

In Camp on The Rappahannock

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Special points of interest:

- BGES in talks to interpret expanded North Anna battlefield site.
- Hurricane Gustav forces reschedule of Vicksburg 8 Tour (Port Hudson and Baton Rouge)
- Confederate Memorial Hall to reopen in Jan 2009
- Mike Green Named BGES Communications Director

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The Civil War in Apacheland: Indian Wars Tour has Distinct Civil War Component

BGES prides itself in taking its members and clients to places no one else goes. Our October Indian Wars program with Neil Mangum revealed the role of Cochise and others in the Civil War. Trips to the site of the July 15, 1862 battle of Apache Pass, the skirmish at Picacho Pass on April 15, 1862 and the battle of Val Verde on February 21, 1862 all were related to General Sibley's invasion of the New Mexico territory.

Sibley's advance had stretched the Union army and despite its failure there was a need to reinforce the region. Federal troops from California streamed east; however, it was mid July and the soldiers were marching through a desert. There was a desperate need to get water which was available at Apache Springs. Cochise determined to deny that to

the soldiers and in a sharp battle, with the Apaches holding the hills some 300 feet above the springs, the soldiers prevailed.

Prior to the fight at Apache Springs, a Confederate detachment of approximately 100 men had been stationed at Tucson. With word that Federal infantry and cavalry were en route to New Mexico a scouting company of 10 men was sent ahead to track their progress. As the Federals approached Picacho Pass, some 40 miles northwest of Tucson, a Federal company under the command of Lieutenant James Barrett prematurely attacked the scout company and lost 3 men killed including Barrett. Three of the ten Confederates were captured. The Federals did not press ahead until the Confederates left Tucson some five weeks later.



Meet Neil Mangum

The Confederates' victory at Valverde was a brief shining spot in an otherwise failed expedition. Sibley was able to occupy Santa Fe but fell back after losing his supply trains at Glorieta Pass at the end of March. The column that fought at Picacho was trying to trap Sibley before El Paso. They failed but Sibley continued his retreat all the way to San Antonio effectively ending the Confederates' presence in the New Mexico territory.

Pamplin Park Cannon Project Passes 60% Mark

BGES members continue to be generous in their support of this joint project. The cannon is in place and it is a noble addition to their educational curriculum. We still need approximately \$4,000 to finish this project. If you have already donated thank you—if you can do a little more great! If you haven't yet donated this is

the time to send your checks.

Some people have asked why PHP needs any funding support given the level of philanthropy displayed by the Pamplin family. The answer is simple—the Pamplins were facilitators willing to help build a premier educational park for future generations. A premise of that effort

was the preservation community would support the infrastructure. It is our park and if we don't use it and make it what it can be then one day it may lose its subsidies—a failed experiment. BGES believes this is the premier Civil War experience in the country and it deserves our support.

A House Divided: Lincoln's Speech Defined the Political Paradox

One of the most misunderstood of Abraham Lincoln's pronouncements was the meaning of his "House Divided" Speech in which he stated that a House Divided Against itself cannot stand and that the country could not remain half slave and half free. It would have to become either all slave or all free. Most people today believe Lincoln was predicting the Civil War; but, that wasn't the case.

Lincoln gave the speech to the Illinois Republican Convention after it had directed its delegates to nominate Lincoln for the senate seat occupied by Stephen Douglas. Douglas was exceptionally powerful and despite some recent political missteps was considered the favorite to be returned to office. Lincoln's speech was designed to frame the argument for defeating him, that was that Douglas had reopened the national dialogue on slavery by his sponsorship of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Indeed Lincoln believed that

the urgency for the Republican Party was to ensure that the public was reassured that slavery was indeed back on the road to ultimate extinction. He argued that Douglas had blurred that by his Popular Sovereignty argument. Douglas had publicly stated that he didn't care if slavery was voted up or down. Lincoln linked that attitude with an accusation that Democrats were trying to desensitize the nation into sharing Douglas' attitude. Lincoln asserted that the Dred Scott decision and President Buchanan's advocacy of the LeCompton Constitution was proof positive of this democratic intent.

Democrats immediately seized upon the statement to allege that Lincoln was advocating intervention in Southern affairs as a means of abolishing slavery within the United States. Lincoln critics then and now often err by losing the context of the pronouncement. Lincoln said then and indeed until the decision for the Emancipation Proclamation, that he had no intention nor did he believe

the constitution permitted anyone to interfere with slavery where it existed.

Lincoln's ideological consistency is remarkable. He patiently explained that his belief that the country would be either all free was based upon the patient tracking of slavery's increasingly restrictive practicality. He believed the government's policy would ultimately lead to the country becoming all free. In the early stages of the Civil War, he pursued numerous schemes that would compensate owners, free the slaves by 1900 and deport them all back to Liberia and elsewhere.

The issue of the senatorial campaign was that the Democrats led by Stephen Douglas, James Buchanan and Roger B. Taney were moving to reverse that trend and if allowed to proceed would mean the nation would eventually permit slavery everywhere. In our next newsletter, we will turn to Southern efforts to stave off abolitionist's provocations.

Be It Ever So Humble: BGES Moves into Chatham Headquarters

BGES moved into its Chatham headquarters on July 23rd. While some glitches remain most are being cleared and the property is shaping up nicely. Our first visitors were Ann and Joe Jennings from Greenville, SC. They pronounced the facility precisely what the BGES needed and left a generous donation to help with the mortgage.

BGES had outgrown its rented facility in Danville. We had no storage or work space and the staff was increasingly compressed into one small work area. Visitors to the BGES will see a period facility that is precisely the right size for our needs. Each staff member has personal work space and efficiency has been measurably improved. Temporary and permanent storage is more than adequate. Projects are being completed on time and simultaneous activities are constantly in process.

We were asked why didn't just rent

another office? We did a careful cost analysis and the argument to purchase was compelling. The same amount of office space in Danville would have cost us up to \$2000 per month with a lease agreement. We were paying about \$400 per month in our old office. The purchase saves us a tremendous amount of money. with our great credit record, it was easy to get a BGES secured loan. Our "interest only" 15 year note is indexed to the Prime rate and has decreased to just 4.5% from 5%. Our required monthly payment is less than \$300. This allows us to structure the principal reduction to meet the needs and capabilities of the BGES. This \$100,000 property has a \$75,000 mortgage that is being reduced by targeted contributions from BGES members. We expect to liquidate the note in another 30 months or less.

Aside from the business aspects

of the decision, the ambiance of this Revolutionary War era town is matched by the friendly reception we received from the leading citizens in the community—they want us there. We now have a house built in approximately 1880 that is an architectural gem of the region. It is modern enough to meet all of our needs and still provincial enough to give visitors a sense of Victorian culture. All the paints, wall paper, wood flooring and appointments are authentic.

We only have two projects left with the house—a cosmetic soffit repair and the installation of shelving for the library. A full sized bedroom can accommodate a husband and wife or single visitor to the BGES. Several nearby Victorian B&Bs can support additional visitors. We are very proud of your new HQ and look forward to greeting you there..

IRS Extends IRA Gift Opportunity

On October 3rd, 2008 the President signed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. One of the subordinate provisions in the \$150B "pork" bill was to extend portions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 which had expired on December 31, 2007. The extension allows donors who are 70 years and six months or older and who face mandatory withdrawals from their IRAs to make gifts directly to a charity and count it as part of their mandatory withdrawal amount without it being counted as taxable income to the donor.

This is a great opportunity for people who are being forced to withdraw funds that are surplus to their living expenses and are being taxed on

the distributions.

In case you were not aware of this opportunity you may find it is precisely the vehicle you have been looking for to make that special gift that you have been thinking about.

Here is how it works: for the next two tax years (2008 and 2009) an owner of a traditional or Roth IRA may instruct the IRA Trustee to distribute directly to a public charity, such as the BGES, an amount up to \$100,000 per year. To qualify for this the money must come directly from the IRA manager to the charity. If you withdraw it yourself and then donate it, you will need to report it as income—BAD DEAL! The gift must also be outright

There are some notable exceptions for specific types of retirement accounts such as employer sponsored retirement plans like Simple IRAs, 401 (k)s and 403 (b)s. State and local laws may still tax any or all of those gifts—you'd need to check with your accountant or CPA/funds manager.

BGES has some specific capital needs and this is a splendid opportunity for you to support that while keeping your hard working funds out of the hands of the tax man. If you would like to see what we might use the money for go to our website, click on Make a Donation and then click on the tab "What we'd do if we had a Million Dollars." Then give Beth or me a call!

BGES' Web Site: Opening Research Networks

Usage tracking software tells us that the new BGES web design is a popular web destination. If you haven't yet plunged in you are missing a fascinating voyage. We won't pretend to claim our web site is the leading resource of its kind around—it isn't but it could become so with your help and in time. The key discriminator in adding new links is the practical and or immediate utility of the connection. More documents are being placed on line and unique sites featuring primary source documents are particularly important.

As you work through our list you will see some sites where you can access such resources directly—in other instances you may only get to a finding aid or an index of what is contained. Sometimes you get a partially complete document which may cover a year or a specified period—we are partial towards complete files; however, if a partial file is the best we can do then we will accept it. We have a list of links that we are planning to add in the near future. We are accepting nominations for additions to our site. You can email me

your recommendations to lenriedel@blueandgrayeducation.org. You should draft a single paragraph introduction as to what the site is and why it is useful, then provide the URL so that we may examine it.

Education is a never ending process and our mission is to put resources and interested parties together. There is nothing proprietary about it. We want the public to get where they need to get as quickly as possible. If we are able to do that we will have succeeded. I look forward to hearing from you.

BGES has recently posted its schedule for 2009-2015 at www.blueandgrayeducation.org. If you are not on line and would like a copy please call us. This seven year window helps members and the public see where BGES is going and helps them make plans for their own particular study themes. A special section focuses on Sesquicentennial activities. That schedule has already been shared with state and national organizations that are responsible for such commemorations.

The 2009 schedule is enclosed and will soon be sent to you with your 2009 BGES Calendars, featuring 12 new photographs from our partners at Medford Historical Society. In the meantime please take a hard look at this schedule and work with us to fill these programs. It would be a shame to lose any of them.



Indian Scouts played a key role in pacification efforts in the west.

Multiple Wars on Multiple Fronts

No this is not an article about the current state of affairs in the United States, rather it is another manifestation of the diverse nature of governance during the Civil War. BGES' Indian Wars tours frequently overlap the Civil War and are an important part of our programming.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you have read about our Apache Indian Wars tour. Great Indian names such as Cochise were already fighting the United States government and would continue to do so during the Civil War. Indians fought on the side of the Confederacy and the Confederate government had an Indian policy that would facilitate their transcontinental ambitions. That is why Confederates were in Tucson in 1862.

Next year we will do a tour of the Southern Plains Indian Wars—there too were Civil War era encounters such as Adobe Walls in which US Army Colonel Kit Carson fought. In 1862, the Sioux Indian uprising in Minnesota forced President Lincoln to dispatch additional soldiers—many of them “Galvanized Yankees” (who were captured Confederate soldiers that enlisted in the Federal army rather than go to a prisoner of war camp). Major General John Pope was sent to command in Minnesota after he lost at Second Bull Run. The campaign was severe and important. Once the Sioux were pacified, Lincoln ordered the simultaneous execution of 32 Sioux ringleaders. He commuted the sentences of nearly 300 others.

We often forget that the infamous Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado was perpetrated by the victor at the Battle of Glorieta Pass, Colonel Chivington, and it took place during the Civil War. Gold and silver mining was important to the north and the ore helped with financing the Civil War. The BGES' Apache Indian Wars tour helped us understand that the Indian problem was serious before the outbreak of the Civil War, during the War and then was finally prosecuted to its sad end after the war.

No they are not Antietam but we think you'll learn a great deal by participating in these survey tours with Neil Mangum and Ed Bearss. The next is in May 2009. We will see you in Amarillo.

Island Mound Battlefield is Preserved

Over the past two years, BGES has been working behind the scenes to catalyze an effort to purchase and preserve 40 acres of land in western Missouri where the 1st Kansas Infantry fought in 1862. This black regiment was recruited by a local politician, Jim Lane; but, wasn't accepted into the Union army because of existing administration policies. They fought at Island Mound in the first encounter of Black soldiers in the Civil War.

That land has recently been acquired by the state of Missouri and further discussions are underway about adding some land to those 40 acres. The newly preserved site is easily accessible and contains the remains of Fort Africa—the soldier's camp site prior to the battle. BGES has representatives on the ground in Kansas and Missouri who are promoting the BGES' involvement in interpretation of the battlefield and we are awaiting further guidance before announcing our increased involvement.

A special thanks should go to Arnold Schofield, Superintendent at Mine Creek Battlefield who made us aware of this opportunity and to Tom Sweeney, former director and founder of General Sweeney's Trans-Mississippi Museum at Republic, Missouri near the Wilson's Creek battlefield. Tom represented BGES' and the preservation community's interest in preserving this land. They were both obviously very effective—huzzah! I look forward to BGES members walking the actual site soon. More to follow.

BGES Loses Friends, Civil War Community Loses Icons

I was saddened recently to learn of the deaths of two scholars who had been long time members of the BGES. John Simon was the nation's preeminent scholar on US Grant and was the driving force behind both the US Grant Association and the masterful Papers of U. S. Grant. Both are models of scholarship and fellowship. John had been with BGES since its inception and was a faithful donor to the organization. Often accompanied by his lovely wife,

Harriett he spoke at a number of BGES events—most recently at a Hilton Head Symposium several years ago.

Alan Nolan was one of our dearest and oldest friends. A nontraditional historian who earned his bread as a Harvard trained lawyer. Alan and his wife Janie were always helpful and friendly in every instance and never failed to support any request made of him. Alan earned much attention for his critical book about Robert E. Lee, *Lee Considered* which was published in the

late 1980s. But he is best known for his seminal regimental history of the Iron Brigade. Others have tried but none have done a better job of presenting this fighting Midwestern unit. We last saw Alan and Janie as faculty members for a BGES Gettysburg event in 1998. He was in a wheel chair but his mind was as sharp as ever.

We will miss these two giants. They represented all that was meaningful about the study of people and places in our Civil War.

Wounded Warrior Programs Continue to Inspire

BGES members have generously supported our program to take “Wounded Warriors” receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on one day programs to Civil War battlefields and other historical sites. Our 7th and final program of 2008 will take place on Thanksgiving weekend with Ed Bearss leading a tour of the John Wilkes Booth Escape route. There are already 14 people signed up! We will announce the 2009 Spring schedule next month.

We have institutionalized the process and are getting a better sense of the cost of each program. We typically pay half the cost of a wheelchair, handicapped accessible bus. Our share is \$750 per

rental. Lunch averages \$15 per person. Staff travel and hotel (using Priceline.com) averages \$400 per event. We also provide a popular, published book on the tour theme to each soldier. That also costs on the average \$250. A fair estimate for a program is \$1800.

The entire support for this program comes from BGES member donations. Nobody is paid and everyone who supports the program is a volunteer. Our budget for 2009 will be \$15,000. We will be asking for your support at least twice if not three times next year.

It doesn't matter what your politics are—these are American soldiers who have given their limbs and blood for our

country. If you could go on just one trip I think you would be inspired beyond words—these are fine men and women. Our regular volunteers—Twyla and Dave Jackino, Lee McDowell, Jim Grant, Becky and Jeff Cumins and Vinnie DiMattina will all attest to the fact that this is a program like no other.

After our recent Gettysburg program, which was led by BGES member and Licensed Battlefield Guide, Bob Baker, I was asked if I would be willing to speak with people at Fort Bragg about opening a similar type of program for soldiers undergoing long term care there as well. They have a somewhat different pot of money and discussions are now underway. More to follow.

The Tide is Coming In Receding Tide Progressing on Schedule

Parker Hills has completed six chapters of the manuscript for Receding Tide, which is our next project with the National Geographic Society and Ed Bearss. The 150,000 word manuscript is scheduled for delivery to the Society in January 2009. We expect to make that date. Release is scheduled for late 2009. We will provide more details when they are available.

Receding Tide is a cutting edge manuscript that ties the campaigns for Vicksburg and Gettysburg together in a manner which we haven't seen done before. It will strike a blow to those who think that the Vicksburg Campaign was insignificant in comparison to Gettysburg and will show the direct relationship between them. Frankly, we are surprised this hasn't been done

before.

The book, which is based upon primary documentation and Ed's colorful yet peerless manuscripts of his tours to these sites, is sure to be a best seller. If Fields of Honor is any measure, we hope and expect sales to far exceed the 30,000+ copies Fields of Honor has sold thus far.

Economic Challenges affecting BGES Study Programs

I don't know which was worse—the fuel cost roller coaster or the unchecked free fall of the stock market. Which ever it is—we don't like it! We lost 6 tours this year with a concurrent adverse impact on our annual budget. Seems no one was immune, other organization's registrations were down as well and a number of programs were cancelled.

We will continue to schedule a full range of educational programming; however, we will evaluate interest in

each one and as early as is practical adjust our schedule when it is clear a program will not make. We will continue to use the full range of our options to make our programs work. Vans will continue to be a part of our matrix. We will engage in an aggressive promotional campaign to broaden our pool of potential attendees. I can't guarantee that we will not have future postponements or cancellations; however, we expect those will be reduced in the coming year.



Ed Bearss in his element on the battlefield at Saratoga. He never slows down & never misses a beat!



Yes Virginia there was a battle in Arizona--BGES at Picacho Pass--first row from left, Lou, Neil and Frank Roberts, second row Jim Grant, Carl Gaffin, Len, Hank and Heidi. We missed Vicky and Jerry Spier who hosted us for a splendid party the night before. They live in Tucson and stayed home.



In case you don't know her--here is Angela. She has been on the BGES staff for over two years now. She and her husband Eddie are deeply involved with the BGES and are frequently involved as the support team for road trips.



Yet another first, the BGES at the green in St. Albans--scene of the great raid which is the subject of the enclosed monograph. Another first for Ed who hadn't done a tour there. From left, Jim Davis, Eric Heslop from England, Steve Whitman, Michael Bogdasarian and his friend Jean. Betty Williams is peaking over Jean's shoulder. We had the good fortune of visiting the St. Albans Historical Society Museum and seeing the remaining sites from the raid. It gives this monograph a new and special meaning.



BGES and our Wounded Warriors at Little Round Top. It was a beautiful day and the soldiers were really engaged in the tactics.



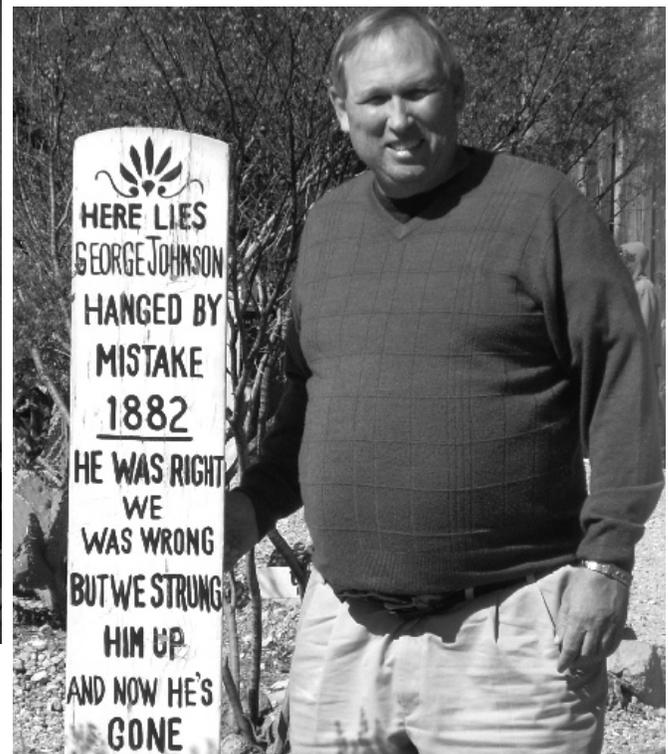
Mike Russell about to make the ascent to the top of the Bennington battlefield monument. Its interesting that the battle took place in New York but the monument is in Vermont! This was one of those battlefields Ed always wanted to take groups but never had the chance.



Dennis Eker came to us from New Mexico with his wife Pat and mom, Ella Bell! Dennis is on the ramparts at Fort Ticonderoga--a unique add on to the Bearss Rev War program when we split it into two programs last year. A really neat place.



No trip to New Mexico is complete without a trip to the Owl Cafe in San Antonio for a Green Chile Cheeseburger and adult beverages. Here from the left is Neil Mangum, Heidi Winslow, Louu Carbone and Hank Koopman. The verdict--wet, cold and oh so good!



Executive Director, Len Riedel in the cemetery at Boot Hill in Tombstone. Carl Gaffin suggested the stop and it was one of the memorable moments of the tour. Place is filled with dead folks.

THE BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER

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Thomas Jefferson would have been proud, here are some of the troops from Walter Reed Army Medical Center on our August tour to Monticello and the University of Virginia--professor and student on the great lawn.

Planned Giving—The Road to the Future

In Gone With the Wind, Ashley responds to Scarlet's desperate question about what is to become of them in the post war world by saying "Those who have strength and courage will survive, while those who do not will be winnowed out." I am certain that most all of us have been affected by the current economy in some significant way. Charles Schwab and Warren Buffet both advocate staying the course. Only time will tell.

Under such circumstances it seems strange to be talking about planned gifts to the BGES; however, this is exactly the right time to do so. In time the markets will recover. Time will march on and we will reach a point in which we need to determine how we wish to sustain those organizations that are important to us.

The Sesquicentennial of the Civil War is practically upon us and we see disturbing trends which we hope to address in due course. The lack of consensus and the absence of a national Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission does not portend well for sustained funding from the federal budget for battlefield protection, acquisition or maintenance. Non Governmental agencies like BGES will need

to step up to fill that void.

Wealth transfer is a power struggle that the federal government will win unless you take actions to ensure that your inheritance is used the way you want it to be used. Earlier you read about the window which Congress has again opened to support charitable giving. If you watch the news at all Capital Gains, Inheritance tax and the Death tax continue to make the headlines. Make no mistake the government is looking for a way to confiscate whatever wealth you may still have left.

There are certain national super funds which are long standing and are institutions in their own right. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Foundation and The Conservation Fund are so large that it is practically impossible to vector your funds to make a difference. Civil War based charities are fewer and more diffused. There are even Civil War Institutes that are now affiliated with universities. Unfortunately many of these are subject to a governing body that is neither interested in the Civil War or any of the issues that animate preservationists and Civil War buffs. Indeed some institutions such as the Louisiana State University Library have organizationally absorbed

directed funds such as those that endowed the United States Civil War Center. See what they aren't now doing--its sad.

BGES knows where it wants to go. We are systematically walking you through our goals and strategic plan. We don't intend to be winnowed out and as long as you are behind us we will continue to hit a lick. Our ability to play on a larger stage is directly influenced by the financial resources that are entrusted to us. Your willingness to help us make that move is what Planned Giving is all about. It is about being a perpetual part of our efforts.

This is clearly a personal decision. Many charities never know that a planned gift is coming until the member is deceased. The transformative nature of those gifts has endowed the CWPT (a single \$3M+ gift) and countless other organizations. If you plan to be a major hitter in the long term the time for you to act is now. Plan your estate and ensure that those groups you want to influence are named. It is your money—shouldn't you decide how it will be used?