

Preserving History Through Archaeology



December 2017
Volume VI, Issue 10

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

Happy Holidays	1	Fort Daniel/GARS News.....	4
Fancy Glass.....	2	2018 Places in Peril.....	5
More Diggin's.....	4	Historic Tax Credit.....	6



ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISER:

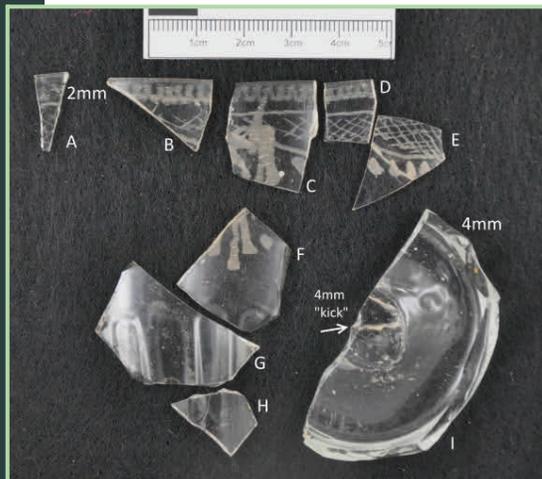
Jim D'Angelo, PhD RPA
Email: 4drdec@bellsouth.net

GAB NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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

Fort Daniel Fancy Glass

Among the hundreds of Fort Daniel ceramics and glass sherds (in England “shards”) are the distinctive engraved tumbler fragments pictured below. All were recovered in and around the Southwest Blockhouse. Some other plain fragments probably belong to this tumbler but have not, as yet, been matched to it. The fragments were first identified as belonging to a tumbler by Shannon Coffee, who directed the conservation efforts of artifacts from 2007 to 2014. I have referred to it as a “whiskey tumbler” a number of times. However, in an effort to identify its pattern and origin, I have learned much about this piece—including the fact that it was probably an ale tumbler not a whiskey tumbler!



David Leigh of [Laurie Leigh Antiques](#) (located in Gloucestershire, England) specializes in fine English and Irish glass. He has kindly examined this photo and has given me his analysis. David has also provided very helpful information on what one of our Fort Daniel militiamen might have been drinking from this tumbler.

David writes, “The engraving on the shards and the molded fluting would indicate a date for the tumbler of the late 18th century. The engraving would appear to be hatched demi-lunes (or possibly vesicas) with pendants. The pontil with the slight ‘kick’ would be typical of the period. The interior of the base would have been slightly domed.”

“The size of the base that you give (55mm),” he continues, “would seem to suggest that it may have been intended for traditional strong ale (made without hop). This was quite different from beer which was brewed with hop and had a much lower alcohol content. Ale had a fairly high alcohol content (more like that of wine or sherry) and was drunk out of flutes or small tumblers.”

Our tumbler, he concludes, “would not have been for whisky. The beverage regarded at the time as ‘true’ whisky would have been Irish and would have been drunk out of a small dram glass. Scotch whisky was not fashionable (outside Scotland) until much later. I am afraid that there is nothing about the fragments that would indicate that there is anything specifically Irish about them. Regarding brandy and ale, you would not have found any evidence for the importation of ale because it would not have been imported. While the brandy would have been imported from France, the ale would be the product of local cottage industry and would have been produced from locally grown grain. The size of the tumbler still makes me consider that it would have been for ale rather than brandy. Brandy tumblers were usually larger, at least the size of what we would now consider to be a whisky tumbler. You might like to look at W9171 and W9172 on page 3 of the glasses pages on our website. Both these 18th century tumblers are 55mm in diameter at the base and were specifically intended for ale.” (See picture above right.)

The bottle fragments that we have at Fort Daniel are consistent with brandy bottle glass, and there are several receipts for brandy charged to Fort Daniel in the State Archives, which are also reproduced in Vol. 1 of Flanagan’s History of Gwinnett County. However, as was the custom, homemade beer or ale would have been bottled in used brandy or wine bottles. These bottles were shades of dark olive green, dark amber, and even deep purple. Often, the glass is so dense that the color appears black. The dense color best protected the bottled contents from the effects of sunlight; thus preventing spoilage.



Beer brewing began in the US in early colonial days when beer was consumed in large quantities during al

continued on next page

continued from previous page

most all meals. However, at the time, bottles were relatively rare and expensive. Beer was typically dispensed from kegs in taverns and inns. The earliest types of bottles used for bottling beer during this period were the common heavy, dark green (aka “black”) utilitarian bottles which were used for various liquid products. By the late 18th century beer was being bottled in the northern Atlantic seaboard states, and in large enough quantity some were being exported overseas. It was only towards the end of the 19th century that the distinctive brown (or sometimes green beer bottles) were produced with ever evolving distinctive shapes and closures, so that they can be identified as “beer bottles.”

As we know, the militiamen at these frontier forts supplied their own bedrolls, knapsacks, plates, cups, and cutlery. The engraved tumbler is the only example we have so far of a drinking glass, but that too would have been supplied by its owner. That it may of originally been intended for strong ale does not mean that it could not have been used for brandy, which was the common drink at these forts—part of the ration that the government supplied. ■ **JJD**



From a mid-19th century ship wreck: American breweries used this type of bottle in the mid-19th century filling it with their brands of beer, ale, lager, or stout; then adding their distinctive paper brewery label.

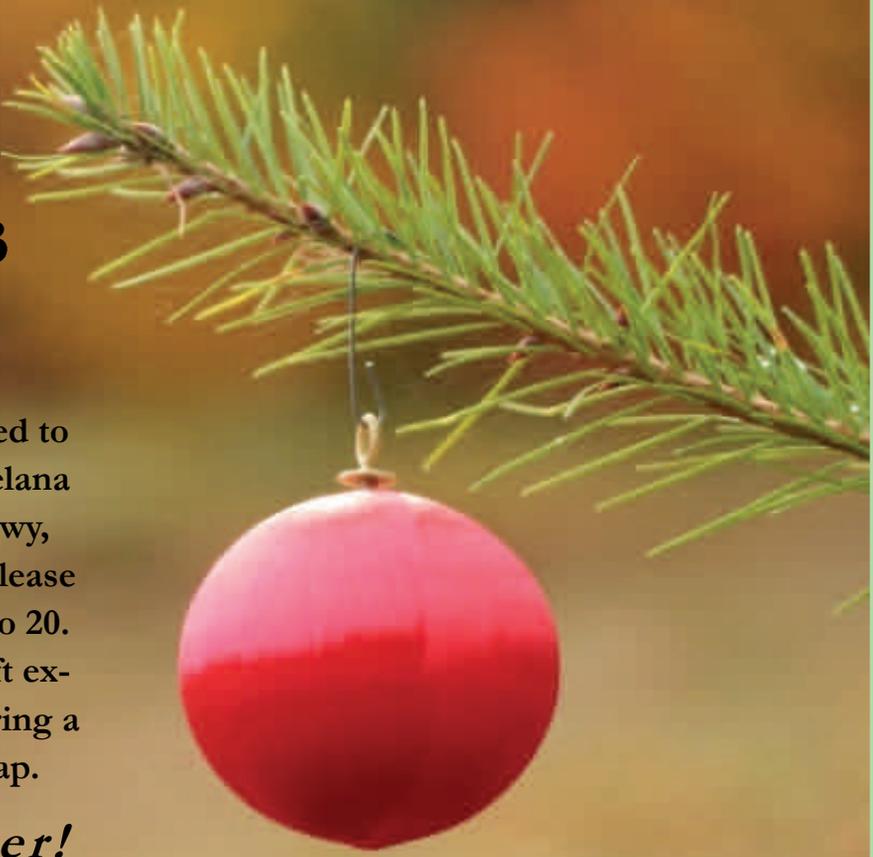
Christmas at Fort Daniel

Sunday, December 3

6–8PM

All GARS and FDF members are invited to the Christmas Party at the home of Delana and Chris Gilmore (2505 Braselton Hwy, Buford). It will be potluck; therefore, please bring a covered dish that can feed up to 20. There will be the traditional snag-a-gift exchange (AKA Dirty Santa), so please bring a wrapped gift to participate in the swap.

Let's be merry together!



More Diggin's

- **Gwinnett Historical Society** will be hosting a **Christmas Open House** at the **Elisha Winn House** on **December 9 from 12–4PM**.



- The **Atlanta History Center's Candlelight Nights** will be on **December 15 and 22 from 5:30–9:30PM**. Experience Christmas past with a candlelit stroll through beautifully decorated gardens and grounds and be transported into the warm glow of the holidays. Visit the three historic houses to experience how Southerners celebrated Christmas during the pioneer days (*pictured left*), the Civil War era, and the 1930s. Holiday traditions of years past come alive with interpreters, music, and special activities. This special holiday program is \$20 for the general public; \$15 for members; \$10 for children. For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center's Web site](#).

Fort Daniel/GARS News

- All of the GARS officers have agreed to carry on for another year of service. At the November GARS meeting members have agreed to close the nominations and accept the motion of the present GARS Officers to continue for another year. There will NOT be a special-called meeting at the Christmas Party.
- Last October the Gwinnett County Commission recognized Fort Daniel Foundation along with the Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS) for its perseverance in preserving two of Gwinnett County's historic sites. The proclamation commended the organizers of the Fort Daniel Frontier Faire (along with the Elisha Winn Fair/GHS) for encouraging residents to engage in their community and learn about its earlier days and teaching the value of Gwinnett's cultural heritage and provide archaeological resources and experiences to residents of Gwinnett. Pictured right are those who represented FDF and GHS.
- **Note on "Whorton's Other Forts":** In previous issues of the GAB [March and April 2017] Jim had explored the possible locations of other Jackson County forts under the command of Captain Joseph Whorton. Included (besides Fort Daniel) were Forts Floyd and Harrison. Forts Early, Harrison, Washington, and Madison were also under his command and may have been in Franklin County. In the second of those two issues, Jim argued (based on a sketch map from Elrod's history of Jackson County) that Fort Early was in Jackson County. That conclusion is now being challenged by new research being conducted by one of our new members, Tyler Holmen. Tyler is a recent graduate in History from the University of North Georgia. He is taking an interesting approach to locating these forts: tracking down the place of residence of the men stationed at them. His research, so far, is suggesting that Elrod's map was incorrect in placing Fort Early on the Federal Road near the Hawkins line and that this location was more likely Fort Harrison—with Early having been within what was the Wofford track (and now is in Hall County on Highway 129). We look forward to learning more about Tyler's research and conclusions in a future GAB article!



Georgia Trust's 2018 Places of Peril

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation has released its 2018 list of 10 *Places in Peril*. This list is designed to raise awareness about Georgia's significant historic, archaeological, and cultural resources—including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes—that are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development, or insensitive public policy.

The Fort Daniel archaeological site was one of those listed in 2009, and with a matching grant from the GTHP the Fort Daniel Foundation and GARS started on the road to preserving the site and developing a program of preservation and education. Subsequent efforts by the County to purchase properties on which, and around which the site is situated, have assured that this War of 1812/Creek Indian War site has been saved from development and will be used for the benefit of the public.

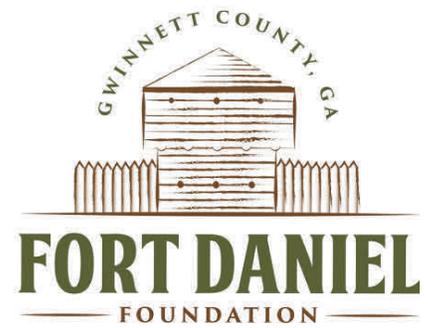
The 2018 listed properties are: A. J. Gillen Department Store in Maxeys, Oglethorpe County; Bibb City Elementary in Columbus, Muscogee County; Cuthbert Water Tower in Cuthbert, Randolph County; Fire Station No. 2 in Rome, Floyd County; Fort Valley Freight Depot in Fort Valley, Peach County; Foster-Thomason-Miller House in Madison, Morgan County; Kit Jones Vessel in Darien, McIntosh County; National Library Bindery Company in Atlanta, Fulton County; Olmsted Linear Park Historic Properties in Atlanta, DeKalb County; and Underground Savannah, Chatham County.



As mentioned, Savannah's subterranean history has been listed as a Place in Peril for 2018. As Georgia's oldest European-settled city, Savannah's array of underground archaeological sites is vast and diverse. These archaeological sites (*pictured above*) are a bank of unique and irreplaceable historical information about Savannah's history, and they have the potential to not only expand the history of the past but tell the stories of those silent in historical accounts. These resources are being destroyed at an alarming rate as buildings are demolished and new ones are constructed. Many of the more recently constructed buildings have deep architectural footprints that have obliterated any archaeological potential beneath them. Savannah has no archaeological ordinance that requires comprehensive archaeological study in advance of a site's destruction. As a result, countless archaeological sites have been destroyed. Unmitigated development continues across Savannah, moving into areas where archaeological sites have managed to survive thus far. Savannah's current public policy needs to incorporate archaeology into its regulations.

For more information about the 2018 Places of Peril visit the [Georgia Trust's Web site](#). ■

Preserving History Through Archaeology

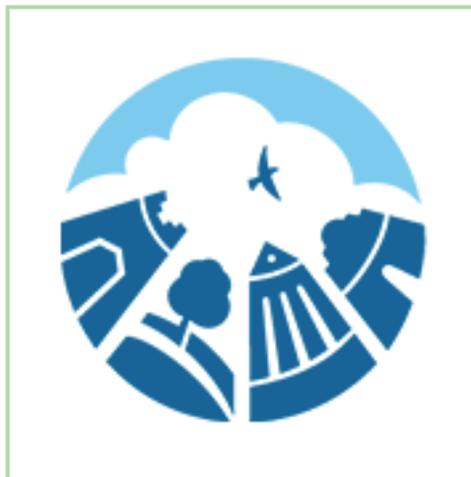


December 2017
Volume VI, Issue 10

Help Retain the Historic Tax Credit

Urgent message from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

In last month's GAB we informed you about the upcoming possibility of the Historic Tax Credit being eliminated from the tax reform bill. After nearly forty years of demonstrated success, the federal historic tax credit (HTC) was eliminated in the tax reform bill passed by the House of Representatives on November 16. Later that day, the Senate Finance Committee approved its version of tax reform legislation—which keeps the HTC at the current 20% level but does make changes that reduce the value of the incentive.



The Senate Finance bill marks a key milestone

for the preservation movement, and we should take time to celebrate and thank our key supporters on the Committee. The Finance Committee's tax reform bill passed the Senate Budget Committee on Tuesday, November 28, and voting on the Senate floor should begin soon.

The legislative process is not over, however, and preservationists must continue their outreach to Congress to ensure the best possible outcome for the historic tax credit.

Please use the National Trust's sample message to [contact your members of Congress](#) **NOW** to help save the Historic Tax Credit. ■ **National Trust**

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

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