

Volume 2 Number 2  
Spring 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.*



*Show your Patriot pride! Visit [guilfordbattlegroundcompany.org](http://guilfordbattlegroundcompany.org) for details.*

## From the President



**Patriots:** We have had an exciting last quarter with the Lecture series and reenactment weekend. Currently we are refining our newsletter and attempting to get it more widely distributed.

The long-range interpretive plan is progressing as is the general park plan. We have committed GBC funds to assist in this important endeavor.

We have been broadening our reach by advertising both in *Our State* magazine and the playbills for the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts. This will gain more recognition in the community about the national military park and our mission to support it. We are also planning on updating the GBC brochure.

During this year's battle reenactment, GBC members manned a tent and passed out information as well as free Guilford militia battle flags to children. We plan next year on asking Patriots to help man the tent and engage with the community at this event. This raises the public's awareness

of our role in the reenact the battle as well as our mission to preserve the battlefield and help with the park's interpretation of the site.

Additionally, we have adopted the Guilford Fife & Drum Corps as part of the GBC so we can support and promote their activities. We are excited by the opportunities the fife and drums present to make our mission better known in the community and surrounding areas.

The Blacksmith Shop has been rebuilt, and currently a work crew has been working on restoring the Coble Barn.

The park is also having its trails redone and the work is ongoing this spring and summer. A new ranger is also on board and you can read his biography in this newsletter. Building the park staff up to strength it will be a great benefit.

All in all, a lot is happening at the park. Your support is responsible for a lot of these activities and we couldn't do it without the Patriot organization. It looks to be an exciting year! Thank you for your participation and support.

*Ed Deaton*  
GBC President



*“The NPS acknowledges and appreciates all the support from GBC to help plan and execute all the events over the course of the week. With all that action, you might have missed a major announcement.”*



*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

Last month, we—in partnership with Guilford Battleground Company—successfully commemorated the 243rd anniversary of the battle.

The commemoration started with our annual lecture series that featured two talks on African American revolutionary era history and Dr. Larry Babits’s presentation on new understanding of the fighting on the northern flank at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. For Babits, the fighting that involved the British 33rd Regiments and Guards and Virginia Riflemen constituted a “battle within a battle,” comparable to what happened on the southern flank. Jason Freeman followed up the next evening with his lecture, “North Carolina’s Black Patriots of the Revolution,” which was replete with a statistical analysis of the service of Black patriots he traced in his research.

We’re especially proud of Friday’s speaker Dr. Shirley Green, author of *Revolutionary Blacks: Discovering the Frank Brothers, Freeborn Men of Color, Soldiers of Independence*. Dr. Green was only the second woman to present at our lecture series and the first African American.

The lecture series was followed by a weekend full of interpretive and educational events that were very well attended. The NPS acknowledges and appreciates all the support from GBC to help plan and execute all the events over the course of the week!

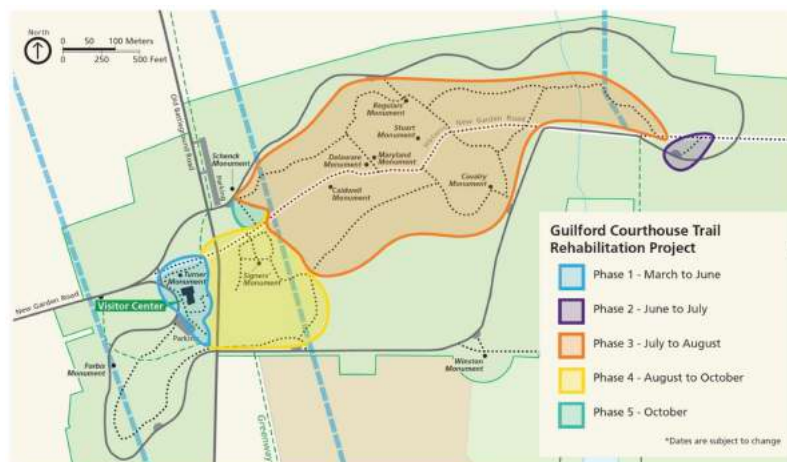
With all that action you might have missed a major announcement. Immediately following anniversary weekend, the NPS kicked off a major trail rehabilitation project. Through an internal, competitive funding source Guilford Courthouse NMP received nearly \$2 million to repave and improve the accessibility of the trail system. This is likely the largest investment in the park ever, and certainly the largest since the nation’s bicentennial celebration in 1976. By replacing asphalt and leveling trails in key visitor areas the project will ensure safe, accessible recreational opportunities at the park while also bringing visitors closer to the battlefield.

In addition to the trail project, the Coble Barn will be rehabilitated this year. Subject matter experts from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Training Center will mix modern building practices and the original, historic building techniques and traditional tools to hew logs, cut notches, and replace chinking and daubing and install a new cedar shake roof. Originally relocated to the Hoskins Farmstead by the Guilford Battleground Company in 1985, the Coble Barn provides visitors with a glimpse of Piedmont North Carolina architecture at the nation’s founding.

In mid-April the park, with support from Harpers Ferry Center—the NPS’s support team for interpretive and educational projects—will host a roundtable featuring subject matter experts in the fields of archeology, social history, and military history. The discussion will inform the park’s programming and is the final step in the partnership project to update the park’s Long Range Interpretive Plan. This is also the first major interpretive and educational planning effort since 225th anniversary of the war and was made possible by a cost sharing project between the NPS and GBC.

Yours in stewardship,

Aaron



*National Junior Ranger Day will be celebrated at the park on Saturday, April 27, from 11am-2pm. Activities at the Visitor Center and the Greene Monument including mapping a battlefield, learning how monuments are made, drawing political cartoons relating to the Revolutionary era, and—thanks to the assistance of the Greensboro History Museum—seeing how tree rings can reveal important facts about the past. Junior Rangers are typically between the age of 5 and 13, although people of all ages can participate. Participants who complete two activities earn a Junior Ranger badge! The program is free and open to the public.*

## New Interpretive Ranger

We welcome new interpretive ranger Daniel Engelgau started his tour at the park in January.

Daniel has a BA in History and an MA in Public History from the University of West Florida.

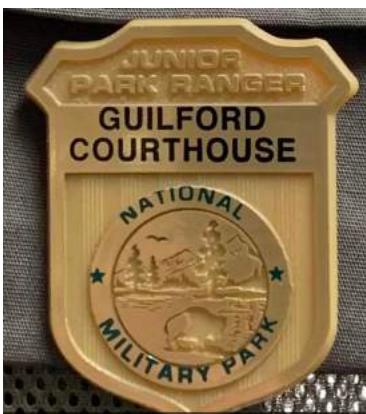
He has a 7-year-old son named Camden who is his pride and joy together with his partner, Christina. She is a teacher certified in Expectational Student Education (students with disabilities or students with Autism) and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) elementary school Teacher. Together, they are excited to move to North Carolina and this new chapter in their lives.

Daniel, Christina and Camden love to camp, hike, travel, visit museums, and go to NPS sites around the country. "I am ecstatic and grateful to be taking this position at Guilford Courthouse," Daniel said, "and I look forward to getting to work and getting to know you all!"

Know him you will if you are one of the park's Volunteer-in-Parks! One of Daniel's responsibilities to the oversee the VIP program.



Here's one of Daniel's first projects:



### National Junior Ranger Day

When  
Saturday, April 27th  
11 am — 2 pm

Where  
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park  
2332 New Garden Rd Greensboro, NC  
27410

#### Greene Lawn

•What History Do Trees Hold:•  
Meet with Greensboro History Museum and learn about how we use tree rings to tell history.

•Monumental History•  
Learn how monuments are made and remembered by designing your own monument through a fun hands-on activity.

#### Visitor Center

•How to Map a Battlefield•  
Create your very own map of Guilford Courthouse by learning how map makers did it in the past.

•Cartooning History•  
Come make the Memes of the 18th Century, political cartoons, by cartooning a local historical event that occurred during the American Revolution.

Complete **two** activities and earn yourself a **Junior Ranger Badge!**

Friday-Sunday, March 15-17, 2024

## Scenes from the Anniversary Weekend



## Arthur Forbis Monument



Photo by Jim Plyler



Arthur Forbis Monument

The park's first monument, erected in 1887 in the year GBC was organized, memorializes Guilford County militiaman Arthur Forbis. It's no surprise that Schenck wanted this first monument dedicated to a North Carolinian as a way to counter the historical narrative that North Carolinians fled the battlefield without defending their position.

Forbis's commanding officer described him as "a brave, undaunted fellow." The commander also absented himself from the First Line position just as the battle began, which is why the monument refers to Forbis "colonel" instead of "captain," his rank at the time of the battle.

Forbis is said to have carried a rifle and responded to the challenge that he try to hit a British officer waving his sword as he organized his men on the far side of the Hoskins fields. Forbis was also wounded twice (perhaps by friendly fire) as the British reached the rail fence where he and about 50 militiamen from the county were deployed and left on the battlefield.

In 1856, Presbyterian minister Eli Caruthers published an account of Forbis that related the story of a local Tory hearing the captain's cries as he lay on the field after the battle. The neighbor cursed Forbis for being a rebel and thrust a bayonet into him. Despite the ministrations of physician and minister David Caldwell, Forbis could not be saved. He is buried in the churchyard at Alamance Presbyterian Church (where both Caldwell and Caruthers served). Forbis's descendants and the Greensboro History Museum have preserved the knit cap Forbis was said to have worn at the battle, one of the rare surviving examples of a liberty cap.

*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 with commercial development. The land farmed by Joseph Hoskins and his sons provided a focal point for 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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Ed Deaton
<i>Vice President</i>	Jim Kirkpatrick
<i>VP for Marketing</i>	Don Saunders
<i>Secretary</i>	Melanie Tuttle
<i>Treasurer</i>	Pat Rice

### BOARD MEMBERS

Mitchell Hunt	Bob Pitts
Bill Moore	Pam Hanzaker
Todd Southard	Joshua Myers
Frank Biggerstaff	Carl Johnson
Frank Bullock	Ernest Booker
John Whisnant	John Archambault
Mary Elizabeth Beal	Scott Culclasure

The GBC also welcomes as a new director Mike Nelson, band leader of the Guilford Fife and Drums Corps.