



May 2019

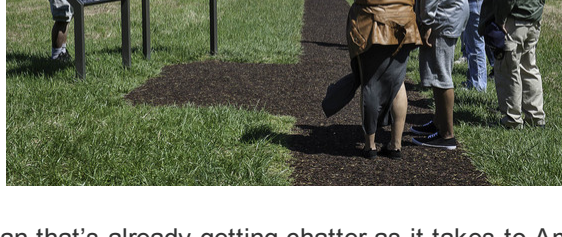


"Twilight on the Confederacy" by BGES member Jeff Fioravanti

## HQ Communiqué

Now the hard work begins: Delivering your monthly electronic newsletters on our schedule. We have no shortage of material; we just need the discipline of sending this out when it is scheduled. Barbara has just returned from an extended stay volunteering at an orphanage in Zambia, and she's ready to hit the pavement running. She has devoted many hours learning our business and working on consistent messaging. I know this newsletter and the blog she is producing at [www.blueandgrayeducation.org](http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org) will be a valued benefit of your membership. With so much going on, let me step aside and let you get to it...Barbara you are on!

Len Riedel  
Executive Director



## May Happenings: The Spring Campaign

Welcome to the May 2019 issue of *Holding the Line*! There's a lot of exciting things going on. In this issue you'll read about BGES' newest member to the family — a personalized

van that's already getting chatter as it takes to America's roads of history. We're showcasing two extraordinary tours, including a unique take on Gettysburg and a deep dive into Custer's Last Stand. You'll get an update on a restoration project instigated by BGES members during one of our tours, and celebrate one of our members who's making a difference as a Civil War historian (although he doesn't want to be called that). We also pay tribute to some great members who have passed on.

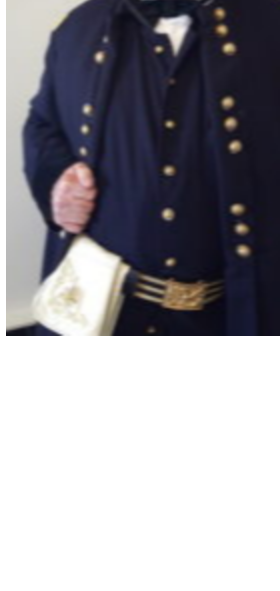


## Introducing the New BGES Van

We have great news — BGES has acquired a beautiful 2014 Ford Ecoline 15-passenger van swathed in a personalized wrapper. No doubt everyone will see us coming down the road, as we

shuttle our tour participants around! We've also discovered an added benefit to our sleek new look. Read on to learn more.

[Read More](#)



## BGES Field University: A Military Perspective of the Gettysburg Campaign

It's not often that you have the opportunity to take a staff ride with a retired colonel who also happens to be a newly retired senior leadership faculty member of National Defense University. But that's exactly what BGES is offering, when Paul Severance takes a group to Gettysburg on May 30–June 2, 2019, on the upcoming tour "[A Military Perspective of the Gettysburg Campaign](#)." Be sure to join us on this specially tailored visit guaranteed to give you a brand-new perspective on this legendary battlefield.

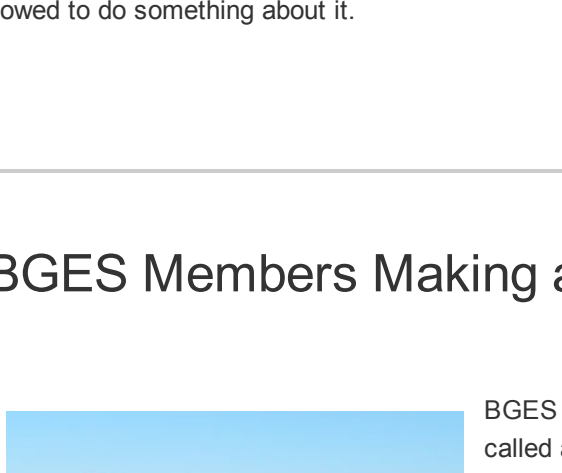
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## Mentor's Musings: Neil Mangum

The Battle of Little Bighorn remains etched in the American psyche as one of the Native Americans' most successful actions against the U.S. Army — and the melancholic end to one of history's most flamboyant characters. In advance of BGES' tour "[Death in Montana: The Last Stand of George Armstrong Custer](#)," slated for June 11–16, 2019, we caught up with tour leader Neil Mangum, one of the nation's foremost historians and an expert on frontier life, and posed a few questions.

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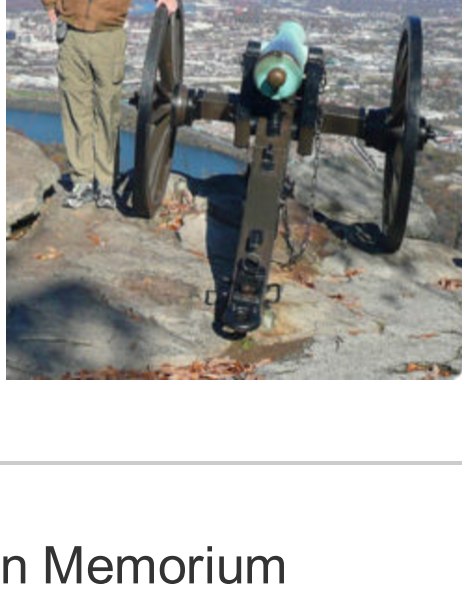


## Revealing Our Past for Our Future: The Revival of Grand Gulf's Cast Aluminum Tablets

When several BGES members on the "Grant Crosses the Mississippi" tour visited Grand Gulf State Park in February 2018, they noticed how decrepit and damaged the cast aluminum historical markers were. And they vowed to do something about it.

[Read More](#)

## BGES Members Making a Difference



BGES member Hal Jespersen doesn't like being called a historian. Given the fact that he has authored hundreds of Civil War articles, as well as worked as a Civil War cartographer and travel writer, we beg to differ. We caught up with Hal to learn more about his impressive career as a "student" of the Civil War.

[Read More](#)

## In Memorium

While life goes on, the world is a little less for the recent passing of the following BGES members, who also were great friends. May they all rest in peace.

**Gene Dennis** is one of two men responsible for funding BGES in its developmental years. A California Food Broker, he donated at a level that made it possible to continue developing BGES when revenues were inadequate to sustain operations. As Executive Director Len Riedel remembers, Gene insisted, "Never be afraid to call me." Len wasn't, and the financial support kept BGES afloat for more than three years. As member #43, Gene took a liking to us at our very first tour in Richmond (The Seven Days), and he never waned in his passion, enthusiasm, and support.

**Charleen Lambert** was an indispensable fixture in the BGES' fabric. For many years, the retired CPA attended between eight and ten BGES tours a year. She ultimately established the record for the most programs attended in our history. Charleen also earned the BGES' "Dad Award" for meritorious service by transitioning our accounting program and training employees on the use of QuickBooks online.

**Bob McKinnon** was a new member of the BGES, brought to us in 2017 by his brother Bill. Bob was a traveling man whose dignity during his final illness was inspirational. Bill had hoped Bob would join him on the 2018 Harpers Ferry program, but his health deteriorated before then and the trip could not be made. A real gentleman.

**Stewart O'Bannon III** was a member of the BGES Board of Directors, a kind soul, and a sage advisor. A practicing attorney in Florence, Alabama, he was the "whispering voice in the Executive Director's ear."

**Henry Trawick** was a driving force in the Manasota Civil War Round Table and a highly respected Florida attorney. He was the close friend of Ed Bearss, and his support of preservation and BGES was both generous and unflagging. Henry never missed a chance for something new and often would fly to a BGES tour or one or two new sites and then fly home the next day. Dependable man.

## Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

### Publications

**BGES Authors:** BGES member Paul Magid is found on BGES tours quietly keeping to himself, but hidden is the fact that he is a scholar of some note. We recently discovered his book, *George Crook: From the Redwoods to Appomattox*, in Arizona. It turns out that Paul is Crook's biographer, and the 8th Corps Commander and legendary Indian fighter has been revealed in his well-written and popular tome. A real treat and introduction to a well-known Civil War general whose place in American history will transcend generations. You can find it at most Native American war-site bookstores, or order it online [here](#).

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

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

### Investor's 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](#).

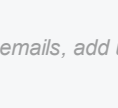
Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here](#).

### Quarter Guard Program

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

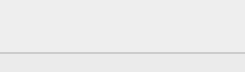
## BGES Major Gift and Legacy Program

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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