

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Spring 2016

Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc

Board of Directors

2016 Officers

Karen Edwards: President

Chandler Vatavuk: Vice President

Caroline Odom: Treasurer

Don Scott: Secretary

Board Members

Ernest Dollar

Robinson O. Everett, Jr.

Randy Griffin

Ann Hedgpath

Brenda McKean

Rev. Dr. Sam Miglarese

Judith Rembert

Jack Schrader

Betsy Vatavuk

Bennett Place Historic Site

Diane Smith: Site Manager

Ryan Reed: Historic Interpreter II

Percia Swift: Historic Interpreter I

Division of State Historic Sites

Keith Hardison: Executive Director

Jeff Bockert: Eastern Regional Supervisor

N.C Dept. of Natural & Cultural

Resources

Susan Klutzz: Secretary

Office of Archives and History

Dr. Kevin Cherry: Deputy Secretary



Bennett Place will host a lecture series during the month of March

“The Road to Surrender: The Final Campaigns”

Lectures begin at 1pm:

with a meet & greet session afterwards

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Saturday March 5th—The Battle of Wise's Forks

Colonel (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky is a graduate of East Carolina University and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He is one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. Wade has lectured throughout the Carolinas, speaking to roundtables, various societies and organizations, and at historical sites.

He is the co-author (with Mark A. Smith) of "No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar": Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, and the author of "Final Roll Call" Confederate Losses during the Carolinas Campaign."



Cont. on Next Page



Saturday March 12th—The Battle of Averasboro

Mark Smith is a U. S. Army veteran (Major, Ret.) with 21 years of service. He holds a B.S. from Slippery Rock University and a M.A. of Military Studies in Civil War from American Military University. An avid Civil War historian, Smith has co-authored, with Wade Sokolosky, *No Such Army since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro* and "To Prepare for Sherman's Coming" *The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865*. Smith has conducted several battlefield tours at Averasboro and has been a guest speaker at several CWRTs.



Saturday March 19th—the Battle of Bentonville

Mark Bradley is a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. He received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His publications include Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville and This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place. He currently lives in Stafford, Virginia.



Saturday March 26th—

From Bentonville to Bennett Place

Durham native Ernest Dollar began working at historic sites in 1993 after completing his B.A. in History and B.F.A. in Design from University of North Carolina Greensboro. Ernest has worked in several historic parks in both North and South Carolina. In 2006, he completed his M.A. in Public History from North Carolina State and has served as the Executive Director of the Orange County Historical Museum, Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, and the City of Raleigh Museum since 2012.





Site Manager's Corner

By: Diane Smith, Historic Site Manager



It's hard to believe, but just one year ago at this time we were well into museum renovations and preparing for our big 150th anniversary event. We endured the chaos that comes with construction, a lack of heat in the visitor center, and plenty of winter storms with ice and snow, but we have a beautiful new museum to enjoy and wonderful memories of a great event. I would like to take this opportunity to mention my gratitude to those involved with the museum and our anniversary event this past year, which included our board members, our department's craftsman, our wonderful volunteers, and members of the community who gave of their time and money to this site. Many, many thanks.

Our site staff went through some changes this summer and fall. To begin, Ryan Reed was promoted to the Historic Interpreter 2 position which left a vacancy that was filled in October with our newest employee, Percia Swift. Percia worked part-time for Duke Homestead as well as the Museum of Raleigh prior to joining our team. She has been busy learning about the history of this site as well as our day to day operations. We are glad to welcome her to Bennett Place.

2015 was a busy and exciting year and 2016 will be just as exciting. We've added some new programs to our calendar of events. One of these new events is a lecture series being held during the month of March. Each Saturday, we will highlight a battle that was fought in North Carolina between the two generals who would ultimately end up at Bennett Place just one month later. These lectures will provide the visitor with an in-depth look at the events that led up to the largest surrender of the Civil War.

For more information on this and all the other events we have planned this year, visit our website!

www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com



151st Anniversary of the Surrender at Bennett Place “Civil War School Days”



April 12-14, 2016

Bennett Place State Historic Site
Durham, North Carolina



Visit life as it was during the American Civil War!

- *Civilians on the Home front and Refugees from the War*
- *Cooking, Woodworking, Chores, Weaving, 19th Century Games*
- *Life of an Infantry Soldier*
- *Join the Cavalry! Life of the Cavalry Trooper*
- *Caring for the Wounded and Sick– Civil War Field Medicine*
- *Getting Correspondence to the Troops– The Postal Service*
- *United States Colored Troops*
- *Calling on the Troops! Music and its role on the Battlefield*

For Reservations please contact us at:

919-383-4345 or bennett@ncdcr.gov

www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com

Bennett Place State Historic Site

4409 Bennett Memorial Road

Durham, North Carolina 27705

Sponsored by the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.



Bennett Place 151st Anniversary



JAMES BENNETT'S HOUSE, WHERE JOUNSTON HAD RENDERED TO SHERMAN—EXTERIOR VIEW.—[SKETCHED BY DAVIS.]

April 16-17, 2016

Join us as we remember the events that occurred inside the home of James and Nancy Bennett 151 years ago. Learn about the negotiations that took place in the parlor and listen to military historians who will discuss how the end of the war Impacted both the soldiers and the civilians.

Program is Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 10am – 3pm.



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

Back by POPULAR demand!

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

www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com





Book Review: Marching Home - Union Veteran and Their Unending Civil War

By: Kevin Washington

The hard work of putting down a rebellion and freeing four million slaves was rewarded at the end of the Civil War with the contempt of a grateful nation and little understanding for the trials and travails of the men who had done that hard work.



Like so many recent American wars, ***Marching Home*** by Brian Matthew Jordan, indicates that few American soldiers have come home to the acclaim that they deserve.

Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War covers the return of roughly 2 million veterans (of which some 30,000 were amputees), their adjustment, or lack thereof, and the North's postwar response to veterans. It is an incredibly emotional story of neglect and abandonment where often, the veterans would fill the void by creating service organizations that could tend to their needs. This is an excellent treatise on the difference between political jargon revolving around supporting troops and how we treat veterans after they have given so much. The veterans who go home to the union are a proud bunch because of their achievements in the field, but the American people show a callousness to the cause and the plight of soldiers that most of us would associate with the homecoming after the Vietnam War.

Everything from regimental histories to pension records have been sourced by Jordan, who lectures at Gettysburg College, to give as complete a picture as possible of the war veteran's plight.

(Cont.)



Jordan illustrates that these veterans were every bit as concerned about the welfare of their own as that of the freed slaves in the aftermath of the war. They were a conscientious group who cared about the horrors of the post-Civil War South for blacks, a part of the historical story that gets lost as Northern civilians abandon the newly freed slaves.

He chronicles the creation of the pension system and the inevitable collective rise of suspicion that someone, somewhere, is bilking the system. Government sponsored programs are created to help veterans, including the building of state and federal old-soldier's homes, and efforts to deal with the growing use of morphine. It was still not enough.

Jordan's most effective anecdotes revolve around boatloads of veterans, coming up the Mississippi and being shunned by river towns intent on not allowing any veterans to land. Frightened that the men were irredeemably broken by the war, civilians physically distanced themselves from the veteran experiences in the same way that they emotionally distanced themselves from the newly freed slaves.

The discussion of what victory looks like is hardly ever discussed in more horrific terms by war historians. The limbs lost, minds lost, and bodies lost permeate the narrative to remind us that war is never a course of action that does not require great sacrifice in the moment and in perpetuity.



(Cont.)



While the veterans suffered for years afterward, those who had not gone to war continued to celebrate the romanticism of war. Sanitizing the war is one of the most important steps to romanticizing the experience, and it may be the main difference between the Civil War and the Vietnam War. Few have been able to romanticize the Vietnam War, in part because of the television coverage that brought the war into families' living rooms. The Civil War was something that happened out of sight, except for the veterans.

Americans, however, can be proud that their veterans did rise to the occasion at the end of the war by creating nonprofits that helped veterans in tough spots. While never enough on their own, and certainly not enough to substitute for the things governments should do -- pensions were inordinately small, for example -- such groups as the Grand Army of the Republic, which Jordan calls "one of the most significant social-welfare organizations of the nineteenth century" were there in a pinch.

The creation of a left-handed penmanship contest reminds one of the creative solutions that Americans can come up with when pushed to do so. Created for men who had lost their dominant right hands, the contest showed Americans that these wounded veterans were still able to contribute to society.

My only real quibble with the book is that we don't hear enough from African American soldiers, who made up 10 percent of the Union Army by the end of the war.

At 374 pages, Jordan's book gives a wonderful introduction to the veteran's experience, and some 90 pages of documentation provide other avenues to explore the post-war period for veterans further.



G.A.R Members at 1913 Reunion



BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE

Durham, North Carolina

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

The American Soldier Through the Ages



Memorial Day was founded after the American Civil War. Flowers and tokens were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers in respect and remembrance. Join American soldiers spanning from the American Revolution to Iraqi Freedom and learn more about their duty, honor, and sacrifice.

MAY 28-29, 2016

Saturday, 10am-4pm & Sunday, 10am-3pm

For More Information:

Bennett Place State Historic Site

919-383-4345 or bennett@ncdcr.gov

www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com





Historic Interpreter I Percia Swift



Percia Swift started as our Historic Interpreter 1 in October of 2015. She joins us after working at both Duke Homestead State Historic site and the City of Raleigh Museum. Percia is a native North Carolinian and holds her Bachelors of Arts in History and Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Percia will be helping to maintain our collection of artifacts, promote the site on social media, research the history of the surrender here at Bennett Place, lead group tours, and reinterpret our home front school program.

Volunteer Spotlight: Stephanie DiGuiseppi

Stephanie DiGuiseppi is a long-time resident of the Durham area. She grew up in Georgia, and attended the College of William and Mary, graduating with a degree in Zoology from the University of Georgia. She is the mother of three children, a grandmother, and lives with her husband, Jim, along the banks of the Eno River. Stephanie has a great interest in history from her time in Williamsburg where she literally walked in the footsteps of our founding fathers. She lived for 3 years in small but culturally rich Belgium, where she visited countless historic sites manned mostly by dedicated volunteers, whose desire to educate the public and preserve history was an inspiration. Upon her retirement, Stephanie resolved to find her own bit of history to share and where better than the Bennett Place, so close to home, so important to our country, and so relevant to our society even today.





CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

All Levels:

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

Major to President Level:

- *Permanent Recognition at Site*

President & Governor Level:

- *Framed Certificate*
- *Special Gift*

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

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:

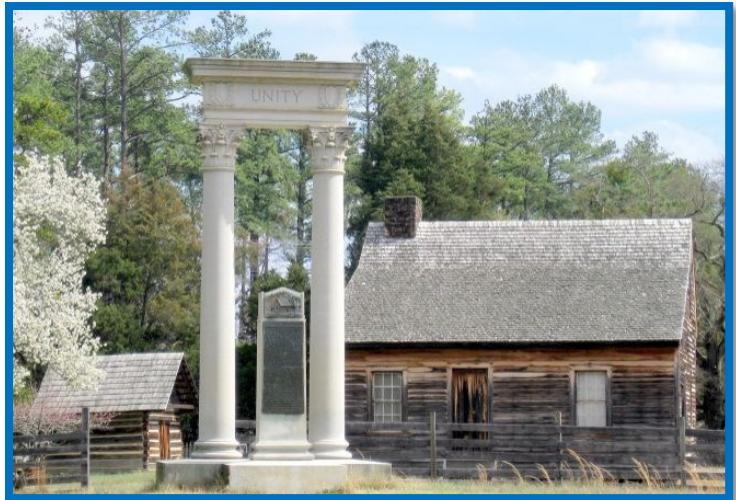
Help Support Bennett Place!

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!



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)

Thomas S. Kenan, III
Rosalie Reynolds

Governor (\$2,500)

Lynn M. Everett

General (\$1,000)

Chevron Matching Employee Funds
Judith C. Rembert
The Rotary Foundation— Club of Durham

Colonel (\$500)

William A. Kirkland Jr.
Pvt. Lorenzo Bennett Camp 773 SCV

Major (\$300)

Robinson Everett, Jr.
Donald and Bonnie Scott
Chick-fil-A
North State Haberdashery
UNC General Alumni Association

Captain (\$100)

Antony B.T. Werner
David Propert & Ann Bennett
James Semans
Monty & Beki Stirman
Duke University
Allen and Katherine Bornemann
Michael Murray

Lieutenant (\$50)

Beverly & Zarrel Lambert
J.H.M & Ruth Mary Meyer
Brenda McKEAN
Mark Vatavuk
Michael & Regina Spaulding
Thomas Miller
Steve Mele
Sandra Wilson

Sergeant (\$35)

Carolyn Blocker
William Wellons
Barbara Pugh
William Wellons
Christine Mayer-Patel
McKesson Foundation
Michael & Holly Baldauff
Cynthia Walker
Blue Cross Blue Shield Your Cause

Private (\$10)

Brook Hampton
Justin King
Michael Crotty
Tyler Cooper