

FACULTY
COLLOQUIUM
Wednesday
March 7, 2018
LIB 331 (Boettcher
Room)
12:00-12:50 pm

“Shooting the Past:
Revolutionary War Archaeology
and the Role of Validation
Studies in Interpreting the Past”

Dr. Douglas D. Scott

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The first battle of the American Revolution began on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775. Captain Parker’s militia company was decimated that morning, but later in the day they reformed and ambushed the British column on its retreat to Boston. Archaeological research at the Parker’s Revenge site recovered evidence of the fight in the form of musket balls. To properly interpret the archaeological finds, a validation study was done: controlled live fire experiments with Revolutionary War era firearms. The experimental work obtained some surprising results that have significantly aided the understanding of the fight at Parker’s Revenge. The work at Parker’s Revenge was materially important in the award of a grant from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training to CMU to continue a study of historic firearms’ characteristics. An update on that work will also be briefly mentioned.



Bring your lunch and a colleague!