

A BGES Americana Program:
My Old Kentucky Home:
Battles, Baseball, and Bourbon
With Neil Mangum

October 16–24, 2020; from Cincinnati International Airport

In 1860-1861 two natives of Kentucky were elected President, and one ran but was not elected. Two other dominant politicians, including “The Great Compromiser” and the architect of the Crittenden Compromise, also were representatives of the Bluegrass State. Long reputed for fast horses and rightfully famous for Bourbon whiskey, the state gave us Kentucky Fried Chicken and the “Louisville Lip”—Muhammed Ali. In baseball, no place is more famous than the factory making the “Louisville Slugger” bat and the home of the first American baseball team—the Cincinnati Red Stockings—just four years after the Civil War. This tour offers a real taste of American culture that is not to be missed.

Friday, October 16, 2020

7:00 PM. Meet the cohort at our headquarters hotel near the Cincinnati airport. You will be met by your host and receive your reading book and name tag. Hotel is included.

Saturday, October 17, 2020

U. S. Grant is the great hero of the Civil War. Our morning examines his humble beginnings along the banks of the Ohio River and gives you a solid grounding in the famous Underground Railroad. You will see where fugitive slaves escaped into Ohio and consider how Cincinnati-based Harriett Beecher Stowe conceptualized *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Magee’s Bakery comes highly recommended for lunch. Our time in Maysville, Kentucky, will permit us to take the BGES’s heralded walking tour from its National Geographic guidebook. The day finishes with a visit to the 1782 Blue Licks Battlefield—site of a Loyalist victory ten months after Cornwallis surrendered and a look at Daniel Boone’s origins. Overnight for two nights in Lexington, Kentucky. Hotel is included, and meals are on your own.

Sunday October 18, 2020

BGES has a walking tour of historic Lexington, Kentucky, in its guidebook published by National Geographic, and our day starts with that walk, the highlight being the famous and beautiful Lexington Cemetery where Henry Clay, John Hunt Morgan, and John Breckinridge are buried. We then will tour the palatial home of Henry Clay: Ashland.

After lunch at Gold Star Chili, the afternoon takes in the smashing Confederate victory at the August 1862 battle of Richmond (Kentucky) and the new National Park Service site at Camp Nelson, where African-American soldiers trained to fight for the Union. Hotel, breakfast, and lunch are included.

Monday October 19, 2020

Kentucky is the quintessential southern state, and horse racing is at the center of that reputation. Kentucky horse farms punctuate the landscape—you will visit one of the most famous, with a behind-the-scenes tour of Keeneland. Of course the Kentucky Derby made Mint Juleps famous, and we will tour one of the oldest distilleries, learning how and sampling the products of Buffalo Trace Distillery. As we make our way to Louisville for our two-night stay, we will visit the gravesites of Daniel Boone and “Old Rough and Ready,” President Zachary Taylor. Taylor’s children included Sarah (Jefferson Davis’s first wife) and Confederate Gen. Richard Taylor. We’ll overnight for next two nights in Louisville. Hotel and breakfast are included.

Tuesday October 20, 2020

Louisville is one of America’s great cities, and we’ve selected four great experiences: Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby; the Louisville Slugger (baseball) Museum; the Mohammed Ali Museum and gravesite; and a dinner cruise on the Ohio River. Hotel, breakfast, and dinner are included.

Wednesday October 21, 2020

We start with the famous George S. Patton Museum at Fort Knox. We then head to Bardstown to visit the great Barton’s Distillery, where the American version of Bailey’s is bottled—a wonderful blend of bourbon and cream. The afternoon brings us to the home of the great 19th-century songwriter, Stephen Foster, and “My Old Kentucky Home.” The day finishes with a visit to Abraham Lincoln’s birthplace and boyhood home. We overnight in Elizabethtown. Breakfast and hotel are included.

Thursday October 22, 2020

Today we encounter Braxton Bragg’s 1862 Invasion of Kentucky at Mundfordsville and an earlier 1861 clash at Rowlett’s Station. A unique treat is a historic tour of Mammoth Cave National Park. We will meet famous cavalryman John Hunt Morgan at Tebbs Bend. The day finishes at a new National Battlefield, site of the 1861 Battle of Mill Springs, but perhaps the most memorable site of all might be the museum at the home of Colonel Sanders and Kentucky Fried Chicken! The evening finds us in Somerset. Hotel, breakfast, and dinner are included.

Friday October 23, 2020

The biggest battle of the Civil War in Kentucky was at Perryville in October 1862. We spend the morning touring this largely preserved and pristine battlefield, afterward moving back to the 18th century at Old Fort Harrod, site of Kentucky's first permanent settlement. The afternoon will take us to a unique religious sect that is now largely extinct—the Shakers. Shaker Village is authentic and, if circumstances allow, we will overnight in the old village or close by. A farewell dinner will be held in the Shaker Village Dining Room. Hotel, breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included.

Saturday October 24, 2020

Today we return to Cincinnati to wrap up, stopping at President Taft's home, the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Museum at Great American Ball Park, and Skyline Chili for a famous Chili and Coney Hot Dog lunch. All American and all encompassing—perhaps our best Americana tour ever. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Return to the Cincinnati Airport hotel to dismiss.

About the Faculty:

Neil Mangum, one of the nation's foremost historians, is an expert on frontier life. However, Neil is a Virginian who grew up in the shadow of the Petersburg National Battlefield, which was one of his very first assignments in the NPS. He still has deep ties. A retired National Park Service official, Neil served as Superintendent at the Little Big Horn National Battlefield as it transitioned from Custer National Battlefield. The popular Mangum only allows himself four or five tours a year, and BGES is fortunate to enjoy his favor. He enjoys the clientele and the small folksy nature of the group that is usually well-prepared. Neil is author of *The Battle of the Rosebud: Prelude to the Little Big Horn*. He has a following, and most people on this trip will have traveled with him before, which makes this event even nicer.

Hotel Information:

Hotel selections will be announced in July 2020. Your registration includes eight nights superior class lodging. If you return on Sunday instead of Saturday night, an additional night of hotel will be \$125.

Transportation:

The servicing airport is Cincinnati International (CVG). Alternative airports include Lexington (LEX) and Louisville (SDF). The headquarters hotel is easily accessed from all directions, and long-term parking for a fee is convenient.

Airfares are not yet posted for these dates, but comparable days of the week and fall fares are currently around \$1100 basic airfare—best connections look like Air

Canada though Toronto or United through Dulles returning on United through either Dulles or Newark.

Recommended Reading:

You will be provided with a reading book and maps upon arrival. The following books are suggested to enhance your readiness for the program. Amazon.com has a program to support non-profits IF YOU SIGN UP to support Blue and Gray Education Society (EIN 54-1720582) at [AmazonSmile](#). When you sign up there rather than the normal Amazon site, one-half of one percent of your purchase price will be provided to BGES as a donation from Amazon. This will apply not only on this purchase but others you may make at other times.

Muhammed Ali: [*The Greatest: My Own Story*](#)

Fergus Bordewich: [*Bound for Cannan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad*](#)

Kent Masterson Brown: [*The Civil War in Kentucky*](#)

Bob Hill: [*Crack of the Bat: The Louisville Slugger Story*](#)

Michael Lofaro: [*Daniel Boone, An American Life*](#)

James Nicolson: [*The Kentucky Derby: How The Run for the Roses Became America's Premier Sporting Event*](#)

JoAnne O'Connell: [*The Life and Songs of Stephen Foster: A Revealing Portrait of the Forgotten Man Behind "Swanee River," Beautiful Dreamer," and "My Old Kentucky Home"*](#)

Thomas Parrish: [*Restoring Shakertown: The Struggle to Save the Historic Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill*](#)

Len Riedel ed.: [*The Civil War, A Traveler's Guide*](#)

Greg Rhodes: [*Baseball Revolutionaries: How the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings Rocked the Country and Made Baseball Famous*](#)

Albert Schmid: [*Burgoo, Barbeque and Bourbon*](#)

Michael Veach: [*Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey, An American Heritage*](#)

Maryjean Wall: [*How Kentucky Became Southern: A Tale of Outlaws, Horse Thieves, Gamblers, and Breeders*](#)

Registration Form

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Your registration fee includes eight nights' lodging, a prepared reading book, seven breakfasts, three lunches, two dinners and a dinner cruise, ground transportation, your tour leader and tour manager, onboard refreshments, and all listed admissions.

_____ Registration \$3,595 Single Occupancy / _____ \$3,195pp Double

_____ Current BGES Member \$3,495 Single Occupancy / _____ \$3,095pp Double

_____ I am sending a deposit of \$500 per person. Total enclosed is \$ _____.

_____ I will pay the balance due before the event.

_____ Check enclosed.

Charge my (circle one) MC VISA AMEXP Discover \$ _____

Exp: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to BGES Seminars, P.O. Box 1176, Chatham, VA 24531; or fax credit cards to 434-432-0596. You also can register online at *blueandgrayeducation.org*.