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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN
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Elisha Winn Fair

Built c.1811 on the Georgia frontier, the Elisha Winn House became the center of government for the newly founded Gwinnett County in 1818. However, in the late 1970s it became threatened by the infringing residential area. The Gwinnett Historical Society bought the house and surrounding acres for preservation, and in 1980 the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the Elisha Winn House still serves the area as a historical museum of Gwinnett County, and every year the Gwinnett Historical Society hosts the Elisha Winn Fair on the grounds to celebrate the historical beginnings of the County. This year the Gwinnett Historical Society will be hosting the 35th Annual Elisha Winn Fair on October 5 and 6. Along with food, music, and more you can tour the Winn House, a 1820s jail, 1875 one-room schoolhouse, and other historical buildings.

GARS Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings, open to the public, are held at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building located at 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville. Gathering at 7PM, the program begins at 7:30PM.

This month’s meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, and this meeting will be a “Best of the Faire” celebration and FINAL planning meeting for the upcoming Frontier Faire. Bring your top ten favorite Faire pictures (on USB drive or CD); they will be placed in a slideshow that will be shown at the meeting. Please also bring your old unwanted history books to be sold at the Trading Post (See Page 4).

At the November 14 meeting the speaker will be Wallace Seabolt, who was raised in a traditional Cherokee farming and woodworking family and was taught traditional Cherokee medicine. He will be speaking about his Cherokee heritage and the preservation of their history.

Don’t forget to like both Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society & Fort Daniel Foundation on Facebook.
In the mid 1980s Dr. Douglas Scott revolutionized the way archaeologists researched battlefields with his work on the Little Bighorn. His approach of utilizing metal detectors and carefully mapping each find was not new, but the way he incorporated local volunteers with this equipment was. This started a trend of cooperation that still works well. Although it is good to include the local avocational detectorist on occasion and interview them, it is this author’s opinion the time has come that professional archaeologists learn this technology for themselves—incorporate metal detecting in diverse research projects. There are a few dedicated archaeological detectorists in the Southeast (probably more than any other region in the States) but still not enough to properly survey and define the historic resources that we encounter.

Traditional shovel test survey can find the site but can it properly define the site? The 15-meter shovel test interval traditionally used for site delineation can miss outbuildings, fence lines, and sometimes even the main structure itself. A single square cut nail may seem insignificant in a shovel test, but turn on a detector and see what happens. I have never met a nail that didn’t have friends. A simple comparison between shovel testing and the same transects followed by metal detection reveals a whole new layer to the archaeological record—one that adds to the understanding of the site.

Some may think that metal detecting is as easy as turning on the instrument and finding the answers to the archeological questions, but in the end it is just a tool to add to the ever-increasing arsenal of equipment. In addition to all new equipment there is a learning curve. With the proper training it can be one of the greatest assets the archeologist can have on historic sites, revealing truths about a site that otherwise would be overlooked. I have participated in several traditional shovel test surveys where we encountered a standing chimney and footing to a mid 19th century structure; in these cases shovel testing provided little additional information and sometimes they were completely negative. If one goes to an intact mid 19th century house or farm is it ever by itself? Outbuildings, privy, fences, pathways, roadways, and a water sources always accompany them. These were the necessities of life then and should be present, in some form, within the landscape. Using a metal detector is one of the most efficient ways of defining these features, not to mention one of the least expensive.

While the initial expense of a detector can seem high ($350–$4,500 depending on the make and model), the cost is quickly absorbed by the savings of man-hours, and the rental can be built into the budget. Additionally, some field technicians come with their own detectors. One of the questions I am most commonly asked is ―What should we purchase?‖ My fallback answer to this is to buy a detector that will work for your intended level of effort. If you wish just to delineate nail clouds to define historic sites, buying a $4,000 detector is a little overkill and may not produce the outcome you were anticipate. An off the shelf $350 detector may work just fine for delineating shallow historic sites with large concentrations of nails, but on a battlefield that has been picked over by relic hunters it may not be appropriate.

Detectorists, like golf pros, have their favorites, and if you ask five detectorists what brand to buy, chances are they will have six different answers simply because there are only six major brands in the States and most have multiple...
detectors. There are trends with the detector industry that coincide with increased restrictions for the relic hunters and more archaeologists utilizing the equipment. The industry is starting to listen to and work with the archaeological community. With this cooperation we are already seeing products that are designed around our needs. To the archaeologist, nails are golden, and for years detector companies have worked hard on ways to discriminate against them in order to concentrate on those items of value to the relic hunter. However, now we are succeeding in changing their approach to their own products.

Incorporating detecting into field practices may take some time and effort to get it right for the archaeologist, but there is an option. Including knowledgeable responsible avocational detectorists should be a common practice; many times they already know more about the area and history than the archaeologist does. The Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) continuing education course “Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist” (AMDA) is constantly bombarded with request from the detecting community asking to be included in the training. The AMDA is sanctioned by the RPA and cannot accept avocational detectorists into the class without risking our certification. Recognizing the need for a separate course targeting responsible avocational detectorists who understand the value of how and why archaeologists do what they do is our next step. It is the stance of this archeologist and other members of AMDA that we need to bridge the gap between the professional and well-trained, willing volunteers to create a system whereby professional archaeologist and avocational detectorists can work together to save many of the important sites that are lost each day to development.

Members from the AMDA and I are working on the course agenda and partnering up with the manufacturing representatives to offset the cost. At this time, and if all goes well, we are six months away from our first trial course.

### More Diggin’s

- **October is Georgia Archives Month**—celebrating the value of Georgia’s historical records, preserving the historical records that enrich our lives, and recognizing those who maintain our communities’ historical records. This will be a great time to contact your local government officials about the importance in the preserving Georgia’s documentary heritage. For more information you can visit the Society of Georgia Archivists’ Web site.
- **International Archaeology Day** is on **October 19**. *(And October is also National Archaeology Month!)* Every October the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and archaeological organizations across the United States, Canada, and abroad present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. This year both GARS and FDF members will be celebrating this day at the Frontier Faire and invite the public to participate in the activities *(See Page 4).*
- **The Society of Georgia Archaeology’s Fall Meeting** will be held on **October 26** at the Zell B. Miller Learning Center at the University of Georgia in Athens. Registration opens at 8AM. After the meeting people will be able to visit the Scull Shoals Historic Site. For a schedule of events or more information you may visit the SGA’s Web site.
- Did you know that there is a mobile app for archaeology? Actually, there are a lot of them! The SGA has recently listed the **top ten essential apps** involved with archaeology and history in Georgia.
Fort Daniel News

It’s finally here: FORT DANIEL’S BICENTENNIAL! We are going to have lots of food, music, and dirt! That’s right—the whole family can excavate areas within the Fort as part of the community archaeology program. Though music will fill the area all day, the Skillet Lickers will be picking away beginning at 1 PM. Children (and those who are children at heart) will enjoy hearing the legends of the Cherokee people from Storyteller Barry Stewart Mann at 2 PM.

Demonstrations of blacksmithing and flint knapping will be occurring throughout the day, and reenactors will be able to guide you around the Fort recounting its history and contributions to the Creek War and the War of 1812. Artifacts that have been found on site will be displayed in the Fort Daniel Museum Tent, and the ArchaeoBus will be there, too!

Tell everyone about the Faire, and print off a flyer from the Web site to give them.

Trading Post Book Drive

The Hog Mountain Trading Post needs your help! The Trading Post will be selling old history books and would love to have your unwanted ones. Please bring one (or more) of your books to the next planning meeting on October 13 (See Page 1). If you are not able to bring them then, you can bring them day of the Faire.

Now rush to those old trunks and boxes, and find your old college textbooks that you do not use anymore or those books that you bought on vacation and just tossed into a box!

The books will be sold in the Trading Post during the Faire and profits will go to Fort Daniel Foundation. Books that are not sold will be donat-