

Fort Dobbs Gazette

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

p. 1

-Summer Programs

p. 2

-Volunteers Wanted

-Living History Update

-A Receipt from the Past

p. 3

-Photos from the Frontier

p. 4-5

-Outacite Ostenaco

p.6

-Relics of the Past

p. 7

*-Friends of Fort Dobbs
Roll Call*

Summer Programs

Fort Dobbs is hosting two exciting events this summer which will allow visitors a chance to experience life in the 1750's.

Following on the success of last year, the site will once again hold a children's summer camp. The theme of the four-morning camp is "Life on the Carolina Frontier." Boys and girls, ages 8-12 are welcome to participate. Activities include:

Military Drill and Soldier Life

Weapons and Tactics of the French and Indian War

18th Century Gardening

Hiking

Open Fire Cooking

Natural Shelter Construction

And more!

Also this summer, the site will hold a re-created militia muster on July 23-24.

During the French and Indian War, all free males of the colony of North Carolina who were between 16 and 60 years of age were required to perform military service as part of their local county militia. The militia would gather multiple times each year, even in peace time to practice military maneuvers and drill. In the event of an attack, these civilian-soldiers would be called away from their farms and businesses to provide a short-term defensive force.

For this year's living history weekend, historical interpreters representing the Rowan County Militia will gather at Fort Dobbs to perform musket firing demonstrations as well as on-going displays of 18th Century life, including food-ways and wood working. Visitors will even have the chance to join the ranks and learn period marching drill.

The militia muster will run from 9am-5pm on Saturday and from 10am-3pm Sunday and is Free to the public.

The camp runs from 9:30am-12:30pm on July 12-15. A registration fee of \$75 per camper is due by June 21.

For more information, contact Scott Douglas or Frank McMahon at 704-873-5882 or scott.douglas@ncdcr.gov

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Volunteers Wanted

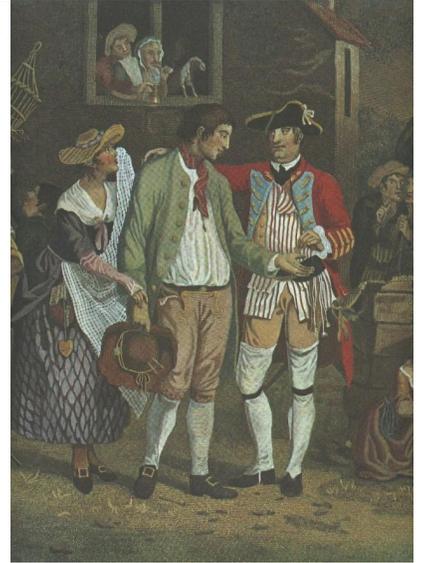
Fort Dobbs State Historic Site relies heavily on the talents of volunteers to tell the story of North Carolina in the French and Indian War. *They are people who care about Fort Dobbs and want to spread the word about this unique historic resource.* Our most visible volunteers are those who comprise the fort's modern "garrison."

Garrison members are men, women, and children who share a deep interest in history and who wish to experience life in the 18th Century for themselves, as they educate others. They are teachers, architects, lawyers, law enforcement officers, mechanics, students, and retirees.

Of equal importance are our volunteers in modern clothes; those who do everything from helping with site upkeep to greeting guests and providing guided tours. These volunteers keep the site running, particularly during special events.

How do I get involved?

Potential volunteers are encouraged to enquire by visiting the site or writing to frank.mcmahon@ncdcr.gov. *Prior living history experience is not required!* Staff will provide information about procuring or making reproduction clothing and the site maintains a growing inventory of items that may be borrowed by volunteers. Training in the fort's history, period cooking, camping, military drill, etc. is provided and is on-going: *all of our volunteers continue to learn!*



Living History Update

In April nearly two thousand visitors attended the Fort Dobbs War for Empire event. Thank you to everyone that helped make this event such a success!

On June 11th, the garrison will be traveling to Chimney Rock State Park to present a musket firing demonstration followed by an outdoor viewing of "Last of the Mohicans". July 23rd and 24th we will be holding our Rowan County Militia Muster event at Fort Dobbs. August 27th and 28th the Garrison will be interpreting the lives of North Carolina Provincial soldiers on the 1758 Forbes Campaign during "Misery at Fort Fredrick".

Enjoy your summer and be sure to visit!



A Receipt from the Past



This receipt for Carolina Rice-Pudding comes to us from the 1758 version of "The Art of Cookery, Made Plain and Easy" by Hannah Glasse.

A Carolina Rice-Pudding.

TAKE half a pound of rice, wash it clean, put it into a sauce pan, with a quart of milk, tea-spoonfuls of beaten cinnamon, a little lemon-peel shred fine, six apples pared and chopped small; mix all together with the yolks of three eggs, and sweeten to your palate; then tie it up close in a cloth, put it into boiling water, and be sure to keep it boiling all the time; an hour and a quarter will boil it. Melt butter and pour over it, and throw some fine sugar all over it; a little wine in the sauce will be a great addition to it.

Photos From the Frontier

WAR FOR EMPIRE

Images courtesy Chuck Lecount, Terry Ramsbotham, Andrew Shook, Becky Sawyer, Chris Gibbs, Bill Leech



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“I Have Now Made a Path to Virginia”: Outacite Ostenaco and the Cherokee-British Colonial Alliance in the French and Indian War (Part One of Three)

Douglas McClure Wood

Introduction

By 1756, Colonel George Washington had been given the daunting task of defending Virginia’s entire 300-mile western frontier from French soldiers and their Amerindian allied warriors. The close proximity of European settlements in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York to their Ohio Country enemies, translated to greater necessity to build defensive forts and to court potential native allies than required in either of the Carolinas, which were buffered on their west by the sizeable allied Cherokee towns. Nonetheless, both Carolinas beefed up their frontier defenses, resulting in the construction of a handful of forts for protection of both Euro-settlers and native allies. Fort Dobbs was one of the forts that anchored a defensive line running through the frontiers from New York to Georgia.

Outacite Ostenaco (translated into English as *Man Killer* Ostenaco), a man of action and honor, was one of the principal Cherokee military leaders who responded early when called upon by Virginia Governor Dinwiddie for assistance, but even Ostenaco’s commitment to the alliance would be tested by unforeseen circumstances. Grasping the significance of the Cherokee role in the war, modern historian Gregory Dowd wrote, “Before 1759, no Indian people would contribute a larger body of warriors or a more important service to British efforts.” Not the least of the Cherokee military leaders’ contributions to the British victory in the conflict was their willingness to train colonial soldiers in the art of Indian war tactics—an art in which American military special forces personnel still receive training today.

Ancient Enemies

At various times before 1750, colonial authorities in Virginia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York attempted to get the northern Indians and southern Indians to make peace with one another. The authorities had varying degrees of success, so by 1753 the Cherokees were not overtly embroiled in hostilities with the Senecas and Delawares to the north, nor with traditional enemies, the Catawbas and Tuscaroras, to the east. The Cherokee-Shawnee relationship at this time seemed to be one of sporadic hostility with a relative peace reigning through 1753 into early 1754. Consequently, after France began to flex its muscle in the Ohio country in 1752 by constructing a line of forts between Lake Erie and the Ohio River, colonial authorities reverted to the older policy of recruiting Indian allies against common enemies. The authorities found fertile ground for alliance among the Cherokees, because by early 1753 that nation was increasingly subjected to French-

Instigated hostilities

The Overhill or Upper Cherokees, long unsatisfied with the poorer trade relations they had with South Carolina compared to the Lower Town Cherokees, moved toward a more open trade with Virginia by sending two delegations over 500 miles on foot to Williamsburg, the capital. Ata’gulkalu, also known as the Little Carpenter, led the 1751 delegation and Ammoscosittee led the 1752-3 winter delegation. Gov. Dinwiddie also discussed impending war between the English colonies and France. Since King George’s War, the Over Hill Cherokees had been asking South Carolina to build a fort among their towns on the waters of the Tennessee River as a defense against French-allied Indians. A treaty made in 1730 required the Cherokees to assist the British in time of war. The Cherokees complied during King George’s War, yet South Carolina had dragged its feet over the request for a fort since that time. Although South Carolina Governor Glen jealously guarded his perceived position as the king’s sole overseer of the Cherokee trade, Dinwiddie offered his colony’s assistance in the Cherokee fort project.

By the summer of 1754, the Upper Cherokees suffered attacks from the north and west, but they did not await a delivering hand from their British allies. Warriors immediately took French scalps and the Little Carpenter went out to war against the French in July 1754. South Carolina built Fort Prince George among the Lower Cherokees at their principal town of Keowee. This provided no comfort to residents of the upper towns who served as the first line of defense for both Carolinas. Ostenaco’s hometown of Tomotley, was as much in the way of danger as any of the upper towns, and when the enemy killed his nephew, the war became very personal for him.

Governor Dinwiddie sent Nathaniel Gist to ask for Cherokee assistance in ousting the French from Virginia lands to the north in exchange for a fort. As a result of Gist’s mission and others, the Upper Cherokees continued to protect the back settlements of the Carolinas and southern Virginia for nearly two years before the Virginian government finally built a fort near Echota. After the fort was constructed, the Cherokees continued protecting the back settlements of the Carolinas and the Mid-Atlantic colonies for three more years.

The Alliance Tested

The issue of a fort for the Upper Cherokees continued to test the alliance even after Virginia built the fort,

because the Virginians did not garrison the fort as promised. The upper towns' headmen reminded South Carolina's newly appointed royal governor, William Henry Lyttleton, that his colony's promises to build a fort for the Cherokees' defense still rang hollow. Jealous of the inroad into the skin trade that the Virginia fort represented, South Carolina soon built a fort, dubbed *Fort Loudoun* in honor of the man who controlled the war purse back in London. Pennsylvania and Virginia also named frontier forts after that fellow.

The poor cooperation between South Carolina and Virginia, also tested the Cherokee alliance. In the summer of 1755, before Lyttleton had replaced South Carolina Governor Glen and before Braddock's army had advanced far, 800 Cherokee warriors headed northward to assist in the campaign. However, the bulk of this large body of warriors never made it to the rendezvous point. Old Hop's son informed Governor Dinwiddie, "This Summer a great Number of our People had agreed to come here, and were to have set off with us, but on Receipt of a L'r from G'r Glen a few Days before we came away, they all went to meet him at Congress." Governor Dinwiddie sent a scathing letter to Governor Glen reprimanding him for his handling of the British allies. The way Dinwiddie saw the affair, instead of fervently recruiting Cherokees for General Braddock's campaign, Governor Glen had been wheedling them out of their land in a dubious conference called at an inappropriate time. Glen lost his royal appointment over this affair.

Even faced with the obvious land-grabbing action of South Carolina's governor, some Cherokee warriors assisted the colonies in the war effort during the summer of 1755. Virginia stepped up its efforts to recruit more Cherokees. When 130 Cherokees arrived at Fort Frederick on the New River to go on campaign against the Shawnees in the winter of 1755-1756, they did not receive the appropriate accoutrements of war from their better-equipped allies. This supply problem continued throughout the war, straining the alliance between the Cherokees and the colonies at more than one juncture. In 1757, Cherokees from the lower towns, under the leadership of Wauhatchee and the Swallow Warrior, composed the first recorded sizeable group of warriors to come to the aid of Virginia's back settlements during that year. When Major Andrew Lewis escorted Wauhatchee's gang of 148 to Winchester, there were no supplies awaiting them. These warriors had traveled approximately 500 miles to assist the Virginians, who could not outfit them for war. Keerarustikee had stayed on at Winchester through the winter. He discouraged Wauhatchee's gang even further by informing them that, when his gang had found no supplies in Winchester, they had been sent 200 miles to Williamsburg for supplies. Then, in the Virginia capital, the authorities

had expressed surprise that the warriors had not been supplied in Winchester!

As the war progressed, tensions between backcountry Virginians/North Carolinians and Cherokee war gangs increased. In the spring of 1756, at the same time Cherokees ranged the woods to protect colonists from northern Indians, Shawnees disguised as Cherokees reconnoitered the Virginia frontier settlements. From many frontier settlers' points of view, the presence among the plantations of friendly Amerindian warriors and disguised enemy warriors at the same time caused great consternation. In April, Governor Dinwiddie whipped up the militia into an excited state of readiness. Some Cherokee warriors, who had gone to Williamsburg to discuss the war effort with Governor Dinwiddie, were returning without militia escort when a Virginia militia captain and some of his neighbors murdered them. These ill-timed murders almost led to the deaths of the Virginia commissioners Randolph and Byrd, who at that very moment were negotiating a treaty with the Upper Cherokees. Indeed, these murders and others committed through 1759 contributed in large part to the outbreak of the Cherokee War early in 1760.

Other actions and issues that threatened the alliance at more than one juncture until the rupture came in 1760 included: colonial leaders failed to understand Cherokee diplomacy, British officers treated high-ranking Cherokees as subordinates, each ally perceived the other as duplicitous, and racial distrust.

Fighting in the Indian Way

In July, August, and September of 1755, Cherokees warred along the Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers, making successful attacks as far as Fort De Chartres near the French settlement of Kaskaskias. Those military actions of Cherokees dampened the fervor of attacks from French allies during those months. The enemy military action shifted from the southwestern Virginia plantations to the northwestern plantations before significant attacks could be made on the settlements located on the Roanoke and James Rivers' headwaters.

Many colonial military leaders thought of the potential for greater assistance from the southern Indians; the Cherokees in particular had provided able assistance during King George's War less than ten years earlier. Christopher Gist, father of Nathaniel Gist, advised George Washington of speculation in this vein: "[There] is great Expectation that Genl Shirley [Massachusetts' Lt. Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British land forces in America after General Braddock's death] will Send Me to Get the Cattawbees Indians for Yr. Assistance and perhaps Woods Men and the Cherokees in Spring." Gist, like his son, was familiar with Cherokee country and Cherokee ways.

Many frontier Euro-American settlers some colonial military leaders considered the typical Indian manner of warfare to be the best procedure for countering the French and Indian campaign that followed Braddock's defeat. Colonel Washington's actions at that defeat, especially allowing the Virginia provincials to "tree themselves" and to mark their targets before shooting, prevented total panic when the British regulars broke rank and ran. To the frontiersmen, this battle highlighted all that was not right with the regular method of war. Christopher Gist advised Washington: "Yr. Name is More talked of in Pennsylvania than any Other person of the Army and every body Seems willing to Venture under Your command and if you would Send Some descreet person doubt not but They will Inlist a good Nomber and especially to be erigular for all their Talk is of fighting in the Indian way." The young officer understood well the importance of having a military alliance with southern Indians in order for the Virginia military forces to learn the "Indian way." He wrote Dinwiddie on September 8, 1756 regarding the Governor's recruiting efforts among the Cherokee and Catawba warriors, "They will be of particular service more than twice their number of white men."

This "Indian way" of fighting different depending upon

the size of the war party and other variables, but certain key elements distinguished all of them from the European method. Frederick Christian Post noted in 1758, that the elements of surprise, taking deliberate aim, and firing from cover were key characteristics of this style of warfare. Aiming intentionally at officers was a major component of native and French warfare on this continent two decades before the Revolution. As James Smith clearly pointed out, in his 1799 description of Amerindian military methods and discipline, "their officers plan, order and conduct matters until they are brought into action, and then each man is to fight as though he was to gain the battle himself."

Later in life, George Washington commented that, during the battle at the Monongahela River, his offer to "head the Provincials, & engage the enemy in their own way" was turned down by General Braddock until it was too late to be effective. That devastating experience of the British army, due to the inflexibility of its commanding officer, altered George Washington's future woodland warfare battle tactics dramatically. Washington commented further, "The folly & consequence of opposing compact bodies to the sparse manner of Indian fighting, in woods, which had in a manner been predicted, was now so clearly verified that from hence forward another mode obtained in all future operations."

Relics of the Past

This may be our *corniest* "Relics of the Past". During the archaeological excavations at Fort Dobbs in the 1960's and 1970's, forty-five charred corncob fragments were located in the fort's root cellar. The presence of these corncobs provides valuable insight into foods eaten by Provincial soldiers at Fort Dobbs.

The corncobs were interspersed with charred wood and nails. It is likely that these artifacts were charred sometime after the fort's decommission in 1764. It is believed that by 1800 the ruins of Fort Dobbs were burned in order to fill the root cellar and provide a level field for farming. Local residents may have also been attempting to salvage iron work from the structure.

Subsequent botanical analysis of the corncobs suggest that they are a unique hybrid combining characteristics of northern flint and southern dent corns. Dent corn gets its name from the characteristic "dent" impression found in its kernels. Additionally, dent corn contains more soft carbohydrate and higher sugar content than flint corn. Both types of corn have much higher starch content than "sweet corn" and were used primarily for making corn four. Flint and dent corns are both open pollinators therefore it is unclear if the hybrid was intentional or natural occurrences.

Fort Dobbs was a secure location to store food, ammunition and other supplies for a company of North Carolina Provincial soldiers. 18th century, soldiers typically received a pound of "flour" or bread per day as part of their rations. Ideally this flour would be made from wheat, but depending on time and place wheat would be substituted with other whole grains such as barley or rye. It should be noted that the English commonly used the term "corn" to refer to all whole grains. On the North American frontier Indian corn (maize) was commonly issued to soldiers as a substitute for wheat flour. The presence of charred corncobs at Fort Dobbs suggests that corn was an important part of the rations issued to the garrison.



FRIENDS OF FORT DOBBS ROLL CALL

The Friends of Fort Dobbs supports the mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site:

“To preserve and interpret the history of Fort Dobbs and North Carolina's role in the French and Indian War.”

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