

Fort Dobbs Gazette

Volume IX Issue 4

December 2012



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2013 Events Schedule

February 23-24:

Living History Weekend.

253rd Anniversary of the attack on Fort Dobbs. An evening firing program will be offered Saturday.

April 13-14: *War for Empire.*

Largest event of the year, featuring battle re-enactments, sutlers, and demonstrations. School day on April 12; Advance reservations required.

June 8-9: *Living History Weekend.*

Daily garrison life will be interpreted.

July 12: *Summer Camp Day.*

Hands-on demonstrations for homeschoolers and day camps. Advance reservations required.

July 13: *Hands-On History Day.*

August 10: *Movie Night.*

Enjoy an historical movie on a summer evening.

September 27: *Fall School Day.*

Hands-on demonstrations will be offered to students of all ages. Advance reservations required.

September 28-29: *Living History Weekend*

Daily garrison life will be interpreted.

October 26-27: *Living History Weekend.*

Daily garrison life will be interpreted with an emphasis on the importance of the fall harvest.

November 9-10: *Military Timeline.*

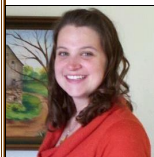
Learn about more than 300 years of NC military history through camp displays and weapons firing demonstrations.

December 7-8: *Living History Weekend.*

Daily garrison life will be interpreted with an emphasis on living conditions in winter quarters.



Dispatch from the Fort by Gennifer Reiter, Site Manager



I cannot believe another year has come and gone! Looking back, I am proud of what we accomplished. With this being said, I would like to take the time to thank those who have contributed to the success of Fort Dobbs. First, thank you Scott and Wayne. You both put so much into Fort Dobbs. Your love of the site and desire to make it great is inspiring. Without you, I would be lost. Second, thank you to the Garrison for always being there. Without your participation, we could

not provide the excellent programming that we do. You make working at Fort Dobbs a pleasure! Third, thank you to the Friends of Fort Dobbs; your financial support allows us to do what we do best. In these tough economic times, it is uplifting to know that you value us so much that you provide monetary support to keep us going. Finally, thank you to our guests, supporters and volunteers. Your patronage makes us strive to be better. Thank you all for a great year and cheers to the new year that is coming!

Department of Cultural Resources
Linda Carlisle, Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Dr. Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary

Division of State Historic Sites
Keith Hardison, Director

Western Region Supervisor
Bob Remsburg

Fort Dobbs Historic Site
Gennifer Reiter, Site Manager
Scott Douglas, Historic Interpreter II
Wayne Steelman, Maintenance Mech.
Drew Neill, Historic Interpreter
Krystal Arrington, Site Assistant

Raffle

The Friends of Fort Dobbs are now selling tickets for a raffle! The three prizes offered are:

1. A reproduction 1756 Long Land Pattern musket. This is a fully functional .75 flintlock firearm and is one of the variety of arms used by British troops in North America during the French and Indian War.
2. A beautifully engraved powder horn by Gerald Dukes. This horn features the royal arms and is marked "Ft. Dobbs 1756-God Save the King." Antler display stand included.
3. A reproduction British infantry hanger (sword) with scabbard.

The drawing will take place on Sunday, April 14th, 2013 at 3:00 pm during the *War for Empire* event. You do not need to be present to win!

Tickets are \$10 each, \$40 for five, or \$90 for 11. Please contact either Genn or Scott at 704-873-5882 for more information.



Living History Update

It has been a busy fall at Fort Dobbs! *Colonial Education Day* was held on September 28th and allowed area students a chance to learn about the lives of the soldiers, settlers, and American Indians on the frontier through a variety of enjoyable demonstrations.

Scott Douglas, Wayne Steelman (right,) and volunteer Patrick Morton travelled to Wilmington in October to participate in the State of North Carolina's Black Powder Safety Course. Organized through the Department of Cultural Resources, this course produces certified safety officers to oversee the many weapons demonstrations that take place at historic sites across the state. Certifications are valid for four years.



On Veteran's Day weekend, November 10-11, Fort Dobbs held our third annual Military Timeline. This event featured soldiers spanning hundreds of years of the state's history, from pre-contact native warriors, up through the period of the Vietnam War. Interpreters from different periods provided on-going interaction for visitors and performed several firing demonstrations.

Saturday, December 8th is the site's final living history program of the year and will feature a festive evening bonfire at 7pm.

Be sure to come out for the first event of 2013 on February 23-24, commemorating the 253rd anniversary of the 1760 Cherokee attack on Fort Dobbs. Happy Holidays!

When it Was News, 1762

Acts of the North Carolina General Assembly, November 3-December 11, 1762

I. Whereas, the Counties of Orange, Granville, Johnston, Tyrrell, and Edcomb, are much infested with Wolves and other Vermin, to the great Prejudice of the Inhabitants of the said Counties: For Remedy whereof,

II. Be it Enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That every Person or Persons who shall kill any of the Vermin hereinafter mentioned within any of the Counties aforesaid, shall be intitled to a claim upon the County where such Vermin shall be killed for the several Rewards as follows: For every Panther, Ten Shillings; every Wolf, Ten Shillings; and every Wildcat, Two Shillings and Eight pence, to be paid as hereafter directed.

III. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That any person who shall have a Claim for killing any of the aforesaid Vermin, are hereby directed to produce the Head or Scalp of the aforesaid Vermin, with both Ears, before a Magistrate, who is to administer an Oath to such Person claiming the same, that it was taken and killed within the Bounds of such County where the Claim is desired to be paid and if it be a Servant, Slave, or Indian, that shall kill any such Vermin...the Master or Owner of such Servant or Slave or he that makes claim for such Scalp or Scalps for an Indian, shall make Oath before such Magistrate that he verily believes the same was taken and killed within the County where the same is claimed;...

Photos From the Frontier

Greg Jones with Queen Charlotte at the DNC convention



East Middle School students rebuild the fence (top) while Tom Nicastro puts a new roof on the cabin (left)



State Black Powder Safety course



Military Timeline



Hidden Artifacts of Fort Dobbs

By Scott Douglas

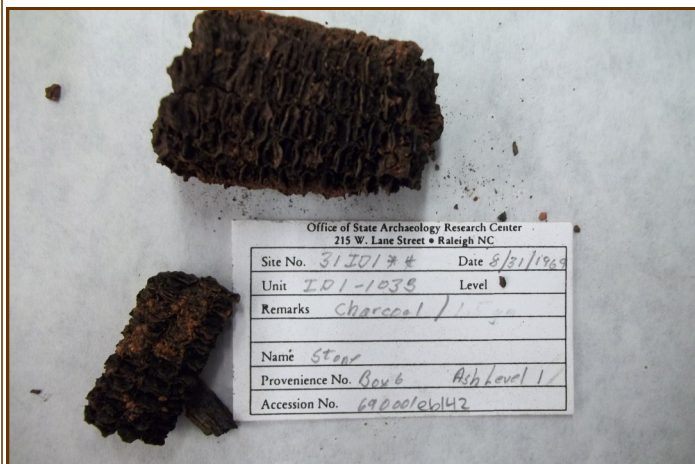
Visitors to Fort Dobbs State Historic Site are currently able to see a range of artifacts on display in the site's visitor center. Bullets, pottery sherds, and buttons all help tell the story of the fort and the men who lived there more than two centuries ago. However, only a small number of items are actually displayed.

Collected over the course of eight archaeological investigations and periodic wash-outs, the collection of artifacts from Fort Dobbs preserved by the State of North Carolina totals nearly 6,000 items! The majority of these relics are stored securely in the Office of State Archaeology in Raleigh, just a few blocks from the capitol building.

Having studied Fort Dobbs for several years now, pouring over the archaeological reports in the process, I was familiar with the facts about these hidden artifacts; how many sherds of a certain type of pottery were found, the excavation location of a certain number of bones, and so on, but did not have photographs of most of them. I felt the need to examine these items in person. While many are similar to the items currently on display, each artifact has its own piece of the Fort Dobbs story to tell and is a unique part of the site's history. Here then, are several of the more striking pieces which, while currently in storage, may one day make their way back to Fort Dobbs for permanent display.

Corn Cobs:

While seemingly mundane, the recovery of charred corn cobs is an exciting part of Fort Dobbs' archaeological story. 45 carbonized pieces of corn cob were found. Most proved to be a flint hybrid species. It is amazing that these fragile pieces of history could have been preserved under a plowed field for so long!



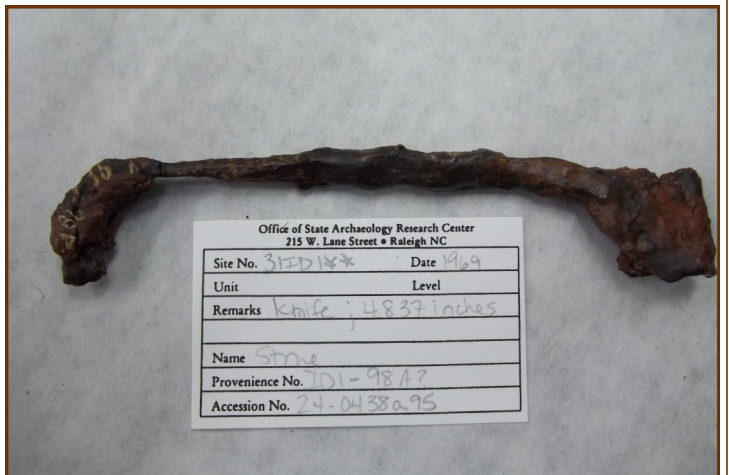
Animal Bones:

32 percent of the artifacts found at Fort Dobbs were animal remains. Several species are represented, including cows, bison, horses, deer, pigs, birds, sheep, and even a dog. For the most part, these remains reflect the diet of the soldiers, much of whose meat was evidently hunted. Primarily, the quarters and mandibles of the larger animals have been found, but not smaller bones. This may indicate that the animals were butchered some distance away from the fort, with only the larger sections hauled to the building for consumption.



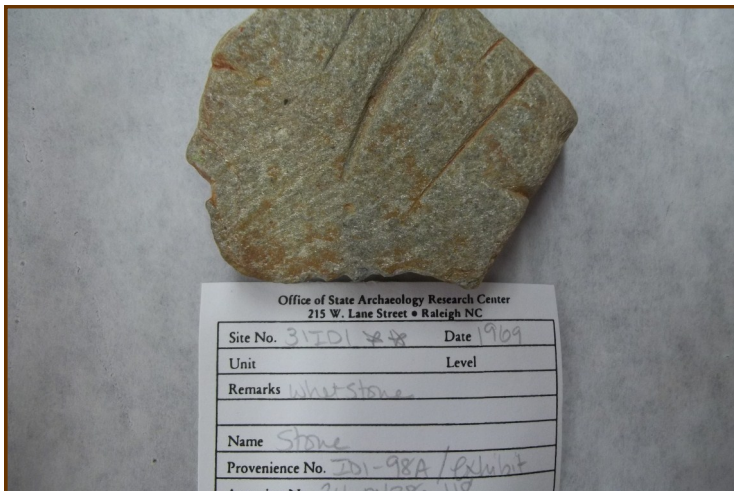
Pocket Knives:

Ten iron knife fragments have been found. These include both blades, as well as springs or bolsters, all of which seem to be from clasp (folding) knives. Clasp knives were quite commonly carried by both soldiers and civilians in the 18th Century.



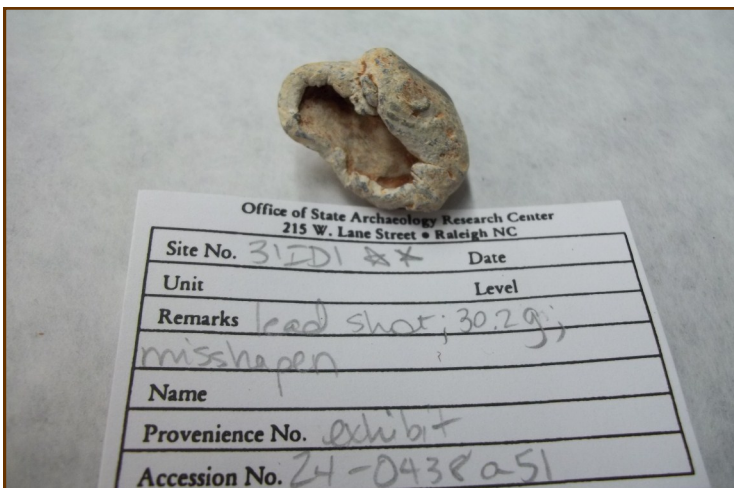
Worked Stones:

A few worked soapstone and quartzite stones have been recovered. Some may reflect American Indian occupation prior to the French and Indian War, while at least one was likely a whet stone for blade sharpening. The stone pictured below is of light green quartzite and has a deep groove on one side. The reverse side has three straight grooves and scratches. This stone may have been for smoothing wooden dowels or leather strapping.



Bullets:

More than 230 musket balls or shot of various calibres have been found at the site. They range in size from .13 to .73, with the majority in either the .28-.34, .54-.60, or .67-.70 ranges. The military muskets used by the provincials would have utilized the larger balls, as well as smaller buckshot, as was described in Hugh Waddell's account of the attack in 1760. The middle range of shot likely reflects both civilian arms, as well as Cherokee trade guns. The fired ball shown below is a musket size (likely .68) and has been heavily deformed by impact.



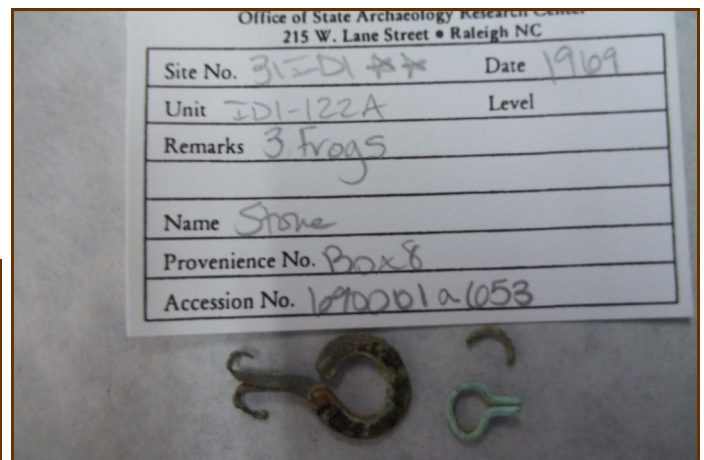
Timber:

77 pieces of wood were recovered at the site. Most of these were carbonized and are associated with the fill dirt in the cellar. This burned zone may reflect an effort in the late 18th or early 19th Century to salvage iron hardware from the structure. The piece of charred wood pictured below may have once been part of a beam or joist in Fort Dobbs.



Hooks and Eyes:

Frogs and hooks and eyes were used in the mid-18th Century to tack back the skirts of soldiers' coats and sometimes to close the fronts of women's jackets and some men's coat torsos. A total of three frog loops and two hook and eye fasteners were found in various digs.



The artifacts stored in Raleigh are a treasure trove of information. One looks forward to the day, following the reconstruction of the blockhouse itself, when the site will have a larger visitor center and the facilities to display many more of these intriguing pieces of history for public viewing.

For more information on the Office of State Archaeology
www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov

Year in Review

By Gennifer Reiter

We worked very hard this year. Here are the highlights of our accomplishments.

January: Genn worked with the Fort Dobbs Trail Committee to look into the feasibility of connecting a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail to Fort Dobbs.

February: Scott planned a fantastic living history weekend and held one outreach program. The Friends submitted toilet designs to Raleigh as part of the reconstruction project.

March: The Friends sponsored an archeological dig on site to clear a place to build bathrooms! Scott also planned and implemented War For Empire. This was our biggest program of the year, with around 1800 visitors!

April: The Friends started negotiations with the State to obtain a lease of the site. Obtaining a lease is the first step in the reconstruction process because without the lease, the Friends cannot do any construction projects on the property.

July: Garrison members split shingles to help re-roof the cabin, Scott planned and implemented a very successful Summer Camp Day, and Garrison members represented the fort at the Mooresville YMCA's 4th of July festival.

September: An Eagle Scout candidate created a very much needed storage shed for the site, and Scott held our Colonial Education Day on the 28th. Over 400 kids participated in that event!

October: Scott and Wayne worked with a group of kids from East Middle School to move our split rail fence further away from the road. The kids worked super hard and did a tremendous job!

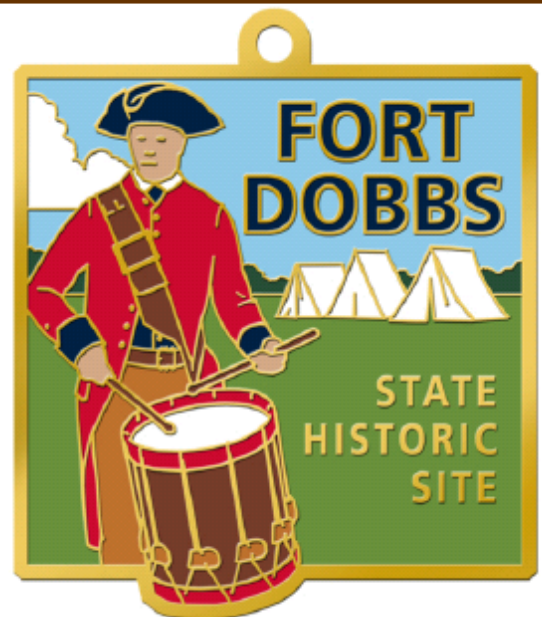
November: Scott held our Military Timeline in honor of Veteran's Day! This program highlighted over 400 years of military history involving North Carolinians.

New Gift Shop Items

The *Petite Sutler* gift shop at Fort Dobbs is pleased to announce new items in our inventory! Working with Hogeys, Inc., we have developed a collectible patch, pin, and key chain for the site:

- The patch features a provincial soldier and Cherokee warrior in combat with each other under a night sky with the fort in the background.
- The key chain features a provincial drummer with an encampment in the background (right.)
- The pin comes with an informational card, and features the profile of a Cherokee warrior's face.

All three items will retail for less than five dollars. These, as well as new red ware pottery mugs from Mike Fox, the master potter at Old Salem, could make for good stocking stuffers this holiday season...



FRIENDS OF FORT DOBBS ROLL CALL

The Friends of Fort Dobbs supports the mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site:

"To preserve and interpret North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort."

THANK YOU NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

Major:

Don & Jo Cline
Greensboro, NC

Lieutenant:

Kalman & Toby Gordon
Statesville, NC
Kevin & Elizabeth Seibel-Ross
Statesville, NC

Ensign:

Gerry & Georgane Easley
Statesville, NC

Sergeant:

Dr. & Mrs. Steve Hill
Statesville, NC
Dr. Hanna & Ann Kutteh
Statesville, NC
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Fort Dobbs State Historic Site
438 Fort Dobbs Rd.
Statesville, NC 28625
704/873-5882



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☐ **Ensign** \$150 ☐ **General** \$7500

Please mail application with your check or credit card information to:

Friends of Fort Dobbs

PO Box 241

Statesville, NC 28687

The Friends of Fort Dobbs welcomes additional tax-deductible contributions. For giving memorials, honoraria or matching gifts from employers, call the Friends of Fort Dobbs, at 704-873-5882 or e-mail at info@fortdobbs.org

Your membership benefits include:

10% discount in store

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Quarterly newsletter

Invitation to annual membership dinner

And more.....