Georgia Archaeology Month

Every year the Georgia’s Governor signs a proclamation declaring May as Archaeology Month. Archaeology Month is intended to promote preservation and stewardship of Georgia’s hidden archaeological heritage, and the Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) serves as its primary sponsor. SGA promotes educational and public outreach activities around the state, and this year’s theme is *Native Shores, European Waves: Contact Archaeology in Georgia*.

Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society members are invited to participate in some local events *in lieu* of the monthly meeting. Here are some of those activities:

- New South Associates’ Archaeology Day on Saturday, May 2 (See Page 4 for more details.)
- Fort Peachtree Dig on Wednesday, May 6 (Rescheduled due to weather.)
- Fort Daniel Open House on Saturday, May 9 (See Page 5 for more details.)
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC) Archaeology Festival on Saturday, May 16. For information visit the GEHC’s Web site.

Additionally, the SGA holds its Spring Meeting during Archaeology Month. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, May 30 at the Lowndes County Historical Society in Valdosta.

Keep an eye on your email and GARS Facebook for more details about these and more local Archaeology Month events. For a list of statewide events and more information about the SGA Spring Meeting visit the SGA Web site. ■
In the last issued (Vol. IV No. 4 p. 2) we covered the GARS/FDF recordation of the “Rebel Fort” feature that is adjacent to the area where members are conducting our “Search for Fort Peachtree,” and I reported on a number of artifacts that were recovered during the Metal Detection phase of that project. One of those artifacts (pictured right in the lower left of photo) is a “snap” still holding together two fragments of leather. It was assumed that the artifact was from a Confederate soldier’s accoutrement bag or pouch since this was a Confederate position. Alternatively, it could also have belonged to a Yankee since the Federal troops overran the position. If the artifact had not been cleaned, it would have remained comfortably (and logically) a part of this historic battle. Cleaning, however, has revealed that it is neither a Civil War, nor (even better) a Creek Indian War artifact. Instead, it is an “Eagle Snap” (pictured below left) belonging to a design that is to be dated no earlier than 1902!

I am indebted to several folks for helping to correct the initial “snap” judgment. The first of these was Georgia archaeologist, Dan Elliot, who wrote, “I have never seen one of these, but I can assure you [that] it is not Confederate; it is USA.” Georgia Civil War Commission member John B. Carroll III was able to inform me that it “appears to be a ‘Great Seal’ button. Those are post CW. They were put into service in 1902, I believe.”

Another Georgia archaeologist and GARS member, Jenna Pirtle, who supervised the recordation project, found a great deal of information on this design including the Scovill Mfg. Co. chart (pictured below right). This was a fortunate find because: 1) manufacturer stamps are important for dating; and 2) we would not be unable see the back of the snap without destroying the leather. The chart confirms what John Carroll said about the ante quem date.

However, Scovill was not the only manufacturer of military buttons with this design. (It is assumed that the shell for a button and snap would have been the same.) The photos from a relics Web site (pictured below left) compares a Scovill button (on the right) with a W. H. Horstmann & Sons Phil. button (on the left).

Our artifact is too worn for a definite comparison with these, but the bottom of the stem of the olive leaves cluster on the Horstmann version is the same as ours. Of course, ours could also be from another manufacturer, like Waterbury Button Co. of Connecticut.
So the next question is: What could the snap have fastened?

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Jenna and I searched several sources and discovered that while leather was the favored material for CW belts and accoutrements by the 20th century these were largely fabric canvas. Some leather was still used (such as for holsters), but examples of other leather accouterments are rare — particularly those that would use a snap fastener. The Eagle Snap was not rare, however, and was used extensively wherever a snap would be used. The example on the right is from a canvass pouch on a Doughboy’s utility belt.

Greg Beavers, who actually found the Eagle Snap, also searched the net and found a pouch that could have been it. However, a careful examination of this image shows stitching around the edge of the flap that does not appear in my photo, where arrows point to the edge treatment. In fact, the contour of the flap below the snap does not quite match either.

A closer match is the M1911 .45 cal double clip pouch I found on one Web site. The edge treatment and contour match about perfectly. Jenna responded: “I’m sold! Now that I got a better look at the pouch I see that it matches what we got. From further searching, it appears that leather is pretty rare and eagle snaps even rarer. But I concur that it looks to be an early 20th century leather eagle snap mag pouch for a M1911 or M1912. We know it’s Army, and the Army took up the M1911 as their standard issue that year. I have found one good example [of the pouch] that has the stamp of ‘Rock Island/Arsenal/1913/F.C.C.’”

Greg reminded me that this object was found up-slope from the infantry trench towards were the hill begins to level out, and “It was pretty deep, maybe 8 or 9 inches deep if I recall correctly. Most minie balls I found were from about 4 to 8 inches deep.” That area may have been impacted by material dumped nearby during construction in the 1960s, so that slope wash from those heaps would have resulted in the more recent artifact being buried than older ones further from the piles. Jenna’s observation still holds “a rare item in a little teeny place that seems to have a long history.”

Speaking of snap judgments, it was also assumed in the April article that those fired bullets found in and around the trench feature were Yankee since they had fired on this position and this type of minie-ball was Federal issue. Additionally, that the one pictured next to the musket-ball was “chewed.” My former boss at TRC Garrow, Pat Garrow, responded from Tennessee, “Interesting newsletter as always. A couple of notes on the bullets from the ‘Rebel Fort.’ First of all, no bullets can be definitely identified as ‘Federal bullets’ without the context of what specific units were present and how they were armed. Both sides used the same weapons — although Federals seem to have better direct access to some types of weapons. Second, lots of bullets are identified as ‘chewed’ in reports, while very few were actually chewed by humans. You have to have clear imprints of human teeth to make the call, as several types of critters, especially squirrels, like to chew on lead bullets. I did a Union regimental camp in Missouri where I found one bullet with the clear marks of human inci-
Recently, a few GARS members brave a break in the rainy weather to go and visit the Historic Roswell Mill with Dr. Jim D’Angelo as a tour guide. The tour began at Roswell’s Visitors Center where GARS members enjoyed looking at the artifacts that people have found and donated to the museum. After a brief history of the mill and a look at the archaeological report that Jim wrote, they ventured out down to the Mill Complex to walk along the paths that connected the remains of the old 1839 mill and the 1882 mill (which today includes shops) to the old dam (pictured right).

The Roswell Manufacturing Company, incorporated in 1839, was one of the earliest textile mill enterprises in Cobb County (which is now Fulton County). The 1839 mill employed about 30 hands and achieved a capital of $80,000 by the mid-1840s. The Mill Complex has changed over time due to the ravages of the Civil War, natural disasters, and the
More Diggin’s

- **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 4.

- **Fort Daniel Open House** will be held on **Saturday, May 9** beginning at **10AM**. Led by professional Georgia archaeologists and members of the GARS and the Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF), activities will include: excavation and screening for artifacts in the fort’s Northeast Blockhouse area; interpretive tours (*pictured right*) and exhibits; media presentations on Fort Daniel’s history and archaeology. See below for more information.

- **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.

- Before the breaching of the historic stone masonry dams of the Eagle and Phenix Mill on March 20, 2012 and City Mills a year later on March 11, 2013, Southern Research consulted with a team of divers from the Chambers County Sheriff’s Department Dive Team (from LaFayette, Alabama) to take a look at what was behind the stone dams on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Georgia. They also worked with maritime archaeologists at SEARCH, Inc. to complete side scan sonar and yet another team at Landair Surveying Company of Roswell, Georgia, for a complete digital scan of the stone dams. Now after nearly four years of research, fieldwork, and analysis, an educational Web site has been launched on the removal of the historic mill dams. Thank you to Dean Woods and The Fort Daniel Foundation invites you to explore archaeology and the early history of our local community at one of Gwinnett County’s premiere historic sites. The Open House marks the opening of our new archaeology lab and museum.

  Led by professional Georgia archaeologists and members of the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society and the Foundation, activities will include: excavation and screening for artifacts in the fort’s NE Blockhouse area; interpretive tours and exhibits; media presentations on Fort Daniel’s history and archaeology including its connection with the original Peachtree Road and Fort Peachtree, and viewing the artifact conservation and curation process in our new Lab.

  We look forward to your participation in our ongoing community archaeological program.

  Bring the family!

  Experience hands on activities, and learn the process behind preparing artifacts for study.

Archaeology Month

Open House

Saturday, May 9

10AM–2PM

2505 Braselton Hwy
Buford, GA 30519

Free parking on site
The Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) received an award for Excellence in Preservation Service for its rehabilitation and preservation of Fort Daniel from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation at its 38th Annual Preservation Awards ceremony held on April 17 in Athens, Georgia. Fort Daniel was built in 1813 as a critical supply station and defensive battlement during the War of 1812. It was later abandoned, and its log structure faded in obscurity. The site of the Fort was rediscovered in 2007. Five years later, Gwinnett County purchased the site, which is currently managed by the FDF. The FDF sponsors an annual Frontier Faire and is developing educational resources for critical hands-on experiences that foster an understanding of local history, archaeology, and the importance of preservation. These efforts led the Georgia Trust to recognize the FDF with an Excellence in Preservation Services award.

“The Fort Daniel Foundation is pleased and honored to receive this distinguished award from the Georgia Trust,” said Dr. Jim D’Angelo, president of the FDF Board. “The core of our mission is to educate the public about the site and the processes involved in preserving it.”

Along with Fort Daniel the Chesser-Williams House was also recognized. The vernacular I-house dating to the mid-19th century has been the focus of an extensive preservation effort undertaken by Gwinnett County and the Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation. Donated to Gwinnett County by the Williams family in 2008, the house was relocated to the EHC campus—six miles from its original site which was down the street from Fort Daniel. The exterior paintings, which are attributed to a German itinerant artist, were removed for future display in a controlled museum environment and then painstakingly recreated on the restored structure.

“I am so proud that the Georgia Trust has recognized two of Gwinnett County’s most important historical sites,” said Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash. “Our county has a proud history, and as we approach our bicentennial, I am pleased to see that leaders in the preservation community recognize that Gwin-