GAR S 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.

Gwinnett Archaeology Research Society (GARS) will be meeting on Thursday, September 11. The guest speaker will be GARS Archaeological Advisor, Dr. Jim D’Angelo, speaking on his recent visit to the world’s oldest temple, Gobekli Tepe. Dating to about 10,000 BCE, this archaeological site is located in the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Turkey. Dr. D’Angelo has worked in Near Eastern Archaeology since 1974 in Israel and Jordan and is currently Site Archaeologist at the Fort Daniel site in Gwinnett County, and GARS archaeological advisor.

Based on his 2014 visit to the site, Dr. D’Angelo will present a view of the site and its importance for archaeological and historical studies. You will hear more about this recently discovered, amazing site—which is causing something of a revolution in our understanding of the origins of civilization and organized religion.

The Search for Fort Peachtree

After a long wait the City of Atlanta has approved a proposal submitted two years ago to carry out an archaeological investigation at the suspected site of Fort Peachtree. The project will be carried out by active GARS members under the direction of Jim D’Angelo. It will consist of a metal detection survey and excavation of one or two shallow trenches to look for evidence of the palisade wall trench. One or two days will be sufficient for the field work. The exact days will be announced through email to all active members two or more weeks prior. A sign-up sheet will be available at the September GARS meeting.

Dr. D’Angelo visiting Gobekli Tepe

Facebook

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

One thing we have learned with the study of the Fort Daniel site is that archaeological sites have an historical context. Indeed all archaeological technical reports have a section devoted to the historical/cultural context—for it is within this context that we can fully understand and appreciate the site. Since archaeological and historical investigations began at the Fort Daniel site in 2007, historic background research has revealed more about the context of Major General Allen Daniel’s order to build or rebuild “a new fort at or near the place whereon the present fort stands.” That context has proved to be more interesting than anyone had imagined. In a series of articles, we will look at the main elements of that context which will be treated in chronological order as they occurred in 1814.

At last year’s Frontier Faire we celebrated the bicentennial of the building of Fort Daniel in the final months of 1813. This year we celebrate the bicentennial of three subsequent “constructions” that, together with the building of Fort Daniel, constituted a singular plan of action. The goal of that plan was best summarized in an article entitled, “Inland Navigation,” in the Georgia Journal, February 23, 1814: “Shortly after the commencement of hostilities with the Creek Indians, General Pinckney, aware of the difficulty of supplying the troops when they had penetrated some distance into the Nation, determined to attempt the navigation of the Chattahoochee, which has succeeded beyond expectation.”

In connection with that venture, a January 2, 1814 letter, written by Major Thomas Bourke, Deputy Marshall, the US Army Quartermaster Corps, (who was at the Gibson Plantation in Jackson County), informed Major General Thomas Pinckney, Commander of the Southern Division of the US Army, (who was at Fort Hawkins) that he had, “arrived here…and to my surprise found that not the least progress had been made in erecting the boat which Lt. Morris had made arrangement for.” Given the date of this letter, Lt. Morris’ orders were likely issued no later than December, about the time work on Fort Daniel was being completed. Bourke continued, “My first step has been to engage carpenters for that purpose,” and further on, “I have made the necessary arrangements for lumber (boards), tar, cotton, and tomorrow proceed on down to the Hog Mountain Fort.”

Bourke informed Pinckney that the boat will be built at Vann’s Ferry. The ferry was located on the Federal Road (not far from Gibson Plantation near Jefferson) where it crossed the Chattahoochee. Cherokee Chief James Vann operated a ferry and tavern there. The river flowed through friendly Cherokee territory approximately north of Suwannee Old Town, and through potentially hostile Creek territory south of that. The Federal Road crossing was the only access to the river by wagon over which the lumber and supplies could be hauled. So Vann’s was the logical place to build this boat. The boat, wrote Bourke, will be, “Fifty feet long, ten wide, and three high with a roof and floor and a small cabin in the stern.” He added that he also was having a small skiff built and engaging men to take it downriver to get a “description of the River, falls, distances, and such information as may be useful in navigating the boat.” The men would return to a designated point where an express rider would bring the information back, according to his letter.

When Bourke got to Fort Daniel, he made his way to the friendly Creek Village at Standing Peachtree to scout out a landing for the boat (as well as a future boat yard and fort to protect it). On January 11, he wrote, “I could have got a spot well adapted for the purpose at that right hand of where the Creek [Peachtree] forms a junction with the River, but was prevented by a shoal of rocks, which on getting in a Canoe with in Indian acquainted with the River, allowed but 11 inches of water, a depth not sufficient for a loaded boat. I went about 3 miles up the river from the Peachtree but found it bad and unfit for navigation. I then proceeded 5 miles down the river from the landing and discovered nothing to materially interfere with the navigation and the Indians all agree that it may be navigated to the falls.” He then chose a spot for the landing, “about a half mile below the Creek, on a good bluff.”

On January 22, 1814, Bourke again wrote from Gibson’s: “I do myself the honor to inform your Excellency that the boat will be launched tomorrow at Vans ferry and will proceed down, light, to the standing Peachtree…She will be loaded [with flour] and proceed about Thursday the 27th.” The Georgia Journal article contains an account of the trip including, “Captain Garrison’s log.” JJD
Time to Get Outside and Dig!

Autumn is almost here, and that means cooler weather! Because of this wonderful weather it will be a great time for archaeological excavations—and field trips! Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will be involved in several digs and field trips in the next couple months. Below are some upcoming activities:

⇒ **Fort Daniel Frontier Faire on September 19–20**: Preparing the site for the faire and some excavation.
⇒ **Fort Peachtree in early October**: An archaeological survey and testing. (See Page 1 for more information)
⇒ **GHS Elisha Winn Fair on October 4–5**: An archaeological recordation and preservation project at the old dam near the Creekside Rock Shelter.
⇒ **Graves Soapstone on October 10–13**: Continuing archaeological excavations; GARS last visited this site in 2010. The full report on the 2010 and 2011 sessions is completed and will be available soon.
⇒ **Camp Lawton on October 18**: At the SGA’s Fall Meeting GARS members are invited to tour the Civil War prison camp at Camp Lawton located in Jenkins County.
⇒ **Yahoola Cherokee Museum in November**: Wallace Seabolt has invited GARS to visit the museum in Dahlonega. More information will be announced in the November newsletter.
⇒ **Roswell Mill**: Field trip was postponed due to August heat wave; this event has been rescheduled to a later date and will be announced in the next newsletter.

(*) Excavation activities are open to active GARS members only. If you are interested in any of the above events, sign-up sheets will be available at GARS monthly meetings.
Fort Daniel Foundation Receives the 2014 Albert B. Corey Award

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has selected the Fort Daniel Foundation as their 2014 Albert B. Corey Award winner. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the nation’s most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history and bestows Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field.

The Albert B. Corey Award is named in honor of a founder and former president of AASLH and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated organizations that best display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work. The Leadership in History Awards committee presents the Corey Award at their discretion. Additionally, FDF will also receive a monetary award which is part of this special honor.

At the joint GARS/FDF October meeting, Mike Bunn, Executive Director of Historic Chattahoochee Commission, will present the prestigious award on behalf of AASLH (which will already have been awarded at their annual meeting on September 20).

FDF will like to thank its Board of Directors, officers, and members and especially the Gwinnett County Commission who have helped to make this award possible, and particularly Wayne Waldrip, who was instrumental in FDF receiving this award. Thank you, Wayne!

Fort Daniel Foundation Educator Expos

The Fort Daniel Foundation Board of Directors’ Education Committee is pleased to announce the early coordination of Educator Expos for the Fort Daniel Foundation in the near future. This will allow selected educators to receive an official introduction to the site, learn about the vision of the organization, and learn about the potential archaeological opportunities for their students. The Committee also seeks to establish a collaborative effort with local teachers to meet the requirements of the core curriculum and develop a pilot program. An information center for this effort is planned for this year’s Frontier Faire on September 20.
Fort Daniel
6th Annual Frontier Faire
Saturday, September 20
10 AM–5 PM
Fort Daniel Archaeological Site
(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)
Admission: Individual = $2 • Family = $5
Reenactors ★ Trading Post ★ Fort Daniel Museum
Food ★ Demonstrations ★ ArchaeoBus

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY
Supervised Excavations & Activities for the Family

LIVE MUSIC
The Skillet Lickers will be performing at 1 PM.

STORYTELLER
Join Barry Stewart Mann for Cherokee Lore at 2 PM.

For information visit www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.

The Frontier Faire is cosponsored by the Fort Daniel Foundation and Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society. Fort Daniel Archaeological Site is owned by Gwinnett County and is managed by the Fort Daniel Foundation.