



GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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GARS Monthly Meeting

The GARS monthly meeting, which is open to the public, is held on the second Thursday at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building located at 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville. Gathering at 7PM with program starting at approximately 7:30PM.

In lieu of the monthly meeting in December, members of GARS and FDF will hold their annual Christmas/Holiday party, and in lieu of the January meeting, GARS members are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Fort Daniel Foundation to be held on Thursday, January 10. Details of the January meeting, including the program, will be emailed to all members. The next regular meeting of GARS will be on February 14. ■

**The Georgia Trust
 has announced it
 2013 Places In Peril.
 Visit their Web site
 to view the list.**

GARS News

The nomination committee will present a slate officers for 2013 through email, and voting will take place at the annual GARS and FDF Christmas/Holiday party on December 9. If you are not a member of either organization but would like to attend, please email [Delana Gilmore](mailto:Delana.Gilmore).

GARS/FDF members or members of Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Chapters are welcome to help out or observe the excavation of the pit feature in Fort Daniel's NE blockhouse on Tuesday December 4 from 10AM to 4PM—with Friday as a rain date. ■

Rock Pile Features at a Monroe County Site



Cultural Resource Management

Archaeological sites are being discovered and recorded all the time here in Gwinnett County. Of course, sites are being destroyed as well (See [Georgia Heritage Loss](#)). In each issue we focus on site discoveries in recent years and the context of those discoveries.

As a follow-up to the November issue's introduction to what is called the "Section 106" process for recording, evaluating, and mitigating archaeological sites in the US, we looked at site 9GW453, a 20m x 45m "lithic scatter" of 16 pieces of quartz debitage. The site was situated on the nose of a ridge that had been clear-cut and then bulldozed. The site was shovel tested, and the shovel tests were negative. With no diagnostic artifacts and no indication of buried deposits, the archaeologist recommended the site "not eligible for the NRHP" (National Register of Historic Places).

Now consider site 9GW547. This site was recorded by Thom Gresham of Southeastern Archaeological Services in 1994 and is recommended "eligible for the NRHP." The site consisted of two clusters of rock piles, the "Strickland Cluster" and the "Parks Cluster," and a house site. The site form describes it thusly: *The Strickland cluster has about 156 piles and the Parks cluster about 30. The clusters were interpreted by [Pat] Garrow and [David] Chase [in a 1988 study] to be Woodland period construction probably related to burials. Excavation (bisection) of eight piles in 1995 by Gresham revealed that two are definitely early nineteenth century construction. Gresham believes all of historic period origin.*

What Gresham found in his bisection of the sample piles that he tested was that early 19th century ceramics, glass, and metal were under the piles. There were no prehistoric artifacts. Thus the conclusion that they were built in the historic, rather than prehistoric period. Rather than Indian burials, the argument would be that these piles are the result of farmers clearing their fields and stacking the stone for sale, to be used as foundation piers, chimneys, etc.

However, excavation of some stone piles at other sites have found Indian artifacts and burned bone within the piles (or under them, which, by itself would not argue for aboriginal origin). This was the basis for Garrow and Chases' conclusion that Gwinnett's stone piles are Woodland Indian in origin. The differing conclusions of Gresham and Garrow became something of a *cause célèbre* in Georgia archaeology, and the controversy continues to this day.

I think most archaeologists who have studied the question agree that there are both prehistoric and historic rock stacks or piles. However, in either case, questions as to age and purpose remain; thus, such features could be considered NRHP eligible according to Criteria D of the Section 106 criteria for evaluation of historic properties, where *sites have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory*. [See November GAB, Issue 8, p.2]

I had the opportunity in 2008 to record a site in Monroe County with 24 such rock piles, three of which we tested (See photos on left). The results of the testing were negative, and we (TRC) concluded that the site did not meet the NRHP criteria and that recording of the site had exhausted its information potential. Therefore, this rock pile site was recommended "not eligible." ■ JJD

More Diggin's

- The Fort Daniel Foundation was one of the exhibitors at the annual meeting of the Georgia Conference on Social Studies in Athens, Georgia, on October 25–26. Over 550 teachers and educators from around the State were in attendance. Jim and Natasha promoted the Foundation's program and activities, distributed information, and signed up several teachers and educators for the GAB newsletter emailing list. (See photo right.)



Dr. "D" indicates Fort Daniel location on 2012 SGA Archaeology Month poster to GCSS participant

- Did you know that Charles Warbington had a relative who was stationed at Fort Mitchell? (See Page 4.) In addition to this Greg Beavers writes

I had a relative, Col. Hardeman Owen, who created quite an incident [at Fort Mitchell] in July of 1833. He supposedly was living on Indian land near there and was ordered to leave. He refused and was eventually shot and killed by the troops after he had tried to mine and blow up his house to kill the Marshall. Many of the settlers were indignant about the US troops going after and killing Hardeman Owen. Eventually, Francis Scott Key, lawyer and author of our national anthem, was called in to investigate. In regards to Hardeman Owen, who was my g.g.great grandfather's nephew, it was said, "many Indian chiefs had complained about Owens. He had taken their fields from them, killed their hogs and horses, and had beaten some of the Indians severely. He was one of the most daring men I ever met, and one of the most dangerous" concluded the Marshall's account.

If only Owens had waited a few more months, those same troops would be escorting the Indians off the land!

- At the Fall SGA/GCPA meeting in Columbus, a committee was set up to further study the creation of State standards for using remote sensing, including metal detection, in Archaeological Survey. Currently, there is no formal provision for such technology in the State's Archaeology Standards, although many archaeologists are using metal detection and GPR and other methods quite successfully—like at Fort Daniel!



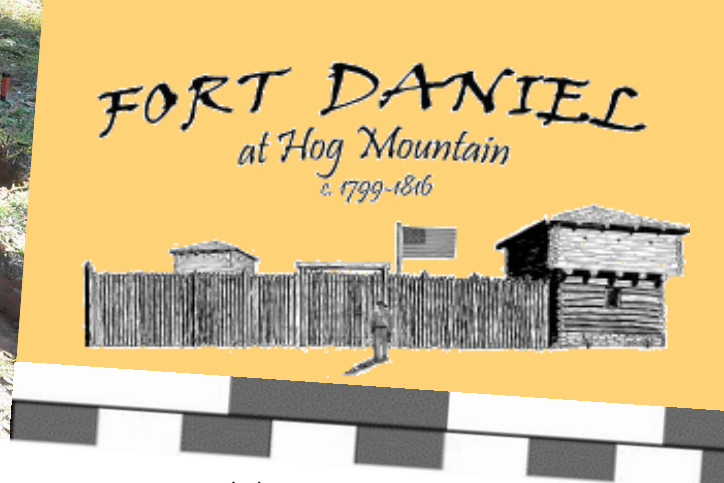
Dan Elliot using the GPR to survey the side yard of Fort Hollingsworth

- Participants at the Fall SGA/GCPA meetings saw this wonderful and inspiring video "I Remember, I Believe" that gives a different perspective on the potential value of archaeological research. You can view it on the [Society of Historical Archaeology's blog](#).
- Greg Beavers had the opportunity to assist Dan Elliot at the Fort Hollingsworth site on November 9, where Dan took advantage of a GARS field trip (shirt-tailed on a GGC History Club field trip) to push his "baby" around the site. Dan writes, "The GPR survey went well, and Greg Beavers was a giant help. We GPR-surveyed the side yard and a portion of the rear yard. I have not processed the maps yet, but the data looks clean and well collected. Two likely wells and maybe part of a cellar were in the rear area of our survey, according to the landowner. I will send you a report ASAP."

New Members of Fort Daniel Foundation

The Fort Daniel Foundation is pleased to welcome three new members. All three were at the October Frontier Faire: Mary (Liz) Marbut, who lives in Dacula, is on the faculty at Georgia Perimeter College; David Dorrell, who lives in Lawrenceville, is on the faculty at Georgia Gwinnett College; and Beverly Paff, who lives in Lawrenceville, is a former teacher at Fort Daniel Elementary School and a descendent of a Fort Daniel militiaman (John McMullin).

Beverly also has the distinction of being the first President and organizer of the Friends of Fort Daniel, the precursor of the Fort Daniel Foundation. It was under Beverly's watch (but she was doing more than watching) that we applied for and were named to the Georgia Trust's 2009 Places in Peril List—resulting in a matching grant that resulted in the Archaeological Park design by Jb+a Inc. ■ JJD



2012 GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President:

Betty Kinsaul

Vice President:

Wayne Waldrip

Secretary:

Delana Gilmore

Treasurer:

John Hopkins

2012 FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

President:

Jim D'Angelo

Vice President:

Wayne Waldrip

Secretary:

Vicki Watkins

Treasurer:

Betty Warbington

Fort Daniel Tidbits

- Wayne Waldrip and Jim D'Angelo recently met with Michael Rose, Director of the Atlanta History Center, and Don Rooney, AHC Curator of Urban and Regional History, to present the latest research on Forts Peachtree and Daniel regarding the plan to use the Chattahoochee to supply the Georgia Army in Alabama during the Creek Indian War (1813–1814). (Supplies boated down the Chattahoochee from Fort Peachtree to a point above the Falls would have been transported by wagon to Fort Mitchell in Alabama. Fort Mitchell was constructed as a supply base for General John Floyd and the Georgia Army operating in the Mississippi Territory.) This research, based on a trove of a new documents Dr. D'Angelo uncovered at the National Archives, sheds new light on this old story and with a surprising level of detail that may even pinpoint the fort's location. Pleased with the new information, Don suggested some additional sources available at the Center that may shed even more light this important part of Atlanta's history.



Fort Mitchell

- While in Columbus for the Fall meeting of SGA and GCPA, Jim and Natasha took time to visit the reconstructed Fort Mitchell on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee. The reconstruction is based on archaeological excavations carried out in 1970s by David Chase and others. For those Fort Daniel enthusiasts Fort Mitchell follows the "Knox" plan that we see at Forts Daniel, Hawkins, Lawrence, and possibly at Peachtree based on contemporary descriptions.
- At the SGA Fall meeting Georgia archaeologist Dean Wood gave a report on his findings as part of the dam removal project at Columbus, which is revealing the rocks and falls that have not been seen for over 100 years! (There is a great [video](#) on YouTube that you can view.)
- The Crowell-Whitaker Cabin c.1840 is also located at Fort Mitchell. Jim's "brick" mentor Richard Bickerstaff writes, "Our kin buried there are my great-great grandparents Henry Crowell and wife; great-great Uncle John Crowell, Indian agent; and great-grand parents Jas Whitaker and wife." If we do a GARS field trip down there (the Spring maybe?) Mr. "R" has offered to give us a tour of the famous Bickerstaff Brick yard in Phoenix.



Crowell-Whitaker Cabin