

THE BENNETT PLACE COURIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BENNETT PLACE SUPPORT FUND, INC.

Editor: Jeremiah DeGennaro

Spring 2012

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE TURNS

50

Diane Smith

Historic Interpreter I

As we approach the spring of 2012 we look back over the past 50 years that we have been an historic site. The property which is now Bennett Place was given to the state in 1923 from Mrs. Sarah Morgan, widow of the late Samuel Morgan, and their children: Mrs. Alexis Gourmajenko, Mrs. Robert G. Cabell and Samuel T. Morgan, Jr. The state initiated a commission to manage the care of the property which was headed by Mr. R.O. Everett. In the early years, it is unknown what the plans were for the future of the property or what improvements were made. When the property was given to the state, Sarah Morgan provided money for a monument to be placed on the site which was done on October 12, 1923. A couple of names are associated with the design of the monument — W.H. Dacy and architects Milburn and Heister. The Durham Rotary Club donated the Rotary Bandstand to the site in 1924. This pavilion was on the grounds that would become the Washington Duke hotel and was slated to be destroyed. The money required to have the pavilion brought to the site was given by Mr. Everett. Sarah Morgan would pass away in 1933 leaving \$1,000.00 to the Bennett Memorial Commission. Part of that money was used to dedicate a Memorial bench in her honor. Mrs. Brodie Duke would provide funds to have the stone wall built around the site which was done during the 1930's. The exact date for this information is unknown at this time.

In the early part of 1958, with the ap-



Only three years after the dedication of Bennett Place State Historic in 1962, the site commemorated its centennial with an address by Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey on April 27, 1965.



THE BENNETT PLACE SUPPORT FUND

Board of Directors

President, Karen Edwards
Vice President, Chandler Vataavuk
Treasurer, Caroline Odom
Secretary, Ernest Dollar

Board Members

Ruth Ann Bond
Rob Everett
Anne Hedgpeth
Sam Miglarese
Don Scott
Jack Schrader
Betsy Vataavuk

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE

Staff

JOHN GUSS
Site Manager

JEREMIAH DeGENNARO
Historic Interpreter III

DIANE SMITH
Historic Interpreter I

Historic Sites Division

DALE COATS
Operations Manager

KEITH HARDISON
Director

DR. JEFFREY J. CROW
Deputy Secretary

LINDA CARLISLE
Secretary of Cultural Resources



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES
WWW.NCCULTURE.COM

LOOKING BACK AT OUR 50 YEARS AS A STATE HISTORIC SITE

Continued from Page 1

This press coverage spurred students in North Carolina to start a movement by saving pennies to donate to the site for the purpose of restoring the house. Mr. R.O. Everett would endorse the project called "Operation Bennett House Restoration".

If the project wasn't completed by 1961 it was hoped that it would be in time for the actual anniversary of the meeting in April of 1965. There was great anticipation that Bennett Place would bring in tourists but only if it was properly developed and advertised.

In April of 1960 funds had been acquired to build the kitchen house. The cost of \$13,000.00 was approved by the heirs of the late Mr. Samuel T. Morgan. Mr. Everett who was the chairman of the Bennett Place Memorial Commission created a committee to oversee the building of the kitchen house. Those in this committee were: Mr. W.L. Tarlton and Mr. Christopher T. Hutchins. The initial cost of restoring the main house had been estimated at \$8,000.00 but proved too low. Mrs. Magruder Dent, daughter of Frederick Bailey who owned Owen Mills, has been credited with donating the initial money but it was held until the remainder of the money could be raised. By December of 1960 both the main house and the kitchen house were complete.

Also in December of 1960 donations of artifacts were beginning to arrive. A furnishing committee had been formed headed by Mrs. W. M. Piatt. She donated a spinning wheel that belonged to her grandmother, Mrs. Rufus H. Beavers of Chatham County. Other members of the committee included: Mrs. Irving Gray, Mrs. W. H. Woods and Miss Beavers. Mr. Charles H. Pattishall was named as a temporary caretaker of the property.

In March of 1961 a notice was placed in a newspaper telling the public about the completion of the two buildings and reservations would be required to tour the place. As the year progressed, there appeared to be a stronger interest in seeing the place and for signs to be placed showing the public where to go in order to see it.

April 29, 1962 with the completion of the smokehouse there was an official dedication ceremony with local high school bands, speakers, and local citizens held at the Durham Music Center. During the Centennial Commemoration the first reenactment of the surrender was held inside the newly reconstructed Bennett Home. President John F. Kennedy and First Lady, Jacqueline had been invited, but declined the offer. However, Vice President Hubert Humphrey attended and provided the keynote



Before the completion of the house restoration in 1961, the only structures at the site were the Unity Monument and the original chimney, as evidenced in this undated photo.



OUR STATE HISTORIC SITE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Continued from Page 2

address at the Unity Monument. Reenactment groups representing the 6th and 23rd North Carolina Infantry Regiments were present along with dignitaries including Governor Dan K. Moore.

Following the completion of the 3 buildings in the early 60's the site had limited hours, no museum building to house the artifacts and no full-time caretaker. It was a question on many local's minds as to the future of the site. More would need to be done. The site opened with regular hours in 1971 but as of 1977 site manager Harold Mazingo noted that the property's development of a visitor center had been postponed due to a lack of city water and sewer.

In addition to the desire for a museum and visitor center there was a move to put up signs and directions to get those visitors to the site. Things moved forward and as the 1980's approached so did the hope of a new visitor center.

1980 marked the 115th Anniversary of the end of the American Civil War but



Harold Mazingo, the first site manager at Bennett Place State Historic Site, inspects elements of the kitchen restoration in this photo taken in the 1970s.

would mark a new beginning for the Bennett Place. As the decade dawned, so did the prospects for a legitimate visitor center. The new building would open to the public on September 23, 1982 and within 6 months a slide-show entitled "Dawn of Peace" aired in the new theater.

The title of the presentation came from an original newspaper dated May 2, 1865. With the interest in the Civil War growing, a number of living history events were held at the site which helped to

Continued on Page 4

DISPATCHES FROM THE SESQUICENTENNIAL: SHILOH

Jeremiah DeGennaro

Historic Interpreter III

The sesquicentennial continues apace. Less than a year after the commemoration of the start of the war, I travelled to southwestern Tennessee to help commemorate one of the defining moments of the Civil War's western theater: the Battle of Shiloh. For this event, I would be joining a group some 500-strong to portray the 15th Iowa Infantry, who went into battle for the first time at Shiloh. Our group attempted to recreate the 15th Iowa's experience at Shiloh as completely as possible, right down to an overnight paddlewheel boat trip down the Tennessee River to disembark at Pittsburg Landing, as the original regiment had done. After disembarking and a march up the bluff to Shiloh National Military Park, the group marched 5 miles to the site of the battle reenactment on land adjacent to the park.

The opportunity to see a large battalion with a full complement of soldiers, officers, musicians, and even supply wagons illustrated the sheer size of armies during the Civil War in a way even original photographs cannot convey. To stand in the middle of a sea of blue and realize that our group, overwhelm-



The author in camp at the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

ing though it seemed, only comprised half the size of one regiment of one army gave me new appreciation for the size of an army on campaign. Though many reenactors get excited for the battle portion of these reenactments, the experiences I valued most came from our attempts to replicate the movements

CONTINUED: BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE TURNS 50

Continued from Page 3

increase the visitation as well as the importance of the site. Also in this decade there was archeology done on the existing well and the Hillsborough Road was uncovered. Mr. William Vataavuk, after spending 3 years doing research, completed a 30 page booklet which chronicled the Bennett's as well as the negotiations done by the 2 generals. This booklet would be released in 1989. The importance of this site and its continued development was evident with the formation of a support group on July 27, 1988 headed by 3 directors: William McPherson, Davis Waters (assistant site manager) and Kent McCroury. Their purpose was to preserve and promote the site.

Progress continued in the 1990's at Bennett Place with a painting depicting the meeting of the Generals by artist Lisa Turner. Mrs. Mae McAllister donated the painting in September 1991. Restoration work on the kitchen house and smoke house took place in 1992. This was followed by the addition of a library on January 31, 1994. Mr. Charles Thissen, a local U.S. Postal Service employee, donated his personal library of some 900 Civil War related books. His donation of these books would provide visitors and staff a wonderful opportunity to research information on the Civil War. As the decade came to a close, Harold Mazingo, the site's first manager, retired and handed over the reins to the assistant site manager, Davis Waters.

A new century arrived and with it, continued improvements to the park. In 2003 the house received new siding and the kitchen garden was revitalized. Davis Waters retired December 2005 after a long dedicated career at Bennett Place.

In 2006, the outdated audio-visual presentation was replaced with a 17 minute movie depicting the surrender as well as information about the Bennett

Reenactors portraying the 15th Iowa Infantry on their 5 mile march from Shiloh National Military Park to the site of the Shiloh battle reenactment, March 31, 2012. The 15th Iowa saw its first action at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862, and served through the entire course of the war in the western theater, ultimately marching with William Tecumseh Sherman to Raleigh in April of 1865. Approximately 500 reenactors, including the author, joined together to form the group. Their column of march extended roughly a quarter mile.

Photo by Michael Hicks.



Continued from Page 3

of these soldiers toward the battlefield. The lack of sleep that came with boarding a steamboat in the middle of the night, followed by the fatigue of a long march while carrying a full complement of accoutrements and equipment produced a type of exhaustion I had not felt before.

Reflecting on my participation in this most recent sesquicentennial event, a few things stick with me. The lesson I learned in being one small part in an overwhelmingly large group gives me a

new appreciation for what the average soldier experienced during the war. I also must confront the issues that arise in the reenactment of these bloody battles as a form of "entertainment" rather than education. Spectators watching our fake battle saw the smoke and heard the guns, but I doubt they left with a deeper understanding of the battle and its participants. It is the challenge that will continue to face the sesquicentennial: how to capture the crowds of big battle reenactments and help them take away deeper messages about this war.

family and was entitled "Dawn of Peace". This film, produced and directed by Ernie Dollar, was shot on the Bennett Farm property. As part of the 145th Surrender Commemoration, the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc. commissioned well known historical artist Dan Nance, to paint the most accurate portrayal to date of the Surrender. The painting is entitled, The First Meeting, and hangs

in the museum gallery.

Today, as we commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the staff and volunteers continue to strive in the preservation of this hallowed ground. More research is being done to better understand the lives of the Bennett's as well as other North Carolina families who struggled and survived the horrific years of war.



THE SITE MANAGER'S DESK



By John Guss, Bennett Place Site Manager

It is hard to believe it has been a half century since Bennett Place was “resurrected” and preserved to become an official North Carolina State Historic Site and rise to become a prominent historic landmark in the United States. While there are several dates which mark when preservation work began,

a full-time staff was put on site, and tours initiated of the historic farm, we have officially declared April 29, 2012 as the 50 year mark. It was on April 29, 1962 that the Bennett Farm was rededicated having been virtually completely reconstructed on the original foundation. A formal ceremony took place at the Durham Music Center with many dignitaries, lands, and citizens of the local community in attendance. Mr. R. O. Everett of the Bennett Memorial Commission was the master of ceremonies.

Since that celebration there are so many people to remember and recognize in all of the effort that has been put forth through the last 50 years and even beyond. Certainly the Duke, Everett, Morgan and Bennett families and their descendants can be mentioned, but there are so many staff, volunteers, and supporters who have worked tirelessly day to day to the present who should be mentioned. We hope to recognize many throughout this newsletter as well as during the 50th anniversary weekend, which will coincide with the 147th Surrender Commemoration, April 28-29, 2012.

We begin with a special thanks to staff of years ago, starting with the first site manager, Mr. Harold Mazingo. Under his leadership and guidance, Mr. Davis Waters supported Harold for many years taking over the reins after his retirement becoming the second site manager of Bennett Place, and also making much of his career at the historic farm. Mrs. Jessica Dockery was a new face in 2005 after the many years of dedicated service by Harold and Davis. I arrived in May 2007. Over my nearly five years of service at Bennett Place I feel deeply honored to be one of the many caretakers of such an incredibly significant historic landmark. Walking the Old Hillsboro to Raleigh Road each day is such a thrill to think that nearly 150 years before General Johnston and Major General Sherman rode their horses down that very road to negotiate a peace settlement and put an end to this horrific war.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not make a specific

mention of others who have contributed so much over the years. Mr. William Vataavuk, through his leadership, began the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc., the progeny of the Bennett Memorial Commission. His wife Betsy and son Chandler have continued his legacy. A particular thanks to Mrs. Karen Edwards, who has served faithfully as our recent president after the passing of Bill Vataavuk, but who was a loyal supporter of Bennett Place many years before taking over the position. Caroline Odom, Ernie Dollar, Sam Miglarese, Anne Hedgpeth, Ruth Ann Bond, Don Scott, Jack Schrader, Brenda McKean, and Rob Everett, Jr., a third generation of the Everett family have all been so loyal and supportive of the great challenges we have endured. Certainly a special thank you goes to Mr. Charles Thissen with the overwhelmingly generous donation of the library collection, which has enabled us to have one of the finest research libraries in the entire NC Historic Sites system.

Additional staff who have devoted much of their careers to Bennett Place include Mr. Kent McCoury, an outstanding historian and researcher, and Mia Berg, an exceptional living historian. Others to include Jimmy Bartley, Jim McPherson, Brian Taff and the many others who perhaps spent only a brief time, but nevertheless who made their mark on Bennett Place are to be commended and can take part in this grand celebration. And of course, our current staff, Jeremiah DeGennaro and Diane Smith have made tremendous contributions to the progression and enhancement of Bennett Place to help secure its permanence in the world of historic preservation.

Moving forward we still have much to do in the second half of the century. With today's much more diverse culture and challenging economy we continue to fight the financial and political struggles which face our very existence. In February and March of this year two NC State legislative subcommittees with proposals to jeopardize our functional capabilities was a tremendous challenge we dealt with in the midst of the most important anniversary commemoration of the American Civil War. Fortunately, our dedicated leadership was successful in pleading our case of the importance of Bennett Place and the numerous other threatened historic landmarks. Unfortunately this trial may continue until the economy and interest of historic preservation improves. Perhaps it is sometimes difficult on a daily basis for us all to remember and respect the sacrifices made by our forefathers, but it is the very reason why we need our historic sites and museums to remind us how truly blessed we are in our society today.

In any event, we forge ahead with great plans with our 50th Anniversary celebration this month and our new museum



SITE MANAGER'S DESK

Continued from Page 4

gallery remodeling slated for a grand opening in 2013. New exhibits, additional artifacts, and other fresh educational dimensions will be a wonderful enhancement for first time visitors and frequent supporters. The 150th Anniversary Commemoration will come to a close at Bennett Place in April 2015. You most definitely will want to be a part of that!

Finally, the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War is in full stride with the recent reenactments of the Battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh in Tennessee, and soon to be the Siege and capture of Fort Pulaski in Savannah, Georgia and Fort Macon in Morehead City, NC.

Please continue to follow our new website of www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com and our North Carolina Sesquicentennial Civil War website: <http://www.nccivilwar150.com>, and for those who are most interested in keeping up with the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War throughout the entire country an excellent website to follow is the Civil War Traveler. www.civilwartraveler.org.

Enjoy this 50th Anniversary issue of *The Bennett Place Courier*. Thank you again for your continued support.

Volunteer Spotlight: Beverly Lyons

In order to show our appreciation for the many people who help our site through their volunteer service, we feature a different volunteer in each newsletter issue.

In this month's Volunteer Spotlight, we would like to highlight a special volunteer that began helping out at the site recently, though in her relatively short time of service has been a wonderful addition to the staff.

Beverly Lyons joined the Bennett Place volunteers in an unorthodox way, as part of the Transition2Work program, which takes employees from other companies who have been injured on the job, and allows them to do volunteer work while rehabilitating their injuries. Beverly came to Bennett Place with a torn rotator cuff from her job at Aerotek, but that didn't stop her from offering top notch visitor services.

Beverly currently lives in Durham, and has her hands full spending time with her 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Beverly enjoys world history, but has found studying the Civil War an interesting pastime. "I enjoy learning the history here," Beverly said, "and I like greeting all the people and seeing how enthused



they are about the history of the Civil War." Since beginning work, Beverly has done a lot of studying on this time period, and has enjoyed reading about African-Americans roles in the war.

When Beverly has fully recovered, she will be moving on from Bennett Place—we are eager for her to get well, but are saddened at the thought of her having to leave us.

THANK YOU, BEVERLY!

Follow Bennett Place Online !!

In addition to our Facebook page and Twitter feed, there is now an improved way to stay current with Bennett Place news online! Check out our brand new website at:

www.BENNETTPLACEHISTORICSITE.COM

The new website, created by JW Web Solutions, is completely funded by the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc. It features event photos, videos and blogs posted by the site staff. Information is available on the surrender, school programs, site rentals, and other uses for our historic site. There is an online gift shop if you are looking for a special gift for someone, or if you simply wish to make a donation to support Bennett Place, we greatly appreciate the contribution.



Visit Bennett Place online on Facebook and Twitter!
Follow us to stay posted on what is new around the site!

<http://www.facebook.com/bennett.place>

<http://twitter.com/Bennett Place>



Collection Highlights: JAMES BENNETT'S BOOK PURCHASES

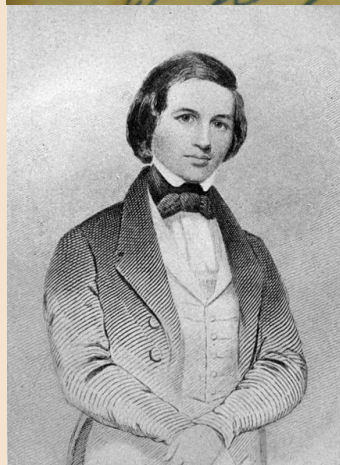
How well do we know James Bennett, the original owner of “the Bennett place”? We are fortunate to have account books and ledgers that give us details about his financial transactions, census records that tell us who was part of his household, and an estate inventory that tells us what he owned when he died. But while this information tells us much about James Bennett the farmer, we must closely analyze these sources to glean more about the personal life of James Bennett.

Details shedding light on James and other members of the Bennett family can be found in the family papers and ledgers currently kept in the special collections at Duke University. Two such details stand out as highlights of our collection.

Written in the earliest of James Bennett’s account books, under the heading “1845 Expenses,” are two separate books, the titles of which are written: “The Young Brides,” and “The Lady at Home.” This is a level of detail that is unusual compared to the other entries in this book, and one that allows us to investigate the books Bennett mentions. As it turned out, both of these books were relatively easy to find. Because both books are written from the perspective of a woman, it is likely that James Bennett bought them for his wife, Nancy.

The Young Bride’s Book, written by Arthur Freeling and published in 1839, is billed as containing “hints for regulating the conduct of married women.” The book itself is an interesting glimpse into the expectations of female behavior in marriage during the mid-19th century. Topics of discussion include “the first misunderstanding,” “the prospect of becoming a mother,” and “visiting, friendship, and gossiping.”

The other book listed by Bennett is most likely *The Lady at Home* by Timothy Shay Arthur, published in 1844. Arthur enjoyed great success as a novel-



TO THE READER.

IN writing this book, the author, in order to make it both useful and interesting to the extent designed, has assumed the character of an American woman, and caused her to relate her own experience, involving the troubles, wrong doings, errors and perplexities incident to domestic life. Its aim is to lift every true woman up, by teaching her rightly to look down upon those who have been providentially placed below her, and thus lifting her up, to elevate them also.

An entry in James Bennett's account book (above) lists the titles of two books purchased in 1845. One of those books, "The Lady at Home," was written by noted antebellum author T.S. Arthur (bottom left). Arthur noted in a note to his readers (bottom right) that domestic workers they employed.

ist and publisher, and wrote over 160 books, along with scores of articles for *Godey's Lady's Book* and *Arthur's Home Magazine*, a periodical Arthur himself published.

The Lady at Home is similar to *The Young Bride's Book* in that it helped guide female etiquette during the antebellum period. However, *The Lady at Home* specifically covered the treatment of “domestics,” female workers hired by wealthier families to work their homes. Domestics included cooks, washerwomen, and other service jobs.

It is already believed that James Bennett actively sought to enhance his status and position, engaging in multiple side businesses to earn additional income. His purchase of *The Lady at Home* further reinforces this idea, as the book itself is meant to instruct the reader on the proper treatment of domestic ser-

vants, the work of which was only enjoyed by wealthier families. Was it the dream of James and Nancy Bennett to earn enough money to hire their own domestic worker? As a family living in the antebellum south, how does this affect our understanding of the relationship between the Bennetts and the institution of chattel slavery? These books allow new insight into the Bennett's lives, but like most historical sources, they raise as many questions as they answer.

We would like to thank volunteers Adrian Zeck and John Rutledge for their assistance with this article. Adrian helped locate the entries in the Bennett account books, while John compiled information on the books and helped locate an original copy of *The Young Bride's Book* that will soon be a part of our collection.



JOIN THE CAUSE!!

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BENNETT PLACE SUPPORT FUND!



In addition to the satisfaction of supporting the mission of Bennett Place State Historic Site, a donation at the attached contribution levels to our support group are entitles you to the following benefits:

All Levels:

Membership Card

Quarterly Newsletter

Notices for Special Events

Captain and Above:

10 percent Gift Shop Discount

Certificate of Appreciation

Special Gift

Thank You
to
Our Latest Donors!

Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Terry, Jr.
Captain

Triangle Day School
Lieutenant

Garden Makers' Club
Lieutenant

Sam Miglarese
Lieutenant

Charles Thissen
Major

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME

DATE

ADDRESS

PHONE

E-MAIL

SIGNATURE

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant (1 yr) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant (1 yr) | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captain (1 yr) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major (3 yrs) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel (5 yrs) | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (lifetime) | \$1865 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor (1 yr) | \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President (1 yr) | \$5000 |
| Total: | \$ _____ |

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR IN REAL TIME: A LOOK BACK AT THE NEWSPAPERS OF 1862

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT "EXTORTION" AND INFLATION ARE GREATLY "UN JUST"

(April 3, 1862.) There is a great outcry throughout the country about the high prices of everything. . . But the complaints are in a great degree unjust. *Everything* having risen, everything is as much upon an equality as heretofore. For instance, a farmer comes to town with a load of bacon which he sells at 25 cents, double the former price, or a load of flour at \$11.25, also double. . . He wants a bolt of oznaburbs or sheetings. . . for which he pays 25 cents, more than double the former price, or a bunch of yarn, 40 cents, also more than double. Now his relative gain and loss are not materially changed, one way or the other, by the high prices.

It is true that in regard to cotton and naval stores the producer *is* damaged; but that is no fault of anybody in this country, but simply the result of there being no market for those articles. The law of demand and supply affects all things. There is, (or is supposed to be, which is the same thing,) a scarcity of bacon, flour, poultry, and many other things. The prices go up in consequence. There is undoubtedly a scarcity of manufactured domestics, for there is not machinery enough in all the Confederacy to supply the demand. Consequently domestics have gone up likewise to unreasonable prices. There is no adequate demand for cotton and naval stores, and they are down.

But why should the manufacturer be denounced as an extortioner more than the producer? The Whig and other papers threaten vengeance against the former after the war is over; but they ought equally to threaten vengeance against the latter. If the people are urged to make up their minds to buy domestics, after the war, from anywhere else in preference to

the factories at home, so also should they be urged to buy bacon and flour from anywhere else than from the home producers. This would be absurd; but not more absurd than the recommendation actually made.

We put this question to the complaining presses, but not one of them has ventured to answer it: If a dealer, say from Virginia, comes to one of our factories and *offers* to give 25 cents for sheetings, would the Editor have the manufacturer refuse the offer and sell the article at 20 cents? This is a practical question, it is founded upon experience.

—Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, NC

One of the most important, reliable and useful resources for historians is the "primary source," documents created at the time of a specific historical event. With this in mind, and as a way of gaining a better understanding of how North Carolina reacted to, and was affected by, the Civil War, we will look back at newspaper articles from this time 150 years ago. As a quarterly newsletter, we can only be so precise in our dates, but the content provided gives a better understanding of how North Carolinians felt about the war, and how it affected their daily lives.

APRIL 28, 1862: EDITORIAL: CONSCRIPTION ACT IS A "NECESSITY," BUT BEWARE OF "USURPED POWER"

(April 28, 1862.) The Conscript Bill.

We accept and submit to this measure as a necessity for the present time, "*our one great business being, to whip our enemies and save our homes.*" We believe the people will accept it on that account as a present necessity. Nevertheless, the people are jealous of their liberties; and so far as our observation goes, they regard this measure with no little apprehension as emanating from that class of men in the South who are on the point of despairing of man's ability to govern himself. There has been a good deal of loose talk about a monarchy or a Dictatorship, &c., for the South, and it is easy to see how the *plea of necessity* might be employed to accomplish a sudden and radical change in the form of our government, if indeed, (which we doubt,) there be a party amongst us which desire such a change. But as the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and as all encroachments are sure to begin with and emanate from our rulers, we

shall take this occasion to warn the people that we are in the very midst of perils, not only from the common enemy, but also from those whom we have delegated to transact our public business. Our National Constitution, cradled, nurtured and perfected in the very arms of war, has, by the conscription, been set aside or over-ridden on the *plea of a war necessity*. But yet, the people seem disposed to yield this *inch*—they will do it, because they believe in the *necessity*. But let them look out, henceforth. If our rulers are honest they will not abuse this usurped power. But on the other hand, if an overthrow of our Republican government is the object, and this bill is to be the lever employed for the purpose, you will soon hear of other stern *necessities* still more imperious, and more seriously invading the rights of the States and of the citizen.

—Carolina Watchman, Salisbury, NC

Special Thanks to Volunteer Jane Hoppenworth for researching and compiling these interesting articles!



PARK DAY 2012 RECAP



Park Day volunteers (from left) Bruce Martin, Pat Haggerty, Bob Ferrell, Sheila Martin, Rachel Ace and Bernie Zebrowski celebrate a job well done and a shirt well earned at the end of Civil War Park Day.

Several community volunteers and friends of Bennett Place gathered at the site on March 31 to participate in Civil War Park Day. The event has been organized by the Civil War Trust as a way of letting communities personally help in the preservation of Civil War sites. Park Day volunteers at Bennett Place undertook several necessary projects for the maintenance of the site, including clearing the nature trails, applying new stain to the supply shed, working in the historic gardens, and stacking wood in anticipation of the 147th Anniversary Commemoration. Park Day is a yearly event usually held around the first Saturday in April, if you are interested in the event or have questions about further maintenance projects at Bennett Place, please email Bennett.neder.gov or call (919) 383-4345.

NEW GIFT SHOP ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE.



The Bennett Place gift shop continues to improve and expand with new items for history enthusiasts, reenactors, collectors and amateur historians. From new titles in Civil War history to old standbys like *This Astounding Close*, the Bennett Place book store has everything you need to start studying the western theater of the Civil War. We also offer authentic reproduction forms, letters and other paper items, along with mugs, games and cards for Civil War living historians. On your next trip to Bennett Place be sure to visit the gift shop located in our Visitor Center, or visit our online gift shop at our new website, www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com

NCCIVILWAR150.GOV

Freedom - Sacrifice - Memory



150TH LICENSE PLATES NOW AVAILABLE

As part of North Carolina's commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial, special license plates are now available for purchase through the Department of Cultural Resources. The plates feature the theme being used by the North Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee: "Freedom, Sacrifice, Memory." The license plate is available for a yearly \$30 fee; proceeds from plate sales will go toward commemorative programs and battlefield preservation. Applications will be accepted through 2015. For more information, or to download an application form, visit www.nccivilwar150.com.

NORTH CAROLINA

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BENNETT PLACE !



APRIL 28 - 29

Bennett Place 50th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

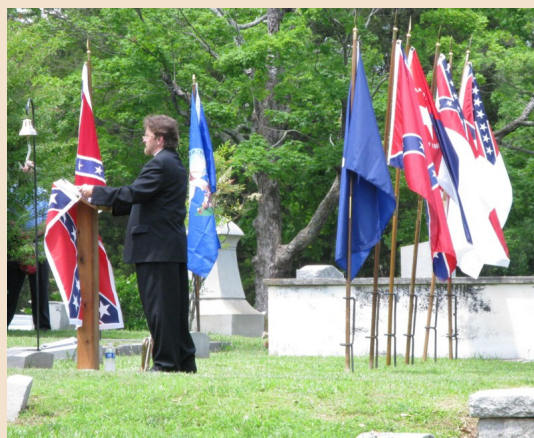
Celebrate 50 years of Bennett Place as a State Historic Site! Guest speakers will make presentations on the history and development of this national landmark into a historic park. Sunday will feature a wreath laying ceremony at the Unity Monument. Military encampments and civilian life will be depicted and event activities are ongoing throughout the weekend. Admission is **FREE** and donations are graciously accepted. For more information contact: **919-383-4345** or bennett@ncdcr.gov

MAY 10

Confederate Memorial Day (NC Observance)

Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Join living historians portraying the American soldier who served in the Confederate army during the Civil War. Learn how this traditional observance of sacrifice and honor has coincided with the recognition for all American soldiers since the Civil War. Admission is **FREE** and donations are graciously accepted. For more information contact: **919-383-4345** or bennett@ncdcr.gov



MAY 19 - 20

Joining the Southern Cause

Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Lorenzo Bennett, the oldest son of James and Nancy Bennett, enlisted in the Confederate army on May 12, 1862. He joined the 27th North Carolina State Troops and went to war. This living history program will depict the civilians who enlisted in the war. An enlistment office will be set up as part of the living history program. Admission is **FREE** and donations are graciously accepted. For more information contact: **919-383-4345** or bennett@ncdcr.gov