

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Summer 2014

Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

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149th Anniversary/ Blue&Gray Ball

By: Diane Smith

On the evening of April 26th, we held our Grand Blue & Gray Ball to help raise money for our museum. The location of the dance was the Old Murphey School located on Old Route 10 and was the perfect venue for the Ball. Early in

the day the building was transformed both inside and out to reflect a patriotic décor of the Civil War era. Red, white, and blue bunting hung over the doors and streamers decorated the large white columns outside. Inside, flags from both the Union and the Confederacy hung on stage as a backdrop for the musicians. The tables were covered with white tablecloths and decorated with white candles, red, white and blue flowers, and crystal bowls with glowing white floating candles.

Once the guests arrived, dance master, Pat Haggerty, brought them onto the dance floor and taught them some of the basic dance steps. Following the lesson our musicians from the Huckleberry Brothers began to

play and our guests were off to a fun filled evening. As the sun set, the light from the candles provided a romantic softness to the ballroom and transported our guests back to a time of southern belles and gallant soldiers.



(Continued)



In addition to the dancing there was a wonderful assortment of hors d'oeuvres for our guests to dine on which had been provided by our volunteers: Susan Hall, Suzanne McKean and Rachel Ace. In the long hallway to the side of the dance hall there were tables filled with items donated to the site from several organizations and individuals. Guests had the opportunity to bid on such items as a private airplane ride, artwork, sports memorabilia and gift cards from different restaurants in the area.



Our guests had the opportunity to have their picture taken in an elaborate 19th century setting by a professional photographer, Pam Lappegard, so they could have a keepsake of their night at the Ball. With the benefit of modern technology, the photographer was able to alter the color on the print so as to replicate a 19th century style photograph if the guest chose. The event was a great success and helped the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc. raise money toward the museum renovation project. A huge thank you goes out to our wonderful volunteers and board members who assisted the staff in the many months leading up to this special occasion, which ultimately made the Grand Blue & Gray Ball a tremendous success.





2014 Upcoming Events



Tar Heel Harvest Fair &
Farmers Market: *Sept. 20-21*



Christmas in the Carolinas
During the Civil War:
Dec. 6





Welcome to Hollywood

Many are aware of the recent filming of the Civil War era movie “*Union Bound*” on the grounds of Stagville State Historic Site. Karen Edwards and Brenda McKean (*Pictured Right*), two Board Members, participated in the filming and had very good comments on how they were treated while on set. However, as with any film production itself, there were some challenges. It was noted that there were some issues for the cast and extras concerning lack of information and logistics. This is something that occurs, especially in low budget films. That being said, the overall experience was noted to be a positive experience for all involved. “*Union Bound*” is expected to be a feature release in the upcoming months.



150th Anniversary Surrender Commemoration Raffle - 2015 Support our Museum Project



Win a Reproduction
1858 Remington
Civil War Revolver Set
featuring Dan Nance's
“Dawn of Peace” and an
American Black
Walnut Fitted Case by
Richwood LLC.

One Ticket \$5.00 - Three Tickets \$10.00

Revolver Raffle

Introducing our newest Museum fundraising item. A unique 1858 Remington Revolver set, complete with Reproduction Revolver, Powder flask, Bullet mold and 150th Civil War Commemorative medalion. The box was made by Richwood LLC. and features Dan Nance's “Dawn of Peace”. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, stop by our Visitor Center and purchase One Ticket for \$5.00, or Three Tickets for \$10.00.

***Thank you for your
continuing support !!!***



Memorial Day Remembrance

By: Diane Smith

Our annual Memorial Day Military Timeline event was held on the 24th and 25th of May and we were lucky to have had several new additions this year. We added to our military impressions with a Korean War reenactor as well as Mexican–American War and a Civil War horse artillery unit. They portrayed a Federal Artillery Unit and had a 3” rifled cannon pulled by a four horse team of Morgans. Seeing the horses pulling the cannon, caisson, and limber was a sight to see. Not very many people get to see an Artillery unit when they attend reenactments and so we were very excited to have them. They also brought along a battery forge, which was used to repair the wagons and various artillery equipment, to show the public and how each artillery battery and cavalry troop had one. Many people do not realize all the equipment that was needed during the Civil War for the infantry, cavalry and artillery units to conduct the campaigns fought.



In addition to the soldiers, we also had our growing number of civilian groups participate. Our Colonial and Civil War ladies were joined for the first time by ladies representing the 1812 era. This year marks the 200th anniversary of what would become our country’s national anthem and is a time period very seldom represented but very important in our nation’s history.



This event continues to grow in size and our recognition ceremony, conducted at the Unity Monument, of our soldiers past and present continues to draw large crowds. Our staff member, Ryan Reed, acquired a bugle this year and participated with our lead bugler, Bill Stallings, in playing taps in a rendition called echo taps. It was very haunting and beautiful.

This event will continue to be a permanent event at Bennett Place every Memorial Day Weekend. We hope that you will bring your family and friends next year to remember the real reason we celebrate this holiday. Next year, 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the first Memorial Day or Decoration Day as it was first called. Come out next year and learn the history of Memorial Day and those involved in creating this memorial to the sacrifice of brave soldiers.





Surrender at Bennett Place 150th Anniversary Commemoration

April 17-26, 2015



Join us for the grand finale of the ending of this 150th Anniversary Commemoration of the American Civil War, 2011-2015. During this week long commemoration, we will host special guest speakers, historians, authors, living historians and the reenactment of the largest surrender of the American Civil War between Major General William Sherman and General Joseph Johnston.

Details on the schedule of events, living history programs and presentations, and special guests can be found on our website: www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com.





In the Trenches of Petersburg

By: Kevin E. Washington

As battles go, I have always had some trepidation about studying standoffs and sieges. Prejudiced as I am against warfare that appears not to move – yes, I am a fan of George S. Patton - **In the Trenches at Petersburg: Field Fortifications and Confederate Defeat** (University of North Carolina Press; 2009) was a pleasant surprise.

Earl J. Hess has written an imminently readable book about the *standoff* – not a *siege* because rail lines were still bringing supplies to Petersburg – that comprises much of the last 10 months of the American Civil War in the eastern theater.



This is the third volume in a series on field fortifications – forts, trenches, redoubts and the like – by Hess, an associate professor of history at Lincoln Memorial University in Knoxville, Tenn., and author of several Civil War books. I have not read the other volumes on the eastern armies by Hess, but found this one accessible without the foreknowledge of the other books. The previous volumes are **Field Armies and Fortifications in the Civil War: The Eastern Campaigns** (from 1861 to 1864) and **Trench Warfare under Grant & Lee: Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign** (in the spring 1864).

As a nod to the recent 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Petersburg Campaign, the longest of the Civil War, this is an excellent comprehensive introduction to the events in Virginia during this period.

The 403-page book is probably a good companion for walking the field works in and around Petersburg and Richmond. You can feel that Hess has done so.

Hess brings a scholar's eye for detail and maps, diagrams, and period pictures to help the reader understand how all of this came together. This is one of the few complete histories of the standoff in one volume. He breaks down the whole affair into nine offensives so we can easily follow the decisions and actions. And in analyzing the decisions, he doesn't rely on the old "they now had rifled muskets" to explain away the tactics.

For example, he mentions that the depth of some trenches owes to the fact that a sniper with a rifled musket could pick off a soldier several hundred yards away – an impossible feat if tried with a smoothbore musket. On the other hand, he points out that the tactics and operations probably would have been a little different than what occurred if no rifled muskets had been on the field.



Trenches are not ubiquitous in the war before Petersburg and Atlanta, but they do show up from time to time. This is the hint that the rifled musket, which is the defacto weapon beginning in 1863 in the eastern theater, is not the sole battlefield difference that leads to entrenchments.

We learn the names of engineering officers and their specialized units which made all of this possible. Most casual military historians understand that West Point is an engineering school producing engineers for the Army, but what these men actually do in the field tends to be vague, almost requiring one to read between the lines to intuit how engineering plays a role in military operations. Hess makes it all clear.

His attention to detail is helped by his research in roughly 200 manuscript collections with material on the war.

Hess argues that Grant's great contribution to the creation of modern warfare – and the main reason entrenchments become primarily useful – is his effort to make sure the enemy armies remain in contact. His ability to see the grand design of a war of attrition with fortifications helping him to hold on to every inch of land he captures makes him the winner in the end. But Hess reminds us that Grant could be impatient, failing to properly scout and plan attacks. He learns slowly that extending his lines out beyond the Confederate lines is the strategy that works.

In the Overland campaign and the Atlanta campaign, Union armies kept up the close-quarters engagements. The Confederate armies in turn benefit from trenches as they preserve precious lives they can ill afford to lose.

Once invested at Petersburg, the trenches are not the final stand for Lee. He puts his army in motion on April 2, 1865, when it is apparent the trenches are no longer useful.

There is a nod to what this immobility meant to the Confederate soldiers; starving, freezing, burning up and experiencing just about any other discomfort one can imagine in the thick mud at the bottom of their trenches. Without the ability to move and win, Hess notes that Lee's soldiers deserted much more often than the army across the trenches. Thousands leave during the standoff and with 27 miles of lines, Lee must figure out how best to use the 31,000 men who are left.





While anyone who has been a soldier under fire – and I have not, but have had soldiers from World War II to Afghanistan describe the feeling – recognizes that to be behind something in battle is eminently more reassuring than the terror of standing in the open, it is not the decision of individual soldiers that makes this an innovative unique tactic but the understanding by corps and army commanders who provide the grand design of trench warfare that is new.

Another point that Hess makes well is that advances in the lines were not easily reversed, in part because of all the tools of war between the lines – wooden palisades and abates that are part of the fortifications.

Given that Petersburg is the penultimate battle for the Army of Northern Virginia, it is well that we now have a full accounting of the whats and wherefores there. In the end, Hess concludes that the Union Army made the greatest use of trenches. Lee, having chosen to entrench, limits his greatest asset, mobility. Lee recognized that the end was only a matter of time.



Hess's description of battlefield innovations in fortifications and tactics provides more than enough fodder for discussions of historical what ifs. In other words, his work has legs; real Civil War buffs could debate for hours what the right action might have been under each of the circumstances laid out by Hess.

Hess gives a masterful campaign summary that could stand alone for the casual Civil War buff and be a reference for years to come.

It is too bad that the historians of the late 19th century did not have Hess's book to rely upon. Maybe battlefield generals would have figured out the lessons of the Great War before experiencing its horror.

Kevin E. Washington is a volunteer at Bennett Place. He is a retired journalist and Civil War reenactor, having marched with the 54th Massachusetts, made famous in the movie Glory. He now does living history as a Buffalo Soldier and as a member of the 761st Tank Battalion. He lives in Durham, N.C.

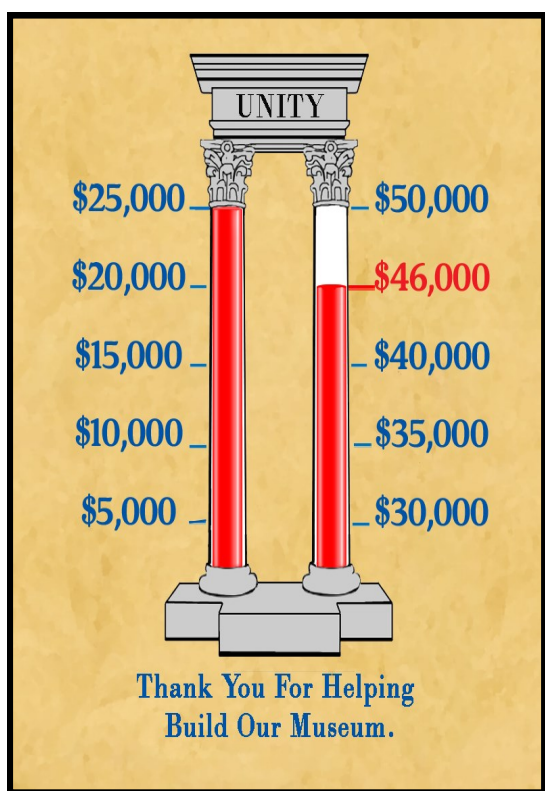


New Merchandise Items in Bennett Place Gift Shop



Visit the Museum Gift Shop and purchase a wonderful book on the history of the American Civil War or North Carolina, a coffee mug, Civil War T-shirt or hat, a decorative box, DVDs and musical CDs, a musical instrument, toy soldiers, or a magnet for the refrigerator and in time for the holidays: **GIFT CARDS!** All proceeds go to support the preservation and educational programs of this historic landmark.

Help Us Build Our Museum Exhibit Gallery!



Please help us complete our new museum gallery. Every donation helps. Our grand opening is scheduled Spring 2015.

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



Site Manager's Corner

We cannot begin to tell you how excited we are about our new museum exhibit gallery that will have its grand opening in mid April 2015, just in time to be a part of the grand finale of this four year national commemoration of the American Civil War. Preliminary staging has begun, and we will be in full renovation mode this fall. We hope to share some "sneak peeks" of the design and progress on our websites and Facebook pages as well as the next newsletters.

While the details of planning and preparation have been taking place over the past few months, our staff and volunteers have been participating and supporting the efforts of our fellow Civil War sites across the country as well as getting ready for the 150th Anniversary here at Bennett Place. We have traveled to both "theaters" of the war taking part in the reenactments and ceremonies of the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia and the Battle of Resaca, Georgia. In the meantime, many living historians and general public are showing great interest in our upcoming event, which will be one of the final events of this important period of American history. In addition to the public attention, is the wonderful support we are getting from our local Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau, which has sent out more than 300,000 notifications nationwide, sharing our Civil War related events in the Durham area. Check out their Civil War website, which includes our fellow North Carolina State Historic Sites of Duke Homestead and Historic Stagville: <http://www.civilwardurham.com/>.

While our fall will be busy with the construction process, we will still have some fun filled quality events. Our Tar Heel Harvest Fair & Farmer's Market will be September 20-21, and our Christmas in the Carolinas During the Civil War will be December 6, a one day event due to the renovations being made to the Visitor Center.

Furthermore, as we all have become accustomed to the continuing budget cuts for our state government historic sites, museums, and natural parks, these landmarks and public facilities continue to weather and deteriorate without adequate government assistance. So, we must continue to request that donations be made whether it is for our museum or our general fund of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc., our 501c3 Friends organization, which has been a true savior of our continuing existence as a historic site. There are a variety of ways one can contribute, either by mail-in donations, stopping by the visitor center, or making a donation online. <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com/museum-fund/>

In conclusion, please visit our informative websites of North Carolina State Historic Sites @ www.nchistoricsites.org as well as our North Carolina Culture website @ <http://nccultureevents.com> that has an extensive listing of special events throughout the Old North State.

For those who are most interested in keeping up with the overall 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War throughout the entire country an excellent website to follow is the Civil War Traveler. www.civilwartraveler.org.

Thank you again for your interest and support of Bennett Place State Historic Site, and get ready for the Grand Finale of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War at Bennett Place April 17-26, 2015!!



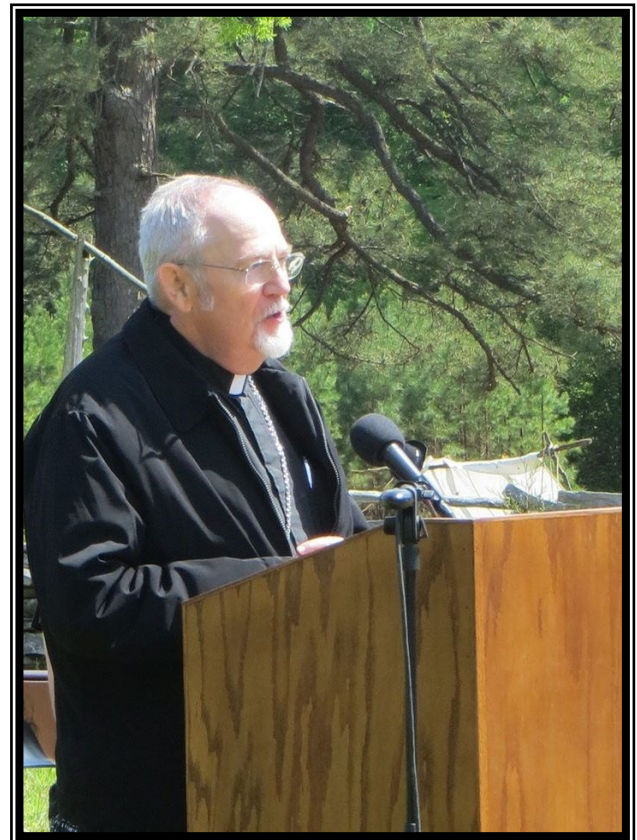
A Tribute of Our Friend Kent Hinkson

Dr. Kent Hinkson began volunteering with us shortly after his wonderful experience visiting Bennett Place following the 145th Anniversary of the Surrender. One of the reasons for his interest in the American Civil War was his ancestor, Private Isaiah McJunkin, 73rd Ohio Infantry, Company B, who marched through the south with Major General Sherman and through North Carolina, being present at Raleigh during the surrender at Bennett Place.

He was one of our most devoted veteran volunteers at Bennett Place State Historic Site always interested in engaging visitors and sharing our fascinating history. Kent was one of our best ambassadors and was splendid at fundraising for our new museum exhibit gallery. He was very passionate about the United States of America, his family heritage, and thoroughly enjoyed studying the American Civil War and the American Revolution. In addition to his Christian ministry and supporting Bennett Place, he found time to be an active member of the Sons of Union Veterans, General John Logan Camp #4, serving as their camp chaplain and was an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Alamance Battleground Chapter.

Kent, THANK YOU for the many years of support of Bennett Place, but most of all, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP.

WE WILL MISS YOU.





College Interns Helping Out On the Farm

Jennifer Waldkirch



Jennifer Waldkirch came to work with us this summer as part of the YAIO College Internship program. She is a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill double majoring in history and studio art. During her time at Bennett Place, Jennifer assisted the staff with guided tours, created a Bennett Place Portfolio for our Friends organization, performed costumed interpretation, and during her final week she cooked dinner over the open hearth for the entire staff! We enjoyed having Jennifer and wish her the very best in the near future. Following graduation, she hopes to teach or become a journalist.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Bob McKean

Bob McKean has been a longstanding volunteer at the Bennett Place demonstrating his creative skills in 19th century style carpentry, weaving, yarn dying and other craftsmanship skills of the time period, which have proven quite useful to keeping the farm maintained and active in the Civil War era fashion.

In addition to his passion for early American history, Bob served in the United States Navy and fought in the Vietnam War. Following his military career he worked at Sears where he recently retired.

Bob is a wonderful asset to have at Bennett Place and is always willing to jump in and help out in any way possible. In 2014, Bob became a part-time employee at Bennett Place. We look forward to having Bob as well as his family, wife Suzanne, Susan his daughter, and her husband, Brian, working with us this year and through the 150th Anniversary of the Surrender.





CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

All Levels:

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

Major to President Level:

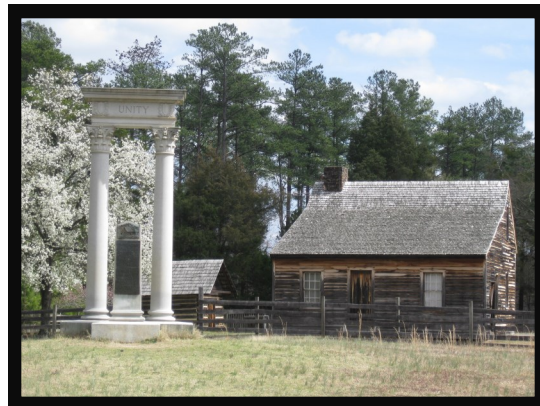
- *Certificate*
- *Permanent Recognition at Site*

President & Governor Level:

- *Framed Certificate*
- *Special Gift*

Help Support 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:

Phone:

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:

Amount:\$_____



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!

President (\$5,000 and Above)

Lynn M. Everett

Governor (\$2,500)

Thomas S. Kenan, III

Rosalie Reynolds

Chevron Humankind c/o Dennis Buckley

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Mr. & Mrs. Rob Everett

Charles Thissen

Colonel (\$500)

William A. Kirkland, Jr.

Robinson Everett, Jr.

Charles Thissen

Major (\$300)

Eugenia Paine

Caroline Odom

Kevin Odom

Mr. & Mrs. Don Scott

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Captain (\$100)

Alexander & Janet Floyd

Gary H. Pendleton

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Dr. Henry S. Zaytoun

NC Division Children of the Confederacy

Chuck Wilson

Peter J. Brock

Ken Strode

Lieutenant (\$50)

Sandra Wilson

Dominic Dal Bello

Bob Pfeiffer

Allen Tomlinson

Sergeant (\$35)

Alexander Stick

Capt. Granville H. Oury c/o Lynn Crawford

SCV Camp 1708

Josie Walker

Jason Holmes

Daniel Gaskell