Fort Daniel Open House

For this year’s Archaeology Month celebration Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) along with Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) held an open house at the Fort Daniel Archaeological Site. Visitors were able to see the new archaeological lab and videos about Fort Daniel’s history and archaeology and about the basics of archaeology.

GSU’s Dr. Jeff Glover gave demonstrations of how drones are now being used at archaeological sites. At the same time visitors excavated a new unit at the Northeast Blockhouse. Additionally, visitors were able to talk to GARS and FDF members about Fort Daniel and other archaeological projects in Gwinnett County and the metro Atlanta area.

Although the Open House was the main activity for GARS and FDF, members participated at several other May events (pictured below) as Georgians observed Archaeology Month.
GARS Upcoming Events

Though summer is in full swing, GARS officers have been busy deciding on upcoming events for the fall. Ranging from local to a possible out-of-state field trip, the officers are excited about the upcoming year. The tentative schedule of events are:

- September: Meeting on September 10; local field trip to the GEHC (hopefully able to visit the newly renovated Chesser-Williams House!);
- October: No meeting because of the Frontier Faire; a possible archaeological dig is in the works;
- November: Meeting on November 12; field trip to a Native American site (since it is Native American Heritage Month);
- December: Christmas Party.

Some GARS members have shown interest in going to the Alabama Pioneer Days at Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson located in Wetumpka, Alabama (north of Montgomery). This will be a one-day trip during the work week of November 4–6. If you are interested, please email GARS President Delana Gilmore. For more information about the fort, visit the Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson Web site.

Additionally, if you have any suggestions for guest speakers or field trips, don’t hesitate to email Delana.

More Diggin’s

- **Gwinnett Historical Society** (GHC) are having meetings and events throughout the summer months. For a list of their events please visit the [GHC Web site](#).

- **Continuous Threads: 200 Years of Georgia Textiles** exhibit at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC) will be on display until August 30. Discover traditional, Southeastern domestic textiles together with contemporary artworks created by artists currently living and working in the region. Enjoy a history of textiles in Georgia and learn how textiles and fiber touch all points of human life. For more information visit the [GEHC Web Site](#).

- **Summer Celebrations at McDaniel Farm** are occurring on July 11 and 25 from 10AM–12NOON and 1:30PM–3:30PM. Bring your family and enjoy a tour of the 1930s McDaniel Farm property (pictured right). Examine tools and technology from Gwinnett’s early farming days. With a program fee of $6 preregistration is required and may be completed on the [GEHC Web Site](#).

- **Returning Home: Life After the Civil War** at the Atlanta History Center will be held on Saturday, July 18 from 11AM to 4PM. With activities designed for a variety of ages, learn about this transitional period by interacting with soldiers returning home from the battlefield, families mourning the loss of loved ones, and recently freed enslaved workers. This program is free to members; included in the cost of general admission for nonmembers. For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center Web Site](#).

- **Civil War Living History at Yellow River Post Office** will be on Saturday, August 29 from 10AM to 4PM. Experience living history as you learn about the local skirmish that occurred at the Yellow River Bridge. Visit the post office and general store and see how women and children received news of loved ones during the Civil War. There will be a program fee of $5 per person and $3 for children ages 3 to 12 with children under 2 being free (and free for GEHC members as well). For more information visit the [GEHC Web Site](#).
Gwinnett resident Dorsey Campbell sent the photo that is pictured below of an engraving with the date of Dec 1 178(?) and possible petroglyphs on a boulder or bedrock outcrop to GARS. Jim amended the photo by tracing the date and other lines visible in the photo. Campbell’s property is part of the historic Coffee farmstead about which James Flanagan reported, “An Indian Village was at one time located on this farm at the intersection of the [Alcovy] river and [Palmatree] creek. Pottery, pipes, beads, tomahawks, arrows, and rocks to beat corn and hominy are found there.” Campbell reports that a “mound is said to have been plowed down and farmed by probably the Coffee family.”

Franklin County, where the site was located at the time, was established on Feb. 25, 1784, not quite two months after the inscription. The County was formed from lands ceded at Augusta in a forced treaty between Georgia and the Cherokees on May 31, 1783 (even though only the United States had the power to enter into treaties!). The location would have been at the very west end of Franklin, and later Jackson, which was taken from the western half of Franklin. When Gwinnett was created in 1819 from lands ceded by the Creeks following their defeat in the Creek Indian War, a small portion of the western end of Jackson County was transferred to Gwinnett. That portion of Jackson also included site of Fort Daniel, by the way. The 1784 date (if that is a “4”) would thus be from a period just after Colonel Elijah Clarke’s military campaign into the Cherokee Nation and may be that of the first settler to lay claim to this land.

In order to further investigate the date and other markings on the rock, Jim, Delana, and some others have been invited to visit the site this summer. An assessment of the site’s potential to yield other historic or prehistoric information will be made and reported in the September GAB.
The Destruction of the Northwest Palace at Nimrud

By Michael Danti, Scott Branting, Tate Paulette, and Allison Cuneo from the American Schools of Oriental Research—Syrian Heritage Initiative

A video released by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in April provided vivid and shocking documentation of the deliberate destruction of relief sculpture and standing architecture at the famous archaeological site of Nimrud, located in northern Iraq near the city of Mosul. The video documents ISIL militants vandalizing, smashing, and piling up relief slabs using hand tools, power tools, and vehicles; it then shows the detonation of the relief slabs and large parts of the Northwest Palace using a series of barrel bombs.

Nimrud (ancient Kalhu, Calah) is located in northern Iraq on the east bank of an ancient bed of the Tigris River. The site was occupied from the 6th millennium BCE through at least the Hellenistic period, but it is best known as capital of the Neo-Assyrian empire from the reign of Ashurnasirpal II (883–859 BCE) up to the reign of Sargon II (721–705 BCE), who built a new capital at Khorsabad (ancient Dur Sharrukin). The so-called Northwest Palace was built by Ashurnasirpal II to serve as royal residence and administrative center of the Assyrian empire. The walls of this massive structure were lined with stone reliefs that depicted hunting scenes, battles, processions, and ritual ceremonies—typically accompanied by a standardized cuneiform inscription describing Ashurnasirpal’s conquests, as well as the building of Nimrud, and the palace itself. Many of the reliefs and lamassu uncovered at the site were exported from Iraq and now reside in foreign museums. Others, however, were on display at the site within the partially reconstructed Northwest Palace.

The area surrounding the site of Nimrud came under ISIL control as a result of the group’s invasion of northern Iraq in June 2014. When ISIL released the video in April showing the deliberate vandalism and destruction of relief sculpture at the site, satellite imagery was used to provide further information about the nature and timing of the destruction events at Nimrud. An image from February 26, 2015 showed no obvious damage to the site; however, a image from April 17, 2015 displayed the palace in ruins following the detonation of the barrel bombs shown in the ISIL video. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that the detonation of the palace took place on April 2, 2015, but the timeline of events leading up to the demolition of the Northwest Palace remains uncertain. ■ ASOR

Saving the James River

In the past few months the National Trust of Historic Preservation partnered with James River Association and other organizations to protect the James River from Dominion Power’s plan to construct a high-voltage transmission line that will include as many as 17 towers that are up to 295-feet tall. The James River flows through a collection of nationally recognized cultural, historic, and natural resources located in Virginia’s Historic Triangle—a region which receives over 3.5 million visitors annually. The objective is to persuade decision-makers to bury the transmission line or adopt an alternative route that would protect the evocative landscapes of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Historic Jamestowne, Colonial Parkway, and Carter’s Grove. In the words of Bob Deans, author of The River Where America Began: A Journey Along the James, “Whether you drink from the river literally or figuratively, all Americans carry within them something of the spirit of James, the birthplace of the nation and the very headwaters of American history.” For more information about this campaign and updates visit the National Trust’s Saving Places Web site. ■
A recently discovered Civil War trench will be preserved as the centerpiece of a park in a planned senior residential community in Marietta. Attorney John Moore, who represents the project’s builder Thomas Home and Communities, said the 76-home development is planned to be built on a 21.6-acre tract on Barrett Parkway just south of Burnt Hickory Road. A rezoning for the site was unanimously approved by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on May 19. “We were informed by one of the neighbors who thought there was a Civil War trench on the property,” Moore said. R. S. Webb and Associates were hired by the construction company to perform an archaeological study of the area and confirmed what the neighbors and historians believed to be in the area.

About 900 feet of the trench is on the development’s property and about 700 feet of it will be preserved. “The best parts of the trenches are going to be protected,” stated Rob Hosack, Cobb County Community Development Director. “The developer has agreed to pay mitigation money into a fund for future preservation activity.” Once construction is completed, it will be protected by a split-rail fence to keep people out of it, and there will also be signs put up informing people of its historic value.

The trench was dug in 1864 by the Confederates as a defense against oncoming Union troops. In June 1864 Union General Sherman’s armies were pushing south as part of the Atlanta Campaign. Confederate General Joe Johnston’s Army of Tennessee was anchored on the Brushy Mountain Line from June 9 to 18, 1864. It ran from about a mile northeast of Kennesaw Mountain due west about 11 miles to Lost Mountain. Johnston ultimately decided the line was too long and withdrew the western half of his line to a shorter line along Mud Creek, which runs north-south just west of modern-day Barrett Parkway. On June 18 Johnston pulled his entire army back to another trench line anchored by Kennesaw Mountain. The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain took place several days later. History buffs will have the opportunity to explore the trench as long as they contact the homeowner’s association for the new development.  ■ Marietta Daily Journal
Fort Daniel News

- In May Jim D’Angelo met at the site with David Coffee (Coffee Brothers Timber Company) and FORTCOM committee members Betty Warbington and Wayne Stancel to give David a tour and to discuss two things: the type of log construction that might be used in a future fort reconstruction and, a more immediate interest, the construction of an authentic blacksmith structure that would be available for our Faire and other activities. There will be more information in the September issue.

- During the continued archaeological investigations at the supposed site of Fort Peachtree (see GAB Vols. III No. 9, IV Nos. 4 & 5), GARS members recovered a cleated donkey shoe (pictured right) in the same area where several Civil War artifacts were previously found. Its nails are a type that can be dated to both the 1812 and Civil War periods where donkeys were among the military haul animals. Jim thinks the shoe is CW era and, with the other artifacts, may be evidence for an encampment or lay down area associated with the nearby infantry trench known as the “Rebel Fort.” More about this and other Fort Peachtree artifacts will be in the September issue.

National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 2015 Most Endangered Historic Places

Since 1988 the National Trust has used its list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places to raise awareness about the threats facing some of the nation’s greatest treasures. This year’s list includes the East Point Historic Civic Block, which is a rare cohesive example of civic architecture. Located at the heart of the predominantly African American community of East Point, Georgia, the block has not only borne witness to decades of the community’s history but speaks to the city’s Depression-era experience and to the Roosevelt Administration’s determination that New Deal programs be crafted for the American public. The four iconic historic properties, which includes East Point City Hall (pictured left), are suffering a potential fate of demolition by neglect. The National Trust and partners like the East Point Preservation Alliance and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation are striving to preserve and consider alternatives.

To view the complete list visit the National Trust’s Web Site.