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GARS Monthly Meeting

The Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will have its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 9 at Fort Daniel Archaeological Lab (NOT Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center) located in the Grant House basement (2505 Braselton Hwy, Buford). GARS President, Delana Gilmore, will give a presentation on 18th–19th century Georgia iron manufactories in Jackson, Franklin, and other “northern” counties. (This program was originally scheduled for March.) These were the subject of part of her recent MA Archaeology and Heritage thesis (see GAB III/10 and IV/1). All meetings are opened to the public. We gather at 7PM with meeting beginning at 7:30PM.

Upcoming GARS Events

- **Monthly Meeting**: There will not be a regular scheduled meeting in May. However, a “lab night” for all those in GARS or FDF who want to help with artifact curation for Fort Daniel and other GARS projects will be conducted.

- **Field Trip**: Roswell Mills on Saturday, April 18. Meet at 10AM at the Roswell Visitors Center. (The trip was postponed last year due to bad weather.) *If you are planning on going, please email Delana Gilmore. For more information see Page 3.*

- **Archaeology Month Project**: May is Georgia’s Archaeology Month, and this year’s theme is “Native Shores, European Waves: Contact Archaeology in Georgia.” GARS members will be participating this year in Archaeology Month by volunteering at **Fort Daniel’s Open House on Saturday, May 9**. There will be activities and demos in the archaeological lab and at the site along with excavating by GARS and FDF members.

Artistic photograph of a blast furnace from the nineteenth century

Don’t forget to like both
Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society &
Fort Daniel Foundation on Facebook.
In recent issues (Vol. III Nos. 7–9) we’ve covered the story of Fort Daniel, Peachtree Road, and Fort Peachtree, which were all connected not just in space but in history. That historical dimension was expanded a bit last fall when we stumbled upon a previously unrecorded Civil War earthworks associated with events leading up to the Battle for Atlanta. It is adjacent to our Fort Peachtree search area (see Vol. III. No. 9 page7). On the 1864 Henry Campbell sketch map (pictured right), the earthworks is referred to as a “Rebel Fort.” What follows is an update on that site.

On March 18, Wayne and I returned to the City of Atlanta Waterworks property with Greg Beavers, John Hopkins, Hal Stringer, Scott Goodlow, and Jenna Pirtle. Jenna, who recently received her Master of Arts in Anthropology, supervised the recordation of the Civil War site. This involved removal of all vegetation less than about 1.5” in diameter and raking the leaves from within and around the main feature. It is a 68’ long infantry trench (there are two additional features as well). Greg and John conducted the metal detecting survey. The infantry trench was mapped, metal detecting “hits” were plotted and collected, and the site was photo-recorded. The artifacts have now all been processed. A preliminary plan of the site along with a cross section at A/B is pictured below. Final drawings will be in the final report.

The “Rebel Fort” can be seen from each end in the photos on Page 4. Collected from within and around the feature were ten Federal minie balls (one of which next to the musket ball may be “chewed”), one 63 cal. musket ball, and one leather fragment exhibiting snap, still fastened. There were a total of 11 minie balls, actually. In addition, there were two 19th-century cut nails, one jacketed 30.06 rifle slug, a child’s “Cracker Jacks” compass (identified as such because I had one in the 1950s), some barbed wire, wire nails, a Vaseline jar, and clear bottle glass—all modern.

Some brick and asbestos tile had also been dumped into the trench at some point after the 1950s. Two other features were noted but not yet fully recorded: a symmetrical 10’ diameter circular depression situated 30 ft. downslope off the north end of the trench and a linear, transverse cut further on down. The depression has a low berm on the downslope site, and so appears to be a dug feature and not a tree blowout. The cut has the appearance of a road but is only about 100’ long. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to thoroughly record these continued on Page 4
Roswell Mills Field Trip on Saturday, April 18

Join us for GARS spring field trip to beautiful, historical Roswell, Georgia. We will meet at the Convention & Visitors Center located on 617 Atlanta Street (#4 on the map with parking in the rear) at 10AM. View the exhibits on your own while we gather. From there we will drive down the hill to the parking area for site of the 1854 Roswell Manufacturing Company cotton mill situated on Vickery’s Creek.

In 2008 while doing archaeological monitoring of ground disturbing activities for construction of footings for a visitor’s boardwalk through the mill ruins, Jim D’Angelo carried out limited excavation and extensive research into the history of water power at the site. He will be leading this part of the field trip and showing how the mill was set up for large waterwheels, at first, and then was converted to turbine power at the turn of the century. We will then follow the remains of the Leffel penstock up to the impressive 1882 stone dam and the head gate. A walk down to Machine Shop and new bridge for a view up and down the river will conclude this part of the field trip.

Open for lunch include several restaurants along Canton Street and Wms Bros. BBQ. Afternoon options include Barrington Hall (No. 5) or Bulloch Hall. If you are planning on going, please email GARS President Delana Gilmore at dgilmore@wordsmithquill.com.
two features. We hope to return soon to record them and to do more work on the Fort Peachtree search area. According to John Rowell, when the Federal troops approached the Western and Atlanta RR bridge, known as Vinning’s Bridge, enlistee Henry Campbell wrote in his diary that “it was considered quite a valuable place by the rebels as the numerous heavy fortifications around it testify.” Excerpts from his diary are enlivened by the map that he produced: At 2AM on July 6 [16?], after the moon had gone down, “the guns were hitched up and silently moved down the road . . . across the RR along the brow of the hill and then right up into the fort on the right of the RR. [This is the large fort on the left bank just abandoned by the Confederates.] This had to be done very quietly and under the cover of darkness as we had to move for some distance along the bank of the river within 200 yds. of the enemy’s sharpshooters.” “All six of the guns were got into the fort without any accident or being discovered by the enemy.” The artillerymen determined that “the fort is in very bad position, as the rebels get a complete cross fire on it from up and down the river. The sharpshooters line the bank of the river and are so troublesome that that we are obliged to keep constantly undercover all day long.”

Rowell remarks that, “an upstream Rebel fort was only 800 yards distant, with four canon dug into the hillside, and the Yankee artillerymen could bring one gun to bear on this fort. [The remains of this and several rifle pits to the south are among the few still extant features on Campbell’s map]. A second fort on Peachtree Creek was thought not . . . to be dangerous since it had only two guns that four pieces of Lilly’s battery had in range and could force to keep silent.” This is the fort north of the “Rebel Fort” on the map and is probably on the rise where in 1965 the intake plant was built where Gene Mitchell thought he saw remains of Fort Peachtree. ■ JJD

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More Diggin’s

- **Atlanta History Center’s annual Sheep to Shawl** Festival will be held on **Saturday, April 11 beginning at 10:30AM**. Guests will experience the process of cloth making through demonstrations and activities ranging from sheep shearing and dyeing to spinning and weaving. This program included in the cost of general admission. For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center’s Web site](https://www.atlantahistory.org/event/sheep-to-shawl/).

- **New South Associates’ Archaeology Day** will occur on **Saturday, May 2 at their headquarters in Stone Mountain beginning at 10AM**. For more information see Page 5.

- **Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center’s Archaeology Festival** will be on **Saturday, May 16 from 11AM–3PM**. Come celebrate International Museum Day and Archaeology Month! For more information visit the [GEHC’s Web site](https://www.gehc.org/event/archaeology-festival/).
WANTED
For Fort Daniel Museum

Any example of late 17th to early 19th c. complete blue or green feather-edge whiteware plate, saucer, cup, etc. Also known as Rococo edge ware.

WANTED
For Fort Daniel Museum

Example of late 17th to early 19th c. bone handle table knife and/or fork.
Fort Daniel News

- As part of the Atlanta Preservation Center’s *Phoenix Flies Celebration* on Saturday, March 21, Jim D’Angelo and Wayne Waldrip spoke to over 50 visitors at the Pavilion at Standing Peachtree Park about Fort Peachtree and its connection with Fort Daniel and Peachtree Road. The informal talk was accompanied by a display of photos, maps, models of a typical stockade fort and the keelboat that brought supplies to Fort Mitchell from Fort Peachtree, and artifacts from Fort Daniel and the Civil War “Rebel Fort” discussed on Page 2.

- Preparations for the upcoming 7th Annual Frontier Faire have begun. *The Events Committee will meet on Sunday, April 19 at Fort Daniel’s meeting room. The meeting will be from 4PM to 5:30PM.* It is opened to all who are interested in helping at the Frontier Faire.

- The Foundation welcomes new members Timothy and Carolyn Golden and their 13-year-old son, Joshua, an aspiring archaeologist.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!** This is a reminder that both GARS and FDF membership fees for 2015 are now due. If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact [John Hopkins](mailto:johnhopkins@thegars.org); and for FDF membership please contact [Betty Warbington](mailto:bwarbington@thefortdanielfoundation.org).