

Preserving History Through Archaeology



June-July-August 2022
Volume XI, Issue 6

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Archaeology in Your Backyard

How many people can say that they have an *active* archaeological site in their backyard? Not many but I can tell people that I do! As onsite managers at Fort Daniel Archaeological Park, my husband and I strive to ensure that the archaeological site is protected from illegal digging, trespassers, and sometimes from nature (e.g.; fallen trees). Additionally, not only for security purposes we sometime do impromptu tours of the site and museum. During COVID we did perform several impromptu tours since people wanted to get out and do something. Now that COVID restrictions are being lifted, Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) and Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) members decided to plan some events over the summer.



During May Georgia celebrated Archaeology Month. GARS and FDF threw open the gates (in a way) to hold the annual Fort Daniel Open House. Members were on hand to tell the story of Fort Daniel and Georgia frontier life. Since it was Archaeology Month, an archaeological excavation unit was opened up near the Southwest Blockhouse to uncover more of the Fort’s history. During the dig, early 1800s creamware fragments and one detailed 1800s–1830s pearlware fragment (*pictured on Page 5*) were found that matched similar fragments found on the site.

Since the annual open house has been successful over the years, the FDF Board of Directors wondered about having other open houses during the summer. Two

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Archaeologists of Fort Daniel

In this month's "Archaeologists of Fort Daniel" section we will be getting to know more about (Martha) Anne Dorland, President of Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS).

Educational Background: Bachelor of Anthropology from Auburn University; Master of Education of Social Sciences from University of South Alabama

Current Employment: Archaeological Field Director and Education Program Manager at New South Associates in Athens, Georgia.

Primary Research Interests: Archaeology education, origins of agriculture in the Southeastern United States, and historic African-American lifeways in the Southeastern United States

What motivated you to become an archaeologist? I was born an anthropologist. I have always been curious about other cultures and other ways of living. I often daydream about what it would be like to live someone else's life and be part of a different culture. This led me to anthropology courses at Auburn University. After taking a few cultural anthropology courses I began to question my interest in anthropology. I explored social work, psychology, and even physical therapy. I always knew that I was meant to help people in my profession. It wasn't until I met Dr. John Cottier in his Introduction to Archaeology course that I knew exactly who I was meant to become. He inspired me and impassioned me to pursue a career in archaeology through his genuine enthusiasm for the work. Field school with Dr. Cottier at the Canebreak Site sparked a fire in me that has never died. I think that he would be overjoyed to learn about the amazing community I have at New South and GARS/FDF.



What is the most interesting archaeological site on which you've worked? I have worked on several fascinating sites, all in the Southeastern United States. If I had to pick one, it would be Platt Mound. Platt Mound, located near Melbourne, Florida, is an Archaic Period Native American mound site. This site was exciting because of the amazing bone preservation created by calcified concretions in the soil. This removed some of the acidity, resulting in excellent preservation conditions. Even poop had been preserved! There was more animal bone than soil at the site, and it was absolutely thrilling to excavate there. We also found very early pottery made with fiber tempering.

What is your favorite thing about being an archaeologist? My favorite thing about being an archaeologist is having the opportunity to work with living communities to uncover the untold stories of the human past together. It is absolutely thrilling to uncover a piece of history, but the truly rewarding part is sharing that process with the public.

What is your least favorite thing about being an archaeologist? My least favorite thing about being an archaeologist is staying in hotels for long periods of time. We are often required to do this for field projects.

What is your least favorite question that you are frequently asked by nonarchaeologists and why? My least favorite question from non-archaeologists is, "how much is that artifact worth?" Artifacts are priceless items when they are found in their original context. No value can be placed on the information they provide.

Do you have advice for people who want to pursue a career in archaeology? For anyone interested in pursuing a career in archaeology, I recommend taking a field school. The best way to find out if you really love archaeology is to do fieldwork. Archaeology is not an easy career, and there are many reasons not to become an archaeologist. However, if you are passionate about history and science it might be perfect for you! ■

Defending the Frontier

14th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 15, 2022

10AM-4PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

FREE Admission

★ **Public Archaeology**

★ **Fort Daniel Museum**

★ **Frontier Demonstrations**

★ **Historic Interpretations**

★ **Public Archaeology**

For information visit Fort Daniel Foundation's Web site: fortdaniel.com

The “USA” Pottery Mark

Article by Tyler Holman, FDF Vice President

Among the many artifacts recovered from the Fort Daniel site, you will find fragments of a ceramic cup marked “USA” on the bottom currently on display in the museum. Because “USA” markings like this first appear in the 1890s, we can be certain that it has no connection to the fort itself. However, it is important because it still tells us something about the site’s history after Fort Daniel was abandoned and became cultivated farmland.



Fort Daniel



Woodward-Mayfield

The Fort Daniel (left) and Woodward-Mayfield (right) “USA” cups compared

In 2021 I found fragments of a very similar cup while investigating a 19th–20th century homesite near Buford on behalf of the Gwinnett Historical Society (recorded as the Woodward-Mayfield Site, 9GW709; see the September 2021 edition of the *GAB*). These fragments were found in a trash dump that contained material dating from approximately the 1890s to the 1930s. While not identical to the cup found at Fort Daniel, they are clearly products of the same time and style. Both are earthenware made from a yellowish clay and have a glossy, off-white glaze.

Because of the generic mark, the catalogues that archaeologists often rely on to identify ceramics (like *Kovels’ Dictionary of Marks*) were of limited use here. Instead I discovered similar objects in antique sale listings and trade publications. I discovered that the generic “USA” mark was first applied to pottery in response to more stringent import laws, like the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890, although there was no legal requirement that domestic products had to be marked. While more ornate ceramics were usually marked by a specific manufacturer, these were simple, everyday wares sold by retailers like Sears, Roebuck, and Company and Woolworths. Marketed as generic “plain white tableware,” these ceramics were produced by companies including the Zanesville, Ohio based companies Shawnee Pottery and McCoy Pottery along with numerous others. The yellowish clay used to make both the Fort Daniel and Woodward-Mayfield cups may suggest a manufacturer in Ohio.

These relatively recent artifacts (compared to the early 19th century, at least) are interesting reminders that the definition of what constitutes an archaeological artifact is always shifting. According to the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists’ Standards and Guidelines, any accumulation of three or more artifacts that is at least 50 years old (that’s 1972!) constitutes an archaeological site. As Jim D’Angelo once told me, over the course of their careers, archaeologists dig up more and more objects that they used to own. ■ TH



An intact cup with ‘USA’ mark and a similar shape (*Etsy*)

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Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists. “Georgia Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Survey,” 2019. <http://georgia-archaeology.org/GCPA/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FINAL-Georgia-Standards-and-Guidelines-for-Archaeological-Investigations-12-19-2019.pdf>.

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open houses were planned but the one in was cancelled due to the threat of heavy rain. During the open house in June college students from Georgia Gwinnett visited the site to earn extra credit. Several “neighbors” (some even from Barrow County!) came through the gates of Fort Daniel and enjoyed the informative banners that were on display and learning about the history of Fort Daniel by visiting the museum.

As stated earlier, with COVID restrictions being lifted Fort Daniel saw the return of summer campers to its site. Fourteen campers and four counselors from Gwinnett County History Camp visited the archaeological site in July. They were learning about the history of Gwinnett County’s oldest sites and the historic significance of the area that they live in. After a tour of the archaeological site, the campers visited the Archaeological Lab and Meeting Room and looked over the artifacts from Fort Daniel.

During the summer Fort Daniel Archaeological Park had many people to visit enjoying the public archaeology, visiting the museum and archaeology lab, and learning how FDF members are preserving local history through archaeology in their own backyard! The gates of Fort Daniel will next be opened in October for the annual Frontier Faire (see Page 3 for more details). ■ **DMG**



Five early 1800s creamware and one 1800s-1830s pearlware fragments found during the Fort Daniel Open House in May.

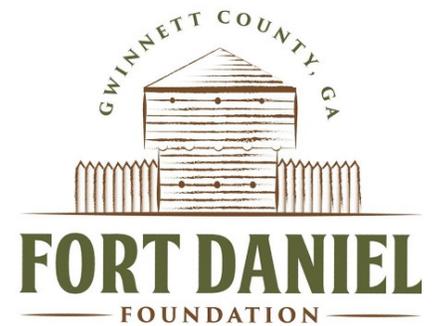


Visitors touring the fort, museum, and lab at Fort Daniel



Gwinnett County History Camp day campers and counselors visiting the site

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11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2022 List

Each year the National Trust of Historic Preservation raises awareness about threats facing some of the nation's greatest treasures. This year's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places listing sheds light on important examples of our nation's heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. More than 300 places have been listed in its 34-year history, and in that time, fewer than 5 percent of listed sites have been lost.

The 2022 list is a prime example of the expansiveness of American history. The wide range of cultures, histories, and geographies it reflects illustrates how telling the full story can help each person see themselves reflected in our country's multilayered past. However, the sites on this year's list also reflect communities historically underrepresented within preservation. As a result, society has often devalued or deemphasized the places connected to these stories.



Today all 11 listings are at a turning point—a critical moment when we as a nation either recognize their significance and fight to protect them, tell their full stories, and harness their ongoing relevance, or watch

them disappear from our cultural landscape and fade into memory. Through the 11 Most list, there is an opportunity to bolster these places' recognition, preservation, interpretation, and funding, and in doing so help protect them for generations to come.

Just as the tireless work of the National Trust, its partners, and local preservation-

ists across the country have saved dozens of previously listed sites and set many more on a path to a positive solution, so now we can work together on behalf of these endangered places.

To view this year's list visit the [NTHP Web site](#). ■ NTHP

GARS OFFICERS

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President: Anne Dorland
Vice President: Katie Ahern
Secretary/Treasurer: Delana Gilmore

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

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