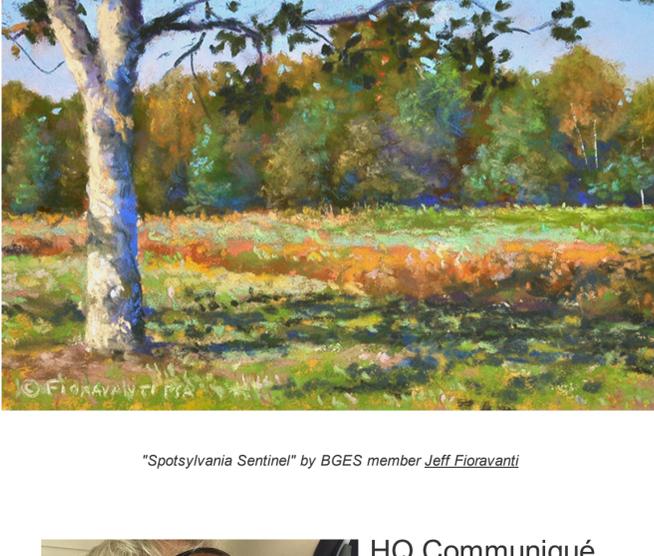




September 2019



"Spotsylvania Sentinel" by BGES member Jeff Fioravanti



## HQ Communique

Things are popping here at the BGES. In just this past month, we have completed three tours, a Wounded Warrior tour, and we have hosted a Board of Directors meeting. When you are having fun ...

I have drafted a snail mail letter to the active membership that explains some of what is going on behind the scenes

while asking for your support as we plot our course for the next twenty-five years. In it you will play a key role in the future of the organization—it should be no surprise to anyone, as BGES is the nation's only national nonprofit educational organization devoted to the Civil War. We will and must accept the leadership role, as there is no one else to do so. We cannot take for granted that our children and grandchildren will be taught the Civil War and its pivotal role in America's development. It is with that ominous warning that we resolutely accept that if we are to be, it is up to thee.

Enjoy what we are doing, but please keep in mind your time is coming. Parker Hills has made a difference, Kim Johnson has made a difference, Kirk Hinman has made a difference, Bill McKinnon is making a difference, and BGES has made a difference. We welcome the challenge.

—Len Riedel, Executive Director

## September Happenings

Welcome to the September edition of *Holding the Line!* In this issue you'll read about historian and author Wilson Greene's take on the Petersburg Campaign (he's leading a tour there this month); a heartwarming tradition for our Wounded Warriors that's being reinstated at Sharpsburg; the upcoming publication of BGES' latest monograph after a hiatus of more than ten years; and Felix Losco's Field Report from his recent BGES tour of St. Louis and Southeast Missouri. We also chat with BGES member Parker Hills, who has been instrumental in so many ways at Vicksburg—and BGES. And last but certainly not least, we give you a sneak preview of our 2020 tour schedule, which we know you'll be as excited about as we are.



## Upcoming Tours: The Petersburg Campaign, with Wilson Greene

The change of seasons had a significant impact on the Petersburg Campaign. That's

just one important and intriguing fact that historian and author Wilson Greene shares on the September BGES tour "A Campaign of Giants." We caught up with Wil to ask a few questions about this important Civil War campaign.

[Read More](#)



## BGES Prepping New Monograph

The drive along the Grand Gulf—Raymond Scenic Byway is about to get even more interesting, thanks to the latest BGES monograph that highlights its many fascinating and important sites along the way. The monograph is slated to be published in the fall, and BGES members can expect a copy as a perk of their membership.

[Read More](#)



## Sneak Preview: The 2020 Tour Schedule!

BGES leadership has been hard at work creating 2020's tour schedule, and before we begin to roll it out officially later in September, we are providing a quick overview. Take a peek, and if anything piques your interest, be sure to let us know.

[Read More](#)



## A Field Report From St. Louis and Southeast Missouri

A statue commemorating the spot where U.S. Grant first learned he had been promoted to brigadier general is just one of the little-known, easy-to-miss tributes to history that historian

Kyle Sinisi pointed out to tour members on BGES's recent tour, "An Uncivil War: St. Louis and Southeast Missouri: 1858–1865." Felix Losco knows, because he was there. Here's Felix's story of what else he experienced and learned during three fact-filled days in July.

[Read More](#)



## Public Hosts America's Warriors

BGES is looking forward to renewing an annual tradition of a community luncheon in Sharpsburg as part of our Wounded Warrior tour series.

[Read More](#)

## BGES Members Making a Difference



Perhaps no one has done more to interpret and preserve Mississippi's complicated Civil War past than Parker Hills. He's been a huge part of BGES since the early days as well. We catch up with him to talk about his long and impressive career.

[Read More](#)

## Publications, Upcoming Tours, & News

### Publications

**BGES Authors:** Historian, award-winning author, and speaker Robert Dunkerly works as a park ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, making him the ideal person to co-author a book about Richmond and the Civil War. [On to Richmond!](#), published in December 2019 and written with historian Doug Crenshaw, details Richmond's experience before, during, and after the Civil War, vestiges of which remain to this day. The book also includes a listing of all the must-see sites: the city's battlefields, historic sites, monuments, cemeteries, museums, and more. You won't want to visit the park without this guide in hand!

**In Camp Along the Monocacy:** Our members' newsletter, edited by Gloria Swift, will be released to members only later this week. It features articles by both Gloria Swift and retired professor Paul Severance on the Lincoln conspiracies and summary justice. If you are a BGES member and you are not getting this bi-monthly electronic newsletter, email Gloria at [BGESHistorian@yahoo.com](mailto: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

#### September 2019

September 4-8, 2019: [Washington Creates, Trains, and Fights an Elite Arm](#)

September 25-28, 2019: [A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg](#)

September 29, 2019: [Lee's Eyes and Ears: Stuart's Ride Around McClellan in June 1862](#)

#### October 2019

October 5, 2019: [The Brilliant Little Battle of Monocacy](#)

October 6, 2019: [Following the Road to Special Order #191](#)

October 16-20, 2019: [Initial Attempts to Take Vicksburg: Part 6 of Our Signature Vicksburg Campaign Stud](#)

October 25-27, 2019: [The Maryland Campaign Part 3: The Battle of Antietam](#)

### Investors' Reports

Detailed reports for donors and prospective donors are available for 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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