

Upcoming Events

March 19
Spoon Carving Workshop
with Stephen Martin

April 2-3
“Grinding the Seed Corn
of the Nation”:
NC Junior Reserve
Living History

May 14-15
245th Battle of Alamance
Reenactment

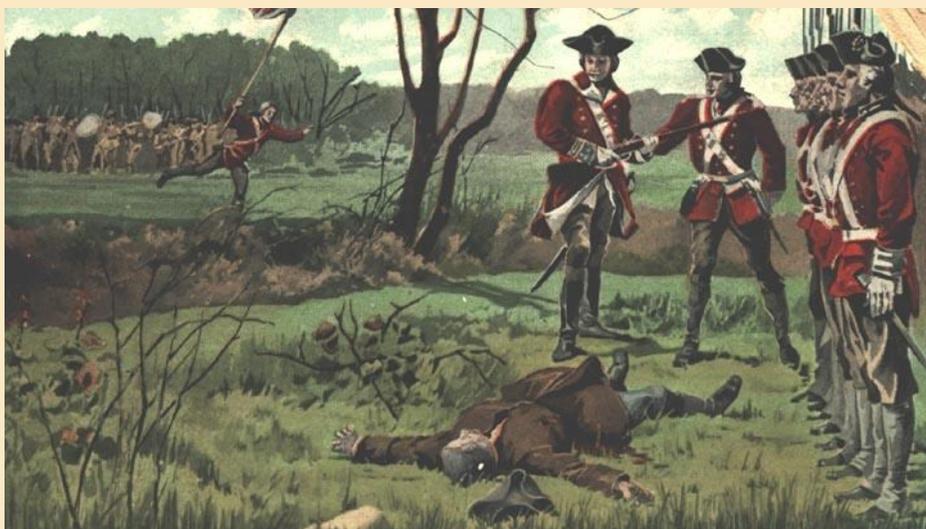
June 21
Kids Powder Horn
Workshop

**Alamance
Battleground
State Historic Site**
Hours of Operation:
Tuesday - Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

5803 S NC Hwy 62
Burlington NC 27215

Contact Us
(336) 227-4785
alamance@ncdcr.gov

“AT THE HEAD OF THE COLOURS”: Flags, Uniforms and Telling Friend from Foe at the Battle of Alamance



NOT REDCOATS, BUT RED FLAGS: This 1905 illustration of the Battle of Alamance incorrectly paints Tryon's militia as British redcoats, though the militia did march under the same British flag. Though not shown here, these “colours” would have been an important part of battlefield organization, given the militia's lack of uniforms.

As a fight between civilians, not professional soldiers, nearly all of the combatants at the Battle of Alamance would have been dressed in the ordinary clothes of the day. With no military uniforms to differentiate each other, the two sides would have looked very much alike, making some form of organization and uniformity necessary.

Understanding the need to tell friend from foe, Governor

William Tryon ordered all of his militia divisions to wear black leggings and yellow cockades in their hats. This gave the militia a small measure of uniformity. In another attempt to create better cohesion among the militia divisions, Tryon also ordered several flags from General Thomas Gage. In a letter written two months before the battle, Tryon requested “four pair of Union Colours, or two Union, and two with Red

Continued: Telling Friend from Foe at Alamance

Fields, the Union in the Upper Canton.” The “Colours” ordered by Tryon would have been recognizable as the “Union Flag” of Great Britain. The flag joined the red cross of St. George and the blue diagonal cross of St. Andrew, marking the union of England and Scotland. The flag was formally adopted in 1707. The two red flags Tryon ordered resembled the red ensign flown by ships in the Royal Navy. That flag is now flown by civilian vessels and is sometimes known as the “Red Duster.”

Unlike the governor’s militia, research shows that the Regulators lacked any kind of uniformity, flags, or military structure. Some thought has been given to the Regulators falling back on their own militia training, however accounts of the battle indicate an unorganized force independently firing from behind cover, with no officers of any kind to organize them. As a loose collection of people



This sketch from 1780 shows the same type of Union flag that Tryon’s militia carried into the Battle of Alamance in 1771.

with unorthodox egalitarian ideas, the Regulators eschewed the hallmarks of military authority and organization, and almost certainly did not have a flag of any type. If any attempt to adopt a symbol for the group was made, it was not recorded.

Outgoing Friends President Ted Henson Looks Back on a Decade of Service at Alamance

Ted Henson

President, Alamance Battleground Friends

In January 2016, I will step down as President of the Alamance Battleground Friends, a position I have held since the group began ten years ago. However, my relationship to Alamance Battleground goes back further than that. As a Social Studies Professional in the public schools of North Carolina, I visited and taught about it in my classes. When I became President of the NC Council for the Social Studies, I got to know site manager Bryan Dalton very

well and he asked me to serve on the original board. When the first election of officers was held, I was elected President and it has been my honor to serve since then.

I have always loved Alamance Battleground as a historian. However shortly after becoming President, I found that I was a descendent of Regulators. Joseph Henson and his son, William, signed the Regulator Petition Number 9 in May 1768. Joseph is my Great, Great, Great, Great

Grandfather. Suddenly, Alamance Battleground became a very personal part of my life.

During the past ten years, we have worked diligently to make improvements to the site. It has been a group effort: the Alamance Battleground Staff (Bryan Dalton, Lisa Cox, and Bill Thompson) and the Alamance Battleground Friends board and volunteers (especially Ladd Sawyer, who passed away in March).

Our first major accomplishment was the purchase of the Harmon Cox powder horn that had been carried at the Battle of Alamance and at the

Battle of Guilford Courthouse. It is now on display at the site. Then the resurrection of the Allen House garden was undertaken by the staff, Ladd Sawyer and I. After many weeks of hard work digging and building mounds in the colonial style and additional months of travel to various sites to collect period plants, the garden was completed and is now a fine example of an 18th century garden.

One of the biggest undertakings was the Alamance Battleground Archeological Survey and dig in 2009-2010. Alamance Battleground became the first battleground site to be completely covered by such an undertaking. As a result of the many artifacts uncovered, new information about the battle was revealed. This new information is now available to the public on the newly completed Wayside Marker Historical Trail which crosses the battleground. Alamance Battleground friends financed this dig and worked to raise the money to pay for the markers along the trail.

Alamance Battleground had a nature trail at one time, but it had been closed for years due to damage from hurricanes and other storms. Ladd Sawyer and I undertook the restoration of that trail. After months of cutting up dead trees, dragging off limbs and brush, getting bridges built and raking down the trail, the new nature and walking trail was opened. Today this mile long trail features markers giving little-known facts about the battle as well as nature signs identifying various plants and trees along the way. It was a labor of love and a lot of sweat.

A variety of other activities have been completed since the formation of the Alamance Battleground Friends. The new Split Rail Fence lining both sides of Highway 62 was constructed by an Eagle Scout, with financial assistance from the Friends. One major step was the Alamance Battleground Friends taking over the Gift Shop. Prior to this, the Gift Shop was controlled by the state and part of the money stayed in Raleigh. Now all the proceeds from the Gift Shop go toward supporting and preserving the Alamance Battleground Historic Site.

Lisa Cox, myself and a few other volunteers have worked recently to put in the new flower garden which lines the drive into the site. It now provides a nice view as you enter the battleground.

It is now time for Alamance Battleground to move forward under the capable guidance



Among his various efforts to help the site, Ted Henson has helped with living history, including performances of the dulcimer (pictured above). Ted was also on hand to give longtime site manager Bryan Dalton a good sendoff on the occasion of his retirement (pictured below).



of our new site manager, Jeremiah DeGenaro, and new Board President, Robert Cox. I leave my position knowing that the site is in capable hands that will take it on to new and better heights. I'm not going anywhere; I'll still be around to "cause trouble" as Lisa Cox likes to say "There were Henson's here in 1771 causing trouble and there are Henson's here today still causing trouble". Thank you to everyone for your support and help during the past ten years. Let's continue to work toward making Alamance Battleground the premiere state historic site in North Carolina.

SUPPORT ALAMANCE BATTLEGROUND!

JOIN THE ALAMANCE BATTLEGROUND FRIENDS, INC.

Alamance Battleground Friends, Inc. is an independent nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support the preservation and interpretation of Alamance Battleground State Historic Site. All contributions are tax deductible, and go toward educational programs, artifact acquisition, and site development. We invite you to show your support by becoming a member of the Alamance Battleground Friends!

- Patriot \$10 (*Under 18*) Rifleman \$30 (*1 yr*)
- Captain \$50 (*2 yr*) Colonel (*Family 1 yr*)
- Regulator \$1771 (*Lifetime Membership*)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SITE MANAGER'S DISPATCH

By Jeremiah DeGennaro

Greetings *Regulator* readers!

It has certainly been a very busy autumn. I passed a major milestone in October, my first Colonial Living Week program! Since starting at Alamance I have had my eye on that program in particular as my first real test as a site manager...and it was quite an experience! I learned the finer points of bus parking in the visitor center parking lot, achieving a personal best of 13 buses on the final day of the program. Thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers, we were able to offer an impressive number of demonstrators and welcomed over 3,600 visitors during that week. It meant so much to the entire staff that so many of you among our friends and colleagues were willing to come and help us with this wonderful program. We are already looking forward to another fun, busy, time next October.

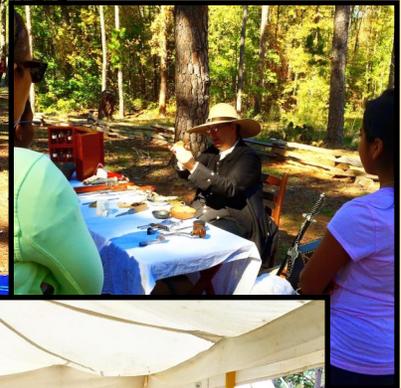


With Colonial Living Week behind us, we caught our breath with just enough time to put together our annual Christmas open house. This year we focused on the Christmas traditions of the German settlers to this area. All involved had a wonderful time and we had another great turnout. Special thanks go to Lisa Cox for organizing demonstrations and volunteers.

Plans for the 245th anniversary battle reenactment are still in progress. We are getting excited about that first-time program, and some of the great living history opportunities it will afford. If you are interested in taking part in the event, please feel free to call or email us.

Thank you for reading this edition of *The Regulator*. We hope to see you soon!

Highlights: Colonial Living Week, October 12 — 16



UPCOMING EVENTS AT ALAMANCE

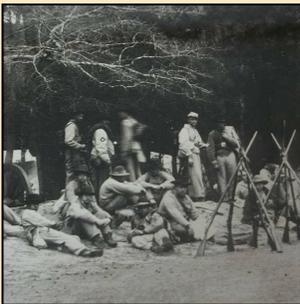
Spoon Carving Workshop with Stephen Martin



March 19

Artisan wood turner Stephen Martin will be hosting a special one-day spoon-carving workshop at Alamance Battleground on Saturday, March 19. Participants will learn carving techniques, and leave with their own spoon plus a hook knife for future projects. The cost for this workshop will be \$50, half of which must be paid in advance of the workshop. Space in this workshop is limited, please call to make a reservation.

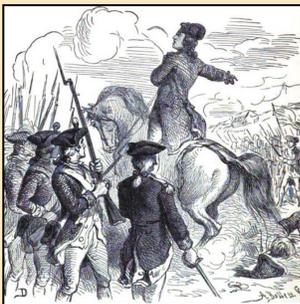
“Grinding the Seed Corn of the Nation”: NC Junior Reserve Living History Encampment



April 2-3

In the spring of 1865, the teenaged soldiers of the North Carolina Junior Reserves camped at the “Regulators’ battleground” during their final retreat. A group of young living historians will be recreating part of the NC Junior Reserves’ march and the encampment at the battleground. This event will feature living history, military drill and firing demonstrations, as well as presentations on the formation and military service of the North Carolina Junior Reserves.

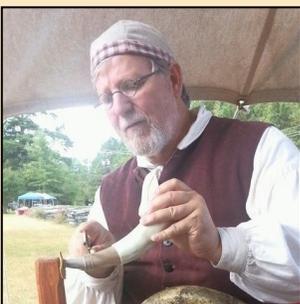
Fight for the Backcountry: 245th Battle of Alamance



May 14-15

To commemorate the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Alamance, we will be hosting a battle reenactment on May 14-15, 2016. Please join us for this special commemoration as history comes alive at the battleground. The Sons of the American Revolution will also be holding their annual Patriot Day program at 2 p.m. on May 14. Reenactor registration is now open, visit www.nchistoricsites.org/alamance for a registration form.

Kids Powder Horn Workshop with Rick Sheets



June 21

Learn about the art of scrimshaw and hornmaking from professional journeyman hornmaker Rick Sheets. This workshop is designed for kids 3rd grade and up. Participants will make a hornbook and scrimshaw keepsake in the tradition of the powder horn engraver. The workshop will be offered as three separate sessions, at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Space is limited! Each session will be limited to 8 students. Registration is \$4 per participant.

All of our events are free and open to the public. For more information about upcoming events and programs, please call (336) 227-4785 or send an email to alamance@ncdcr.gov.