From the GARS President

Thanks to those GARS members who participated in the 6th Annual Frontier Faire. The weather cooperated this year, and there was a steady turnout of students learning archaeology at the fort! A few details need to be mentioned:

- Please note the change in day of the week for the next GARS meeting (see above).
- Mark your calendars now for a GARS field trip to the Yahoola Cherokee Museum in Dahlonega on Saturday, November 8 at 11AM followed by lunch.
- Now is the time to start thinking about new GARS officers for 2015. Nominations will be accepted at the November GARS meeting. You may submit a nomination by phone or email if you cannot attend the November meeting. Nominations will be accepted up until the December Christmas party (date to be announced) when the election will be held.
This is the second 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 purpose of the series is to illustrate the importance of historic context in doing historical archaeology. The first article in September’s GAB was the story of the successful construction of a keelboat and supply trip from Standing Peachtree to Fort Mitchell in January–February 1814. Almost simultaneously, the US Army Quartermaster Corp was also overseeing construction of a military road to get supplies gathered at Hog Mountain down to the place where they would be loaded on the new keelboat.

Major Thomas Bourke, the US Army Quartermaster Corp Deputy in charge, arrived in Jefferson on Friday, December 31, 1813. After he purchased lumber and other materials, hired carpenters, and got construction of the keelboat and skiff underway, he headed over to Fort Daniel, which had just been rebuilt, to commence the road building project. In his January 2, 1814 letter to his Commander, Major General Charles Pinckney, Bourke wrote: “Tomorrow proceed on down to the Hog Mountain Fort.” As he informed Pinckney, the nearest place to Hog Mountain to post a letter was the Jefferson Court House. It was not until January 11 that he was able to report that on January 3, he had among other things, “blazed out a road which will cross the south fork of Big Creek (later called Laurel Creek and then Peachtree Creek), which empties into the river at the Standing Peachtree Village.” There he established a landing about a half mile below the mouth of Peachtree Creek, because the river was only 11 inches deep at the mouth of the creek. The Landing, which Bourke named “Floydsville” in honor of the Commander of the Georgia Militia Army, was about where the Stamps Sand Company has its operation across the river from the Georgia Power plant.

“The road from Hog Mountain to this Landing…is not Short of Fifty miles Eighteen of which I found had been made use of by Waggons already.” Based on the course of the road as mapped when Gwinnett County was surveyed in 1819, this would be where downtown Duluth is today! Perhaps this alludes to the incursions and settlement on Creek lands by American settlers that had been going on for many years and had led to the Oconee Indian Wars of the 1780s - 1790s, and now the Creek Indian War.

Bourke continued, “...the balance of the road I have Contracted for and it will be done in sufficient time for the boat.” This no doubt refers what we read in Flanigan’s history: “After this road was marked out and surveyed….Isham Williams, William Nesbit and Bob Young were employed to grade or construct the road, each one agreeing to furnish some hands, and William Nesbit was to superintend the work.” Flanigan quotes here from Judge Richard Winn’s 1895 newspaper account on which he relies for the story. However, the Flanigan’s sources were incorrect that these three, along with Lt. Gilmer, laid out the road, as we see from Bourke’s letter. By the time Gilmer had arrived, around February 10 according to an account by James Montgomery, the road had had been completed. In his January 22 letter to Pinckney, Bourke wrote, “...Waggon road finished from the Hog Mountain this night.” The boat was loaded with 50–60 barrels of flour and commenced its trip down the Chattahoochee on February 3.

Bourke also notes that he only had to cross one stream about two miles outside of Hog Mountain until he got to Peachtree Creek, and did, “some considerable work on the Big Creek and making a Landing on the River.” The former refers to the bridge across Peachtree Creek that Montgomery later referred to in citing the location of where they built Fort Peachtree. (More on that in the November issue.)

Note: The trail that Bourke and the road builders followed was known as Peachtree Trail. It is referred to as Peach Tree Road in the survey notes and plats done when the county (then Henry County) was laid out in 1821. The 1819 Gwinnett County survey notes, which predate the formation of Henry County by almost two years, also call it Peach Tree Road—although the plat made in 1869 labels it, Road to Standing Peachtree. (See GAB April 2013 issue page 2 for details and plat image.)

JJD
Venturing Out

Time to get out and enjoy this wonderful weather! GARS will be involved in several archeological projects and field trips in the next couple months. Below are some upcoming activities:

- **GHS Elisha Winn Fair, October 4–5**: GARS/FDF will again set up the Museum Tent with Fort Daniel and GARS exhibits. An archaeological recordation and preservation project at the old dam near the Creekside Rock Shelter will be conducted by Jim and members with Winn Fair visitors invited to participate.
- **In Search of Fort Peachtree, scheduled for October 8**: Metal detection survey, mapping, trenching, and screening. Participation limited to active GARS members and GAAS representation. Contact Jim or Wayne for details and possible extra days or rain dates.
- **Graves Soapstone Site Excavations, October 10–13**: Continuing archaeological excavations at the 3500 BP soapstone quarry and bowl manufacturing site in Gwinnett County. Participation is limited to GARS and sibling SGA chapter members. The full 57-page report on the 2010 and 2011 sessions is completed and is available in PDF for members and professionals from Jim.
- **Yahoola Cherokee Museum, November 8**: Wallace Seabolt has invited GARS to visit the new museum in Dahlonega. (See Page 1 for more information.)
Visitors enjoyed some interesting archaeology at the 6th Annual Fort Daniel Frontier Faire this year. Georgia State students under Professor Jeff Glover were working on the hearth feature in the SW Blockhouse while 4th-grade students and older were working with Georgia Gwinnett Professor Ken Anderson in a small area of the NE Blockhouse. The students recovered many artifacts in the plow zone soils of the NE Blockhouse. About 1/3 of the total are pictured below, and include one possible musket flint (not pictured). The metal hook (right and below) is unusual, and has yet to be further identified. Seven Native American pottery sherds, pictured below, were found, about two feet from where other sherds were found in 2007, as have been more fragments of the hand-painted polychrome ware (See GAB November 2012 and www.thefortdanielfoundation.org for more excavation photos).

Dr. Glover and his crew have made great headway in defining our hearth or fire pit in the SW Blockhouse. Following standard procedure, the feature is being bisected so that it can be seen in profile as well as in plan view. It is deeper than had been imagined and they are still not done—hoping to get back again this fall. Mapping and drawing of this feature is being done using a 3D photogrammetry program that employs multiple digital photos taken from around the feature as well as above. Visitors also got to see the Anthropology Department’s “Quad Copter” in action (See Page 5 and left) taking low level aerial views of the feature as well as a spectacular aerial view of the site surrounded by creeping subdivisions and Stone Mountain on the horizon! See the Frontier Faire Photo Album Section next for more photos of the Fair.

6th Annual Frontier Faire

Demonstrators enjoying a sunny fall day at the Frontier Faire

Vendors at Fort Daniel’s Faire

Students excavating while the “Quad Copter” takes aerial photographs
Unique Find?

A 56 Cal. musket ball with (likely) sulphur inclusions (pictured left) was found by Greg Beavers near Unit 24 during cleanup prior to the Fair. Exhibiting no Sprue or mold marks, this ball could have been made in a shot tower, unlike all the other balls found at the site that were made in hand-held molds.

During the 1812 War, for example, the Federal Government contracted with the Sparks Shot Tower (pictured right) in Philadelphia to provide musket balls. Lead is refined from Galena (lead sulphide, PbS), so sulphur contaminants are not out of the question. Did Greg find one of these?