

# BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Winter 2018

## *Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.*

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Matthew Gregg: Historic Interpreter I

Drew Smith: Maintenance/Construction  
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## Bennett Place for the Holidays



**Saturday the 15th**, Bennett Place will host our Annual Civil War 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, civilians will be baking and preparing food. Items often sent to the soldiers will be on display in the historic house as well as Christmas decorations and presents. Santa will also be on site to delight children of all ages.

Hot apple cider 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 will go toward the site's preservation fund.

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

**Cost: FREE**

### **Evening Christmas Candlelight Tour Program**

Take a guided tour by candlelight around the property and experience how soldiers and civilians celebrated the holiday.

Complimentary hot apple cider will be available at 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**

**Tours begin every 20 minutes. Tickets available on site.**



## *Manager's Corner*



It sure feels like winter lately and I'm loving it. Here at the site, we've been busy replacing the fall decorations with Christmas ones. The visitor center and historic houses are all decked out and ready for the Christmas season.

As part of my yearly tradition I like to take this time to reflect on the year and what we have accomplished here at Bennett Place we saw some great improvements to the site. With the help of Bob Bemis, we were able to remove the old chinking on the kitchen house and replace it with new material. It really looks amazing and we were lucky to have a few of our dedicated volunteers come out for this week-long project. Thanks to Bob, we have added another interesting interpretive program to our repertoire. Another big project completed this year was to replacing our worn-out snake rail fencing. Thanks to the dedicated members of the Eno River Regulators, we have been successful. Over the course of the

year, they raised enough money to purchase 300 pieces of new fencing! By the time we head into the spring season, we will have a beautiful new fence to guide visitors along the historic Hillsborough Road. A big shout out goes to them from all of us.

We also continue to take steps forward on our visitor center project. In late fall, Alicia Kirwan began finalizing these renditions of what the visitor center will look like with the upgrades and added space. Once we have those renditions in hand, we will be able to officially begin the fundraising campaign. Even though it was frustrating at times, it has been an interesting learning experience and is exciting to know that we are making progress.

Last month I was very fortunate to spend Veteran's Day (Armistice day) in Y'pres Belgium (or as the British say it - Wipers). I was at the Menin gate for the ceremony held at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 100 years after the 1<sup>st</sup> armistice declaration was issued. It was a very moving experience and one that I'll never forget. As the last song was being sung, 8000 poppies were dropped from the ceiling of the gate which was beautiful to behold. This gorgeous city was completely destroyed during the war but was rebuilt to its former glory by those who were determined to save their history. To walk around the city and the surrounding areas it made for a very humbling experience. Even today, you can still find evidence of the war in the fields of many of the small towns in the Y'pres salient. I saw unexploded ordinance, bullets, bomb fragments and pieces of glass bottles piled along the edges of almost every farm that I drove or walked past. Truly remarkable albeit a bit unnerving. It is striking that the locals deal with this kind of danger every day. I will definitely go back again to visit.

Well, I will wrap up my newsletter article by wishing you, your family and friends a wonderful, merry and happy Christmas holiday.



## 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. 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!





## New Split Rail fencing for the Hillsboro Road

The “Eno River Regulator” chapter of the Questers raised enough money to purchase 300 pieces of red cedar wood that will replace our worn out fencing. This fencing project was desperately needed, and the staff is thrilled with the new fencing. By our spring season we will have new fencing along all of the Old Hillsboro Road.



## Chinking Project: Historic Kitchen

Another project that was recently completed was the re-chinking of the Kitchen house. The chinking was in serious need of replacement. We would like to acknowledge Bob Bemis and Drew Smith in heading up the project. We also would like to show our appreciation to Bob McKean, Susan Hall and Billy Simcox, for showing there dedication as volunteers and making it through the cold and windy days to make this happen. Thank you all!





## *Volunteer Spotlight: Meghan Plucinski*



Hello! I've been volunteering at Bennett Place for about 8 months now. I have always been fascinated by the Civil War and I enjoy educating people on this important forgotten piece of history. When I'm not volunteering I'm working as a flight attendant for JetBlue flying all over the country.

## Uniguide audio tour

We are pleased to announce that our Audio Tour from Uniguide is up and running. This project has been in the works for well over a year, and we are excited to have it available to our guests. The tour is composed of six stops around the historical area which provide visitors with the fascinating story of The Bennett Place and the largest surrender of the American Civil War. Stop by soon and check it out!





## 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*

## *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)

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E-mail:

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Signature:

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Date:

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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*

### *Governor (\$2,500)*

Thomas S. Kenan III  
Rosalie Reynolds

### *General (\$1,000)*

In Honor of Ron Roberts  
Dennis Buckley & Chevron Matching  
Employee Funds

### *Colonel (\$500)*

Dennis Buckley & Chevron Matching Employee  
Funds

### *Captain (\$100)*

Michael and Kristen Dobslaw  
Tom Dorreity & BCBS Your Cause  
Ron Roberts  
William A. Schott  
In Honor of Dr. Joseph C. Greenfield, Jr.  
John Tindall  
Elizabeth Guidry  
Drew Smith

### *Lieutenant (\$50)*

In Memory of A.B Wall  
Betsy Shaw  
George and Mary Kennett  
Bonita Scott

### *Sergeant (\$25)*

In Memory of A.B Wall  
Evan Myers  
Kari Wouk  
Moirra Girard

### *Private (\$10)*

Barbara Fish  
Jason Holmes