

Fort Dobbs Gazette

Volume VIII Issue I

March 2011



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

p. 1 New Dutch Musket

p. 1 Dispatch

p. 2 War for Empire: 1761

p. 2 Living History Update

p.2 When it Was News

p. 3 Photos from the Frontier

p. 4-5 Long Marches, Bad Roads, and Hard Duty: The End of the Cherokee War

p. 6 Volunteer Spotlight

P.6 A New Map of the Cherokee Nation

p. 7 Friends of Fort Dobbs Roll Call

Department of Cultural Resources
Linda Carlisle, Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary
Division of State Historic Sites
Keith Hardison, Director
Western Region Supervisor
Bob Remsburg

Fort Dobbs Historic Site
Scott Douglas, Historic Interpreter II
Wayne Steelman, Maintenance Mech.
Greg Jones, Historic Interpreter
Drew Neill, Historic Interpreter
Krystal Arrington, Site Assistant
Barbara Mason Van, Site Assistant

Site Acquires Dutch Musket

When the French and Indian War broke out in the spring of 1754, North Carolina's new governor, Arthur Dobbs, was making his final preparations for travel to North America. Aware that his colony, which had not faced a military crisis in more than forty years, was seriously deficient in arms of all sorts, Dobbs arranged for three thousand muskets of "Dutch fabrick" to be sent from the Tower of London.

These arms had arrived in Virginia by December, along with cutlasses, drums, and halberds for sergeants. Dobbs and Virginia's governor, Robert Dinwiddie, had arranged a to split this gift from the King, and one thousand stands of arms were sent on to North Carolina.

The Dutch (a term at the time applied generally to the area of the Netherlands, Holland, and Belgium) were well known for their skill in making muskets and over the preceding decades had manufactured many of the arms used by the regular British army. Besides

muskets manufactured to their own specifications, the English also purchased large quantities of muskets reflecting a more Germanic or Dutch style. The most recent of these mass shipments was made in 1741.

With many of the North American colonies desperate for arms, these surplus Dutch muskets were sent over to arm the colonial troops. Parts to such muskets have been found in New York and Pennsylvania, and surviving originals have provenance to use by South



Carolina and Virginia troops.

Thanks to the Friends of Fort Dobbs, the state historic site is now in possession of a reproduction Dutch musket. This brass mounted piece represents one of the later styles imported to the colonies. The parts were produced by The Rifle Shoppe and the weapon was constructed by Larry Cruise.

The barrel is engraved with the name "DOVGLAS" as is an original used by a SC soldier. This beautiful piece will enable fort staff to more accurately portray the appearance of NC's provincial soldiers during the French and Indian War.

Dispatch from the Fort by Scott Douglas, Interim Site Manager



2010 was a year of considerable change at Fort Dobbs and 2011 is shaping up the same way.

As a new director will be named this spring, we stand poised to kick the capital campaign into high gear and move closer to the goal of reconstructing the unique structure of Fort Dobbs itself. In the meantime, there is a full calendar of events for this year, including several

living history weekends, speaking engagements by staff at other notable historic sites, a large *War for Empire* event, the new *Colonial Education Days* program which will have a deep focus on educating students, and a series of engaging hands-on *Second Saturdays* events this summer.

Though the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War is drawing to a close, we are on the threshold of a new, exciting history for Fort Dobbs!

War For Empire: 1761

By 1761, all-out war had raged between the English and their former allies the Cherokee for more than a year. As blood continued to be shed along the colonial frontier, two massive British armies of regulars and provincials moved against the Cherokee's homeland from both South Carolina and Virginia, causing destruction and starvation that would finally lead to a renewed peace.



Battle image on left courtesy David Walker. At right, Chris Broome holds baby Zaeden

includes highlighted programs, demonstrations, and activities every half-hour, including military drill and weapons firings, period tradesmen, a recreated military court martial, and a battle scenario that will be presented at 1:30 each day.



A special school day will be offered on Friday, April 8th, featuring more than a dozen "stations" where students can learn about aspects of 18th Century life through demonstrations and hands-on activities. Space is limited and reservations are required.

On April 9-10, 2011, join hundreds of soldiers, American Indians, and colonial civilians for an exciting weekend in the 18th Century as we look at this crucial time in our colony's history. The public program, running from 10am to 4pm each day,

For information on any part of the event, please contact Fort Dobbs at (704) 873-5882 or visit www.fortdobbs.org/events.

Living History Update

December's living history weekend was a cold one! Though Sunday was rained out for the second year in a row, a good number of visitors came out Saturday to see how the men who built Fort Dobbs may have spent the winter of 1755. Duane Smith, one of the garrison's master carpenters, led a work party that completed the log pen base for the site's bread oven, seen at right with John Forehand putting some finishing touches to it. This winter, staff will fill the base with hard packed dirt, which will provide a platform on which to build the mud oven in the spring.

A workshop was held for the garrison on January 29th, during which the research regarding the clothing of the NC provincials during the war was reviewed, with new information explained. The volunteers present also assisted site staff with splitting firewood and forming cartridges to prepare for the busy season of events.



The first living history event of 2011 was held on February 26-27, marking the 251st anniversary of the Cherokee attack at Fort Dobbs. Provincial and Cherokee interpreters portrayed the men of both sides who fought here in 1760, while demonstrating the weapons and tactics of the opposing forces.

The next living history at the fort will take place on Memorial Day Weekend; May 28-29.

The garrison will also be travelling to two living history events at other historic sites this year, including an encampment at Historic Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem on June 4, and a garrison weekend at Fort

Loudoun State Park in Tennessee on April 30-May 1.

Historic Interpreter Scott Douglas visited Ft. Loudoun in February as a guest speaker for that site's winter lecture series. Scott will also speak at Fort Ticonderoga's sixteenth annual War College on May 22 about the Cherokee War in North Carolina.

When it Was News, 1761

Thursday 2d April 1761. To His Excellency Arthur Dobbs Esquire, Captain General Governor and Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of North Carolina.

Sir—We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Members of the Assembly of North Carolina beg leave to return your Excellency our thanks for your Speech, at the opening of this Session. The sudden and unexpected Death of his late Majesty of Glorious Memory must fill the minds of every sincere lover of Liberty with inexpressible concern, from a deep sense of the Loss, that the Subjects of Great Britain in General, and all, who have any dependance on her Interest, must have sustained by that event happening at so critical a Juncture We beg leave to congratulate your Excellency on his present Majesty's happy accession to the Imperial Crown of Great Britain and her Dependances; and acknowledge that our Concern for so affecting a loss as that of his Majesty's Royal Grandfather is greatly Elevated from the agreeable assurance that his Majesty is, not only the Immediate possessor of his Crown, but also of his Virtues.

Photos From the Frontier



Waddell's
Company,
1755

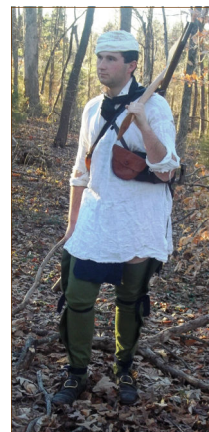


With Braddock, 1755

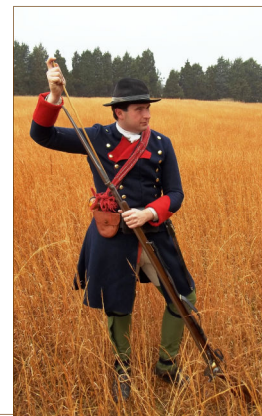
The clothing of the NC
Provincial Soldier
through the French and
Indian War



Recruiting Sergeant, 1757



With Forbes, 1758



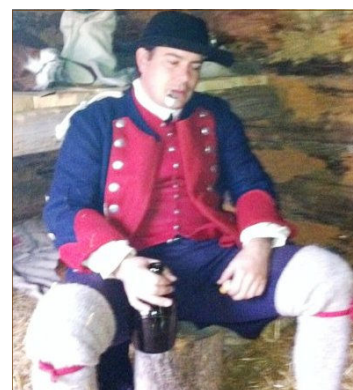
Cherokee War, 1760



Private Forehand
enjoying winter quarters



Christmas Snow



Corporal Morton
ponders whether
provincial service really
WAS preferable to
pushing a wheel barrow



A fine repast



Private Jones and
board member
Steve Hill at the
filming of
Statesville's "I've
got a feeling"
video

Privates Strong and Smith with
the garrison of Fort Dorchester, SC



Long Marches, Bad Roads, and Hard Duty: The End of the Cherokee War in 1761

By Scott Douglas

The alliance between England's southern colonies and their neighbours the Cherokee had crumbled by the end of 1759. Cherokee warriors took revenge for the murder of their kinsmen at the hands of Virginians by killing a like number of settlers in the Carolinas. South Carolina's Governor Lyttleton attempted to cow the Indians into submission by marching into their towns and taking many of their headmen hostage.

Cherokee efforts to rescue these men led to their slaughter by British soldiers, triggering a full-scale war in early 1760. Throughout that year, entire sections of the Carolina frontier were nearly emptied of settlers as people were killed or sought refuge to the east or north. Pockets of defense centered on strongholds such as Forts Dobbs, Loudoun, and Ninety-Six held on as a force of British regulars and South Carolina troops was launched against the Cherokees. This force destroyed many of the villages in the Lower Towns, but while moving north to attack the Indian's Middle Towns, they were checked by a savage battle in the mountain passes and turned back. With no hope of relief, the besieged garrison of Fort Loudoun, built amongst the Overhills Towns, surrendered. Many of the garrison were killed as they marched away from their post and the rest were taken prisoner.

As 1761 began, the inhabitants of the North Carolina frontier were jaded by war. One settler had fled his home near the Yadkin river fourteen times in response to Indian raids, and rumours abounded of planned attacks by the French-allied Creeks. South Carolina's new governor, William Bull, proposed to the commander-in-chief of British troops in America, General Jeffrey Amherst, that there be a two-pronged attack on the Cherokee: one column approaching from Virginia, and one moving up from South Carolina. Amherst Placed Colonel James Grant in command of the South Carolina forces, while Colonel William Byrd of the Virginia Provincials was to command that colony's force.

Grant's British regular troops of the 17th, 22nd, and the newly formed 95th Regiments arrived Charlestown in January to join the companies of the 1st Regiment who had remained in the south from the previous year's campaign.

Through the spring, this force moved across the colony towards Fort Prince George: the closest outpost to the Cherokees that the English still possessed. Along the

way, Grant was joined by Middleton's regiment of provincials, SC militia units acting as rangers, and Catawba, Chickasaw, Mohawk, and Stockbridge Indian allies. In total, Grant had amassed an army of 2,800 troops.

Grant intended to move swiftly and efficiently into the Cherokee towns. The men of the 95th (a corps composed of former Independent Companies) marched only with their 18-round cartridge boxes, leaving their shoulder pouches in storage. No camp followers were permitted to trail the army. Only two common tents were allowed per company for officers and ammunition. The army relied on a force of 650 pack horses to carry flour and ammunition, with three horses per company allowed for the officers to carry their liquors, as well as blankets and bearskins for bedding.

On June 7th, Grant's force set out from Ft. Prince George and headed north towards Etchoe (or "Estatoe") pass, named for a Cherokee town that had been destroyed just to the north the year before; just south of modern-day Franklin, NC. On the 10th, only two miles from where the previous year's army had been mauled in sight of the Cowee Mountains, Grant's men encountered Cherokee resistance. A desperate, five-hour long battle ensued, during which Grant made full use of his companies of allied Indians, rangers, and light infantrymen to quickly counter-attack and drive the enemy back, the whole time slowly grinding his force forward. Their ammunition exhausted, the Cherokee eventually gave way. Grant ordered the British dead sunk in the Little Tennessee River to prevent the Cherokee from later scalping the bodies.

Grant proceeded to send detachments into the heart of the Middle Towns to burn them. The mountainous terrain was difficult to negotiate. Grant reported that the crossing of Cowee Mountain was, "perhaps [the] steepest in America." Captain Christopher French of the 22nd Regiment wrote:

The mountain which is upwards of two miles to the top and extremely steep which made a fatigue beyond description to get up it [was] the strongest country I ever saw, anything we had yet passed being nothing in comparison to it. [The] mountain ... was so very steep and made slippery by some rain ... that it was nearly as difficult to get down as up.



Major General
James Grant
Allan Ramsay, 1785



A
grenadier
of the
22nd
Regiment
of Foot

Once over Cowee, Grant's men brought destruction to the Out Towns along the Tuckasegee River. Francis Marion, a sergeant in Middleton's Regiment, wrote:

We proceeded, by Col. Grant's orders, to burn the Indian cabins. Some of the men seemed to enjoy this cruel work, laughing heartily at the curling flames, but to me appeared a shocking sight. But when we came, according to orders, to cut down the fields of corn, I could scarcely refrain from tears. Who, without grief, could see ... the staff of life sink under our swords with all their precious load, to wither and rot untasted in their mourning fields?

In total, nearly 1,500 acres of corn, peas, and beans were destroyed, ensuring that any Cherokee remaining in the area would surely starve if they didn't come to terms. In an act of brutal defiance, one of the Mohawk warriors rammed a stick down the throat of one of the captured Cherokees, stuck arrows through his neck, and cleaved his head in two. During the 33 days of the campaign, Grant's men burned 15 villages to the ground and killed scores of Indians. It had been incredibly hard on the soldiers, who, Grant said, had endured, "fatigue & hardships...long marches, bad roads, hard duty, &...worse than all, no rum."



A mound is all that remains of the Nikwasi village

Meanwhile, less headway was being made in Virginia. Colonel Byrd moved cautiously while waiting for more men, both from his own colony and from North Carolina, from where, he feared, "nothing is to be expected...more than the protection of their own frontier." By July 1st, his force had finally reached James Chiswell's fortified home and created an enlarged fort, where supplies from Bethabara began to arrive. Despite arguments between Governor Dobbs and the assembly, North Carolina did manage to pass a bill calling for the enlistment of a regiment of 500 men: the largest compliment of soldiers raised since 1754 by the cash-strapped colony.

By August, the Virginians had reached the Holston River, which waterway flowed south-west towards the Overhills Cherokee. Frustrated by contradictory orders from Amherst and unable to even supply tents for his men, Byrd resigned in September, turning command of the expedition over to Lt. Col. Adam Stephen. The North Carolinians, commanded by Colonel Hugh Waddell, were by this time in the area of Salisbury, but many of the men were without weapons. Wanting to quickly move to support Stephen, Waddell marched with those men who had arms (approximately 400) to Fort Dobbs and then through Bethabara as they headed north. On the way, some of the men refused to leave the colony and Waddell proceeded as best he could. Anxious though he was for Carolinians to arrive, Stephen still held them in high regard, commenting that they, "have only a few men, but they are

in fine spirits..." Finally, in mid-October, Waddell's men arrived at the Great Island of the Holston, making Stephens' total force more than 1000 strong, including some Tuscarora Indians. He claimed his force was eager and ready to march on the town of Chota, but it was rumoured that the Cherokee were thinking of peace.

The rumour was true. Survivors from the Middle Towns were streaming across the Smoky Mountains seeking refuge in the Overhills settlements, straining food supplies. In September, the Cherokee peace chief Attakulkulla, at the encouragement of James Grant, met with Governor Bull in Charlestown and drafted terms of capitulation that were acceptable to both sides, which was finally ratified by a second delegation of Cherokees including the war leader Oconostota, on December 18th. Meanwhile, Ostenaco conferred with Stephen about making a separate treaty with Virginia, which was ratified on November 19th.

Though the actual fighting was over, tensions still existed. An officer from Virginia, Lieutenant Henry Timberlake, was sent to live with the Cherokee during the winter as insurance that the English would live up to keeping the peace. The following year, he would conduct three Cherokee headmen to London to meet the new king, George III and reaffirm their friendship with England. Many settlers in South Carolina were unhappy, however, having lost part of the land open to settlement when the new boundary marking the start of Cherokee land was set at 40 miles south of the village of Keowee in the Lower Towns, and not believing that the Cherokee had been thoroughly chastised for the killing of their fellow colonists.

Colonel James Grant, looking beyond the end of the Cherokee War toward the new British focus of operations against France and Spain in the West Indies, wrote to General Amherst on the same day that the Holston Treaty was signed:

It gives me great pleasure to put an end to this troublesome business at last.



Syacust Ukah
(Ostenaco)
Joshua Reynolds,
1762

For Further Reading

- Mays Edith, Ed. *Amherst Papers 1756-1763. The Southern Sector: Dispatches From South Carolina, Virginia and His Majesty's Superintendent of Indian Affairs.* Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie. 1999.
- Oliphant, John. *Peace and War on the Anglo-Cherokee Frontier, 1756-63.* Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. 2001.

A New Map of the Cherokee Nation

The London Magazine, 1760



Volunteer Spotlight

One of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site's longest running volunteers is Duane Smith. Duane was born in Charlotte and presently lives in Gastonia. Having met Beth Hill while both were working for the York County, South Carolina Culture and Heritage Museums, Duane joined the board of the Friends of Fort Dobbs in 2004 and served for two years. He is one of the founding members of the living history garrison and was instrumental in helping organize the first *War for Empire* event, building on his previous interpretive experiences working at such sites as the Yorktown Victory Center in Virginia, Historic Brattonsville in South Carolina, and at Historic Latta Plantation north of Charlotte. Duane has always had a deep interest in history, with a special focus on early southern agricultural history, even to the point of raising heritage fowl and growing heirloom vegetables at home, and is working to obtain a master's degree in Historical Administration. Within the garrison, Duane has earned the nickname "Beaver" for his skill and interest in 18th Century carpentry and joinery. Fort Dobbs is extra fortunate that Duane's wife Sarah and their three daughters also participate in site events as garrison members. Thanks Smiths, for all that you do!



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!

Lieutenant:

Ken & Toni Conger
Statesville, NC

Mary Katherine Harbin
Maymead Asphalt
Statesville, NC

Cadet:

Gregg & Olivia Atchley
Statesville, NC

Ensign:

Barry & Anna Gordon
Statesville, NC

Corporal:

Dr. Bonner & Diane Guilford
Troutman, NC

*Thank you to our sponsors
for support in 2011!*

Sergeant:

Bill McCombs
Cornelius, NC

Julia Wilson
Statesville, NC

Alarm South

Mac & Peggy McCombs
Mooresville, NC

Carol Ciampanella
Statesville, NC

Benfield Sanitation Services

Drs. Douglas & Laurel Eason
Statesville, NC

William & Virginia Powell
Chapel Hill, NC

Design Detail

GL Wilson

Julian & Jill West
Statesville, NC

Sentinel:

Linda Hager
Statesville, NC

L. Gordon Iron & Metal

Statesville Record & Landmark

Judge Robert Collier and Barbara
Collier, Statesville, NC

Congresswoman Virginia Foxx
and Mr. Thomas Foxx
Banner Elk, NC

*and to the many other
Friends of the Fort!*

Doug & Leslie Foster Davidson
Statesville, NC

Jeffrey Chrisey
Simpsonville, SC

JOIN OR RENEW

Robert Gordon
Statesville, NC

Eric Ardjewski
Titusville, FL

On-Line at

WWW.FortDobbs.Org

Rona Gordon
Statesville, NC

John Williams
Mocksville, NC

*Visit Fort Dobbs
on FaceBook!*

Jay Brown-Alarm South
Statesville, NC

Steven Rauch
Evans, GA



Fort Dobbs State Historic Site
438 Fort Dobbs Rd.
Statesville, NC 28625
704/873-5882



**WHERE EMPIRES CLASHED
ON THE
COLONIAL FRONTIER**

*Thank you to the Friends of Fort
Dobbs for providing funding for the
printing of the Fort Dobbs Gazette*



Support Fort Dobbs through your Friends membership!

Application Please Print

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-Mail _____

My Check is Enclosed: _____

Please debit my Credit Card: Visa/MC (Circle One)

My Credit Card Number is _____

Security Code: _____ Exp. _____

☐ **Cadet** (Student) \$10 ☐ **Lieutenant** \$200

☐ **Sentinel** \$20 ☐ **Captain** \$500

☐ **Corporal** \$50 ☐ **Major** \$1000

☐ **Sergeant** \$100 ☐ **Colonel** \$5000

☐ **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

Advance notice of events

Invitation to member special events

Quarterly newsletter

Invitation to annual membership dinner

And more.....