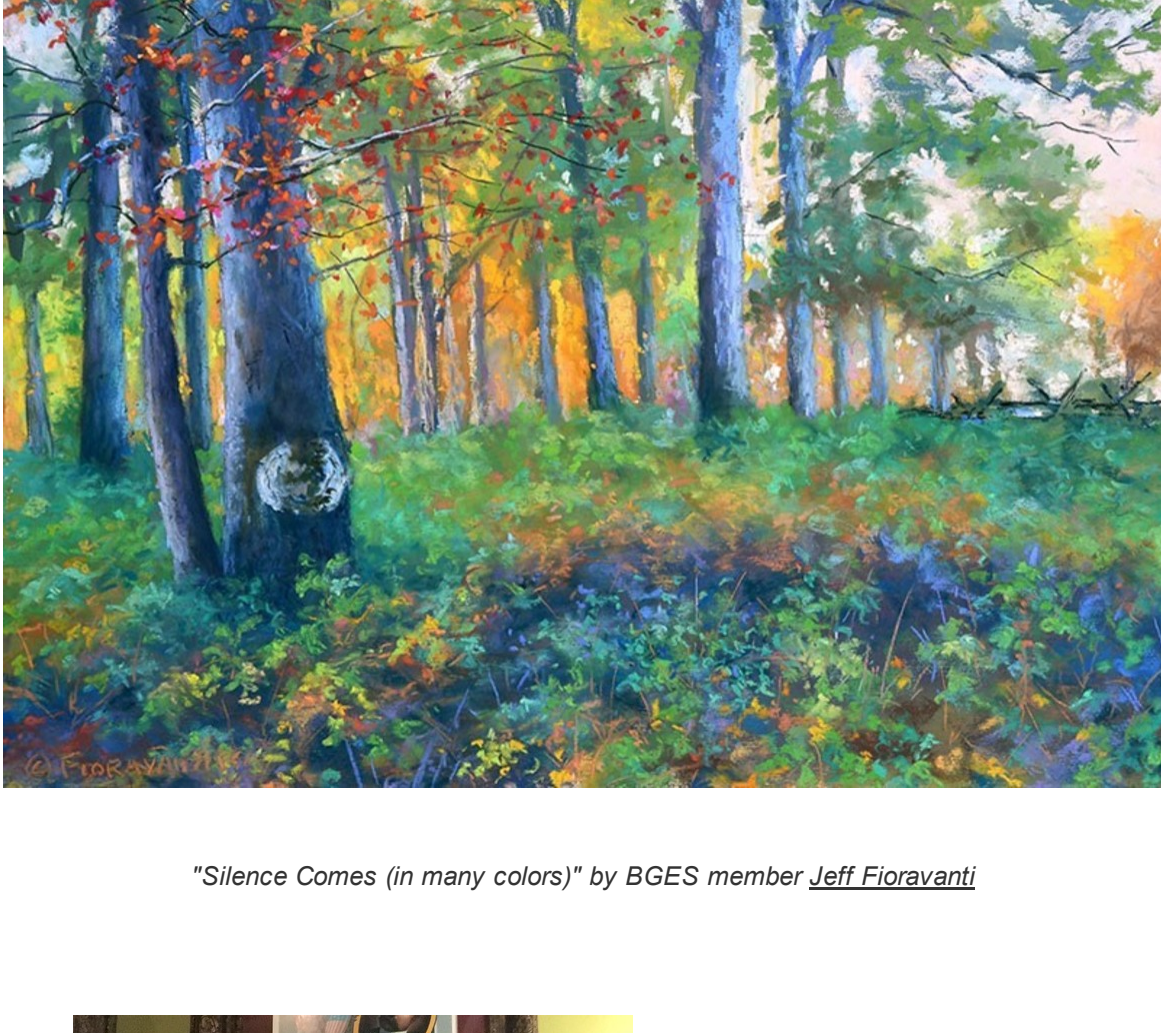
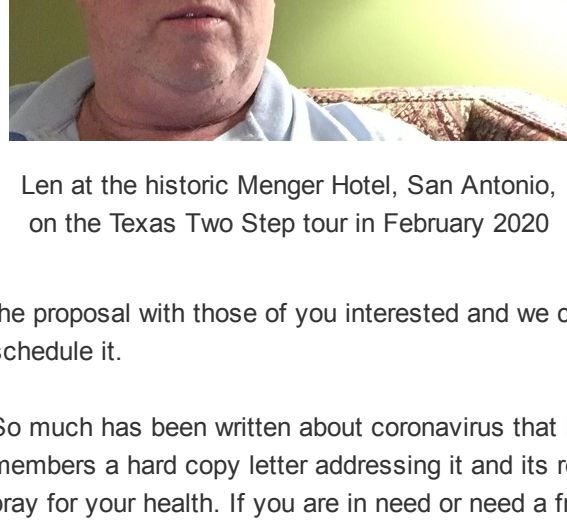




April 2020



"Silence Comes (in many colors)" by BGES member [Jeff Fioravanti](#)



Len at the historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, on the Texas Two Step tour in February 2020

HQ Communiqué

When last I wrote, from Jolly Old England, I reported on the results of a meeting with my friends at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, and some 21 people expressed an interest in the D-Day program for 2021. If anyone else is interested, let me know by return email. I am going to flesh out what such a program would look like—the working time would be late August or early September 2021. I will share

the proposal with those of you interested and we can decide if there is a critical mass to schedule it.

So much has been written about coronavirus that I think I will just say that I have sent all members a hard copy letter addressing it and its relationship to us. If you are affected, I pray for your health. If you are in need or need a friend, don't let it get you down—give me a call at 434-250-9921 or drop us a line. I will respond. Other than that, we will soldier on!

What I wanted to address was our newest recurring educational project, which will be to improve the provenance of the General Samuel Lawrence Photographic Collection at the Medford Historical Society. This has been a project of some 22 years in duration, and now that the entire 3,700-item collection is digitized and online, we are undertaking to document it. Every Wednesday we will send you an image asking four questions: Who or What is it? Where is it? When is it? And where is the original image stored? Our opening release on April 1st has already garnered more than 20 inputs and some dramatic documentary information. I spent nearly a half-hour today zooming in and looking around the image and the components of it—amazing what a little time spent looking will reveal to you. If you haven't yet looked, we sent it out at 7 a.m. Eastern Time on April 1.

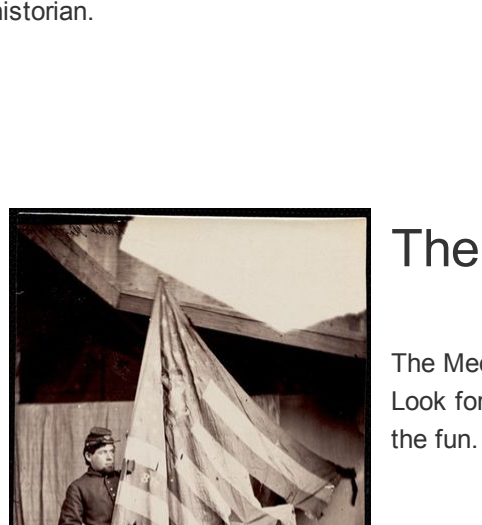
We intend to collect the responses and, to the extent possible, verify and validate the information and then share the summary with Medford to improve what they know about the images they are housing. Each image will go up online on Wednesday, and the comments period closes with the publication of the next image the following Wednesday. To make the project realistic (52 images a year would take us over 60 years to cycle through once), we also will do an additional 15 images each month on our website which can be independently commented upon. You will soon be able to view the first 15 at www.blueandgrayeducation.org. They will stay up for a month and then be replaced by the next 15. In this first year we will let you see some 230 images—at that pace in about 10 years we will have cycled through the collection once. Of course we hope you will spend time at the collection itself and help us advance the documentation on this priceless photographic collection. Already the first image has shown us this is gonna be fun for all. So go ahead and take a look. With the release of that image, the Blue and Gray Dispatch will now be sent online three times a week—a wonderful resource and benefit of supporting BGES. I am really excited to present it to you. It is something everyone can hit a lick on.

See you next month.

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

April Happenings: The Spring Campaign

Welcome to the April issue of *Holding the Line!* This month you'll read about Gordon Rhea's upcoming tour, which covers Part 1 of the Overland Campaign (which has been rescheduled for October 2020 thanks to coronavirus), as well as insights into how to save a battlefield, as related by BGES member Art Taylor. We have launched the Medford Photo Provenance Program, so we'll provide an update on that. We share the fascinating stories of women who played a role during the Civil War, including where to visit to learn more; and review a book written by one of our own BGES members that overturns the popular belief that Lincoln led the Union to victory alone. And last but not least, we commemorate another BGES member who has done a lion's share of work regarding Civil War Roundtables. Enjoy!



The Overland Campaign, with Gordon Rhea

Gordon Rhea is one of the world's topmost experts on the Overland Campaign. He will be leading a tour later this year. In the meantime, here are some insights from this foremost

historian.

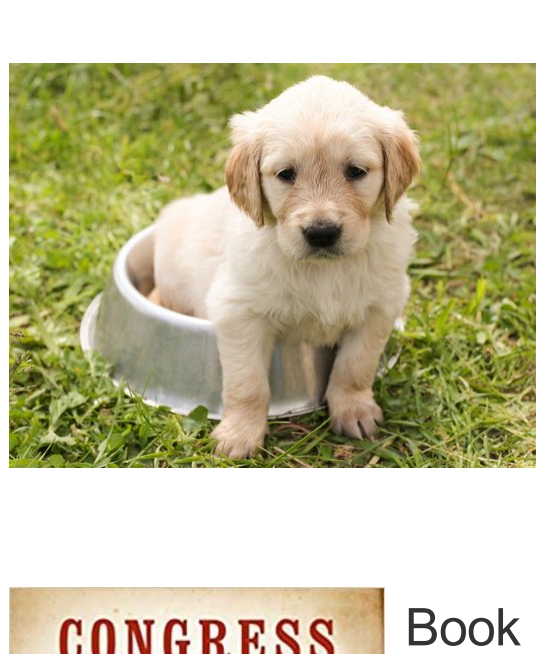
[Read More](#)



The Medford Files

The Medford Photo Provenance Program begins today! Look for the Special Dispatch in your inbox and join in the fun.

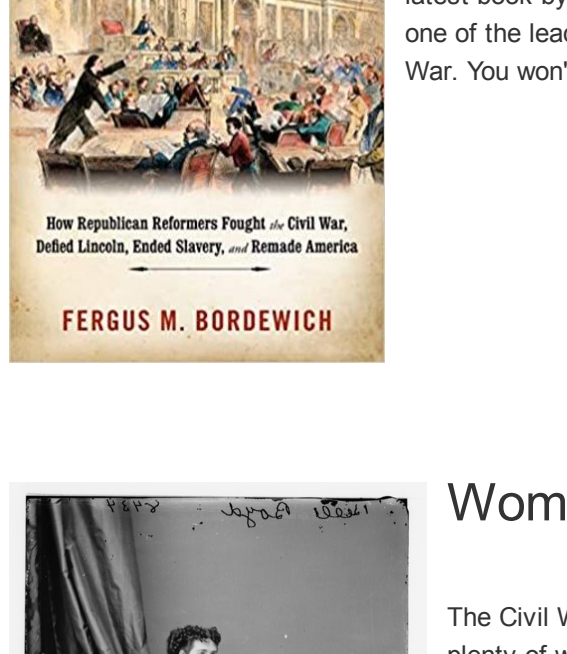
[Read More](#)



How to Save a Battlefield

The privilege of visiting a battlefield shouldn't be taken for granted. It takes a lot of hard work—and funds—to preserve these sacred grounds. Here's how BGES member Art Taylor did it for North Anna Battlefield in Virginia.

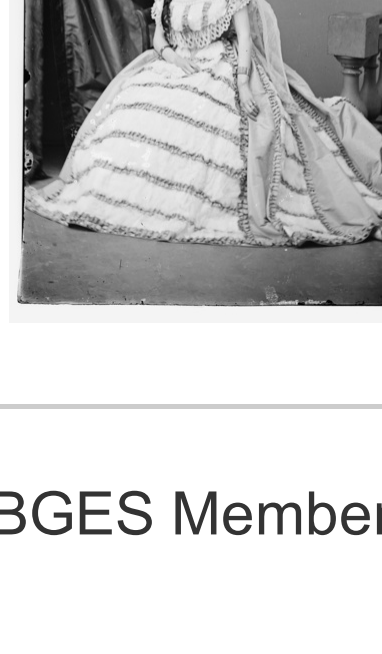
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Free to a Good Home

Enough said. Except there's more to the story ...

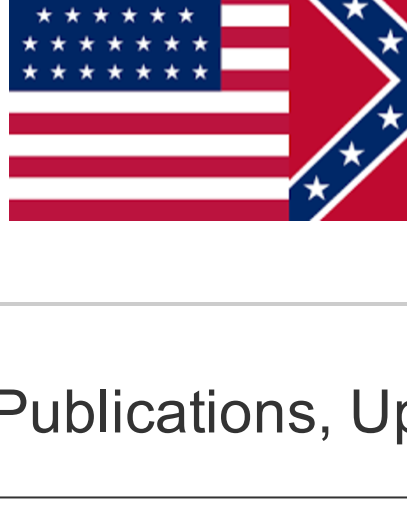
[Read More](#)



Book Review

BGES Executive Director Len Riedel has reviewed the latest book by one of our own, who also happens to be one of the leading independent historians of the Civil War. You won't want to miss out on this one.

[Read More](#)

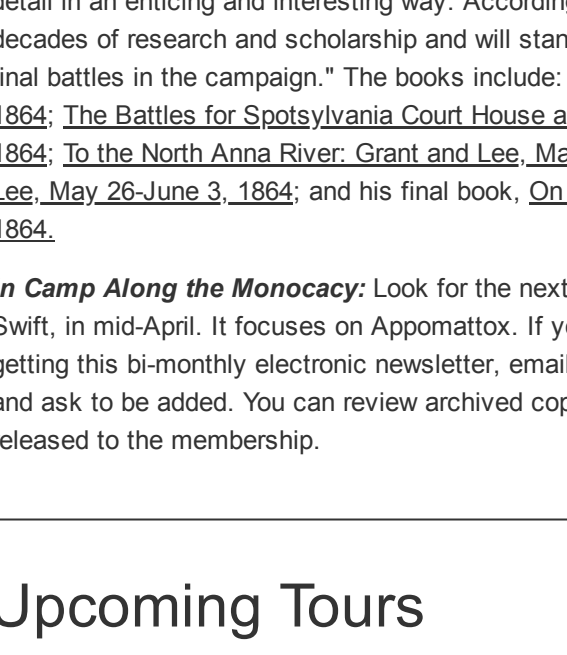


Women in the Civil War

The Civil War wasn't just a man's war. There were plenty of women fighting for the cause, both on and off the battlefields. Here are some of the most interesting—and places where you can learn more about them.

[Read More](#)

BGES Members Making a Difference



One BGES member is making a big difference in the world of Civil War Roundtables.

[Read More](#)

Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

Publications

BGES Authors: Whether you've signed up for Gordon Rhea's Overland Campaign tour with BGES or not, his Overland Campaign five-volume series is a must-read. He is a foremost expert on the battles that comprise the Overland Campaign, and he drills down into explicit detail in an enticing and interesting way. According to goodreads: "The books "represent decades of research and scholarship and will stand as the most authoritative history of the final battles in the campaign." The books include: [The Battle of the Wilderness May 5-6, 1864](#); [The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern May 7-12, 1864](#); [To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13-25, 1864](#); [Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864](#); and his final book, [On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee: June 4-15, 1864](#).

In Camp Along the Monocacy: Look for the next members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, in mid-April. It focuses on Appomattox. If you are a BGES member and you are not getting this bi-monthly electronic newsletter, email Gloria at BGESHistorian@yahoo.com and ask to be added. You can review archived copies about six months after they are released to the membership.

Upcoming Tours

April 2020

April 25-26, 2020: [The Battles of Dalton—Chapter 1 of the 1864 Georgia Campaign](#)

Has been postponed to November 11-13, 2020, due to coronavirus.

May 2020

May 10-15, 2020: [The Overland Campaign Part I: The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Yellow Tavern](#)

Has been postponed to October 26-31, 2020, due to coronavirus.

June 2020

June 8-13, 2020: [On Sacred Grounds: The Indian Wars on the Northern Plains](#)

Investors' Reports

Detailed reports for donors and prospective donors are available for download from our website on [Our Mission page](#).

BGES Recruiting Station

Membership

As a member of BGES, you will be part of a community devoted to saving our Civil War. You will receive our e-newsletter, updated info on upcoming tours, and access to some of our greatest historians. [Join here.](#)

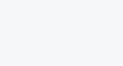
Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here.](#)

Quarter Guard Program

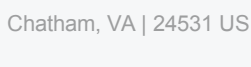
We would also like you to consider joining the [Quarter Guard Program](#), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis.

BGES Major Gift and Legacy Program

What Will You Be Remembered For? Be part of BGES' future by making an endowment or legacy gift. [Contact us](#) if you would like to make an endowment or legacy gift.



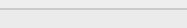
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