

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Ocmulgee National Monument Display Vandalized

Because of the 34-day government shutdown National Parks were closed, and park service employees were furloughed. According to the Committee for Responsible Federal Budgets, during a government shutdown, non-essential government employees are the ones who are sent home. That includes food and environmental inspections groups (like the FDA and the EPA) Medicare and Medicaid, the IRS, health and human services, and the National Park Service. This left many parks unguarded and easy prey for vandals. Because of this, Ocmulgee Park Superintendent Jim David walked the grounds a few hours a day for to ensure nothing happened; even though, something did early in the shutdown.

When employees reported back to work at the end of January, Ocmulgee National Monument staff arrived to a shock. During the first week of the shutdown, a



Woodland-period house at Ocmulgee vandalized during the government shutdown. (Picture courtesy of 13WMAZ, CBS affiliate in Macon, Georgia)

group of teenagers trespassed and jumped onto the Woodland house displayed outside of the visitors' center—this was caught on security camera. David stated the person who made the wood structure is ill and would not be able to make a new one.

The rest of park seemed to have nothing else vandalized. Since the Woodland house was almost destroyed, the display was completely taken down leaving behind a vacant spot with just a informational board. ■ DMG

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISER:

Jim D'Angelo, PhD RPA
Email: 4drdee@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Delana M. Gilmore, MA
Email: gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com

GARS/FDF News

- **GARS Meeting:** *Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS)* will be meeting on Tuesday, February 19 at Fort Daniel Historic Site beginning at 7PM. Guest speaker Dr. Kate Deeley, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Georgia Gwinnett College, will be speaking on the recent archaeological investigation at the William Harris Homestead. This meeting is opened to the public, and light refreshments will be served!
- **Volunteer Dig Opportunity:** Dr. William Balco, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Georgia, recently contacted GARS asking for volunteers to help in excavating a prehistoric site (9DW276 Rice Farm) in Dawsonville, Georgia. They are in the early stages of investigating this site. Members from sister Society of Georgia Archaeology chapters have participated in the past. Dr. Balco is not at the site every weekend—only during fair weather and when there are no other commitments—so he contacts GARS and others a couple days before he goes out to the site. If you are interested in helping, please [contact GARS President Delana Gilmore](#), and she will add you to the Rice Farm site email list.
- **Archaeology Lab:** At their recent annual meeting Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) has decided to pay a graduate student to work on the curation of the Fort Daniel artifacts. Many thanks to McKenzie Culberson for her efforts this past year to bring the collection closer to being ready for curation; and to Georgia Department of Natural Resources archaeologist Sarah Love for her assistance in this effort. Dr. Jim D'Angelo and Jenna Tran are currently interviewing potential candidates for this position and hope to have FDF Board approval for employment by mid February. Jenna will be directly supervising the student, and Delana Gilmore will be assisting. *If you are interested in being part of the lab volunteer team, [contact Delana](#).*



Dr. Deeley with GARS volunteers during one of the archaeological investigations at the William Harris Homestead.

More Diggin's

- **Party with the Past:** The Atlanta History Center's (AHC) next **Party with the Past** will be on Wednesday, February 6 at Monday Night Garage beginning at 6PM. Located in the historic West End, the Garage is beside the Westside trail of the Atlanta BeltLine, which follows portions of the historic Louisville and Nashville railroad tracks. Sip on some local brews and learn about the history of the historic belt lines as well as the importance of transportation in Atlanta's past. A history chat will begin at 7:30pm with guest speakers **Clyde Higgs**, President & CEO (interim) of Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., and **Joel Iverson**, cofounder and COO of Monday Night Brewing. **BONUS:** The first 200 guests to check in at this event will receive a free custom Monday Night Brewing + Party with the Past pint glass, so get there early for some awesome swag! **Party with the Past is free to attend, but be sure to [RSVP online at the AHC Web site](#).**
- **Cyclorama Opening:** After a couple of years of preservation work and being relocated to the Atlanta History Center, the *Cyclorama: The Big Picture* exhibit—featuring the fully restored painting, *The Battle of Atlanta*—will be opening on February 22, 2019. **Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Monday, February 4, at 10AM.** Due to capacity and timed audio and visual presentations it is recommended to secure advance tickets. Tickets include full access to the Atlanta History Center. *(A field trip for GARS members has been planned to see this exhibit in April.)*



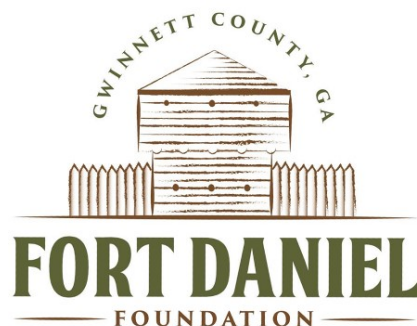
Mark Your Calendar!

Below are some upcoming GARS and FDF events and programs:

- ⇒ **Tuesday, February 19: GARS Meeting at Fort Daniel, 7PM**
Guest speaker Dr. Kate Deeley will be speaking about the archaeological investigation at William Harris Homestead. Opened to the public, and light refreshments will be served.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, March 19: GARS Meeting at Fort Daniel, 7PM**
More information will be available soon.
- ⇒ **Saturday, March 30: Boy Scout Geology Program at Fort Daniel, 10AM to 1PM**
This program will help Boy Scouts to meet the requirements of the Geology Merit Badge.
- ⇒ **Saturday, April 13: Boy Scout Basket weaving and Pottery at Fort Daniel, 10AM to 1PM**
This program will help Boy Scouts to meet the requirements of the Basketry and Pottery Merit Badges.
- ⇒ **Sunday, April 14: College Day Open House at Fort Daniel, TBA**
College students are invited to visit Fort Daniel to learn archaeological excavation techniques and curation of artifacts in the archaeology lab.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, April 16: GARS Meeting at Fort Daniel, 7PM**
Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Glover, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Georgia State University.
- ⇒ **Saturday, April 27: GARS Field Trip to Atlanta History Center Cyclorama, 10AM**
Two levels of exhibitions look at truths and myths of the Civil War; explore the untold stories of the painting; examine the role movies and visual entertainment have on shaping perspectives of the Civil War; and provides a look at the fleeting entertainment sensation of cycloramas. ***This includes access to the other AHC exhibits and houses; and is only for GARS members.*** If you are interested, [contact Delana Gilmore.](#)
- ⇒ **MAY IS ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!**
- ⇒ **Saturday, May 11: Fort Daniel Open House, 10AM to 2PM**
Explore how archaeology revealed the ways that people lived on the frontier—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum, Archaeology Lab, active archaeological digs, and tours of the fort.
- ⇒ **Saturday, May 18: Society of Georgia Archaeology Spring Meeting, TBA**
More information will be available soon.
- ⇒ **June 2019: Two-day Fort Daniel Teacher Workshop, TBA**
More information will be available soon.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, September 17: GARS Meeting at Fort Daniel, 7PM**
More information will be available soon.
- ⇒ **Friday and Saturday, October 18–19: Mini Field School**
Georgia State University students under the direction of Dr. Jeff Glover will excavate at Fort Daniel.
- ⇒ **Saturday, October 19: 11th Annual Frontier Faire at Fort Daniel, 10AM to 4PM**
- ⇒ **Saturday, November 9: Native American Heritage Program for Boy Scouts, 10AM to 2PM**
More information will be available soon.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, November 19: GARS Meeting at Fort Daniel, 7PM**
More information will be available soon.

Archaeological investigations that are being planned: Fort Harrison Survey—being scheduled; and Hill Mill Project—as soon as the weather permits. *The dates for each of these projects will be announced to GARS members through email as soon as they are scheduled.*

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Jamestown Dig Uncovers Details of First General Assembly Meeting Spot

Excerpt from an online article written by Jane Hammond for the [Daily Press](#) on January 25, 2019

Jamestown archaeologists have uncovered the western wall of the church (pictured below) that held the first meeting of representative government in North America nearly 400 years ago. With the discovery—which lay hidden beneath a 5-inch layer of concrete, brick, and dirt—the archaeologists know with certainty the full footprint of the 1617 wooden church, the first of several built on the site. It matches the 20-by-50-foot layout described in historical documents, said David Givens, director of archaeology for Jamestown Rediscovery.

“It is the intact wall of the 1617 church where representative government in English North America was held in 1619,” Givens said. “Never been dug, fully intact, right under the concrete. . . . We pulled it up, and we were like what is this brick just sitting here?”

The discovery comes after a two-year dig of the footprint of the site that has held four different sanctuaries: one in 1617, one in the 1640s, another in the 1680s, and the present-day Memorial Church erected in 1907 after the first large dig of

the site. The eastern, southern, and northern wall foundations—layers of brick and cobblestone—were exposed during that excavation, which wrapped up late last year.

The western wall was found underneath the church tower, the dig of which began in January. Staff worked on slowly chipping away dirt along its brick surface on Friday, a week after it was first uncovered. At the end of January archaeologists

first saw a structure there using ground-penetrating radar. They could see a wall-like structure but weren’t exactly sure what it was.

Work in the church coincides with the 400th anniversary of the first meeting of the General Assembly on the site. It was there in the chancel that Governor George Yeardley, his four councilors, and 22 burgesses (chosen by white, male inhabitants

of the colony) met on July 30, 1619 in the first meeting of a representative legislative government in North America. It’s one of several milestones—the arrival of the first Africans on American soil, the recruitment of English women to the colony, the first Thanksgiving—being commemorated across the state of Virginia this year. ■ DP



GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President:	Vice President:
Delana Gilmore	Jenna Tran
Secretary/Treasurer:	
Kay McKenna	

To keep up with the latest digs and activities from GARS follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

President:	Secretary:
Jim D’Angelo	Cindy Horsley
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