

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Summer 2017

Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

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Memorial Day Remembrance 2017

By: Ryan Reed

I still can't believe what was pulled off this past Memorial Day weekend. I want to say from the bottom of my heart, to everyone who came out and assisted with this event, **THANK YOU!** This was by far the most successful Memorial Day event we have ever put on. We added quite a few things this year, one of them being a traveling WWI exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of U.S 's entry into World War I. We also added several new impressions and the American Legion joined us for the first time. Our visitation was outstanding and everyone who attended said they were blown away at the level of knowledge and respect every interpreter showed to their respective time period. Another addition this year was a memorial to Jeff Stepp, commander of the Carolina Legion reenacting organization who passed recently,. Jeff was a friend and supporter of the Bennett Place for many years and more importantly a U.S Marine. We hope this event will grow and, as I like to say, "the Bigger the Better". This event has become something we look forward to every year and I hope that it will continue to grow not only in size, but in meaning of what Memorial Day is all about : "Remembering those who gave the ultimate sacrifice." *Photo Credit: Pam Lappegard*





Site Manager's Corner



This spring sure was busy. From the beginning of March, with our lecture series, all the way through to our Memorial Day Military Timeline event the end of May we barely had any down time between events. But my staff and volunteers knocked it out of the park with all their hard work and dedication. Way to go! Some special thanks go out to the site managers who allowed either staff members or volunteers to assist us with programs this past spring – especially our Civil War School Days and Memorial Day event.

We are lucky to have such support from our sister sites. Thank you very much!

Now as we move into the summer season we are embarking on a new adventure that is very exciting. Our visitor center has needed additional space as well as upgrades to the HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems for several years. We have also seen an increase in the need for a conference/meeting room and it is with great excitement that I can announce we are moving forward with this project. A big thank you goes out to our support group for their generous donation of funds needed to begin this process. Watch for updates and ways that you can get involved in future newsletters.

On a sad note our staff member, Percia Swift, left to take another job. Her professionalism, friendliness and dedication to the job made her a pleasure to work with. She will be missed by our staff and volunteers and we wish her great success with her new job.

Here's to a happy summer y'all!



Congrats to one of our own!

Congratulations to Aaron Moses on graduating from Cedar Ridge High School. Aaron started volunteering back in 2013 after coming out to a Memorial Day event and from there on he has fallen in love with Bennett Place and what the site does. Aaron, and his family, have been eminently helpful in almost every major event we have done for the past four years. We couldn't have pulled it off without extraordinary volunteers like Aaron. We wish him the best for his future plans and look forward to having him as a volunteer for many years to come. THANK YOU Aaron and again WAY TO GO!



Upcoming Events

August 12th: *Gourd Birdhouse class:*

Learn to make your own Gourd Birdhouse. Cost: \$35.00, limit 10 to the class, RSVP by August 7th.

October 7th: 3rd Annual Reunion and Remembrance Event.

December 9th: Annual Christmas in the Piedmont and Signature Candlelight tour.



Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Bryant

“After spending 20 years in various positions in the Management Consulting industry, I decided to take a sabbatical from the corporate world and follow my true passion – history. My father was a GI in the Second World War, and we spent many hours discussing his experiences and the impact the conflict had on his life. This gave me a deeper understanding of the ‘human side’ of war and the impacts of battle on those who experience it.

This is why Bennett Place has such meaning for me. Too often, commemorations of the Civil War glorify and romanticize battle. However, at Bennett Place, we do not commemorate war, or merely the end of war. We pay tribute to the men of the North and South who met at this farm to seek peace – peace with mutual respect – peace with progress in mind. This is the site where we became a unified nation once again, and we continue to celebrate peace, unity, and the courage of those involved when we interpret the story of what happened on this ordinary farm over 150 years ago.

I love what I do here. I delight in interacting with guests from around the world and sharing our engaging story of unity and peace. I am lucky to be able to be around so many others who share my passion for history and its impact on the place we call home.”

Bill lives in Chapel Hill with his wife and teenage son, two hound dogs, and an unfriendly cat.





CONTRIBUTION BENEFITS

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)

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