

# BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Summer/Fall 2013

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## *In the Footsteps of My Ancestors: 150th Battle of Gettysburg*

Author: Ryan Reed

This past July marked the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the largest land battle fought in North America, the battle of Gettysburg. It is referred to as the "High Watermark of the Confederacy" and with over 50,000 casualties in only three days, makes this battle the bloodiest of the American Civil War. For many of us in the "Civil War" world, reenactors or otherwise,



Gettysburg is a sacred place. However, for me personally, it is more. I had three ancestors who fought during the battle, two of which were my three times great grandfathers. My two ancestors fought side by side in the same Regiment and Company, Co.G of the 47<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment. Both participated on the first day of battle on McPherson's Ridge and Hebst Woods, and one survived to take part in that dreadful charge across that field of death on the third day. So when I was given the chance to participate in the 150<sup>th</sup> reenactment I jumped at the opportunity.

I made my journey up to Gettysburg with a few people from the 6<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment and we were going to fall in with the 26<sup>th</sup> NC once we got there. I have been reenacting now for the past two years, so I am still a newbie in comparison to others. This was my first LARGE reenactment, and that was made perfectly clear upon arriving. The registration line was long and I immediately noticed license plates from almost every state in the union, so I knew I was going to meet some interesting people. After registering we made our way to our campsite, and the endless rows of tents, shelter half's and Fly's was awe inspiring to say the least. We set up camp and began to prepare for the first day of battle.

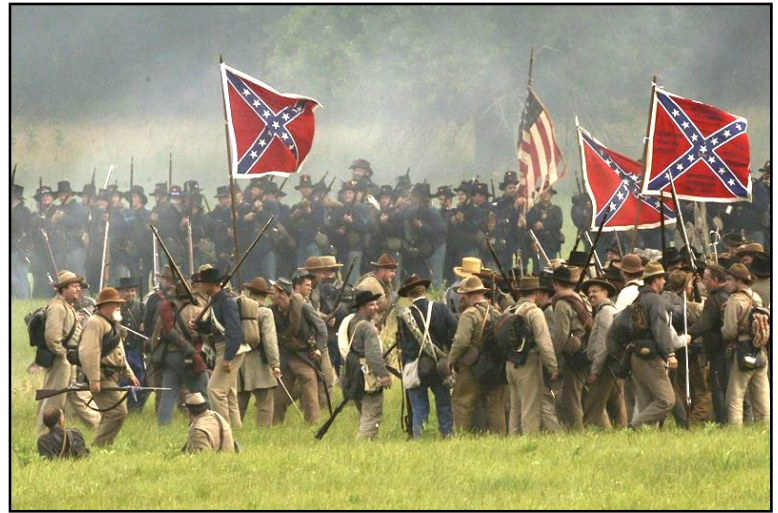
The first day of battle called for the McPherson's Ridge reenactment and I remember upon reaching the battlefield with thousands of confederates to either side of me that this is what my grandfather's probably saw and felt. It became clear to me how the men in battle at that time could stand fast as they saw the enemy approaching. Just as many of the soldiers during the war, I had friends in the ranks, people I respected and wanted to make sure I did my part during the "Battle" so that no one could come back and say I was a coward or afraid. So, when it came time for the unit to jump over a small ravine to advance toward that ever impressive line of blue, I jumped across with the rest, hoping I wasn't going to fall into the creek and become a true "causality of war".

After the first day's scenarios' were over we lined the unit back up and did a head count, and believe it or not we had one missing! We also had an officer get hurt earlier in the day during one of our charges. So I thought to myself with a small grin manifesting it's self "WOW, these guys are accurate!" Just for reference though, the Officer was fine, and the missing person was found, unharmed. That night the Regiment's band played a concert for us and that by itself was worth the trip, the sound of thousands of men cheering upon hearing the first few notes of Dixie was absolutely amazing.

Continued on Page 2



The second day of battle held for us the Wheatfield and Peach orchard scenarios and we were portraying the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Regiment. Before entering the battlefield, the entire battalion lined up in full marching order and we had a grand review for the General and his staff. That was my first review, and again, very interesting, it gave the group a sense of power and we all left the review feeling as though we could do anything, even though we were all extremely exhausted from the previous day's activities. The battle on the second day was intense but shorter than the first day. The one thing I will never forget from that second day is the endless string of fighting that was going on. After my unit was done with the Wheatfield scenario, we were allowed to rest and refill our canteens in this beautiful open field. I noticed upon resting next to a tree that as far as the eye could see on either side of the field were soldiers clad in both blue and grey fighting it out. The constant barrage of cannon shot and the distant crackling of a well executed rifle volley made me forget that we were actually in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and for a moment I was transported back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, in that instance, I was connected to my ancestors who were here 150 years ago.



The morning of the third day of battle was a quiet and solemn one, partly due to the fact everyone was sore, tired and bruised from the past two days. Another factor was that this is the day we reenact the most infamous attack performed during the War Between the States; Pickett's Charge. We left camp and headed for a vast forest, which is where all the confederates formed up. My battalion was portraying the 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment that day. As we waited in the woods, we could hear the brass band that had played two nights before strike up with that ever so famous tune "Dixie". A large group of men started to cheer. I wondered what the commotion was about so I ventured over to where I saw a crowd forming, and who do I see? General Robert E. Lee himself. He was talking to his Virginia boys and I wondered if he was going to come over to the North Carolina Boys, but he never did. A few minutes before we had to march on, our battalion minister give us the lord's prayer and a short sermon, just as would have been done during the war. At this point I had a moment to reflect on what my ancestors must have felt has they were waiting to march across that open field? Were they scared, excited? Did they think back to their Granville county farm homes? I wondered what it could have been like for them since they had already fought on the first day and had already seen hundreds of their comrades, some of them relatives, killed or wounded. It made me very proud to be their descendant.

Upon exiting the woods we all saw that terrible line of blue several hundred yards in front of us. We all were filled with adrenaline and a shout rose up along the ranks, that ever terrifying Rebel Yell. We sounded like a group of mad men, screaming at the top of our lungs. I wondered at this point what the Yankees at the wall were feeling. The 26<sup>th</sup> NC reached the Emmitsburg road and as I fell, I was able to look down the Rebel line, and the site before me was spectacular. 4,000 Confederate soldiers walking across an open field, battle flags flying and that Rebel Yell still lingering in the air. I watched that line melt as if it was a stick of butter the closer it got to the wall. Shortly after the line hit the wall, I saw soldier straggling back to the woods we occupied just a minutes ago. As I rejoined the remnants of the 26<sup>th</sup> NC we could all hear the faint chanting "Fredericksburg!" from those blue coats at the wall.

We gathered back up into formation and did a head count, this time we were all present and accounted for. Before our Colonel would allow us to break from formation, he pulled a piece of paper from his jacket pocket and began to read the contents out aloud. It was the roster of all NC regiments who participated in the Battle of Gettysburg 150 years ago. He asked us to respond when we got to a unit we had ancestors in. This was the first time I had ever seen anything like this done and it is a memory I will never forget. After he got through the over 30 regiments present at the battle, he ended with the statement that "these men are a part of you and in the past three days you have performed well and given honor to both them and to the State they so passionately fought for upon these fields." I am not ashamed to say that I shed several tears and was not the only one either. Before he gave the command to break, the battalion all gave one last shout "Tar heels!!!" and broke for home. The battlefields at Gettysburg have been long silent but, for those three days we took part in honoring the men, both North and South, who gave, and lost, so much.



## ***Fort Wagner Remembered: 150 Year Ago***

### ***A Movie and a Flag for Freedom***

**Author: John Guss**



On July 17, 2013, I embarked on a journey, which would carry me full circle in one of the more important chapters of my life. The Battle of Fort Wagner, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, was to be commemorated 150 years to the date, an intense fight overshadowed by the Battles of Vicksburg, Mississippi and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. However, it was equally important, and has a unique story unlike any other in the American Civil War. It was here on the beaches of Morris and Folly Islands that Black Americans were given their first true opportunity to fight in combat to once and for all prove themselves as worthy and equal to their fellow White Americans. By the end of the intense evening fight, there were more than 1,515 Union soldiers lying on the beaches or crawling away, and just 174 casualties among the Southern troops defending the earthen fort.

In conjunction with this exceptional commemoration, approximately 25 years before, I had had the distinct privilege to be a part of perhaps the greatest Civil War film ever made. The Oscar winning film "Glory" was a story about the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, one of the first Black American regiments to legitimately fight in the Federal Army. The climax of the movie are the scenes of the Battle of Fort Wagner in which the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts fought side by side with such distinguished regiments as the 48<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, 6<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry, 7<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Infantry, 67<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, 100<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, and 1<sup>st</sup> New York Engineers.

In February, 1989 following my recent graduation from the University of Georgia, it was just by chance I attended the annual Civil War reenactment of Olustee, Florida, where I became a part of this grand Hollywood production depicting the role of Black Americans in this war that would ultimately help them gain their freedom. I would spend three exhilarating and memorable months on my very first movie set working side by side with such famous actors as Matthew Broderick, Morgan Freeman, Cary Elwes, and at the time, the unknown actor, Denzel Washington. It was truly a thrilling experience for a young fellow from a small textile community in Piedmont North Carolina. By the time the film ended principle photography, I had decided on my future career of making historical films.

Now, nearly 25 years removed from that experience, I found myself coming to the actual place I really knew nothing about prior to the filming. Upon arriving at Fort Moultrie on Thursday morning, July 18th, everyone was eager and excited about the boat ride to a historic landmark we had only seen and felt on a movie screen. In addition to the Civil War reenactors, we were honored to have the company of actual descendants of the 48<sup>th</sup> New York and 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. They too were eager and thrilled for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We began our journey midafternoon across the Charleston Harbor, passing Fort Sumter and having a perfect view of one of the grandest cities in the United States. As the boats cruised closer and closer to the peaceful island everyone was somber and in deep thought; perhaps like me trying to imagine how intense the battle must have been on the now vanished beaches.





The contingent of 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts men arrived first, as if almost symbolic of 150 years before with these men of color leading the assault on the fort. As we all formed up along the shoreline with regimental and national banners proudly waving in the breeze, curious onlookers who were fishing, swimming, and enjoying the summer day at the beach approached closer to see what these odd looking men in blue wool uniforms were doing. Once everyone was standing in formation there were some fifty Civil War living historians, both black and white, representing the different sides Americans chose 150 years ago in a strong-willed conflict with such an unhappy ending for all involved. Thus, the reason why we all stood here on this historic day to remember and honor all Americans in a conflict, we continue to try and comprehend their motives and desires for this nation.

Following the master ceremony for all the units represented, my detachment of members representing the 48<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry, marched some 30 yards from the shoreline to a higher central dune where we had a quiet, unique ceremony of our own, planting soil we had retrieved from Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York, where the men of the 48<sup>th</sup> New York first mustered in and where many were born and raised. Our acting commander, Lou Evans, provided a brief eulogy as one of our parads, Gene Smallwood, poured *Forget Me Not* seeds into the “Brooklyn” earth in hopes the seeds might grow through the sand someday. This honorary gesture was done in accordance with an account written in the regimental history of the 48<sup>th</sup> New York in which following the war, veterans of the regiment returned to the remains of Fort Wagner years later seeing *Forget Me Nots* growing in the sand.

Upon our return to Fort Moultrie, we prepared for living history educational activities with an evening ceremony on the waterfront of Fort Moultrie that was very special. Lieutenant Governor Glenn McConnell, who, coincidentally, is an avid Civil War reenactor, provided an inspiring keynote address to a host of some three hundred or more visitors and the 246<sup>th</sup> United States Army National Guard Band played afterwards. Following the speech commemorating the historic events and the patriotic tribute, cannon and muskets erupted toward Morris Island at approximately the exact hour simulating the commencement of the engagement. Following this salute, hundreds of luminaries that represented both Union and Confederate soldiers who were casualties in this intense struggle for the shores of Charleston, were placed in the configuration of Fort Wagner by volunteers and visitors. Among them were the regiments of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts and 48<sup>th</sup> New York who suffered the greatest number of casualties, and their counterparts of the 51<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Infantry whose regimental flag once hung in the museum gallery at Bennett Place. We currently have an exact reproduction of the original Southern banner while it takes a break from having hung for more than 10 years at the park.

The highlight of this very personal 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War commemorative event was indeed the boat ride to Morris Island where few get to plant their feet on this Hallowed Ground. I feel deeply honored to have been standing on the site 150 years to the date.

***North and South fire a salute to the men who gave the ultimate sacrifice at the Battle of Fort Wagner, July 18, 1863.***  
***Photo courtesy of Joel Cadoff, NPS.***





## *A Visit from Our New Secretary*

During our Second Saturday event in July, *Remembering the Battle of Gettysburg 150 Years Ago*, our new Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, along with Deputy Secretary, Dr. Kevin Cherry and Executive Director, Keith Hardison visited the Bennett Farm. The staff provided Secretary Kluttz with a guided tour of the farm during her very first visit.



Diane Smith, Historic Interpreter, Susan Kluttz, Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, and John Guss, Site Manager stand at the front gates of the Bennett Farm.

## *90th Anniversary of the Unity Monument*

You are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the establishment of the Unity Monument, the memorial dedicated to the reunification of the United States.

On October 12, 1923, this grand monument was dedicated. During the month of October we will have a special exhibit in the museum gallery, which will share the history of the construction and dedication of the memorial.







## Herbs and Their Uses (Part 2)

When I began to write this article, we were in the dead of winter and the garden was asleep. Now, it is the middle of summer and the garden is doing well. The herbs suffered this year from the tremendous amounts of rain we received this spring followed by the high heat and humidity, but they are tough plants and are showing signs of improvement. I guess it goes to show that herbs are made of tougher stuff than we give them credit for.

This article is a continuation of the previous one in which I discussed herbs and their many different uses. In that article I wrote about some of the more common herbs we are familiar with or have heard about. This article will be to highlight the more uncommon or pesky weeds we sometimes find in our gardens or yards but were still beneficial. It is my hope and my goal that each year I will be able to add to the herb garden some if not all of the herbs I have mentioned in this article as well as the first one.

**Dandelion** - Yes, the very one we try so hard to eradicate from our yard. Believe it or not, it has wonderful uses and is a good source of vitamins A and C. Of course, I'm not talking about the actual flower, but the leaves. Dandelion greens must be picked and used in the very early spring before the plant produces the flower. The leaves or "greens" were steeped to make a tea which was effective in alleviating constipation and insomnia. If made into a poultice, the leaves made a great skin emollient. The root would be sliced fresh in salads or dried and roasted to make coffee. This is one that I do not need to plant in the garden as it is growing around the site in abundance.

**Skullcap** - was used to treat anxiety because of its calming action which was due to of the chemical scutellarin, which is an antispasmodic. Today it is used to alleviate the pain caused by fibromyalgia.

**Chickweed** - used in a poultice it would be applied to the skin to alleviate sores, swellings and irritations.

**Ground Ivy** - used in a tea it would help to alleviate the discomfort associated with coughs and headaches. When used as a poultice, it helped alleviate boils, sores, cuts and wounds.



Horehound



Chickweed



Comfrey



## Herbs and Their Uses (Part 2)

**Oxalis** - used to help remove ink and other stains from cloth.

**Mullein** - the soft leaves were sometimes used as diapers or were put inside socks for insulation. This plant can reach heights up to 7 or 8' tall.

**Nettles** - while many of us are familiar with this plant because of the painful sting you get when you come in contact with it, it actually has wonderful benefits. It contains a chemical that reduces inflammation. Also, with this plant, the leaf is utilized for different problems than the root. The leaf is used here as a diuretic, for arthritis, rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis, high blood pressure and allergic rhinitis. The root is used as a diuretic. It can also be used in soup when the leaves are still young and tender.

**Comfrey** - used mostly in tea form to help alleviate coughs, bronchitis and other lung disorders. Made into a poultice from the leaves and root, it was applied to wounds to relieve the pain from bruising and swelling. Its nickname was "knit bone" because it was often given to people who suffered from broken bones. I just recently acquired some of these plants from the House in the Horse-shoe site and will be planting them into our garden.

**Horehound** - contains, among its many attributes, marrubin which is an expectorant that is effective in loosening phlegm and mucus from the bronchial tubes and in the lungs. It is also effective at alleviating coughs and sore throats. Today we mostly find this delightful remedy in the form of candy. It was usually used as a tea to help with the symptoms listed above.

Before I wrap up this article, I thought you might like to read about an interesting and funny remedy for the use of horehound that I came across while doing the research for this article. This plant is very beneficial in alleviating a sore throat and cough but according to Mrs. Mary Rogers, in 1829, her recipe called for horehound to be mixed with honey into a poultice and applied to the bite wound from a dog. She also noted if that didn't work she recommended you take the yellow of an egg, sugar and the dog's hair mixed together.

So, you can see where the common "weed" does have its purposes. The foregoing on herbs is general and by no means complete. There are so many herbs that this article would be too lengthy for anyone's enjoyment. My goal was to give a small bit of information on as

many interesting herbs as I could and hopefully stimulate your interest in them to further your own research.

Now that you have learned a bit more about some of those pesky "weeds", the next time you look around your yard or along the road; take a second to think about the plants growing and you will probably appreciate them a little more. You just might find yourself looking around in your yard to discover that some of those darn weeds are really quite beneficial.





## Site Manager's Corner

We're back!! It has been a little while since we published our last edition of the Bennett Place Courier. With changes to staffing, budget cutting, and additional workloads, we have been extremely busy and have not had much time to put the pen to paper. However, we have readjusted and are back on track. Of course, don't forget about our website ([www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com](http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com)) and our newest form of communication technology, FACEBOOK (Find us as Bennett Place or Bennett Place Staff)! It has certainly been quite beneficial to our operations and has allowed us to communicate to a much broader audience around the world.

We have had a splendid Spring and Summer with some fine events which included the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Soldiers of the Old North State, Civil War Park Day, the 148<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Surrender, and our growing popular event, Memorial Day Remembrance in May. We have now just wound down from Second Saturdays and are getting ready for the children to pour back into school with many anticipated field trips to the Bennett Place.

As most of you are aware, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Civil War/War Between the States is in full gallop with the Battles of Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and a little known battle on the shores of Charleston Harbor known as Fort Wagner, now having been commemorated.

We are quickly moving into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the war with much of the focus shifting to the state of Georgia where the Battle of Chickamauga, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, and then the movement toward Atlanta.

Perhaps the most exciting item about to happen at Bennett Place is the new renovation of our museum gallery, which will take place in 2015 just in time for the grand conclusion of this four year national commemoration. The Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc. has raised \$34,000 of its \$50,000 goal with contributing funds from grants received through the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

In addition to all of our busy activities and successes, we are very excited to have Mr. Ryan Reed, who is a resident of Wake Forest, a graduate of Western Carolina University, and an enthusiastic Civil War living historian. Ryan has been a tremendous help thus far with his knowledge of the American Civil War and his enthusiasm to assist visitors and lead school groups. He is now our newsletter editor for the Bennett Place Courier. We look forward to utilizing his talents and passion in sharing our captivating story of the end of the American Civil War.

As Summer winds down and we move into cooler weather we have an exciting Fall with a new event, the Tar Heel Harvest Fair and Farmer's Market, September 28-29, and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Unity Monument which will be celebrated October 12<sup>th</sup> with a unique exhibit which will share the history of the symbol of the peace that was brought to our nation at the Bennett Farm on April 26, 1865.

*Enjoy this issue of the Courier and THANK YOU again for your continued support.*





## ***The Confederate Surrender at Greensboro: The Final Days of the Army of Tennessee, April 1865***

By Kevin E. Washington

Robert M. Dunkerly starts his treatise on the largest surrender of the Civil War by contrasting it with the more famous event at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. A larger surrender that took the better part of two weeks to come to pass, the Greensboro surrender is slow, messy and almost incomplete as far as history is concerned.

Incomplete in that it never involved the two armies facing each other, one trapped by the other, overwhelmed in size and firepower forcing an end, or an elaborate surrender ceremony between Confederate and Union soldiers.

Bert Dunkerly, National Park Ranger at the Richmond National Battlefield Park, has performed a yeoman's job in pulling together information from hundreds of sources to give a complete picture of the Greensboro surrender in his 226 page book. To say that this is an obscure topic is to overstate the obvious. Thousands of pages have been written about the Virginia surrender. Even most amateur Civil War historians know little about the Greensboro chapter, with most books skipping North Carolina's involvement in the Civil War except for the federal coastal incursions or the last Confederate Offensive at Bentonville, N.C.

In fact, the surrender really doesn't take place in one location because the Confederate Army is spread out in camps from Hillsborough down to Charlotte. The Confederate government was on the run during both surrenders, with President Jefferson Davis failing to sanction either one.

Whether you are a fan of the Army of Tennessee or the Army of the Tennessee, Dunkerly helps readers empathize with the sadness, frustration, and anger of a surrendering army in the last few days of existence without necessarily eliciting the theme of the Lost Cause. Dunkerly paints a picture of the collapsing Confederate government, its tribulations and challenges for Joseph Johnston, who really keeps everything together as he worries that those who won't abide by the terms of the surrender may embarrass him.

Dunkerly does a masterful job of describing the emotional chaos of Johnston's reorganization of his army on the eve of surrender. In the words of the soldiers who were emotionally and physically bloodied throughout the campaigns of the Western theater, we learn that uncertainty and despair were the order of the day.

Dunkerly lays out where different Confederate camps are located across the piedmont of North Carolina and shows what life in Greensboro, a small town of 2,000 people, was like as it swelled with thousands of Confederate troops as well as the wounded from Bentonville. Many of the troops abandon the cause before the surrender for myriad reasons.

Into the midst of this chaotic scene come the members of the Army of Northern Virginia, recently surrendered, heading home throughout the South. These soldiers bring their own problems, which include looting and engaging in other rowdy behavior.

The book makes it clear how the events in Greensboro at the end of the war are no less significant to completion of the war than any other surrender.



***Kevin Washington is a former reporter and editor for the Tampa Bay Times, Plain Dealer in Cleveland and Baltimore Sun. A former Civil War reenactor, he is a volunteer docent at Bennett Place.***



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### *All Levels:*

- *Membership Card*
- *Newsletter (issued quarterly)*
- *Notification of Special Events*
- *10% Discount at Gift Shop*

### *Major to President:*

- *Certificate*
- *Permanent Recognition at Site*

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- *Framed Certificate*
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## *Help Support the Bennett Place!*

*Please note our membership levels have expanded to include businesses and larger donors!*



**Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.**  
4409 Bennett Memorial Road  
Durham, North Carolina 27705

*Contributions are Tax Deductible!*

**Name:** (Individual, Family, Group, or Company)

**Address:**

**Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**E-mail:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

*Thank you for your support!!!*







## Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

### *Bennett Place State Historic Site Mission Statement:*

To preserve and interpret the history of the largest surrender of the Civil War and the lives of 19th century yeoman farmers such as the Bennetts.

### *Bennett Place Support Fund Mission Statement:*

The Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to the Bennett Place State Historic Site. Monies from the Fund are to be used for educating the general public about the site's role in the Civil War, assisting staff in its research and interpretation of 19th century farm life, and encouraging volunteer participation and community involvement.

We wish to help in preserving and developing this North Carolina Historic Site and need your assistance. Please consider making a contribution to the Support Fund today!

## CONTRIBUTORS

*Thank you for helping us preserve this national treasure.*

### General (\$1865)

Bennett Place Chapter 2241 UDC

### Colonel (\$500)

Confederate Heritage Society

Robinson Everett Jr.

Charles Thissen

### Major (\$300)

Kevin & Caroline Odom

Charles Morrison

G.G. Granddaughters of NC Division UDC

Eugenia Paine

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Alexander and Janet Floyd

Gary H. Pendleton

Martha W. Dunnagen

### Lieutenant (\$50)

Jos. J. Davis Chapter 537 UDC

### Sergeant (\$35)

Christine Coates

Cathie McIntyre

Jane Murphy

Ingrid Tomey

Asheville Chapter 104 UDC

McDowell Chapter 1364 UDC



## Upcoming Events

**September 14**

### ***Field Artillery Camp of Instruction***

Watch Civil War artillerymen demonstrate the use of cannon and horses. Artillery cannon firings will take place throughout the day.



**September 28 & 29**

### ***Tar Heel Harvest Fair and Farmer's Market***

Bring the family to the farm and enjoy a traditional 19th century fun filled fair atmosphere with wagon rides, livestock, farmers market, kid games, pie baking competition, basket weaving, candle making, a pumpkin carving contest, and more.



**October 12**

### ***90th Anniversary of the Unity Monument***

Celebrate the 90th Birthday of the Unity Monument. Enjoy the special exhibit inside the museum gallery and other activities surrounding the history of how our nation began the reunification process.



**December 14 & 15**

### ***Christmas in the Carolinas During the Civil War***

Enjoy the Christmas season with us and discover how families and soldiers celebrated Christmas during the American Civil War.

Old St. Nick may just show up in the Bennett Parlor!!!







*New Addition to the Bennett Place Staff:  
Ryan Andrew Reed*



Ryan is the newest addition to our Bennett Place family. Ryan started back in April and is very excited about being apart of the staff. He is a 2010 graduate of Western Carolina University and has his bachelors of science in History and Social Science. Ryan has always loved history and intentionally went to school to become a teacher, but after a 6 month internship at the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site, in Asheville, NC, he fell in love with the public history field. Ryan is a native North Carolinian and has grown up in the Raleigh-Durham area. He currently lives in Wake Forest, NC, where for the past two and a half years he was a Correctional Officer for the NC Dept. of Public Safety. He says " This is quiet a change in pace, but it's a GOOD thing". Ryan as been a Civil War re-enactor for 2 years and has several ancestors who fought in the war. He is very enthusiastic about Civil War history and loves his new Job.

***Welcome Aboard!!!***

*2013 Winner of the William Vatavuk Scholarship*

Our recipient of the 2013 William Vatavuk scholarship is Miss Laken Brooks. Miss Laken is from Lansing, North Carolina. Laken will be attending Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia this Fall.

***Laken, Congratulations and  
Best of Luck in College!***





***We are always seeking VOLUNTEERS to help on the Farm:***

- \* **Provide Guided Tours to Visitors**
- \* **Gardening in the Bennett Family Garden**
- \* **Living History Programs**
- \* **Research and Library**
- \* **Gift Shop and Guest Services**
- \* **Planning and Coordinating Special Events**
- \* **Administrative Assistance**



## ***Civil War Park Day 2013***

Join volunteers across the United States in this national volunteer day at Civil War historic sites. Sponsored by the Civil War Trust and the History Channel this annual event provides our Civil War parks with additional assistance.

Please check with the Bennett Place staff as to the specific date in April and the project activities that are planned.

**THANK YOU !!!**







## *Volunteer Spotlight: Rachel Ace*

**R**achel Ace, a longstanding resident of Durham, has been a dedicated volunteer at Bennett Place for the past three years. She has fond memories of visiting the Bennett Place as a child with school field trips and her family. Rachel attended East Carolina University and works at the Durham Life and Science Museum, but in her spare time she enjoys participating with us in our living history programs and special events, and assists with visitor services and guided tours. She has a terrific sense of humor and tremendous enthusiasm, two great traits in a volunteer for our North Carolina State Historic Sites.

Over the short time she has been with us she has developed and shared her skills in cooking, sewing, and gardening. Currently, Rachel is working with Diane Smith and some of the other volunteer ladies in making a quilt, which is being raffled off to raise money for our new museum exhibit gallery. She continues to be a tremendous and knowledgeable asset to have.



*Thank You So Very Much!!!*

## *MUSEUM OF DURHAM HISTORY GRAND OPENING*

***Mark Your Calendar!***

***October 12, 2013***

Bennett Place has been invited to participate in the Grand Opening parade for the Museum of Durham History. This is a project that has been in the works for many years and Bennett Place is very excited to be a part of this momentous occasion. So, come on out and enjoy the parade and other festivities and support Durham's proud history. The parade starts at 10:00 to Noon with additional activities to follow on Main St. Downtown Durham, NC.




**For Additional Information:**

<http://museumofdurhamhistory.org>







## Eagle Scout Projects around the Bennett Place



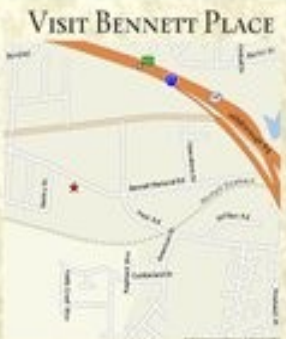
On the morning of April 17, 1865, General Joseph E. Johnston and Major General William T. Sherman met at the small farm of James and Nancy Bennett to negotiate a peace settlement to help end the American Civil War.

This 189-acre farm was situated along the Hillsborough Road, between the Union army of more than 90,000 located in Raleigh and the Confederate army of some 30,000 located in Greensboro.

Sherman and Johnston met three separate days and on April 26, 1865, they finalized the terms, which would surrender 89,270 Confederate soldiers in the states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. It would become the largest surrender of the American Civil War.



### VISIT BENNETT PLACE




4409 Bennett Memorial Road  
Durham, North Carolina 27705  
(919)-383-4345  
bennett@ncdcr.gov

bennettplacehistoricsite.com


Open Tuesday - Saturday  
9 am-5 pm




Eagle Scout Project  
Trail Posts and Brochure  
Completed By:  
Aidan Bermingham  
Troop 451

### Bennett Place Trail Map



American Civil War  
Historic Landmark



**Aidan Bermingham, Eagle Scout candidate, recently built color coded trail markers accompanied by a brochure guide, which helps guide visitors through the trails at Bennett Place.**







## *Boy Scouts of America Continue to Enhance Bennett Place*



*John Elam, Eagle Scout candidate, planted two heirloom Apple trees and one Sycamore tree around the Farm house and near the Visitor Center.*



*James Smith, Eagle Scout candidate, worked with his team to build new swinging gates for the Kitchen Garden.*



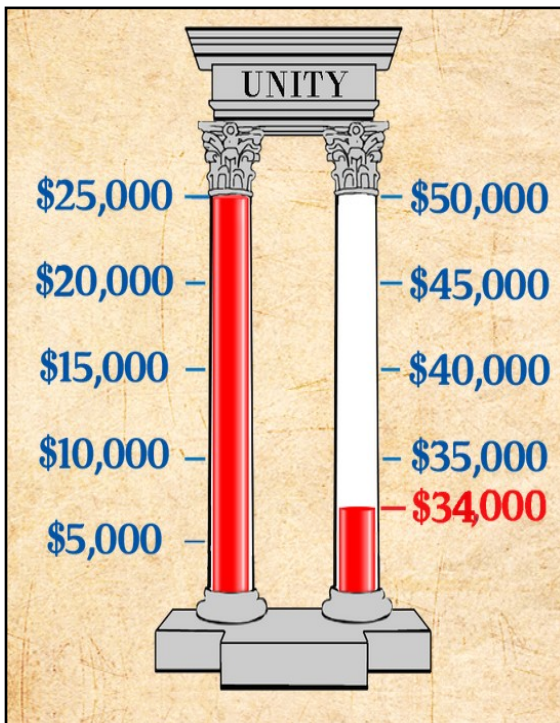


## *New Merchandise Items in Bennett Place Gift Shop*



Come visit the Museum Gift Shop and purchase a wonderful book on the history of the Civil War or North Carolina, a coffee mug, a deck of playing cards, shirt or hat, decorative boxes, DVDs and musical CDs, a musical instrument, toy soldiers, or a magnet for the refrigerator. All proceeds go to the support the preservation and operation of this historic landmark.

## *Help Us Build Our Museum Exhibit Gallery!!!*



***We are building a new museum exhibit gallery and our goal is to reach \$50,000. Help us complete our new museum gallery, every donation helps. Our grand opening is scheduled Spring 2015.***

***<http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com/museum-fund/>***