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Frontier Faire 2012
Put October 20 and 21 on your calendar now! The Frontier Faire Committee has been hard at work since the Spring planning for the best Faire yet! See the flyer attached to this email for more details. Additional information will be featured in the October GAB.

Be sure also to put down the evening of October 18 at the Fort Daniel Elementary School from 7–8:30PM for a presentation on our work at Fort Daniel site and how recent research is giving us a significantly new understanding of the accepted story about Fort Peachtree, Peachtree Road, and the Chattahoochee boat trip.

Hog Mountain Trading Post will be back at the Faire!

GARS Monthly Meeting
The GARS monthly meeting, which is open to the public, is held on the second Thursday at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building located at 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville. Gathering at 7PM with program starting at 7:30PM.

The next Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) meeting will be September 13. Mike Bunn, Executive Director of Historic Chattahoochee Commission in Eufaula, Alabama, will speak about his new book Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and The War of 1812. This is a most timely topic as we and members of the Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) continue to celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Come and get an autographed copy of Mike’s book!

What did you do over the Summer?
Recently, Catherine Long and Charles and Betty Warbington with Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society (GAAS) members and others had an enjoyable time in Lumpkin visiting the Drug Store Museum and the Bedingfield Inn and the Singer Moye archaeological site.
GARS News

Because this is going to be such a busy time of year for GARS, continuing excavations at the Graves Soapstone site have been put on hold. Hopefully, we can schedule this for later this Fall or the Spring. Leslie Perry has completed work on the Graves artifacts from last Fall, which will be included in the Graves Technical Report that will be submitted very soon. Details about another archaeological survey project that is in the works will be announced at the September GARS meeting.

A field trip to Fort Hollingsworth with the GGC History Club, which is open to GARS and FDF members, has been scheduled for Friday, November 9. Fort Hollingsworth is a frontier fort built in 1793 and located in Hollingsworth, Georgia. Several such forts were constructed along the 1785 and 1790 treaty line that extended from Tugaloo to the head of the Appalachian at Hog Mountain.

Field trips and archaeology projects are part of the GARS program. Many of these are open only to GARS members, so join and be part of the fun! ■

Cultural Resource Management

Archaeological sites are being discovered and recorded all the time here in Gwinnett County. Of course, sites are being destroyed as well (See Georgia Heritage Loss). In each issue we focus on site discoveries in recent years and the context of those discoveries.

In the early 1950s the homestead site of GW294 (NPS 43) was recorded by the National Park Service (NPS) or a NPS contractor in connection with the Buford Dam project. However, based on the site number 294, the site form was probably completed in the Spring of 1994 and appears to be a transcription from another source such as someone’s rather inadequate field notes. The information is sketchy—the date of the survey and the person or firm conducting the survey are missing. This is, unfortunately, typical of much site recordation prior to the 1966 National Preservation Act and even well into 1970s.

The site is only described as, “Rubble plus two possible chimney falls present on the surface. Large area of cemetery vine [Note: this would probably be vinca minor, more commonly Periwinkle.] but no graves located. Over 100 yrs. old.” There is no sketch map of the site. The state of preservation is marked destroyed. Of course, if there were graves where the “cemetery vine” was recorded (the absence of or lack of visible grave markers does not mean there were no graves), the site could not be considered “destroyed.”

GW294 was actually first brought to my attention when a Gwinnett teacher, who lives near the site, saw our Web site and emailed me about it. The teacher was concerned about what to do and what not to do. He sent me a link to his posted photos of ruins, including an impressive stone wall that was not mentioned in the site description. However, “Mike” emailed me again noting that he may have found another structure at the site and, most importantly, that he found perhaps four or five graves stones “lined up together.” These, he wrote, “are east of the well”—another feature not mentioned on the site form.

We have compared GPS coordinates, and I am sure he is talking about GW294. So I think a GARS field trip to this site is a definite must do. We might rerecord the site and up-date the Georgia site form. The graves, if they are graves, will require some special attention since they are protected by State law. ■ JJD

Mike Reilly’s photos from GW294 also included a wonderful example of early hand-molded brick.
More Diggin’s

- Natalie Pope of New South Associates and others have organized a new regional historic archaeology organization and conference scheduled to be held every year. The first Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology (SECHSA) was held in Charleston this past August. The program looked to be both interesting and very relevant to Southeastern archaeology. For information check out the SECHSA Web site.

- Spreading the word about the latest news and events of historic organizations like the Fort Daniel Foundation is the primary purpose of the new Colonial America Web portal—dedicated to Colonial and Early American history. Please go to their Web site, click “Search & Map,” and enter Fort Daniel Foundation or Fort Daniel.

- Allen Vegosky (GAAS) reports an item he found in Bottles and Extras (a bottle collectors’ magazine) that should be of considerable interest to archaeologists and historic preservationists: A code of ethics for bottle collectors. Along with the 14 statements contained, Allen selected the following for consideration by all collectors:
  - Accept my responsibility to be aware of all State, Federal, and local laws regarding private property and archaeology and agree to adhere to them.
  - Refrain from digging on State or Federal property without consent from proper authority.
  - Refrain from digging in burial grounds or specified archaeological sites.
  - Report to State Department of Natural Resources any potentially historic or prehistoric site I locate.

- Bill Field and Jim D’Angelo spent some time this Summer at the Georgia Archives researching the properties around the Fort Daniel site prior to its ownership by Lewis Burel. Bill has been working on the “problem” for a few years now. The Problem: Early land records for the vicinity around Fort Daniel were in Franklin County to 1794, then Jackson County to 1821, and Gwinnett County after 1821. However, all Gwinnett records were lost in the 1871 Courthouse fire. Even when early deeds and land grants are located, they often give no specific information or vague information as to location. It is like putting together a puzzle with many missing pieces and no image on the pieces to guide you—only worse.
  - The Burels came to Gwinnett County sometime around 1840 according to Burel descendants with whom Jim has spoken. The original parcel was probably well over 100-acres. According to a referenced 1853 deed, it included the Hog Mountain House which the Burels operated. Bill has found that much of this land was granted to Basil Jones and others in large, and multiple tracts of up to 10,000 acres, and that some of these extended illegally well into Indian Territory west of the Appalachee. In fact, Jim has found in the National Archives a letter from Thomas Bourke (Bourke was in charge of building the road through Indian territory from Fort Daniel to Standing Peachtree) stating that the first 30 miles of wagon road already existed when he got to the Hog Mountain fort in January of 1814!
2012 GARS OFFICERS
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Secretary:
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Treasurer:
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2012 FDF OFFICERS
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Jim D’Angelo
Vice President:
Wayne Waldrip
Secretary:
Vicki Watkins
Treasurer:
Betty Warbington

Fort Daniel Updates

- On Flag Day, June 14, Jim D’Angelo spoke about Fort Daniel and the Defense of the Western Frontier at a dinner meeting of the Barrow County Historical Society where about 50 people were in attendance. Prior to the meeting he visited Fort Yargo and the Barrow County Museum.

- During the Summer Jim was invited to speak to two American History classes at Georgia Gwinnett College by Dr. Kathryn Gary-White. One of those classes actually met at the Fort Daniel site. *(See photo above.*) At the beginning of the Fall Semester in August Jim spoke to another of Professor White’s history classes on the topic of early American fort construction.

- In August Jim had the opportunity to present his recent research on Fort Peachtree and Peachtree Road to the Optimist Club of Atlanta. A similar presentation will be given to the Oglethorpe County Historical Society on September 25 in Lexington to which the Oconee County and Clarke County historic societies will be invited.

- There have been no new excavations at the Fort Daniel site since the SGA Expo this past May. However, planning for the 2012 Frontier Faire is underway, and two local schools have committed to being involved with Elementary and Middle School students. There is also interest in participation on the part of two of Georgia’s colleges—much the same as was done at the 2011 Faire as well as the 2012 SGA Expo.

- DOT Archaeologist and member Siska Williams will be working with Shannon and Jim to get the Fort Daniel artifacts ready for publication in the Technical Report. Jim is trying to get this and the Fort Daniel book done over the Summer.

20th Annual Georgia Fine and Collectible Book Fair
Presented by the Georgia Antiquarian Booksellers Association
Saturday, September 22 from 10am–5pm
Sunday, September 23 from 11am–4pm
Cobb County Civic Center • Marietta, Georgia