

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Winter 2016

Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

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Bennett Place for the Holidays



Friday December 9th: Take a guided tour by candlelight around the property and experience how soldiers and civilians celebrated the holiday.

Complimentary hot apple cider and cookies will be available inside the visitor center.

Hours are 6:00pm to 9:00pm

**Cost: \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children ages 5-16
Children under 5 - FREE**

Saturday the 10th, our Annual Christmas in the Piedmont event. There will be ongoing living history demonstrations of life in the field as well as on the home front. Watch as soldiers decorate their camps, read letters and open packages sent from home. In the kitchen, women will be baking and preparing food. Examples of items often sent to the soldiers will be on display in the historic house as well as a Christmas tree with presents under it. Santa will also be on site to delight children of all ages.

Hot apple cider and cookies will be available at the visitor center as well as a bake sale with lots of goodies to purchase. All proceeds from the bake sale go toward the preservation of the site.

Saturday hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: FREE



Site Manager's Corner



Lots of school groups, living history programs, the state fair, gas crisis, hurricane Matthew all added up to a very busy fall. We were very fortunate that we didn't have any major damage or flooding as a result of the hurricane. We did lose one tree but it could have been much worse. We were also fortunate in being able to help the Duke Homestead staff with hosting all their school groups in addition to our own over a three week period in November while their roof was being replaced. It was a great opportunity to work more closely with them and they were very courteous and accommodating in working around our operations and visitors.

With all of that activity, we were able to complete two big projects around the site this fall. One was to complete the improvements to the picnic area which we did with the addition of a few trees and bushes. Our visitors love the new look. The other big project was completed thanks to a volunteer organization called the Questers. This project involved the removal of the worn out fencing that surrounded our kitchen garden. The members made quick work of this project and at the end of the day we had a good amount of salvaged wood that will be used to build a new but much smaller fence come spring. We also cleaned out the remains of our summer crop and prepared the garden for the long winter.

We have two more events this year that will wrap up a busy event filled year. Our annual Christmas Candlelight program December 9th and our Christmas in the Piedmont event December 10th. These two events are my personal favorites and I hope you will bring your friends and family out to enjoy them as well.

Now as we approach the Christmas holiday with all its hustle and bustle I hope that you will take the time to reflect on the joy of the holiday and ponder its true meaning.

From all of us – Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com

Enjoy this edition of *The Bennett Place Courier*.



Historic Garden Renovations



Earlier this fall, site manager Diane Smith had decided on a project to renovate our garden area. The garden space on site is rather large, but unfortunately a good portion of this area is shaded, leaving little light for plants to grow. To more effectively use the garden area, the decision was made to reduce the garden area by taking down the existing fencing and then eventually install more accurate fencing to represent the 1860s time period.

Fortunately for the staff here at Bennett Place, a service organization known as the Questers offered to help us carry out this project. The mission of the Questers is to “see that the best of American heritage is preserved for future generations, Questers seek to educate by research and study of antiques

and to donate funds to the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historic buildings, landmarks, and educational purposes.”

A group from the local Questers chapter came out on November 3 and quickly got to work on taking down our fence posts. A project that we thought would take all day was finished within 2 hours!

Because of this service organization step one of our renovation is complete. As this project continues to take shape we will keep you all updated.



And we would like to give a special THANK YOU to the Questers of Durham! Your hard work is much appreciated!



The Perfect Gift

While you all are doing your holiday shopping, don't forget to keep the gift shop at Bennett Place in mind. We have the perfect gift for any Civil war or nineteenth century historian in your life. The gift shop has a wide array of books on various Civil War topics and it also has a wide variety of historic games and toys that are perfect for children or grandchildren; cup and ball is a favorite of many! And for those who can't decide on what to pick, gift cards are available! All of the money made in our gift shop goes to support and maintain the site all year round!



We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



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

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