

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Fall 2017

Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

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Summer on the Farm

The summer sure flew by and I'm glad the heat and humidity are gone. The lovely cool weather we've been having is a nice break! I'm very grateful that we escaped the wrath of Mother Nature from both hurricane Harvey and Irma and our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by these two devastating storms.

After a busy spring season, we took a bit of a break from doing living history events to allow staff and volunteers to catch their breath and get ready for our fall and winter season. We didn't stop completely though. In August, we decided to try a different approach to events and held a skills class on turning a gourd into a birdhouse. Many people only see gourds as fall decorations used around Halloween and Thanksgiving but in the past, they were an important part of daily life. There were many different functions for these funny looking fruits depending on the gourd itself. They could become dippers, bowls and yes, even a birdhouse.... who knew? Thanks to the talented members of the North Carolina Gourd Society, we were introduced to the humble gourd and its many different functions from practical to whimsical. We look forward to working with our friends at the NC Gourd Society on future projects.





Site Manager's Corner



In looking back on this summer, some memorable events occurred that left me feeling like I've been on an emotional rollercoaster ride. I experienced tremendous sadness, anger and a sense of loss as I watched historic monuments either being vandalized, destroyed or removed under the cover of darkness, and a sense of awe and wonder as I watched people come together across our nation to watch the solar eclipse that is only seen once in a lifetime. As I write this, the ripple effect of the racial tensions and protests across our

nation have impacted national parks, historic sites and other historic places, that must now endure threats of protests during events.

While I understand the causes that drive the tensions that surround historic monuments and the names of buildings, I find it hard to accept the way our society is responding to the situation. Removing monuments, changing buildings, asking sports announcers to remove themselves from calling sporting events is not the answer. I have to ask....at what point do we stop? How do we proceed from here? There are no easy answers and the process won't be quick, but I hope that instead of taking down monuments or removing names from buildings that we create monuments or name buildings after those who struggled, pushed and overcame oppression so that future generations will see a more complete and inclusive package of America's history instead of just the one that only tells a small portion of the story.



Bennett Place Fundraising Raffle

We are pleased to announce that we have a new raffle here at Bennett Place!!

- Replica 1859 Sharps Rifle
- Drawing is June 23, 2018
- All proceeds go toward Visitor Center Expansion project



Ticket Information:

One for \$10 or Three for \$25

Must be 18 or older to purchase tickets

Do not need to be present to win

Upcoming Events

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

December 16th: Annual Christmas in the Piedmont and Signature Candlelight tour.



Call for New Volunteers

Calling all Volunteers ! Bennett Place is always looking for energetic volunteers. Volunteers play various roles here at Bennett Place, from giving tours to customer service, and more. If you are interested please apply online at:

<http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com>



Bennett Place Needs!

After a very hot, dry summer we are gearing up to do some sprucing up around the farm and we need a few things:

Mulch – 4 cu yds.

Rototiller

Seed packets:

Radishes

Green beans

Squash (yellow neck, butternut, acorn)

Turnip

Peas

Plants:

Chamomile

Lavender

Coreopsis

Calendula

Beeswax (block form)

If you are willing to donate these items or wish to provide funding for the purchase of these needed items, please contact the site manager for more details.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.



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)

Thomas S. Kenan, III
Durham Merchants Association Charitable
foundation

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Dennis Buckley & Chevron Matching Employ-
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Civil War Roundtable of Durham

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