

In Camp on The Rappahannock

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Special points of interest:

- Abebooks.com is a great on line site for used Civil War books
- BGES' Needs \$4000 to Complete Obligation to Pamplin Historical Park
- ACWRT of England to host October Seminar, Symonds and Riedel to speak
- March BGES Board to discuss Recession

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Lincoln Administration Archives: BGES Sponsors Major Digitalization Project

The BGES has undertaken a project of immense importance which will benefit untold generations. BGES member, Karen Needles is a digital archivist of note and she has undertaken a project to digitize, cross reference and make accessible the papers of the Lincoln administration. A substantial number are currently on line and the project is growing. BGES is funding the web site and its massive storage requirements along with additional software engineering to make the site even more functional for visitors and historians.

This project is one of the most important archival projects ever undertaken. It brings to light the core correspondence of the different departments such as the Treasury, War, Interior and others. Papers

of important figures such as Ambrose Burnside are also being brought on line. Researchers are able to bring up not only high resolution scans of the actual documents but in most instances the printed transcription of the document.

BGES members will be able to follow the progress of the project personally as each active member of the BGES receives an open subscription to the site. You will have passwords that will allow you to use the site as often as you wish. BGES' ongoing financial support makes this possible and I hope you will each be generous in supporting the fund that funds the site. We make a monthly payment and have worked a deal with the webmaster and his company to donate a great number of their billable



Meet BGES' Sam Hood a man with a mission on p 5

hours to the project. You will soon get an appeal to support this project—the specifics to follow. In the meantime, you will soon get a tutorial as to how to use the site and your instructions for your complimentary membership. You will be awestruck by the content already available and will want to visit it often. Without BGES members this would not be possible--thank you for your support..

North Anna Site to Grow: BGES is a Major Partner

Our first project at the North Anna battlefield continues to please and honor your efforts. The 10 signs are holding their attractive presentation and revealing the story of that portion of Lee's great missed opportunity. We will continue to work with Ashland Parks and Recreation to maintain the

site. Recently, Martin Marietta Aggregate agreed to an expansion of the battlefield park to include the positions used to launch the attacks against the Confederate's inverted V defensive works. While the paperwork is not yet complete we are in discussion with Hanover County, Ashland Parks and

Recreation and the Friends of North Anna Battlefield to expand the walking trail and put more BGES sponsored signs in the expanded park area. We hope this land transfer will take place soon and that the county and town of Ashland will get the park laid out so that we may engage in 2010. We will keep you posted.

"Europe Role in America's Civil War" Coming in 2010

One of the great issues of the Civil War was the question of European intervention on behalf of the Confederacy. There was an exceptional amount of sentiment in favor of the South in Europe and the thought of weakening the Yankees had legitimate attraction for some power brokers in Europe. Both Federal and Confederate governments invested heavily in intrigues to frustrate the opposing side's interests in Europe. In the meantime, there was some significant money to be made on the American Civil War and the English capitalized on it. The Confederate raiders Florida, Alabama and Shenandoah were all outfitted in Liverpool. Blockade runners were financed by well to do English investors who saw tremendous profits in the high risk passages.

The Lincoln administration understood that it could not fight simultaneous wars with European powers and when Confederate Commissioners James Mason and

James Slidell were taken from the British Mail Packet, **Trent** the administration backed down from the confrontation.

Both sides invested heavily in diplomatic activities and spying was rampant on both sides. The Confederates had agents in Liverpool and elsewhere. A robust set of books and diaries document the efforts.

In Europe buildings rarely are destroyed and it is possible to follow the lives of key Civil War figures during their stays in Europe. Liverpool was a thriving port which also coincidentally is the home of a group of mildly successful musicians known as the Beatles. Penny Lane and most of the related sites are still there.

We will run a program from approximately September 20-29, 2010 with plans to visit Dublin, Ireland, Liverpool, London, Portsmouth and Cherbourg. We will also enjoy a two day symposium in the vicinity of London which will introduce you

to some significant British historians and students of our Civil War. This is a once in a lifetime themed trip that you have waited for. This is a chance to visit a great country when there is a favorable exchange rate and an opportunity to tie together the concept of the Civil War as global in nature and influence.

For those of you who really want to indulge, we have set aside a block of cabins on the Queen Mary 2 for an October 1st Transatlantic Crossing from Southampton to New York. This practically new Cunard Ocean liner is the height of opulence and refined class—a 6 day pampered experience at a very favorable rate on a 5 Star resort with the option to purchase discounted one way airfare to England as part of the experience. We will do lectures each day of the cruise. Get your passports in order and call to be added to the list of interested parties. Registration forms will be available in September 2009.

BGES and Museum of the Confederacy to Partner

In a marriage of complimentary missions, the BGES and the Museum of the Confederacy will begin cooperative efforts to advance either other's missions and to provide enhanced perks of membership for their supportive members.

Members of the MOC will enjoy member's rates at BGES seminars and tours while BGES members will be permitted to register for MOC symposiums and use the museum's facilities and stores while enjoying the MOC member's discount.

This is a perk of increasing value for BGES members as the collection of the Museum is without question the largest cache of Confederate artifacts in existence. Although the museum has been hampered by the unrestricted growth of the surrounding medical campus of the Medical College of Virginia it has embarked on an

ambitious expansion program that will open satellite museums in Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Fort Monroe and Appomattox. Ground has been broken on the Appomattox site which should be open in 2011.

We will give as good as we get and although the membership of the MOC dwarfs BGES by 10 to 1, BGES plans to systematically restore several flags of importance in the MOC's vast collection. These display artifacts have awaited a sponsor and will find a permanent display in the halls of the museum or one of its various satellite museums. Specific details are to be announced later.

The MOC is already assisting the BGES in its efforts to go electronic by allowing us access to the capabilities of its membership management software. This will allow us to send bulk emails without purchasing an

expensive business package from any number of various internet service providers. BGES newsletters will reach their membership and MOC online newsletters will be sent to BGES members.

MOC and BGES programs have well earned reputations for quality and the museum has countless artifacts that come from the different sites we visit or are planning to visit. We expect the MOC will use our online presence to display those artifacts so that people may make a stronger connection with the battle and the people who fought in them. MOC members can register for BGES programs at the member's rate. This will grow our pool of potential participants which will help us financially. This partnership has been several years in the making and its time has come. More information will follow under a separate cover.

Sandhurst & West Point Scholars Featured in NY

Revolutionary War Program will Bring Cohort British and American Perspectives

Australian historian, Duncan Anderson will join forces with retired army colonel, Professor Jim Johnson at West Point in July as we study portions of the American Revolution's Saratoga Campaign specifically the assaults at Forts Clinton and Montgomery as well as the betrayal at West Point by Benedict Arnold. A staff ride to Stony Point has been removed from the schedule due to an environmental restriction by the state of New York which will not allow any visitors to the fort while bald eagles are nesting there.

Dr. Anderson, who is the Director of War Studies at the British Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, previously appeared at a BGES program

in Massachusetts to give a perspective on the American Civil War as a world war. He recently founded the new Iraqi Military Academy and is the Iraqi's advisor on military officer training. His past students at Sandhurst include both of the British Crown Princes—William and Harry and the King of Jordan. In this program he will provide the British perspective to British operations in New York and the Arnold/Andre affair. Anderson has a wonderful accent and typical British sense of humor. His wife is a professor at Oxford University in England and they live in Oxford.

Jim Johnson is the Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist Cololege which is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley

National Heritage Area. He is a highly respected Revolutionary War historian who has recently led the charge to present and preserve the Henry Knox trail from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights. In this incredible march, Knox, a bookseller, moved captured cannons to Washington's encampment surrounding Boston. The surprise move strengthened the Colonial's siege causing the British to evacuate Boston for New York. It was a major triumph for George Washington.

The electrons will be flowing with these two professional historians working together. Registration is open and the event will be memorable as we are based at the regal Thayer Hotel on post at the US Military Academy.

Scott's Mexican War Tour Postponed

Sometimes the best laid plans are set aside when forces too powerful to overcome conspire. As you know we did Zachary Taylor's northern Mexico Campaign in March of 2007. We had planned to finish the series with Ed Bearss and Neil Mangum doing Winfield Scott's Vera Cruz to Mexico City campaign in November.

The news is filled with the latest disaster for the Mexican people. First a powerful earthquake and now the Swine Flu pandemic which has citizens

wearing masks and which has yet to be sourced despite sickening over 1000 Mexicans and killing nearly 100 so far.

If that wasn't enough, the state of rebellion caused by the Mexican government's attempt to crack down on the drug cartels has made it impossible to source vendors at a competitive rate. Insurance premiums would raise the fee to unplanned and unreasonable levels that would mandate a minimum registration that would be hard to achieve in the current climate. The

economy has made multi day programs problematic since most folks are reluctant to register far in advance. With such uncertainty we cannot keep the program open and have been forced to postpone it indefinitely.

We regret having to make this decision as the program was promising and had lots of interest but few deposits at this point. Those deposits have been refunded. We will look for another chance when the climate is more receptive to reschedule this event.

BGES introduces PayPal Service

Secure On Line Feature Can Expedite Financial Transactions

BGES' website improvements continue with regularity. We are now tied into PayPal a highly respected and secure financial transactions company with a variety of payment options. Currently, new memberships can be secured, current and past due members may process their renewals at any level, books can be purchased and anyone can register for our seminars and tours at anytime. Payments can be made by any credit card, debit card or checking account. There will be immediate confirmation for the payor and BGES will receive notification of the activity. Deposits less a modest fee for PayPal will be made directly to BGES' bank account. We are pleased with this upgrade and hope you will use it.



**No one will notice if I close my eyes!
BGES Volunteer Marie Riedel at YRT**

Sesquicentennial Update

The Sesquicentennial is coming rapidly and it is obvious that any formal commemorative activities will arise from the grass roots up. Only 9 states have Sesquicentennial commissions and if what we have seen is any indication the commemoration will be filled with agencies looking for federal and state grant money to underwrite their special interest activities. There is not going to be a National Commission as there was during the Centennial.

BGES worked hard to be one of just 9 links on the National Park Service's Official Sesquicentennial of the Civil War site. We share the tag with CWPT, National Geographic, Smithsonian, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and Eastern National. You can find official US

government information about the Sesquicentennial at www.cwar.nps.gov look at About the Civil War, Civil War Links. You can also hotlink from the BGES' Resources section at our website.

The State of Virginia has an official Sesquicentennial site www.virginiacivilwar.org. From what I can tell they are one of the few states to fully organize for the event, although I am fearful that they are perhaps a bit too politically correct to make the event happen properly. Their first activity was a media success but did nothing to advance interest in local efforts in the state. Study the activities listed in the events section of the site. Despite a robust stable of great historians in the state there are precious few listed

in any official capacity. You can get further information from their web site. We had originally considered partnering with them; however, during a meeting in Richmond did not find them responsive to our needs or interested in our offer to plan and conduct a future event. We couldn't even get their permission to display at their inaugural conference and subsequently found out that they allowed handpicked units including an out of state non profit to set up there so we have walked away from a formal relationship.

Executive Director Len Riedel will have an editorial in an upcoming issue of *Civil War News*. Riedel has been invited to comment on his perspectives about the sesquicentennial. Don't miss it, it will be provocative.

"If I had a hammer...." BGES Volunteers Needed

BGES' winterizing operations for the recession have added a need for man hours to do some of our basic tasks. We have the ability to host members here at the headquarters who want to answer the phone or work on specific projects we have to accomplish such as indexing our library, light handyman work, roofing, painting and landscaping. We'd welcome you for a day or a week. Call and we can work out when you might come.

We also have real educational opportunities to help perform supervised scanning operations in the National

Archives in Washington DC. This will match you up with our Lincoln Administration Archives digitization project and team leader Karen Needles. There are scanning, transcription and other jobs available.

In Medford, Massachusetts they need inquiring minds to help catalogue, process and scan their priceless photographic collection. As they are an entirely volunteer organization they need folks with a Civil War expertise to advance this project. They are very grateful for BGES leadership. You can make a difference.

We could use people with marketing skills, communications, accounting and strategic planning skills and those who would be willing to take on support tasks supporting the Yellow Ribbon Wounded Warrior program and our other tours that may be taking place in your area. We can also use people who can do transcription work or who might make copies for us. Finally we would welcome people who might have an interest in writing newspaper articles. We can live without your help but we'd do a lot better with it. I hope you'll call.

Broadfoot Books Introduces SC Regimental Series

Fifty Volume Series seeks to do for SC Units what Virginia Regimental Series Achieved

Tom Broadfoot has been trail blazing the publication of Civil War books since 1969. His reprints have been supplemented by groundbreaking new series such as the Supplemental Official Records. Now he has initiated a new series documenting South Carolina regiments in the Civil War. The first four volumes are ready now and the

next 3 are due this summer. When done he expects to publish the books over a 10-12 year cycle. He needs 300 subscriptions to continue.

These books are important for two very big reasons. First, the unit summaries document the activities of the unit and are a great summary of the existing knowledge. Perhaps most

significant are the lengthy rosters which give a geneological perspective on the soldiers throughout their lives.

The green cloth volumes range in price from \$35 to \$45 each. Volumes on the 3rd, 13th, 14th and Hampton Legion infantry are now available. www.broadfootpublishing.com. You can call them directly 910-686-4816.

Sam Hood: A Man With A Mission

There is something in the first meeting that catches your attention--perhaps it is a faint glimpse of a relative long dead and frequently reviled, or it is the piercing eyes or the disabling country accent but Sam Hood isn't who he appears to be.

A long time member of the BGES, Sam has been making a name for himself in the Civil War community and he bears listening to. The first indication of something may be the name--Hood., yes a collateral relative of the Confederate general of the same name. Now he is a man who just wants people to take an honest look at the general warts and all.

I heard about Sam from BGES members who attended a Tennessee

Campaign program with BGES that I had to miss. They spoke about how General Hood was savaged by the historians but that on the side--this guy, Hood was speaking differently. I called him and thus began a long journey to this page.

Sam will be the first to tell you he is not a historian and yet his historical research is free of the bias that often affects more learned men. He takes primary sources at their word and for every criticism of the general he finds a concurrent supporter. The volume of the material is impressive.

The work has led to a new organization--The John Bell Hood Historical Society. The web site is informative and useful www.jbhhs.

org. Take some time and you will be informed--you may even change your mind about the General.

Sam has sponsored seminars and tours related to the general's career and has ensured a monument has been placed at his tomb in New Orleans. But Sam is also a man of action--he was a member of the BGES board of directors and was the driving force behind the acquisition of our HQ.

Recently, Sam has taken on his broad shoulders responsibility as the president of the Confederate Memorial Hall Foundation--there with timeless energy he has worked hard to help them bridge the gap in funding created by Hurricane Katrina. Sam is a good guy to know.

Bring A Friend and Save 25%

Just a reminder that we need you to bring your friends to our seminar and tour programs—it is a sure fire way to get some great fellowship, learn more than you ever knew about a battle or campaign and grow your organization during this difficult financial time.

We have offered an incentive for you to bring your friend, a 25% discount for

each of you off of the full registration fee. Thus a \$500 tour with a non member who hasn't yet been out with us will cost you each just \$375—a full \$75 less than the BGES member's rate. We would rather have a seat occupied than an empty seat. It wastes the resources we are bringing to bear on the program and denies us the revenue we need to keep these programs running

at or above our cost. We don't want to cancel programs at any time—your participation and advocacy of our programs will help those programs make. It is a win-win proposition.

Look at our "Super Value" programs in Fredericksburg, Mechanicsville, and Chancellorsville.

2010 Schedule Modified

If you are not yet aware--the BGES has published a seven year schedule that covers the Sesquicentennial and the intervening years. Each yearly program is subject to modification as we gauge interest and adjust to the availability of historians.

Some of you have looked at the schedule but need to know that both the 2010 and 2011 schedules have been modified. We hope to finalize 2010 in

the next two months and begin posting registration forms. The big changes include the dating of a program to England and a slip of the Bears Italy program from Cassino to Milan from 2010 to 2011.

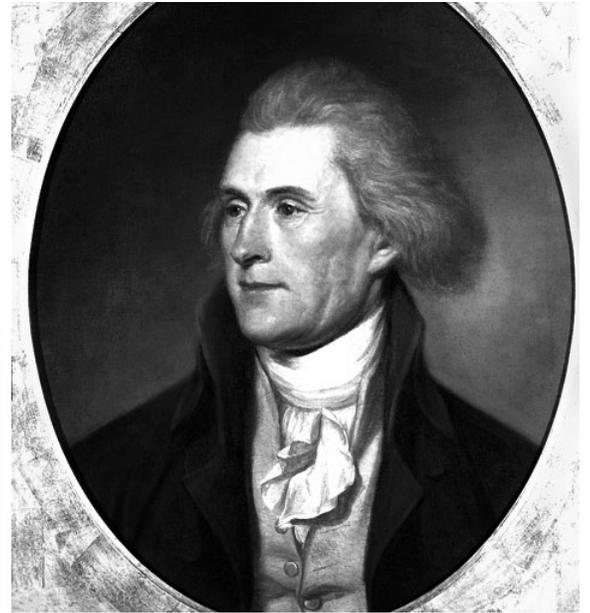
We are also adjusting programs in Charleston to fit in with our pending partnership with SCHS. We have 15 programs docketed starting in January and ending in December. This is a good time to mark your schedule.



Visit the Union line with Mike Green and Char Lambert at Union Mills with Parker in June



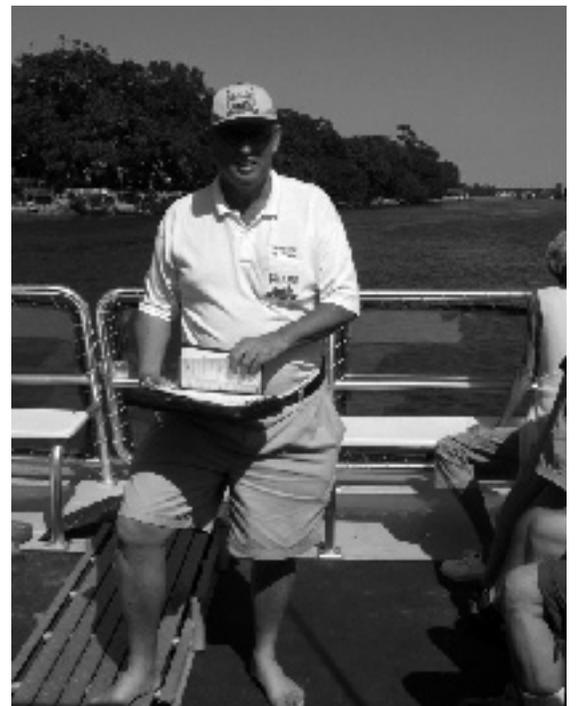
South Carolina Historical Society Building in Charleston, SC. At press time, we have agreed in principal to a partnership with reciprocal benefits for members of the BGES and the SCHS. Watch the Spring 2009 Newsletter for more information



Thomas Jefferson will host our Yellow Ribbon Wounded Warriors tour in July. BGES member Bryan Hagan is setting it up



Expect great things! While other groups make a big issue of taking you to private properties as part of their tour package, BGES members know that that is standard operating procedure. Here we are at high tide on Morris Island at Battery Wagner--we waded thigh deep surf to get there after a trip out into the ocean to follow the ship channel past the batteries just like Star of the West and the Union monitors



A barefooted Executive Director, Len Riedel on board en route to the Stono River near Charleston. He lost his shoes in the surf during the beach assault we conducted in the picture to the left. There's a great story associated with replacing the lost shoes--things could have been worse.



Ben Buckley is a retired army officer who has been a member of BGES for a number of years. He has recently become active with our Wounded Warrior program with the Yellow Ribbon Fund--come on out and join him for one of these events its a life changer.



Dr. Dan Beattie is one of the nation's leading preservationists--singularly responsible for major triumphs at Brandy Station and Malvern Hill. Dan sponsored BGES interpretative signs at Cedar Creek and has recently completed a book on Brandy Station. Dan will be leading our Wounded Warrior tour of Brandy Station in May.



BGES will be returning to Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton with Colonel Jim Johnson and Dr. Duncan Anderson from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in July. Jim was an instructor at the United States Military Academy at West Point.



Doctor Frank Kendrick has walked many fields with us. Here he is with us at the rarely visited Confederate Instructional Camp at Camp Moore Louisiana.

THE BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER

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Parker Hills and Doug Waters at the UDC marker at Port Hudson. The monument was moved to increase its visibility to a period house which was ironically the home of a black Union soldier after the war.

Raymond Battlefield Appeal

BGES has had a long standing relationship with the Vicksburg Campaign and the preservation organizations that have sprung up from the recommendations it made about the presentation and preservation of the artifacts and battle sites. The greatest success has been at the battle of Raymond where BGES did a monograph by Warren Grabau about 10 years ago.

Under the focused leadership of Parker Hills, the Raymond battlefield park is a reality and it is no small postage stamp.

Jack Dawson and Char Lambert at Medicine Rocks where Sitting Bull had his vision leading to the Little Big Horn. Very private and sacred land--we will return in September with Neil, don't miss it!



BGES in Montana--remote and magnificent

Building from a small core area, Hills has opened a walking trail and successfully undertaken a campaign to place reproduction artillery pieces around the battlefield to correlate one piece per piece for each tube that was present on May 12, 1863—each will be placed where it was at the time of the battle. Recently he acquired a preservation easement from the largest landowner in the area to preserve and open artillery ridge where the Union guns were placed.

The greatest triumph of all is the recent acquisition of 67 acres in the dead center of the core area of the battlefield. The asking price of \$900,000 was negotiated down to \$435,000. Of that the National Park Service will pay \$220,000, the Civil War Preservation Trust will pay \$100,000 and the Friends of Raymond will pay \$115,000. While the CWPT has some 70,000 members, the town of Raymond has barely 2,000 residents and only 700 voters. They have a great deal of community pride and they will raise their share but would be mighty grateful for any assistance members of the BGES might be able to give them.

BGES will do a special appeal in July with a goal of \$11,500—10% of the Friends obligation. That will purchase just about 2 acres of some mighty important battlefield land. More than that it will tell our friends in Mississippi that we will celebrate their hard work and success by putting our money where our mouth is. This is a “must win” appeal. The expansion of the metro Jackson area already is looking at this property which is on a good road outside of town.