

**Fort Dobbs State Historic Site
Authenticity Guidelines and Review Process**

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I. Fort Dobbs Mission and Vision

A. Fort Dobbs Mission

The mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site is to preserve and interpret the history of North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort site to all citizens and visitors.

B. Fort Dobbs Vision

The vision of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site is to be the premier French and Indian War era site in the United States.

C. Fort Dobbs Living History Mission

The mission of the Fort Dobbs Living History Program is to educate the public concerning the events of the time period and the daily lives of the men, women and children who lived on the colonial frontier, to connect the fort and its heritage to those in the surrounding community, and to place the fort and its activities in the context of events in the colonies during the French and Indian War.

D. Fort Dobbs Living History Vision

The Fort Dobbs Living History Program is dedicated to the accurate portrayal of provincial soldiers and militia assigned to the fort as well as the Native Americans and settlers who lived on the western colonial frontier between 1754 and 1763.

II. Living History Policy

Participation in most living history events at Fort Dobbs is by invitation only. However, the site does occasionally hold large-scale re-enactments where participation by a large number of living historians is encouraged. These large special events are "juried," meaning that all participants must receive official approval that their portrayal of a settler, soldier, or American Indian at the time of the French and Indian War in North Carolina, meets the site's expectations of authenticity and helps fulfill the site's goal of portraying the people and events of the past as accurately as possible.

III. Juried Event Process

A. Application

Prospective participants are required to submit an event application including photographs of their impression and camp. Returning participants must submit a new application with photographs if there are significant costume (or portrayal) changes. Applications must be received at least eight weeks prior to the major reenactment to be considered for that event.

B. Participant Review Committee

All applications will be reviewed by the Participant Review Committee. The review committee includes the historic site's lead interpreter and site manager, as well as three to four non-staff members who are chosen for their knowledge of the material culture used by colonists, soldiers, and American Indians at the time of the French and Indian War. The committee will render one of the following determinations within four weeks of receipt of the application:

1. **Approval:** Any applicant that clearly complies with the stated site guidelines will be approved and will be issued an invitation to participate in the event.
2. **Conditional Approval:** Any applicant that does not clearly comply with all the stated site guidelines will be allowed to participate only if deficiencies are corrected. The committee will provide a written list of the specific issues that must be corrected along with recommendations/resources to address those issues. Once the issues have been addressed, a new application with the required photographs must be submitted to obtain approval to participate. Applicants should submit appropriate supporting documentation to assist the committee in properly assessing their applications.

C. Applicant Appeal

Any applicant who receives conditional approval and wishes to appeal the committee's decision may do so by one of the following means:

1. The applicant may submit additional documentation by mail/e-mail for consideration by the committee.
2. The applicant may request a meeting with the committee via teleconference or at the site to present the additional documentation and/or any item(s) in question for review. The committee will strive to make a decision within two weeks of receiving an appeal.

D. Registration

All applicants who have been approved for participation must submit a completed registration form for the event.

IV. Mandatory Guidelines for Fort Dobbs Events

The following guidelines are basic authenticity rules that must be observed by all participants:

- A. Set-up and Vehicles:** Camp set-up times are established for each event. For most Friday through Sunday events, set-up begins at 3:00 pm Friday. At that time vehicles are allowed in the camp, but will be prohibited in the program area from 8:00 am Saturday until 4:00 pm Sunday.

- B. Authenticity:** A participant's appearance, camp, accouterments, food, etc., will be reviewed by the Participant Review Committee for authenticity. For typical programs representing the French and Indian War, all items used or sold at the event will be authentic to 1754-1763. This includes clothing, furnishings, guns, knives, shoes, hats, baggage, eating utensils, cooking utensils, trunks, etc.
- C. Eyewear:** Participants must wear 18th century styled eyewear or contacts. Modern eyeglasses are not acceptable.
- D. Tobacco:** No cigarettes are allowed at any time; clay pipes or hand rolled cigars only. Visible tobacco use of any kind during field trip or "school day" programs is strongly discouraged.
- E. Jewelry:** No modern jewelry or watches.
- F. General Clothing:** Please remain in period clothing at all times during a juried event. Remember that most Fort Dobbs events focus on the 1750's, so clothing that reflects that period is required.
- G. Men's Clothing:** Clothing shall be typical mid-18th century clothing as befitting the age, background and station of the person being portrayed. The following items are not allowed: caped, fringed hunting shirts, long fringed buckskins, and kilts (unless for an approved military portrayal.)
- H. Facial Hair:** Facial hair is inappropriate for most British subjects in the 18th century and is highly discouraged. There will be absolutely no facial hair for those men portraying provincial or regular soldiers or for those portraying native men. Long, bushy sideburns, as well as goatees are not permitted for anyone. See below for further guidelines.
- I. Women's Clothing:** Clothing shall be typical mid-18th century clothing as befitting the age, background and station of the person being portrayed. The following items are not allowed: makeup, nail polish, modern calico prints, off-the shoulder shifts, and bodices. Please cover all modern haircuts with a cap or kerchief. See below for further guidelines.
- J. Footwear:** 18th century style shoes or moccasins are required. Modern footwear or "old looking" footwear is not acceptable.
- K. Children's Clothing:** Accurately clothing children is always a concern as they grow quickly. Colonial children, boys and girls, should generally follow the style of garment worn by their elders **after** the age of five. Children younger than this should be clothed in a linen shift, cap, and a linen or woolen gown, no matter their sex. For native portrayals, very small children should have a basic trade shirt or shift/chemise. Cotton is acceptable in this case, as children grow out of expensive clothing quickly. A diaper is acceptable underneath the shirt

for modern sanitary purposes. Children may wear center seam moccasins or go barefoot in lieu of appropriate shoes. Native boys do not have to shave their heads, but should either cover their heads, slick back their hair, or keep a pony tail. Children shall be properly attired for their age in the 18th century, including footwear when applicable, at all times.

- L. Shelters:** Accepted shelters include simple lean-tos, marquee, wedge, or wall tents, or just a blanket under the stars, depending on the portrayal.
- M. Food and Drink:** All food or drink is to be consumed in 18th century period vessels. Cooking ware shall be of an 18th century design-NO speckled ware. Participants are encouraged to consume only period appropriate foods during an event.
- N. Modern Items:** ALL non-eighteenth century items must be kept out of sight at all times. This includes packaging and containers for food and cooking items. Put them in a proper container.
- O. Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed at all during public hours. After hours, period appropriate beverages may be enjoyed in moderation and must be in a period container. **The consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age is prohibited by NC State Law.** Fort Dobbs staff reserves the right to revoke any participant's right to consume alcohol at any time.
- P. Furniture:** Camp furniture must be appropriate to the period. NO slatted buck skinning or Adirondack style chairs. Participants are encouraged to keep camp furniture to a minimum.
- Q. Pets and Horses:** Pets are not allowed, except horses and similar pack animals. If a participant requires the use of a horse, he or she must contact Fort Dobbs State Historic Site two weeks prior to the event as there are special equine regulations that must be followed.
- R. Minors:** Minor children (under 18) are the sole responsibility of their parents. Children are not permitted to run around unattended or play around fires, tools, weapons or animals at any time. Young children need to be supervised by parents at all times.
- S. Photography:** No cameras can be used while attired in period clothing.
- T. Firearms:** No firearms can be carried outside of the historic area and are allowed in period camps only. Firearms cannot be carried by minors at any time. Only adults can handle edged weapons or tools. Fort Dobbs safety officers will oversee all activities related to fire arms demonstration and inspections and will adhere to the HS-1 guidelines established by the State of North Carolina, Division of State Historic Sites.

V. Colonial Impression Guidelines

A. Provincial Soldier Guidelines

1. **Shirts:** Shirts must be white, un-dyed, or checked linen cut in the manner of the mid-18th century. They must include narrow (one inch or less) wristbands and a short collar of 2-4 inches that is ideally covered by neck cloth (it may be turned over the top a small amount). Neck and wristbands can be closed with small Dorset, bone, or metal buttons. Sleeve links made from either thread or metal buttons are encouraged.
2. **Stockings:** Stocking must be made of woolen or “thread” linen. Heavy cotton or linsey-woolsey stockings are acceptable in lieu of linen. Off white or grey colors are best. Second best are blue or black stockings.
3. **Breeches/Trousers:** Breeches were issued as part of the clothing received from Virginia and were of regimental pattern. Breeches should be of blue broadcloth with a fly front, though fall fronts are acceptable, and should close at the knee with buckles. Per site archaeology, flat or domed plain brass buttons should be used on regimental breeches. Deserter descriptions indicate the use of leather breeches and “long trousers.” Therefore, both leather breeches and trousers of linen or hemp in plain, striped or checked patterns are acceptable. Civilian breeches of other muted wool or linen colors are also acceptable.
4. **Waistcoat:** It is possible but not certain that Virginia supplied North Carolina troops with red waistcoats as it did its own troops who were issued “flannel waistcoats of an inferior sort” in 1755. This possibility is reinforced by a NC deserter in 1755 who wore a “red waistcoat.” Other deserters are described as wearing white and brown waistcoats and jackets, therefore red waistcoats are acceptable as “issued,” while other colors may be acceptable as civilian waistcoats. They may be either sleeved or sleeveless. The waistcoat, however, is not a necessary part of the uniform and may be omitted entirely.
5. **Coat:** The primary coat is the regimental coat. These were provided to North Carolina by Virginia in 1755 and were described in a runaway add of that year as “blue coats, with red lapels...” These most likely followed the lines of British regimental coats, with long skirts, full, scalloped or notched cuffs, false flaps on the wrists, no collar, and half lapels. The regimental should have a lapel with a rounded bottom, scalloped cuff and will be made of blue faced red wool broadcloth. The early coats were unlined as Washington describes uniforms his men received (likely the 1755 issue) as being made, “of thin sleazy cloth without lining” though later issues may have included a madder bay lining, at least in the skirts. The archaeological record at Ft. Dobbs indicates the use of brass buttons, but pewter are also acceptable. Other deserters were described wearing “a brown jacket” and

“an old brown coat.” The brown jacket may refer to a sleeved waistcoat or a garment cut along the lines of a coat but with shorter skirts. Therefore both will be acceptable substitutes for the regimental.

6. **Hat:** There is little research that illuminates what the North Carolina provincial soldier wore for headgear. A runaway ad from Pennsylvania in 1761 describes an indentured servant from North Carolina who served in the provincials as wearing, “an Old Hat.” Acceptable styles include mid-century black wool felt civilian round or cocked hats. Another acceptable style is that worn by the British military- black wool felt with a white worsted tape binding, the mark of a soldier, with a black horsehair cockade.
7. **Shoes:** Acceptable reproduction shoes will be those closed with buckles, of a coarse nature befitting a soldier. The shoes excavated at Fort Ligonier will be the model for reproductions used at this site.
8. **Neckerchiefs:** Neckerchiefs are large rectangles or squares made out of white linen or silk and are tied around the collar of shirt. White or black linen stocks are also acceptable, as per Morier images of stock buckles on the back neck of some paintings, and stock buckles found at the site of the fort.
9. **Great Coats:** A deserter who served in the North Carolina provincials in 1754 was described as sometimes having worn “a red great coat.” This will be the winter over coat for wear by the provincials. The Hogarth image of Captain Corham from 1742 and the surviving coat in the Royal Ontario Museum will be the model for this garment.
10. **Cartridge Box:** War Office records indicate that North Carolina was issued stands of arms consisting of muskets, bayonets, slings, scabbards, frogs, waist belts and cartridge boxes to hold 12 rounds. While no 12 round government issued boxes survive those with 9 and 18 rounds do. With no firm idea of the arrangement of holes on a 12 round box, and until such information can be determined, 9 round boxes like those from the 1758 wreck of the HMS Invincible are to be used. The block is to be of beech or maple and have a flap of the style found in the Invincible nailed to the back.
11. **Waist Belt:** The proper waist belt for the government issued set of accoutrements will be a 1” wide tanned blackened belt with a 1” iron buckle. This is based off that in Don Troiani’s collection.
12. **Frog and Bayonet Scabbard:** The frog provided with the government set was a very simple two piece riveted and sewn affair.
13. **Canteen:** The half-moon or kidney shaped water flasks recovered from Fort Ligonier are to serve as models for the canteens used during juried events. They are constructed of tin plated sheet iron. The remains of those from Fort

Ligonier closely resemble intact artifacts in Don Troiani's collection. Fort Ligonier's collections also include the side to a staved wooden canteen, and as such these will also be acceptable.

- 14. Haversacks:** Haversacks were often made by the troops themselves when ordered out on campaign. They were constructed of plain woven unbleached linen. The Morier images of the 46th foot show great detail of the haversack carried by British troops in the 1750's. This will be the model for all haversacks. Made with two or three buttons on the flap and cut wider than it is deep, it will ride high on the body as per the painting.
- 15. Knapsacks:** British military knapsacks of the period are made of fur on cowhide and resemble a tube with a gusseted bottom and a drawstring top, with a shoulder strap. These will follow the style of those in paintings and drawings by Morier, Sandby, and Penny.
- 16. Musket and Sling:** Muskets issued to North Carolina provincials were of Dutch manufacture, and mounted the peculiar flat or hexagonal bayonet. As these are difficult to find, reproductions of first model land pattern muskets or commercially produced land pattern muskets will suffice with proper bayonet. The sling will be blackened tanned and button or buckle adjustable as per records of North Carolina being issued muskets with tanned slings. New evidence suggests that as North Carolina's supplies of the initial 1000 muskets were depleted, they may have received land pattern muskets. This makes the Long Land Pattern musket even more acceptable, preferably with wooden rammers.
- 17. Cutlass:** NC also received 1,000 "sea service swords" from the Tower of London in 1754. These were issued along with black belts.

B. Militia/Male Colonist Guidelines

- 1. Breeches or Trousers:** Fall front or fly front breeches/trousers were in use by the mid-18th century.
- 2. Shirt:** Shirts are to be in the standard 18th century style in white or unbleached linen, checks or stripes.
- 3. Jacket or Coat:** Short jackets were very common. They need to be of mid-century cut, straight front, not cut away, often full forearms, and fuller skirts than later coats.
- 4. Waistcoat:** Many images show men working without waistcoats, and in the heat of the Carolina's it makes sense. Mid-century waistcoats would have been straight cut in front, and could be as short as crotch length, or almost down to the knees.

5. **Hat:** There were hundreds of styles of hats, most common of which seems to be a simple round hat, with a brim cut round, and bent up to the owners taste. Linen caps were also common.
 6. **Stockings:** Stocking must be made of woolen or “thread” linen. Heavy cotton or linsey-woolsey stockings are acceptable in lieu of linen. Off white or grey colors are best. Second best are blue or black stockings.
- ** With only a little work it is possible to adapt a later impression by replacing a later waistcoat or coat with one of a mid-century cut. Trousers are an easy way to get a western North Carolina look from the 1750’s and a hat blank cut to a brim size of three to one and a half inches.

C. Female Colonist Guidelines

1. **Shift:** Shifts can be made from white or un-dyed linen. The neckline should be closed with a drawstring tie in the front and should not feature a ruffle. The sleeves should end at a point just below the elbow and the wristbands held closed with ties, or sleeve links. The wristband should not exceed two inches in width. The bottom of the shift should reach to about mid-calf.
2. **Stockings:** Stockings should reach over the knee and can be made of wool, linen, silk, or cotton. Solid color stockings featuring grey, white, off-white, brown, black, or blue are acceptable. No stripes. Linen thread stockings were very common, but are not readily available today, so cotton or linsey stockings are acceptable. Garters of worsted, leather, and linen or cotton tape may be used to hold the stockings up.
3. **Shoes:** Many common women’s shoes were very similar to those of men. Shoes with a pointed toe and short heel are period appropriate. These should have brass buckles or tie to close. Reproduction slippers and mules or “slops” are also acceptable.
4. **Petticoat:** Women should always wear two petticoats. They can be made of wool or linen, in solids or woven patterns. Certain block-printed fabrics were also available. The waist of the petticoat should be finished with linen, cotton, or wool tape and the bottom of it should reach to the lower calf.
5. **Stays or Jumps:** Women of all classes wore support garments in the mid-18th century. The garments provided a flat, tubular shape to the torso. Leather jumps existed, but most stays or jumps were made of several layers of linen and/or wool sewn together in panels. These could lace down the front, back, or occasionally both. The edge should be bound in thin “shammy” leather. Stays were stiffened with baleen, packed thread, or wood, although more durable metal boning is also available today.

6. **Bum Roll:** A bum roll was a fabric tube stuffed with tow, packed thread, or scrap fabric that would tie around the waist to accentuate a woman's hips. Not all women wore these and are most common with more fitted full gowns or jackets.
7. **Pockets:** Women wore a pair of pocket bags on a piece of linen or cotton tape that tied around the waist underneath the petticoats. These were commonly made of linen and could be plain or feature embroidery.
8. **Gown:** A number of different gown styles are acceptable. Women used wool, linen and some block printed cotton to create their gowns.
 - a. **Bed Gowns:** Bed gowns were loose fitting garments with their side seams at the natural side that reached to mid-thigh or lower thigh and featured sleeves with full, loose forearms and no cuffs, though the sleeves could be rolled or pushed up. A bed gown was cut in a "T" shape, with the sleeves and body in one piece and had either a scoop or shawl neckline. It was usually held closed by a piece of ribbon at the sternum or a series of pins. The bed gown allowed freedom of movement and was used extensively by women of the lower and middle classes.
 - b. **Jackets:** Jackets were fitted garments that had the sleeves set in separate from the body. Skirts reached to just below the waistline featuring side seams set towards the rear, as the whole garment was fitted to the body. It was usually held closed by pins or hooks and eyes. Jackets were most commonly used by those of the middling class and often featured cuffs in the mid-18th century.
 - c. **English Style Gown:** A very common garment for women of all classes was the *robe a l'anglaise* or English style gown. Gowns were fitted garments with the side seams towards the rear and pleats in the back. They had set-in sleeves which sometimes included cuffs. A gown was composed of a skirt and bodice that were set together. In mid-century, English gowns generally fell between the lower calf and ankle in length. The waistline was set just below the natural waist. The bodice could be pinned closed in the front, although an older style that was still in limited use had an open front that was pinned to or laced over a separate stomacher piece.
9. **Neckerchief:** Generally speaking, neckerchiefs were of plain or patterned linen and were cut in a large triangle. When draped over the shoulders, the points could either be tucked into the gown or left exposed.
10. **Apron:** Aprons were most commonly worn by women of the middle and lower classes and were useful items to have handy, whether for carrying items or wiping hands. Aprons should not feature a "pinner" top and should be fastened with linen or cotton tape. Plain or woven checked linen is the most appropriate fabric.

11. **Cap:** There were dozens of styles of caps used by women in the middle and lower classes in the mid-18th century. Participants are encouraged to examine the works of William Hogarth and his contemporaries, with an eye for social class, to get an idea of what cap they may wish to reproduce. Late century “mob caps” are forbidden.
12. **Hat:** Women typically wore brimmed hats when out of doors in the rain or sun. In the summer months, these were made of straw. In the winter months, these were made of wool or fur felt. The hat should feature a crown that is no more than two or three inches tall and a brim that is between ten and fifteen inches in diameter. The hat may be pinned to the hair or fastened by a tying ribbon or cord, usually tying at the base of the skull. While decorations of many types were seen on period hats, participants should pay heed to what social class they portray and not overdo it.
13. **Baskets and Bags:** While soldiers have knapsacks in which to carry their personal possessions, the main options open to civilian women include baskets or bags. Simple drawstring bags of linen work very well for holding most items. If a basket is desired, it should be made of woven split white-Oak and must go through the jurying process before use.
14. **Cloak:** In cold weather, a cloak made out of wool comes in handy. Most women’s cloaks of the period included a hood and were closed with ties or clasps.
15. **Mitts:** Mitts were frequently worn on arms that were exposed by shorter sleeves on many garments. They were commonly as long as the forearm and ended in a point on the back of the hand, not having any fingers. In the summer months, linen mitts would shield the wearer’s skin from the sun, while woolen mitts would provide warmth in the winter.

VI. Native American Impression Guidelines

A. Caveat

The basic requirements for an accurate portrayal of a mid-18th century southeastern native man and woman are listed below. In these guidelines, the "common, everyday, and plain" look is recommended. This does not mean that decorative (or decorated) or unusual items are not acceptable. It means that a convoluted excuse or rationale for using an object, including "spoils of war" should be avoided. It is also important to remember that there were very few “Chiefs” and “War Leaders” and lots of Indians. As such, the portrayal of the everyday, common, plain Indian is what is most appropriate unless specifically requested to do otherwise. Remember, even the “Chiefs” and “War Leaders” only wore their highly decorated “finery” to major occasions such as treaty signings, major parlays, etc.

B. Native Male Guidelines

- 1. Trade Shirt:** Trade shirts should be made of white, natural, or checked linen, whether window pane or square. Neck and wrist ruffles are acceptable. Shirts should reach to approximately mid-thigh, though there are texts and examples that suggest longer shirts are appropriate as well. Following tradition, use red ochre or vermilion to "paint" the shoulders of the shirt. Cotton became available in the Indian trade towards the mid 1750s but mostly in the form of what was called "Indian Calicoe," which tended to be unprinted until the 1770's. This should only be used on a very limited basis and only after investing in your basic kit. 19th century and modern calicoes are not appropriate for this time period. Sometimes calicoes were block printed with designs, but were not woven-in as in the 19th century. Of course, if one has the body and skin coloring for it, going shirtless is a good alternative, especially in battle scenarios.
- 2. Leggings:** SE native men wore navy or red wool side seam leggings, with or without some simple silk ribbon decoration. Other colors of wool were available, most notably white and green, but navy/red seems to be most common. Brain-tanned buckskin leggings are also acceptable, but are most appropriate for everyday/hunting/battle scenarios, and are also considerably more expensive and difficult to make. There is no clear documentation on the use of center seam leggings in the 18th century. Therefore, center-seam leggings are not permitted.
- 3. Breechcloth:** At its most basic, the breechcloth is a 10-16" wide strip of wool cloth, the width of the bolt -- usually 54-60" long. It may be lined with cotton or linen if desired. The 'clout should reach to about mid-thigh and be wide enough to cover what's necessary for modern decency (under a shirt). Red and blue are common colors. Saved list Stroud is very appropriate for 'clouts. 1" wide silk ribbon may be used to decorate it. The 'clout may be held up by a belt, silk scarf, leather, or a simple strip of wool tied around the hips.
- 4. Belt/Sash:** Leather belts with period buckles were traded to native people. Native women wove sashes from wool yarn, using an oblique weave and often two colors of wool, with white beads to create the color pattern. Finger woven sashes are acceptable. No other weave style (Inkle, card, etc.) is documentable to native wear in the SE and therefore should be avoided.
- 5. Leg Garters/Ties:** Like sashes, these can vary from a simple strip of wool cloth, wool tape, or leather to expensive finger woven and woven bead articles. Wampum and beaded leather garters were not common in the South. No other weave style (Inkle, card, etc.) is documentable to native wear in the SE and therefore should be avoided.

6. **Footwear:** Center seam pucker-toe deerskin or elk skin moccasins are most appropriate, though shoes appear on gift and trade lists. Barefoot is also completely appropriate year-round, especially in the summer when it's comfortable. Brain tanned deer hide is a first choice, but commercially tanned (especially German tan) deer and elk hide can make excellent moccasins. It would appear that, although elk is thicker than deerskin, the deerskin does tend to wear a bit better. Buffalo was also available to SE natives in limited quantities, and wears like iron, but it is very difficult to pucker due to the thickness of the leather so it is not recommended. If using shoes, purchase a mid 18th c. shoe and either use buckles or lace them up.
7. **Outerwear:** Items such as blankets, cloth wraps/mantles known as matchcoats, simple woolen jackets, and even full dress coats were traded or given to native people. The most common of these was the matchcoat. *There is no documentation for natives wearing waistcoats alone. As such, they are HIGHLY discouraged.*
8. **Matchcoat:** The simplest outerwear used by almost all native people was a blanket or matchcoat. A matchcoat was made with a full-width piece of Stroud or duffel, but modern equivalents can be used to make matchcoats today. Matchcoats tended to be 54 to 72 inches long and 54 to 60 inches wide. Their edges may be bound with silk ribbon. Wool colors most common were dark blue, red, and black, in that order. Ribbon/tape appeared in many different colors, but yellow, gold, red, green, and blue seem to be the most common.
9. **Hair:** Hair style varies by cultural group and age. Period accounts suggest that young men had very specific hairstyles that were shaved on the sides, leaving a scalp lock or hair on just the top of the head. Older men may have worn their hair longer. There are also accounts of "bowl-cuts." Not all modern lifestyles allow for correct hair. Some alternatives include slicking the hair back to darken it and make it look more period, or the whole head may be shaved for the use of a prosthetic (glue-on) scalp lock. Hair decoration may consist of feathers tied in the hair, tubes made of river cane slipped on a lock of hair, finger woven hair fobs, and other feather/fur decorative items. Long porcupine and deer-hair Plains-style roaches and war bonnets are not documented in the South in this period, and are not acceptable. Likewise, small deer and porcupine hair roaches are not documentable to the mid-18th century and should not be worn. If a roach is worn, it should be of red deer hair only.
10. **Headwear:** Many early to mid century accounts state that native people went bareheaded all the time, but by the mid-18th century, it is clear that native people in the SE started wearing some sort of cloth on their heads, often called a "turban". It is not clear when this began or became widespread, but the use of a turban or head cloth is acceptable. Use a solid colored silk or wool scarf, though cotton or linen may be substituted, as may

documentable patterns. Also appearing on some trade and gift lists on occasion are tricorn "laced" hats. It appears these were worn as traded. Fewer of these uncommon items are better, but may be appropriate sometimes.

11. Jewelry:

- a. **Ear Decoration:** Ear splitting is probably not a good solution for most people, but earrings of the closed-bottom ball and cone type are very common in 18th century archaeological sites. Many early examples are shorter and wider than modern reproductions. The "wheel" type earring is a late century item and should not be worn for this time period. **Bed**
- b. **Necklaces:** Strands of beads, documentable to the period, are common for dress wear. "Pound" beads (approx 6/0 or 8/0) in white, dark blue, light blue, red, and black were common, though other colors show up as well. Also mentioned on period trade lists are "barleycorn" beads (red, blue, black and white) and wampum. Strands of beads are inexpensive additions to an outfit although it should be remembered that they would not likely wear many on a day-to-day basis (or in a war scenario).
- c. **Bracelets:** Brass welding rods bent into wrist bracelets are a very cheap method of dressing up. Round silver ring brooches are inexpensive, and were often used as "change" in trades.
- d. **Rings:** Another item that appears regularly on period trade lists are rings. The lists regularly include brass rings, silver rings, brass-mounted stone rings and silver-mounted stone rings.
- e. **Miscellaneous Jewelry:** Other silver items such as gorgets, pins, arm and wrist bands, etc. are high cost items that should be carefully researched and generally only worn for "formal" occasions.

12. **Tattoos:** Tattoos are a personal decision, but were very common. Tattoos of the period were blue-black or black and generally involved lines, geometric shapes, or stylized animal figures. Modern tattoos must be covered by period clothing or paint.

13. **Paint:** Like other eastern native groups, the colors most often used for body paint by the Cherokee were red and black. Colors such as green, yellow, and blue are also occasionally noted. Patterns are your personal preference, but should be based on period images if possible. Paint is encouraged for battle scenarios in particular.

C. Native Female Guidelines

1. **Trade Shirt or Shift/Chemise:** Trade shirts or shifts/chemises should be made with white, natural, or checked linen, whether window pane or square. Neck and wrist ruffles are acceptable. Shirts should reach to approximately mid-thigh. There is no indication in the historical record that women painted their shirts; this seems only to have been done by men. Cotton

became available in the Indian trade towards the mid 1750s but mostly in the form of what was called “Indian Calicoe,” which tended to be unprinted until the 1770’s. Indian Calicoe should only be used on a very limited basis. 19th century and modern calicoes are not appropriate for this time period. Sometimes calicoes were block printed with designs, but were not woven-in as in the 19th century.

2. **Wool Wrap Skirt:** Original native wrap skirts were of native manufacture, created from Stroud that was traded by the yard. Though other colors may have been available, the most common were red or blue. Red should be fairly bright, blue is usually a navy blue, as it is indigo dyed. Look for a light- to medium-weight wool, like broadcloth, as it is commonly available from places like 96 District Storehouse or Burnley and Trowbridge. When worn, the skirt should be no longer than knee length with a good fold (at least 4” for security) over the top. In summer, period accounts suggest that the skirt could be worn quite short; as high as mid-thigh. A skirt should wrap around the body one and a half times and be secured around the waist with a strap, leather thong or small buckle belt, with the extra folded over. Edges may be bound or decorated with one or more rows of silk ribbon, worsted tape, ferreting, or similar material around the bottom and visible outside edge. Silk ribbon occurs most often on trade and gift lists, but wool tape/ferreting appears every once in awhile. Period pictures of native women show the length of their skirt to be from knee-length to a couple of inches above (unlike modern powwow custom).
3. **Wool Leggings:** Wool leggings are a good choice for winter wear, but not required in summer. They should be made using side-seam construction. Color choices include red or blue. Leggings should reach between a hand’ width above the knee to mid-thigh (unlike modern women’s powwow leggings) and be sewn to fit snugly against the leg; allow at least a three-inch flap on the sides. There is not any documentation for how to hold women’s leggings up; the method is covered by the skirt in period paintings. It’s probably easiest to use the same method as men’s, but that requires a waist belt or tie under the skirt. Simply tying them above the knee probably works just as well. Leggings can be left plain or decorated with silk ribbon, wool tape, or beading. The decoration runs down the flaps and around the bottom. Binding the edge with a contrasting color ribbon looks nice too.
4. **Belts and Finger Woven Sashes:** These do not seem to have been generally used by women and should be avoided.
5. **Leg Garters/Ties:** Like men’s, these can vary from a simple strip of wool cloth or leather to expensive finger woven articles. Wampum and beaded leather garters were not common in the South. There is little to no documentation to indicate that Inkle Loomed or Card-woven garters were ever traded to native people by the whites so these should be avoided.

6. **Footwear:** Center seam pucker-toe deerskin or elk skin moccasins are most appropriate, though shoes appear on gift and trade lists. Barefoot is also completely appropriate year-round, especially in the summer when it's comfortable. Brain tanned deer hide is a first choice, but commercially tanned (German tan) deer or elk hide can make excellent moccasins. It would appear that, although elk is thicker than deerskin, the deerskin does tend to wear a bit better. Buffalo was also available to SE natives in limited quantities, and wears like iron, but it is very difficult to pucker due to the thickness of the leather so it is not recommended. If using shoes, purchase a mid-18th c. shoe and either use buckles or lace them up.
7. **Outerwear:** Items such as blankets, cloth wraps/mantles known as matchcoats, and even full dress coats were traded or given to native people. The most common of these was the matchcoat.
8. **Matchcoat:** The simplest outerwear used by almost all native people was a blanket or matchcoat. A matchcoat was made with a full-width piece of Stroud or duffel, but modern equivalents can be used to make matchcoats today. Matchcoats tended to be 54 to 72 inches long and 54 to 60 inches wide. Their edges may be bound with silk ribbon. Wool colors most common were dark blue, red, and black, in that order. Ribbon/tape appeared in many different colors, but yellow, gold, red, green, and blue seem to be the most common.
9. **Bed Gowns:** Bed gowns are an optional garment that appears occasionally on trade lists. This loose fitting garment was cut in a "T" shape, with the sleeves and body in one piece with straight side seams. It was often secured by a tie at the chest. Plain or striped linen or light-weight wool is best.
10. **Stockings:** Worsted stockings may be used in place of leggings, but were rare on trade/gift lists. As such, they should be a rare exception to leggings in the camp.
11. **Hair:** Women wore their hair long, parted in the middle, pulled back and clubbed. The club can be wrapped with silk ribbon, fabric tape or a small thong of soft deer hide. For formal occasions, silver hair plates or other decoration is appropriate. A hair dressing is recommended to keep the hair smooth and looking well-kept. Bear grease is totally period correct, but modern stuff can work too. It also helps to darken hair, which should appear as close to black/ very dark brown as possible.
12. **Jewelry:**
 - a. **Ear Decoration:** Earrings of the closed-bottom ball and cone type are very common in 18th century archaeological sites. Many early examples are shorter and wider than modern reproductions. The "wheel" type earring is a late century item and should not be worn for this time period.

- b. **Necklaces:** Strands of beads, documentable to the period, are common for dress wear. "Pound" beads (approx 6/0 or 8/0) in white, dark blue, light blue, red, and black were common, though other colors show up as well. Also mentioned on period trade lists are "barleycorn" beads (red, blue, black and white) and wampum. Strands of beads are inexpensive additions to an outfit although it should be remembered that they would not likely wear many on a day-to day basis. Necklaces of colored glass, pearls, red agates, and white agates are occasionally found on trade lists.
 - c. **Bracelets:** Brass welding rods bent into wrist bracelets are a very cheap method of dressing up. Round silver ring brooches are inexpensive, and were often used as "change" in trades.
 - d. **Rings:** Another item that appears regularly on period trade lists are rings. The lists regularly include brass rings, silver rings, brass-mounted stone rings and silver-mounted stone rings.
 - e. **Nose Rings:** Apart from one reference that indicates both Catawba men and women wore nose rings, there is little or no reference in general to women wearing them in the south. Therefore, nose rings are acceptable for female Catawba impressions, but not for any other.
 - f. **Miscellaneous Jewelry:** Other silver items such as pins, arm and wrist bands, etc. are high cost items that should be carefully researched and generally only worn for "formal" occasions.
13. **Paint:** Red paint should be applied only to the part of the hair around the edge of the forehead. Sometimes a red spot was painted on each cheek as well.
14. **Tattoos:** Tattoos are a personal decision, but were very common. Tattoos of the period were blue-black or black and generally involved lines, geometric shapes, or stylized animal figures. Modern tattoos must be covered by period clothing or paint.
15. **Things to avoid: Belt and Neck Knives:** Make a simple sheath and keep the knife in a work basket. There is no clear documentation as to how women carried knives.

D. General Material Culture Guidelines for Native Impressions

In selecting what equipment to bring to a reenactment, it is important to consider what the native camp represents. Is it the camp of a fast-moving war party; an established hunting camp; or a native village? This is not an individual decision but should be based upon the scenario of the reenactment. It makes little sense to the public for the majority of the native camp to reflect a war party's camp and one native's camp to look like they must have a pack-train the size of a colonial army in order to move their equipment. Even if natives were mounted, unless they were moving to and from their hunting camps, returning from raids, or going to a major "Indian Congress" with the whites, there is little evidence that the common native used many (if any) packhorses during this

period. Once again, keep it “simple, common, everyday, and in line with the event scenario”. Remember, that a convoluted excuse or rationale for using an object, including "spoils of war" should be avoided.

- 1. Fire Starting Kit:** A fire starting kit should include flint, steel, tinder, and something to transport it in such as a leather bag.
- 2. Kettle(s):** Tin or brass kettles of various sizes appear on trade lists. Kettles made of cast iron, “corn boilers” and “muckets” should be avoided as they do not appear on trade/gift lists of the period.
- 3. Personal Eating Utensils:** Bowls, plates, spoons or trenchers made of wood, tin, or period pottery are acceptable. Bring a knife to prepare food or to eat with. Note that forks were not a native implement and do not appear very often on trade/gift lists. A drinking vessel or noggin made of wood, period pottery, tin, pewter, copper or brass is acceptable.
- 4. Canteen, Jug, or Water Gourd:** While many accounts suggest that water was not carried, modern requirements win out in this case. Period bottles are more fragile, but acceptable, as are small kegs for group water storage. A large water gourd can be shared by an entire camp, and is relatively easy to make, if a little fragile to transport.
- 5. Ad-Hoc Cooking Utensils:** Natives made use of stone and other natural items to assist in food preparation. Cooking stones, river cane skewers for meat, wooden tripods for using over the fire, etc. are all important to make a camp look lived in. Note that for almost all scenarios at a reenactment, wrought iron tripods/fire sets are not appropriate. They are heavy and bulky and not something that natives carried with them for any sort of mobile camp. Also they just do not appear on the trade/gift lists of the period! Learn how to lash together 3 saplings to form a tripod.
- 6. Packs and Bedding:** The most basic pack method is a bed/blanket roll and tumpline. Twined pack bags are also very well documented. For permanent camps, baskets and large gourd containers are good options.
- 7. Blanket:** Blankets should be made with 100% wool only. White with blue or red end stripes were common, as well as with stripes running the width of the entire blanket. Blue is acceptable, as is red and various “natural” white or grey shades.
- 8. Sleeping Hide(s):** Buffalo, bear, elk and deer hides make excellent sleeping hides.
- 9. Storage and Carrying Devices:** Baskets of elm bark or cane, large pottery, gourds, and open-twined or leather bags were common for storing food and

other goods. Period glass and ceramic bottles are acceptable for liquid storage.

- 10. Tumpline (Burden Strap):** Twined tumplines, burden straps or hoppus were commonly used by natives. Leather straps with either cordage or leather ties appear in collections and accounts from the period.
- 11. Ground Cloth/Shelter:** Period accounts indicate that native war parties did not carry shelters with them but instead used overhanging rocks for shelters, constructed shelters from brush/bark, or just slept out in the open rolled up in their blankets around the fire. Brush shelters are encouraged at Fort Dobbs. Hides, blankets, period tarps, or canvas may also be draped over sticks as part of a lean-to. Actual canvas tents are not appropriate for native portrayals at Fort Dobbs.
- 12. Sewing Kit:** Needles, thread, scissors, awls, leather, various materials, etc.
- 13. Mirror, Comb, Paint Kit**
- 14. Period Pipe and Tobacco:** (No modern cigarettes or cigars, please.) Clay European pipes are common in the archaeological record. Native produced pipes were commonly of black pipestone or soapstone. Red stone bowls should be avoided as they appear infrequently in the SE archaeological record.
- 15. Period Gaming Pieces:** Gambling sticks or “peach pits & bowl” can help to pass time for non-war party scenarios. Sticks for playing “*anetsa*” the Cherokee word for the ball game are good for interpretive purposes as well as to get up a game if enough natives bring their sticks. “Double Ball” is another option which allows for women to be in the game.
- 16. Eyewear:** There are very few documented instances of SE native people acquiring eyeglasses during this period. Please wear contacts or do without. No modern eyeglasses are permitted.
- 17. Gun:** The trade gun produced for the deerskin trade was the most common gun used by natives. Without getting into a lot of detail, the .58-.62 caliber English and French smoothbore trade guns had beech or less commonly walnut stocks and either brass (English and French) or iron fittings (French only). They are an excellent choice for a native portrayal. Rifled guns show up in some accounts, but were not very common. Military issued French and British muskets of a pattern pre-1760 are acceptable, but not encouraged.
- 18. Bow and Accoutrements:** Archery was still alive among native people during this time, but it is difficult to use a bow in a battle reenactment.

- 19. Knives:** The "scalping knife" was the most common knife on trade lists. This would have been a simple belt or neck knife with a half tang and a wooden handle, in what was commonly called "French" or "British" style blades. The sheath for a belt knife can be very simple, consisting of deer hide lined with rawhide. Knives may be worn on the neck or belt. Quillwork decorated sheaths are not appropriate for SE portrayals. Folding knives with brass and bone or horn handles, along with wooden handled "penny" knives show up regularly on trade lists, and are handy to have in a shooting bag.
- 20. Axes:** The round poll "tomahawk" and pipe hawk are most commonly found, though spike hawks appear in some images and descriptions. For safety reasons, a simple blade cover is encouraged before tucking it in a belt or sash. Larger felling axes are appropriate for using to collect firewood.
- 21. Shooting Bag:** There are many types of shooting bags but few surviving examples. Otter hide bags appear frequently in descriptions of SE Indians. Simple brain tan deer hide bags, woven bead bags, and finger woven bags (oblique, not chevron!) are all acceptable options. The straps can be made with a piece of wool tape, finger woven, leather, or woven beads. Quillwork is not acceptable for a SE portrayal.
- 22. Horn:** Even though cartridges are required during battle reenactments, a horn is a necessity. Simple deerskin straps are encouraged, but twined or finger woven and woven bead straps are appropriate as well.
- 23. Craft-Related Items:** There is much more to 18th century native life than warfare. Tools and materials to use for making native goods are a great idea; please think of the context of the event when deciding what to bring or work with. Examples include period finger weaving and twining; basket weaving/making; native pottery making; hide tanning; bone tool making; flint knapping; bowmaking; arrowsmithing; etc. Please keep in mind to use period tools/materials/methods appropriate for natives when demonstrating these skills for the public. It is really a good idea to develop at least one native skill/craft to demonstrate at appropriate reenactments as this helps to more fully engage the public as well as make the event more exciting.
- 24. Modern Items:** Please store medications, shaving kits, personal hygiene items, etc., in period containers whenever possible.

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Appendices

A. The Provincial Soldier

The full time soldiers who constructed and garrisoned Fort Dobbs voluntarily enlisted to serve their province. As was often the case in the regular army, provincials generally came from the lower order of society; men who joined the service more through economic hardship than from a sense of patriotism. Each spring, the North Carolina assembly, following a request from the governor, would vote a certain amount of money to raise and maintain a certain number of soldiers; however many were felt to be necessary for that year's campaign. Companies would be filled and sent to their posts in the spring, with the enlistments of most men expiring by winter.

During the war, NC provincials were not only guarding forts on their own colony's western and eastern borders, but also serving in campaigns as far afield as Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Often underpaid and poorly supplied, the provincials were not considered to be the best soldiers, yet the service of thousands of such men made possible England's victory in North America.

B. The Militia/Male Colonists

Part 1: Historical Background

The militia of North Carolina was in a very poor state at the beginning of the war in 1754. This was one of the reasons the colony raised provincial soldiers. Matthew Rowan, as acting governor, admitted, "Our militia had been very much neglected." In fact the most current militia law was from 1746! The most exposed counties were Rowan and Anson in the West. Matthew Rowan praised the populations of those counties as, "brave Industrious people[.] Their Militia amounts to upwards of three thousand Men and [is] increasing fast." However the effective numbers were considerably less. When the militia was actually counted, it amounted to fewer than 1000 men.

Additionally, the men were poorly equipped. Governor Dobbs reported to his superiors that, "There is not half of the Militia armed." Even in the middle of the war, an officer from Granville county related how members, "of the Company Appear'd without any Arms...." Eventually he was able to make "them Appear, as well Arm'd as the Poverty of the Country will Admit off." Poverty seems to have been a major obstacle to men equipping themselves for militia service. Rowan admitted that he would need "£1,000 to buy arms and ammunition for the poorer Inhabitants of Rowan & Anson Countys."

As the war continued, militia men seem to be better equipped. Dobbs received a shipment of 1000 Dutch made muskets, bayonets, cartridge boxes, scabbards, frogs and belts in 1755. He "sent 150 to the western Frontier to arm the militia of two counties there," but admitted that after that he would need at least 2000 more muskets to fully supply the militia.

The militia law ordered each man to appear with, “a Gun, fit for service, a Cartouch Box, and a Sword, Cutlass, or Hanger, and at least Twelve Charges of Powder and Ball or Swan Shot, and Six Spare Flints.” With this the citizens of the colony would be prepared, in theory, to repel an invasion or attack. They were required to muster by companies a couple times a year to train, learn the manual of arms and practice military drill. One such drill is disparagingly described by a Moravian in Bethabara in 1754:

On the morning of Oct. 30th Col. Schmidt rode through our yard, and without permission held Muster in our meadow, for his five companies. ... Capt. Guest was very considerate, he stopped and spoke to us only in passing, for fear others would follow him in, and gave orders to his company to stay out of our yard, but nearly all the rest rode right through. The noise and shooting frightened our horses badly, and the four new horses broke away into the woods. ... In general the people behaved better than is usual on such occasions, though this does not apply to Capt. Hampy and his men. During dinner they passed through our yard and we asked that the beating of the drums cease because it frightened our horses and made them tear around the wagons, etc. They not only refused our request, but began shooting in addition. Capt. Hampy did not know the road through our farm, and when we offered to show it to him replied that he would ride where he pleased and make a way through our fences. After the Muster the men were so full of whiskey that they fought each other until they were covered with blood. However, through all the tumult, we safely continued our work. We hope the soldiers will hereafter find another place for Muster, and not use our land.

This shows the rowdy nature of most militia musters and also indicates that the militia of North Carolina used drums to beat for commands, like most military formations.

The militia's service was consistent if not glorious. With news of the defeat of General Edward Braddock's army in Pennsylvania, the frontier from Virginia to North Carolina braced for possible attacks. Dobbs “gave directions to put the frontier in the best State of Defense against the Indian incursions, by having 100 select men in Readiness to joyn our Frontier Company.” These select 100 were from Anson and Rowan counties and were “piquet to be chosen out of the most active men of the Militia...with a chosen officer at their head of fifty men each.” These select militia men were given, “a central place of rendezvous to be fixed for each to the northward and southward of our Frontier Company, to be under Captain Waddell's command, to join him when necessary or for him to march to assist them in case of any incursion.” Captain Waddell was stationed at the site of what would become Fort Dobbs.

Militia troops continued to act in this capacity and were even sent out to attack a band of thieves at one point. During the Cherokee War they acted under the command of provincial officers like Waddell, and scouted their territory when news of Indian movements or attacks surfaced. Indian raiding parties struck the backcountry settlements and occasionally the militia was actually able to fight them. One account tells that a,

“gang of Cherokees killed several of the settlers on the Catawba River,” and added that a party of militia engaged, killed and scalped the Cherokee and recovered several white scalps.

War seems to have taken its toll on the backcountry and by 1761 it was reported that, “The Country is greatly exhausted, and the most of the Back Settlements deserted, which a Peace will soon resettle.” The militia of North Carolina served its communities admirably, however they refused to serve anywhere but in their area. The service of the militia is an important part of the French and Indian War in North Carolina

Part 2: Material Culture

Militia members wore their civilian clothing and therefore a wide variety of garb was seen in a militia company. Generally, the clothing of the laboring class is a good road to follow when developing a militia impression. There are a few descriptions of civilians from the French and Indian War period that give some details of dress worn by the people living in this part of North Carolina.

August 29, 1754

RUN away on the third of May last, from Capt. Robert Harris, of Rocky river, in Anson county, North Carolina, two Dutch servants, viz. a man and his wife; the man named Hermanus Haggan, about 30 years of age, of a low stature, with black hair: Had on, an old hat, blue coat, brown jacket, with brass buttons, and square toed shoes; and had a bag on his back, of a large bulk. The woman named Catherina, in a Dutch dress, with a damask petticoat, and a brown one, can speak some English, and have a little white dog with them.

In addition there are some descriptions of men who left North Carolina, but still speak to common clothing elements:

Philadelphia, Nov. 26, 1760.

LAST Night, about Twelve o'Clock, was stolen from the Subscriber, out of the Stable of Leonard Melchior, of this City, Innholder, an Iron Roan Stallion, about fifteen Hands high, branded on the near Buttock I H, about 8 Years old. The Fellow who stole him is a German, and calls himself Francis, pretends to speak twelve Languages, and says he was obliged to leave his Habitation in North Carolina on Account of the Indian War, He is about 20 Years of Age, a short fat well set Fellow, and is flush of Money. Had on a brown Cloth Coat, pretty much worn, a Pair of Boots, Leather Breeches, and an old Hat. He also stole from the Subscriber, a whitish Great coat, Horse whip, and a Pocket book, with about Five Pounds in Money in it.

Some things that frequently come up in working class clothing are jackets and trousers. Short length jackets were practical working wear for a man in the 18th century and imagery showing men working in such garments is common, particularly those in

agricultural and nautical occupations. In addition, the leg wear of choice for working men seem to be leather breeches and trousers. Leather is an obvious choice because it wears well, and trousers cover breeches and protect the garments while allowing a full range of motion for the legs. Trousers seem to have been common in this part of North Carolina.

Clothing that was fitted and made for the wearer would have been common in 1750's North Carolina. Rowan County had ten tailors working in 1759, making almost exclusively clothing for men. The Moravians had tailors and they made clothing for outsiders and those within the United Brethren. Clothing was not difficult to find in Western North Carolina. Cloth was imported from Europe and sold by merchants in Salisbury and fabric was also made in the county itself.

Part 3. Weapons

The weapons used by militia men were many and varied. Militia law stated that a man should have a serviceable gun, but it was clear that many did not. Militia men may have used weapons from previous military engagements and by 1755, a number of Dutch military muskets and bayonets were issued by the crown. In addition, men may have carried civilian fowling pieces and rifles. Edged weapons were likely carried as the militia law required swords, hangers, or cutlasses. Descriptions of scalping by militia soldiers likely indicate the use of knives as well.

By 1756, Rowan County contained roughly 1160 men by the Governor's estimate. By 1759, the county had only two gunsmiths. With this being said, it appears that those who had weapons owned older models. Militia men generally were not issued top shelf arms (as indicated by 1730's Dutch muskets issued,) so when choosing a weapon, older is better. Keep in mind that many North Carolinians emigrated from Pennsylvania, so military weapons would likely have been from early in the century and rifles would have been of an early variety, produced by Pennsylvania gunsmiths, and bearing more Germanic features than the later "long rifle."

The militia law specified that militia men must carry a cartridge box. The type of box likely varied depending on what the soldiers had available. It is very likely that militia men also carried ammunition in the typical shot bag and powder horn. The type of knapsacks, haversacks, etc. that a militia man carried is unknown. Militia men were called to muster only a few times a year and then only for the day. They probably did not carry these items regularly. As the war progressed, militia men may have carried blankets and food.

C. Female Colonists

While the primary focus of interpretation at Fort Dobbs State Historic Site is the fort and the soldiers who garrisoned it, the role of civilians in the area is an integral part of the story of North Carolina's experience in the French and Indian War. These guidelines are intended to aid female living historians in developing an accurate portrayal to use at the historic site.

Women were present at Fort Dobbs in one of three main capacities during the 1750's. First, they were visible as vendors coming to the fort to sell goods to the troops, such as butter, eggs, and seasonal produce. Second, they were visible as refugees seeking shelter from Indian raids. Finally, they were visible as wives of garrison members. It should be noted that most women in these circumstances belonged to the middling or lower classes. The local women bartering goods or seeking shelter were predominately Scots-Irish Presbyterians or to a lesser extent, German Lutherans. Their homes were likely within thirty miles of the fort itself and were part of the scattered settlements that followed the tributaries of the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers. Most families in the region were farmers, although there were shop, tavern keepers and tradesmen, such as tailors and millers, in the area.

It is unknown if the soldiers at Fort Dobbs had their wives with them, although it was a common practice in the British military as a whole. A surviving return of one company of North Carolinians serving in Pennsylvania in 1758 does show one woman on the strength. Depending on circumstances, there could be from one to eight women attached to a company of soldiers in the regular army. As most of the provincials were raised on the coast of the colony, it is likely that any wives were from the same region, perhaps living in such towns as Beaufort, Wilmington, Brunswick, Edenton, or New Bern.

Women living with the garrison were required to be married to a garrison member and had to answer at roll calls. They also typically received one-half a man's ration of food for being part of the unit. The most important function the women served was laundering, and they received pay from the garrison for their services. Although camp followers are often portrayed in a less-than-flattering light, prostitution would be VERY unlikely at a small post like Fort Dobbs.

D. Native Americans

The primary tribes involved in the French and Indian War in western North Carolina included the Catawbas and Cherokees. Both of these groups were allies of England early in the war (though traditional enemies of each other) and sent their warriors through the Yadkin Valley on several occasions while on their way to fight in Virginia or Pennsylvania. By 1759, relations between the Cherokees and the English broke down and eventually led to open warfare, with Fort Dobbs being attacked at least once in 1760. During the course of the war, Mohawks, Tuscaroras, Creeks, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Shawnees also fought in the Carolinas and Virginia. Any of these portrayals are appropriate for events at Fort Dobbs, but Catawba and Cherokee impressions are highly encouraged.