

# 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bentonville Battlefield March 20-22, 2020

## EVENT INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Bentonville. The Battle of Bentonville is presented once every five years. As such, our core goal is to host an event that is mutually beneficial to the battlefield, the Bentonville community, and the visiting public. Just as crucial is our dedication to prepare an event that will be both remarkable and memorable for **you – the reenactor – without whom the event would not be possible!**

This packet contains basic event information, regulations, and registration materials. As preparations for this event have been underway for more than a year, we hope this packet will prepare you for the event. However, we understand that it may not address all your questions or concerns. In such cases, please do not hesitate to call or email the site directly.

This event will be held on portions of the original battlefield - located on both state and private property. This is *hallowed ground*. We expect the land to be treated accordingly, with due respect to private landowners, our historic property, and to the remnants of original trenches.

We look forward to seeing you all in March!

### DIRECTIONS

Bentonville Battlefield is located approximately 45 minutes southeast of Raleigh, North Carolina. Located in southern Johnston County, the site has marked exits on both I-95 (Exit 90) and I-40 (Exit 343). Both will bring you to the site on US Highway 701.

#### **Address:**

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site  
5466 Harper House Rd  
Four Oaks, NC 27524

## COMMANDERS

As with any large-scale event, we have brought together a range of coordinated logistics, safety, fire/rescue, health, and equestrian personnel to make sure that this event meets the goals of both the local and broader reenactor community. With the size, scope, and complexity of this effort, we are excited to announce the following:

**Federal Commander** – Gen. Darrell Markijohn, *USV Commanding General*

**Confederate Commander** – Gen. Gordon Grahe, *ANV Commanding General*

## SPONSORS

Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc. (FoBB)

- All proceeds from this event go directly to the FoBB to support its continuing efforts to preserve and interpret Bentonville Battlefield.

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Johnston County Visitors Bureau

Bentonville Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD)

- The BVFD has been granted sole-food concessions for the event. All proceeds from these concessions will benefit the BVFD and the Bentonville community.

## REGISTRATION

### REGISTRATION FEES\*

- \$20.00 per individual (military or civilian) Sept 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020.
- \$25.00 per individual (military or civilian) February 1 - March 1, 2020.
- Walk-on, \$35.00 per individual (Federal or civilian only)

Registration will **close March 1, 2020**.

**All registration forms must be postmarked by the appropriate date to be considered.**

The event website: <https://www.johnstoncountync.org/155th-bentonville-reenactment/>, will post the updated registration lists as we receive them. If there is an error, or if you do not see your name on the appropriate list, please contact the event organizers before you arrive at the event to clear up any problems.

*\*All proceeds benefit Bentonville Battlefield. A portion of these funds will go directly towards a capital campaign for a new site visitors center.*

## INFANTRY

Confederate registration is by invitation only. Only companies affiliated with the following Confederate organizations will be allowed to register: First Division, ANV, The Carolina Legion, Longstreet's Corps, the Palmetto Battalion, the Mississippi battalions affiliated with the States Rights Guard Brigade, Cleburne's Division, and the Southern Division.

**January 31, 2020: Confederate registration closes!! – NO CONFEDERATE WALK-ONS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

**In order to authentically conduct the scenarios, and dependent upon Federal registration, Confederate units may be asked to “Galvanize” and portray Federal units.**

Federal Registration is open to all Federal units.

Substitutions and add-ons will be allowed within registration deadlines. Substitutions must be arranged and confirmed prior to arrival at registration.

Registration for children under the age of 12 is free, but they must be registered. No persons under the age of 12 shall be permitted on the field of battle. Individuals between the ages of 12 and 16 may be permitted on the battlefield with the permission of the Battalion and/or overall Commander's permission as functional drummers or fifers.

## ARTILLERY

**Artillery registration will be by invitation only.** Upon receipt and **APPROVAL** of Artillery Registration you will receive a permit, which you must present upon arrival before being allowed to set up.

Artillery bounties - \$200 per gun.

Each gun (including ammunition chest & implements) will be inspected prior to participation in any event. Certified safety officers for 19<sup>th</sup> Century artillery, North Carolina State Historic Site staff members, will conduct inspections. An inspection checklist will be forwarded to each gun upon its invitation and registration. Guns not passing inspection forfeit all bounties and will not be allowed to fire during the event.

As battlefield access is the same for spectators and reenactors, artillery will be required to be in place a minimum of two (2) hours prior to each battle to assure the safety of our visitors.

Gators, ATV's, etc. are permissible for moving artillery into place and back to camp only. These vehicles are not permissible for any other use (trips to the sutler, porta johns, etc.) due to liability issues.

## CAVALRY

Cavalry units were not engaged in either of the actions selected as spectator battles for this event. Accordingly, for the benefit of cavalry units, they will be incorporated into battle scenarios.

### **Horses/Mules**

*All* horses/mules arriving on site will be required to have a current Coggins certificate. Coggins certificates should be dated within the past year (**March 21, 2019**). Coggins papers and horses/mules will be inspected upon off-loading by inspectors near the registration tent. Spot check for Coggins papers can occur at any time during the event.

Horses brought on site without current Coggins papers will not be allowed to participate in the event and will be asked to leave the site. **This regulation applies to horses/mules coming on site from within North Carolina as well.**

Veterinarians will be on call in case of emergency. Event sponsors will provide one bale of hay per horse per day (total of three bales per horse for the event) to be distributed at registration. (*Bales of hay will be for pre-registered horses only!*).

## SUTLER

Sutler registration and living history registration will be by invitation only. Sutler coordinator, Ben & Beth Tart will be in charge of sutler invitations & registrations. Upon receipt and **APPROVAL** of sutler registration, you will receive a permit, which you must present upon arrival before being allowed to set up.

Sutlers will park in the designated reenactor parking, not in sutler area. All vehicles will be moved from sutler area by 8:00 am Saturday. *No exceptions.*

Appropriate North Carolina sales and use tax should be collected by all vendors.

Additional sutler rules and regulations will be provided to invited sutlers.

Sutler questions and inquiries can be directed to [bentonvillesutler@outlook.com](mailto:bentonvillesutler@outlook.com)

## CAMPS & AMENITIES

Camps will open for military and civilian participants at 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Sutlers, Divisional, Brigade & Headquarters staff members may begin arriving on site at 2:00p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. All military campsites are in heavily wooded areas; we encourage you to plan your tentage accordingly.

Due to the volume of participants, vehicles are allowed in camp for 45 minutes to unload.

Towing will be enforced for vehicles left in camp areas for an extended period of time. *All vehicles will be out of camp by 8:00 am Saturday morning.*

Event sponsors will provide firewood, water, hand washing stations and Porta-lets. Bales of straw will be available for purchase at registration.

## REENACTMENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. Only a 1st Sgt. or above may pull a ramrod in the field, and only if to clear the weapon and at a distance of 20 paces behind the firing line. There shall be no ramming of cartridges - no exceptions. A violation of this rule can result in the private and senior non-com being removed from the event.
2. Each battalion - each Colonel or his staff, including medical staff - shall carry a yellow flag as a visual signal of a real injury requiring professional medical attention and for direction to that emergency. No exceptions!
3. You can fix bayonets for inspections and to stack arms while staging for battle scenarios, as directed by commanders. Never fix bayonets in battle!
4. There will be no hand-to-hand combat except as provided by the scripted scenario. You will be told in advance if you are a participant. Anyone who touches another participant, their gear or any colors, if not previously arranged, will be subject to arrest during or after the battle, ejected and prosecuted.
5. During battle scenarios, do not come within 50 yards of the muzzle of an artillery piece.
6. No firing of small arms within 40 yards. Never aim directly at anyone at any range.
7. Only period smoking on the field.
8. No bare feet on the field. You may be willing to run the risk, but we don't want to send medics for you when someone may be having a more serious problem elsewhere.
9. No black powder weapons of any kind will be carried or fired by any participant less than 16 years of age. Participants 16-18 years old must have parental or signed guardian supervision. Children under age 16 are not permitted on the field during the reenactments. Exceptions will be made for functional musicians (boys 12 or older who play a drum, a fife, or a bugle). Violation can lead to ejection of the child, responsible adult and/or unit commander.
10. No projectiles, bullets, musket balls or loading blocks will be carried at any time other than in the living history camps.
11. Cartridge paper will not be placed in the barrel, and no wadding or ramming will be permitted except in the use of handguns. (Absolutely no wonder wads; Cream of Wheat is recommended). Multiple loading is not permitted.
12. Infantry cartridges will not be carried anywhere on the person except in a hard cartridge box.
13. Infantry black powder will only be carried in the form of cartridges and will be properly stored in camp.
14. Straw must be kept inside the tent, not around the edges.
15. ALL campfires shall have, at a minimum, one full bucket or other container of water and/or fire extinguisher close at hand. Event staff and provosts will be asked to inspect

for this, and failure to adhere could cancel your street's fire permit.

16. Fire pits shall only be permitted on the fire line. There will be no independent fires in or near the streets.
17. We encourage battalions to mount guards.
18. Due to congestion and the number of participants, cars are allowed in camp for 45 minutes to unload only when permitted. Towing will be enforced for vehicles left in camp areas for an extended period of time.
19. Cars will be out of camps by Saturday, 8:00am. No vehicles will be allowed back in camp until Sunday after 4pm after the conclusion of the battle. *No Exceptions!* Towing will be enforced for vehicles left in camp areas.

## IMPRESSION STANDARDS

### MILITARY IMPRESSIONS

Please do your best to educate the public and respect your fellow reenactors by heeding the following:

1. All clothing must accurately represent the fashion and style of 1865, e.g., natural fibers, period cut and color.
2. Modern plastic glasses frames are not permitted.
3. Women portraying soldiers in the ranks should make every reasonable effort to hide their gender. Hundreds, if not thousands, of women passed themselves off as men in order to serve as soldiers during the war—on both sides, and we will never know exactly how many did so because their disguises were so good. Honor them. If any army or event volunteer (as above) determines the female gender at **no less than 10 feet**, that individual will be asked to leave the field/ranks.
  - a. Long hair may *not* be stuffed under a hat; a wig or short hair cut is acceptable. Long nails, nail polish, earrings or any sort of jewelry (with the exception of appropriate wedding bands) is prohibited. Modern makeup is prohibited with the exception of makeup to disguise or make one appear more masculine (such as a "5 o'clock shadow"). Loose fitting clothing is recommended. Holding hands or "romantic fraternizing" with a gentleman while in the guise of a soldier during interpretive hours or in view of the public is strongly discouraged. In the 1860's, if a woman was recognized as such in the ranks, she was immediately "discharged." If your impression does not adequately disguise your gender at this event, the Event Coordinator reserves the right to request that you change into appropriate attire. Those who refuse will be asked to leave the event.
4. Hair should be worn as appropriate to 1865.
5. Do not wear any uniforms or insignia that would not have appeared in 1865 in either army.
6. The classic "campaigner" impression is suitable for this event. Shoes shall be worn! Failure to do so will result in removal from the event.

7. Vivandiers will not be allowed. There is no documentation on file at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site confirming the presence of vivandiers during the battle in 1865.
8. All anachronisms (cots, coolers, sweat pants, etc.) must be hidden away inside tents at all times.
9. Reenactors shall wear period appropriate attire for the entirety of the event.

The Carolinas Campaign of 1865 lends itself to campaign impressions, and we encourage campaigner units to register for this event. All efforts will be made to accommodate campaigner units with appropriate camps within the designated camp areas. All camps are wooded, so this should pose no great problem.

We insist that campaigner units work within the pre-established command structure. Units who initiate or participate in unapproved activities, battles, etc., will be asked to leave the event. We will gladly work with you as best we can, provided your requests are made known to us far enough in advance.

## CIVILIAN IMPRESSIONS

1. Civilians are encouraged to use the civilian camp located near the Harper House. Civilians in the military camp areas are strongly discouraged in order to keep a military campaign appearance.
2. All Civilian participants are expected to be in period appropriate clothing for the duration of the event.
  - a. Appropriate shoes will be worn at all times by all participants. No bare feet, athletic shoes or sandals.
  - b. Ladies should wear appropriate day dresses of one fabric. *No white shirts/skirt combos, no ball gowns during the day.*
  - c. Appropriate undergarments are strongly encouraged. Wearing pants, jeans or leggings under dresses *will not* be tolerated.
  - d. Hair should be dressed in a bun or chignon on the back of the head. Hair should not be worn down or loose. Short hair should be covered with an appropriate cap or bonnet, *no snoods!*
  - e. Modern make-up, facial piercings, and nail polish will *not* be tolerated.
3. Children should be dressed in period attire. Children are strongly discouraged from wearing military uniforms and attire.
4. Men in the civilian camp should be dressed appropriately to 1865, not wearing military uniforms or equipment.
  - a. Men should consider developing a profession as part of their portrayal. In 1865 all able-bodied men (ages 17 to 50) were serving in the military unless physically unable or were excused due to their occupation.

5. The civilian camp will be kept free of anachronistic items such as coolers, heaters, modern food containers, etc. Please keep all modern items out of view at all times.

## CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES

The establishment of a separate, authentic, civilian or refugee camps is required for authenticity and the convenience of civilians and their families. Civilian camps will be located around the Harper House (c. 1855), which was used during the battle as a field hospital for the Union XIV Corps. We strongly discourage civilians in the military camps for reasons of historical accuracy (both armies were on campaign). Furthermore, we anticipate that space within the military camps will be at a premium. All civilian activities will be concentrated in the vicinity of the Harper House; to include a dance will be held on Saturday evening, with music provided by the Huckleberry Brothers.

## SPECIALTY IMPRESSIONS

Specialty impression will be approved by the Site Manager prior to arrival on site.

Robert E. Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, A.P. Hill, U.S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, etc. were not present at the Battle of Bentonville, March 1865. Needless to say, we do not expect them to grace us with their presence in March 2020.

## THE BATTLES

### **Saturday, March 21 - "The Fight at Morris Farm"**

With Carlin's division routed and Morgan's division isolated below the Old Goldsboro Road, Maj. Gen. Henry Slocum concentrated arriving units of the XX Corps on the Reddick Morris farm. Late in the afternoon, Confederate Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee launched a series of assaults on the Morris Farm position against twenty-one pieces of Union field artillery and against several Union brigades in a desperate attempt to break the thin Federal line.

### **Sunday, March 22 - "Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee & Morgan's Stand"**

A massive Confederate offensive (the last grand charge of the Army of Tennessee) at 2:45 p.m. on March 19, 1865 routed the First Division, XIV Corps (Carlin) and isolated the Second Division, XIV Corps (Morgan) south of the Old Goldsboro Road. The swampy, dense briar infested area or otherwise known, as the "Bull Pen" did not allow either side to bring in artillery support, thus hand-to-hand combat ensued. Despite being assailed repeatedly from three sides - by elements of Gen's Hoke's & Hill's commands - Morgan's division held its position in what has been described as "some of the most desperate fighting witnessed in the Civil War."



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM: REENACTOR REGISTRATION OPEN TO DIVISION/BRIGADE/BATTALION COMMANDERS AND SUTLERS

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: REENACTOR REGISTRATION OPEN

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: REENACTOR REGISTRATION OPEN

## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

6:00 AM-9:00 PM: REENACTOR REGISTRATION OPEN

9:00 AM: PUBLIC GATES OPEN

9:00 AM: VENDORS AND LIVING HISTORY CAMPS OPEN

3:00 PM: “THE FIGHT FOR THE MORRIS FARM” BATTLE

5:00 PM: SITE CLOSURES TO THE PUBLIC

8:00 PM: PERIOD DANCE (REENACTORS ONLY)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 AM: PUBLIC GATES OPEN

1:30 PM: “LAST GRAND CHARGE OF THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE & MORGANS STAND” BATTLE

4:00 PM: SITE CLOSURES TO THE PUBLIC/REENACTOR CARS ALLOWED IN CAMP

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The emergency phone number for this event is (910) 594-0789. This is the primary line for Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. Site personnel and event staff will relay messages only in the case of actual emergencies (i.e., death or illness). Please tell your family which unit/brigade/sutler and etc. that you belong to so we can get the message out to you as soon as possible.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

1. North Carolina General Statute G.S. 124-4 states that a person may not disobey an order of the historic site manager when that order is related to the preservation of historical material, the protection of historic sites property, the safety and well-being of the visiting public, or the equality of access of all citizens to the resources of the site.
2. North Carolina General Statutes 70-12(3), 70-15, 70-16, 70-17 prohibit digging, excavating, disturbing the ground, or the collection of artifacts on State property, including Bentonville Battlefield. Violations may result in: (1) criminal penalties involving fines of up to \$2,000, or up to six months imprisonment, or both; (2) civil fines of up to \$5,000 and, (3) the forfeiture of vehicles and equipment (including metal detectors) used in connection with the violation of these laws.
3. Reenactor RV's are welcome and will have a designated parking area. However, there are no hookups available for modern camping on site and the site will be closed to visitors at the end of each day. There will be no overnight parking for visitors. There will be no modern camping on site. No fires or tarps will be permitted off any RV. Reenactors with RV's will park in the reenactor parking area. Several RV Parks are within 15 miles of the Battlefield. For more information regarding local accommodations, please contact: [www.johnstoncountync.org](http://www.johnstoncountync.org) or [info@johnstoncountync.org](mailto:info@johnstoncountync.org)
4. All participants must have their pass on their person at all times. Passes will be checked prior to each engagement. There will be a \$10.00 charge for replacement of lost passes.
5. This event will be held on portions of the original battlefield. We ask that you conduct yourself accordingly. All property, public or privately owned, should be treated with respect. No cans, bottles, or other debris should be placed in fires.
6. "Unscripted" or "spontaneous" battles are expressly forbidden. Units or individuals engaged in such activity will be removed from the site.
7. No fireworks or pyrotechnics allowed at any time, either in camp or on the battlefield.
8. North Carolina General Statutes strictly forbids sale of bulk black powder on state property.
9. No fires will be allowed in the sutler area.
10. Conspicuous consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs will result in immediate dismissal from the event site. Drunkenness and abusive or unruly behavior will not be tolerated. Individuals in violation of this regulation will be turned over to the Johnston County Sheriff's Department.

11. Weapons will be discharged only in designated areas while under the supervision of the unit commanders. Weapons shall not be discharged in camp or sutler's row. Participants will not allow spectators to handle and/or fire their weapons during the period of this event. Violators will be removed from the event.

12. Cartridges for rifle-muskets should not exceed 60 grains of powder for rifles or 100 grains of powder for smoothbores. Larger charges are wasteful and create safety hazards.

13. The use of ramrods during the scripted battle will not be permitted. Ramrods may be carried, but are not to be drawn. Belt or bowie knives should be tied down. No tompons on the field.

14. Sibley tents are **ONLY** allowed in the authentic civilian area. There will be precious little room for wall tents in these areas.

15. No Zouave, Hawkins, or Mississippi rifles. No two-banders will be allowed on the battlefield. Henry and Spencer rifles are perfectly acceptable for FEDERAL USE ONLY at this event.

16. All non-period equipment (i.e. coolers, aluminum cans, etc.) should be stored out of sight of the visiting public.

17. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site reserves the right to remove any person or unit from the event at any time for violation of previous and above-listed regulations, glaring safety infractions, or authenticity violations. As noted in GS 124-4, failure to comply with the Historic Site Manager may result in the eviction from the property.

Questions or comments should be directed to:

**Colby Stevens**

*Historic Site Manager*

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site

5466 Harper House Rd, Four Oaks, NC 27524

Phone: (910) 594-0789

[colby.stevens@ncdcr.gov](mailto:colby.stevens@ncdcr.gov)