

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



March 2022  
Volume XI, Issue 3

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### Fort Daniel Unit 16 West: Conservation and Analysis of Artifacts

By Dr. Jim D'Angelo

During the 2021 Frontier Faire on October 16, along with efforts to complete excavation of the nearby cold cellar feature by Georgia State University archaeology students, Unit 16-west was excavated. Much of the west end of the South Wall had previously been excavated with only two feet (60 cm) of the trench remaining where it ended at Blockhouse. Six artifacts were recovered from the unit: three ceramic and three metal pieces (see pictures on Page 2).



Dr. Jeffrey Glover, Professor of Anthropology at Georgia State University, and Clay Bush, University of Georgia Student, working in Unit 16 West

The two fragments of green shell-edged creamware representing about 1/3 of a whole plate are the largest ceramic fragments recovered at Fort Daniel Archaeological Site (9GW623)—no doubt due to the fact that they had fallen into the wall trench when the pickets were being salvaged during the dismantling of the fort, thus sparing them from being broken into smaller pieces during about 140 years of cultivation that followed. Knife scars on the surface of the plate remind us (as archived receipts show) that the garrison was provisioned with

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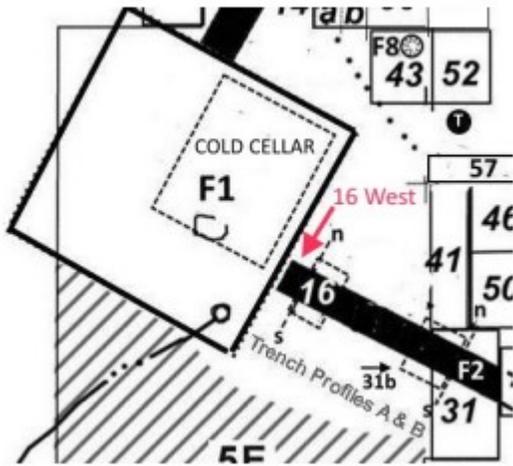
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beef supplied by Isham Williams who was compensated for “944 Pounds of beef furnished...to the Militia stationed at Fort Daniel in Jackson County under the command of Captain Garrison at \$3.00 per hundred” (The History of Gwinnett County by James Flanigan, Vol I, p.14).



(pictured from left to right) Southwest Blockhouse area depicted on Site Plan showing location of Unit 16 West; GSU archaeology student, Van Forbes, excavation in Unit 16 West showing smaller of two plate sherds visible at bottom of unit; and two large plate fragments and three metal artifacts were recovered from this area at depth of 25-73 cm below datum (One small ceramic sherd, not part of the plate, is not pictured)

While there are many known wares and designs, white refined earthenwares are often prevalent on American sites. These can be categorized into three basic ware types: creamware, pearlware, and whiteware. All three have specific production date ranges as well as varying stylistic elements that can help us further refine those dates. Creamware (the earliest of the three) was formally introduced in England by Josiah Wedgwood in 1762.

Cream-colored wares were being produced as early as the 1740s, but Wedgwood succeeded in creating a more refined ware. The popularity of creamware began to decline around 1800 with the introduction of pearlware and is virtually non-existent after 1820. Absent a maker’s mark, this plate would have been imported as cheap common ware for sale in in the colonies and in trading posts.



18th to 20th century nails. Nail ‘b’ is a Fort Daniel 3c/d type

Nails are another category of artifacts that have specific production date ranges as well as varying stylistic elements that can help us further refine those dates. Generally, a forged or wrought nail dates to no later than the end of the 18th century, whereas cut nails date to the 19th century and wire nails come in after 1879. (pictured top left).

There are always regional exceptions, as when the invention of new manufacturing method takes time to influence the product in a geographic area. At Fort Daniel we find both forged and cut nails—indicating that forged nails were still being used when the fort was erected. However, there is preponderance of what Edwards and Wells identify as Type 3c/d machine cut, hand-headed nails that date to 1805-1810 (Historic Louisiana Nails: Aids to the Dating of Old Buildings, Jay D. Edwards and Tom Wells, Louisiana State Univ. 1994).



4” steel wire nail at a depth of about 18 inches below the ground surface in 1813

More interesting, because of its provenience, is the wire nail (pictured bottom left) that was recovered just above the ceramic artifacts at what would

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# GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **VOLUNTEER DIG OPPORTUNITY:** Dr. William Balco, Professor of Anthropology at University of North Georgia, invites GARS members to join his students and other volunteers at the Rice Farm archaeological excavation. Dr. Balco will be onsite for two weeks every day from Saturday, March 5 until Monday, March 21 (except on March 9 and 10) from 8:30AM to 5PM. For more information email [Delana Gilmore](#) (who will forward additional information) or [Dr. Balco](#).
- **FORT DANIEL OPEN HOUSE:** On Saturday, March 26 the “gates” at Fort Daniel Archaeological Park will be opened to the public 10AM to 1PM. Tours of the remains of the fort and museum will be given along with asking onsite archaeologists questions. More details will follow—keep an eye on the [Fort Daniel Foundation](#) (FDF) and [Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society](#) (GARS) Facebook pages.
- **GARS MEETING:** The next in-person GARS meeting will be on held in April. More details will follow—keep an eye on the [GARS](#) Facebook page.
- **COLLEGE STUDENT OPEN HOUSE:** College students with interests in history and archaeology are invited to join members of FDF and GARS for an informal day of excavation and lab experience at Fort Daniel Archaeological Park on Saturday, April 16 from 1-4PM. More details will follow—keep an eye on the [Fort Daniel Foundation](#) (FDF) and [Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society](#) (GARS) Facebook pages.



## 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](#).



# Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Doubles in Size

Excerpt from a press release written by Carla Beasley featured on the [National Park Service Web site](#) on February 9, 2022

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, National Park Service, Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative, National Park Foundation, and the Open Space Institute (OSI) announced a historic addition to the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park. The newly acquired property more than doubles the size of the park and provides additional protection for some of the most significant prehistoric Indigenous mounds in North America. The newly protected 951-acre property is located adjacent to the park and inside the city limits of Macon. The property was under threat of incompatible industrial development before OSI negotiated a deal to purchase the land in 2021. The project is the result of a major expansion of the park in 2019, quadrupling the authorized boundary from 701 acres to more than 3,000 acres—setting the stage to expand a unique urban park that tells the story of 17,000 years of continuous human habitation of the Ocmulgee basin.



With the protection of the property 906 acres will be immediately transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) as an addition to the park. Meanwhile, the remaining 45 acres will be transferred to the Ocmulgee Land Trust, which will hold the land while wetlands restoration occurs and then donate it to the NPS. Open Space Institute negotiated the contracts and managed the transactions until transfer to NPS and Ocmulgee Land Trust.

The newly acquired property is located to the east of the previous park boundary and situated within the “Ocmulgee Old Fields,” also known as the Macon Reserve, a three-

by-five mile site revered as a sacred place to Muskogean people. The Ocmulgee Old Fields-Macon Reserve is comprised of lands specifically retained by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from 1805 until the 1826 Treaty of Washington, which in addition to other treaties culminated in removing the Muskogean people from their ancestral home to present-day Oklahoma.

“This additional property includes some of our most important unprotected ancestral lands. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation have a long-standing history of preserving the Ocmulgee Old Fields-Macon Reserve. We have never forgotten where we came from and the lands around the Ocmulgee River will always and forever be our ancestral homeland, a place we consider sacred and a place with rich cultural history,” said David Hill, principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The park contains some of the most significant Native American mounds (*pictured above*) in North America and was the largest single archeological excavation in American history—producing more than two million artifacts in the 1930s. The park’s striking mounds are marvels of highly skilled Indigenous engineering that today constitute one of America’s most important cultural landscapes.

The newly acquired land will initially be closed to the public as the NPS develops a management plan to identify effective ways to preserve the integrity and interpret the site while also providing access to it. The NPS will invite public involvement in planning for the site. ■ NPS

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be about 45 cm (18 in) below the surface in 1813. This nail is 4 in. long (a modern “20d”) and exhibits a circular flat head, smooth shank, and diamond point. No grain is visible indicating a steel nail rather than iron nail, putting it after 1885 when steel nails became increasingly popular. Likewise, there are no indications of parallel marks under the head from the gripper dies used in heading the nail after about 1899, although the corroded condition of the nail may have obliterated these. The absence of those marks would indicate a Type 11 wire nail (1879-1900) whereas steel wire nails from 1900 on exhibit them. Therefore, all we can say is that this nail could be as early as the late 19th century to sometime in the 20th century.

Along with this nail was as the “mystery” object (*pictured right*). At first this object appeared to be either a two-tined fork or similar tool. However, as the mud and corrosion were removed, it became clear that the object was a pair of small pocket scissors sans the finger loops. An example of iron scissors (*pictured below*) from the time of Fort Daniel was found, but ours are steel which more likely puts them at the end of the 19th century at the earliest. Examples from several Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogues (1894-1927) show similar steel scissors (note the “safety” tips like ours) whose dates line up well with the very broad date range of the steel nail that was found near them. Nevertheless, how did they get that far down in the wall trench which presumably was filled and plowed over shortly after the fort was removed? Archaeology has one answer for this that is credible, bioturbation: the reworking of soils and sediments by animals or plants. We should add to that the reworking of soils by plowing—particularly where the gentleman who plowed this land for most of his life pointed out to me that this area was where he continuous pulled up rocks! ■ JJD

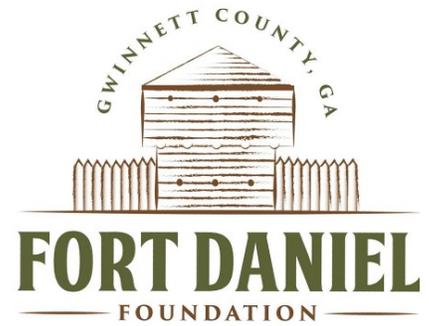


(*pictured top to bottom*) Mystery object before conservation; and mystery object after conservation: Length is 4” with missing loops—scissor tips are not pointed similar to examples in below pictures.



(*pictured left to right*) 1897 Sears Roebuck 4” steel pocket scissors; 1796-1812 Fort Mackinac iron cloth scissors; 1902 Sears Roebuck 4” steel pocket scissors; and 1927 Sears Roebuck 3.5” steel pocket scissors

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## Historical Commission to Expand Sites and Digital Exhibits

Excerpt from an article written by John Ruch featured on the [Saporta Report Web site](#) on February 20, 2022

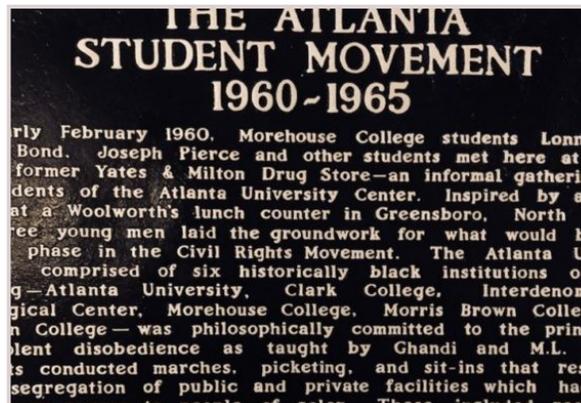
The creation of an Atlanta Historical Commission to highlight a more diverse array of historic sites will be considered by the Atlanta City Council. The commission is the brainchild of Post 1 At-Large City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond, whose immediate motive is to get help with a slow-moving, decade-old effort to create a history trail about the Atlanta Student Movement of the Civil Rights era.

“I hope this new group will take this on full time,” Bond said of the history trail project, adding he thinks it “would be great to expand this idea beyond this trail for all the other different, notable events, people, places and things that happened inside of our city.”

That would include significant sites of Jewish and African American women’s history. Bond is especially inter-

ested in concepts that, akin to the Atlanta Student Movement trail, would involve markers with QR codes linking to interactive online exhibits.

His legislation calls for the formation of an initial Historical Commission Study Group that would provide recommendations by April 26. The proposed study group membership includes representatives of the Atlanta History Center; Auburn Avenue’s APEX Museum; the City’s Historic Preservation Studio and Office of Cultural Affairs; the Atlanta Black/Jewish Coalition; a “Native American group;” and commercial and residential real estate



brokers. Additional members could be named by the study group.

To read the rest of the article you can read it online on the [Saporta Report Web site](#). ■ SR

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

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