



## Educator's Packet

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in Fort Dobbs State Historic Site's educational Programming. This packet includes a variety of information, worksheets, and program descriptions to prepare you for your visit to Fort Dobbs or a visit by Fort Dobbs staff to your school. Feel free to use these materials to supplement your program before, during and after your visit. We hope that you will use Fort Dobbs again to teach the history of North Carolina and her role in the French and Indian War.

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If you have further questions or would like more information please contact fort staff. We hope that you will use Fort Dobbs again to teach the history of North Carolina and her role in the French and Indian War.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site Staff  
438 Fort Dobbs Road  
Statesville, NC 28625  
(704) 873-5882  
[www.fortdobbs.org](http://www.fortdobbs.org)

have recovered nearly 6,000 artifacts from the site. The fort's well has been re-opened and the cellar and perimeter ditch have been re-excavated.

Today, as one of the State Historic Sites run by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources,

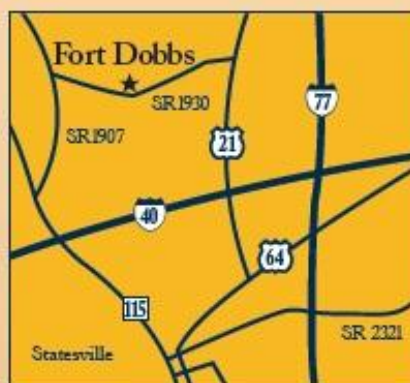
Fort Dobbs' mission is to preserve and interpret North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort site. Artifacts are displayed in the visitor center, interpreters offer guided tours, and visitors can enjoy a variety of hands-on experiences. The site comes to life several times each year during living history

programs. Plans are underway to reconstruct the fort and develop the site as the premier French and Indian War fort site in the United States.



### *Support the Fort*

The Friends of Fort Dobbs, Inc. provides funding for special programming and the site's development. You can support Fort Dobbs through this non-profit group by contacting the site or visiting [www.fortdobbs.org](http://www.fortdobbs.org) for a membership application and details about giving opportunities. Thank you on behalf of generations to come!



For more information, please contact:  
Fort Dobbs State Historic Site  
438 Fort Dobbs Road  
Statesville, NC 28625  
704.873.5882  
[www.fortdobbs.org](http://www.fortdobbs.org)

Hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday, 9 A.M.-5 P.M.  
Closed major holidays

Brochure printed with funds provided by the Friends of Fort Dobbs

## *Fort Dobbs*



## The Struggle for America

North Carolina  
**HISTORIC SITES**

Office of Archives and History  
Department of Cultural Resources



# Fort Dobbs and the Struggle for America

## The French and Indian War

Throughout the first half of the 18th century, a series of conflicts between France, England, and other European countries set the stage for the Seven Years War. From 1754 to 1763, battles raged across five continents as the empires of Europe vied for control of precious colonial resources and territory. North America's part in this first world-wide war is known as the French and Indian War.



Col. Hugh Waddell

By 1750, the British colonial population had surpassed one million and began pushing westward. Meanwhile, France began to construct a series of forts along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. In 1754, French forces began occupying land recently claimed by Virginia. Attempting to prevent further encroachment, Virginia Governor Dinwiddie called for military assistance from nearby colonies. North Carolina was the first of the other English colonies to respond. Eventually, North Carolina's soldiers would serve in five major campaigns, as far away as Pennsylvania and New York.

The United States had its origin in the French and Indian War. By 1763, the English and their allies had triumphed, but new taxes, meant to reduce Britain's enormous war debt, were levied without the consent of Colonial assemblies. Tensions mounted and, in 1775, exploded into open revolution. The French, humiliated and vengeful, gladly supported the Americans in their quest for independence.

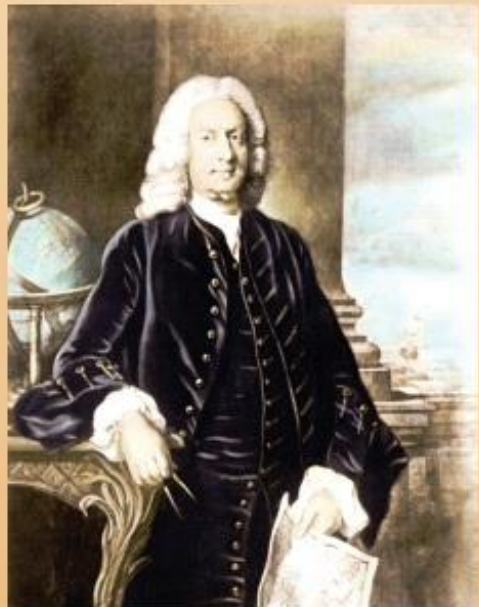


Artist Robert Steele's depiction of the fort in 1756

## Fort Dobbs

When the war began, Royal Governor of North Carolina, Arthur Dobbs, looked to his colony's defense. As a former military officer, Dobbs was quick to recruit and arm companies of full-time provincial soldiers and have them construct forts at strategic points, including one on the western frontier.

Construction of Fort Dobbs began in the fall of 1755. Completed in 1756, observers described it as "A good and Substantial Building of the Dimensions following (that is to say) The Oblong Square fifty three feet by forty, the opposite Angles Twenty four feet and Twenty-two, In height Twenty four and a half feet... The Thickness of the Walls which are made of Oak Logs regularly Diminished from sixteen Inches to Six, it contains three floors and there may be discharged from each floor at one and the same time about one hundred Muskets the same is beautifully situated in the fork of



Gov. Arthur Dobbs

Fourth Creek a Branch of the Yadkin River."

The fort accommodated at least one company of fifty provincial soldiers, and included living space for officers, such as Hugh Waddell, who oversaw its construction and was commandant for much its occupation. Fort Dobbs also served as a supply depot and symbol of the Crown's regional control. This control was threatened when fighting broke out in 1759. After the indiscriminate murder of several warriors by Virginians, the Cherokee Indians took revenge on English settlers living near Fort Dobbs. The hostilities lasted more than two years and included an attack on the fort by a force of more than sixty Cherokees. By November of 1761, peace was finally restored.



## The Historic Site Today

When the war ended, the North Carolina frontier quickly moved west and Fort Dobbs was closed. By 1766, the abandoned fort was in ruins and soon became



farmland. The site was nearly forgotten until 1909, when the Daughters of the American Revolution acquired it and eventually donated it to the State of North Carolina. Archaeological excavations, beginning in 1967,

# Description of Educational Programming

## On-Site:

Three separate field trip experiences are available for groups to choose from. Cost is \$3.00 per student (ages 5-18) with no charge for adult chaperones.

- ◆ **Gone for a Soldier:** Gain insight into the lives of the provincial garrison of the fort. Activities include watching a musket demonstration, learning 1750's military drill (3<sup>rd</sup> grade through high school), and exploring soldier's equipment and diet.
- ◆ **Entering Upon New Lands:** Experience the daily lives of settlers on the NC frontier. Students learn about period construction techniques (including the chance to apply mud daubing to a log cabin, weather permitting), clothing, and food ways.
- ◆ **Archaeologist for a Day:** Archaeology is vital to our understanding of Fort Dobbs. Following a guided tour of the archaeological site, students may engage in a simulated dig, learning the scientific process of archaeology, while uncovering "artifacts" related to the habitation of the fort.

## Off-Site:

Outreach programs are available on a limited basis, depending on the availability of staff. Cost is a \$25 fee per presentation. Multiple presentations at the same venue on the same day will each incur the \$25 fee.

- ◆ Off-site programming involves a uniformed historical interpreter representing a soldier of the North Carolina Provincial Troops visiting a classroom, school or group. The interpreter will discuss the origins of the French and Indian War including North Carolina's involvement in the North American theatre of the war, with an emphasis on the role of Fort Dobbs and the company of men stationed here.
- ◆ Emphasis in off-site programming will focus on the material culture of the soldiers at Fort Dobbs, their uniforms, equipment, weapons and the ability of North Carolina to provide for her soldiers. If the school or site has the space and desires to, programming involving students learning the rudiments of 18<sup>th</sup> century linear warfare may be done. In addition demonstrations of the operation and firing (blank) of a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century military musket may be done if the site allows.

## Special Events:

- ◆ At least twice yearly, Fort Dobbs presents special school day programs, with a variety of historical programming. Contact site for dates. Reservations are required. Cost is \$5.00 per student (ages 5-18) with no charge for adult chaperones.

# Fort Dobbs Question Sheet: Grades 4 and 5

**Please write all answers in complete sentences.**

1. What was the name of the governor who ordered the fort to be built?

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2. Where were people in Rowan County from?

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3. What was the fort built of?

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4. What two Indian nations were close to the fort?

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5. Was Fort Dobbs ever attacked?

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6. How did North Carolina soldiers travel to other colonies during the war?

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7. Where were the soldiers from?

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8. What would a Provincial Soldier eat?

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# Fort Dobbs Question Sheet: Grades 6-8

**Please write all answers in complete sentences.**

1. What countries were fighting in the French and Indian War?

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2. Who was the governor of North Carolina during the French and Indian War?

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3. In what year was Fort Dobbs built?

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4. How did North Carolina compare to other colonies at the outbreak of war?

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5. Who commanded the troops at Fort Dobbs, how old was he?

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6. Did Indians ally themselves with the British, if so which tribes?

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7. How did the British victory in the French and Indian war alienate the Colonists?

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# 18th Century Military Terminology

Identify the pieces of the Soldier's uniform



Private, North Carolina Regiment, 1755



# How Do We Know About History?

Reconstructing History at Fort Dobbs requires a variety of different sources to learn what the items people used, the clothing they wore, and the buildings they lived in were like. We use these sources to create a reproduction that most accurately reflects the historical item that no longer exists. Let's see how its done...

## Reproducing the Uniform of the North Carolina Provincials

No uniforms of the North Carolina provincials soldiers survive to this day, so how do we figure out what it looked like? First we track down the paper trail!

But how do we know that NC troops got those uniforms? A letter from Dinwiddie to Dobbs later that years say that:

**"Mr. Hunter has 50 suits of clothes for y'r Rangers"**

Note: Dinwiddie usually referred to the soldiers at Fort Dobbs as rangers.

We start with period descriptions of the uniform. On February 8, 1755

Gov. Dinwiddie of Virginia wrote to Gov. Dobbs of North Carolina:

**"Blue turned up with red, I think will make very proper uniforms."**

We know Virginia had the uniforms but did the NC troops get them? That is confirmed by NC troops who deserted in Pennsylvania shortly after getting their uniforms:

**"The rest had on their Regimentals, which is blue coats, with red lapels, and blue breeches."**

We know that Virginia gave uniforms to North Carolina that were blue turned up with red, but what exactly did they look like? We have to look at some period images to get an idea of what soldiers in British colonies might have worn.

Paintings from the 1750's of British Soldiers help us see what military coats looked like and how they fit.



1751



1753

We combine this with similar clothing that survives in museums to see how the clothes were made.



Archeology from the Fort shows us things like buttons that would have been worn on uniforms here.



And finally we make a reproduction that uses all these sources. We have reconstructed to the best of our ability something from the Past!