

Preserving History Through Archaeology



October 2019
Volume VIII, Issue 8

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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New Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at Fort Daniel

Last month Eric and Jason (*pictured below*) of the ground penetrating radar (GPR) firm, Xenogenesis Radar Imaging, came to the Fort Daniel site and did some GPR work on areas that had not been done before as well as some previously surveyed areas.

Eric and Jason were able to confirm that no interruption in the original excavation of the west wall trench can be detected—supporting the conclusion that there was only one gate located in the east wall. It was this interruption that allowed us to pinpoint the exact location of that east wall gate. These early forts could have had one or two gates, but according to the “Knox Plan” and what we know about other 1814 forts

(such as Fort Madison, Fort Lawrence and Fort Mitchell), there were two gates at these forts. Two gates at Fort Daniel would have allowed us more

easily to conjecture that the Knox Plan (actually a plan suggested by President Washington for militia forts, and submitted to the Governor in 1794 by his Secretary of State, Henry Knox) was followed for interior structures as we see from construction plans submitted for payment of the construction of the two block-houses by Isham Williams and George Kennerly in 1797.

Another interesting find was that a particularly large feature (first recorded by Calvin Skaggs in his 2007 site



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GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **GARS Meeting:** *There will NOT be a Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society meeting in October. The next one will be in November. More details about the meeting will be available soon.*
- **GARS Officers Nominations:** It is that time of the year again—Officers Elections. Positions available are President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role in GARS, please let [Leslie Perry](#) know.
- **Fort Happenings:** Many updates have been in the works to get ready for the 11th Annual Frontier Faire.
 - ⇒ New concrete walkway is being built from the driveway to the door of the Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab and Meeting Room.
 - ⇒ US Daughters of 1812 Historic Marker has arrived and will be installed in time for the dedication on October 26. (*See Page 4 for more details.*)
- **Work Day:** Volunteers are needed to help with several cleanup projects at Fort Daniel in preparation for the Frontier Faire. The Work Day will be on Saturday, October 12. If you are able to help out, please let [Jim D'Angelo](#) know.
- **DONATIONS:** *Soft drinks and bottled water donations are needed for the upcoming Frontier Faire. If you can, please drop them off on Saturday, October 12, Friday, October 18, or Saturday, October 19 (Day of the Faire!). If you are not able to drop off during these times, please drop them off on the screened-in porch of the Fort Daniel House and let [Delana Gilmore](#) know.*

Forgotten Frontier

**11th Annual Frontier Faire
Saturday, October 19, 2018**

10AM–4PM

**Fort Daniel Historic Site
(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)**

Admission:

Individual—\$2 Family—\$5

★ Storytelling by Barry Stewart Mann at 1PM ★

Public Archaeology ★ Fort Daniel Museum ★ Demonstrations

For information visit www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.

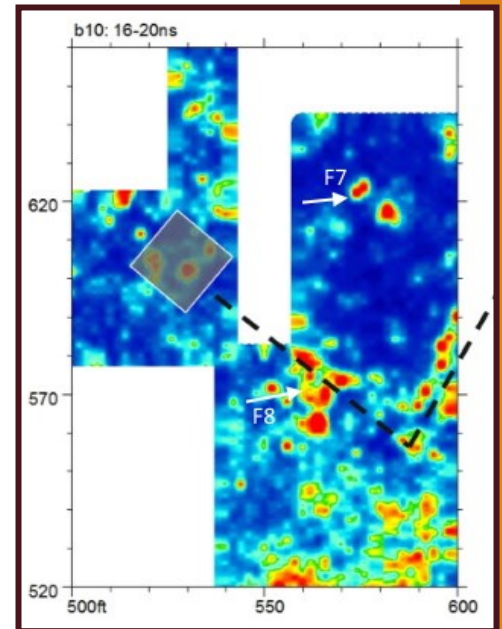
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survey) had one or more metal objects at a depth of three feet. Skaggs' survey was of soil disturbances only; whereas Eric's was set up to discriminate objects as well and determine if they were iron. These metal objects registered as iron. However, why would there be iron that deep since the only known features that deep are the wall trenches and the cold cellar?

In the survey results map (*pictured right*) we see that this feature (F8) appears to be similar to another one (F7) that we tested in 2011–2012. Feature 7 turned out to be a “stump pull.” The only artifacts in that feature were prehistoric, which made sense, since the stump was pulled in preparation for construction of the fort. No historic artifacts were found in the backfill of this cavity because none had yet been dropped. Compare this to the collapsed rodent den that Dr. Jeff Glover and his Georgia State University (GSU) students excavated within the Northeast Blockhouse during 2011–2014. Though it was not three feet deep, it did contain both historic and prehistoric artifacts which had been in the plow zone above it.

However, as can be seen in the survey results map, Feature 8 is outside the palisade wall trench. With iron about three feet from the present surface this feature is deeper than the wall trench and the cold cellar. If Feature 8 is a stump pull, my hypothesis is that the iron was dropped by the men who were pulling the stump and immediately back filling the cavity. Therefore, we should expect to find only prehistoric artifacts in the fill *except*, possibly, in the plow zone that now covers it—containing both prehistoric and historic artifacts. Below the plow zone there would be only prehistoric artifacts, and the iron would be at the very bottom of the stump pull backfill.

New findings will be excavated by visitors to the 11th Annual Frontier Faire on October 19 (*see Page 2 for more details*) as well as by GSU archaeology students. GSU students will also be continuing with work at the cold cellar feature in the Southwest Blockhouse. Dr. Glover expects a good turnout of his students, and FDF board member Tyler Holman expects some of his classmates from University of North Georgia to be there as well. Xenogenesis will also be at the Frontier Faire demonstrating the wonders of GPR for archaeology. ■ JJD



Horizontal “slice” at 18–20 inches in depth from Skaggs’ 2007 GPR survey showing locations of F7 and F8 with locations of Southwest Blockhouse and southeast corner of palisade wall trench superimposed.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact Kay McKenna; and for FDF membership please contact Betty Warbington.



US Daughters of 1812 Historic Marker



Press Release

STATE OF GEORGIA SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812
ANNOUNCES HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATION & WREATH PRESENTATION EVENT
AT FORT DANIEL HISTORIC SITE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 at 10:30 A.M.

Buford -- September 27, 2019 -- The State of Georgia Society United States Daughters of 1812 announces the Historic Marker Dedication and Wreath Presentation event is set for Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the Fort Daniel Historic Site. Fort Daniel is the second fort in the state of Georgia to be marked by the Georgia Society U.S.D. of 1812. The first fort in Georgia to be marked was Fort Hawkins in Macon, marked June 18, 2012.

The Georgia Society U.S.D. of 1812 worked in conjunction with Dr. Jim D'Angelo, President of The Fort Daniel Foundation along with several other organizations to bring this much-anticipated event to completion.

The *National Society United States Daughters of 1812* (N.S.U.S.D. of 1812) was founded in 1892. The N.S.U.S.D. of 1812 is a “volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to: Promoting patriotism; Preserving and increasing knowledge of the history of the American people by the preservation of documents and relics; Marking of historic spots;” in addition to many additional purposes.

It’s a great honor for the Georgia Society U.S.D. of 1812 to sponsor the Historic Marker placed at the Fort Daniel Historic Site as a *reminder of the past, bringing it into the present, and taking it into the future*. Patriot John McMillian, who served at Fort Daniel during the War of 1812, is ancestor to several members of the Georgia Society.

The public is welcome to attend the event. A Gwinnett County park, The Fort Daniel Historic Site and Archaeological Research Park is located at 2505 Braselton Highway, Buford. The Dedication Ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m.



More Diggin's

- **Winn Fair:** The 41st Annual Winn Fair hosted by the Gwinnett Historical Society will be held on **Saturday, October 5 at the Elisha Winn House** (*pictured right*) **from 10AM to 5PM.** Tour the historic house with period furnishings, one-room school, working blacksmith shop, old log jail, and barn. There will be demonstrations, arts and crafts, antique vendors, reenactors, live country/bluegrass music, handmade quilt raffle, and food vendors. For more information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).
- **Haunted Halloween at the Atlanta History Center:** This annual event of ghouls and goblins will be on **Friday, October 18 beginning at 6:30PM.** Be prepared for thrills and chills as you walk through the Atlanta History Center's foggy gardens and haunted historic houses! Families are invited to experience the 33-acre campus after dark with fun kid-friendly activities and ghostly encounters. With the scare factors ranging from "all ages" to "twins, teens, and above," there are Halloween activities for everyone. Travel to a magical world of wizards and witches in the museum and then make your way to Swan House for a fun trick-or-treat experience. For those brave of heart get ready for bone-chilling trails and terrifying scenes around the grounds! Enjoy food for purchase and visit one of several cash bars for your favorite libation. This special holiday program is \$20 for not-yet members, \$15 for members, and \$10 for all children. For information visit the [Atlanta History Center's Web site](#).
- **Harvest Homecoming at McDaniel Farm Park:** This free event will be held on Saturday, October 26. Enjoy the autumn season with a special visit to the farm. There will be games, face painting, and farm tours. You will be able to see the farm animals, enjoy a hayride, visit local craft vendors, and many more activities! This event is for all ages. For more information call (770) 822-5450.



Update on Saving 152 Nassau



As featured in the last GAB, the saga continues in trying to save 152 Nassau.

According to Save 152 Nassau Facebook page on September 12 Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kimberly M. Esmond Adams heard oral arguments from the plaintiff (Historic Atlanta) and the defendants (City of Atlanta and the Margaritaville developers). All parties would supply the court with written orders and will then await the judge's ruling.

At the time of publishing Judge Kimberly M. Esmond Adams had not made a ruling yet. ■ DMG

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Diving with a Purpose

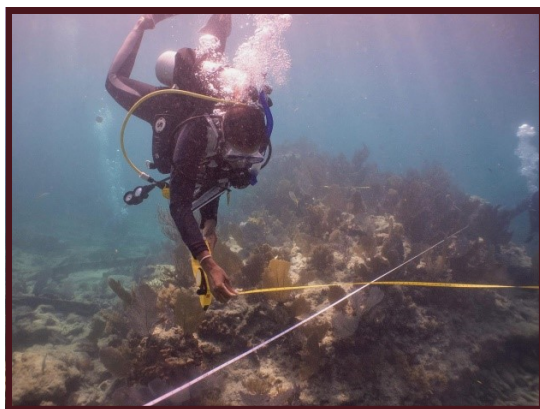
Excerpt from an article by Nicole Ellis as featured on [The Washington Post Web site](#) on September 12, 2019

Diving with a Purpose program teaches students to be underwater archaeologists. As part of this program, a group of African-American teenagers went searching for a sunken slave ship, and it changed how they view slavery. Above water they confront the history of slavery they find below. However, back onshore, the student divers—tasked with helping the National Park Service survey historic shipwreck—sometimes struggle to talk about their mission. The students, part of the Youth Diving With a Purpose program, are predominantly African American and many descendants of enslaved Americans. Finding passion in an activity tied to slavery sometimes fills them with another emotion: shame.

Howard University psychologist Gishawn Mance said the sense of shame largely stems from the narrow frame in which slavery is often presented. In classrooms and popular culture it's depicted as an isolated historical event, she said,

devoid of context and disconnected from other African-American experiences. "It is a historical time frame that these people experienced, but it is not the only story. It's part of a rich history," she said. "The lack of context and nuance facilitates a gamut of emotions."

Moving beyond victim-centric narratives and including stories that counter popular notions of the era helps present a view of African-American history that instills pride instead of shame. Underwater the student divers are searching for the Guerrero slave ship, which crashed in 1827, after the slave trade was outlawed in the United States.



For these students playing a role in building that more nuanced story of

American slavery has created a deeper connection to their ancestors. Youth Diving With a Purpose gives the teens a more experiential understanding of slavery than their high school classrooms can provide as well as an opportunity to contribute to a more accurate documentation of American history. ■ TWP

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President:	Vice President:
Delana Gilmore	Jenna Tran
Secretary/Treasurer:	
Kay McKenna	

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

FDF OFFICERS

www.thefortdanielfoundation.org

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