

# Fort Dobbs Gazette

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## New Site Manager

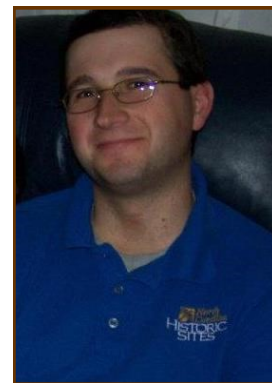
A new manager has been chosen to lead Fort Dobbs State Historic Site: long-time historic interpreter Scott Douglas.

Scott started at Fort Dobbs in the spring of 2007, succeeding Matthew Keagle as the sole full-time interpreter at the site. "I didn't know much about the French and Indian War beyond the basics, as my interest had mainly been wrapped up in the Civil War and the American Revolution." Scott quickly warmed to the subject however and enjoyed the interpretive challenges and opportunities presented by a small, developing site.

Scott has worked in the museum field for nearly 17 years and has volunteered at various historic sites for even longer. Coming to Fort Dobbs from Old Salem, he also spent time at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg, Virginia, Guilford Courthouse, and at both Bentonville Battleground and Bennett Place State Historic Sites.

Over the last four years, Scott has gained a lot of experience in managing an historic site, having served as the interim

manager of Fort Dobbs for a total of 16 months. Paying bills, attending additional meetings, and managing staff schedules all while still performing his job as interpreter wasn't easy but, Scott says, he was inspired by the site, "I learned from (former site manager) Beth Hill that you can't let yourself get lazy or bogged down. You have to have a driving passion for your work and push ahead through all obstacles to get the job done. Fort Dobbs is a special place with a little-known piece of our history. It's our job to share the story of those who can no longer speak for themselves. That's why I do this."



**Department of Cultural Resources**  
Susan W. Kluttz, 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**  
Scott Douglas, Site Manager II  
Wayne Steelman, Maintenance Mechanic II  
Krystal Arrington, Site Assistant  
Tom Nicastro, Site Interpreter

## Dispatch from the Fort by Scott Douglas, Historic Site Manager



Fort Dobbs State Historic Site has had its share of ups and downs over the last few years. An uncertain economy and state budget, coupled with turnover in leadership at the site itself, has occasionally made our

mission of preserving and interpreting North Carolina's only French and Indian War state historic site difficult.

I am honored to have been given the responsibility of managing this

wonderful historic resource. My years spent as an interpreter have given me a passion for, love of, and dedication to Fort Dobbs. It is my goal, with the help of the site's staff, volunteers, and support group, to work beyond the troubles of our recent past, and bring to life the story of those who lived and died here centuries ago.

We need everyone's help and it starts with you, the reader of this newsletter. If you're not already, please consider becoming a member of the Friends of Fort Dobbs. Make 2014 a banner year in our history!

## War for Empire



The largest event of the year at Fort Dobbs will be held on April 12-13! *War for Empire* steps outside of the specific history of Fort Dobbs itself and offers a window into the larger role of North Carolina in the French and Indian War. Step into the past and meet the soldiers, settlers, and American Indians whose lives were forever changed by a global struggle for power.



Highlights of the event include vendors selling reproduction period wares, military encampments and drill demonstrations, musical performances and scholarly lectures, as well as a battle re-enactment each afternoon.

**The event will run from 10am-4pm Saturday and from 10am-3pm Sunday.**

**Admission is \$2.00 with no charge for children under 5 years of age.**

A special school day program will be offered by reservation on Friday, April 11.

## Living History Update

The cold, damp winter has passed and now the garrison of Fort Dobbs is looking forward to an active spring of events!

Back in December, the final living history weekend of 2013 was cut short by rain and the threat of ice, but the garrison has not been idle. In February, volunteers gathered at the site to help cut the large amount of firewood needed for the next several months of events and also assisted in preparing cartridges and cleaning the site's muskets.

One big project the garrison will tackle this spring will be preparing an expansion to the sites' interpretive winter hut, which will include a major repair to the roof and re-setting of shingles. The end result will

be a more water-tight structure with more bunks for our soldiers.

The first living history of 2014 is set to take place around the time this issue of the newsletter is to be published. The event on March 1-2 is to commemorate the February 27, 1760 attack on Fort Dobbs by the Cherokee. Historically, more than 60 Cherokees engaged in a heated night-time skirmish with the garrison of the fort before withdrawing. Interpreters portraying both Cherokee warriors and provincial soldiers are to be on hand.

Be sure to mark your calendar for both War for Empire in April (see above) as well as the June 14-15 living history weekend.

## When it Was News, 1760

### Minutes of the North Carolina General Assembly

*This House have resolved that Robt. Campbell who was a soldier under the command of Capt. Hugh Waddell and was shot scalped & wounded in the service of this Province and so disabled as to be under a perpetual disability of gaining hereafter his livelihood be allowed for his present subsistence the sum of Twenty Pounds and that Capt. Hugh Waddell pay the said sum and be allowed the same on his passing his accounts with the public. And also that Thos. Kersey one of the Volunteers concerned in the taking the scalps produced to this Assembly and was then shot through the Body and at present unfit for labour be allowed Ten Pounds to be paid also by Capt. Hugh Waddell and allow'd him on passing his accounts with the public to which desire Your Honors concurrence*

SAM. SWANN, Speaker

May 26, 1760



## Photos From the Frontier



A new gate was installed on the site's access drive courtesy of **Randy Brewer** from Boy Scout Troop 404 of Mt. Ulla. Randy is working towards his Eagle and we hope he achieves it!



Volunteers splitting firewood



Left: Scott Douglas accepts a generous donation from the Society of Colonial Wars.

Above: Patrick Morton at the December living history



Provincials in winter quarters  
(featuring volunteer Jon Harton.  
Photo courtesy Michael Lampart)



# North Carolina's Militia in the French and Indian War

By Matthew Keagle and Scott Douglas

The militia of North Carolina was in a very poor state at the beginning of 1754, when war began. The state of the militia was one of the reasons the colony decided to raise provincial soldiers, but they always kept the militia ready for use at home. Matthew Rowan, as acting governor, admitted, "Our militia had been very much neglected." In fact the most current militia law was from 1746! The most exposed Counties were Rowan and Anson in the West. Matthew Rowan praised the populations of those counties as, "'brave Industrious people their Militia amounts to upwards of three thousand Men and increasing fast.'" However the actual numbers were considerably less, when the militia could actually be counted it amounted to fewer than 1000 men.

Additionally the men were poorly equipped, Governor Dobbs reported to his superiors consistently that, "There is not half of the Militia armed." even in the middle of the war an officer from Granville county related how members, "of the Company Appear'd without any Arms, I would cut them Clubs to perform the Exercise, which was before there Usal custom, and is this day, of Chief Part of Regiment, which is wink'd at, by the Officer Commanding them, in Order to Curry favour with the people." Eventually he was able to make, "them Appear, as well Arm'd as the Poverty of the Country will Admit off," Poverty seems to have been a big factor in getting properly equipped for militia service. Rowan had admitted that he would need, "£1,000 to buy arms and ammunition for the poorer Inhabitants of Rowan & Anson Countys."



As the war wore on militia men seemed to be able to appear better equipped. Dobbs received a shipment of 1000 Dutch military muskets, bayonets, cartridge boxes, scabbards, frogs and belts in 1755. He, "sent 150 to the western Frontier to arm the militia of two counties there," but admitted that after that he would need at least 2000 more muskets to fully supply the militia.

The militia law ordered each man to appear with, "a Gun, fit for service, a Cartouch Box, and a Sword, Cutlass, or Hanger, and at least Twelve Charges of Powder and Ball, or Swan Shot, and Six Spare Flints," With this the citizens

of the colony would be prepared, in theory, to repel invasion or attack. They were required to muster by companies a couple times a year to train, learn the manual of arms and practice military drill. One such drill is disparagingly described by a Moravian in Bethabara in 1754:

*On the morning of Oct. 30th Col. Schmidt rode through our yard, and without permission held Muster in our meadow, for his five companies. ... Capt. Guest was very considerate, he stopped and spoke to us only in passing, for fear others would follow him in, and gave orders to his company to stay out of our yard, but nearly all the rest rode right through. The noise and shooting frightened our horses badly, and the four new horses broke away into the woods. ... In general the people behaved better than is usual on such occasions, though this does not apply to Capt. Hampy and his men. During dinner they passed through our yard and we asked that the beating of the drums cease because it frightened our horses and made them tear around the wagons, etc. They not only refused our request, but began shooting in addition. Capt. Hampy did not know the road through our farm, and when we offered to show it to him replied that he would ride where he pleased and make a way through our fences. After the Muster the men were so full of whiskey that they fought each other until they were covered with blood. However, through all the tumult, we safely continued our work. We hope the soldiers will hereafter find another place for Muster, and not use our land.*

This shows the rowdy nature of most militia musters, as well as indicating that the militia of North Carolina using drums to beat for commands, like most military formations.

The militia's service was consistent if not glorious. With news of the defeat of General Edward's Braddock's army Pennsylvania the frontier from Virginia to North Carolina braced for possible attacks. Dobbs,



THIS BILL of Forty Shillings, shall  
pass current in all Payments, as Pro-  
clamation Money, within the Province of  
NORTH-CAROLINA, according to ACT  
of ASSEMBLY passed the 14th of  
July, 1760.

*Wm. Rouse*  
*James Buchanan*

40 s. Death to counterfeits. 40 s.

2d Muster Roll of the Regiment of T. County.	
John Harvey	John Miller
Joe Perimeter	Joe Crosby
John Boyd	Wm. Harris
Ben. Monday	Ben. McLeod
Robt. Leane	Richd. Gordon
Jo. Mayo	Wm. Wiggles
Joe Robinson	Robt. Turner
Jo. Monro	The Lord
John H. Haskett	The Lord Junr
Joe Miller	Henry Stace
Ch. Jackson	Jo. Hinds
Joshua Overman	Robt. Gale
Joe Nicholson	Wm. Hinds
Joe Nixon	Richd. Webb
Pinckney Nelson	Richd. Webb Junr
Wm. Monday	John Hallaway
Wm. Haskett	John Harrison
Peter Monday	Schubertson
Jo. Monday	Robt. Road
	Lilleston Harrison
	Wm. Flury
	Wm. Harvey
	Wm. H. H.

Militia troops continued to act in this capacity and once were even sent out to attack a band of thieves. During the Cherokee war they acted, under the command of the Provincial officers like Waddell, to scout the area when news of Indian movements or attacks were reported. Indian raiding parties struck the backcountry settlements and occasionally the militia was actually able to fight them. On account tells that a, “gang of Cherokees killed several of the settlers on the Catawba River, and it added that a party of militia came up with and engaged them, killed a good many of them whom they scalped and recovered several white scalps.”

*that a proper allowance be made for the taking of an Indian scalp, produced by Mr. John Frohock, taken by Henry Harmon, who went with a party under the command of Captain Teague; allowed by the House*

War seems to have taken its toll on the backcountry and by 1761 it was reported that, “The Country is greatly exhausted, and the most of the Back Settlements deserted, which a Peace will soon resettle.” The militia of North Carolina had served its communities admirably, however they refused to serve anywhere but in their area as legally, they were not required to leave their home colony. To partially circumvent this law when large bodies of troops were needed, a certain number of men could be drafted from the militia for Provincial service. When a regiment of nearly 500 men was organized for service along the Holston River at the end of the Cherokee War, several men balked at the idea of leaving their colony. After the force commanded by Colonel Waddell passed through Bethabara on their way to Virginia, it was noted that some of the soldier mutinied and had to be punished accordingly.

With its limited numbers of full time soldiers, North Carolina had to rely on its militia to defend itself in the French and Indian War. While often ill-disciplined, the thousands of men who served, willingly or not, each contributed to the ultimate victory.

- *The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*
- *North Carolina in the French and Indian War*

## Volunteer Spotlight

This spring's *Volunteer Spotlight* focuses on life-long "born and bred" Iredell County resident Betty Vanstory Dobson.

After receiving her BFA from UNC-Greensboro, Betty spent her career working in emergency communications. Now that she has retired, she is an active volunteer with several community organizations, including Hospice, Meals on Wheels and Theatre! Statesville. The community theatre allows her to put her drama design degree to good use.

Betty has always had an interest in history but didn't enjoy it in school. "All through high school, I knew history could not be as boring as teachers made it...I was right. What can be more exciting than standing on the spot where a battle between Native Americans and provincial settlers was fought? How awe inspiring is it to hold in your hand a musket ball, dug out of the ground, that might have been shot by a participant in that battle--maybe one of my ancestors? Maybe shot *at* one of my ancestors!"

Betty began volunteering at Fort Dobbs in 2013 and now helps out at the site for many special events and almost every Tuesday, allowing Scott Douglas some much needed office time.

**Thank you Betty for all that you do!**



## 2014 Raffle

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

1. A reproduction 1728 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 signed copy of the book "North Carolina in the French and Indian War" by Dr. John Maass.
3. A hand made wooden candle stand with glass globe by artisan George Matthews.

The drawing will take place on Sunday, April 13th, 2013 at 2:30 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 the fort at 704-873-5882 for more information.



# 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

Chandler and Peggy Bryan

Robert Gordon

Rona Gordon

### Sergeant

Jane and Layton Getsinger

Kalman and Toby Gordon

Stephen and Gloria Hager

Joeseeph and Melanie Schwartzer

### Corporal

David and Cheryl Childress

Scott McLelland

Barbara Perzel

Kenneth Roberson, III

### Sentinel

Carol Ciampanella

Barbara and Bruce Haldeman

Steven Lamberth

Collee Riddell

Bryan Smith

Charles Odell Williams

### Cadet

Zachary Peterson

### Annual Gifts Received:

General Society of  
Colonial Wars

Gene and Saul Gordon

Thomas and Mary Bridget Kluwin

Betty Jo Litaker

Edward and Eleanor Marxen

Frances Murdock

Rebecca Poplin

Statesville Women's Club

Susan and Robert Tolle

Mark Wagner

Mary Helen Walker

Kenneth and Brenda Wilson

Margaret Willhide

Dan Akerblom

V. Irving Boyles

Kathleen (and Gerald) Bromstead

John B. Cross

Gerald Dukes

William and Susan Fanjoy

Bessie Foxworthy

Edwin and Louise Hunter

Margaret and Steven Kuras

John Lewis

Randolph Lewis

Bonnie and John Reeser

Robert and Tammi Remsburg

Elizabeth Sutton

Chet Tomlinson

William and Joyce Young



*Salute, 4<sup>th</sup> Motion.*

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

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704/873-5882



*WHERE EMPIRES CLASHED  
ON THE  
COLONIAL FRONTIER*

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☐ **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](mailto:info@fortdobbs.org)

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