



Living History Guild

January 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

Moores Creek National Battlefield

Inside this issue:

Hurricane Impacts	1
Third Saturdays	1
Garden Update	2
Demo Area Facelift	2
Anniversary Update	2
Upcoming Events	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
New Park Cannon	4

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Flooding from Hurricane Matthew severely impacts the park and the surrounding community.
- ◆ Demonstration area receives a facelift after recovering from flooding.
- ◆ 241st Anniversary set for February 25—26, 2017.
- ◆ VIP Spotlight highlights accomplishments of young volunteers.
- ◆ Park receives new cannon.

Flooding From Hurricane Matthew Impacts Park



Water levels surpassed those of Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Hurricane Matthew made landfall on October 8, 2016 with a lot of wind but not much else. Most of the rain fell inland, dumping over 15 inches in many areas to the north and west of the park. Unfortunately, that water had to go somewhere, and somewhere was anywhere downstream.

Nearly two weeks after Hurricane Matthew left the area, Moores Creek National Battlefield and the community to the west of the park received historic flooding not seen since Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Three-quarters of the park was flooded. Five of the six

monuments were partially or completely underwater. The battlefield sat submerged below nearly eight feet of water. Patriots Hall received nearly three feet of water and nearly all contents were lost.

This hurricane and eventual flooding led to the closure of the park for nearly four weeks and forced the park to cancel October's Third Saturday Living History Program and November's Annual Candlelight Tour Program. The park is still dealing with impacts and it may take months before the park is fully operational.



Five feet of water surrounded the base of the Grady Monument.

Third Saturdays at Moores Creek



Although October's Third Saturday event was cancelled, November's beautiful weather brought out many visitors to experience the craft and trades of Colonial North Carolina. Demonstrations included militia encampment and musket firing, blacksmithing, bread baking, colonial beverages, quill pen writing, and toys and games. This annual fall program continues to grow each year. Be sure to catch us next September—November. *Huzzah!*

Demonstration Area Receives a Facelift After Flooding

When you visit the park and walk around the demonstration area, you will notice changes all around. Four years ago when Superintendent Ricardo Perez first arrived, he had a vision to build a Living History demonstration area to help better tell the stories surrounding the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and the American Revolution. This vision led to several phases of tents, structures, gardens, and historical elements being introduced in the area. The visiting public has taken notice and has enjoyed seeing the demonstration area expansion and the programs that are flowing from them. Flooding from the hurricane severely impacted the area and led park management to assess the area to see how improvements could be made as we clean up.

Recent additions include a storage shed for the newly-acquired cannon which can double as a demonstration space;



a woodworking demonstration area, complete with hewn logs, to be used to demonstrate various woodworking trades; an updated/expanded garden with plans for new plants; and various fly tents to better represent a shelter than the previous wooden stalls.

This year's plans include completing the blacksmith shop, reconstructing a hearth oven/fireplace complete with beehive oven, a militia encampment area complete with tents, and adding interpretive elements to set the scene such as barrels and wooden boxes.

This demonstration area is important to the success of future programming in the park and helps the park meet the NPS Centennial Goal of connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. These interpretive and educational programs serve to both teach others about this area's historical past and to inspire new generations to learn these trades and traditions and carry them on.

Colonial Garden Project

The Colonial Garden is getting an update/expansion. After the flooding washed away much of its contents, it was time to update the garden and give it elements that better reflect Colonial North Carolina. It will take time to get the right plants in the ground and to get other garden elements to better reflect the time period, but we have a start.

The Colonial Garden Project allows living history volunteers to use the garden harvest in our historic foodways demonstrations.

Donations are welcome to support this project. Funding is needed for garden materials, tools, historic clothing for volunteers, and research.

Follow us on Facebook to see what's growing this coming Spring.

If you are interested in helping us to care for the garden, please contact our volunteer coordinator at (910) 283-5591 x2234.





Wreath Laying Ceremony Procession

241st Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

Join us Saturday and Sunday, February 25—26, 2017 from 10:00 am—4:00 pm as we host the 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge. Last year’s event saw 5,500 people attend the weekend festivities, which included over 130 Living Historians and musicians spread throughout the Patriot and Loyalist encampments, as well as the demonstration area and Patriots Hall. This year is sure to build on last year’s success.

This year’s event will kick off with the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Moores Creek Battleground Association. Afterwards, we will introduce a few new programs and activities. There will be an Interpretive Demonstration of the battle taking place once each day. This activity is not a reenactment, but in a similar way will help to visually portray the events that occurred here during the battle. Afterwards, a memorial flag ceremony will take place to honor those lives sacrificed in the name of freedom and independence. Also taking place throughout the weekend are day-long Patriot musket demonstrations. Groups will man the demonstration station and offer musket programs and talks to the public every 15 minutes throughout the day. This will allow for a more intimate experience for the visitor. The Loyalists will provide their program twice daily.

To stay up to date on the details of the event, please stay tuned to our Facebook page and website as we begin revealing more details about the Anniversary weekend.

Support Moores Creek’s Interpretive Programs

YES, you can make a difference in your National Park. Some give of their time, skill, and/or knowledge. If you do not have time to volunteer, the knowledge to teach others, or the skill to demonstrate a time-honored craft, you can still make a difference through donations.

Here is a sample of what your donation could provide:

- \$10 -Plants for the garden
- \$25 -Musket Accessories
- \$50 -Hammer or Tongs
- \$75 -Tri-corn Hat
- \$100 -Trousers or Breeches

Your contributions can go towards outfitting a volunteer or enhancing interpretive programs.

Please send your donations to:

Moores Creek Battleground Association
Attn: Living History Guild
40 Patriots Hall Dr.
Currie, NC 28435

The Association and your National Park appreciate your support for these and future programs.



Mr. MacDonald tends to his chicken.



Upcoming Events

- February 25—26: 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge
- April 15: Jr. Ranger Day
- September 16: Third Saturday Living History Program
- October 21: Third Saturday Living History Program
- November 18: Third Saturday Living History Program
- November 18: Candlelight Tour Program

Moore's Creek Living History Guild

Moore's Creek National Battlefield
40 Patriots Hall Drive
Currie, North Carolina 28435

Phone: 910-283-5591
Fax: 910-283-5769
Email: MOCR_Interpretation@nps.gov



**Nathaniel Toering —
Volunteer Coordinator**

STORIES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

STORIES BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD



We're on the Web!

www.nps.gov/mocr

"Like" us on Facebook!

Volunteers-in-Parks Program Spotlight William Dezso

This quarter's VIP spotlight is on William Dezso, a member of the park's Wilmington District Minutemen Living History Group. Will has volunteered with the park for 1 year and has recently interned at the park to learn more about Visitor Center operations and interpretation. Will has a passion for history and it shows in his conversation with visitors. Put a musket in Will's hands and he makes history come to life. Will has also helped out in other areas of the park such as maintaining the park's Eastern National bookstore and drawing and painting signs for the park's demonstration area. We are looking forward to seeing Will grow as a Living Historian this year.



The battlefield's newest cannon, which is being housed in a new structure in the demonstration area.

Park Receives New Cannon for Historic Weapons Program

During the 240th Anniversary celebration, "old Mother Covington and her daughter" fired their last rounds. The reproduction carriage cannon and swivel gun were retired from the park's Historic Weapons Program after a lengthy career that included hundreds of demonstrations. Their age and deterioration led to the decision to retire them. However, they will remain on the battlefield as part of the cultural landscape.

The National Park Service invested in a new cannon for the park's Historic Weapons Program. It is our pleasure to introduce to you the Moore's Creek **British Light 6-Pounder (circa 1776)** courtesy of Steen Cannons of Ashland, Ky.

"The British Light 6-Pounder Gun is from the Treatise of Artillery 1780 by John Muller and the Course of Artillery by C. W. Rudyerd 1793. Originally cast in bronze but often seen in iron, this barrel was used during the American Revolution and the War of 1812." - excerpt from Steen Cannons (steencannons.com)

According to the pension records of Josiah Sykes, who served under Capt. DeVane of the Wilmington District Minutemen, there were at least "three brass pieces" and E.W. Caruthers, in 1854, alludes to the fact that eyewitness account puts at least two cannons along the Patriot earthworks. This new cannon will serve to better tell the stories of the battle.

The Moore's Creek Living History Guild is part of the Moore's Creek National Battlefield Volunteers-In-Parks Program. Membership is open to all who have an interest in sharing stories of the American Revolution and Beyond the Battlefield.