

Volume 2 Number 1  
Winter 2024

# Greene's Dispatches

*The Newsletter of the Guilford Battleground Company*



*The mission of the GBC is to support Guilford Courthouse National Military Park through preservation, protection, and educational efforts and projects that enhance the visitor experience.*

## From the President



*Patriots:* The Park staff are working on two planning efforts. The first is to finish a long-range plan for the park itself and where it needs to be in the future (including how to better incorporate the Hoskins Homestead into the visitor's experience). The second is to craft a long-range interpretive plan which will be under the guidance of the chief Interpretive ranger Tom Sobol. Neither of these plans have not been updated since 1999. They plans will set the tone for developments at the park for the next ten to twenty years.

The GBC supports the annual battle reenactment that attracts visitors from across the region. The GBC funds the sound system, portable toilets, firewood, carts, and parking attendants. We have published Gayle Hicks Fripp's *Transforming Visions: The Story of the Guilford Battleground Company*, available in the visitor center's park store. We help fund an annual lecture series which presents a series of speakers on various topics concerning the Southern Campaign and the battle and its participants. We also act as the administrator of funds for the "every kid in the park" program to help pay for transportation for school groups.

Last, we are in the process of forming a land acquisition committee to look at areas adjacent to the park we might acquire in the future.

Currently the Blacksmith shop is being rebuilt at the Hoskins Farm site, made possible by Congress with the Great American Outdoors Act (2020), intended to address deferred maintenance in public lands. Next year, we anticipate refurbishing the Coble Barn being refurbished. These improvements will greatly enhance future historical interpretation programs that the park is developing.

We have formed the Lands Committee to assist in identifying and acquiring tracts of land adjacent to the national park. These are areas identified within the historic footprint of the battle. Jim Kirkpatrick will head this effort as committee chairman. It is exciting to be able to expand and preserve new areas of the battlefield.

February is African American History month. Included in this newsletter is an article on Black patriots who participated in the battle, an ongoing research project headed by Ranger Tom Sobol.

The battle reenact is coming up in March and will be held at Country Park on March 16–17. Additional Information is also included in the newsletter.

None of our efforts and projects on behalf of the park would be possible without your help and financial support. We strive to use your donations wisely to promote, protect and preserve this wonderful Battlefield that we all love. Again, thank you for your support!

*Ed Deaton*

Revolutionary  
North Carolina  
License Plate.



Help preserve the  
Guilford Courthouse  
National Military Park.  
Order your official NC license plate.  
[www.ncdot.org/dmv/online](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv/online)





## From the Superintendent

Dear Patriots,

Presumably, your personal interest and support of the work done by the Guilford Battleground Company and the National Park Service are rooted in core values that align with those organizations: perseverance and education. In early fall, the NPS completed a project that models those core values shared by the staff of the NPS and the members of the GBC.

Signed into law in 2020, The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund provides the National Park Service with up to \$1.3 billion per year for five years to make significant enhancements in national parks to ensure their preservation and provide opportunities for recreation, education and enjoyment for current and future visitors. While GAOA primarily funds large multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects a percentage supports regionally based Maintenance Action Teams (MAT) managed by the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC).

The Blacksmith Shop at Hoskins Farmstead—the western most portion of Guilford Courthouse National Military Park was in poor condition and in need of significant repairs required to address weathering-related deterioration of the wood walls. This project was first identified in July 2022 as a potential MAT project involving replacement of side boards and roof with new replica materials. The scope also included repair and reuse of salvageable original materials.

Due to the availability of funding and the flexibility built into the MAT program, the rehabilitation of the Blacksmith Shop was approved in September 2022 and put into the project queue. The MAT preservation crew was identified and arrived at Guilford Courthouse NMP from Tallahassee in early November and construction was completed in under two weeks. From inception to completion, this effort is the fastest facility rehabilitation project I've seen completed by the NPS. It speaks to the park staff's knowledge of our needs; it speaks to the MAT program and the desire to complete high priority, "shelf-ready" projects and speaks to the preservation team and their willingness to help meet park needs.

Originally constructed on the site in the late 1980's, the Blacksmith Shop is part of the interpretation of colonial and early American life for park visitors. Because of the MAT project and the speed at which it was completed, the park can ensure that the structure will continue to support our efforts to activate Hoskins Farmstead, providing more interpretive and educational opportunities for future park visitors!

Yours in stewardship,

Aaron



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*



**Looking for that perfect gift this holiday season? Shop in the park's visitor center! And remember that sales through America's National Parks stores support the education and preservation programs of the NPS.**



## Black Soldiers at the Battle



Ongoing research by Chief Interpretive Ranger Tom Sobol has deepened our knowledge of the Black soldiers, militia and Continental, who fought at Guilford. Here is a sampling of his findings:

**Isaac Brown** enlisted for the term of eighteen months at Charles City Courthouse, Virginia, on September 12, 1780, at the age of eighteen. He was mustered in the regiment commanded by Col. Richard Campbell of the Virginia Line. He fought in the battles of Guilford Courthouse, the Siege of Ninety-Six, and Eutaw Springs. He applied for a pension on May 19, 1829, at Charles City Courthouse. In the application, he stated that he owned 70 acres of exhausted land and that his family consisted of a “wife who is now old and infirm, a son of about 20 years of age, who has been for years past afflicted with a grievous issue, and is a weighty expense to him, being unable to work except in light and indifferent matters, his right arm and right leg being almost entirely disabled, and a daughter above 21 years of age who has an infant Child of four years of age.” Private Brown may have seen action against the British 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment as one of the flanking detachments of Continental troops that anchored the North Carolina militia line.



*Black Continental Soldier  
T. Payton, 1997/NPS*

**Cyfax Brown** was enslaved to the noted Williamsburg, Virginia, officer St. George Tucker, who was inadvertently wounded by a retreating soldier’s bayonet in the action at the Second Line. In 1822, Brown wrote to his former enslaver from Prince Edward County, Virginia, reminding Tucker of his own participation in the battle and imploring him for financial assistance now that he was “now unable to Support my Self as I am old and infirme.” No record of Tucker’s response survives.

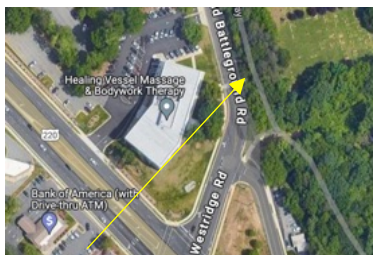
**Thomas Carney** enlisted first as a Maryland militiaman and saw action at Germantown in 1777. He then served in the Maryland Continental Line and marched south in 1780. Carney filed for a pension in 1818. He saved the life of his company officer at the Siege of Ninety-Six. Carney was mustered out of service with the rest of the Maryland Line at Annapolis in 1783. He died at the age of 74 in 1828. His obituary noted that, “At the battle of Guilford Court House, he bore a conspicuous part as a soldier, and has often persisted that, when the Maryland troops came to the charge, he bayoneted seven of the enemy” (*Daily National Intelligencer*, July 22, 1828). Private Brown’s heroics place him near the courthouse among those Continentals who charged British Guards.

## “Last Conflict” Monument (?)

*This article is one an occasional series on the monuments at Guilford Courthouse NMP.*



David Schenck was determined to restore the reputation of the state’s militiamen, who had been disparaged for failing to withstand the British assault in the First Line action. Schenck was especially interested in the action on the southern flank of the battle that included troops commanded by Major Joseph Winston of Surry County. In his 1891 presidential report, Schenck proposed “to erect a piece of rude granite to mark this most interesting spot, and the granite should appropriately come from Surry.” His son, Dr. Dodson R. Schenck, was dispatched to the Mt. Airy Granite Company to select a suitable block of stone and, after spending a day on the field with Addison Coffin, who grew up at New Garden and “astonished” the GBC president with “the accuracy and tenacity of his memory,” Schenck placed a granite block to mark where Surry County militia took part in the “last conflict” of the battle. But where was this unmarked marker located? A good guess is that it’s the granite block located along Old Battleground Road, next to the old railroad bed and within sight of where historians think this action occurred. If so, the monument is situated outside the present boundaries of the national park.



*Scott Culclasure is the author of Guide to the Monuments: Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, published by the Guilford Battleground Company.*

## Battle Reenactment March 16–17, 2024



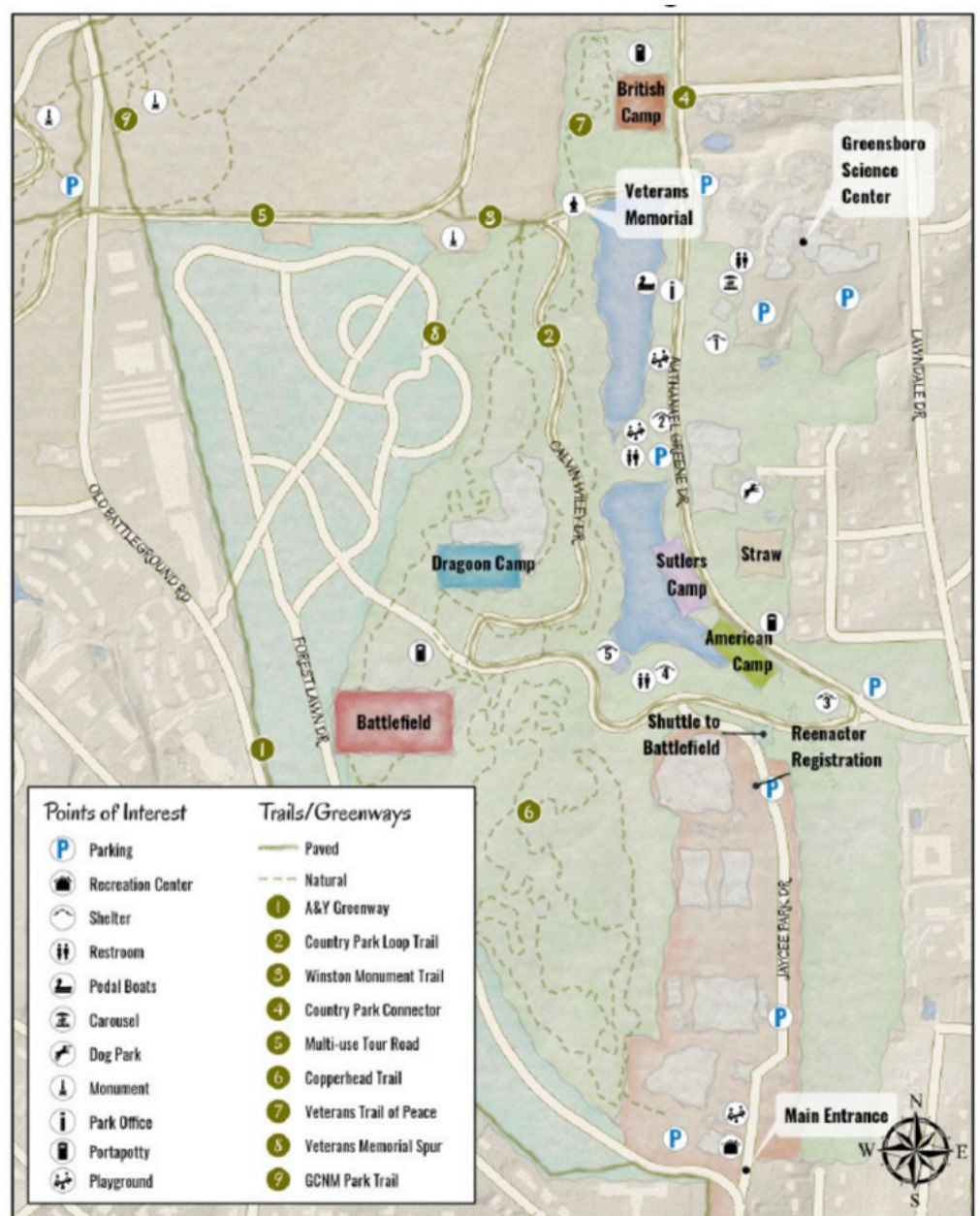
*The original Guilford Battle Ground Company was established in 1887 through the efforts of Greensboro resident and retired judge David Schenck with the purpose of “redeeming from oblivion” a battlefield that had been neglected and almost forgotten. The company’s first board of directors included prominent Greensboro citizens J. W. Scott, Julius A. Gray, Thomas B. Keogh, and D. W. C. Benbow. Upon his death in 1902, Judge Schenck was succeeded as president of the company by his close associate Joseph Motley Morehead. David Schenck’s son Paul succeeded to the presidency in 1911 and served during the transition of administration to the U. S. War Department in 1917 as the national park’s first resident commissioner.*

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse Reenactment will take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17 at 2 pm each day. The living history reenactors and vendors will be set up in Country Park on Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 10 am to 3 pm.

We are getting closer to the 250-year celebration of the American Revolution (2026). Come and enjoy the battle reenactment and learn more about the major role the Battle of Guilford Courthouse had in the American Revolution.

Parking for the event will be the Jaycee Parking lot located at 3802 Jaycee Park Drive. Shuttles will be available to the event site.

Details of activities will be shared once plans are completed.



## Guilford Battleground Company's Board of Directors

*The Guilford Battleground Company was revived in 1984 as the City of Greensboro began to annex land around the historic Hoskins house, threatening the two-story cabin with commercial development. The land farmed by Joseph and Hannah Hoskins and their children provided a focal point for the Battle of Guilford Court House.*

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*VP for Marketing*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*

Ed Deaton  
Jim Kirkpatrick  
Don Saunders  
Melanie Tuttle  
Pat Price

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Mitchell Hunt  
Bill Moore  
Todd Southard  
Frank Bullock  
Frank Biggerstaff  
John Whisnant  
Mary Elizabeth Beal

Bob Pitts  
Pam Hanzaker  
Joshua Myers  
Carl Johnson  
Ernest Booker  
John Archambault  
Scott Culclasure