

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

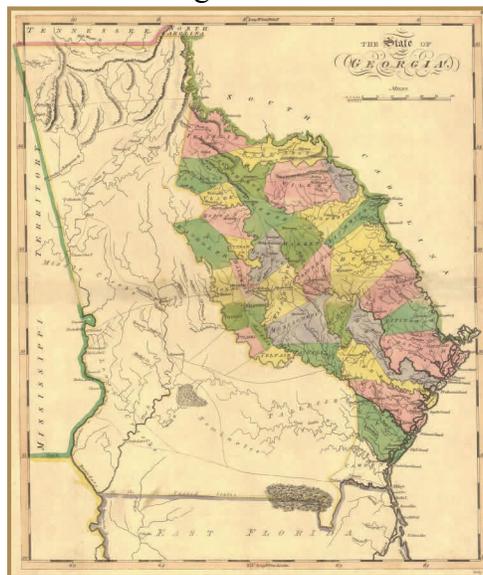
Military Structure.....1	More Diggin's.....5
GARS/Fort Daniel News.....4	Historic Preservation Month.....5
A Capital Idea!.....4	Fix Our Parks!.....6

Military Structure During the War of 1812

Article by *Eli Stancel*

The military structure of the United States during the War of 1812 is to say the least confusing. One must consider the recent past of the United States to fully understand why. The Second and Third Amendments of the Constitution speak to American concerns about a large standing army in the midst. The Revolution was still a memory to many citizens in 1812, and the remembrance of a standing army causes some concern among the general public. As a result of those concerns and the policies of President Thomas Jefferson, the US Army is a small force as the War of 1812 began.

One place in Georgia that did have a large military presence was St. Mary's, Georgia. Fort Peter (or Petre) was the home to the third largest collection of gunboats in the US fleet. This was a re-



1814 Map of Georgia

sult of St. Mary's being the last American town before Spanish Florida or the Creek Nation. This fleet existed to enforce the perennial Non-Intercourse Acts. Stationed also at the Fort was a company of the 1st US Rifle Regiment which carried the Harper's Ferry Rifle shipped from the banks of the Shenandoah.

Keeping to the tradition of the Revolution, the state of Georgia was divided into militia regiments. (Pictured left is an 1814 map of Georgia.) The areas of Franklin and Jackson Counties were part of the 25th and 26th Militia Regiments. Although the actual dividing lines of the regiments are somewhat blurred, these were the organizations that staffed the American Army in North Georgia during the War of 1812. As the War progressed, the differences

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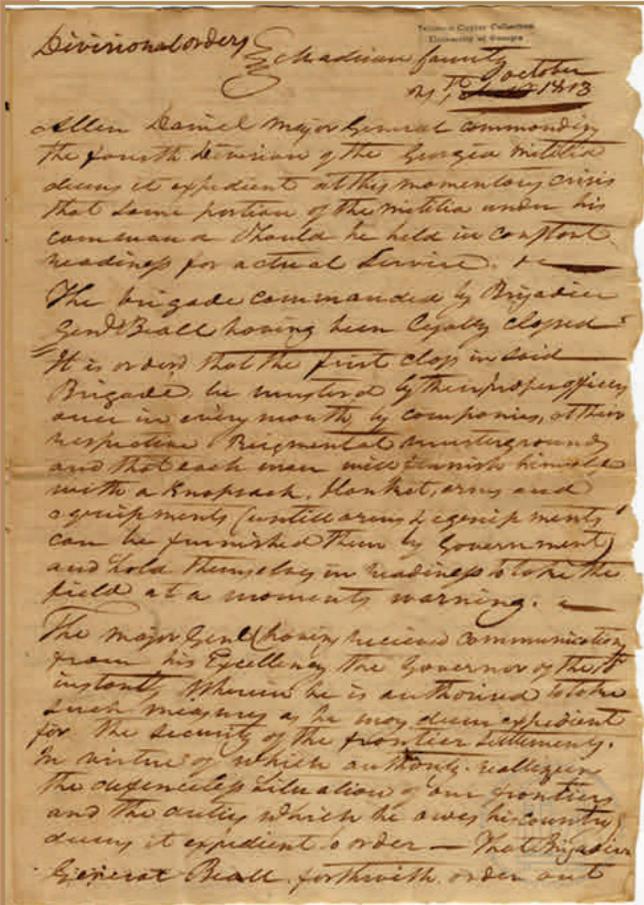
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within each state resulted in poor troop organization and inability to properly organize military operations. President Madison recognized these issues and prompted his allies in Congress to push through a bill that would reorganize the State Militias for Federal service. In that 1814 bill the troop sizes were normalized, and the reporting structure was standardized. Each regiment was to have ten companies with 80–120 men in each. Of those companies one was to be a light company of skirmishers and one of riflemen. Jackson and Franklin Counties were part of the 4th Regiment of Georgia's allotment. Jackson was assigned to be the rifle company. The 4th Regiment was commanded by Booth, he reported to Major Tandy Key, then Colonel Buell, then General Daniel who commanded the 4th Division.



The challenge at Fort Daniel is that the reorganization occurred while the Fort was under construction. We know from past discovered documents that the Fort was ordered to be constructed via State Authority. (See letter pictured left.) To fulfill that order, the regimental commanders created a “detached” portion of militia to build and staff the Forts. This meant that some troops could elect to serve 60 days in building and staffing the Forts in lieu of serving the required six months in the regiments of the line. An example of the conflict can be found in Jacob Braselton’s letter to Governor Troup dated January 14th, 1827. Braselton wanted to apply for a pension, but he only served sixty days at “the fort at Hog Mountain” instead of the standard six months as usually required. Situations like this forced Congress to reduce the requirement of service to 60 days to be eligible for a War of 1812 pension. During 1814 letters to the Governor questioned the need for the forts. Fort Daniel was needed as the start of the military road to Fort Peachtree, but the others were not as necessary for protection and drew away needed soldiers.

Another option for male citizens at the time was to join the regular US Army. Recruits joined the army from as close as Jefferson in Jackson County during the War. General Pinckney was in charge of the US 6th and 7th Districts as the war began, and he commanded those territories from Charleston, South Carolina, and Fort Hawkins. The 43rd US Army Regiment was the closest regular Army unit to Fort Daniel. In each regiment

The above letter is from Daniel to Beall about constructing a new fort at Hog Mountain.

a number of “recruiting” officers were commissioned. Their role was not field command, but they travelled the countryside soliciting men to enlist. Once they enlisted, men were sent to a central depot for consolidation in companies. The initial depot for the 43rd was Washington, Georgia, in Wilkes County. The Colonel of the regiment, Nicholas Long, lived in Washington, Georgia; and thus, the regiment’s initial headquarters. The majority of the unit’s men were sent to Salisbury, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; and around the Cape Fear River in North Carolina.

A small unit of 20 privates, two noncommissioned officers, and a lieutenant named George Gilmer were tasked to the Chattahoochee. This group was ordered to build a fort at Standing Peachtree to anchor a road that started at Fort Daniel. This was a Federal army unit. It belonged to the company commanded by Captain Edward Tattnall. These men probably saw Fort Daniel as they travelled. The arms for the militia at Fort Daniel were

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stored at Major Tandy Key's house. According to his report to the Governor, the smoothbore 1795 pattern muskets were not in good order, and only 70 of the 150 had been cleaned. For soldiers who had not brought their own rifles to the Fort, it was a bad spot to be in. As Gilmer led his men by Fort Daniel, he was passing a state fortification. Following the Peachtree Road, he was on Federal orders to build Fort Peachtree. The men at Fort Daniel reported to Captain Wharton, who reported to Key, who reported to Booth, who reported to General Daniel, who reported to the General of the Georgia Militia, either Floyd or McIntosh. Gilmer would report to Captain Tattnall, to Colonel Nicholas Long, then General Pickney. Two parallel reporting structures existed side by side.

After the Red Stick Creeks were defeated, the need for frontier forts were greatly reduced. Meanwhile at Point Peter, the British were planning an invasion. (See map pictured right.) Colonel Jack of the 8th US Army Regiment was planning a defense. Prior to accepting that role, he was the general in charge of the 4th Division of Georgia Militia; the position now held by General Allen Daniel. Colonel Jack requested that Gilmer and his men reinforce Point Peter with his garrison. Aside from local militia, Jack had only a few regular line infantry, and some of the US Army rifles to defend the Point. The Point fell in January to a British assault.

As the War of 1812 played out in Georgia, the militia was reorganized into standard military sizes to meet Madison's demands. Some small detachments were sent to man outlying forts. The US Army was an option for many men but required a longer enlistment and the probability of exposure to real fighting. The militia and the regular army reporting through two separate and parallel lines met at General Pinckney as the commander of the military district. ■ ES



The map above shows the sequence of troop movements during the last battle of the War of 1812, which played out at Point Peter in Georgia .

Defending the Frontier
Fort Daniel Open House
Saturday, May 12, 2018
10AM-4PM
Fort Daniel Historic Site
(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! The Open House will focus on how archaeology revealed 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. For information go to www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.

GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Meeting:** There will NOT be a GARS meeting in May. The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, September 18. Keep an eye on your email and Facebook for upcoming summer events and digs.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Below are some volunteer opportunities:
 - ⇒ **Saturday, May 5–New South Associates Archaeology Day:** Volunteers are needed to help man the booth throughout the day from 10AM to 2PM. If you would like to help, [email Delana Gilmore.](#)
 - ⇒ **Friday, May 11–Fort Daniel Work Day:** This is the work day in preparation for the May 12 Open House. The basement needs to be set up, the shed cleaned out, and the site prepared. Work should get started around 9:30AM. Please [email Jim D’Angelo](#) if you are interested.
 - ⇒ **Monday, May 28–Dacula Memorial Day Parade:** People are needed to participate in this event that will conclude a busy May. This has been a wonderful community outreach for Fort Daniel and promotion of the Frontier Faire. So far several members have indicated they will march or ride on the "float" in costume or not. If you are interested, please [email Eli Stancel.](#)

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact [John Hopkins](#); and for FDF membership please contact [Betty Warbington.](#)



A Capital Idea! May is Georgia 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.

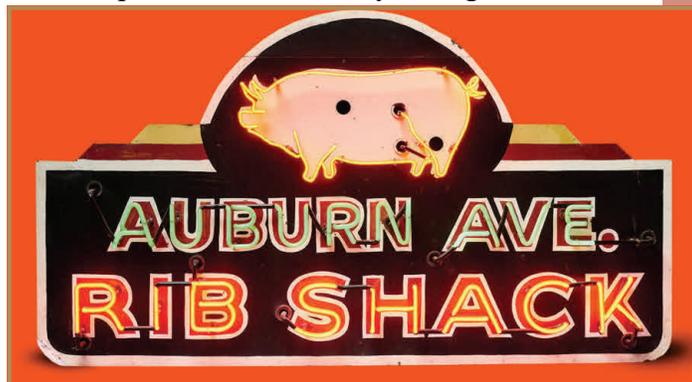


This year the theme for both Archaeology Month and the SGA Spring Meeting is “*A Capital Idea: The Archaeology and History of Georgia’s Seats of Power.*” The SGA Spring Meeting will be in Milledgeville on May 18–19. Saturday, May 19 will be a day of activities in the Historic District of Milledgeville. Beginning at 10AM, a tour of the Governor’s Mansion and grounds will occur. Following the walking tour of the Historic District, people can take a short drive to Andalusia, the home of Flannery O’Connor. Andalusia is currently closed for renovations, but SGA has arranged for a guided tour for its members. For more information about the SGA Spring Meeting visit the [SGA Web site.](#)

Along with the Spring Meeting SGA Chapters and other organizations partake in activities ranging from lectures and presentations to Artifact Identification Days to bring awareness to Archaeology Month. Public outreach is a critical link in encouraging awareness of archaeology and a sense of stewardship for our state’s archaeological sites. For this reason the month of May in Georgia celebrates preserving its history through archaeology. ■

More Diggin's

- **Barbecue Nation Opening Day at Atlanta History Center will be on Saturday, May 5 from 10AM to 5:30PM.** Kick off national barbecue month with the opening of the AHC's newest exhibition, *Barbecue Nation!* Opening day highlights include a keynote talk by renowned pit master Chris Lilly of Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q in Decatur, Alabama, and Erika Council of the *Southern Soufflé* blog preparing desserts and sides in the Smith Family Farm kitchen. Enjoy demonstrations of meat preservation techniques from 1860 and 2018 at the Smith Family Farm Smokehouse. Listen to music by Bluegrass Flashmob before trying crafts and hands-on activities including Make Your Own Spice Rub, food-related scavenger hunts and more. *This is included in the cost of general admission.* For information visit the [Atlanta History Center Web site](#).
- **Gwinnett Historical Society will be meeting on Monday, May 21 at the Historic Courthouse** in downtown Lawrenceville beginning at **7PM**. Guest speakers will be Mary Long and Beverly Paff. They will be talking about Lawrenceville in the early years. For information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).



This Place Matters: National Historic Preservation Month

Though it is Archaeology Month in Georgia, nationally May is Historic Preservation Month, and this year the National Trust of Historic Preservation continues to celebrate with three words that say it all: **This. Place. Matters.** Everyone has places that are important to them. Places they care about. Places that matter. *This Place Matters* is national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities.



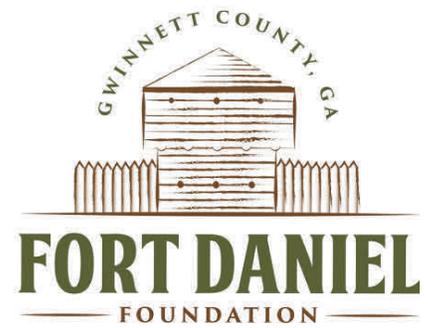
This campaign isn't just about photography. It's about telling the stories of the places we can't live without. Through *This Place Matters*, the National Trust hopes to encourage and inspire an ongoing dialogue about the importance of place and preservation in all of our lives.

The National Trust believes that Preservation Month is an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on all the special places that are important to you. To help celebrate the National Trust is sharing some tips and tricks so you can take your *This Place Matters* campaign to the next level this May. Follow the steps below to get started:

- ◆ Download your [This Place Matters materials](#) including signs, social media shareables, and a campaign toolkit.
- ◆ Take photos at the places that matter most to you.
- ◆ Share your photos online with the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters.
- ◆ Stay tuned to @SavingPlaces on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) as they spotlight their favorites.

You can tell others in your community which places matter most to you, and the National Trust will help to tell the world! ■

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Fix Our Parks!

The National Park System tells the story of remarkable people and events in our nation's rich history at sites as diverse as Gettysburg National Military Park, Independence Hall, the Statue of Liberty, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, and Native American cultural sites like Mesa Verde National Park. Unfortunately, after 100 years of operation and inconsistent funding, the National Park Service has a deferred maintenance backlog of approximately \$11.6 billion, and many significant historic sites are at risk of falling into disrepair.

The [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) has long sought to

assist the National Park Service in reducing the backlog of maintenance at their historic sites. The National Trust in partnership with The Corps Network created a program to train more young people in preservation crafts while helping to protect historic cultural sites on

public lands. Named "[HOPE Crew](#)" for "Hands-On Preservation Experience," the program links preservation projects to the national youth corps movement. It brings in crew members from diverse backgrounds to work on hundreds of sites—learning preservation craft skills while rehabilitating historic places.



In addition, the National Trust has joined with the Pew Charitable Trusts on their Restore America's Parks campaign to seek a reliable, dedicated federal funding source that will address the deferred maintenance backlog. Such funding will ensure that we preserve historic buildings and sites, maintain

buildings and infrastructure in safe condition, and that parks remain open and accessible so that the public can continue to learn from and experience the stories that tell our nation's history. ■ **NTHP**

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President: Delana Gilmore	Secretary: Vicki Watkins
Vice President: Jenna Pirtle	Treasurer: John Hopkins, Jr.

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

FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

President: Jim D'Angelo	Secretary: Vicki Watkins
Vice President: Catherine Long	Treasurer: Betty Warbington

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