

BENNETT PLACE COURIER

Editor: *Ryan Reed*

Official Newsletter of the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc.

Winter 2019

Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc

Board of Directors

2019 Officers

Karen Edwards: President

Chandler Vatauk: Vice President

Caroline Odom: Treasurer

Don Scott: Secretary

Board Members

Robinson O. Everett, Jr.

Randy Griffin

Carson Holloway

Brenda McKean

Rev. Dr. Sam Miglarese

Judith Rembert

Betsy Vatauk

Bennett Place Historic Site

Diane Smith: Site Manager

Ryan Reed: Historic Interpreter II

Matthew Gregg: Historic Interpreter I

Drew Smith: Maintenance/Construction
Technician I

Division of State Historic Sites

Michelle Lanier: Executive Director

Jeff Bockert: Eastern Regional Supervisor

N.C Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources

Susi Hamilton: Secretary



Bennett Place for the Holidays



Saturday the 14th, 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.

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

Cost: \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children.

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

Tour groups will be limited to no more than 20 people per tour. Tickets are required and can be purchased through www.Eventbrite.com (enter Civil War in the search bar) or click on this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/civil-war-candlelight-tour-program-tickets-74482815105?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> you'll be taken directly to the site where you can purchase your ticket. This will enable you to pick the tour timeslot that works best for you".

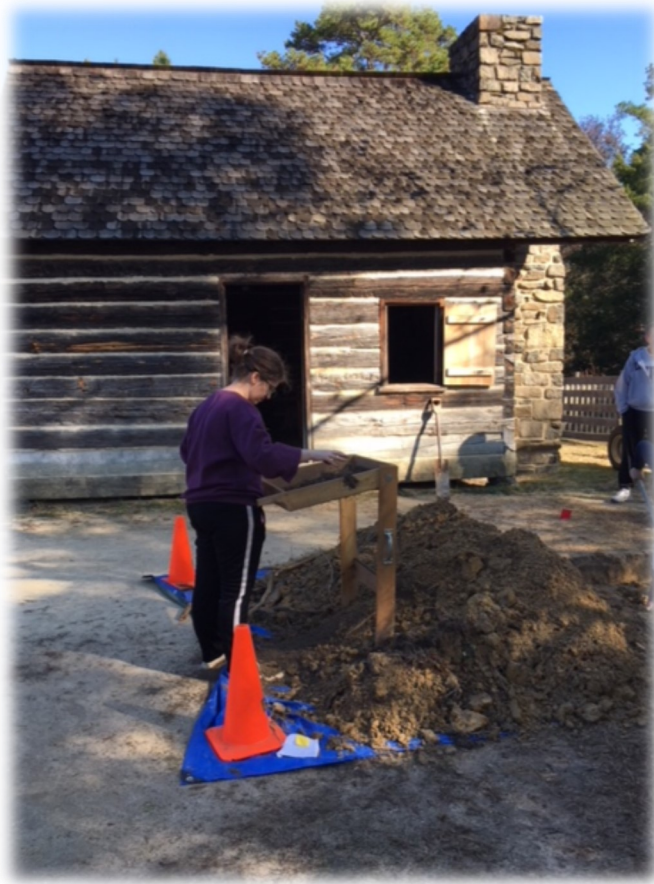
Hours are 6:00pm to 8:00pm

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



Dairy House Rebuild

We have some exciting news coming out of Bennett Place!! For the past few years the Bennett Place staff and members of the Bennett Place Support Fund have worked diligently to get the dairy house reconstructed in the historic area. Site Manager Diane Smith officially broke ground on the project and we hope to have it completed within the coming weeks.





Manager's Corner



Hard to believe, but fall has turned to winter and it's time to celebrate the holidays. It's been busy around here as we expected it would be. We kicked off our fall season with the 2nd annual Beer, Blues & BBQ event on September 21st and this year's event saw ticket sales more than double what we did last year! During October, staff participated in the military appreciation day at the state fair and helped some of our other historic sites with programs, like the WW2 event at Fort Fisher and Phantasmagoria at Duke Homestead. We also saw an increase in the number of both school and adult groups visiting the site.

Last month, after receiving the green light to go ahead and build the dairy house, we started by breaking ground for the foundation on November 20th. The day was beautiful with sunshine and warm temperatures. We had 2 members of the state archaeology department on site as we put spades in the ground and started the project. During the dig, we didn't encounter anything out of the ordinary, as we expected, but did find a piece of green glass and a few nails that dated to the mid-19th century. Bob Bemis provided a 3-D drawing of the building, which helped us to visualize what the finished building would look like. Our goal is to have the building completed in time for our Christmas event.

Speaking of Christmas, since Durham celebrated its 150th anniversary this year, we decided to partner with both Duke Homestead and Historic Stagville and bring together our Christmas programming entitled "Spirit, Sacrifice and Celebration" to highlight how local Durhamites celebrated the holidays throughout North Carolina's history from the 18th century up to the early 20th century. Our regular annual events will be held on the 14th with the daytime "Christmas in the Piedmont" event followed later that same night by our "Civil War Candlelight Tour" program. These events are always enjoyable for both young and old. This year we will have Jim McKee, from the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson historic site, come and portray Santa as he looked like in 1862. A bit different from the Santa we know of today.

Looking ahead to the new year, our department will commemorate the 155th anniversary events of the final year of the Civil War starting in January at Fort Fisher and continuing each month until ours in April! I remember the build up to the 150th anniversary events and now we are anticipating the start of the 155th events. It's amazing how time flies by.

In reflecting back on this year, I can say that it really has been a good one and I look forward to another great year with the excitement of the 155th event and all the other events we've got planned. I'm truly blessed to have the best staff, remarkable volunteers and wonderful members of our non-profit support group. Without the help from all of them, I know I this place would not be the remarkable site that it is. Thank you very much!

Happy holidays to everyone!



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!

Save the date:
April 25th & 26th, 2020
155th Anniversary





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)

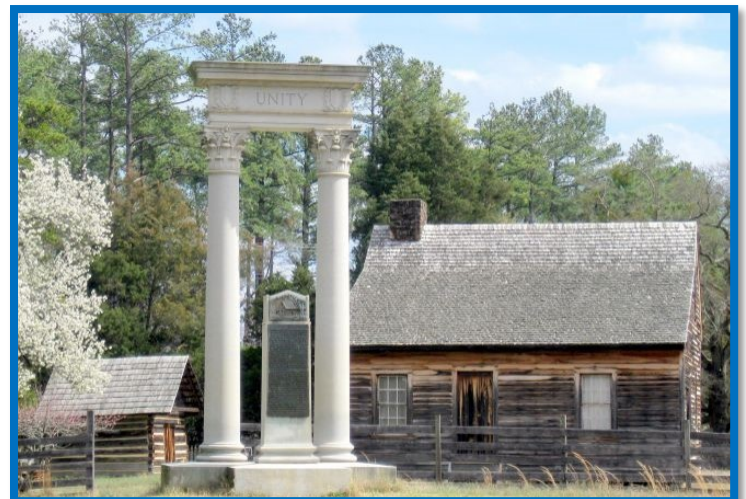
Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:



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)

Lynn M. Everett
Thomas S. Kenan III

Governor (\$2,500)

Rosalie Reynolds

Colonel (\$500)

David Patterson
Dixie Ferris

Major (\$300)

Karen and Evan Kharasch
Tom Dorriety and BCBS

Captain (\$100)

Jennifer Bolognesi
Michael Dobslaw
Guilford Chapter 301 NC-UDC
John Tindall
Eman Nazo
Sandra Wilson

Lieutenant (\$50)

Helen Drivas
In Memory of Harold Mozingo

Sergeant (\$25)

Rick Sheets
Ray Trosper
Dory A. Van Duzer
Richard Whitaker