

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Fall 2015

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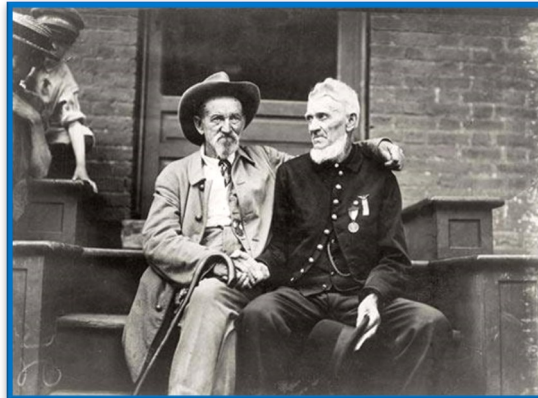
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Reunion and Remembrance



The brother's war was finally over, lasting longer than any had expected. The Civil War claimed the lives of about 35,000 sons of North Carolina, both Union and Confederate troops. Bennett Place State Historic Site will give voice to soldiers and civilians, men and women, black and white, attempting to rebuild their lives in "A Soldier's Return Home: Reunion and Remembrance" Oct. 10-11.

Personal stories will reveal the human costs of the war through vignettes and narratives. From soldiers returning home in 1865 to a former slave's cautious encounter with a census taker in 1870 (the first time blacks were counted following the end of the Civil War) to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, all will be explored.

A ceremony to highlight unification at the war's end will be held at the Unity Monument at Bennett Place Sunday, Oct. 11. It will mark the surrender negotiated in April 1865 between Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston and Union Gen. William Sherman, accompanied by their troops. Saturday hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The free program will include lectures, special tours and displays. Guest speakers will include Earl Ijames, curator at the N.C. Museum of History; Jeff Toalson, author of "No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea and Desertion;" and Jim Wise, author of several books on Durham history and the Union Army and Gen. Sherman at the end of the Civil War.



Site Manager's Corner

By: Diane Smith, Historic Site Manager



Greetings. Well I am now writing to you as the official site manager for Bennett Place having received the promotion effective July 1. I look forward to the challenges and rewards of managing this wonderful historic site. This summer we took a bit of a rest from programming to catch our breath and regroup but we have been hard at work during that time planning some new and exciting events as well as making some improvements to our current living history programs.

One of these new events is our upcoming program entitled "A Soldier's Return Home: Reunion and Remembrance". As the sesqui-centennial comes to an end what better way to wrap up the four years of reenactments and commemorations than by providing an event that takes a look at the aftermath of the war and how it affected the soldiers, civilians as well as the African American population. The years following the Civil War were a time in our country where the wounds of division began what would be a long and painful healing process. This event will give voice to soldiers and civilians, men and women, black and white, attempting to rebuild their lives.

Another exciting event planned is a Bennett Family Reunion. This event is due in part to the efforts of Cindy Bennett who has spent many years collecting information on this family. This will be the first time that descendants of this family will gather together on the farm that played an important role in the final days of the Civil War. We are excited to meet with these family members.

In addition to all the work on programming we have also been working on making improvements to our picnic area in order to rent the area out for family reunions, picnics or for parties. As the state's budget continues to tighten, there is not enough money to go around and historic sites require constant maintenance and repairs. Revenue generated from these rentals will provide our site with access to additional funding that can be used for many of these projects. Our goal is to have the picnic area available for rent by next spring in time for the warm weather, high school and college graduations as well as summertime picnics. Our improvements will include such things as handicap accessible picnic tables, some beautiful landscaping as well as fencing to clearly mark the area and to add to the landscape work. Stay tuned for pictures of the work in the next newsletter and check our website out for pictures as well. We'll be posting pictures of the before, during and after shots.

As always, I want to personally thank you for your continued support of this historic treasure.

Enjoy this edition of *The Bennett Place Courier*.

Thank you again for your continued support.



2015 Upcoming Events

December 11&12, 2015
Christmas in the Carolinas
During the Civil War.

Join us for our annual Christmas in the Carolinas event.

December 11th: Candlelight Tour (5:30-8:30)

Something new this season—candlelight tours of the farm! Visit with Confederate and Union soldiers as they celebrate the holiday in the field. Join in the festivities at the farmhouse as women and children decorate and prepare for a holiday on the home-front. Enjoy complimentary hot cider and Christmas cookies. We hope you will join us for this new and exciting program!

Tickets will be available the night of the event

Cost: Adults: \$3.00 Children (5 to 16): \$2.00

Children under 5 FREE



December 12th:

Come out and visit with the soldiers and discover the ways in which they spent the Christmas season in the field. Visit the farmhouse to see period decorations and presents and see learn how families tried to celebrate the holiday despite rising prices, shortages and their loved ones away. Visit the kitchen and watch cooking demonstrations.

Free of Charge!

Santa will also be here!





New Historic Interpreter II



Let's congratulate Ryan Reed on his recent promotion to Historic Interpreter II. Ryan has worked at Bennett Place for 2 1/2 years, and was an integral part in putting together the 150th Commemoration and assisting with the Museum Renovations. Ryan is excited about his new responsibilities and is eager in continuing Bennett Places growth.

Congratulations!

Picnic Area Landscaping

We are currently in the process of renovating and landscaping out Picnic area. We want to make the Picnic Area available for Rentals and open up a new source of revenue for the site. We are hoping to have it done by the spring and if you are interested in assist with this project please contact the site, we can always use the help and know this will add a lot to the site and make it more accessible and inviting to our local community.





**151st Anniversary
Blue & Grey Ball
April 23rd, 2016**

Back by POPULAR demand!

Bennett Place will be holding a Blue & Grey Ball in commemoration of our 151st Anniversary of the Largest Surrender of the American Civil War. April 23rd, 2016, at the historic barn in Hillsborough from 6pm until 11pm. Tickets will soon be available for purchase. Check our website for further details as they become available.! Now let the dancing BEGIN!!!





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.

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!!!



Friends of Bennett Place

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.

Friends of Bennett Place Mission Statement:

The Friends of Bennett Place, 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!

Friends of Bennett Place

President (\$5,000 and Above)

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Governor (\$2,500)

General (\$1,000)

North Carolina Division UDC

Caroline Odom

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