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SGA Fall Meeting at Fort Daniel

The Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Fall Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17 at Fort Daniel Archaeological Site. Their meeting will coincide with Fort Daniel’s 7th Annual Frontier Faire. The morning meeting will be at Fort Daniel Elementary School where a series of presentations and a business meeting will occur. In the afternoon the SGA members are invited to attend the Faire at Fort Daniel Archaeological Site.

SGA strives to unite anyone who is interested in archaeology of Georgia, so anyone are encouraged to participate. For this particular meeting SGA is focusing on student participation and encourages students or recent graduates to share their archaeology projects and experiences. If you know someone who might be interested, submissions must be made by October 5. See the SGA Web site for information about papers submission.

After the morning meeting, SGA members are invited to attend the Fort Daniel Frontier Faire. There will be food, live music, and community archaeology. The Frontier Faire is cosponsored by Fort Daniel Foundation and Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society.

A registration fee will be charged for the SGA meeting. For more information about the upcoming meeting visit the SGA Web site.

From the GARS President

There will not be a GARS meeting this month. The next meeting will be in November, and a field trip is being planned for Saturday, November 14. The meeting and the field trip will focus on Native American heritage since November is Native American Heritage Month. Keep an eye on the GARS Facebook page and your email for more details. ~Delana Gilmore

Don’t forget to like both Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society & Fort Daniel Foundation on Facebook.
Cultural Resource Management: Upshaw General Store

Member Greg Beavers recently informed us that “there is an old stone and frame store on Rosebud Rd. in south Gwinnett, built around 1900, that, according to the man who works there, could soon be in danger of being destroyed.” (See picture below.) Though it is presently an antique store, it was originally the “Upshaw General Merchandise Store,” which has a quite an interesting history according to Greg.

An article that appeared in the Autumn 1977 issue of the Gwinnett Historical Society’s newsletter (then it was only known as Newsletter) states, “The store was started in 1894 in a small frame building by Mr. Upshaw’s father, the Rev. Preston C. Upshaw, a Primitive Baptist ministers and farmer. It was then a wilderness criss-crossed by wagon trails. Olin took over management of the store in 1907 after finishing business college in Atlanta.”

According to the article, “The area was populated mostly by cotton famers. [The Upshaws] extended credit to families at the start of the year for seed, fertilizer, groceries and other necessities. In the fall [Olin] would buy their cotton, and apply the proceeds toward their debt. If it came a short crop year, he would extend the balance of their debt into another year.”

Greg adds that Olin was related to Berrien Upshaw who was Margaret Mitchell’s first husband. “The marriage lasted less than a year as he was an abusive moonshine runner. Many think that she used some of his characteristics for Rhett Butler.”

Properties like this associated with persons of local or regional significance, as was Olin Upshaw, are often lost to development. Greg wonders, “If there might be anything that can be done to possibly preserve the store.” Unfortunately, even NRHP status (which this building does not have) cannot guarantee this if the owner sells to a developer who chooses to demolish the property. Usually, only purchase and redevelopment of these properties can preserve them. Short of that, we must rely on preservation and discussion of historic records and photos as was done, for example, by the Historical Society and alerting the public to threatened sites and their history—as was done by Greg in the case and, incidentally, also in the case of the Fort Daniel Site back in 2007. ■ JJD

More Diggin’s

- **Gwinnett Historical Society** (GHS) will be having their 37th Annual Elisha Winn Fair on October 3–4. For information please visit GHS’s Web site. GARS and FDF will be participating with the Museum Tent.
- The **Society for Georgia Archaeology Fall Meeting** will be held on Saturday, October 17 in Buford, Georgia, at Fort Daniel Archaeological Site. For more information visit the SGA’s Web site.
- **Haunted Halloween at the Atlanta History Center** will be on Friday, October 23 from 6:30–9:30PM. For information visit the AHC’s Web site.
- **Georgia’s Native People at McDaniel Farm** will occur on Saturday, November 7 from 10AM to 12NOON. Discover the heritage of the Cherokee and Muskogee people through traditional stories and games. There is a program fee of $8. To register visit the GEHC’s Web site.
- The **Annual Christmas Party** will be on Sunday, December 6 at Catherine Long’s house. More information will be given at a later date.
Recently, GARS members visited the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center and had an special tour of the (not opened to the public yet!) Chesser-Williams house. Built in the 1850s, the Chesser-Williams house once was located on Braselton Highway—down the street from Fort Daniel—but was moved to the GEHC campus to be a part of its cultural and education program. Additionally, the Chesser-Williams will be the center of a living history program representing the agricultural and industrial history of Gwinnett County.

Along with the house there is a Monitor-style barn (pictured left) that was located on the old Lee Farm near the Lee-Nash cemetery in Snellville, Georgia.

The Chesser-Williams house is of historical significance because of the exterior and interior artwork. A German traveling painter created the artwork in exchange for room and board. Research has revealed that this house is one of seven structures from Texas to North Carolina that may have been painted by the same German painter. At the time of the tour the parlor featured beautiful stencil painting of a medallion motif on the ceiling (pictured right) and an apple-vine motif border around the top of the walls. Over the mantle a landscape portrait shows a pastoral scene. Additional artwork is still in the restoration stage.

During the tour a couple of GARS members noticed pencil doodles on the parlor wall. There was writing stating “Vivi(?) and ALA are the most wonderful chums” (pictured bottom left). The names could be initials since there was also writing on the opposite side stating “Miss (?) Annie Lou Ashworth(?) Buford, GA” (pictured bottom center); this could be the “ALA” mentioned in the other writing. The most interesting was a sketch of a doll or a little girl (pictured bottom right). What do the other walls in the Chesser-Williams have to reveal? You never know what you can find behind the painted walls of an old house. ■ DMG

As a fundraiser, GARS created a cookbook called Old Family Favorites. Thank you to all who contributed to the cookbook. There are diverse recipes ranging from hoecakes to French silk pie to caponato in Old Family Favorites. If you would like to buy a cookbook, you can get one at the Frontier Faire or email Delana Gilmore (dgilmore@wordsmithquill.com).
Fort Daniel News

- There will be a clean-up day at Fort Daniel on Saturday, October 10. This year along with the Frontier Faire SGA will be having their annual meeting and the SGA Board of Directors meeting at the site. People are needed to help clean up the archaeological lab and the units. If you are interested in helping, please email Jim D’Angelo.

- The Daughters of the War of 1812 have invited FDF and GARS members to the grave marking ceremony for General Allen Daniel on December 6 at 2:30 pm in Danielsville, Georgia. The ceremony will be held at his actual gravesite on Hwy 281, which is north of Danielsville.

- A heartfelt thank-you goes out to John Hopkins, Jr. for the excellent work he did on the new 90” long, ceiling-high display and storage cabinet and shelves located in the Fort Daniel Archaeological Lab.

Beyond Frontier Boundaries

7th Annual Frontier Faire
Saturday, October 17 from 9AM–5PM
Fort Daniel Archaeological Site
(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

MEMBERSHIP FEES:
If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact John Hopkins; and for FDF membership please contact Betty Warbington.