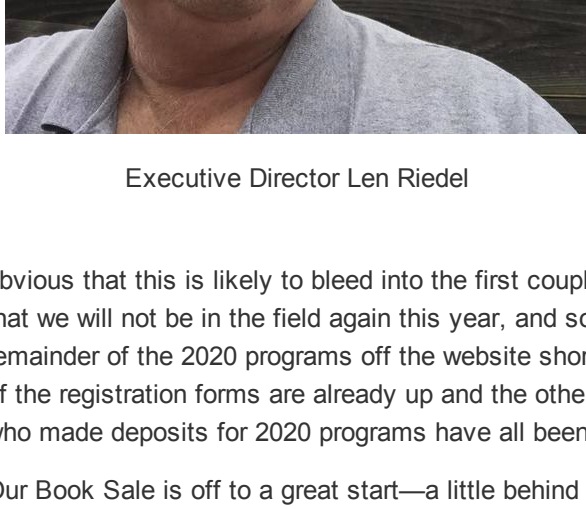




August 2020



"A Candle's Last Flicker" by BGES member Jeff Fioravanti



Executive Director Len Riedel

HQ Communiqué

So now we reach the Dog Days of Summer—it is hotter than Hades and now the hurricane season has started. I, like many of you, am heartily tired of this disruption. Still, when it is nearly 100 degrees, I am thankful for air-conditioning, DVDs, and a glass of ice water. Coronavirus has become a way of life, and it is obvious that the next big thing will be the creation of the vaccine and a massive national immunization effort. As it affects our Field University programs, it is

obvious that this is likely to bleed into the first couple of months of 2021. I can say with assurance that we will not be in the field again this year, and so it should come as no surprise when I drop the remainder of the 2020 programs off the website shortly and begin full planning for the 2021. Many of the registration forms are already up and the others will begin to populate the site soon. Those who made deposits for 2020 programs have all been contacted about Plan B.

Our Book Sale is off to a great start—a little behind what I had hoped, but still some 214 volumes and just at \$11,000, netting just under \$10,000 after postage. Our goal is \$39,000 in net sales so we are about 27 percent of the way with five months to go. I am optimistic. This week we are inserting a newly released book into the rotation—Sam Hood's new book with Savas Beattie: *Patriots Twice* has been three years in the making, but its release seems particularly fortuitous in the current times. The premise of the book is revealing the postwar lives of more than 300 Confederate soldiers and the impact they had on the institutions and public life of the United States. It provides perspective that every one of us could stand to see in the context of disquieting assaults on our history. Look for an email this week offering autographed copies of the book for \$42 postage paid—BGES will make about \$18 per book. You can also reserve a copy [here](#).

The second book to be highlighted in our leather keepsake collection will be Ed's first book, *Fields of Honor*—with nearly 75,000 trade editions sold since its introduction in 2005, we have just 270 Special Edition books left in our inventory; all are in National Geographic shipping boxes.

We continue to move ahead on our projects with the replacement gun carriage delivered to Pamplin Park. We have also conducted a repair assessment on the wooden gun carriage being held for us by Pamplin with an eye toward refurbishing it this fall. We have received the draft signs for the interpretation of Fort Branch, North Carolina. Our 20th monograph has been estimated and edited and should go to the printers within the next week—you will receive a copy if you are a current member. We are assessing our lack of progress on Fort McNair and the scene of the Lincoln Conspirator's Trial and Execution... the job has been underway for four years with little progress. We intended to finish outfitting the courtroom with artifacts, and do four outside interpretive signs and two site brochures. Red tape abounds with this project, and if we cannot cut through much of it in the next month, we will cut bait and move on to something else.

Membership continues above 400. However, I have noticed a dip in the number of people renewing in June and July. Those renewing have been exceptionally generous, but others have gone past due. We will be reaching out to all past due members this week in hopes of returning them to the ranks. We have also reintroduced our Quarter Guard Program to the membership as a whole and are seeking to have 45 members participate. Our mass mailing last month doubled our participation from 10 people to 20. That is remarkable in and of itself but is just half the loaf. Every renewal request going forth will also include the option to convert your membership to a Quarter Guard donor scheme. The main benefit for us is a baselining of monthly revenue.

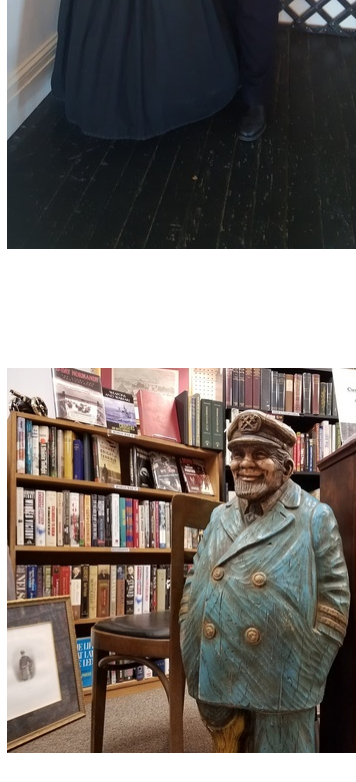
We will continue to reach out to our members to keep them informed as to our doings. Our Dispatches reach 6,200 people four times a week. We have added Monumental Mondays to the lineup and added Jane Martin, a professional photo editor to manage the Wednesday Medford project. We added a feedback feature to the weekly email so that you will learn the identity of the photo the following Wednesday with the new week's photo. Finally, we have commenced work to put our video archives on YouTube at the BGES channel. Access to this will generally be restricted to active members. Our initial tally is more than 350 lectures from 1994 through 2007. We have not assessed the viability of some of our tour recordings. We should have more to report next month.

Thanks again for all your support.

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

August Happenings: The Summer Campaign

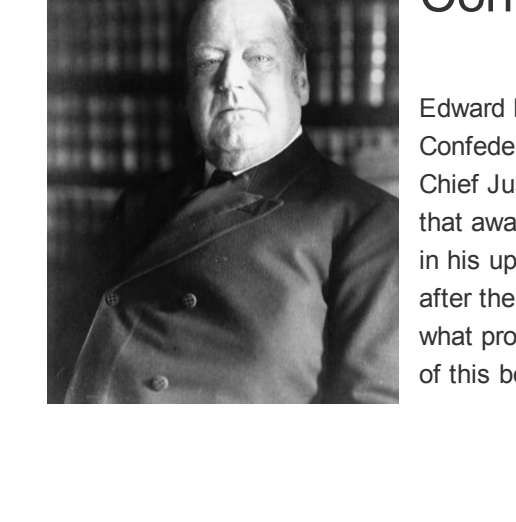
Welcome to the August issue of *Holding the Line!* While we may not be doing tours right now, Paul Severance gives us something to look forward to with his views on the Fredericksburg Battlefield, in advance of a walking tour he is slated to lead in December 2021. In addition, we learn about a little history bookshop in Richmond, Virginia, that is doing great business despite these challenging times, and BGES Executive Director reviews a new book by Rick Atkinson, showcasing the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Was he pleased? We provide an answer sheet to the photos from the Medford Historical Society & Museum that we've been sending in our Wednesday Dispatches and online galleries. We also meet up with award-winning author Sam Hood, whose upcoming book, *Patriots Twice*, showcases the success stories of Confederates who went on to help rebuild the United States after the Civil War. And last but not least, we profile an amazing BGES member who had a hand in saving the Bermuda Hundred Campaign battlefield. Enjoy!



Tour Talk: Paul Severance Discusses Fredericksburg

Paul Severance's walking tour of Fredericksburg may have been rescheduled for 2021, but it's always interesting to talk with the gifted historian about Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and his passion for reenacting Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock.

[Read More](#)



A History Bookstore for Modern Times

You may think that an independent bookstore devoted to history may have hit upon hard times, but think again. This little bookshop in Richmond, Virginia, is going gangbusters. What's up?

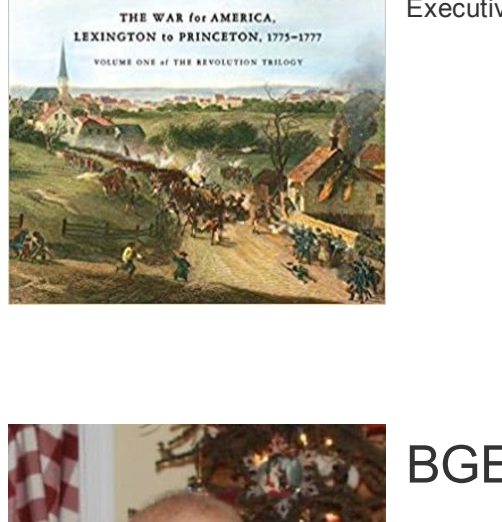
[Read More](#)



Confederate Redux

Edward Douglass White served as a lieutenant in the Confederate army before going on to become the ninth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. That's just one story that award-winning author Stephen "Sam" Hood captures in his upcoming book detailing the lives of Confederates after the Civil War. We caught up with Sam to ask him what prompted him to write this book and the importance of this book at times such as these.

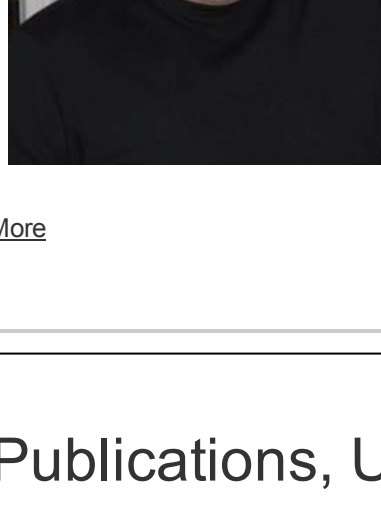
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Medford Moments

If you've been wondering what the identifications are to the mystery photos from Medford Historical Society & Museum that we've been publishing in the Wednesday Dispatches and the online galleries, here's the lineup for May, June, and July.

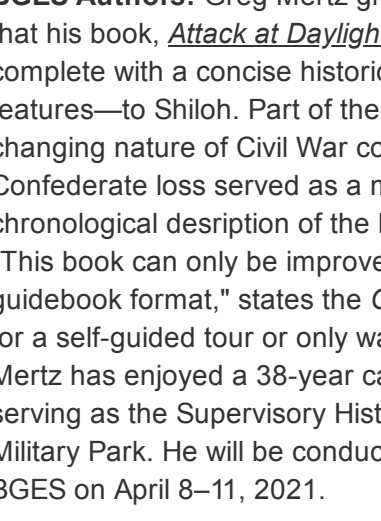
[Read More](#)



Book Review

What do a fine bottle of Glenfarclas 105 and the new book by Rick Atkinson, *The British are Coming*, have in common? Find out in this book review by BGES Executive Director Len Riedel.

[Read More](#)



BGES Members Making a Difference

You may live in an area and not even know its history—until something prompts you to do so. Scott Williams didn't know he lived near the fabled Bermuda Hundred Campaign until his job took him there. He took that knowledge and ran with it, helping to fund infrastructure and interpretive signs.

[Read](#)

[More](#)

Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

Publications

BGES Authors: Greg Mertz grew up on the Shiloh battlefield, so it's no wonder that his book, *Attack at Daylight and Whip Them*, provides the perfect guide—complete with a concise historical narrative, plus tour, map, and photograph features—to Shiloh. Part of the Emerging Civil War Series, this guide covers the changing nature of Civil War combat and horrific casualties, detailing how the Confederate loss served as a major setback to the southern cause. "Clear chronological description of the battle," says one reviewer, while another one states: "This book can only be improved by using it at Shiloh." "An excellent history in guidebook format," states the *Civil War Monitor*. Whether you're headed to Shiloh for a self-guided tour or only want to learn about it from home, this is a must read. Mertz has enjoyed a 38-year career with the National Park Service, currently serving as the Supervisory Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He will be conducting his first tour of Shiloh based on his book for BGES on April 8–11, 2021.

In Camp Along the Monocacy: Look for the next members' newsletter, edited by Len Riedel, in mid-August. The topic will be "Reflections on the 1862 Peninsula Campaign," featuring Dr. Paul Severance, Bert Dunkerly, and Len Riedel. If you are a BGES member and you are not getting this bi-monthly electronic newsletter, email BGES Communications at communications@blueandgrayeducation.org and ask to be added to the list. You can review archived copies about six months after they are released to the membership.

Upcoming Tours

Suspended until at least October 2020. See latest schedule [here](#).

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](#).

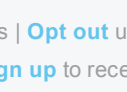
Already a member? Don't let your membership slip. [Renew here](#).

Quarter Guard Program

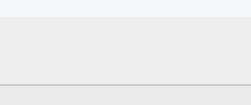
We would also like you to consider joining the [Quarter Guard Program](#), which supports BGES on a monthly or quarterly basis.

BGES Major Gift and Legacy Program

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



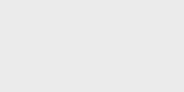
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