for your assistance in identifying them. There are prizes!

[Read More](#)



## Field Report: Texas Two Step

The year kicked off with an epic tour of Texas history. Executive Director Len Riedel was there and shares a bit about the fascinating sites—and the BBQ.

[Read More](#)

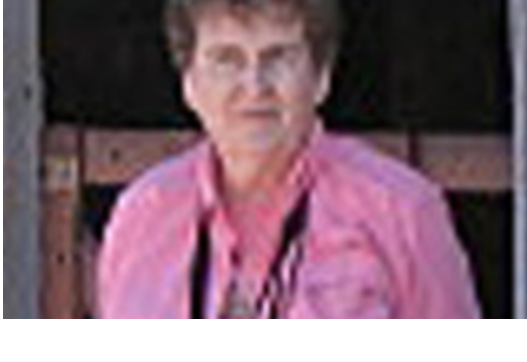


## Civil War Washington D.C. Walking Tour

Lincoln ran the war from the White House. These buildings tell the story.

[Read More](#)

## BGES Members Making a Difference



It's not often that an accountant is remembered for her outstanding commitment to a nonprofit, but that was what this woman did for BGES ... and so much more.

[Read More](#)

## Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

### Publications

**BGES Authors:** Toss [Morgan's Raid Across Ohio: The Civil War Guidebook of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail](#) into the car and head out in the footsteps of Confederate Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan's daring mission across southern Ohio. This 336-page guidebook by Lora Cahill and David Mowery has everything you need, including driving directions and photos.

**In Camp Along the Monocacy:** Look for the next members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, in mid-April. It focuses on Appomattox. If you are a BGES member and you are not getting this bi-monthly electronic newsletter, email Gloria at [BGESHistorian@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**March 2020**

March 4–8, 2020: [The Siege of Vicksburg](#)

March 25–28, 2020: [The Final Days, Sherman in North Carolina](#)

**April 2020**

April 25–26, 2020: [The Battles of Dalton—Chapter 1 of the 1864 Georgia Campaign](#)

### 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](#).

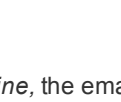
Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here](#).

### 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.



*Holding the Line*, the email newsletter of the Blue and Gray Education Society, is published monthly.  
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