After ye Tuscarora Nation sent a scouting party to North Carolina on 1-2 February 2012 to see what was being said about the Tuscarora War at East Carolina University, it was decided that there should be a great and solemn gathering in March 2013 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the disastrous battle at Fort Nooherooka in 1713. Many visits and communications through N Patterson, Sr., and Vincent Schiffert prepared the way for a great commemoration to be held 21-23 March 2013. Messages were sent across the land for all to gather in Greenville, NC, for the event.

Chiefs, clan mothers, elders, and laercors men went forth from the Tuscarora Nation to the gathering place. Historians, anthropologists, sculptors, gardeners, pundits, and prophets went there too. Websites got built by Godwin, fortifications designed and virtually built by Fictum, Kimb, and Lamere; books & things designed & printed by Weingratz, and Mills; a cypress planted by Gill & Barnes; great feasts cooked by ARA; and a great monument designed & built by the sculptors Jubran. Great gatherings require money and this was provided by Provost Sheerer, Vice Chancellor Mitchelson, and Dean White. More money came from Greene County’s museumers, the clan Mewborn, Colonial war descendants; and folk in Phi Alpha Phi. Brutus muscle and geniality were provided by students and volunteers: Phi Alpha Theta and such as Lyndsey Sweet & Danny Maloney. Ye handlers Kempfer, McIver, and Meyer wrangled all aspects of the many faceted event. Ye keeper of the exchequer for contributions was Colonial Dame Sparrow.

On 21 March, the first day of the gathering, 160 Tuscarora from their New York Reservation and other places arrived on the scene. Observers and talkers came from near and afar. The talking began at noon and continued into the late of night. They migrated to Joyner Library to see the maps of war. In a great theatre, Ganyongwok words came first. A new wampum—the Neyuheruke wampum—was presented by chiefs and clan mothers to the people of North Carolina. Neil Patterson, Sr., presided and delivered the wampum’s message. Chiefs Henry, K Patterson, and S Patterson stood forth. Clan mothers Chew, Hill, Patterson, Rickard, and Schandreae monitored the proceedings as Provost Sheerer accepted the historic wampum to be protected and preserved by East Carolina University for the State of North Carolina. After historian Richter proclaimed the vast consequences of the Tuscarora War, all went then to see the newly planted ECU Nooherooka cypress and the newly reminted Tuscarora Loblolly. At the Nooherooka tree everyone sprinkled consecrated tobacco flakes with individual prayers for peace and understanding.

On 22 March, day three, the commemoration culminated at the sacred and historic Fort Nooherooka site. The great Neyuheruke Monument was solemnly dedicated by the Tuscarora Nation and North Carolina Tuscarora descendants alike. Prayers, sacred words, meditations, unveilings and tree waterings by Tuscarora elders and students opened the site as a perpetual place of memory, contemplation, and prayers for peace among all humans. A new migration from this place to their New York Reservation began, interrupted only by a jubilant Tuscarora dinner and social where one and all danced and feasted into the night.

Carolinians white, black, and Indians united with the Tuscarora visitors who had returned to their historic homeland. These came from all corners of the earth and directions of the wind. But one and all smiled, talked, and embraced. And when they scattered, they went away united, one and all, in mind and spirit with everyone who partook in the commemoration of a tragic battle that, though three centuries before, seemed like but yesterday. They came together in search of memory, understanding, and healing. And these things, so long wished for, they found.

On 24 March, they scattered back to the places from whence they came, transformed, healed, and more whole than when they came.

Recorded this ye 25th day of March 2013 in grateful memory of all who joined in this epochal commemoration by ye historian and scribe

Larry E. Tise, East Carolina University