

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE HISTORICAL REFERENCE ON  
GOUDY'S TRADING POST AND FORT NINETY SIX

Whenever man sets foot on a site he frequently leaves evidence of his having been there. If an historical reference mentions the fact that activity such as a trading post took place on a site, we might expect that some lost or discarded items might be found there. If an army encamped for as little time as a day on a site we might expect that bones discarded from meals, buttons accidentally popped from uniforms, and buckles broken or lost might possibly be found on the site. If the First Regiment occupied a spot for awhile, it is conceivable that a First Regiment button might be found, provided that particular First Regiment had identifying buttons. However, such clues are so anchored in chance happenings, that it is not often that an archeologist intentionally begins excavation to recover objects from a site unless he has more concrete evidence to go on than the hope of finding a button lost by chance. Excavations are normally undertaken on sites with a view to the location of architectural features such as cellars, fortification ditches, ditches for stockades, foundations of structures, etc. as a first step, with the recovery of artifacts that are subject to analysis and interpretation coming from the various architectural features. In other words, if a document reveals that an army encamped for a night on a site, the archeologist is not likely to undertake to discover clues of this encampment as quickly as he would if the reference stated that the army not only encamped, but also entrenched for protection from possible attack, or dug a latrine, or erected

a palisade. Such references to below ground activity are of particular interest to the archeologist for he knows that he can, through the methods of archeology, relocate the exact position of the trenches for the entrenchment and the ditch for the latrine or palisade. With these features located he knows that objects dating from the period of their use may be found. To the historian a reference that a well was being dug inside a fort might be of significance in illustrating the importance of water and proper supplies to allow a garrison to withstand a siege, but an archeologist reading the same reference is immediately struck by an image of a deep hole into the subsoil which can be located hundreds or thousands of years after it was dug, and the finding of the well could supply the information as to its exact relationship to ditches and cellar holes that are other clues to the specific fort mentioned in the document. The documents relating to Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six contain a number of these red-flag clues of value to the archeologist, and these are outlined here, with the archeological implication in parentheses.

May 4, 1738 Two hundred acre tract "on the Cherrokee Path" shown on Colonial Plat with junction of trading paths shown on 1738 Thomas Brown tract, which later became the tract of Robert Goudy.

Nov. 25, 1751 This tract joined the south line of "Hamilton's Great Survey" of 1751 (which can still be seen in hedge rows, fence lines, and tree lines on aerial photographs). By this means, the Goudy tract can be located on modern maps. (A cellar hole standing open on the site pointed to the possible location of Robert Goudy's Trading Post.)

(Preliminary trenching has established at least three palisade ditches on the site, plus an additional cellar hole with eighteenth century artifacts in the fill.)

- Nov. 21, 1759 Governor Lyttelton's expedition encamped at Goudy's Trading Post, with over 1300 individuals. (Such a large group might leave some evidence, but accidental loss or discarded objects could not be identified with Lyttelton's party.)
- Nov. 22, 1759 Goudy's barn chosen as a storehouse. (Possible foundation, or cellar hole, if it had one, could perhaps be located. Since it was chosen as a storehouse, a cellar may have been dug at this time for storage of certain goods.)
- Nov. 24, 1759 Capt. Dugeon laid out the ground for a stockade around the barn, and a ditch was opened for planting the puncheons. (The ditch could be located, with puncheon impressions.)
- Nov. 25, 1759 Work continued on the stockade.
- Nov. 27, 1759 The banquette to the stockade was finished, and the gate put up. (A banquette implies a ditch from which the soil for the banquette could be obtained. The gate might be represented by a large post-hole on each side of a gap in the palisade ditch.)
- Nov. 28, 1759 Fort Ninety Six mentioned as being 90 feet square and having sheds on one side of the barn storehouse to house the men, a barracks. (A ditch defining a 90 foot square area would certainly be a good candidate for representing this fort, with the sheds perhaps represented by postholes flanking a possible cellar beneath the barn.)
- Nov. 29, 1759 Lyttelton leaves Fort Ninety Six.
- Dec. 10, 1759 Lyttelton states that the stockade is a good one and is designed to secure a magazine of provisions. (Again, a cellar may have been required to hold certain of the goods stored in the magazine.)
- Feb. 3, 1760 Fort Ninety Six is attacked by Cherokee Indians for two hours, and the houses of Goudy are all burned except for the barn

inside the stockade. (This attack would have produced musket balls and possibly arrowpoints inside the fort, but associating any found on the site with this attack would be impossible. The burned buildings would leave excellent clues in any hole beneath any burned structure, and the position of such structures may be located by evidence of burning in such cellars or storage holes.)

- Feb. 9, 1760 A well reported as being dug inside the fort. (An excellent clue for helping to identify Fort Ninety Six stockade ditches as those of the 1759 fort and not later forts or additions.)
- March 3, 1760 For 36 hours 240-250 Cherokees constantly attacked Fort Ninety Six, one Cherokee scalped and his body fed to the dogs. (If such dog-gnawed bones found their way into a cellar hole or pit, or were buried and not retrieved by a dog, the archeologist could conceivably find and identify them.)
- March 6, 1760 Scalps of Indians reported neatly ornamenting the top of the bastions of the fort. (This reveals that the fort had bastions, a fact that might be assumed, but a mention such as this clearly identifies this feature. Small palisaded bastions were a usual feature of stockaded compounds such as Fort Ninety Six.)
- March 15, 1760 Fourteen men reported to have died at Fort Ninety Six from smallpox. (They had to be buried somewhere, and likely were placed in graves near the site of Fort Ninety Six.)
- May 25, 1760 Col. Archibald Montgomery arrived with a large force of men, 1200 of whom were the 77th, or Montgomery Highlanders and the First Royal Scots Regiment of Foot. (If identifiable accouterments of these troupes were lost, they might be recovered.)
- May 28, 1760 Montgomery's force leaves Fort Ninety Six for the Cherokee country.
- July 1760 Four swivel guns were assigned to Fort Ninety Six. (It is unlikely that a swivel gun would

be found unless it was damaged beyond repair in an explosion or accident while in use at the fort and discarded.)

April 1761 Major Moultrie built a new stockade at Ninety Six and entrenched his camp. He enlarged the old fort by taking down one wall and adding 30 feet to enclose an additional shed for provisions. He built large storehouses and completed the magazine. (The new stockade ditch, the trenches of the entrenched camp, the ditch for the 30 foot palisade enlargement to the original 90 foot square fort, cellars for the storehouses and magazines, footings, etc. would all leave traces that could be found archeologically.)

April 1761 Major Moultrie builds a new stockade at Ninety Six and entrenched his camp, enlarged the old fort, built large storehouses there, and finished a magazine. (The new stockade ditch, the trenches of the entrenched camp, the ditch for the palisade enlargement at the old fort, cellars for the storehouses and magazine would all leave traces that could be found archeologically.)

May 14, 1761 Grant's army of 2800 arrives and camps at Fort Ninety Six until May 19th. The group contains a number of Indians, and Troops of the 17th Regiment and of the 22nd Regiment of Foot. (Unless some marked relic from these regiments could be found, there is hardly any way to associate any artifacts recovered with this visit of Grant's army to Fort Ninety Six.)

After this date there is no other mention of Fort Ninety Six.

Other than the fact that Robert Goudy operated a successful trading post at his Ninety Six property, that Fort Ninety Six was built around his barn, and that all his houses and buildings were burned by the Indians in 1760, except the barn, we know little else that would be of specific archeological interest regarding his activities at Ninety Six. We do, however, have some reference to the goods he was selling at

his trading post, and from an examination of these we may come to a better understanding of some of the artifacts that we may expect to find in an archeological examination of the trading post and Fort Ninety Six site.

From as early as 1753, we have reference to Goudy taking hogsheads of rum to his store at Ninety Six (McDowell 1958:448). This item was not considered a good one for trade with the Indians, but sometimes it was considered "absolutely necessary," such as its use "to encourage the men to build Fort Ninety Six" (SCA, JCHA, Folio 4, June 11, 1760:278a). Hogsheads of rum would leave virtually no evidence for the archeologist, except perhaps iron bands, but bottles of rum would soon produce empty bottles to be broken and discarded in the nearest trash deposit.

From an affidavit of Robert Goudy himself, we learn of skins stolen from Cherokee Indians in 1751, and of these Indians coming to Goudy at Ninety Six searching for the skins and being able to identify them among the possessions of John White's people by the fact that the Indians had, unknown to the thieves, wrapped some of their "burnt Tobacco Pipes" among the skins (McDowell 1958:72). If these were pipes made by the Cherokee Indians, similar examples may have been broken at Ninety Six to be recovered by the archeologist.

Of particular value, however, in learning of the type of goods being handled by Goudy and other traders, is a list made in April 1758, of goods passed on to Cherokee Indians by Colonel Byrd:

A List of Goods taken from the Traders by Colonel Byrd for the Use of the Indians

April 4th, 1758

6 Boxes Paint	2 Dozen Pr. Ear Bobbs
1 Brass Kettle Wt. 4 1/2	4 1/2 Bunches Barley Corn Beads
5 Pieces Strowds	12 1/2 Lb. Gun Powder
3 Pieces Booting	25 Lb. Lead
3 Guns	4 1/2 Dozen Knives
1 Piece Stript Flannel	3 Pieces Ribbon
7 Pr. Ear Bobbs	14 Tobacco
8 Ps. Blanketts	1 Peck Salt
1 Dozen Hatchets	14 Yards Stript Cotton
2 1/2 Lb. Small Beads	1 Gallon Rum
1 Gross Cadice	2 Pieces Cadice
1 Gross Gartering	2 Ps. Gartering

Those things were taken from Mr. Gowdy and given to the Great Warriour and his Gang by Colonel Byrd, April 4th, 1758.

April 7th, 1758

6 Yards of Negro Cloth (For Powder Baggs)	16 Blanketts
4 1/2 Yards Oznabrigs (for Shott Baggs)	10 Dozen Knives
6 Pieces Stript Flannel	2 Bolts Oznabrigs
2 Pieces Strowds	150 Wt. Gun Powder
6 Pieces Booting	300 Wt. Lead
6 Dozen Hatchetts	2 Pieces Check
4 Pieces Stript Cotton	2 Pieces Strowds

Mr. Gowdy, April 7th, 1758

April 27, 1758

146 10 Pieces Strowds	24 Dozen Cutteau Knives
10 Pieces Stript Cotton	250 Wt. Gun Powder
3 Pieces Duffles	500 Wt. Lead
18 Dozen Check Shirts	1 Bagg Flints
6 Boxes Paint	50 Trading Guns

Mr. Gowdy, April 27, 1758

April 29th, 1758

5 Pieces Strowds	500 Weight Gun Powder
5 Caggs Rum 5 Gallons each	1000 Weight Trading Bulletts
3 Caggs Ditto 4 Gallons each	1 Lb. Oznabrig Thread

Mr. Elliott, April 29th, 1758

April 29th, 1758

2 Pieces Strowds	75 Skins
1 Piece Garlix	2 Arm Plates
1 Box Paint	2 Hair Plates
5 1/2 Yards Callamano	4 Lb. Vermillion
3 Yards Strowds	1 Lb. Bulletts
1 Match Coat	50 Yards Garlix

Mr. Beamer, April 29th, 1758

April 10th, 1758

46 Check Shirts  
4 Caggs Rum, 5 Gallons each  
2 Yards Oznabrigs  
2 Indian Trading Guns out of the Indian Presents at Fort  
Loudon

Captain Paul Demere, April 10th, 1758

(McDowell 1970:456-57)

The objects on this list that would survive archeologically, and that may have become lost or broken and discarded at Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six are:

paint  
brass kettle  
guns and gun parts  
ear bobs  
hatchets  
small beads  
hair plates  
barley corn beads  
gun powder  
lead  
knives  
flints  
trading bullets  
buttons from a match coat  
arm plates



Not mentioned here, but likely present at Ninety Six during this period are:

- nails
- window glass
- wine bottles
- case or gin type bottles
- spikes
- ceramics (slipware, white salt-glazed stoneware, delft, Indian pottery, earthenware, Oriental porcelain)
- medicine bottles
- brass furniture hardware
- buttons
- buckles
- iron builder's hardware (hinges, pintles, shutter dogs, etc.)
- pewter spoons
- iron tined-bone-handled forks
- bone-handled knives
- coins

These objects, dating from the period of the 1750's to 1761, would play a significant role in the identification of specific features, and in analysis of the site generally, once full-scale excavation is begun on the site of Goudy's Trading Post and Fort Ninety Six.