

Davidson's Fort Spring Muster
Richard Acrivos May 24, 2010



Davidson's Fort Historic Park, Inc. held its Spring Muster on May 22. The day started out with a short rain in the early morning. Gwen and Erin Spivey and Janet and Isaac Pyatt camped out on Friday night. The vegetable garden on the back of the fort enjoyed the short rain. Slowly more and more re-enactors arrived on site swelling their numbers to 40. Hank Taylor, Christie Cate and Van Taylor from McDowell

County React volunteered their time to park the cars in an orderly manner. Without their help it would have been a mess. Thank you! Joe Sam Queen was onsite educating visitors on the history of Rutherford's



Trace and how Davidson's Fort was critical in the winning the American Revolution. Throughout the day more and more visitors came. At 2pm the number was 167 people with more coming; by closing time we had counted over 200 visitors. We took a group portrait showing 34 re-enactors, the strongest showing since we started. Among the many re-enactors we were honored to have Ginger L. Bish, the Regent for the Greenlee Chapter of the

Daughters of the American Revolution. Re-enactment groups will be the backbone of Davidson's Fort; without their help we will not succeed. The Board of Directors want to thank all that came. The South Carolina Independent Rangers, the 1st Maryland Southern Campaign, the New Acquisition Militia, the South Fork Militia, and the Davidson's Fort Militia were among the groups represented. Sutlers and historical interpreters included Pyatt's Herbs and More, Jennifer Marquardt-Leach, Gwen Spivey, Cathy Wright, Chris and Roz Behre, Dragon Fly Traders, and Preston Tolbert. Captain John Moss of the SC Rangers performed firing demonstrations every



hour, while Robbie Gilbert of the Davidson's Fort Militia led marching drill demonstrations. Randy Knapp performed an impression of Capt Daniel Smith, the commander of Davidson's Fort for several years, and Albert Dale presented an impression of Col. Joseph McDowell.





Visitors enjoyed browsing the items that Sutlers had made, Jennifer Marquardt-Leach sold corn meal and grits from Murray's Mill Historic Site in Catawba, NC, made the same way it was in the 1700s. Preston Tolbert sold handmade pottery, and



visitors watched as he created cups and bowls on his authentic treadle potter's wheel. Dennis and Lorraine Voelker from Spruce Pine had a fine selection of authentic goods and Gwen Spivy and Janet Pyatt instructed all on herbs. Chris and Roz Behre produced wood products while Cathy Wright showed everyone how our forefathers prepared meals in the 1700s. Jessica Gibbs (97) came out and visited everyone; Alyssa Combs made a perfect throw and buried the tomahawk into the target. The Rail restaurant provided Bar-B-Q, hotdogs, and hamburgers for the public, and Davidson's Fort Historic Park, Inc. provided the evening meal to the re-enactors. The board would like to thank Todd's Fish camp for donating the coleslaw and Catawba Falls Campground for food. Janet Pyatt was instrumental in the organization of the Muster. Mark Hall and Joe Williams greeted every visitor and answered questions about all the artifacts that were displayed in the Welcome Center.

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