

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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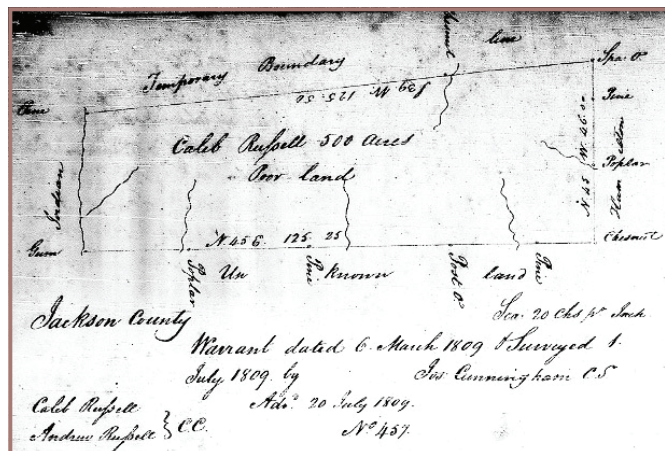
GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Filling in the Gaps: Fort Daniel Property and Vicinity

Since 2008 when the December 1, 1854 deed from Lewis Burel to John Burel came to light, we have known the history of the tract within which Fort Daniel is situated from that date to the present. But, it has been a struggle to fill in the gap back to the fall of 1813 when the fort was built or rebuilt. Recently, a discovery by Jim Nicholls of the Gwinnett Historical Society is helping to fill in more of that gap—answering questions and also raising new questions—as this process usually does.

Jim recently shared a copy of a plat he found at the Georgia Archives for 500 acres, awarded to Caleb Russell in 1809 (pictured above). It ties in with some other plats that Bill Field had found at the Archives, about which I've written in previous issues—most recently the October 2017 issue (VI.8) in connection with the “Kidd fraction.” As can



be seen on this plat, the northern boundary is labeled “Temporary Boundary.” This line is the same as the “Hawkins Line,” as it is called on other maps, a line that was rerun in 1804 by Benjamin Hawkins. Outside the western boundary, whose line is the symbol of a stream, we see “Indian Territory.” Because the Hawkins Line begins at the headwaters of this stream, it must represent the headwaters of the Apalachee River. In 1809 the Apalachee and its southern extensions—the Oconee and the Altamaha—were still the dividing line between Georgia and the Creeks, just as the Hawkins Line was the dividing line with the Cherokee. Beneath the south boundary, it says, “Un Known.” However, we know that that line had been the northern boundary of the “infamous”

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GARS News

- **Meeting:** *The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20 at Fort Daniel Meeting Room beginning at 7PM. GARS Vice President Jenna Pirtle will be speaking on her recent research project on African Americans at Fort Jefferson, Florida. Opened to the public!*

- **Lithic Identification Workshop:** On Saturday, March 10 GARS and FDF will sponsor a Lithic Identification Workshop in the Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab, which will be led by Environmental Resource Management archaeologist, Bill Stanyard. The Workshop (open to the public) will focus on projectile point (ppk) bifaces from a large collection belonging to member, Gail Sayler, but participants may also bring a *limited* number of their own bifaces for identification. The Sayler collection is from a farm in Hoschton (a few miles east of Fort Daniel in Jackson County). Dozens of intact diagnostic bifaces—including some burins (drills)—have been preselected from the very large collection. These lithic tools represent a range from Early Archaic (10,000 BP) through Woodland and Early Mississippian (AD 1100).

The first part of the workshop will include review of the methods for “typing” ppks and discussion of tool-stone. This will be followed by identification and documentation of the selected Sayler points. The opportunity to identify other bifaces brought by participants will be the last part of the workshop.

The proposed time frame for the workshop is 10AM to 3PM. *Because of limited space, preregistration will be required, and participants should plan on attending the full event.* A formal invitation with additional details and preregistration information will be emailed to members, and selected SGA chapters and colleges, but ***to be sure you are on this list, please respond before February 15 to gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com with your name, email, and the subject “Workshop.”*** Youth ages 13 and up will also be welcome.

- **Excavation:** GARS members have been invited to return to Constitutions Lakes (south Atlanta) to excavate at the site of the South River Brick Works. Now a county park and home to the Doll’s Head Trail, the



site was visited by GARS as part of a field trip in April 2016 (pictured left). This site was originally recorded and partially excavated by Jim D’Angelo in 2003 when he was with TRC. Since then the volunteer group that develops the park, headed by Joel Slaton, has cleared more of the area, and Joel is anxious for us to return and further explore the subsurface remains of this iconic type of brick kiln. **This excavation will occur in April. *If you are interested please, contact Delana Gilmore.*** (For background on the brick works, see GAB, March 2016, Vol V, Issue 3 in the [Archives](#).)

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.

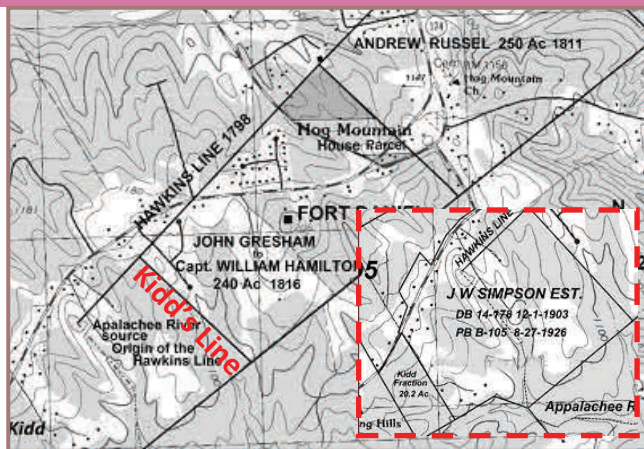
**Those who became members at the Frontier Faire are good until the end of 2018.*



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Basil Jones 7300-acre tract granted in 1786. When Russell's warrant deed and plat was done, the ownership of this tract may have already been in question as it is associated with the fiasco surrounding with the sale of Jones tract to Elisha Winn.¹

According to Bill Fields' research and composite map (pictured right), Andrew is seen to have ownership of the east half of the tract (250 of 500 acres) in 1811.² The west half of Caleb's tract (240 of the remaining 250 acres) went to John Gresham, who in turn conveyed it to Captain William Hamilton in 1816. Jim Nicholls has provided me with the wording of both the 1811 Andrew Russell conveyance, and the 1816 John Gresham conveyance. When you compare these with the 1809 tract, you get an approximately 10-acre gap between west boundary of the Gresham tract and the east side of the Apalachee. The ownership of those remaining acres, is not known, but must of have been conveyed or surrendered by Caleb between 1809 and 1816.



The 1816 Gresham to Hamilton tract with 1811 Andrew Russell tract to the northeast showing "Kidd's Line" along SW side of the 1816 tract. *Insert* shows "Kidd Fraction" according to an 1881 deed reference repeated in 1903 and 1916 deeds.

Some surprises are seen in the deed's written description of the lot where it says in part: "S39W 61 chains 65 links on [or read "along"] Indian Boundary Line [aka Hawkins Line] to black oak, [then] S51E 35 chains 93 links...on [along] Kidd's line," [then] N45E along Basil Jones' Line."² From the illustration that was used in the October 2017 GAB article (see *insert in picture above*), we see that Kidd "Fraction" lies southwest of the Apalachee, whereas the "Kidd's Line" in the 1816 deed is well northeast of the stream.

Putting aside the discrepancy between the official plat, which puts "unknown" below the south boundary line, and the survey notes which clearly call it Basil Jones' line, we turn to the "Kidd line" reference. The Kidd reference is first seen in an 1881 deed from Tilford's McConnell to Nathaniel Teagle for sale of 180-acres of two fractions, the first being in fractional LL 95, "the [number] of the other unknown, known as the Kidd fraction." Reference to this deed appears in two other deeds in 1903 and 1906. Because no detailed property description is in any of these deeds, the location of the Kidd fraction on Bill's map may have incorrectly deduced. It may be that it was on the east side of the Apalachee and that is why the 1881 deed does not know its LL number—not having been a surveyed lot because it was part of the old Jackson County Heads Right system.

Apparently, when, in 1809, Caleb Russell claimed all the way to the Apalachee, Kidd was not there. By 1816, according to the Gresham-Hamilton deed, he is. Did Caleb Russell deed James Kidd that 10-acres sometime between 1809 and the Gresham sale? These are some of the new questions that the 1809 Russell plat has raised. However, perhaps the most important one for us, is who had ownership of the land whereon Fort Daniel would be built (or rebuilt) in the fall of 1813? Was it Caleb Russell or John Gresham? ■ JJD

1. The tract's infamy begins with Jones selling the land to William Patterson in 1793—although this was apparently not widely known. In 1809 Elisha Winn, Roger Pugh, and Elijah Pugh purchased the 7,300 acres from James Mc Montgomery (who we know from the early 1814 Fort Daniel—Fort Peachtree saga). Montgomery had seized the land from Jones for nonpayment of taxes. The problem was, according to Shannon Coffee and Pam Stenhouse's research at the Georgia Archives, that Jones no longer owned the land, and Montgomery was not the official tax-collector at the time! A series of subsequent and drawn-out lawsuits by Patterson resulted in Winn eventually losing the property in about 1840. (See Shannon Coffee, *The Heritage*, Summer 2006 and Summer 2008.)
2. This tract, as seen in picture above, included the intersection of Hog Mountain Road and what is now Gravel Springs Road, where the Hog Mountain House was located. The Hog Mountain House vicinity is where the old "hog mountain fort" was thought to have been by some.

Fort Daniel News

- **New Members of the Board of Directors:** At the Annual Meeting on January 21, FDF welcomed two new Directors to its Board: Eli Stancel and Jennifer Coffield. They replace Paul Willis and Carole Boyce, who have served the maximum of two consecutive 4-year terms. Paul and Carole have assured us that this is not the end of their service; however, we look forward to their continued involvement. Both have been instrumental in developing the Foundation's educational outreach program, which is headed up by VP Catherine Long. Jennifer is a new FDF member as well. She first got involved with the Foundation through the summer Teacher Training program and then assisted with the student hands-on field trip to Fort Daniel the Friday before the Frontier Faire.
- **Nash and Flat Button Visit:** Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chair, Charlotte Nash, was the guest speaker at the FDF Annual meeting. (She also brought along Flat Button Gwinnett to visit, which they are pictured right visiting the Key Blacksmith Shop.) In her talk entitled, "Gwinnett's Bicentennial: Celebrating the Past while looking to the Future," she remarked that the County continues to persevere in efforts to secure the remaining track of land for the Fort Daniel park so that the park master planning process can proceed. Members of FDF and GARS and guests had the opportunity to chat with Chairman Nash at a reception held following her talk (*pictured below*). Many thanks to Catherine Long for organizing the reception and to the members who helped.



- **Volunteers urgently needed:** A) Volunteer help is required to index GAB articles by title and subject matter since 2012 so that these can be easily located in the GAB archives. The collection now exceeds 50 issues. and though these older issues are commonly referenced in current issues, there is no easy way to go directly to them. No web editing skills needed. Please contact Jim or Delana. B) volunteer is needed to re-created FDF and GARS membership emailing lists for Outlook. Please contact Jim. C) A volunteer familiar with WordPress is needed to work out several glitches with the FDF Web site. If interested, please contact [Jim D'Angelo](#).
- **Gwinnett 200:** This year marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of Gwinnett County. Throughout the year local organizations are celebrating the bicentennial—including Fort Daniel. The Open House in May and the Frontier Faire will include bicentennial festivities, and a new event in November will focus on Native American history. More information about these and many more bicentennial events will be available at a later date.

More Diggin's

- **Super Museum Sunday:** The Georgia History Festival's Super Museum Sunday will be held on Sunday, February 11 at participating sites throughout Georgia. Visitors will experience the state's rich history and cultural life as historic sites, house museums, art museums, and other points of interest throughout Georgia open their doors to the public. For more information visit the [Georgia Historical Society's Web site](#).
- **Party with the Past:** Atlanta History Center's Party with the Past: ¡NUEVOlution! will be on Tuesday, February 27 from 6:30–9:30PM. Get a sneak peek behind the scenes of AHC's newest traveling exhibition, ¡NUEVOlution! *Latinos and the New South!* Developed by Charlotte's Levine Museum of the New South in collaboration with the Atlanta History Center and Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, ¡NUEVOlution! examines this historic change by sharing powerful, personal stories behind the statistics. It is free but need to register. For information visit the [AHC's Web site](#).
- **Mark your calendar for this upcoming events:**
 - ⇒ March 3–15: Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies
 - ⇒ May 12: Fort Daniel Open House
 - ⇒ May 19: Society of Georgia Archaeology Spring Meeting in Milledgeville

Hunting for the Ancient Lost Farms of America

Excerpts from a January 26 online article by Annalee Newitz published on Ars Technica Web site

Adventurers and archaeologists have spent centuries searching for lost cities in the Americas. Over the past decade, they've started finding something else: lost farms. Over 2,000 years ago in North America indigenous people domesticated plants that are now part of our everyday diets: such as squashes and sunflowers.

However, they also bred crops that have since returned to the wild. These include erect knotweed (*pictured left*; not to be confused with its invasive cousin, Asian knotweed), goosefoot, little barley, marsh elder, and maygrass. We haven't simply lost a few plant strains: an entire cuisine with its own kinds of flavors and baked goods has simply disappeared. By studying lost crops, archaeologists learn about everyday life in the ancient Woodland culture of the Americas—including how people ate plants that we call weeds today. Nevertheless, these plants also give us a window on social networks. Scientists can track the spread of cultivated seeds from one tiny settlement to the next in the vast region that would one day be known as the United States. This reveals which groups were connected culturally and how they formed alliances through food and farming.

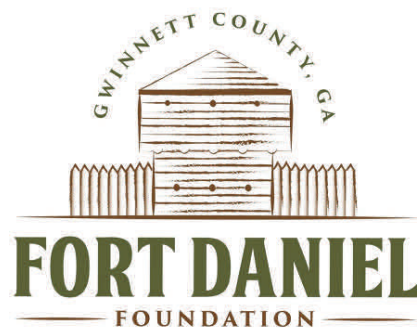


Indigenous to the Americas, erect knotweed grows in the moist flood zones near rivers. It's a stalky plant with spoon-shaped leaves, and it produces achenes or fruit with very hard shells to protect its rich, starchy seeds. Though rare today, the plant was common enough 2,000 years ago that paleo-Americans collected it from the shores of rivers and brought it with them to the uplands for cultivation. Archaeologists have found caches of knotweed seeds buried in caves, clearly stored for a later use that never came. Additionally, in the remains of ancient fires, they've found burned erect knotweed fruits, popped like corn.

Natalie Mueller is an archaeobotanist at Cornell University who has spent years hunting for erect knotweed across the southern US and up into Ohio and Illinois. She calls her quest the "Survey for Lost Crops." She's published papers about her work in [Nature](#), but also she spins yarns about her hot, bug-infested summer expeditions for lost farms on her blog. For Mueller the search for erect knotweed isn't just about understanding the mechanisms of domestication but about coming to terms with everything we've lost.

Read the entire article on the [Ars Technica Web site](#). ■ AT

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Artifact Curation at Fort Daniel

As stated in last month's GAB, an invitation from the Philadelphia Winn Chapter, NSDAR has been given to the Fort Daniel Foundation to submit an application for an Historic Preservation grant in the amount of \$2,490. The purpose of the project, "Fort Daniel Artifacts Preservation and Curation," is to conserve and curate the Fort Daniel artifacts and associated records. Members Delana Gilmore and Jenna Pirtle and Georgia Department of Natural Resources archaeologist, Sarah Love, are working with member and GSU student, McKenzie Culberson, both in readying the collection and training in the use of the standards and inventory system (pictured above).



Although artifacts from the 2007 to 2014 were curated, they were never entered into an accepted database, and from 2015 to the present the curation process has been neglected and is now so large that a major effort

is needed to bring it up to date and up to standards currently accepted by the archaeological community.

The Foundation is grateful to the Winn Chapter for offering to sponsor this grant opportunity, and the Officers and Board look forward to the eventual completion of the project, which will not only bring the whole artifact collection into compliance with conservation standards but facilitate the use of artifact data in Tables, Queries, Forms, and Reports. For example, a report on all musket related artifacts—musket balls, fired or unfired, lead ingots, musket flints—can be generated. It is also possible

to query what other sites have produced the same artifacts, thus yielding regionally significant information. Once established, the new system of conservation will facilitate keeping the ever-growing collection up-to-date. ■

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](#).