

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



May 2021  
Volume X, Issue 5

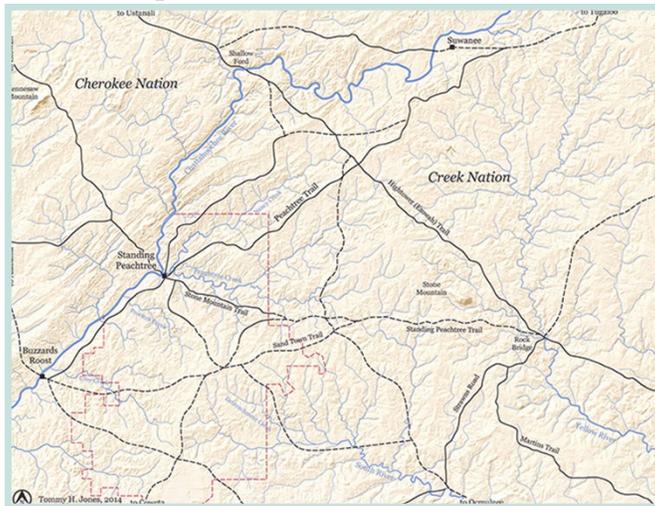
## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### Pioneer Tech: Surveying Tools

Article by Cindy Horsley, FDF Secretary and Legacy Member

The USGS map pictured right notes the delineate general routes of Native American paths and trails that existed in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Red lines indicate the corporate limits of the City of Atlanta. Solid lines indicate the routes of trails delineated on the district plats of survey and/or the plats of individual land lots in 1821. Black dashed lines indicate the approximate route of other important trails that are documented elsewhere in the historical record. (Annotations by Tommy H Jones, 2014.)



After the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), a new wave of migration from Virginia and the Carolinas brought pioneers to Georgia. The many treaties for

the concessions of the tribal lands opened the need for land surveyors and recording maps as the boundaries were frequently changing over the years.

Surveying tools from the late 1700s and early 1800s were used by many surveyors. William Wofford comes to mind. In 1787 without precise surveying this caused irregularities in awarding early land grants for Georgia. Wofford purchased land that encroached on the Cherokee territory. The Wofford Settlement correction would not occur until 1824.

The “fort at Hog Mountain,” as it was originally known, was marked at the southern boundary of the

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EDITOR:

Delana M. Gilmore, MA  
Email: [gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com)

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:

Jim D’Angelo, PhD RPA  
Email: [4drdee@bellsouth.net](mailto:4drdee@bellsouth.net)

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Cherokee hunting grounds. This boundary line (established more formally in 1798 by Native American affairs agent Benjamin Hawkins) was subsequently known as “the Hawkins Line.”

The making of the Peachtree military road of nearly 30 miles from Fort Daniel to Fort Standing Peachtree was dependent on local scouts and local contractors like Robert Young (1760-1851), Isham Williams (1776–1852), and William Nesbit (1789-1863)—who in turn engaged crews of men to clear the remainder of the road. In some places the surveyors are likely to have identified a new route better suited for a wagon road. Of course, prior to that the land belonged to the Native Americans of the Muscogee Creek and Cherokee nations.

Prior to the creation of Jackson County, this land was a part of Franklin County (established in 1784). Gwinnett County’s 5<sup>th</sup> District noted the surveyor as H. Luckie in 1819 documents. Joseph T. Cunningham was noted to survey Jackson County in 1816 records.

### **Tools of the Trade**



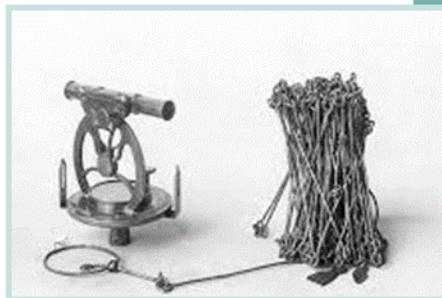
Gunter’s Chains were the typical tools the pair of surveyors would use to measure distance and calculate acres of land. In 1620 it was created by Edmund Gunter, a mathematician and astronomer. The actual metal chain was 66 feet long and made of 100 links with each link measuring 7.92 inches. Ten square chains equal one acre and 80 chains equal a mile. The chain was originally called an “acre’s breadth” because it was the width of an acre, while a furlong was the length.

A surveyor would use a circumferentor on a tripod as a compass to measure angles. He would record the measurement data in the surveyor’s field record book and later use the data to create maps. There is an example of the information used in the County Deed book of Jackson County 1809–1818. Land was not measured in feet back then but in acres. As land became more valuable, we began to think of it in feet.

### **Circumferentor—Gunter’s chain—Distance Markers/Tallies**

The Gunter’s Chain required two chainmen with one at each end of the chain to physically make the measurements. The compass man established the correct bearing at each chain placement. In forested areas, the lead chainman carefully followed the correct bearings at all times for accuracy since a chain could not be straightened without backtracking around trees and remeasuring. Keeping the chain level was most important as all surveying distances are based on the horizontal, not slope, distance. In steep terrain, this meant shortening the chain, raising on end of the chain relative to the other, or both. In areas where measuring by chain was not possible, such as extremely steep terrain or water obstructions.

The Circumferentor mounted on a tripod was used by the compass man to measure angles needed for distance calculations. An Off-set staff was used to measure short distances as it was marked every 7.92 inches with alternating colors used to measure off set distance.



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At a measured point, a wooden arrow would be inserted in the ground as a marker. As the surveying pair moved along, the rear man would later come by and remove the arrow marker from the ground into his surveyor quiver for

count. The rear chainman's number of arrows in the quiver represented the number of chains used in measuring distance. The surveyor's quiver holds ten arrows, so if all ten arrows were used it would then be termed an "out" measurement, which can be seen in documents as a unit of measurement. By the end of the 18th century, the circumferentor remained the preferred instrument, as it was better suited to dealing with forested terrain.

Today, the Gunter's chain has been replaced by a steel tape, but the measurement remains. In fact, the Public Lands Survey continues to keep measurements in chains to maintain the consistency of its records.

### Surveyor's Field Notes

After the surveyors recorded the measured land in the notebook, they would return to the surveying table to turn field notes into a map. He would use a flat compass and a double parallel ruler to plot out the point of information on paper and create the map to scale.

An example of the written measurements is below as recorded in the Jackson County, Georgia Deed Abstract Book E-G 1808-1822, abstracted by Faye Stone Poss.

29th Meridian, from a Post on North D.L. South

16	6	4	Remarks	16	6	4	Remarks
3	00		Shallow ford Road //	10	00		P O
4	00		P O	16	00		Large Br P
1	21	00	Post (E)	8	20	00	Post (O)
	10	00	P O	4	00		Small brook J
2	24	00	Post (E)	9	30		Wk
	9	30	P O	9	20	00	Post (O)

*Elisha Winn of Jackson Co. to Richard Moore of Putnam Co.:*

*\$500 for 400 acres more or less, beg. at pine cor. on Nevil's line, SE 166 chs. & 40 links to a hickory cor. Joining Jackson, SW 24 chs. To a post oak cor. Near Kelleys creek, NW 166 chs. & 40 links to a stake on Thompson's line, NE 24 chs. To the beg. Pine cor., it begin part of a survey granted to Tandy Key for 500 acres. Signed: Elisha Winn. Wit: John Cupp, Elijah Ofield, Simon Holt. Sworn by Simon Holt on Aug. 3, 1813, before David Witt, J.I.C. Rec. Sept. 17, 1813.*

These surveying tools were pivotal to the development of the United States of America. It allowed boundaries to be established to create roads and provide land grants. Although many tools and methods (like GPS and 3-D scanning) have changed dramatically, the principles of the surveying and mapping processes remain the same. ■ CH

# Archaeology Month

Every year in May the state of Georgia celebrates and promotes preservation and stewardship of its hidden archaeological heritage. This statewide archaeology awareness has grown over the years since its creation in 1994. The Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) serves as the primary sponsor of Georgia Archaeology Month. Cosponsors include state agencies, private firms, and non-profit and professional organizations.



This year the theme for Archaeology Month is *Technologies in Archaeology*. The events of the last year have demonstrated the importance of technologies in keeping everyone connected. Through their [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages SGA will spotlight the different ways that technologies have been used to interpret Georgia's past and the archaeologists doing the research to bring us these interpretations. In addition to highlighting events across the state celebrating Archaeology Month, they will be sharing archaeological research projects in Georgia that utilize different technologies.

Throughout the month of May some institutions are either going virtual or hosting public events. Below are some events:

- New South Associates is honoring Georgia Archaeology Month in May by hosting a month-long virtual event! New South believes in connecting communities with their past to uplift and support them in building a brighter future, which shapes the theme for their event this year: Cultural Heritage Belongs To Everyone! This event will include engaging content such as educational videos, web pages, and live Zoom events about topics such as careers in cultural resource management, excavation, oral history, rock art, and more! These exciting new offerings, which will provide something for all age groups, are filled with educational content aligned with the Georgia Department of Education Standards of Excellence. We hope you will join us this year in our efforts to connect people with our shared cultural heritage! To access this content visit <http://portaltothepast.newsouthassoc.com/>
- The Ocmulgee Archaeological Society (OAS) in partnership with the Fort Hawkins Board will hold its 16th Annual Fort Hawkins Archaeology Day on Saturday, May 8 from 12–4PM. This event will be held at Fort Hawkins on the corner of Fort Hill Street and Emery Hwy, Macon, Georgia. This event is FREE and open to the public. This year's Fort Hawkins Archaeology Day will feature: artifact identification; pottery making, primitive skills, and Native American stories and games sessions; a Fort Hawkins Tour; and historic interpreters.

Public outreach is a critical link in encouraging awareness of archaeology and a sense of stewardship for our state's archaeological sites. ■ DMG

## MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact Delana Gilmore; and for FDF membership please contact Cindy Horsley.



## *Defending the Frontier*

**Fort Daniel Open House**

**Saturday, May 15, 2021**

**10AM-2PM**

**Fort Daniel Historic Site**

**(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)**

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Explore how archaeology reveals the ways people lived on the frontier during the War of 1812—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum, Archaeology Lab, active archaeological digs, and living history tours of the fort. Don't forget to check us out on Facebook and Instagram for the latest information regarding Fort Daniel!

# 13th Annual Frontier Faire

**Saturday, October 16**

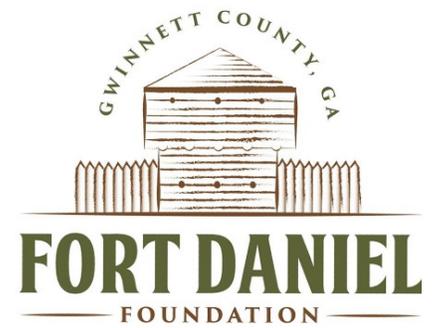
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## Telling the Whole Story: Preservation Month

Though it is Archaeology Month in Georgia, nationally May is Historic Preservation Month, and this year the National Trust of Historic Preservation strives to tell the full American story. They believe that all Americans deserve to see their history in the surrounding places. Yet just a small fraction of the sites on the National Register of Historic Places represent women and people of different ethnicity. As a nation, we have work to do to fill in the gaps of our cultural heritage. That's why the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) shines a long-overdue spotlight on generations of trailblazers by saving the places where they raised their voices, took their stands, and found the courage to change the world. NTHP is offering a wide variety of ways to discover and save places that showcase the depth and diversity of our nation's history. Some of their sponsored

events are:

- **#TellTheFullStory on Social Media:** Share a place that helps tell a little-known or underrepresented piece of the American story. It could be a place tied to local, national, or even your own family history. Use #TellTheFullStory and tag @SavingPlaces on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).
- **Discover Historic Houses of Worship Nationwide:** Enter the [National Fund for Sacred Places](#), born out of a belief that providing technical and financial support for congregations could build capacity and increase the stability of these critical yet disappearing historic community centers.



For more information about Preservation Month and other events visit the [NTHP Web site](#). ■ NTHP

### GARS OFFICERS [www.thegars.org](http://www.thegars.org)

**President:** Anne Dorland  
**Vice President:** Jenna Tran  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Delana Gilmore

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

### FDF OFFICERS

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

**President:** Eli Stancel  
**Secretary:** Cindy Horsley  
**Vice President:** Leslie Perry  
**Treasurer:** Betty Warbington

*To stay up to date with the latest news from FDF follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).*