**GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN**

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**GARS Monthly Meetings**

The Gwinnett Archaeology Research Society (GARS) will have its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, November 11 at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary** (455 South Perry Street) located downtown Lawrenceville. The guest speaker will be Amanda Morrow, Assistant Director at Moundville Archaeological Park in Moundville, Alabama. She will be speaking on the history of the Moundville Archaeological Park and the mounds.

Additionally, at the November GARS meeting officers nominations will be accepted. You can volunteer yourself or another member. The annual GARS officer election will be held at the Christmas party, which will be held on Sunday, December 7 at Catherine Long’s house. Attending members should plan to bring a potluck dish and a wrapped white elephant gift which you or someone else would like to receive. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the November meeting.

GARS meetings are open to the public—gathering at 7:00 PM with meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. **Please notice the change of venue!**

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**Yahoola Cherokee Museum**

*by Leslie Perry*

Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) is planning a fall field trip to the **Yahoola Cherokee Museum** on **Saturday, November 8**. Please meet in front of the museum at 11:15 AM. They are just moving into Phase II, so the museum is a work in progress and is not completed yet. The address is: Yahoola Cherokee Museum, 11 South Grove Street Suite 700, Dahlonega, GA 30533. This is located across from Pueblos Restaurant where we can gather for lunch afterwards.

Yahoola Cherokee Museum are in need of items (similar to items that were needed for the archaeological lab). Some items are: security system with eight cameras, new front counter with drawers and two high-back swivel chairs, 12 folding chairs, 6-foot folding table, new rug for front entrance, a good vacuum cleaner, three wood and glass display cases, and electrical items (lights, wires, and switches). If anyone has any of the items on the list, please bring them with you on the field trip.
This is the third in a series of articles that look at the main elements of the historic context of Fort Daniel treated in chronological order as they occurred in 1814. The series illustrates the importance of historic context in doing the kind of historical archaeology we are carrying out at Fort Daniel. The first article in September was the story of the successful construction of a keelboat and supply trip from Standing Peachtree to Fort Mitchell in January–February 1814 (see right). After attending to the construction of the boat, US Army Quartermaster Corp Deputy, Major Thomas Bourke, blazed out and arranged for construction of a military road to get supplies, gathered at the Hog Mountain fort, waggoned to the place where they would be loaded on the new keelboat. Construction of the “Peachtree Road” was the subject of the October installment. (See GAB III: 7, 8, also II:4, 6; and the Gwinnet Historical Society’s The Heritage, Vol. 42: 3 and 43:1)

The construction of Peachtree Road is typically ascribed to Lieutenant James Gilmer who was in charge of building Fort Peachtree. As we saw in the October installment, Bourke probably contracted the local men from Hog Mountain (who are cited in Flanigan’s History of Gwinnett County) who would have completed the road in time for the boat’s departure. According to keelboat Captain Garrison’s diary, it “left Floydsville—near the Cherokee boundary line 2nd February . . .” (Georgia Journal, 2.23.1814). Bourke reported the road completed by January 22. However, according to a letter from Major James M. C. Montgomery (Superintendent of Artificers for construction of additional boats) to Bourke and Colonel Francis Huger at Fort Hawkins dated February 10, “I am just about to start for Floydsville. Lieut. Gilmore [Gilmer], a valuable sober young officer with the detachment ordered, is on the march also.” That letter incidentally was filed with the February 10 date and notation, “Reed 10 March.” Did JMCM misdate his own letter?

In his memoirs Governor Gilmer recalled, “Returning home in October 1813 (Wilkes County, now Oglethorpe) . . . I received a commission of first lieutenant in the 43rd regiment . . . I marched with twenty two recruits (from Fort Washington on the Broad River) without arms, except refuse drill muskets. . . . I was ordered to build a fort. . . . I had never seen a fort and had not means of knowing how to obey the order.” Fortunately for Gilmer, James Montgomery, a Jackson County resident, was also assigned to the project at Standing Peachtree (Floydsville).

Records show that Montgomery served in Floyd’s Georgia Militia in Alabama as a teamster with the rank of Major. As such, he would have been involved with the transport of supplies between Fort Hawkins and the supply depot at Fort Mitchell (pictured left) and/or between Fort Mitchell and points along the Federal Road. Hence, he was familiar with issues of military transport and supply. As farmer and frontier plantation owner in Jackson County, he was familiar with the tools and techniques of frontier construction as well as forts along the Jackson/Franklin County frontier, of which the fort at Hog Mountain was one. According to his family Web site, he resigned as a Wagon Master in the Militia Army in October 1814 to serve as a “special commissary” in the US Army under Bourke until March

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1814. According to a sworn deposition, he gave his position as “Superintendent of Artificers in the service of the United States in the year 1814, and [was] stationed at the Standing Peach Tree on the Chattahoochy River, for the purpose of erecting public boats to transport provisions down the Chattahoochy River Cherokee” (Phoenix and Indians’ Advocate, Vol. III No. 3, Saturday, May 8, 1830).

Montgomery’s key role in the building of the boatyard and boats is suggested in his opening line of the February 10 letter: “I have organized a corps of artificers, one of the best boat rights, and a corps of healthy athletic fellows indeed, but as late as Sunday I learned no tools had arrived at the hog mountain fort, nor even as late as yesterday. I heard none had arrived in consequence of which I have had to go far and wide in pursuit of tools to work with (viz.) whipsaws, axes, broad axes, and as it is now a very busy season I found the latter [all] in use, and the former rare to be had, but have collected three good whipsaws, and I have a cross cut of my own which I shall take with me and such other tools as I have got that can be spared out of my farm.”

In his first letter to General Andrew Jackson, dated March 20, we begin to get details about the location and nature of the fort: “It being left to myself to choose a site for the Fort and a place for a boatyard, I accordingly with Lieut. Gilmer and Mr. Bowman, the Boatwright, pitched on a spot about a quarter and a half quarter from where Major. Burke pitched on, on a commanding eminence below the mouth of a large creek, which is navigable for several hundred yards and make convenient Harbor, and right opposite a bend of the river where from the Gate of the Fort when built an view of the river can be had both up and down . . ., the boatyard may be either on the bank of the river or creek or both and can be commanded by the Fort.”

In a second, retrospective letter to Jackson, dated July 24, Montgomery wrote: “On the 10th of March, I organis’d the corps and with Lieut. Gilmore of the 43rd commenc’d the line of March from the Frontier of Georgia and on the 14th of the sme month reach’d the place of destination laid off the ground for the Fort and a place for the boatyard, . . . and immediately commen’d building and in two months built two large hew’d log block houses, six dwelling houses, one fram’d store house, one Bridge half a mile from the Fort across Laurel River (Peachtree Creek), . . . and five boats (the order being countermanded as to the other five).” (Quoted in E. Katherine Anderson, “James McC. Montgomery of Standing Peachtree,” The Atlanta Historical Bulletin, Published by the Atlanta Historical Society, December 1937. Pages 19-23.)

Gilmer has nothing to say about the location of the fort or its construction except his recollection when he thought Indians might be attacking: “One night . . . before any preparations for defiance had been made, . . . soldiers rushing into my cabin . . . As soon as possible I had a barricade constructed in front of the ditch which had been dug for the palisades of the fort. In this ditch, and between the cabins and the barricade, I stationed myself and the soldiers.”

Looking at these two sources we can conclude that:

1) This was a stockade fort like Fort Daniel (Fort Hawkins, Fort Lawrence, Fort Mitchell, etc.) with diagonal blockhouses and cabins (erected first) within the stockade walls. The main gate faced the river with a view up and down the river (see map above).

2) The fort was situated on a “commanding eminence” south of Peachtree Creek that was half a mile from a bridge they built across it. Since we know, from Bourke’s letters that Peachtree Road crossed Peachtree
The Georgia Trust’s 2015 Places of Peril List

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation recently released its list of Places in Peril. This is the Trust’s tenth annual list, and President and CEO of the Trust Mark C. McDonald stated, “We hope the list will continue to bring preservation solutions to Georgia’s imperiled historic resources by highlighting ten representative sites.” The Places in Peril List was designed to raise awareness about Georgia’s significant historic, archaeological, and cultural resources—including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes that are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development, or insensitive public policy.

Sites on this year’s list include: Ware’s Folly in Augusta (Richmond County); the Dart House in Brunswick (Glynn County); Mandeville Homestead in Carrollton (Carroll County); East Point Historic Civic Block in East Point (Fulton County); Haistens Hospital in Griffin (Spalding County); Portal Drugstore in Portal (Bullock County); Sandersville School in Sandersville (Washington County); Glenridge Hall in Sandy Springs (Fulton County); Hancock County Courthouse in Sparta (Hancock County); and the Federal Road/Lower Creek Trading Path which stretches through 14 Georgia counties.

Through Places in Peril list the Georgia Trust encourages owners and individuals, organizations and communities to employ proven preservation tools, financial resources, and partnerships in order to reclaim, restore and revitalize historic properties that are in peril. For instance, the Federal Road in Georgia (pictured right) developed from the established Lower Creek Trading Path, a trading path between Lower Creek Nation and Upper Creek Nation towns. Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Hawkins, his Indian Agent to the Creeks, negotiated official use of the trail as a Federal Road, and it became a conduit for white settlement in southwest Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Today, known portions of the Federal Road serve as roadbeds of several modern highways that utilize the same established route through Georgia. In recent years, archaeologists and historians in Alabama have made a concerted effort to document and preserve the history of the Federal Road in that state. There has been no similarly well-coordinated effort in Georgia. Remaining traces of the Federal Road, particularly where it is unmapped, are susceptible to loss through development, agriculture, and modern road and bridge construction. The Places in Peril program plan to build greater awareness of this highly significant early transportation corridor.

Sites that have been placed on previous years’ lists have included: Stilesboro Academy in Bartow County, which received a $25,000 gift in 2013 to restore the exterior; Chattahoochee Park Pavilion in Gainesville, which was restored in 2013; Fort Daniel in Buford, which was purchased by Gwinnett County and leased to the Fort Daniel Foundation who is developing an educational outreach program; the Spencer House in Columbus, which received a $10,000 grant from the Historic Columbus Foundation and community support to finish restoring the exterior; and the Hill House at Andalusia in Milledgeville, which received a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Park Service and a Preservation Award for Excellence in Restoration from the Trust in 2013. The Trust also gave Andalusia a $2,500 grant for restoration of the barn. Updates on these sites and others can be found at www.georgiatrust.org.

Founded in 1973, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation is one of the country’s largest statewide, nonprofit preservation organizations. Committed to preserving and enhancing Georgia’s communities and their diverse historic resources for the education and enjoyment of all, the Georgia Trust generates community revitalization by finding buyers for endangered properties acquired by its Revolving Fund; provides design assistance to 102 Georgia Main Street cities and encourages neighborhood revitalization; trains teachers in 63 Georgia school systems to engage students to discover state and national history through their local historic resources; and advocates for funding, tax incentives, and other laws aiding preservation efforts. ■ The Georgia Trust
As part of GARS’ very busy October schedule, members Natasha D., Greg B., Justine H., Dick B., Delana G., Scott H., and BRAG guests Brian Floyd and Sally Brown (now a GARS member) returned to the Graves Soapstone site (9DA411) for a four-day excavation project. Two new units (23 and 25) were placed around a boulder outcrop that promised to help answer the question of how so much bowl and quarrying debris could be accounted for with only three soapstone bowl scars on the two main outcrops. In addition, two previously excavated and backfilled units around the same boulder outcrop were dug up again. The results of work in this area included one new scar on the opposite end of a boulder where a scar was recorded in 2003 but thought to be on bedrock (pictured upper left), several informal diabase and quartzite tools (pictured right), and one nearly intact early stage bowl preform (pictured lower left). A third preform remains to be excavated at a future time. In addition, Scott and Dick removed a large boulder (~70 x 50 x 30 cm) also with quarrying marks (pictured lower right).

The provenience of this boulder and the concentration of exclusively informal tools—large numbers of formal tools have been recovered from a different areas around the main outcrops—may indicate that there were two phases to quarrying and bowl manufacture at the site. Hopefully, future excavations in this area will shed some light on that possibility.

A third unit (24) was placed on the lower part of the site—straddling the berm of the Hightower Trail wagon road. It proved to be the first entirely negative unit yielding no artifacts. However, one wall that was drawn does show what may be a cultural horizon: the point at which slope wash material covers a surface to be associated with the period of soapstone quarrying and bowl manufacture.

A technical report is being prepared and will be presented to the County as an addendum to the 2010–2011 report that was recently published. ■ JJD

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Creek, it is reasonable to assume that the bridge the corps built was at this same crossing, which is still in the same place today.

Therefore, we know where to look for the archaeological remains of Fort Peachtree: on a hill that fits perfectly in every way with Montgomery’s description. It was NOT north of Peachtree Creek—as many historians have claimed—on a knoll destroyed by construction in 1965. The most convincing argument for that knoll, despite what Montgomery had written, was the reported presence of “steps” and stone alignments on the hill. These, however, were most likely the remains of a “Rebel Fort” constructed there in connection with the Battle for Atlanta in July 1864, which is depicted on a “Yankee” sketch of all the fortifications in the vicinity (see Page 7 sketch upper right).

For more on the “Search for Fort Peachtree” being conducted by Wayne Waldrip, members of GARS, and myself see the report on that project in this issue (See Page 7) and upcoming issues of the GAB. ■ JJD
More Diggin’s

- **The month of November is Native American Heritage Month.** For more information on events or educational program for teachers please visit the official Web site of Native American Heritage Month.

- **Storyteller Barry Stewart Mann** (who spoke at the Frontier Faire) will be speaking on “Peace Pipes and Talking Leaves” at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC) on **Saturday, November 8 at 11AM and 12PM.** For information please visit the [GEHC Events page](#).

- **Dr. Jim. D’Angelo** will be presenting a program about Fort Daniel to the Daughters of the American Revolution William Day Chapter at the Gwinnett Community Bank’s lower level break room (located at 2775 Buford Hwy, Duluth) on **Sunday, November 9.**

- **Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society** (GAAS) will have their next meeting on **November 11** at the Ferbank Museum of Natural History beginning at 6:30PM. The guest speaker will be Scott Butler, who will be speaking on recent research on an African-American site in South Carolina.

- **Civil War Holiday at McDaniel Farm Park** will be held on **Saturday, November 15** from 10AM to 4PM. Experience the holiday season during the 1860s through a living history demonstration by visiting Union and Confederate reenactors, participate in bayonet practice, enjoy a festive hayride, and many more activities. You can preregister online or pay at the door. For information please visit the [GEHC Events page](#).

- **Southeastern Indians Heritage Program at the Atlanta History Center** will be held on **Saturday, November 22** from 11AM to 5PM. Discover Southeastern Indians’ heritage and culture through demonstrations, performances, and discussions led by Native American artists and experts. This program is free to members; included in the cost of general admission for nonmembers. For information please visit the [Atlanta History Center’s Web site](#).

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**GARS Having a Dam Good Time**

GARS members have been conducting archaeological research projects on the historic Elisha Winn property (9GW646) for several years—having identified several prehistoric and historic loci on this approximately 20-acre site. At this year’s Gwinnett Historical Society annual Elisha Winn Fair, under the direction of GARS archaeological advisor Jim D’Angelo, members Frank and Leslie P., Natasha D., and Juliann C. conducted an archaeological survey and recordation of a earthen and stone dam (pictured left) for an old stock pond that likely dates from Winn’s establishment of the Plantation beginning in 1811.

Work included clearing overgrowth, measuring the length, width and height of the feature, and limited excavation to reveal details of the construction method. Special attention was paid to the stone face which was articulated, drawn, and photographed. A sounding placed along the face indicated its depth and articulation of the cross-section where it had been breached contributed to an understanding of how this “pile and stone” dam was constructed (pictured right). A technical report complete with photos, drawings, and analysis is forthcoming, and the official State site form (recently filed for 9GW646) will be updated accordingly. 

- JJD
The Search for Fort Peachtree

On October 8 Jim D., Wayne W., Greg B., Dick B., Delana G., Natasha D, Leslie and Frank P., Betty K., and Karen L. marched up the hill where—based on the research that Wayne and Jim have conducted—Fort Peachtree stood. The west half of the site is owned by the City of Atlanta, which gave permission to conduct an archaeological study at the location. Unfortunately, a newly constructed security fence forced a change in the research design, originally submitted to the City on November 2, 2011, that had called for mechanical trenching of the site (similar to what was done at Fort Daniel) in order to find a segment of the stockade wall trench feature. Therefore, digging had to be done by hand, and access to the hilltop was by a more difficult route. However, that route led to the “discovery” of a previously unrecorded Civil War feature. The feature appears on a “Yankee” field sketch of “Rebel” fortifications in the vicinity. In this excerpt from that sketch (pictured right) it is labeled Rebel Fort—distinguishing it from Rifle Pitts or a Gun Battery. The Fort Peachtree location would be a just left of the W in Woods. “Traditional” location of the fort has been on the hill in the upper right which was actually a CW gun battery.

We laid out a grid, and Greg, Dick, and Frank carried out a systematic metal detection survey—pin flagging and mapping each hit before collecting and bagging. At the same time a 2ft-wide trench was laid out along one of the E/W lines of the grid, and the rest of the team began excavating and screening for artifacts. Unfortunately, it was too much work to complete in one day, and the stockade trench has not yet been encountered.

Just under 50 artifacts were collected and include: hand-molded brick bats, cut nails, one wire nail, wire fragments, several iron objects, two minie balls, two fragments of Williams Cleaner Bullets, leather accoutrement rivets, one chert flake, and various other metal objects not yet cleaned and identified. Though we need to return to the site to finish the trenching and to record the CW feature, one cut nail and spike have been cleaned and are apparently of a type that can be narrowly dated between 1810 and 1840—suggesting they may be associated with Fort Peachtree. The nail is similar to what we have at Fort Daniel. So the trail is still hot! □ JJD
Fort Reconstruction Study

Several members and friends of Fort Daniel have expressed an interest in the possibility of reconstructed Fort Daniel at some time in the future. This would be a grand undertaking, necessarily involving a partnership between the Fort Daniel Board of Directors, our members, and the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. However, before such an awesome project can be proposed, a basic feasibility study is required. Towards that end, and beginning with the 6th Annual Frontier Faire in October, persons interested in participating in a feasibility study have been solicited. If you are interested in participating in such a study, please just “reply” to the email that brought you this issue of the GAB, and you will be contacted with a week or two. ■ JJD

Peachtree Park Dedication

Representing GARS and FDF, Dr. Jim D’Angelo attended the bicentennial and reopening ceremonies at Peachtree Park on October 16. There he had the opportunity to meet some Atlanta city officials and officers and members of the Fort Peachtree Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in attendance—including “Riverside Kate.” Dr. D’Angelo explained our research and archaeological work at the Fort Peachtree site. They also got to see the keelboat model. For photos and coverage of the event see visit the Buckheadview Web site. ■ JJD

Welcome to our new members—Sally Brown and Julianne Cook!

If you would like to become a member of GARS or FDF, please contact us!