

In Camp on the

Rappahannock

The Newsletter of The Blue & Gray Education Society



America's Premier Educational Organization

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Licensed Guides Provide New Gettysburg Options

They have been around for a hundred years or more and if you've been to Gettysburg you know their uniforms—blue and gray with straw or baseball caps. They are the congressionally chartered and licensed battlefield guides of Gettysburg National Military Park. Thanks to a new program arrangement with them, BGES members and other interested heritage tourists who visit Gettysburg will have increased opportunities for more detailed studies of various aspects of the battle throughout the years ahead.

Thanks to the aggressive advocacy of LBG and BGES member Gary Roche and the “can do” attitudes of BGES president Corky Lowe and Board of Directors Program Manager, Keith O'Neil, Executive Director Len Riedel has negotiated two multi-day programs and as many as four “*Muster Weekends*” for the summer & fall of 2003. The first program will be June 19-21 and it will cover “*The Best Three Hours of Fighting Ever Seen—Day Two at Gettysburg.*” The second program is “*Three Days that Changed the World.*” Both programs will be conducted by two of the best of the LBG's, Charlie Fennell and Dave Richards—they have nearly 40 years of Gettysburg experience between them. Both were featured in the Holiday 2002 issue of *Blue and Gray Magazine*.

The *Muster Weekends* will be held in July, August, September and November. They will feature a combination of 4 different tours each

on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Each tour will highlight a different theme and can be registered for individually. You can participate in any number that you wish. Thus for a very modest investment you can do a very detailed and specialized study of the battle. We will engage only the best and most personable of the guides to guarantee you get the most *bang for your buck*. Indeed it looks like the initial cadre will be 9 guides.

“ ...LBG Gary Roche noted that BGES had the highest tour standards he had seen.... ”

The LBGs of Gettysburg are a select group of about 100 men and women who have passed rigorous book and field-testing to assure their knowledge and capability to interpret the complex and diverse activities at Gettysburg. Turn-over is low and there is an extensive waiting list just to take the written test. Passage doesn't ensure a badge! When an opening occurs, the highest passing scorer takes one or more field tests before being licensed. This quality control standard was imposed by the Civil War veterans themselves as a means of ensuring the events were not exaggerated or erroneously presented. In making the connection, LBG Gary Roche noted that the BGES had the highest tour standards he had seen and the clear capability to effectively present programs as the guides want to see them.

BGES will staff and present these events to the standards of which you have become accustomed. We are also going to test the benefit of a post event conference call with the guides. For years, the LBGs presented two or more programs that were limited to one bus. They always sold out far in advance. This practice stopped, but with the logistical capabilities of the BGES they are back on track! For more information visit the BGES web site at www.blue-and-gray-education.org or call us toll free at 1-888-741-2437. We will see you there.



Virginia Monument At Gettysburg

Crampton's Gap Signs Dedicated

In a moving and professional ceremony the BGES delivered 17 interpretative signs to the state of Maryland for installation at the sites of the September 14, 1862 battles of Crampton's Gap and South Mountain. The majority of the funds for the \$50,000 program were provided by over 100 members of the BGES. The program was completed in just 15 months "on time and on budget" by Sunsyne Products of Johnson City, Tennessee.

Despite vigorous competition from the Antietam Reenactment, the gala dedication ceremony was well attended by dignitaries from the region. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett praised the generous contributions of the BGES as representing the best of the private sector. He specifically noted that the BGES signs represented a standard of excellence that others should strive to achieve. Keynote speaker, retired Brigadier General Jack Mountcastle, praised the efforts of the BGES in all elements of their educational programming. He spoke to the implied tribute paid by the British Army who has selected BGES to conduct staff rides for officers visiting the United States.

"Congressman Roscoe Bartlett praised the generous contributions of the BGES...."

The spirit of the event was not lost on Friends of the South Mountain Battlefield President Bill Clipper, whose organization arranged \$7,000 in donations to support the project. He noted that they might be small but they were dedicated—to which BGES Executive Director Len Riedel responded, "We are all friends of South Mountain."

The day was intense with many simultaneous activities being conducted. Author Tim Reese led a bus of tourists on a one-day tour of the battle of South Mountain and Crampton's Gap with the tour merging into the VIP lunch and dedication ceremony. Vocalist Doug Jimerson presented some patriotic songs that brought tears to many an eye. BGES President Corky Lowe hosted the sign sponsors and their families on a private tour of the signs at the Gap and into Burkittsville. The only downside was the absence of the signs in the town. At press time the town is taking action to approve and place the signs this spring.

The impact of the BGES' effort is being felt elsewhere. Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation Executive Director, Howard Kittell was a guest and he is now speaking with BGES about partnering for interpretative work in the Shenandoah Valley. BGES National Advisory Board member and Civil War Preservation Trust Trustee Dan Beattie suggested to the CWPT that BGES interpretation is the way to go.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of the members of the BGES. With new challenges on the horizon and support from great folks like we have in BGES, the sky is the limit.



Director Riedel, Congressman Bartlett, and Mrs Bartlett

Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right, to govern himself with reason and justice.

Harry S. Truman

Democracy is finding proximate solutions to insoluble problems.

Reinhold Niebuhr

2003: A Year of Discovery

We have just released our most balanced and meaningful schedule yet. With an offering of familiar sites, fresh looks at popular sites and a series of new sites/programs we will tempt you to make 2003: A Year of Discovery. Here are just a few of the featured programs.

March will see a day-long boat tour of Port Royal Sound and Beaufort featuring the November 1861 battle of Port Royal. Our Hilton Head program has a spectacular line-up of speakers and an exceptional rate for our hotel directly on the Atlantic Ocean. Hilton Head also doubles as our annual meeting and there will be special activities for BGES members who attend. Early registration is good and may top last year's baseline of 84!

April and May will see a continuation of our staff ride program with historian Greg Mertz at the Wilderness and a three-day analysis of Chancellorsville by Ed Bearss. Our Membership Appreciation Day is May 10th at Manassas. Becky Cumins is opening doors that haven't been open to visitors in 15 or 20 years. Parker Hills and Executive Director Len Riedel will be doing a three-day tour of Shiloh and the siege of Corinth, May 28-June 1

Membership Appreciation Day is May 10th at Manassas.

With no break during the summer this year, June will bring us a staff ride of Mechanicsville, Stuart's Ride and Gaines' Mill with University of Richmond professor Lynn Sims and Len Riedel. The Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides will present a program on Gettysburg Day 2 and ED Bearss will do a Tour de Force of Gettysburg July 1-4 on the 140th anniversary of the battle. Brian Wills will take us to the unappreciated war in Southwestern Virginia and East Tennessee, we

will hold our first and second *Gettysburg Muster Weekends*, and Joe Whitehorne will team with Scott Patchin to conduct a staff ride of Cool Springs and 2nd Kernstown.

The autumn takes us west for another Bearss Tour de Force—The Vicksburg Campaign in early September. The Gettysburg Guides will give us an attractive three-day program on the battle of Gettysburg when the town is beginning to empty out. They will also give us our third *Gettysburg Muster Weekend*. Hills and Riedel will offer a September program on *Forrest in Mississippi*.

October opens a third Corinth program—this one on Iuka, the October 1862 battle of Corinth and Davis Bridge—again led by Hills and Riedel. New Englanders will have a chance to enjoy superb scholarship over the Columbus Day weekend in the second Massachusetts School of Law Symposium at Andover. This program will be expanded to increase its attractiveness as a heritage tourism destination. A walking tour of Civil War Boston is planned. The month closes with Steve Wise's and Dana Macbean's Military Staff Ride of the 1863 Siege of Charleston. We will spend one day touring the harbor and visiting sites such as the Swamp Angel, Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter, and Castle Pinckney and another day walking the terrain of Morris Island—never before done by a tour group.

The year will end with the event that vanquished Rosecrans and propelled US Grant to the national stage—Chickamauga and Chattanooga. This Bearss led visit to the “Battle above the Clouds” and the hollow victory of Chickamauga is a worthy way to complete the third year of Bearss' Essential Civil War series. We will finish the year with the fourth and final *Gettysburg Muster Weekend of 2003 with the LBGs*.

Battlefield Survey Progressing

BGES' past successes in battlefield interpretation compelled us to seek a comprehensive inventory of existing and potential battlefields. We have included all the 384 sites listed in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report—even those that are obviously already interpreted or are part of governmentally controlled agencies. At the time of this writing we have 50 completed surveys. Taking a broad and long-range view of diminishing government resources, we believe the time may come when the BGES and organizations like it may need to assist in the restoration of any historical site in the country.



Scene at Fisher's Hill: 1864 Valley Campaign

Spearheaded by BGES Board member Keith O'Neil, the survey was placed on a grid and distributed to BGES members who live in the area of a battlefield. Our belief was it would be easier to ask residents to survey and provide the information. Hiring a contractor was impractical for financial and logistical reasons. We often

made duplicate requests of BGES members who shared a battlefield in hope that the completed surveys would validate each other. Once the surveys are assembled we will rough draft them for quality control and to identify holes in the coverage.

The final report will be released in approximately 12 months. Using standard criteria and the contact information provided, we expect to build an integrated plan that will be suitable for major funding by 2005. It is the most important and lowest cost contribution you can make to the cause of preservation and education.

If you haven't yet performed your survey, please do—it is an honest, good faith effort to build a strategic vision for battlefield projects. If you weren't asked to participate, it was most likely a result of your lack of proximity to one of the 384 sites. We welcome your participation and invite you to call us to see what you might do.

BGES Membership Must Grow

By Len Riedel

In the later part of the Summer 2002 in the midst of our very successful season, we realized that we had a major challenge to our future success. Our very focused, but small staff, had not mounted a membership campaign for nearly three years and the consequences would soon play out. Seminar attendance fell off and operational revenues from annual dues couldn't cover the modest cost of salaries and operations.

We looked at our supporters and liked what we saw. You folks are generous, engaged and capable. Tours are like the assembly of a group of friends. New participants aren't strangers for long. The only problem was you couldn't make every tour.

We needed those tours to be profitable to offset the smaller size of the existing BGES cohort.

We know that we must grow BGES to 1000 dues-paying members in 2003. That will increase the pool of seminar participants and the revenue pool of annual dues we depend upon for office overhead. We are in the midst of raising "lockbox" funds to hire a full time membership coordinator who will build strategic relationships with organizations, membership programs and public relations. That is a long-term solution not likely to take root until the later part of the year—we can't wait that long.

We must grow BGES to 1000 dues-paying members in 2003.

We like you and frankly believe that you know people who would like us. BGES growth is about finding people who share our values and interest in our programs. If you will help us find just one new donor member, we would meet our immediate need. How large can BGES be and still remain the BGES? We think no less than 2,000 or more than 3,500. Our reasonable expectation is 2,500 new members. With this figure the staff will grow to a logical and modest size of five plus college students.

We are going to help you help us. We will provide the materials, facts and achievements you need to tout the BGES. We ask you to commit to bringing in at least one enthusiastic high-quality donor member who shares your passion. We will keep you seeded with materials if you will keep us flush with prospects and a steady stream of new members like you. We will partner with you to work with them to get them into BGES. I know you share the BGES vision and are up to the challenge.

Battle of Shiloh Heads New Corinth Series

Good relations breed opportunities and nowhere do we have better community relations than with the town of Corinth, Mississippi. Past events have taken us into private museums, generals' homes and lake-front socials—plus some darn fine scholarship. Now in cooperation with the town we are going to increase our offerings at this “Crossroads of the Confederacy.”

The upcoming year will start with Parker Hills' exhaustive three-day study of Shiloh and the siege of Corinth. Meticulously planned and engineered to the minute, Hills and BGES Executive Director Len Riedel will expertly lead a lucky busload of participants across the panorama of the first BIG battle of the war. Walking tours will be mixed with timely sound on slide lectures to produce a superior event. The May 28-June 1 program will fill quickly and you should register early.

The autumn will look at two other areas of interest. Nathan Bedford Forrest had a mixed but dramatic career in the saddle. We will examine his Mississippi exploits from Shiloh, Falling Timbers, Tupelo, Okolona and Brice's Crossroads. Hills will lead this September 18-20 event. Then on October 2-5 we will extract from obscurity the Van Dorn and Price activities that kept them from supporting Bragg's Kentucky invasion. The battles of Iuka, Corinth and Davis Bridge are a campaign and will be treated as such. Although Blue and Gray Magazine has recently published a General's Guide for the tour, to our knowledge no other tour group has ever packaged these together in a logical and educational manner.

We know you'll like these important and unique programs. For more information please call or email us.

Low Inks Historic Agreement

On October 24th BGES Board of Directors President, William “Corky” Lowe and Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation President, Alexander Wise signed a memorandum of understanding that pledged cooperation between the two agencies. In doing so BGES joined the Smithsonian Institute and the Museum of the Confederacy as partners with the planned Richmond based museum that is scheduled to open at Tredegar in 2005.



President Lowe and Harry Warner Jr ink the document

The MOU resulted from the behind the scenes efforts of Tredegar Development Director Harry Warner Jr. and Executive Director Len Riedel. Initially, the BGES seminar and tour programs will be presented as the programs of Tredegar. They wanted the nationwide visibility that BGES provides and the integrity for which we are known. The nonprofit mission of BGES fits well with their broader vision that includes building selected partnerships with high quality organizations to develop a national/international network of affiliates. BGES' education track and interpretative integrity/vision were key elements of the agreement. In turn BGES gains access to the resources and contacts of a well-financed and highly visible national agency. Indeed Wise,

formerly the state of Virginia's Historic Preservation Officer, has already offered free consultative advice using his staff and has provided BGES seminar brochures to over 1300 of their core supporters.

There are some big plans on the drawing board and the partnership between Tredegar and the BGES augurs well for our future.

BGES Fires on All Cylinders

The past year produced an unprecedented level of success in BGES programming. Gross revenues increased over \$100,000 and at year-end expenditures approached \$300,000. It was quite a jump over 2001.

We published newsletters, monographs, seminar brochures and a full-color magazine. We placed 17 interpretative markers and fielded requests to place 44 more at four different sites. We conducted our full range of seminars and symposia without cancellation and awarded continuing education units to teachers. We had four membership appreciation events, including a well attended annual meeting at Hilton Head.

We also extended our reach to partner organizations. We now have 6 major strategic relationships. We reached out to Civil War Round Tables across the country with some success. The full Board of Directors met in September and the Executive Board met 3 times. We accomplished all of this with only two full-time staff and a part-time college student.

A few expectations were not realized that caused us to operate at a loss for the year but, the Board has taken corrective action by raising basic dues and authorizing the employment of a membership director, subject to the availability of funding. It is an exciting time for the BGES, and we hope you'll stay engaged.

Ed Bearss' Essential Civil War Series Enters 3rd Year

Charleston, 1st and 2nd Manassas, Ball's Bluff, Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Shiloh, Fort Monroe, Yorktown, Eltham's Landing, Museum of the Confederacy, Seven Days, Harpers Ferry, South Mountain, Crampton's Gap, Antietam, Mill Springs, Danville, Camp Wildcat, Perryville—if you weren't there you missed something. All is not lost. The year 1863 produced some of the most dramatic conflicts ever witnessed. Ed Bearss is going to hit them all—Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg and Chickamauga/Chattanooga.



Bearss will be back leading us in all weather

These 3 - day programs are nicely spaced to permit participation in all four (early May, early July, early September and early November). The season ticket rate of \$1600 will save you nearly \$400 off the a la carte rate. Single event tickets are \$499. All events are one bus only.

These programs continue to produce "Kodak Moments" that will last the rest of your life. As Ed Bearss celebrates his 80th birthday, these events become even more cherished. We find the places that Ed has always wanted to go but never had the time on tour before. You'll delight when he says "Thanks to the Blue and Gray Education Society, I am taking a group to this spot for the first time in my life." AWESOME!

BGES and Arizona State University to Open Bearss Archive Office

BGES is moving ahead with plans to open an archive office at Arizona State University in Tempe. Professor Brooks Simpson, a BGES Board member, has agreed to manage the project and the office pro bono during a 15 month sabbatical. The school, which has a public records degree program, will use this as a project to educate graduate students. Simpson has experience in these types of projects, having worked on the Andrew Johnson Papers in Tennessee some years ago. The office should open June 1st, 2003. A Memorandum of Understanding will detail the scope of the project.

This office will undertake the daunting task of cataloguing and building finding aids for the voluminous publications of Bearss during the past 50 plus years. BGES has a substantial collection assembled by BGES member Sam Craghead. A systematic search will seek additional publications. The project will also look to analyze hundreds of hours of videotape of Ed on various battlefields and in lectures. These tapes have captured Ed sharing the nuggets of knowledge that we all marvel at. These will form the foundation for future generations of historians to delve into areas that might disappear as Bearss' public life winds down. Rob Zaworski, Damien Paul, Bill Riedel, and Steve Halcomb have provided the core of the tapes to start this effort. We anticipate an audiotape search will also be made.

BGES will need to provide the initial funding of about \$15,000 to cover administrative costs and graduate student stipends for the first year. After that we expect to be involved in grant writing and matching fund efforts. When completed, the archives will be one of the finest public records extant. They will be sent with the

finding aids to Marine Corps University to join Ed's personal papers. BGES assisted in placing Ed's papers at Quantico in 2001. Executive Director Len Riedel will meet with university officials at the end of January to confirm the details of the project.



Surveying the Battlefield at Winchester

Excerpt from John Mountcastle at South Mountain dedication

“...let me say again how important it is for Americans to draw strength and inspiration from our forefathers. This has been key to the success of America's army for over 200 years. As an old soldier and the father of a young soldier, let me express my thanks for the support that you are providing America's men and women in uniform today. It means so much to them...and may God bless you and the United States of America.”

John W. Mountcastle
BG, USA (Retired)

Book Sales Soar

BGES' First Edition Autographed Book Club has completed its most successful year ever. Ten great titles were supplemented by various seminar book sales to produce some \$16,000 in book revenue in 2002. BGES members were actively involved in the book review process, and so many were received that we are doing a special monograph to get the results into your hands.

Book sales and reviews are an educational vehicle to bring current thinking and research on the war into your hands. In our First Edition Book Club selections we try to balance new products from well-known authors with books on topics by authors that you may know little about. For example, our March 2003 selection, **Confederate Industry** by Old Dominion University's Harold Wilson from the University of Mississippi Press is a superb book destined for one printing only, but you ought to have it.

Membership in the First Edition Autographed Book Club doesn't cost anything. There is no set number of books to buy and we only buy enough to fill the orders we receive. You'll receive a monthly mailing telling you about the book with about 3 weeks to respond—if you decide to purchase it. You also get the first opportunity to select books during special sales. If you'd like to be added to the list, just call Beth at 1-888-741-2437.



Jeff Wert at Fisher's Hill

It's a Family Affair

Not too many members of the BGES can claim that the entire family is involved; however, in Bristow, Virginia the Cumins family can. Members since 1996, Jeff, Becky and Doug have been active participants in seminars and other organizational activities: now they are integral to every element of the group.

In September, Becky was elected to the Board of Directors to replace the expired term of Atlanta physician, Rob Zaworski. She is a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service at Manassas, and has gained special awards and recognition in national publications, that make her not only a specialist on the battles but a sought after tour leader. She will lead our Membership Appreciation Day program on May 10th.

On January 1st, husband Jeff assumed the management of the BGES' web site: www.blue-and-gray-education.org. Jeff, who volunteered for the position, replaces Colonel Mark Witt who asked to be relieved after 5 years managing the site as a volunteer. Jeff is a senior engineer for Oracle Corporation. He has extensive experience on web site design, capabilities and promotion. We expect to see many new features in the coming months. Jeff also continues to work as a volunteer at Manassas, often building split rail fences and providing living history.

Becky and Rob's son Doug is a Richmond-based airline pilot. The younger Cumins often rents smaller planes to fly to BGES programs. Like many other BGES members, he is an active participant in our battlefield interpretative survey. Using his free time he is trekking Richmond area battlefields to provide up-to-date information for the use of the board in strategic planning.

It isn't often you see this kind of volunteer commitment from one person, let alone three in the same family. We at the BGES are the grateful beneficiaries.

Cedar Creek Interpretation in Progress

In September the Board of Directors approved a recommendation to engage in a twelve month, 11 sign interpretative project for the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation property along US Route 11 and along the IXX Corps trench lines just south of Middletown, Virginia. Five members of the BGES immediately signed up to sponsor signs and we expect to find sponsors for the other 6 signs over the next 3 months.

The Cedar Creek battlefield is one of the largest in the country and the Foundation has been exceptionally successful in land acquisition efforts. The IXX Corps trench lines are the latest effort and they are beautiful. While the mortgage is still over \$300,000, the foundation is aggressively pursuing donations.

“...the Foundation (Cedar Creek) has been exceptionally successful in land acquisition efforts.”

In the wake of the successful Crampton's Gap project, we are anxious to complete this important site. We expect this cost sharing partnership will total \$36,000. The dedication ceremony is targeted for October 19, 2003.



Trenchline at Cedar Creek

Vicksburg Campaign Site Requests Support

The Board of Directors has received a request from the President of the Friends of Raymond to provide 14 interpretative signs on a cost share basis for the May 12, 1863 battle. The required completion date is May, 2004.

BGES has extensive roots in the Vicksburg Campaign and recently published a ninety-six page monograph entitled *Confusion Compounded* by Warren Grabau. We have done a military staffride of Raymond and are returning to the area for a tour in September 2003.

The preservation effort at Raymond has proven fruitful. The small community of 2000 people is supportive and the mayor, Isla Tullos is a leader in the effort. Personal relations are very good, and the mayor has presented receptions in her home exclusively for BGES' programs.

The Board of Directors will consider the request at its February meeting in Baltimore. If the board approves the project, the first sign has been pledged by Texan, Bart Allen.

A Word on The Dues Increase

By now you should have all received President Lowe's letter on the increase in the basic dues. Several individuals have given us the opportunity to explain it further, and we would like to share our response briefly here.

If BGES membership is viewed as a commodity to be purchased at the lowest possible price, the 50% increase to \$75 seems extreme. On the other hand if membership in BGES is viewed as a partnership between like-minded members of a civic organization, then there is a collective responsibility to ensure the organization remains viable and solvent so it can con-

tinue to do its charitable work. The Board of Directors—all unpaid volunteers and dues-paying members of the BGES, took the latter position.

BGES members provide general support in the form of annual tax-deductible dues and through their participation in BGES programming such as seminars, interpretation projects and the first edition autographed book club. All have the opportunity to participate or not as personal interests lead them.

The board raised the floor of support to reflect the current and projected needs of the organization and to bring the budget into balance. Too much dependence was placed on seminars as an operational revenue source to offset the smaller membership pool. Since a seminar's first function is as an educational project, the board wanted to relieve some of that burden.

We need a large pool of members at the \$75 level to make future budgets work. Most of our members, indeed well over half, were already donating at or above that level. For those who are affected, you must ask if you have bought into BGES and what we do? The BGES far exceeds the charter that we received from the IRS. Our programs are valid representations of the nonprofit community with about 70% of gross revenues supporting our programs. We hope all of you will continue to enthusiastically support our efforts. The increase is a mere 6 cents per day from 14 cents to just 20 cents to support the infrastructure that is doing all the great things you are reading about. I hope you'll agree it is a bargain.

Whew! 2002 Fall Was Full

Amazing what you can do when you set your mind to things. From Labor Day until November 24th we were rocking and rolling—thought you might like a summary.

After completing a newsletter and monograph, we opened with the installation and final preparations for the dedication at South Mountain. On September 10th we held an exploratory meeting in Gettysburg with members of the Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides about items of mutual interest. A Board of Directors meeting in Hagerstown preceded the September 14th dedication. Those events included a full agenda of activities and a bus tour of the Battle of South Mountain. Two weeks later we conducted a tour for the Cleveland Civil War Round Table in Winchester while promoting support for the acquisition and interpretation of the IXX Corps trench lines. We opened discussion about an interpretative effort at Kernstown, planned an August 2003 staff ride of Cool Springs and Kernstown and site surveyed a future tour using James Taylor's sketchbook.

October put us in Maryland for Ed Bearss' Essential Civil War—the 1862 Maryland Campaign. We followed with a Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony at Tredegar National Civil War Center. Before departing for our Military Staff Ride of Five Forks we opened discussions about possible cooperation with a major organization in the Richmond area. We published and distributed over 12,000 copies of our 2003 seminar and tour schedule.

November brought us more travel—a symposium at Andover, Massachusetts, a Planned Giving seminar in Sturbridge, Massachusetts and Ed Bearss' Essential Civil War in Kentucky. We fielded requests for interpretative work in Alabama and Mississippi. The season ended with programs in New Orleans and at Port Hudson. Each program brought new and special treats for the participants. Each strategic agreement or discussion promises more opportunities for the BGES to accomplish its mission. This pace is representative of the activities of your Danville BGES staff. We thought you'd like to know.

From President Lowe



On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank you for making 2002 an interesting and productive year for the Blue and Gray Education Society. Additionally, the end of the year marks the end of the second year of the existence of the current Board of Directors. In honor of this new year, the accomplishments of the last, and in celebration of the continued life of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss with you issues of importance to the Board.

As you have seen in the BGES Newsletter and in various correspondences, BGES is just coming off its most productive year ever, but we are now facing a challenging future with hope and optimism.

One of the challenges that had to be faced in the last year and that will continue next year is the fiscal health of the organization. The Board of Directors voted in September to raise BGES membership dues for the first time in our history. BGES had resisted the temptation to raise dues for nearly nine years; however, by doing so now we expect to reduce our operating deficit as we prepare to engage in a sustained growth campaign increasing membership, education programs, and preservation activities.

BGES envisions itself as an all inclusive organization dedicated to the preservation of the heritage of the American Civil War. We are not preservers of land nor are we a museum or reenactors. While all of these are essential to the overall preservation effort, we want to tell the story. We want to provide the reason and substance for why the land is hallowed and should be protected, why the museums should be visited and supported and why reenactors should be respected for what they do. In turn we believe that each of these elements can be employed to tell the story. This philosophy will be the cornerstone of the new strategic plan envisioned by the BGES Board of Directors for adoption during 2003.

An enhancement of the strategic vision of BGES is the formation of partnerships with like-minded organizations. An example of this approach is represented by the memorandum of understanding signed in October between BGES and Mr. H. Alexander Wise, Jr., President Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation where both parties recognized that while BGES conducts educational programming on the Civil War, including battlefield interpretation and seminars, and promotes and publishes scholarly research to its members and the general public, the Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation is developing a National Civil War Center at the Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond which will include museum exhibits, educational programming for all ages, and site interpretation telling all sides of the Civil War story—Union, Confederate, and African -American.

Accordingly, BGES and the Foundation will collaborate in developing the Tredegar Foundation's

off-site programming for members and the general public and in promoting BGES programs of battlefield interpretation, seminars, scholarly research, and publications in a manner that will reflect credit on both BGES and the Foundation. The Foundation and BGES have agreed to collaborate in further identifying, defining, and implementing educational and interpretative initiatives to the mutual benefit of each organization.

As part of its ongoing efforts, during this next year BGES will complete a \$35,000 interpretative eleven-sign project at Cedar Creek using as a model the successful project at South Mountain in 2002 and previously at North Anna. Additionally, the Board of Directors will be considering a request to partner with the Friends of Raymond to develop and place fourteen interpretative signs at the Raymond battlefield by early 2004.

In 2003, BGES will complete and release a draft battlefield interpretative survey based upon data that was developed and provided by BGES membership. We will utilize the survey to prioritize future BGES interpretative opportunities and to catalog related projects and programs.

During the year, BGES will present eighteen or more educational programs and field studies. In this arena, BGES has entered into discussions with the Licensed Battlefield Guides of Gettysburg for a partnership activity that builds on their historical knowledge and BGES's organizational ability. This exciting initiative will provide a unique learning opportunity for the membership of BGES. Additionally, BGES will publish three monographs and four newsletters, as well as initiate action to publish a book of essays with a university press. And in an extraordinary action, BGES will open and fund manpower for an archival office at Arizona State University to assemble and process the video, audio and written archives of Edwin C. Bearss.

While BGES accomplishes all of this, we will continue to refocus the organization on the needs of our membership, and we will grow the BGES to 1000 or more dues-paying members. Growth in membership is critical to our success as well as insuring that BGES remains a healthy and lively organization. We will need your help in nominating, educating and recruiting potential members that you know are interested in our mission. Your referrals, along with your dues and support of programs, are your most tangible endorsement of BGES' progress toward mission fulfillment.

As always I welcome your comments, concerns and recommendations. Please feel free to contact me through the BGES Danville office about your concerns and desires. I can also be contacted over the Internet at lowewc@comcast.net. In the interim, I and the rest of your Board of Directors look forward to seeing you at a BGES function in the near future.

Sincerely,

William "Corky" Lowe

Book Review

Banners to the Breeze: The Kentucky Campaign, Corinth, and Stones River, Earl J. Hess (Lincoln, NB, University of Nebraska Press, 2000), 253 pages, Introduction, Preface, Illustrations, Maps, Notes, Bibliography, Index, \$32.00.

Earl J. Hess is a Missouri native who has published more than 30 articles and reviews in history journals and newspapers. Dr. Hess is deeply interested in the human drama of war. He is currently associate professor of history at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN. Hess views war as being the “quintessential” experience which tests human emotions both good and bad. Previous works with Civil War themes include *The Union Soldier in Battle: Enduring the Ordeal of Combat*, and (Editor) *A German in the Yankee Fatherland: the Civil War Letters of Henry A. Kircher*.

This enjoyable book is a part of the 13 volume Great Campaigns of the Civil War series, currently being published by the University of Nebraska Press. *Banners to the Breeze* offers the reader an analysis of three major Civil War campaigns in the Confederate West in 1862—1863. Hess goes to great effort to demonstrate that these pivotal battles and campaigns had far reaching impact on the future success of the Confederate armies in the Western Theatre of combat and on the overall success of the Confederacy as a nation. After the Confederate disasters at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson and the defeat at Shiloh, the Confederate Army attempted to regain the initiative and to retake the territory lost in the previous year. *Banners to the Breeze* tells the story of the battles of Perryville, Kentucky, Iuka and Corinth, Mississippi, and the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee. These campaigns covered hundreds of miles of territory and, as demonstrated vividly by Hess, had far reaching effects on the Southern armies in the Western theatre of the war. Author Hess views the period from June 1862 to January 1863 as the Confederacy’s greatest opportunity to take the strategic initiative from the Northern armies. The results of the battles fought during this time frame seriously impacted Southern—and Northern— morale, both in and out of the armies involved.

Earl J. Hess has done a masterful job of providing a full, well-rounded and easy to read narrative of the June 1862 - January 1863 time frame of events in the Civil War in the Western region of the Confederacy. Hess makes sure that the reader understands the impact that territory, geography and man made fortifications have on the battles discussed in the book. By blending hard hitting analysis with a talent for storyteller Hess offers accurate views of leaders such as Braxton Bragg, Don C. Buell, Kirby Smith, and William Rosecrans. None of these men escapes his sharp pointed analysis of their strengths and weaknesses, and their contributions to victory or defeat in the various battles and campaigns discussed in the pages of *Banners to the Breeze*.

Banners to the Breeze joins books by James L. McDonough and Peter Cozzens that covered the battles fought between June 1862 and January 1863. While McDonough and Cozzens both focused on specific aspects of the battles and campaign, Hess views the battles fought in this time

frame as inseparable, and successfully demonstrates that they must be considered together as one huge effort on the part of the Confederate leaders to drive the Union armies from the states of Tennessee and Kentucky and regain huge amounts of Southern soil lost in early 1861—1862. Hess does not attempt a blow-by-blow, detailed description of the battles, but describes them in enough detail to inform the novice reader of the topic as well as hold the interest of the veteran Civil War enthusiast. His interpretation of the impact these battles had on the Confederacy after January 1863 is hard-hitting and accurate.

Banners to the Breeze is a welcome addition to Civil War literature and research. The book has excellent maps and photographs, some of which have never before been published. Hess made good use of primary sources as well as secondary sources in researching his topic. The description of the trials that the Confederate soldiers endured on the retreat from Kentucky are heart rending and demonstrate Hess' ability to relate and empathize with the common foot soldier of both armies.

Hess offers the view that “the Confederate failure to take the strategic initiative from their enemy and control the course of the war in the West doomed the entire Confederacy. Never again would the Rebels have such an opportunity to do this as they had in the summer of 1862. Their failure may have been the decisive turning point of the Western campaign.” It would be difficult to disagree or dispute this viewpoint, given the history of Confederate armies in the Western theatre after January 1863.

By Mark Witt



Remains of the Lewis Farmhouse

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