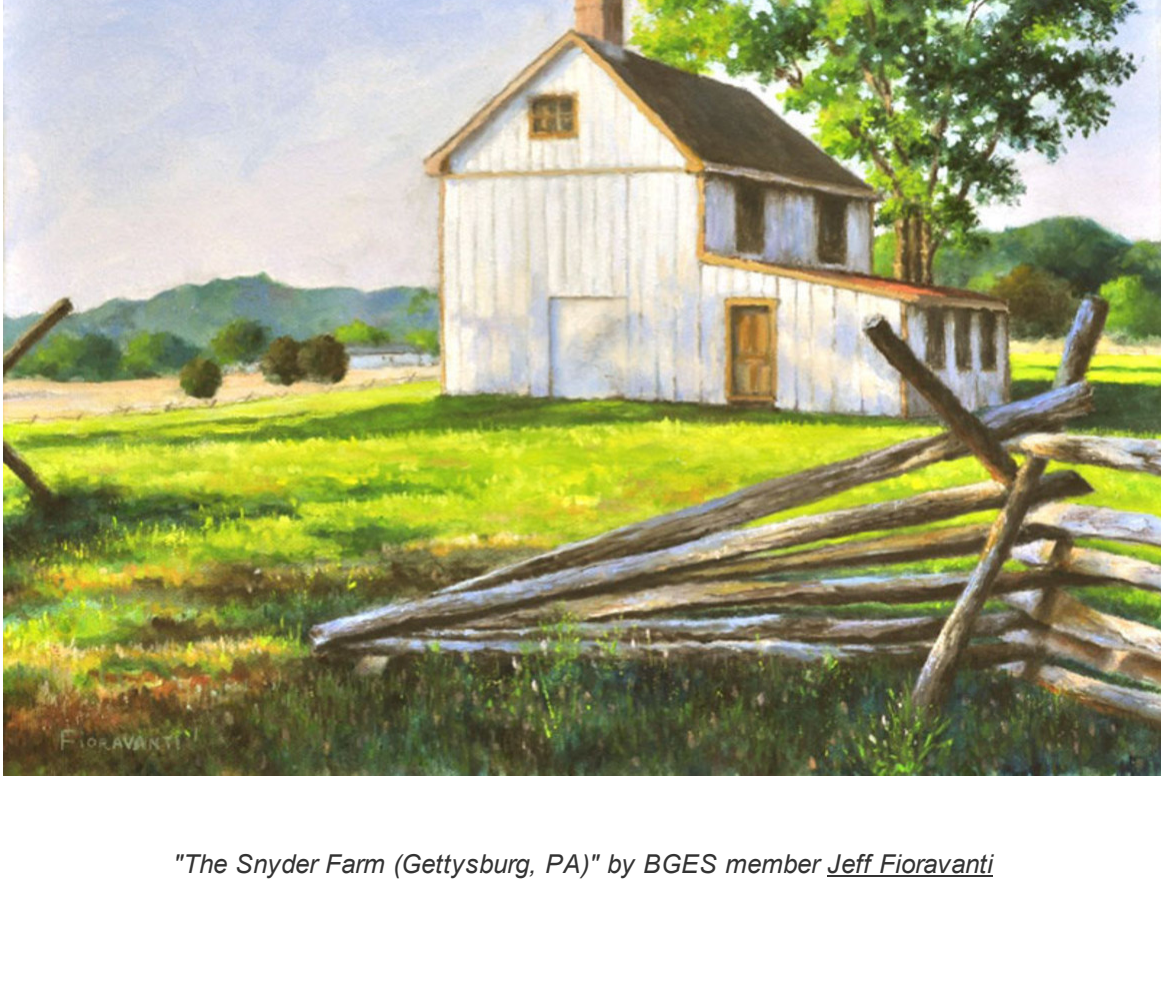
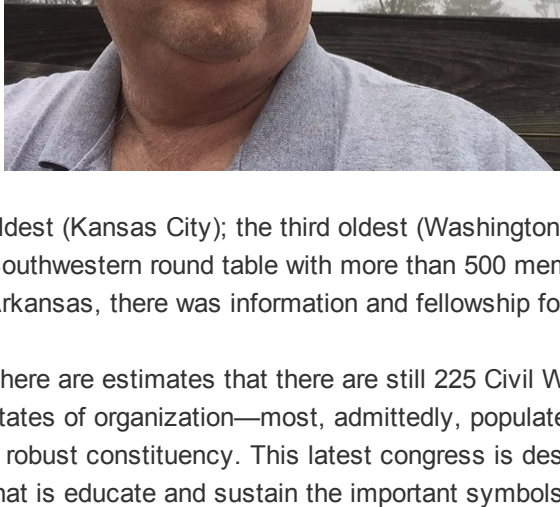




October 2019



"The Snyder Farm (Gettysburg, PA)" by BGES member [Jeff Fioravanti](#)



## HQ Communiqué

Anyone who says the Civil War is dead ain't whistling Dixie! I just returned from the resurrection of the Civil War Round Table movement. The third Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables met in St. Louis at Jefferson Barracks in the Missouri Civil War Museum. Among 40 Round Tables represented were the oldest (Chicago); the second

oldest (Kansas City); the third oldest (Washington); and the largest (Brunswick, NC). A Southwestern round table with more than 500 members and the newest from Bentonville, Arkansas, there was information and fellowship for all.

There are estimates that there are still 225 Civil War Round Tables in the USA in various states of organization—most, admittedly, populated by senior citizens, but nonetheless still a robust constituency. This latest congress is designed to do just what BGES is doing, and that is educate and sustain the important symbols, events, and lessons that have carried us and our interest for more than 75 years. If you are not a member of a round table, you should be. If you are, send us its contact information at [blueandgrayeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:blueandgrayeducation@yahoo.com). Kudos to Mike Movius, Wally Reukle, Jay Jorgenson, and John Bamberl for their efforts. This truly is what working at the grassroots level is all about.

Two other quick points of note. If you are not a member of the Missouri Civil War Museum, join them. Trust me on this. They are doing phenomenal things on less than a shoestring budget. Your membership shows that the mighty work they are doing, which we will feature in the future, will be sustained, and it should be! Finally, there is a great tour we are doing that is under the radar hood. With just four registered, "The Virginia Campaign of 1781" is grossly undersubscribed and needs and deserves better. Read the blog interview with historian and tour leader Rick Britton and then check your schedule; it is an important tour.

See you next month.

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

## October Happenings

Welcome to the October edition of Holding the Line! In this issue you'll read about Rick Britton's take on the end of the Revolutionary War (he's leading a tour in November in Charlottesville, Richmond, and Yorktown); a Field Report from Executive Director Len Riedel; and a travel guide to the amazing Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg. We also bring you interviews with esteemed author Winston Groom, the creator of Forrest Gump and a longtime BGES supporter; and Bryan Hagan, one of our many BGES members making a difference. And last but not least, you'll get an update on the 2020 tour registration. Our first 2020 tour kicks off in just a few short months, in February, and it's not too early to start planning!

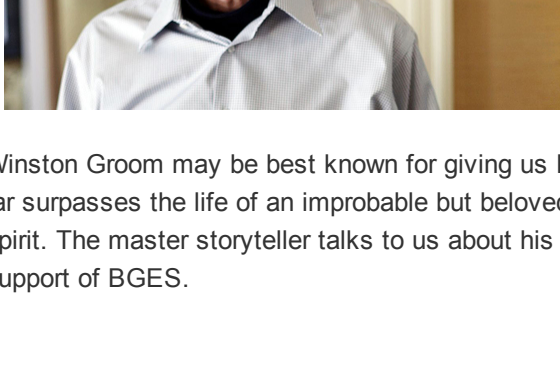


## Upcoming Tours: The Virginia Campaign of 1781, with Rick Britton

The Revolutionary War raged for seven years, finally ending on a bluff overlooking the James River at Yorktown, Virginia. Historian Rick Britton follows in the footsteps of those last days leading to the final American/French victory against the British on his upcoming BGES tour, "[The Virginia Campaign of 1781](#)," slated for November 20–24, 2019. We caught up with

Rick to ask a few questions about this important tour that expands on the tactical dance between Maj. Gen. Marquis de Lafayette and Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis.

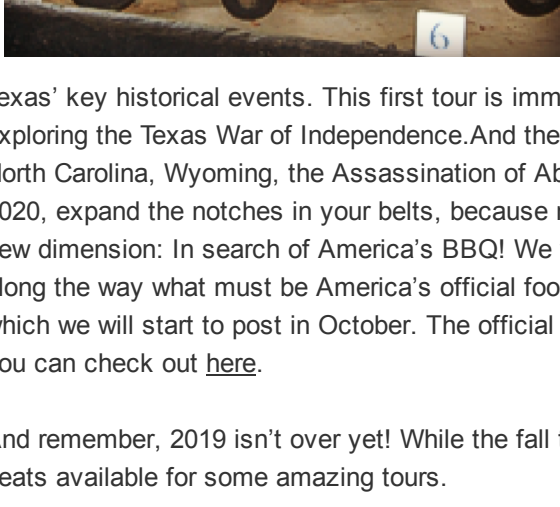
[Read More](#)



## An Interview with BGES Member and Author Winston Groom

Winston Groom may be best known for giving us Forrest Gump, but his writing repertoire far surpasses the life of an improbable but beloved character who shows the best of human spirit. The master storyteller talks to us about his writing, the Civil War, and his enduring support of BGES.

[Read More](#)



## The 2020 Tour Schedule is Announced!

Get your calendars out! The first 2020 tour kicks off in early February in Houston, Texas, exploring some of the

Texas' key historical events. This first tour is immediately followed by a tour in San Antonio exploring the Texas War of Independence. And the list goes on from there: Gettysburg, North Carolina, Wyoming, the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, etc., etc. And starting in 2020, expand the notches in your belts, because many of our tours will be incorporating a new dimension: In search of America's BBQ! We want you to cast your vote as you taste along the way what must be America's official food. Keep an eye out for registration forms, which we will start to post in October. 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](#)



## A Field Report From Petersburg

BGES Executive Director Len Riedel reports on a recent tour that focused on an often overlooked campaign in the final acts of the Civil War. If you would like to report on your experience on a recent BGES tour, and/or share your photos, please contact Len Riedel at

[bgesexecutivedirector@yahoo.com](mailto:bgesexecutivedirector@yahoo.com) or Barbara Noe Kennedy at [barbaranoeKennedy@gmail.com](mailto:barbaranoeKennedy@gmail.com). Thank you!

[Read More](#)



## Travel Guide: Pamplin Historical Park

This under-the-radar park occupies the land where unfolded the last battle of the Petersburg Campaign. Its National

Museum of the Civil War Soldier is one of the best museums around—and that's just one of the many, many sites this fascinating park has to offer. This digital guide will make sure you get the most out of your visit.

[Read More](#)

## BGES Members Making a Difference



Bryan Hagen enjoys dressing up as colorful Civil War characters. Learn more about this intriguing BGES member who has contributed so much to our organization through the years.

[Read More](#)

## Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

### Publications

**BGES Authors:** Author Winston Groom may be most famous for writing Forrest Gump, but the master storyteller also has written numerous hard-hitting books about the Civil War. Among them, his book *[Shiloh, 1862](#)* has been lauded for its gripping storytelling of the Battle of Shiloh, which took place April 6 and 7, 1862. Lawrence Lee Hewitt of Civil WarTimes called it "fast-paced" and a "rewarding reading throughout," a book "so readable that it is a superb gift for any enthusiast of American, military or Civil War history." It's a great book to pick up and read, whether or not you're headed to Shiloh.

**In Camp Along the Monocacy:** Our members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, will be released to members in mid-October. It focuses on elements of the 1862 Maryland Campaign that will be highlighted in BGES tours this month. 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

#### October 2019

October 5, 2019: [The Brilliant Little Battle of Monocacy](#)

October 6, 2019: [Following the Road to Special Order #191](#)

October 16-20, 2019: [Initial Attempts to Take Vicksburg: Part 6 of Our Signature Vicksburg Campaign Stud](#)

October 25-27, 2019: [The Maryland Campaign Part 3: The Battle of Antietam](#)

#### November 2019

November 6-11, 2019: [Trouble on the Southern Frontier: Apaches, Gold, and the Old West](#)

November 13-17, 2019: [The Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga](#)

November 20-24, 2019: [The Virginia Campaign of 1781](#)

### 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](#).

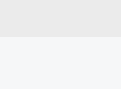
Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here](#).

#### Quarter Guard Program

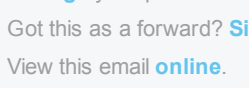
We would also like you to consider joining the [Quarter Guard Program](#), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis.

#### 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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