

Volume 2 Number 4
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Greene's Dispatches



Detail from Doug Galton, *Greene at Guilford*

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



Huzzah Patriots!

The trail renovations are complete. This has been a long-needed project and will greatly enhance the visitor's experience. The Long-Range Park Plan and the Interpretive Plans have been finalized and signed off on by the GBC. Neither had been updated since the 1997.

The Coble Barn is still undergoing renovation by an expert team to insure its preservation. This project is also being used as a teaching site for other restoration teams to gain experience.

The Park has hired a new staff member who is the Natural and Cultural Resources Manager. Additionally, multiple schools have been targeted for inclusion in a program designed to make students aware of the park and its history. You will also notice the park has

increased its presence on Facebook and other popular media.

Included in this newsletter is a new page which will be a regular called *Park Events*. The goal is to keep you better informed on all the things going on at the park and its outreach to the surrounding community.



*Show your Patriot pride! Visit
guilfordbattlegroundcompany.
org for details.*

We are discussing the creation a Land Acquisition Fund to assist in leveraging monies for purchasing land in the designated Historical Footprint around to the park. It would be set up so if you are interested your donation would go to that fund only. As we develop a plan there will be more on this in the next newsletter. We are also looking into to seeing what the American Battlefield Trust can do to assist us in this effort. We will keep you updated as we progress on this project.

That's all for now. As always if you see a way to improve the newsletter, please let me know. I can be reached at Deatoned@gmail.com or you can call me at 336-509-2079.

Thank you for your interest and support. We can't do it without you and protecting, preserving and promoting the national park is our top priority.

Ed Deaton, GBC President



“The park’s newest volunteer program—Citizen Archivist—has created a lot of opportunity and excitement on a national level.”



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 1915 as the park’s first resident commissioner.

From the Superintendent

For the National Park Service and Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (NMP), fall brings more than just changing leaves and football; it marks the end and beginning of the federal government fiscal year (FY). As we close out FY24 and enter into FY25, fall provides the park an opportunity to look back and ensure we are positioned well for the future.

	FY22	FY24
ANNUAL VISITATION	389,057	404,759
FTE	7 (+3 temporary employees)	12
ANNUAL BUDGET (ONPS)	\$1,208,000	\$1,316,000*
ONPS FIX COST	60%	75%
PROJECT FUNDS	≈ \$100k	≈ \$4.4m
VOLUNTEERS IN PARK	28 reoccurring	53 reoccurring; 244 Citizen Archivists
VOLUNTEER HOURS	1253.5	6509.5 3673 Citizen Archivists

The chart pictured above shows the changes which Guilford Courthouse NMP has undergone between FY22 and FY24. Park visitation and permanent staffing have increased. Due to increased staffing, fixed costs have risen; however, in FY24 we still had budget flexibility to support discretionary funding needs. FY24 project funds supported multiple rehabilitation efforts to benefit park facilities as well as improve visitor safety and enjoyment. This past FY marks the biggest investment in the park since the country’s Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Additionally, while the spike in individual volunteers and overall hours can partially be contributed to the post-COVID rebound, the park’s newest volunteer program—Citizen Archivist—has created a lot of opportunity and excitement on a national level.

As an additional highlight on staff changes, the park welcomed Cameron Munley-Connolly as the new Interdisciplinary Lead for Natural and Cultural Resources in October. Cameron is the park’s most recently hired full-time employee (FTE) and she will be responsible for the museum program as well as and park wide compliance with the Natural Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This position is vital in our continued efforts to ensure the park is making sound decisions regarding the resources entrusted to us.

Despite some uncertainty going into FY25, I am confident the park and staff are more than capable of handling this transitional period and any ensuing obstacles. In addition to closing out the FY, we published volume 2 of the *Guilford Courthouse National Military Park Priorities and Actions Handbook*. This guide is intended to create resilience and to ensure alignment between the park, the NPS, our partners, stakeholders and by extension, the American people.

So, as we transition into a new fiscal year and a new administration, a quick “look back” signals that the park is positioned for success. This is a credit to the park Management Team, the dedicated staff and to our relationships with partners like Guilford Battleground Company and the City of Greensboro.

Thank you for your continued support of Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

Yours in stewardship, *Aaron*



Happenings at the Park

Guilford Courthouse staff attended Archaeology Day on Saturday, October 19. The program was hosted by the Greensboro History Museum and also supported by University of North Carolina Greensboro. We engaged over 80 families with a simulated dig for reproduction items and JR Ranger badges.

For the first time, staff will attend the Downtown Ghoulash, hosted by Greensboro Parks and Recreation and the Youth Council, with a Halloween-themed bat pollinator activity.

On November 9 and 10, the Guilford militia camped at Stop 6. Staff and volunteers provided demonstrations of small arms and cannon fire at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. (For the GBC board's awareness, the cannon will then be moved back into the Visitor Center for the winter.)

To kick off the 2024/2025 school year, Guilford Courthouse NMP has hosted 18 field trips and over 920 youth from September–October. November's calendar is similarly full with many field trips and scheduled tours for a Boy Scout troop and a group of 50 North Carolina State Park superintendents.

Looking ahead, the park will be proud to send Ranger Daniel Engelgau to support Cowpens National Battlefield's anniversary programming over the weekend of January 18 - 19, 2025.

In February, the park has invitations to support Black History programming hosted by city partners on the Black Patriots of Guilford Courthouse. These invitations resulted from the park's attendance at the Downtown Greenway Run and Block Party in September (145 locals engaged with youth friendly activities and NPS staff) and an introductory meeting with Glen McNairy Library.





Delaware Monument

Delaware (Continental) Monument

This monument goes by two names and is one of the park's oldest and most significant. It marks the graves of three enlisted men killed in the fight, adding to its distinctiveness as a monument locating the graves of three men buried on the field on which they died and identified by name.

The soldiers's grave were discovered by Judge Schenck in the summer of 1888 as he walked across farm fields on the northern end of the battlefield. Recovering three sets of remains and a handful of pewter, "USA" monogrammed buttons, Schenck concluded that these men had been part of Captain Robert Kirkwood's company of Delaware troops who had been positioned (along with Virginia rifleman) to secure the right flank of the North Carolina militia line.

Schenck had the remains reinterred in his new park near where he believed the third line action had occurred and at the intersection of New Garden and Bruce Roads (today one of the park's walking trails). Three pieces of marble were used to construct the monument: a base of white, a die of blue, and a shaft of pink. (There's a color scheme here, if you think of "pink" as close to "red"!)

The simple inscription on the north face reads:

THREE CONTINENTAL SOLDIERS REST HERE
Encamped on fame's eternal camping ground

The south face records the fact that March 15, 1781, was a Thursday.

The reference to "fame's eternal camping ground" was taken from Theodore O'Hara's "Bivouac of the Dead," first written as a tribute to fallen American soldiers in the Mexican War and commonly found inscribed on iron tablets in some of the nation's oldest national cemeteries (*Wikipedia*).

Kirkwood's returns after the battle show that William Drew, Cornelius Hagney (an Irish immigrant), and John Toland were left dead on the field. A fourth man was mortally wounded. These names are now associated with the remains buried beneath the monument.

Today, the field in which Schenck found the remains is at the center of an apartment complex on Old Battleground Road immediately north of the Greensboro Urban Loop. Schenck erected a monument of rough stones at the site to mark the original location of the graves—stones that had been lost in the woods until modern construction revealed them preserved the site in the complex. According to historian Larry Babits, the area marked the extreme northern and largely forgotten aspect of the battle in which part of Webster's 33rd Regiment wheeled to the left to counter intense musket fire raking their flank.

A retired teacher, Dr. Scott Culclasure has volunteered at the park for so long he can almost remember Judge Schenck. He is the author of Guide to the Monuments: Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, published by the Guilford Battleground Company.

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

GBC Accomplishments

- Financial support for the annual reenactment of the battle
- Saving the Hoskin's House from retail development
- Creation of Tannenbaum Park (now incorporated into GUCO NMP)
- Building of the Colonial Heritage Center and later refurbishing the exhibits
- Land acquisition to protect Park boundaries
- Archaeological digs
- Production of NPS Visitor Center live-action film
- Refurbishment of exhibits in NPS Visitor Center
- Funding interns to assist NPS Park operations and projects
- Installation and dedicated of the Crown Forces Monument
- Funding the publication of a monument guide
- Purchasing period furniture for the Hoskins House
- Funding the annual battle anniversary lecture series
- Hosting the annual General Greene birthday commemoration
- Supporting annual park day activities
- Publishing a history of the Guilford Battleground Company
- Advertising in *Our State* magazine and Tanger Center playbills to promote both GBC and NPS
- Dedicating funds to long-range Interpretive plan and updating park development plan
- Incorporating Guilford Fife and Drum Corps into the GBC

GBC Board of Directors

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