



# GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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## GHS Preservation Award

At their annual Christmas Party the Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS) presented two Preservation Awards. One was presented to the Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) for its efforts in studying, saving, and preserving the Fort Daniel site, and the other was given to the Gwinnett County Division of Community Services for its purchase of the site to ensure that it can be preserved and developed as a historic site and passive archaeological park. Fort Daniel Foundation President and Site Archaeologist, Jim D'Angelo, received the award on behalf of the Foundation. Pictured above, Jim is receiving the award plaque from GHS President, Vicki Watkins. ■



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Delana M. Gilmore

## Turning Things Upside Down

Two "recent" discoveries are pushing our history way back beyond what scholars thought was likely only a few years ago. The first (brought to my attention by Bob Coffey and published in the November 20, 2013 *Nature* magazine) has the potential to turn the archaeological world of Native American studies upside down. The second discovery is pushing back the origins of Western Culture some 6,000 years!

The first discovery is the discovery of a young boy's skeletal remains near Siberia's Lake Baikal. Based on genomic sequencing of the Paleolithic remains, the boy is believed to be 24,000 years old. As most readers know, there is something of a consensus that Native Americans likely descended from East Asians, who traveled across the Bearing Straits during the last ice age when the ocean levels were down about 400'. This DNA study ties the genomes of two Baikal Paleolithic individuals (the boy and a 17,000-year-old adult) with other Ice Age Western Eurasians living in European Russia, Czech Republic,

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Don't forget to like both  
Gwinnett Archaeological  
Research Society &  
Fort Daniel Foundation on  
 Facebook.

## GARS Monthly Meetings

In lieu of the monthly meeting in January, members of GARS are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Fort Daniel Foundation to be held on Wednesday, January 8. See Page 4 for details.

The next regular meeting of GARS will be in February. Your GARS officers are planning new exciting places to visit and excellent speakers to be at the monthly meetings. ■



## Holiday Celebration

By Leslie Perry

GARS and FDF members gathered at the home of Chris and Catherine Long on Sunday evening, December 8, 2013 for the Annual Christmas Party. A special-called meeting was organized after a pot-luck supper to vote for the 2014 GARS officers. The results were: Treasurer, John Hopkins; Secretary, Delana Gilmore; Vice President, Hayley Cunningham; and President, Leslie Perry.

The fun continued with a gift exchange (pictured above) determined by the luck of the draw. Sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Long for hosting the party. ■

## Space Archaeology: The Last Frontier

Recently, I read an online article in the *Smithsonian Magazine* mentioning space artifacts, and this made me think: What actually is space archaeology? I have heard of prehistoric archaeology, historical archaeology, classical archaeology, landscape archaeology, aerial archaeology, urban archaeology, and many more types of archaeology. However, I have not heard much about space archaeology. Actually, when I think of space archaeology, I think of sci-fi characters like Daniel Jackson (*Stargate* genre), River Song (*Doctor Who* genre), and even Captain Jean-Luc Picard (*Star Trek: Next Generation* genre). We do know that past science fiction is now science fact. Therefore, these science fiction characters can give a picture of what archaeology might be in the future, but they do not really explain what space archaeology is today.



US Flag surrounded by astronauts'

There are two spheres of space archaeology. The first considers satellite remote sensing and has recently become notable by The University of Alabama at Birmingham professor, Dr. Sarah Parcak, who created the Laboratory for Global Observation in 2007. From her research she was able to identify potential archaeological sites in Egypt and now Rome. (For more about her work you can visit her personal Web site.)

The second deals with study of human artifacts found in space, their interpretation as clues to humanity's space experiences, and their preservation as cultural heritage. (Now this is what I think of when I hear the words *space archaeology*!) It also includes launch complexes on Earth, orbital debris, satellites, and objects and structures on other celestial bodies such as Mars. Space archaeology also weighs in the cultural significance of space sites and objects in terms of national and international preservation laws and looks at what, how, and why these artifacts of our recent history should be preserved.

With the growing privatization of space travel (which will result in space tourism) and other countries sending unmanned crafts to the Moon (e.g.; China's Jade Rabbit landing on the Moon last month) preserving the artifacts that are already on the Moon is gaining ground. Last July a bill was introduced in the House, called the Apollo Lunar Landing Legacy Act, proposing to create the Apollo Lunar Landing Sites National Historical Park on the Moon, which would be part of the National Park System. Unfortunately, it appears to interfere with existing space law because the Moon belongs to no one.

However, what about the artifacts? Officials have called on the US to work with other countries to draft a joint protection plan similar to the model used to preserve historic sites in Antarctica. Unless countries work together to establish international space heritage laws soon, preserving the first footprints on the Moon (not quite property or territory but human history) would vanish. An international collaboration in space archaeology is needed—a giant leap of its own.

■ DMG

and even Germany. However, it also indicates that the 24,000-year-old boy was genetically most closely related to Native American lineages *and* to modern *Western* Eurasians—showing *no* clear relation to east Asians.

The study also showed that the boy's people were the ancestors of some Europeans, which may explain why some early Native American skeletons (such as Kennewick Man) were seen to have European rather than Eastern Asian traits. [To some researchers, this connection seemed to mesh with the "Solutrean Hypothesis" - that Ice Age Europeans crossed the North Atlantic along the edge of the pack ice that extended from the Atlantic coast of France to North America—bringing with them a method of lithic tool flaking that led to the Clovis culture.]

However, the Solutrean Hypothesis notwithstanding, the international team of DNA researchers believe their study proves that Native American ancestors migrated to the Americas from Siberia, and not directly from Europe. As team member Kelly Graf says the new scenario suggests that when the lineages of Western Eurasians (the region of West Asia and Europe) and Eastern Eurasians split, "the Western Eurasians were disbursed over a larger, more northeasterly area than previously known, and it was these early hunter-gatherers who eventually migrated to North America." Graf continues, "Though our results cannot speak directly to this debate, they do indicate Native American ancestors could have been in Beringia (extreme northeastern Russia and Alaska) any time after 24,000 years ago and, therefore, could have colonized Alaska and the Americas much earlier than 14,500 years ago—the age suggested by the archaeological record."

The second, truly earthshaking discovery occurred in Turkey at a new archaeological site known as *Gobekli Tepe*. The 25-acre site of at least seven stone circles (*pictured right and below left*) predates Mesopotamian record keeping and Stonehenge by 6800 years, and the first Pyramids by 7,400. Klaus Schmidt, the principle investigator, says, "*Gobekli Tepe* is staggeringly old. It dates from 10,000BC, before pottery and the wheel." Excavations, says Schmidt, "show it is... religious—the world's oldest temple. This site proves that hunter-gatherers were capable of complex art and organized religion—something no one imagined before." According the project's Web site, *Gobekli Tepe* may even be the inspiration for the Biblical Garden of Eden and of profound significance in the Neolithic world. Schmidt sees it as a key site in understanding the transition from hunting and gathering to agriculture and from tribal to regional religion. (See [Gobekli Tepe's Web site](#) for more information.)



A majority of biblical scholars have believed for a long time that the Garden of Eden story represents the beginnings of human society at the end of the Pleistocene Epoch (Ice Age) and beginning of the Holocene about 11,500 years ago as represented by Neolithic (New Stone) culture. In the archaeological record, the Neolithic is followed by the Chalcolithic (Copper Age) about 7,500 years ago. Readers may remember the work of William Ryan and Walter Pitman who published in 1997 evidence that a massive flooding of the Black Sea occurred about 7,600 years ago. They claimed that this and similar sudden, massive floods following the end of the last ice age may have been the source of the flood stories that abound in cultures everywhere (including those of our Native Americans) but also that of Gilgamesh and Noah. Following upon Ryan and Pitman's discoveries, Bob Ballard has carried out more explorations in the Black Sea, and now he is claiming that he has found evidence for the source of the Biblical Flood Story. Of course, none of these researchers are telling it exactly like the Creationist Web sites, but the correlations are enticing. To this Black Sea deluge hypothesis we can now add Schmidt's work at Gobekli Tepe and his conjectures about a Neolithic "Garden of Eden." Lots to keep our minds, and maybe hearts too, busy for many years to come! ■ **JJD**



## FORT DANIEL at Hog Mountain c. 1799-1816



### Fort Daniel Annual Meeting

#### GARS OFFICERS

[www.thegars.org](http://www.thegars.org)

President:

**Leslie Perry**

Vice President:

**Hayley Cunningham**

Secretary:

**Delana Gilmore**

Treasurer:

**John Hopkins**

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#### FDF OFFICERS

[www.thefortdanielfoundation.org](http://www.thefortdanielfoundation.org)

President:

**Jim D'Angelo**

Vice President:

**Wayne Waldrip**

Secretary:

**Vicki Watkins**

Treasurer:

**Betty Warbington**

The Fort Daniel Foundation's Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8 at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building located at 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville. The Foundation is pleased to have a keen supporter of Fort Daniel, Terry Jackson, as the main presenter. Mr. Jackson serves as the Director of the Office of Mapping and Decision Support Systems in the Planning and Environmental Management Division at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He is a technical expert in the mapping of archaeological sites and among his areas of responsibility are Conservation Archaeology and Georgia's Regionally Important Resources (RIR) Planning Program. Mr. Jackson has also served as a Board Member and Advocacy Subcommittee Chair for the Society for Georgia Archaeology. His interests include searching for "lost" frontier forts from the era of Fort Daniel. Mr. Jackson's presentation is entitled, "The Federal Road in Georgia and the Creek War of 1813- 14" and will include reconnaissance done at the Creek Agency, Fort Lawrence, and Fort Perry.

There will be a brief Officers and Board meeting at 7PM followed by the regular annual meeting at 7:30PM. Mr. Jackson's presentation will be at approximately 8PM. *Both GARS and FDF members are encouraged to attend!* ■

#### Georgia and Florida Site Files Launch DINAA

North America has a long history of human occupation spanning more than 13,000 years, and the multi-institutional project of Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA) puts together this history of settlement for everyone to access. Started in September 2012, the two-year project (which is funded by the National Science Foundation) undertakes to create practical models of archaeological sites compiled by State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) while keeping secure sensitive locational and ownership information about these properties.

The first two SHPO databases in the DINAA project (now beginning public beta testing) are Georgia and Florida, which alone represent nearly 100,000 sites spanning some 10,000 years. Some of the starting points are a faceted search of periods and a Morrow Mountain Projectile Point/Knife map displaying this diagnostic artifact type in Georgia. DINAA provides greater access to cultural resource inventory data so that researchers, students, and the public can learn from our rich history. ■