



November 2019



"The Vision Place of Souls" by BGES member [Jeff Fioravanti](#)



HQ Communiqué

The 2019 Field University is hurdling to its climax, and in three months our 2020 program commences. I have started registration forms for the latter, and 2019 is finishing strong. Parker Hills delivered an extremely powerful field performance on the May 19, 20, and 22 attacks at Vicksburg. That set the genesis for a 2021 field study "Out of the Kudzu, the Unseen Vicksburg." That will be a revelation of the roads, ravines, and monuments that are not seen from the road and yet are key to understanding events there. Just last weekend, we had our largest gathering in ten years, with twenty-eight people for Tom Clemens and Scott Hartwig's

Walking tour of Antietam ... the culminating event of our three-year study of the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Other remaining 2019 tours are robustly subscribed. I recommend our final program at Charleston. A change of pace could also bring you to our "Cornwallis in 1781 Campaign from Chester." All in all a great end to a great year.

BGES also has undertaken an ambitious community outreach program with the purpose of linking the Civil War community through a far-reaching electronic network. BGES Historian Gloria Swift has initiated a new product, *The Blue and Gray Dispatch*. This snappy and informative missive shares a story from the era complete with photographs and commentary. It is currently sent to over 4,000 individuals, organizations, and editors with encouragement to send on to their networks. The article also provides a link to the BGES website. More than a dozen historians have contributed articles thus far, and we are optimistic that this will become an anticipated and welcome correspondence.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not remind you of several fundraising appeals. Facebook Friends funded nearly \$3,000 to construct a carport and pad to protect the BGES van. That will happen soon. Another appeal is ongoing to raise approximately \$15,000, of which half is matched dollar for dollar. This provides funding for headquarters maintenance at our 140-year-old Chatham facility. Finally, #GivingTuesday will be devoted to helping us clear a pesky \$30,000 VISA bill that costs us 10% a year. Our operational revenue is just not sufficient to reduce it from month to month. We appreciate all of your considerations in supporting us.

Until next month, keep helping us Save America's Civil War History.

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

November Happenings

Welcome to the November edition of Holding the Line! In this issue you'll read about Norm Dasinger, Jr.'s take on the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga (he's leading a tour in November); Dave Downing's experiences of "JEB Stuart's Ride around McClellan"; and Nancy Crago, one of our members making a difference. We also caught up with Dr. Laurence Schiller to learn about his fascinating hobby of reenacting. You'll get an update on the 2020 tour registration—the first 2020 tour kicks off in February, and it's not too soon to start planning—and a reminder about the upcoming #GivingTuesday, one of our major fundraisers of the year. And should you be traveling in the Dominion State anytime soon, we've also provided a travel guide to Civil War Alexandria, a city caught in the crosshairs of war and which ended up being the longest occupied city in the war.



Upcoming Tours: Chickamauga and Chattanooga, with Norm Dasinger, Jr.

The Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga saw the Confederacy's only major victory in the West. But not all went as planned. We caught up with Norm Dasinger, Jr., who will be leading a [November tour](#), to ask a few questions about this lesser known action of the Civil War.

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Life of a Civil War Reenactor

Dr. Laurence Schiller may be a retired history professor and the second winningest fencing coach in NCAA history, but he has a hobby that he's been devoted to since 1994.

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A Field Report from "Jeb's Ride Around McClellan"

Dave Downing has long admired Jeb Stuart, but he realized he would like to know more about Jeb's ride around the Union Army of the Potomac in 1862. BGES offered him that opportunity. Here are his field notes.

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2020 Tour Update

Keep an eye out for registration forms, which we will start to post soon. The official list already has been announced, which you can check out [here](#). And remember, 2019 isn't over yet! While the fall tours are filling up rapidly, there still are seats available for some amazing tours.

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Travel Guide: Civil War Alexandria

Most people consider Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, to be a colonial town. But it played an important role in the Civil War as well.

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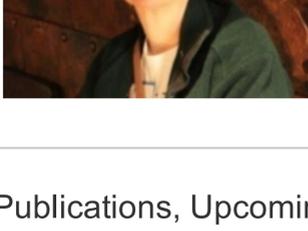


Giving Thanks for Our Prosperity

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and you know what that means ... #GivingTuesday takes place ... days after. We've got some creative giving opportunities outlined that will compound any donations made to BGES that day.

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BGES Members Making a Difference



Nancy Crago grew up a cannonball's throw from Gettysburg NMP but had no interest in the Civil War ... until one day, as an adult, she came across a letter written by a veteran, and something struck her. She since has become nuts about the Civil War—including volunteering at a local battlefield.

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Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

Publications

BGES Authors: Stephen M. (Sam) Hood is a distant relative of John Bell Hood, the brave and sometimes reckless Confederate general who held commands in both Virginia and the Confederate West. He has published two books about his famous ancestor, hoping to combat common misperceptions: *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General*, published in 2015, and *The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood*, published in 2016. He received much praise for both. "The Civil War historical community can only benefit from Sam Hood's Dedication and perseverance in presenting a full ... review and strong defense of JBH's life and service," applauded *The Journal of America's Military Past*. And *Confederate Veteran* wrote: "A monumental addition to the Confederate history." These are two books that deserve to be on your bookshelf!

In Camp Along the Monocacy: Our members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, will be released online to members in mid-December. It focuses on Sea Coast fortification—the how and why they became obsolete during the Civil War. 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

November 2019

- November 6-11, 2019: [Trouble on the Southern Frontier: Apaches, Gold, and the Old West](#)
- November 13-16, 2019: [The Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga](#)
- November 20-24, 2019: [The Virginia Campaign of 1781](#)

December 2019

- December 5-7, 2019: [Bitter Fight on the Banks of the Stones River](#)
- December 8, 2019: [Terrible, Terrible Franklin](#)
- December 13-15, 2019: [Civil War Charleston](#)

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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