The Kidd Fraction and Neighbors: John Gresham and Isham Williams

In the last issue of the GAB, as part of our recent series on James H. Kidd (see Vol. VI issue 7 page 7, as well as VI.7.1ff and VI.6.1ff by Eli Stancel) I published two maps created by former member Bill Fields, who has been working on titles to land surrounding and including Fort Daniel. One of those maps (pictured right) illustrated the location and shape of “the Kidd fraction,” a portion of LL 95 that was cited in an 1881 deed (Tilfords McConnell to Nathaniel Teagle; pictured on Page 3) and subsequent deeds in 1903 and 1926.

“Kidd’s fraction” is important because, as Eli has shown in his articles, James H. Kidd operated a trading post somewhere in the vicinity of the Fort Daniel site AND Kidd reported that his neighbor, John Gresham, came to his aid when he was having problems with local Native Americans. Gresham owned the land on which Fort Daniel was built. The other map in the aforementioned September article shows that parcel—which Gresham sold to a Captain Hamilton in 1816—about a year after Fort Daniel would have been abandoned. It is just “up the road” from the Kidd fraction. (See picture on Page 3.)

During the summer I searched the original Land Lot Lottery files at the State Archives and found that LL 95 was not awarded to anyone in the 1820 Land Lottery. Fractional lots (of which LL 95 was one of many in Gwinnett County) were sold separately at continued on Page 3
On Tuesday, October 3 the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners will be recognizing members of Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) and Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS). The ceremony will begin at 2PM at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center.

The Blacksmith Apprenticeship Program will begin this month. The first of six sessions will be at the Winn Fair on October 7–8, and the second session will be at the Frontier Faire on October 21. By looking at the picture on the left, you can see that the Tandy Key Blacksmith Shop is getting ready for them. If you are interested in the program, please email our blacksmith, Doc Watson.

If you are interested in helping at the 9th Annual Frontier Faire, there are enough opportunities for everyone to take part in the fun! On Thursday, October 19 FDF and GARS members will be cleaning up the site and the Museum area. On Friday, October 20 students from Fort Daniel Elementary School along with Georgia State University students will be participating in a School Day at Fort Daniel. Then on Saturday, October 21 the Frontier Faire will have many opportunities for people. If interested, email Delana Gilmore.
some time after the Lottery for whole lots. Unsold lots “reverted” to
the State.

Land Lots were surveyed in the new Gwinnett County in 1819. Older
lots (below the Hawkins line in this part of the County) were originally
in Jackson County and were not Land Lots but “Headright” lots.
When Gwinnett was established in 1818, some of Jackson was includ-
ed and that included the Fort Daniel site, which is on Headright land
not a Land Lot.

Records at the State Archives show that LL 95 was not purchased in
connection with the 1820 Land Lottery; thus, “reverted” back to the
State. The first record of sale of this Lot is in 1849 to John A Born. It
was sold under provision of an Act of the General Assembly, ap-
proved December 30, 1847 and entitled an “Act to authorize the Gov-
ernor to appoint fit and proper persons to sell and dispose of the un-
drawn Lots in the Land Lotteries heretofore had in this State.” On July
3, 1849, for a price of $19.87, John A. Born purchased all of fractional
LL 95, consisting of 196 acres. This is, of course, long after James H.
Kidd would have had the 20.2-acre parcel in the SE corner of LL 95
and 32 years before the 1881 deed reference to the “Kidd fraction.”

Unfortunately, due to the fire that destroyed the Gwinnet Court house
in 1871, we cannot search deeds prior to that year (except for a few
that were in private hands and filed later) to learn the history of title from Born to McConnell. If the process
of transfer of title had been followed, Kidd would have purchased the 20.2-acre parcel between 1849 and 1881—
the years for which we have no record of ownership within LL 95. The problem is that James H. Kidd proba-
bly died in about 1840 for, as Eli points out in his article, “the government payed his final pension check in the
year 1840—usually indicating a death occurred.” Therefore, we can rule out a “proper” transfer of title or
know if Kidd ever had any kind of formal ownership of his “fraction.”

That Kidd might have been on this lot in 1819 is suggested
by Flanigan who wrote that:

The first advertisement of a sheriff’s sale of a slave in the
county appeared in a paper at Milledgeville, September
14, 1819. . . . The slave was a six-year-ole boy, Isham,
owned by James H. Kidd, who lived in the vicinity of Hog
Mountain. The sale took place at the home of Elisha

The newspaper article that gives Kidd’s account of the inci-
dents with local Creeks at his Hog Mountain store, as report-
ed by Stancel, places the incident on August 3, 1812 (See
GAB VI.6.4). In 1812 this area would have been Creek territo-
ry, being west of the Apalachee boundary with Jackson
County, though immediately adjacent to that boundary (See above picture and picture on Page 1). Recognizing
what we know about settler incursions on Creek (and Cherokee) territory (See GAB IV.7.4ff), it is not surpris-
ing that a white man was operating a trading post there—probably with the tacit approval of local Native

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Americans, who benefited from such a store. In this same account, Kidd mentions that he “sent to request of my neighbors to attend and secure them [the Indians] on their return. Mr. Williams and Mr. Gresham came about with me.” This would be John Gresham who is recorded as selling to Captain William Hamilton in 1816 the 240-acre lot that contained, not only Fort Daniel, but the Hog Mountain House location.

No pertinent information is found in Flanigan on either John Gresham or Captain William Hamilton; nor has a Captain Hamilton been noticed among the lists of men serving in Jackson County during the War of 1812. However, “Mr. Williams” is probably Isham Williams, who Flanigan says lived in the Hog Mountain community and “furnished a quantity of beef to the soldiers stationed [at Fort Daniel] (Flanigan Vol I page 8).

Eli has raised the question of whether Kidd’s store, which we may speculate was located on Peachtree Road at his 20.2-acre “fraction,” might be the precursor of either Bogan’s or Maltbie’s stores. Both were in Hog Mountain. With reference to Bogans’s store we find the following in Flanagan:

- in Vol. I page 73, for 1822, refers to building a road “opened from Price’s bridge (Jackson County) on by the way of Bogan’s store and continue on the old . . . Peachtree Road to . . . Henry County”;
- in Vol. I page 75, for 1824, ordering that “old road . . . be kept open from Bogan’s old store to James Laughridge’s and from thence to Jug Tavern [now Winder]”;
- in Vol. I page 401, with regard to early school houses “. . . an old schoolhouse hard by old Mt. Zion meeting house, one mile southeast of Bogan’s store, known as the old Hog Mountain house in 1822 or 1823”;  
- in Vol. I page 402, with regard to that same school house “. . . Steve Hill and Anthony Bates were dispatched to Bogan’s store for rum and sugar.”

The connection with Bogan’s store and Hog Mountain House is referred to in Flanagan’s Vol II. Page 147: “The Hog Mountain House was erected by Shadrack Bogan who . . . located at Hog Mountain in 1815, three years before Gwinnett County was created. Bogan also owned a store which was known as a trading post.” This dates Bogan’s store or trading post three years after the incident at Kidd’s store and makes it unlikely that Bogan simply continued Kidd’s business.

On the same page, Flanigan mentions Moore and Maltbie’s store: “The firm of Moore and Maltbie had been operating a trading post several years before Shadrack Bogan settled at Hog Mountain.” Upon Moore’s death, William Maltbie took over and subsequently, as Stancel has mentioned, “married Elisha Winn’s thirteen year old daughter” and continued to sell merchandise until 1821 when he moved to Lawrenceville and became the postmaster. The location of his store is not known, although I have heard speculation that it was on Peachtree Road (Hog Mountain Road/Hwy 29) west of Fort Daniel, which would put it somewhere in the vicinity of Kidd’s fraction. At this time any tie between Maltbie’s and Kidd’s trading posts cannot be determined.

**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.
More Diggin’s

- **Gwinnett Historical Society** will be hosting the 39th Annual Elisha Winn Fair on October 7–8 from 10AM to 5PM. For more information please visit the GHS Web site.

- The **University of Georgia Libraries** is hosting a lecture and reception for *A Paradise of Blood: The Creek War of 1813–14* by Howard T. Weir III on Thursday, October 19 at the Sidney Samuel Thomas Reading Room (Third Floor) in the Zell B. Miller Learning Center (48 Baxter Street, Athens) beginning at 6:30PM. A book signing and reception will follow. Beginning with conquistador Ferdinand DeSoto’s fateful encounter with Native Americans of the southeast in the 1500s, *A Paradise of Blood: The Creek War of 1813–14* narrates the complete story of the cultural clash and centuries-long struggle for this landscape of stunning beauty.

- **Haunted Halloween at the Atlanta History Center** will be on Friday, October 20 beginning at 6:30PM. Be prepared for thrills and chills as you walk through the Atlanta History Center’s foggy gardens and haunted historic houses! Step onto the page as fairy tales, Victorian literature, fables, and nursery rhymes take on a new twist. Scare factors help you determine which trails and historic houses are the adventure you are seeking. This year you are invited to a whimsical and wacky Mad Hatter Tea Party as you kick off your night of fancy and fright. The special holiday program is $15 for members; $20 for nonmembers; and $10 for children. For information visit the Atlanta History Center’s Web site.

GARS News

- **William Harris Homestead Archaeological Survey**: This summer at the invitation of the William Harris Foundation Board GARS members with help from William Harris Homestead members conducted the a preliminary metal detection survey in an area thought to be where the slave cabins had been located. The Harris site is a plantation dating from the formation of Walton County in 1819 and the Harris Homestead dates to the 1830s (harrishomestead.com). Kathryn Deeley directed the effort with help from Greg Beavers, Tom Batcha, and Jim D’Angelo (pictured left). The effort also included preliminary mapping of areas to be investigated. WHH members under the leadership of Dotty Zazworski (a Harris descendent and head of the organization) also provided a sumptuous lunch for all at the visitors pavilion. While results of this preliminary survey were disappointing, Kathryn and Dotty are planning future investigations, which may involve some of Kathryn’s Georgia Gwinnett College students. Stay tuned!

- **The SGA** (which GARS is a chapter member) **will be having their Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 14 at Gwinnett Technical College**. There will be a morning session for paper presentations and SGA business that is scheduled to begin at 8:30AM. The focus will be on recent work in Georgia by SGA Chapters, members, CRM professionals, and academic and student archaeologists. Meeting registration will be $10 to cover facilities and audiovisual equipment rental. GARS and FDF will have a table and will report on the many projects that GARS have been involved—including For Daniel! For information visit the SGA’s Web site.
A preservation group is inviting the public to vote on projects to improve Main Streets around the US. Cities from Seattle to Miami are vying for funding to preserve or improve theaters, parks, landmarks, and other venues in downtowns, historic neighborhoods, and cultural districts. The program, called Partners in Preservation: Main Streets, is supported by American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Main Street America.

There are 25 proposed projects, and the Bryant Graves House in the Sweet Auburn district of Atlanta is one. Sweet Auburn was the epicenter of the Civil Rights movement. Built in the late 1890s, the Bryant Graves House was the site of an institute that educated African Americans in the early 1900s, including Martin Luther King, Sr. Currently, the home serves as the offices of Sweet Auburn Works, though the organization hopes to transform it into an information center to serve the million-plus annual visitors who come to the neighborhood and teach them about local businesses.

National Geographic is hosting the Vote Your Main Street Web site, where the public may vote once a day for up to five projects through October 31. Winners will be announced November 2. The sites with the most votes will get grants of up to $150,000 each—with as many projects funded as possible from a pool of $1.5 million. ■ AP