



# GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### GAB NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Delana M. Gilmore

## Oldest US Fort in Georgia, Not Florida!?!

At a recent international conference at Florida State University, historian Fletcher Crowe and anthropologist Anita Spring announced that they have discovered the location of Fort Caroline, a long-sought fort built by the French in 1564. Most likely the oldest fortified settlement in the United States, Fort Caroline could be located near the mouth of the Altamaha River in southeastern Georgia according to Crowe and Spring. Crowe examined sixteenth and seventeenth-century maps of the Southeast United States at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (the French equivalent of the US Library of Congress) and compared them to modern maps of the region. The researchers then used GPS coordinates to locate a triangular structure and dozens of Native American villages.



Old etching of Fort Caroline from the Florida State Archives

Nevertheless, some academic scholars dispute Crowe and Spring's findings. Chuck Meide, Director of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) at the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, was also at the international conference and led the rebuttal disputing these claims. He debated that it would be problematic to use 16th-century maps to determine an exact geographical location with any precision since these maps are notoriously inaccurate.

To read more about the discovery and the debate go online at [Heritage Daily](#) and



Don't forget to like both [Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society](#) & [Fort Daniel Foundation](#) on Facebook.

## GARS Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings, open to the public, are held at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Building located at 75 Langley Road in Lawrenceville. Gathering at 7PM, the program begins at 7:30PM.

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 13**. There will be a *surprise* guest speaker at this month's meeting. More information will be sent our GARS & FDF membership, so keep an eye on your email to learn about who will be speaking at GARS March meeting! ■

## Secrets Behind the Venus of Willendorf

From time to time I like to focus on how technology and other fields of study contribute to archaeological research. “In modern archaeology, there seems to be no end to the number of ways in which more information can be squeezed out of an artifact.” This quote and much of the following synopsis are from the online archaeology news site, [Past Horizons](#). The artifact in question is the well-known Venus of Willendorf (*pictured right*). The 4.25-inch high statuette of female figure, estimated to have been made between about 28,000 and 25,000 BCE, the “Old Stone Age,” that was found in 1908 during excavations conducted by archaeologists at a Paleolithic site along the Danube River near Willendorf, Austria. It is carved from an oolitic limestone that is not local to the area and was tinted with red ochre. It is one of numerous Venus figurines or representations surviving from the Paleolithic period. While the purpose of these figurines is the subject of much speculation, many believe that these are fertility goddesses.



*Photo courtesy of the Museum of Natural History, Vienna*

Quite apart from solving that question, during microscopic examination of the Willendorf figurine by geoarchaeologist, Alexander Bionsteriner, the mysterious lady gave up some of her other secrets. Bionsteriner is an expert in what is called “sourcing” of minerals. “Sourcerers” (if I may coin a term) use physical and chemical analysis to link the minerals in an artifact—such as the clay in a clay pot, tool stone in a lithic tool, or marble in a marble statue—to its original source. Sometimes the source is near where the artifact was found and sometimes it is quite distant.

Knowing the source may have implications about, for example, possible contacts between peoples or how far people traveled to gather resources.

Since the limestone from which this Venus was made was not local, where did it come from? Based on an extensive effort comparing datasets of various limestone types, it was determined that this limestone could have come from only one place: a limestone massif in the area of the Moravian capital of Brno, Czech Republic, about 85 miles northeast of Willendorf.



“Blade” tools from core of “northern flint” in Moravian deposits

In addition to the Venus, archaeologists had also excavated flint tools. The tools were typical of what is known as the Upper Paleolithic Gravettian culture, an Ice Age culture dating between about 30,000–22,000 years ago (dates vary). When the flint was sourced, it was shown that the lithic material from which many of the blades were made was “northern flint,” a raw material also not available on the Danube. Further, no flint cores were found at the Willendorf site suggesting that the tools had been made elsewhere. Northern flint (*pictured left*) comes from the moraine deposits of the Nordic Ice sheets from the glacial region of Moravia, north of the Danube region.

The Gravettian people are known to have moved between summer and winter camps, summering in the highlands and wintering along the Danube. The highland region, where terminal moraine deposits are found, lies northeast of the Willendorf site. Midway between there and the site is the oolitic limestone source near Brno; thus, the picture emerges of a yearly round of these semi-nomadic people which took them through the area where they could gather the material to carve the figure on their way to (or back from) the terminal moraine region where they could collect the northern flint cobbles and make the tools. All that, from a limestone figurine and some flint blades! ■ JJD .

## Fort Daniel Foundation Board of Directors Have a New Member

The Fort Daniel Foundation Officers and Directors are pleased to announce the election of Beverly Paff to the Board of Directors. Beverly is known to most members for her role as President of the *Friends of Fort Daniel*, the precursor of the Fort Daniel Foundation. In her role as President, Beverly oversaw the early organization of supporters of Fort Daniel working to bring Fort Daniel and the need to preserve the site to the larger community.

While she was President, the Fort Daniel site became listed on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's Places in Peril list, and the *Friends* received a matching grant from the Trust. The \$5,000 grant—which was matched by the landscape architectural firm of jB+a, Inc.—resulted in the Fort Daniel archaeological park master plan that FDF has proved invaluable in promoting preservation of the site. (You can see the [Master Plan](#) on the Fort Daniel Foundation Web site.) Some may remember seeing Beverly at the last Frontier Faire at our “Legacy” booth signing up descendants of those associated with Fort Daniel, of which she is one.

Beverly is a retired teacher, formerly employed at Fort Daniel Elementary School, and is now teaching part-time. She is filling a vacated seat on the Board following the resignation of Georgia Archaeologist Garret Silliman in anticipation of an out-of-state career move. We thank Garrett for his service both on the Board and as a field supervisor of younger students at our community archaeology events. We wish him success in his new venture! ■

### Storage Building Needed

Fort Daniel Foundation is in need of an outside storage building of any size to store tents, tools, and equipment. FDF would like to ask all friends of Fort Daniel to be on the lookout for a good storage building that someone would be willing to preferably donate or at least sell at a low cost. The Foundation is a non-profit organization with tax exempt status and would be glad to give a donor a receipt for tax purposes. Charles Warbington has a car trailer that can be used to relocate a building to the site.

If you have a storage building you no longer need and would like to donate it to FDF or know someone that does or see a used one for sale, please contact [Betty Warbington](#) or [Wayne Waldrip](#). We appreciate everyone helping with this endeavor! ■

### More Diggin's

- **Citizens and Soldiers: The American Civil War** at the Atlanta History Center will be held on March 15 from at 11AM to 4PM. Experience home front activities, encampments, reenactments, and demonstrations on at the 1860s Smith farm (*pictured right*) and enjoy tours of the award-winning Civil War exhibition, *Turning Point: The American Civil War*. The program is included in the cost of general admission. For more information about this program please visit the [Atlanta History Center Event page](#) or call (404) 814-4000.
- **Pioneer School at McDaniel Farm** will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 10:30AM to 1:30PM. Come experience a traditional school day in a one-room school house typical of the mid-1800s. The school marm will teach the 3 Rs with a good dose of recitation, spelling bees, chores, and games. Bring a sack lunch and get ready for some good old fashioned fun. Everyone is encouraged to get into the spirit of the day by wearing period dress or overalls. The price is \$15; to register please visit the [Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Program page](#).





# FORT DANIEL

at Hog Mountain  
c. 1799-1816



## Good Ideas Are Taking Shape at Fort Daniel

By Betty Warbington

### GARS OFFICERS

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

President:

**Leslie Perry**

Vice President:

**Hayley Cunningham**

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**Delana Gilmore**

Treasurer:

**John Hopkins**

### 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 Board of Directors and Officers met on Sunday, February 16 for our winter planning meeting. We are in the process of finalizing the Annual Report to the Gwinnett County Commissioners, which is a requirement to receive our annual payment.

May is Georgia Archaeology Month, and FDF is working on developing a Boy and Girl Scout program using volunteers and members at the fort site. Our Education Committee consisting of Catherine Long, Carole Boyce, and Beverly Paff is excited to begin developing a pilot program for students at FDF. The first programs will target the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and their related curriculum.

The opportunity to provide hands-on experiences at the archaeological site (and future laboratory) is exciting, and the group looks forward to including local teachers to assist in the development of the program.

Of course, one of our biggest events will be the 2014 Frontier Faire. It is always such an exciting educational event open to the public for a small admission price. In addition to viewing the fort site and learning about its history, we will have re-enactors, an educational program, exhibits, demonstrations, music, and various types of vendors including food.

Last but not least, in 2014 we will begin working on the basement project which will include a meeting room, an artifacts processing lab, and a bathroom. This will be a great addition to our site! Consequently, it looks like our long-awaited dreams are beginning to come alive at Fort Daniel! ■



Children digging at the Frontier Faire last October



**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!** This is a reminder that both GARS and FDF membership fees for 2014 are now due. If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact **John Hopkins**; and for FDF membership please contact **Betty Warbington**.