

IN CAMP ALONG THE MONOCACY



Blue and Gray Education Society Field Headquarters in Frederick Maryland

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Editor: Gloria Swift

From the Desk of the Executive Director at HQ in Chatham Virginia:

General Orders Number 1



When I hired Gloria Swift to be our Membership Coordinator, I charged her with focusing on the identity of the organization so that we remained unique and noteworthy. I am proud to announce the first of her initiatives—Promotion within the BGES Army.

For those of you who have been with us a while you know that you are enrolled either as a Volunteer or a Leadership Corps Member. The designation of 2nd Volunteer Regiment, Company B roughly correlated to your membership number—the second Regiment being the second group of 1000 members and the Company being your place in the group--Company B was member number 1200-1299, Company D: 1400 to 1499. When you were asked to renew, a personal letter acknowledged your last membership gift and asked for a specific amount as an increase. This successfully advanced more than 80% of renewing members into the “Leadership Corps” which was a gift of \$100 or more. Giving categories moved you into designated organizational levels such as the Company or Brigade. Gloria understands the purpose but has adopted a less intrusive but still effective means of pushing the ball forward.

You certainly understand the role of a non profit donor based organization is to help the donors reach a level of participation that satisfies their sense of commitment to our mission of *Revealing Our Past for Our Future*. For each person that level is both personal and unique. For 23 years I have been asking for a specific amount—typically I get one of four responses—you increase your donation to the level requested, you give the same amount as the previous year, you decrease your donation or you do not donate. Gloria believes that rather than ask for a specific amount we should recognize that the decision has and always does rest with you.

BGES is a unique and proven organization founded in 1994. Our membership is both loyal and generous. BGES revenues balance a robust annual donor program, which is our recurring membership, with field projects that are our enduring public mark of educational and preservation support (The revelation of the past for our future). Regardless of the type of project be it interpretation at Perryville, flag restoration at Ford's Theater, a guide book with National Geographic, a site restoration at the Raymond battlefield or “down in the weeds” examination of Civil War themes there is a niche for everyone. With limited staff overhead, it has worked for 23 years.

What Gloria will be introducing is stratification within the seven Leadership Corps categories. Most people expect promotion based on quality service and longevity. We reward our basic donor base with the designation of Veteran Volunteer after the first renewal; however, in the Leadership Corps one person may stay in the Company Level or Regimental level for their entire membership. Gloria now invites you to take a leadership role within your chosen category. You can have now rank or position or both. Like in a military organization the membership position you select correlates to the donation you chose to make—commitment is ultimately the primary criterion for advancement. For example within the Brigade block which ranges from \$351 to \$600 you can now be commissioned a Brigade level Major at \$351 or a Lt. Colonel for \$425, You can also be a Colonel for \$500 or a Brigade Commander—Brigadier General for \$600.

The process will be simple—at renewal time you will be addressed as follows “Major Riedel, we are reorganizing the Brigade for the coming campaigns and believe you can handle more responsibility. Will you accept promotion to the rank of Lt. Colonel for the coming year?

Please indicate your willingness to accept this new commission by returning your tender by May 31st. I look forward to your answer.” You would then return the request with your donation of \$425. Of course whatever you donate will determine where you fall in the structure. In return you will receive a certificate suitable for framing that acknowledges that financial commitment.

Seeking money is a touchy issue for many folks and some are better at asking and responding than others. There are pitfalls to this new approach in that it risks vectoring people to donate only what is affiliated with categories when clearly there are many other options. This should be fun—a little trivial banter to help you realize that two things are important—***first that we appreciate and need your continued support and second that this is about you and how you value what we do and your role in it.*** Everyone has a comfort level for the organizations they support. You may prefer buying dirt, or perhaps interpretative signage—what matters is that you are engaged. As a Leadership Corps member you are already out front doing much more than the minimum. We hope the expansion of donor categories from 7 to 34 will open up the donations and allow each person to get to the level they are most comfortable at. I hope you will like this new approach.

Len Riedel
Executive Director

BGES Membership Command Structure Effective October 1, 2017

Veteran Volunteer: \$75.00
Cadet, ages 16– 21: \$50.00
Drummer: Child up to 16 years of age: \$25.00

Company Commander: Captain: \$175
Company First Lieutenant: \$150
Company Second Lieutenant: \$125
Company Sergeant: \$100-124

Regimental Commander: Colonel: \$350
Regimental Lt. Colonel: \$300
Regimental Major: \$250
Regimental Surgeon: \$200
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant: \$176

Brigade Commander: Brigadier General \$600
Brigade Colonel: \$500
Brigade Lt. Colonel: \$425
Brigade Major: \$351

Division Commander: Major General: \$1200
Division BG General: \$1000
Division Colonel: \$800
Division Lt. Colonel: \$601

Corps Commander: Major General: \$3000
Corps BG General: \$250
Corps Adjutant: \$1800
Corps Surgeon: \$1201

Army Commander: General: \$10,000
Army Lieutenant General: \$9,000
Army Inspector General: \$8,000
Army Intelligence General: \$7,000
Army Chief of Artillery: \$6,000
Army Quartermaster General: \$5,000
Army Chief of Cavalry: \$4,000
Army Chief Surgeon: \$3,000

President: \$25,000 and above
Vice-president: \$20,000
Secretary of State: \$15,000
Secretary of War: \$12,500
Senior Military Aide: \$10,001

Honorary Members: *Appointed at the discretion of the Executive Director:*
Aeronaut, Balloon Corps

A word from your membership coordinator Gloria Swift



Welcome to the our new members!

Jeffery Stauffer - Ventura, California
Paul Magid - Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts
Elizabeth Birdsall - Oak Island, North Carolina
Walter Sweeney - Reseda, California
Peter Connelly - Ringgold, Georgia
John Loftus - Ambler, Pennsylvania
Thomas Burger - Baltimore, Maryland
Homer Hodge - Fairfax, Virginia
Jerome Groniger - Mattoon, Illinois
David Bradley - Milton Keynes, UK
Barbara Porter - Rapid City, South Dakota
John Shepherd - Las Vegas, Nevada
Michael DeVerell - Williamsburg, Virginia
Edward Holshue - Ellicott City, Maryland



When it's time to renew your dues I need a favor.....

When you receive your membership renewal letters from me you'll note that I always include a self addressed membership envelope for your return convenience. You may also notice that the address on the return envelope is addressed to a BGES P.O. Box in Frederick, Maryland.

The reason? Its because I am lucky enough to work on BGES membership duties from my home here in Frederick! I keep all the membership records here and do bank deposits for membership.



The favor I need from you? *Please, please, please send your membership renewals directly to me* in Frederick, Maryland and not to the BGES headquarters in Chatham, Virginia! When sent to Virginia, there can be a disconnect of time in processing your membership - so please don't let that happen!

Please direct all membership business to me using the self addressed envelope provided, or address a new envelope to:

BGES Membership Coordinator
P.O. Box 543
Frederick, MD 21705

If you have any questions about membership, please let me know by writing to the above address, or by email: bgesmembership@yahoo.com, or by phone at 434-822-3990. Many, many thanks to all of you for assisting me!

From your membership coordinator, cont.

Save the Date!! April 6 - 8, 2018

For those of you who have received your membership letters this so far this year and noted a hint of a membership appreciation weekend this fall, we have moved that event to April 2018. It has been moved to combine our appreciation of you, our members, with the 25th Anniversary of BGES!



The event will be held in the Richmond area, and what a membership anniversary party it will be! Special history tours, walks and talks, a review of our completed battlefield projects in the area, a riverboat tour on the James, and of course a fabulous anniversary meal in a spectacular setting! So please save the date and join us! Help us celebrate YOU and 25 years of BGES!



BGES Merchandise Sale!

Starting on October 1st and running thru December 31st, BGES will offer all of its signature logo merchandise at a fantastic sale price! This will include all t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, and hats. This will be your chance to pick up some great items for yourself or perhaps for someone else for Christmas!

And speaking of sales....for its 25th Anniversary year, BGES will offer an all year sale on selected items. Special pricing will include the numbers "2" and "5"!



One final note from me as editor:

As you may have noticed, there was not a newsletter published this past spring as promised on the April 15th date. For that, I wish to sincerely apologize to all of you as it is my intention to make this a quarterly communication.

But, before you think I was goofing off, I was actually working very hard for three months this past spring with Len, our historians, and BGES members on battlefield tours from Arkansas to Tennessee to Georgia!

So, in releasing this newsletter, I promise to get back on track and get this out quarterly. Look for the next one October 15th! As always, if you'd like to contribute an article or an item of interest to share with our members, please be sure to let me know! My email is: bgesmembership@yahoo.com.

Food on the Road!



As mentioned on the previous page, BGES has been busy travelling to many different places and battlefields with our members and enjoying lots of history along the way. Of course, these trips include stops at many fine places for lunch on the road. I would like to highlight two trips here that offered not only great tours, but also special eats to mention, so here goes....

It all started in February with Parker Hills covering Van Dorn's raid in Mississippi and the various Bayou Expeditions in Mississippi and Arkansas. We had perfect weather all week - not too cool and the sun was out nice and bright. There were several nice spots for lunch during this week but the following are definitely worth your while should you find yourself in the area.

In Grenada Mississippi, check out High on the Hog BBQ. What a find! It's easy to locate as it sits on the main route through town, but don't look for any inside dining! This is a walk up order window, with picnic tables available for your eating convenience. And the food....ah, the food. Delicious



HIGH ON THE HOG	
BBQ RIBS	\$12.99
BBQ CHICKEN	\$11.99
BBQ PORK	\$10.99
BBQ SAUSAGE	\$9.99
BBQ BEANS	\$8.99
BBQ POTATOES	\$7.99
BBQ CORN	\$6.99
BBQ BREAD	\$5.99
BBQ BUTTER	\$4.99
BBQ SODA	\$3.99
BBQ SODA	\$2.99
BBQ SODA	\$1.99
BBQ SODA	\$0.99
BBQ SODA	\$0.49
BBQ SODA	\$0.29
BBQ SODA	\$0.19
BBQ SODA	\$0.09
BBQ SODA	\$0.04
BBQ SODA	\$0.02
BBQ SODA	\$0.01
BBQ SODA	\$0.00

bbq sandwiches, ribs, smoked turkey breast, baked beans, and something called "tater babies." Those I just had to try! Turned out they were extra fat french fries; crispy crunchy on the outside and hot and fluffy on the inside. Everything was homemade, the staff was super nice and service was quick! Prices were right too - most of us had the plate specials that came with a choice of two sides that started at \$7.25. Can't beat that with a stick!

A second place on this trip stands out as one of the most fun: LJ's Café and Bait Shop in Lake Village Arkansas. Lake Village is located along the shore of beautiful Lake Chicot which is the largest natural oxbow lake in North America. They are only open for breakfast and lunch, but trust me, you won't want dinner after eating at LJ's! When we arrived, the owners were there to greet us along with a few local customers. Once we had checked out the menu and ordered, the staff told us, *"Y'all just sit and have a good conversation, it's gonna take a while to make the meal."* We truly didn't know what we were in for or how good it was going to be. Everything was homemade, cooked to order, and plentiful! If you walked away hungry, it was your own fault! One of our members, Terrel Roberts, ordered a house special, a



double burger. He was flabbergasted, as was the rest of us, when his burger arrived, for on his plate there appeared to be a full pound of hamburger - each patty, hand formed, had to weigh 1/2 pound each!! Mind you, there had been no descriptions on the menu other than the standard wording, "double burger with fries" or "single burger with cheese". I'm not sure, but I don't think Terrell ate for the next three days of the trip and we are all still talking about that burger!



In March, BGES joined NPS historian Jim Ogden for a trip to Shiloh National Battlefield. The weather was not so cooperative for most of this trip; it rained buckets at times, but that's okay, we kept our chin up! Nothing stops BGES members on a battlefield!

Just before the skies opened one day right at lunch, we ducked into a fairly new place off the battlefield called Corner BBQ and More. Warm atmosphere, warm hospitality, and great food. The menu is quite large with some interesting creations available from the kitchen. After we ordered, our waitress brought us all a sample of the house white bean soup to warm up with - it was just like you'd make at home! Shortly afterwards, our entrees came. I had ordered something called a red neck taco. A



fat tortilla, barbeque, cheese and coleslaw - YUM! But like Terrel's burger on the previous trip, way too much to eat. We enjoyed this place so much, we ate here twice during the trip. The next time you're at Shiloh, stop by, you'll like it too!



One other food related item to mention during our stay although this is not a recommendation, but rather an observation. Our lodging for the Shiloh trip was at the Quality Inn in the small town of Savannah, TN, the catfish capital of the world. Breakfast was provided each morning, but one of our members, Nancy Crago, happened to look outside and see a special delivery arriving. She quickly took a picture of the Krispy Kreme truck as evidence, and we all quickly deduced that the delivery had to have been for our own Len Riedel!



Membership Highlight



If you've been on an BGES educational trip and ever noticed a tall, lanky, quiet man in the group (most likely sitting in the rear of the van), chances are you've just met David DuBose, one of our long-standing members. Dave has been a member of BGES since 1995. He is also one of our most traveled – he has been on 56 trips with BGES so far and is looking forward to many more! In addition to having served a term on the board, Dave is a generous and loyal donor to BGES, donating with the Quarter Guard program every month since 1996. And when it comes to program and project contributions, Dave has pulled out the check book more than 300 times!

His first trip with BGES was to Antietam in 1996 with his wife Patricia and his then six-week-old son in tow. When I asked Dave about which trip might have been his favorite he said: "I can't narrow down my favorite to just one - among my favorites are Ed (Bearss) and Parker (Hills) at Vicksburg in 2003 (my first trip there) as part of Len's 140th anniversary series featuring Ed. Ed and Stephen Davis at Atlanta as part of the same series, Jim Ogden at Stones River, Steve Wise at Mobile and in the Low Country, and Parker's Red River campaign and Vicksburg series".

Dave himself was a youngster when he began to form an interest in the Civil War. On a family trip to Virginia in 1970, Dave's father made battlefield excursions to Petersburg and Appomattox. He was instantly hooked! In addition to traveling with BGES, he and his wife Patricia have visited Antietam, Gettysburg, Monocacy, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Kennesaw Mountain, Pickett's Mill, Atlanta, Stones River, Chickamauga, Shiloh, Fort Donelson, Fort Pulaski, and Chattanooga.

Not only is Dave an excellent scholar of Civil War history, but he is also a member of another unusual club. Dave is a native Floridian. Yes, a native Floridian! A very rare species indeed! Dave has lived in Jacksonville Florida his entire life except when attending college in Gainesville at the University of Florida. He received both his undergraduate and masters degrees in accounting at the University of Florida and became a CPA from which he took an early retirement in 2007. Free now to pursue his life interests full time, we look forward to having Dave along on many more trips. So when you see a tall, lanky quiet man in the back of the van, say hello, you might just find its Dave DuBose!



Upcoming Weekend Warrior Tours! Register NOW at blueandgrayeducation.org

August 18-20, 2017: Crossed Sabers in Virginia: The Battles of Brandy Station and Trevilian Station, with Rick Britton from Fredericksburg, Virginia

August 25-August 27, 2017: A Treacherous Affront: The Continental Army Claws For Survival, with Len Riedel from Oaks (near Valley Forge), PA

September 8-10, 2017: Yankee Blitzkrieg, Wilson's 1865 Alabama Raid with Norm Dasinger from Birmingham, AL

September 22-24, 2017: The Maryland Campaign Part 1: Sealed With Their Lives: Defending South Mountain With Tom Clemens and Scott Hartwig from Frederick, MD

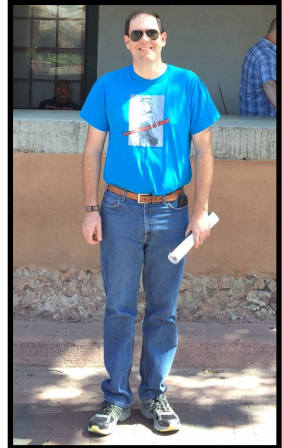
All Weekend Warrior Tours are \$330.00 per tour for members, non members \$350.00. JOIN US!

Reminiscences of traveling with BGES

By Doug Cumins

In the mid-1990's, I was attending an Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sights (APCWS) conference where I met an exhibitor, wearing a suit, standing in front of a colorful Civil War-themed display stand. He had recently retired from the Air Force and started a Civil War education group, the Blue and Gray Education Society. I joined the group and have been a member ever since (and yes, Len Riedel really wore suits to the first BGES events!)

One of the first BGES tours I attended was Gettysburg, led by Ed Bearss. I attended with my Grandfather, a history buff who had always wanted to walk Pickett's Charge. He was in poor health at the time, but succeeded in crossing the field in both directions on that hot summer day. The field was quite muddy, and we all had dirty shoes by the end of the hike. My Grandfather mentioned that he would like to be buried in those shoes, covered in Pickett's Charge mud, a request that was honored a few years later when he passed away in 2001.



On a lighter note, I attended a BGES tour of Civil War sights around Charleston, SC. One of the sights on the tour was the former location of Battery Wagner (depicted in the movie Glory, and now under water). To get as close to the Battery as possible, we had to walk along the beach for some distance. It was suggested we leave our shoes on the beach and walk barefoot. The historian guiding the tour had misread the tide charts, and the tide came in as we walked. At one point, waves were breaking near my waist, and I'm 6'3". After visiting the remains of Battery Wagner, we waded back to claim our shoes. Unfortunately, like Battery Wagner, Len's footwear had washed away. After the bus dropped us at the hotel, the barefooted Riedel went shoe shopping. All he could find in the local area was a Hip-Hop clothing store, so Len had some "interesting" looking shoes for the remainder of the trip.

My most memorable tour took place in 2007, traveling to Europe with Ed Bearss and exploring the D-Day beaches and Allied invasion all the way to the Bridge at Remagen. One day, I had been asked to stay close to Ed in case he needed anything, and to keep an eye on him in general (completely unnecessary, by the way.) Mr. Bearss was telling the group about a historic site surrounded by barbed wire. He pointed in the distance, and I looked to see what he was describing. A few seconds later, I looked back and Ed was lying on the ground. I was terrified! I was supposed to be looking out for him and he must have fallen. Suddenly, Ed made some sort of rolling, ducking motion and was on the other side of the barbed wire fence – clearly some of his Marine Corps training! It took the rest of the group several minutes to get through the barbed wire, even though it had taken Ed no time at all.

Towards the end of the tour, I was again assigned as Ed's "assistant" for the day. We were in Cologne and Ed told the group to break for lunch and meet up in an hour. I asked Ed what he wanted to eat, but he informed me we would not be having lunch that day. Instead, we would climb the 533 uneven steps to the top of the Cologne Cathedral. Ed said "I know I can do it today, but I don't know if I will be able to next time I'm here". What an amazing view! On the last day of the tour, we were driving to Frankfurt Airport. For the first time in nearly two weeks, Ed's voice disappeared from the PA system. After a few minutes of silence, Ed said "Well, I can't think of anything else to teach you about WWII, so now we'll talk about Russian Czars."

After 20 years of supporting and touring with the BGES, I still look forward to future adventures with the best small non-profit organization I know.