

Preserving History Through Archaeology



June/July 2018

Volume VII, Issue 6

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Cultural Resource Management: Watson Site

Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) and Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) have been very fortunate to have several Georgia archaeologist members (Catherine Long, Leslie Perry, Jenna Pirtle, and Drs. Kate Deeley and Jim D'Angelo) and one Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) archaeologist, Sarah Love, who is working with McKenzie Culberson on the Fort Daniel artifact conservation project. However, we also have several members, including Greg Beavers and Dick Brunelle, who are actively involved with archaeology as avocationalsists.

The following is a contribution by one of FDF's newest members, Tyler Holman, who is a History major/Archaeology minor at University of North Georgia and 4th great grandson of Fort Daniel militiaman,

William Giddens. Tyler has been working on the identification of the location of another of Jackson County's 1814 forts, Fort Harrison, but has recently recorded a site near where he lives in Jackson, using the skills he is learning at UNG and at Fort Daniel.



Watson Site overview during top soil removal following logging—resulting in the destruction of the site.

visit only uncovered a single Morrow Mountain projectile point/knife on the hillside, but several return

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Fort Daniel Teachers Workshop

Article by Catherine Long

This year marked the third annual Teacher Workshop. Once again Gwinnett County Public School teachers enjoyed experiencing Fort Daniel first hand! Dr. Jim D'Angelo kicked off the day with his history introduction using primary documents and explaining the significance of the site to the early frontier history of Georgia. Delana Gilmore and Leslie Perry assisted in providing excavation opportunities and let the teachers

get their hands dirty. What an exciting day it was! The educators uncovered glass, polychrome painted ceramics, a cut nail, and some quartz flakes. By learning the process of archaeology teachers gained valuable insight into this local resource.

Fort Daniel Elementary School teacher Jennifer Coffield provided insight into the on-site field trip experience. She shared her input of the success of the program and showed photographs of the students participation. Educational resources and current offerings were shared with the teachers including the traveling trunk and additional online resources. Great input was provided on how to best serve Gwinnett's students.

The teachers appreciated the opportunity to learn about how they can incorporate these options into their curriculum. It

was another successful workshop thanks to the Social Studies Instructional Office, Fort Daniel Elementary School, and the dedicated volunteers of the Fort Daniel Foundation. ■ CL



Defending the Frontier 10th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 20

10AM–5PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)



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trips following rain produced far more. I realized that it was actually a fairly dense lithic scatter, so I began to document it in more detail.



Figure 1: Watson Site quartzite debitage including flakes and possible expended core(s); and Figure 2: Watson Site quartzite bifaces including Morrow Mountain stemmed projectile points.

My investigations revealed a dense scatter of prehistoric artifacts of which I recorded and collected ~50 pieces of debitage—including secondary and tertiary flakes and shatter, two hammerstones, and 20 bifaces (*pictured above*). All the quartzite tools appear to be Morrow Mountain. At least one of the hammerstones is likely what is known as an “anvil” or “nutting” stone (*pictured below left*). The lithics were concentrated within a single area near the edge of the hill overlooking the Walnut Creek about 200m to the south. I also discovered evidence of a later historic occupation (probably in the 19th century) as evidenced by blue and green scalloped-ware very similar to that found at Fort Daniel (*pictured below right*).

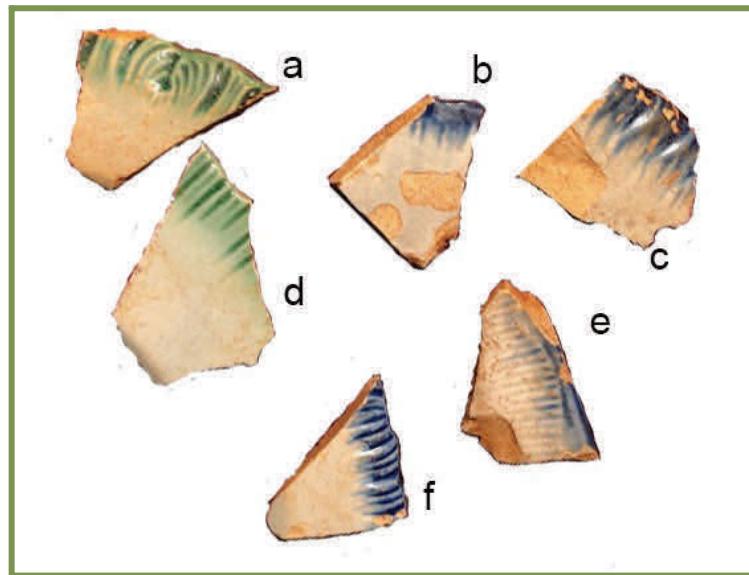


Figure 3: Anvil or Nutting stone—note the battered edge and central depression; and Figure 4: Watson Site Historic Ceramics dating to the period 1802-1834.

Based on visual inspection of the site, its size is about 50m x 50m. Naming the site “The Watson Site” after the previous owners of the property, I used the information I had recorded to document the find on an official Georgia site form and submitted it to the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF)—retaining the more detailed records and photos. *The GASF assigned site number is pending.*

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Judging from the landform, site position, and artifacts; this site would appear to have been used for lithic tool production and associated with hunting/gathering activities during the Middle Archaic period.

CONCLUSION

The lithic materials from what Tyler found at the Watson Site (*pictured on Page 3*) are very similar to what have been found at Fort Daniel. Morrow Mountain points are part of the “old quartz” culture that extended from the Early Archaic to the Late Archaic. However, the consensus is that the Morrow Mountain type in Georgia represents the Middle Archaic, and research indicates a further temporal difference between Morrow Mountain I and II types. The smaller Morrow Mountain I points (.75 to 1.5 inches) date earlier, 7500 to 6500 BP, while the larger Morrow Mountain II type points (2–3 inches) date between 6500 and 5500 BP. As the pictures on Page 3 show, the largest point collected is about 1.76 inches (4.4cm) long—making these all Morrow Mountain I as they are at Fort Daniel.

Moreover, at Fort Daniel we have a large percentage of blue and green shell-edge or scalloped-ware commonly referred to as feather-edged ware. This is a refined earthenware known as “pearlware” which was manufactured in England between 1785 and 1840. Edges are either scalloped (*a-d*) or plain (*e*)—as pictured on the bottom of Page 3. Miller (1987) has devised a more refined dating schema for all the types, which put the blue and green scalloped rim with impressed curved lines at 1802–1832. The impressed “bud” design (*a*) is dated at 1813–1834. No date has been found for the plain edge example with the shell-edge pattern painted on, but it no doubt falls within the same date ranges. The Watson Site was within Georgia’s boundaries after 1785. However, these cheapest of all ceramic imports were a common trade item; therefore, with further evidence we can then tell if they belonged to Euro-Americans or local Native Americans. ■ **JJD & TH**

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.



More Diggin's

- **Atlanta History Center's next Party with the Past** will be at the **Center of Civil and Human Rights** on **Tuesday, June 26 starting at 6:30PM**. Opened four years ago, The Center connects the American Civil Rights Movement to today's struggle for global human rights. Through this connection, The Center inspires visitors to take the protection of every human's rights personally. Party With The Past is always free to attend, but please RSVP so they will know that you're coming. To RSVP or for more information visit the [Atlanta History Center Web site](#).
- **Gwinnett Historical Society** will be **meeting on Monday, July 16** at the **Historic Courthouse** in downtown Lawrenceville beginning at **7PM**. Guest speaker will be Gene Ramsay, who will be talking about the first 100 years of European settlement in Pinckneyville, Norcross, and Mechanicsville. For information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).

GARS Update

- **MEETING:** GARS will NOT be meeting during the Summer. The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, September 18. *Keep an eye on your email and Facebook for upcoming summer events and digs.*

- **UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OPPORTUNITIES:**

⇒ Hills Mill Site: A Phase I Archaeological *Resource Survey* is being planned for this summer or early fall at the original site of Hills Mill. Wayne and Eli Stancel are Hill descendants who have located and researched the site. With some mill features still clearly visible, this should prove to be an exciting and fruitful investigation. Jim D'Angelo is waiting for authorization from Gwinnett Department of Transportation (who owns the tract) and will begin to put together a team as soon as a target date can be determined. The survey will include a pedestrian survey of the site to determine its boundaries based on visible features, systematic metal detection, and limited shovel testing. Recordation will include mapping and photography.

Additional help will be needed for processing any collected artifacts, which after careful study, will be turned over the County. The field-work will be done on one or two weekend days. Results will be written up in a formal report that will be given to DOT and will include submission of the Georgia Archaeological Site Form for assignment of a site number. We are grateful for this opportunity to get this important historic site recorded—especially during Gwinnett's Bicentennial year. If interested, please [email Jim](#) and tell him how you would like to contribute.



⇒ Fort Harrison Site: Another Phase I Archaeological *Reconnaissance Survey* is in the early stages of development and will also probably be done during the summer or early fall. Tyler Holman has been researching the location of Fort Harrison—second in the line of forts after Fort Daniel along the Hawkins Line frontier. Tyler has narrowed it down to the point that we are just waiting for permission from the property owner. This survey would be similar to the Hills Mill survey but relying more on metal detection and mapping its results since there are no above-ground features—like at Fort Daniel. It is a Reconnaissance Survey, because we suspect but do not know that the fort was at this location. Please [email Jim](#) if you are interested in this survey.



⇒ William Harris Homestead: Dr. Kate Deeley has been planning with Dotty Zazworski for a return visit to the William Harris Homestead this fall to continue the Archaeological *Resource Survey* fieldwork carried out several months ago. Further research by Kate (including a slave census that indicates the number of slave cabins!) suggests to her that we may have been looking in right area but the wrong place. If you are interested in this project, please [contact Jim](#) NOW. At this time a date has not been decided, but an email will be sent out to those who are interested when a date is known.

A Capital Archaeology Month

Every May Georgia celebrates its archaeological resources. This year the theme was “*A Capital Idea: The Archaeology and History of Georgia’s Seats of Power.*” Along with the Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Spring Meeting in Milledgeville SGA Chapters and other organizations participated in activities ranging from lectures and presentations to Artifact Identification Days to bring awareness to Archaeology Month.



For GARS and FDF members the festivities started at the annual Archaeology Day at New South Associates, located in Stone Mountain. From demonstrations (e.g.; GARS Vice President and New South employee Jenna Pirtle teaching people how to basket weave) to informational booths people discovered various ways professional and avocational archaeologists advocate preservation, protection, and interpretation of Georgia’s fragile historic cultural resources.

Additionally, GARS and FDF held the annual Open House at the Fort Daniel Archaeological Site. Visitors were able to visit the archaeological lab, participate in archaeological digs, and learn about Fort Daniel’s history. As part of the Gwinnett County’s Bicentennial more demonstrations were added to display how Georgians lived on the frontier—especially during when Fort Daniel was operational.



On Memorial Day several members of FDF and GARS once again marched in period clothing during the annual Dacula Memorial Day Parade—even though the weather didn’t cooperate. This was the third year that members participated.

While some walked, others sat in a trailer waving to the onlookers. This always makes a perfect ending for Archaeology Month!

Since outreach is critical in encouraging awareness of archaeology and the stewardship of archaeological sites, Archaeology Month in Georgia continues to celebrate preserving history through archaeology. ■



New Discovery Uncovers a Horrific Time in Native American History

Excerpt from an article by Molly Samuel as featured on the [WABE Web site](#) on June 18, 2018

Nineteen-year-old Tim Pigeon is from small-town Oklahoma, but he's spent time the past two summers in Georgia's Blue Ridge foothills in the deep woods of Stephens County. He's helping out at an archaeological site there sifting through dirt to find pieces of pottery. Pigeon is part of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, and he says the shattered pieces of pots (*pictured right*) he finds could have been made by people he's descended from.

"It's like, wow, that could have been made from my bloodline. I could be further down from the person that touched and made this piece of pottery," he says. "Just finding out where and how ancestors lived, it'll get to you." For Pigeon this archaeological site, first researched after ATVs and pickups had scraped the place up, may be part of his past.

For archaeologists the place is an important piece of a cultural and historical puzzle—revealing the history of northeast Georgia before Europeans settled there but after Spanish explorers had passed through. The assumption had been that people didn't live in this part of Georgia at that time, says James Wettstead, archaeologist for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. This site shows that was wrong. There's a foundation for a wood and mud house and evidence of two hearths.

"You can see we have this line of black soil and charcoal," says Wettstead, showing the stained ground at the bottom of a neatly dug rectangular hole (*pictured left*). "This is the corner of the house that was here 400 years ago."

In the early 1600s Europeans were beginning to disrupt Native American cultures. "A lot of the societies were falling apart from the after-effects of the Spanish explorers," Wettstead says. Large, stable populations broke down. Ninety-five percent of people died as a result of disease and disruptions to food, transportation, and political systems, says archaeologist Jim Langford, president of the [Coosawattee Foundation](#). Archaeologists don't know what exactly happened there as societies broke down and people began moving.

Based on the patterns on the pottery there, the settlement in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest appears to have been inhabited by ancestors of the Cherokee people, Wettstead says. That's personal for Pigeon, who works on the site as part of a [Youth Conservation Corps](#) program. He says he's considering archaeology as a career and wants to keep a connection to history. "We're running out of elders," Pigeon says. "You gotta keep it going. And if you don't, of course, like anything, it'll just die out. You don't keep stoking up a fire it'll die out. That's what I kind of think about this." ■ **WABE**



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FORT DANIEL
FOUNDATION

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Preservation is Timeless

Excerpt from an article by Karen Huppertz as featured on the [AJC Web site](#) on May 14, 2018

This past May 18 Gwinnett groups and individuals were recently inducted into a new Preservation Hall of Fame during an event at the Isaac Adair House in Lawrenceville. The event was hosted by the Gwinnett Historical Restoration and Preservation Board and the Gwinnett County Department of Community Services.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash noted that many people have given freely of their time, talents, and treasures to restore and protect tangible examples of everyday life years ago. "Gwinnett's Bicentennial Year is a perfect time to honor the behind-the-scenes work of preserving our shared history," she said.



The Hutchins, Livsey, Nash, Hudgens, and Williams families were recognized for their contributions. Honored groups included the *Gwinnett Historical Society*, the Hooper-Renwick Legacy Preservation Committee, the United Ebony Society, and the Historical Restoration and Preservation Board.

Individual honorees were Alice McCabe, Annette Williams Tucker, James Flanagan, *James D'Angelo*, Marvin and Phyllis Hughes, Marvin Nash Worthy, Robert Bowman, Charlotte Nash, and Wayne Hill.

During the program county officials announced that the lawn adjacent to the Isaac Adair House will be renamed *Preservation Lawn* and that a monument will be installed to recognize Preservation Hall of Fame inductees. ■ AJC

GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President:
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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](#).

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Betty Warbington

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