

Greene's Dispatches

*A special edition celebrating
General Greene's birthday!*



The Newsletter of the Guilford Battleground Company

Volume 2 Number 3
Summer 2024



*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



Footprint adjacent to the park. We are also planning to see what the American Battlefield Trust can do to assist us in this effort. We will keep you updated as we progress on this project.

Huzzah Patriots! This promises to be a busy summer with a lot happening at the park. The Coble Barn is 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.

If you've been in the park anytime recently you will notice the trail renovation going on. This is a long-needed renovation and once complete will greatly enhance the visitor's experience. According to Superintendent LaRocca, the trail project represents the largest NPS investment in park infrastructure since the Bicentennial!

The Long-Range Park Plan and the Interpretive Plans are moving ahead and should be completed this year. Neither have been updated since the 1997.

The Park is increasing its staff and capabilities to reach the community. Multiple schools have been targeted for inclusion in a program designed to make students aware of the park and its history. A Ranger-Teacher Ranger program is being initiated as well.

We are still looking at the possibility of creating a Land Acquisition Fund to assist in obtaining properties in the designated Historical

We welcome Mike Nelson our newest board member and look forward to working with him in the future. Mike is the band leader of the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum Corps. We have incorporated his organization into GBC and look forward to supporting and promoting this amazing organization.

We continue to advertise our General Greene license plate in *Our State* magazine and an ad for both the National Park and the Guilford Battleground Company in the Tanger Center *Playbill* for this upcoming season. We hope these efforts will reach a larger audience and increase our memberships in the Patriot organization.

Lastly, Jim Kirkpatrick our first President and long-time Park supporter, has retired from the GBC. Jim was our leader for many years and continued in an advisory capacity long after he gave up the presidency. He started GBC in 1984 and his unflinching support and guidance has been a pillar of support for our organization. Read on in the newsletter for more about Jim. We wish him well on his retirement and we will continue his legacy of service to Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

That's all for now. As always if you see a way to improve the newsletter or the organization, 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! Protecting, preserving, and promoting the park remain our top priorities.

Ed Deaton
GBC President



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



“Both the CVA and the TRT help the park to achieve goals mutually identified by the NPS and GBC to connect more school children, strengthen relationships in the community, and create the next generation of stewards for Guilford Courthouse National Military Park!”



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

By the time you read this, the park will have a new Long Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP). The existing plan dated back to 1997 and was the oldest in the Southeast Region. The new LRIP was jointly funded by the National Park Service and Guilford Battleground Company (GBC). GBC board members, as well as partners from the city of Greensboro and local universities participated in work sessions that helped to inform this plan that that contains specific actions to improve our interpretive and educational offerings. Many of those actions are future partnership projects between the park and GBC.

To further our efforts to implement recommendations from the LRIP, the park has successfully recruited and hired a Teacher-Ranger Teacher (TRT). The emphasis of TRT is to link NPS sites with teachers from schools with underserved student populations in urban and rural school districts. Our TRT will help us to create curriculum-based programs intended to strengthen the relationship between the park and local schools.

In addition to the TRT, the park is also recruiting for a Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA). This experience is intended as professional internship for young adults from diverse backgrounds who aspire to a future career in service and conservation stewardship. Guilford Courthouse CVA will support our efforts to connect the community to the park through engagement and volunteer activities.

Both the CVA and the TRT help the park to achieve goals mutually identified by the NPS and GBC to connect to more school children, strengthen relationships in the community, and create the next generations of stewards of Guilford Courthouse National Military Park!

Yours in stewardship,

Aaron

Staff Retirements

Two of the Park’s staff have retired recently: Ranger Violet Lee-Hayward and Facilities Maintenance Worker Vicki Boyce. These two folks represent years of experience and service to the National Park and they will be sorely missed. The GBC wishes them well in their retirement (even as Vicki has signed on as a park volunteer to continue her good work!).



GBC’s Don Saunders presents Violet with a gift card at her retirement.



Vicki with Superintendent LaRocca pose at the Visitor Center at her retirement.



Rotary Club of Greensboro

A Fond Farewell

It's hard to imagine the Guilford Battleground Company—and, indeed, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park—without the leadership of Jim Kirkpatrick. Today's park would be smaller and the historic Hoskins farmstead would be lost to history without his efforts.

It was Jim who, galvanized by plans to bring modern retail development to the historic Hoskins property, reestablished the Guilford Battleground Company in 1984. After much debate about removing the house (which the last owner was willing to donate) to the park, Kirkpatrick and GBC were able to raise enough money to purchase the lot and restore the house by removing modern additions and a brick veneer. Unwilling to stop there, Kirkpatrick (now Mayor Pro-Tempore and soon to be a county commissioner) led efforts to establish a public park at the site and build a visitor center. Oil paintings also were commissioned (including *Greene at Guilford* by Dale Gallon, copied on the first page of this newsletter) that helped bring the historic site back to life.

Today, the former Tannenbaum Park, with a restored Hoskins House and period kitchen, barn, and blacksmith shop, are now part of the national park. Much of the land between the farmstead and the park's visitor center also has been added to the park, together with the Crown Forces Monument, the park's newest. All these things happened through the efforts of GBC and the vision of Jim Kirkpatrick.

The list of accomplishments continues for all the years Jim was part of GBC, but perhaps the best and sweetest summary appears in a photograph shown below that appears in Gayle Hicks Fripp's, *Transforming Visions: The Story of the Guilford Battleground Company*, a GBC publication.

Although Jim retired as GBC chairman in 1998, he remained on the board until earlier this year, a period of service that stretches more than 40 years!

Now that Jim has retired as chairman emeritus and board member from GBC, we wish him the best and hope to see him again soon in proper period clothing!



The Coble Barn (c. 1830) undergoing restoration (left) and the 1988 dedicatory plaque (right) for Tannenbaum Park.





Apologies to Charles Willson Peale!



NPS



Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drums Corp at the Hooper Monument on July 4, 2024



Greene Monument and Grave, Savannah (Historic American Buildings Survey via Wikipedia)

Greene's Birthday Celebration on August 10!

Join the GBC and GCNMP for our celebration of Nathanael Greene's birthday on Saturday, August 10, at the park's visitor center and grounds.

The events on the Greene Monument Lawn are children-friendly and are part of the park's Back-to-School activities.

The events include:

Greene Monument Lawn

11:00–2:00

How to Map a Battlefield

Cartooning History

Clothesline Code Line

Greensboro History Museum staff: What History Do Trees Hold?

Visitor Center

9:00–12:00

Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum Corps

Weapons Display

Signing a giant birthday card

Visiting with the General

General Greene Lecture

11:30

Carolina Colonial Dancers

12:30

Call the park (336-288-1776) for additional details.

Did You Know?!

- Nathanael Greene was raised a Quaker but resigned membership in his congregation during the war.
- The young Greene was expected to take part in the family's foundry business by a father who did not think anything beyond basic literacy was required in the boy's education.
- Greene enlisted in the Kentish Guards of Rhode Island as a private at the beginning of the war when the militia unit thought his limp made his unsuitable to be an officer.
- The Second Continental Congress quickly promoted Greene to be the army's youngest brigadier general. As a major general, Greene was Washington's most trusted field commander.
- Although Greene despised his role as Quartermaster General, his efforts lessened the army's suffering during the winter of 1778–79.
- Bankrupted by the war in which he used his property as collateral to keep the southern army in the field, Greene's accepted the offer of Georgia's governor to situate himself and his wife Katy and their five children to Mulberry Grove Plantation near Savannah. Greene unexpectedly died there in 1786, still deeply indebted.
- The site of Greene's original burial was lost until 1902, when his remains were discovered and reinterred (with those of his son George Washington Greene) beneath an imposing monument in Johnson Square, Savannah. When the general's remains were recovered, the original Guilford Battleground Company under the direction of Joseph Morehead argued that the new grave should be located at the battleground!

Nathanael Greene Monument



Nathanael Greene Monument

The park's most impressive monument is also one that resulted from a congressional appropriation of \$30,000 in 1911 and the awarding of a commission to the noted American sculptor Francis Herman Packer (who was the Guilford Battleground Company's choice of an artist based on work he had already done in the state). The monument's design and location required the approval of the federal Fine Arts Commission, which required that the monument be located at a prominent and central location in the park and that one acre of ground surrounding it be donated to the federal government. Packer was present at the park on Saturday, July 3, 1915, with an estimated crowd of 10,000 spectators to see the monument unveiled.

Talk of a monument goes back at least to 1848, when Greensborough Patriot editor Lyndon Swaim asked, "Who would not be proud to have a stone laid in a Monument created to the memory of Greene, and devoted to the perpetual Union of these States?" Fundraising for a monument began with the establishment of the Greene Monument Association in 1858, but the Civil War blasted those efforts. Not until the arrival of David Schenck did the campaign for a Greene monument resume and eventually lead to success.

"I'd rather smash my work than have it imperfect," Packer said of his artistry. The monument's two Civil War-era cannon were removed in 1962. The allegorical figure standing in front of the pedestal bears on her left arm a shield featuring an eagle surrounded by thirteen stars. In her right hand, she holds a palm frond, symbolic of victory but also reconciliation (appropriate for the year of the monument's dedication, when Britain had entered the First World War with many also expecting the United States to join the Allied Powers).

The inscription of the dedicatory plaque was written by C. Alphonso Smith, a Greensboro native and Professor of English at the University of Virginia. The inscription is a reminder that the monument commemorates more than an individual, reading in part:

TO OFFICER AND PRIVATE, TO CONTINENTAL SOLDIER AND VOLUNTEER MILITIAMAN, HONOR AND AWARD ARE ALIKE DUE. THEY NEITHER NEED DEFENSE NOR EULOGY BUT ONLY JUST RECOGNITION.



The monument's original design
(Commission for Fine Arts Annual Report, 1914–15)

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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