

# 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:



### Times are a Changing - History Doesn't

Nearly 1000 people follow the BGES on Facebook, that is more than twice our active membership. I also notice that commentary is read. After the disturbance at

Charlottesville, political theater and history mixed; history came out the loser. In places like New Orleans, Dallas, Birmingham and Charlottesville, political expediency won out over reasoned, rationale debate. On Facebook, dialogue over my commentary on Robert E. Lee received accolades and rejection with at least one or more BGES members of long standing resigning after accusing me of buying into the "Trump and Republicans" position. History and politics do not make good bedfellows.



Photo courtesy NBC news

BGES is a unique organization--indeed I submit there is not another like it in the country. We are the only national organization of any long standing devoted to the educational aspects of the Civil War. After nearly 24 full years we have much experience in the community and certainly some street credibility in the legacy aspects of the conflict.

BGES does not dispute the right of any community to determine what can and should be displayed in the public spaces it maintains. Environmentalists oppose tree cutting because of the impact of a tree's removal on the ecosystem--they just cannot be replaced in six months. Such too is the nature of the bronze and concrete monuments within communities. Contrary to current opinion many were erected not as symbols of white supremacy but rather as places of commemoration and remembrance. People from generations past considered the proposal, acquired the monument or subscribed to sculpt it and then publicly placed it, often with flourishes. It happened in both the north and south.

The key question in this debate is not if, or that, the monument was erected to honor a southern soldier who fought for a side who had as a part of its life the cursed institution of slavery. It is the question of who is being honored and why? Recently the targeting of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis was premised on their role in perpetrating slavery. When that argument was interpreted as a "rights of man" argument that drew in people such as Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Mason, the criticism pivoted to the fact that these Confederates were traitors. Yet the American people and the victorious government did not execute or try more than one person--Henry Wirtz, Commandant at Andersonville Prison. There was widespread forgiveness and generous restoration of US citizenship.

As the focus has moved to Christopher Columbus we find that there is certainly cause to believe that some protestors are merely interested in disorder rather than presenting a cogent argument for removing the honor of the monument. Vandalism is being prosecuted and politicians who embrace the argument are clearly aligned by political interests. Monuments are a key element of our heritage identity. In DC I recently saw a monument to South American hero, Simon Bolivar.

Monumentation is a key element of our collective remembrance. They were erected with considered purpose and with funds donated for the purposes of honoring the person by generations that preceded us. I was once told and believe that you must trust the voter. Removing monuments, like cutting down a tree, is an activity of some gravity. You cannot easily replace it and the sentimentality and tradition surrounding it.

New Orleans is diminished by the removal of Lee Circle. It was not a issue of racial harmony but rather a political ploy of a mayor with higher political aspirations. The emotion surrounding the decision and the lack of a victorious sentiment in the community indicates that the political class was not indeed responsive to the voting public.

Pulling down monuments is not like replacing official portraits of the President and Governor after an election. It must be a deliberate and open process in which the public purpose in removing or moving the statue is in the best interests of the community. This does require considerable research, education and public discussion to determine if the proposed removal is the best solution. Ripping away one person's identity to assuage another is not a winning proposition. Even worse it is a losing one. It is our encouragement to you that you work hard within your own communities to ensure any proposal to remove a monument from your public spaces is fully vetted and properly discussed. If the community demands it be moved after all the history is considered then it should and can be moved or removed. A politician with an agenda is not the appropriate official to lead this initiative and they bear much surveillance. We commit the process to you and your community. Good luck!



Photo courtesy The Daily Signal

Len Riedel, BGES Executive Director



## June 2017 BGES National Geographic Royalties Report:

A much more promising report than December 2016 reflecting better distribution and a settled market. Interviews with book store managers all indicate they are seeing steady sales on the guide. Battlefields seem full of visitors, so I suspect the monuments thing is more political than social; still, there will be casualties such as Dallas, Charlottesville, and New Orleans.

### Report Synopsis:

**Civil War Guide Book:** 2,357 shipped and only 80 returned: Net sales of 2,277 over 6 months--royalty was \$2,107.48. Total sales since Feb 2016 are 9,597 books sold with total royalties earned \$10,103.87.

**Receding Tide:** Still being shipped, but looks like exclusively to Gettysburg--we sold a few cases to Vicksburg. In the last period there were 81 books shipped and no returns. Royalty was \$17.44--total books sold since Feb 2010: just at 11,500. Net royalties to us: \$3,879.26. Since we had a \$15,000 advance on royalties we will never see a net royalty check on this book. We would need to be at 60,000 sales to pay off the advance

**Fields of Honor:** Continues to perform well--fielded in summer 2006 and softback in Summer 2007, we have sold 61,413--last six months it was 581 with only 37 returns. Overall about 34,500 softbacks sold and just under 27,000 hard covers. We earned \$86.48 and have received \$11,867 since inception.

Since being in the book business we have received nearly \$37,000 in royalties on 82,500 books sold--We do not get figures for **Shiloh 1862** since there was no royalties deal there but I am told the book has sold in the 30,000 plus category.

**Receding Tide** will not likely go softback until they decide to remainder the 10,000 plus copies that are printed and in the warehouse in Hanover. Once that happens RT will never sell another hard back so that is why I think they are holding off--both **Shiloh** and **Fields** are in soft cover.

This news, is encouraging but not enough to reopen the **Rev War Guide** in my eyes. That comes with a \$100,000 sponsor's tag. Absent our having taken advantage of the promotional opportunities to grow BGES with the **Civil War Guide**--another \$100,000 investment would be misdirected. I see a second edition of the **Civil War Guide** if the political climate shakes out over the next few years.

Over all a good report.

Len

## A message from your editor:



For the second time I must apologize for a newsletter being late. If any of you have had your computer crash on you however, you will perhaps be able to forgive me. The weekend before this newsletter was to be sent to you in October, I turned on the computer and got.....**NOTHING!** Of course, panic set in and I took it immediately to the computer fix-it folks. After taking a quick peek, the computer techs told me they would try to save what files and information they could, but they could give me no guarantees.

Needless to say, I was crushed and my mind was racing.....All of my uploaded programs—gone! Updated membership list—gone! Almost complete newsletter—gone! BGES trip photos—gone! Everything else digitally related to BGES—gone! Have any of you ever had this feeling? Then you know how devastating it can be!

Two weeks later I was notified I could pick up the computer. It turned out that an HP automatic update in September had created a problem causing a blank screen. So, all the computer techs had to do was to fix that, update everything, and the computer was good to go! And the best news was that I did not lose anything after all! Every single one of my programs and files were there! I practically danced a jig in the computer shop!

Needless to say this has been a long story in order to apologize, but I hope you all can understand and forgive this delay. Have I told you how important Clouds have become in my life? Not only are the real ones beautiful to look at, but the other kind can hold a lot of stuff! Like all of the stuff on my computer! I'll never be without double, or even triple, back-up again!



## BGES welcomes new members!

- ◆ Robert McCluan....Beaverdam, Virginia
- ◆ John Greene.....Frederick, Maryland
- ◆ James McVicker... Alexandria, Virginia
- ◆ Alexander Taylor.. Landing, New Jersey



## Activity of the BGES Board

In early August, the BGES board met to discuss current and future business and to elect new officers and members.

In addition to new board members, sub-committees were also created within the board to enhance operations of BGES for smooth continuation into the future.

Before we introduce you to your new board, we wish to thank Jim Davis, outgoing President, and Joe Overstreet, outgoing board member, for their exceptional service to BGES while in their official capacities. Thank you!

### Meet your new officers and board members:

President:	Gary Wilson, Owensboro KY
Vice President:	Jo Roberts, Scottsdale, AZ
Secretary/Treasurer:	Laurence Schiller, Deerfield, IL
Board Member:	Kenneth Ramsey, Powell, OH
Bill McKinnon	Atlanta, GA

### WELCOME!

The sub-committees within the board were created to assist with operations to create growth within all areas of BGES.

Gary Wilson, as president, will be responsible for contingency operations should the need arise and will be developing a plan for same.

Jo Roberts is chairing the Membership committee with the task of developing a strategy to create membership growth.

Laurence Schiller will be working closely with Executive Director Len Riedel on budget for operations of programs and employees.

Bill McKinnon is the Chair of Strategic Funding, but will also be working with the membership committee.

Ken Ramsey is the Chair of Programs committee. He will work to promote BGES programs and to assist with interpretive projects.

**If anyone has any ideas or comments that could assist the new board members in their assigned committee tasks, please let us know!**

Len Riedel: bgesexecutive director@yahoo.com 434-250-9921

OR

Gloria Swift: bgesmembership@yahoo.com 434-822-3990

## A Quick Review of New Membership Categories

I wanted to post once again the new membership categories that will be available through membership renewal requests starting in January 2018. This will give you the opportunity to review the structure at least once more before your membership renewals. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this approach to membership. With these new membership categories, you will also receive a certificate of enlistment with your renewal.

As Len noted in the last newsletter, *“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.”*

### 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 –174  
**Company Second Lieutenant:** \$125 -149  
**Company Sergeant:** \$100-124



**Regimental Commander: Colonel:** \$350  
**Regimental Lt. Colonel:** \$300-349  
**Regimental Major:** \$250-299  
**Regimental Surgeon:** \$200-249  
**Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:** \$176-199



**Brigade Commander: Brigadier General:** \$600  
**Brigade Colonel:** \$500-599  
**Brigade Lt. Colonel:** \$425-499  
**Brigade Major:** \$351-424

**Division Commander: Major General:** \$1200  
**Division BG General:** \$1000-1199  
**Division Colonel:** \$800-999  
**Division Lt. Colonel:** \$601-799



**Corps Commander: Major General:** \$3000  
**Corps BG General:** \$2500-2999  
**Corps Adjutant:** \$1800-2400  
**Corps Surgeon:** \$1201-1799



**Army Commander: General:** \$10,000  
**Army Lieutenant General:** \$9,000-9999  
**Army Inspector General:** \$8,000-8999  
**Army Intelligence General:** \$7,000-7999  
**Army Chief of Artillery:** \$6,000-6999  
**Army Quartermaster General:** \$5,000-5999  
**Army Chief of Cavalry:** \$4,000-4999  
**Army Chief Surgeon:** \$3,000-3999



**President:** \$25,000 and above  
**Vice-president:** \$20,000-24999  
**Secretary of State:** \$15,000-19999  
**Secretary of War:** \$12,500-14999  
**Senior Military Aide:** \$10,001-11999



**Honorary Members:** *Appointed at the discretion of the Executive Director:*

**Aeronaut, Balloon Corps**



## Special Sale on BGES Clothing Merchandise!

### Act FAST! Available until December 31, 2017 ONLY!

We are offering a beautiful selection of BGES branded polo shirts and fleece jackets in this very special sale. All merchandise comes with a beautifully embroidered BGES logo on the chest area and shipping is included in the price. Make sure you have yours for your next battlefield outing!

#### Port Authority® Value Fleece Jacket. F217

This exceptionally soft, midweight fleece jacket will keep you warm during everyday excursions.

- 13.8-ounce, 100% polyester
- Twill-taped neck
- Reverse coil zipper
- Chin guard
- Front zippered pockets
- Open cuffs
- Open hem with draw cord and toggles for adjustability



Iron Gray



True Royal

**Adult Sizes:** XS-6XL

**Colors:** Iron Grey or True Royal

**Price:** \$50.00 each. Two or more \$45.00 each. Includes shipping.

#### Gildan G880 Dry Blend 5.6 oz. 50/50 Jersey Polo

- 50% pre-shrunk cotton, 50% polyester
- Dry-blend fabric wicks moisture away from the body
- Welt knit collar and cuffs
- Heat transfer label
- Three-button placket
- Wood tone buttons
- Double needle stitched hem bottom

**Adult sizes:** S – 5X

**Colors available:** Carolina Blue, Royal, Dark Heather, Sport Gray

**Price:** \$30.00 each. Two or more \$25.00 each. Includes shipping.



Carolina Blue



Royal



Dark Heather



Sport Gray

#### Two easy and convenient ways to order:

For Credit Card orders, please call me, your membership coordinator, Gloria Swift, and I will take your order. My phone number is: 434-822-3990.

**OR** you can send me your check by mail to:

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

Make sure to indicate on all orders the quantity, color and size that you want.

**All orders will ship in early January.**

How the framed print of a dead rabbit led me to a Civil War  
Medal of Honor recipient  
By Gloria Swift

Recently my friend Mary and I were browsing through one of those Antique Malls that have multiple vendors. As we proceeded down one of the many aisles, I caught a glimpse of color deep in one of the stalls and moved in to get a better look. It was a framed print of three Victorian children burying their dead pet rabbit. Yes, a dead rabbit.

As I looked closer, I remarked to Mary that it was a unique print, actually rather cute given the emotion on the faces of the children. But I also added that the print had a morbid quality as well. I asked Mary to snap a picture of it for me. It was one of those things that you see, pass by, and yet can't forget. That, at least, is what happened to me, so I decided to do some digging on who may have produced such a thing.

It didn't take me long to find the name of the artist, Fitz W. Guerin. Born in New York City in 1846, Guerin left home at the age of 13 to make his way in the West. Landing in St. Louis, Missouri, Guerin first worked for the Merrill Drug Company and then Western Union. Later, he served as a private in the 1st Missouri Volunteer Light Artillery, under generals such as William T. Sherman, Nathaniel Lyon and Ulysses Grant. According to one source, and it is a good possibility, Guerin may have become interested in photography while observing the photographers that traveled with the army. In 1863, when Guerin was 17, he participated in an action at Grand Gulf, Mississippi on April 28 and 29 from which he would later receive the Medal of Honor. His medal citation reads:

*The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Fitz W. Guerin, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on April 28 & 29, 1863, while serving with Battery A, 1st Missouri Light Artillery, in action at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. With two comrades Private Guerin voluntarily took position on board the steamer Cheeseman, in charge of all the guns and ammunition of the battery, and remained in charge of the same for a considerable time while the steamer was unmanageable and subjected to a heavy fire from the enemy.* **General Orders:** Date of Issue: March 10, 1896

After the war, Guerin returned to St. Louis and apprenticed to learn photography. At the same time, he honed his skills as a draughtsman, an engraver, and a painter. By 1876 he opened his own photography shop and in 1878, he received an award for some of his work at the Paris World's Fair. With that, Guerin became an instant success and is considered one of the best photographers in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Guerin served several times President of the National Photographic Society and today, many of his works are held in the Library of Congress.

As my friend Mary said, the Civil War is everywhere—and you never know where you'll make a connection. If we had not gone to the Antique Mall, if I hadn't see the painting of three children with a dead rabbit, I would never have learned about Fitz W. Guerin. And I'm glad I do, because BGES is

planning a trip to Grand Gulf in February 2018. And when I'm there, I will be thinking about Guerin and his heroic deed, but I will also be thinking about his later work, and especially about that dead rabbit!



Fitz W. Guerin

## Wrapping Up

BGES is ending its 24th year on a good note. The number of individuals attending the Wounded Warrior programs have been up—and even a couple of the Warriors joined us on a BGES tour of South Mountain with Scott Hartwig and Tom Clemens.

BGES tours this fall has also seen an increase in attendance. The tours of Philadelphia and South Mountain sold out, and over 20 people recently joined Parker Hills on a tour of Corinth, Iuka and Davis Bridge.

Great news as we go forward into our 25th anniversary year! Good things to come!

But, we have one more trip in December 2017 to Charleston, South Carolina. Its going to be a good one! Join us as we enjoy this charming southern city with historians Rick Hatcher and Kyle Sinisi.

In addition to a leisurely walking tour of this historic city, we have the option of a dinner cruise of the Charleston Harbor and tours of the iconic sites of Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie. We will be paying a visit to the conservation lab to see the Confederate sub Hunley and the program closes with a visit to Magnolia Cemetery, the final resting place of much Charleston society as well as all three crews that served aboard the Hunley.

This weekend program begins on Friday evening December 1st and concludes late Sunday afternoon December 3rd. We have two vans already filled; in order to reserve a third van, we need at least three additional people to sign up for the program. Go to [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org) for details. Charleston! What a wonderful place to start the holiday season!

Cost of the tour for BGES members is \$425.00 and non members \$475.00. This does NOT include the cost of the hotel OR dinner cruise. Cut off date for the HQ hotel is Thursday, November 16, 2017.

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## Food for Thought!

I bet you thought I had forgotten my usual food adventure blog. Not a chance! I thought I would close this newsletter with a culinary delight that you can only seem to find nowadays in the mid south, but particularly in the Corinth Mississippi area. And, I might add, it seems to be very popular! I am talking about slugburgers!

No, no. Not burgers made from garden slugs, but beef burgers (with fillers—more about that in a moment) that used to cost just a Nickle—and remember the nickname for a Nickle? Yep. A slug.

So what exactly is a slugburger? Originating around 1917, the main ingredient was of course beef, but to get more burgers per pound, extenders such as potato flakes or flour were added to the mix. Today, soy grits are used as an extender in a slugburger. Shaped into a small flat patty, the burgers are deep fried and then served on a bun with pickles, mustard and onions.

BGES members have had multiple opportunities to try slugburgers on some of our tours. In fact, on a recent trip, we took note of a new place for slugburgers. Maybe we'll be back to try it, because who can resist a slugburger and a coke?!

