Each year visitors to the Fort Daniel Frontier Faire, observe or participate in what we call “Public” or “Community Archaeology.” Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) is an organization that involves enthusiastic members in various kinds of archaeological opportunities. Since investigations began at the Fort Daniel site in 2007, it has been the community that has discovered the artifacts, the fort’s footprint, and the history of this site. Hence, it is with other GARS projects in and around Gwinnett County and with other Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) chapters (as well as with similar organizations and efforts across the US, North America, Europe, and in all parts of the world) that Public Archaeology has caught on!

It was not always this way. Archaeology was reserved exclusively for the professionals. Though the states of Maryland and Virginia have been leaders in this area for the past 50 years, it really did not begin to catch on in other places until about 20 years ago. When we started doing this at Fort Daniel 15 years ago, it was only one of two or three such efforts in Georgia.

An interesting example of Public Archaeology in West Virginia appeared in a recent issue of the Huffington Post. At the 2012 National Jamboree (pictured left) held at the new Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, lead archaeologist Kim McBride “introduced 180 Boy Scouts from across the country to archeology. In July the Scouts excavated the exterior of the log building’s foundation revealing 70 pounds of artifacts and two chimney foundations.” In the fall “nearly 300 8th grade students from Eastern and Western Greenbrier Middle Schools took a field trip to the site to complete the interior study of the foundation—an effort which provided

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insight to the building’s architecture. The archeology project gave the students the rare opportunity to witness history unravel before their eyes and discover the true past of the McCoy Fort.”

Many sites lend themselves to public archaeology and involvement of younger students. Fort Daniel with its “plow zone archaeology” is one as is another site I worked on in 2003 when I was an archaeologist with TRC Environmental: The South River Brick Company.

Located in south Atlanta along the South River near where 285 and Moreland Avenue cross, the site is composed of old, flooded, clay mining pits and piles of brick, brick bats, terra-cotta architectural tile debris, and “clinkers”—signs of the first type of kiln that was used at the site, the Scove kiln. (See photos on Page 5.)

South River Brick is first mentioned in the Atlanta Business Directory in 1893 but appears no more after 1914. Mention of it in trade journals is scant, and there is no mention of it in State Geologist reports. Taxes were paid on the property until 1939, but it was probably abandoned by 1920—as it was used as a dumping place for debris from the Atlanta Terra Cotta Company in Five Points. The ATCC was the largest manufacturer of terra-cotta architectural tile in the world at that time with several other plants in the US. Among other landmarks in Atlanta, they supplied the architectural tile for Atlanta’s City Hall, completed in 1930 (pictured right).

In the 1940s to early 1950s the late Richard Bickerstaff’s father built two or three beehive kilns at the site for Skippy Burns. That operation also failed.

The clay pits are now “Constitution Lakes,” and the site (plus 125-acres surrounding it) are Constitution Lakes Park, a 200-acre scenic wetlands park and wildlife preserve. At the invitation of Joel Slayton from the Friends of Constitution Lakes, I recently visited the Park with members and friends of GARS. We saw what a County Park system and their “Friends” partners could do with piles of brick and acres of swamp (wetland, sounds better). In addition to the formal wetland path, Joel and company have created a path that winds through the brick works area called, “Doll’s Head Trail.” It gets its name from one of the items of trash that they have picked up and used to mark the trail (See photo on Page 3).

Besides the opportunity for our group to have a field trip to this beautiful park, I was there to talk with Joel about where I thought the foundations of Skippy Burns’ round kilns were. They did not want to disturb them as they continued to removed the privet that is taking over the area. In 2003 we had put in a couple of test units; one of them revealed what looked like a kiln floor and possible edge of the venting system as one would find with a beehive downdraft kiln (see photos left from 2003 TRC report). It did not take long to relocated the test unit area thanks to the site plan that was included with the original report.

Previously, Joel and I had also talked about the possibility of a public archaeology project with the Friends and an Atlanta archaeologist, yet to be identified—contingent on County approval. GARS agreed that we would be interested in helping to get that off the ground with a test excavation to determine whether the location is really what it appeared to

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Pictures from Constitution Lakes

Thanks to Natasha D’Angelo, Delana Gilmore, and Betty Kinsaul for providing pictures.

Constitution Lakes Park

GARS members touring the old Brick Works sites

Things found along Doll’s Head Trail
GARS News

- **GARS Meeting:** On Thursday, March 10 at Fort Daniel *(beginning at 7PM)* guest speaker Dr. Valerie Pope Burnes will be presenting on the history of the Black Belt region of Alabama. A native of Talladega, Alabama, Valerie Pope Burnes received a Bachelor of Arts in history and English from Judson College *(pictured right)* and a PhD in history from Auburn University. For six years she served as director of the Center for the Study of the Black Belt at the University of West Alabama where she now teaches full time in the history department. Burnes teaches classes in African-American history, women’s history, and public history with a focus on historic preservation and archival studies. Her recent work, *Visions of the Black Belt: A Cultural Survey of the Heart of Alabama*, was released last October and is already in its second printing.

- **Button Gwinnett Day at Georgia Gwinnett College** will be on Wednesday, April 13. GARS and Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) will be setting up tables to inform students and facility members about Gwinnett County’s history and how its historic sites are being preserved.

- **May is Georgia’s Archaeology Month.** This year’s SGA theme will be “Dynamic Borders.” This year GARS will be returning to Fort Daniel and will be hosting (along with FDF) an open house on Saturday, May 14. More details will be available soon about this upcoming event.

Fort Daniel News

- Fort Reconstruction Feasibility Study Committee recently received the construction plans for Pritchett’s stockade fort in West Virginia. Greg Bray, Executive Director of Pritchett’s Fort Memorial Foundation, sent the plans as requested by Jim D’Angelo, who visited the fort last summer with his wife, Natasha. Some of features of the fort fit with what Major General Allen Daniel described in his orders to build a new fort at Hog Mountain. Along with plans for Fort Foster in Florida that Jim obtained from Florida division of State parks several months ago, these will allow our architect Chad Alexander Smith, AIA to complete concept plans for the proposed Fort Daniel reconstruction. When completed, these will be the basis for estimating construction costs—all of which will be presented to the County Board of Commissioners for their consideration. The Committee and Architect will be meeting in the coming weeks to finalize details of the proposed fort’s layout and style of log construction.

- A grant application to the JMC Foundation, Inc. for construction of a blacksmith structure from the Jackson Logs donated to FDF by Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS) was recently submitted. David Coffey Bros. Logging of Flowery Branch will build the log structure, and FDF members will prepare the site—put in footings and construct the roof, according to the application. The plans call for an approximately 10 ft. square structure covered by an oversize gable roof similar to a structure built by David (see GAB V:1.5). Should the grant be awarded, details will be covered in a following issue of GAB.

- FDF will be participating in the upcoming Atlanta Preservation Center’s Phoenix Flies event. On Saturday, March 19 Jim D’Angelo along with other FDF members will give a presentation at Standing Peachtree Park located in Atlanta’s Upper West. For more information visit the Atlanta Preservation Center’s Web site.
**Archaeology Lab Days at Fort Daniel** will be on **Saturday, March 5 and 19** beginning at **10AM**. Volunteers will be trained in processing Fort Daniel artifacts. If you are interested, [email Delana Gilmore.](mailto:Delana.Gilmore@...)

**Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society’s (GAAS) next meeting** will be on **Tuesday, March 8** at the **Fernbank Museum** beginning at **6:30PM**. Guest speaker **Dr. Nicola Sharratt**, who is Assistant Professor of anthropology at Georgia State University, will be presenting “Living and Dying through Political Turmoil: Excavations in a terminal Tiwanaku (AD 950–1150) village in the Moquegua Valley, Peru.”

**Gwinnett Historical Society meeting** will be on **Monday, March 21** at the **Historic Courthouse** (downtown Lawrenceville) beginning at **7PM**. Guest speaker **Robert C. Jones** will speaking on “Songs of the Civil War.” For more information visit [GHS’s Web site.](http://www.ghs.org)

**During the month of March** the **Atlanta Preservation Center’s Phoenix Flies** event will be occurring. Several events throughout the metro area will highlight the history of Atlanta. For information visit the [Atlanta Preservation Center’s Web site.](http://www.atlantapreservation.org)

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**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**.

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We also looked at the large quantity of terra-cotta tile remnants (*pictured right*) and their shapes, which tell us something about the manufacturing process. Like brick and terra-cotta pipe, the shapes are extruded through a die attached to the end of the brick machine—like an old fashioned meat grinder. Unlike brick, which are cut from a column of clay before drying and firing, some terra-cotta architectural tile shapes were trimmed to size after firing; thus, the remnants show the profile of the tiles’ cross-section giving us some idea of the many forms that went into a façade like that of the City Hall. ■ *JJD*

![Diagram of improved brick kiln](image1.jpg)

![Terra-cotta tile remnants](image4.jpg)
Recently, the Georgia Senate voted on SB 346 and it passed to the House of Representatives. The bill still includes a $100 million provision that would exempt 75–80% of state funded transportation projects from environmental studies. The bill author claims that there would be no threat to environmental or cultural resources because there are still federal projects that would receive study and because required studies are still in effect when other environmental acts regarding wildlife, sediment and erosion, known burial sites, endangered species, and clean water are involved. This is a misunderstanding on the part of the author because the state funded projects would not be subject to federal laws with regards to all archaeological resources. The legislation does not protect previously unknown or undocumented archaeological sites, including unknown burial places. No archaeologists will be employed in an effort to locate and record sites when studies are exempted by the current legislation. Our elected officials are in need of an education on the environmental process in place in the State of Georgia.

Current GEPA legislation acts as an insurance policy against unforeseen consequences that can and do take place when cultural resource studies are not conducted. The lawmakers are concerned about keeping costs in check; however, they fail to recognize that when studies are not conducted there is a real possibility of encountering burial sites, prehistoric sites, or other resources of great concern to local communities.

The Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA) and SGA are working to better advise the members of the House of Representatives and the members of the Transportation, Natural Resources and Environment, and Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committees. A comprehensive understanding of the GEPA process should allow them to consider amendments that would accomplish the goals of the Senate lawmakers by keeping necessary studies in place while providing common sense examples of ways to streamline projects that are needed to improve transportation for the state.

Help protect archaeological sites in Georgia! Contact members in the House of Representatives. ■ SGA