

Preserving History Through Archaeology



October 2018
Volume VII, Issue 8

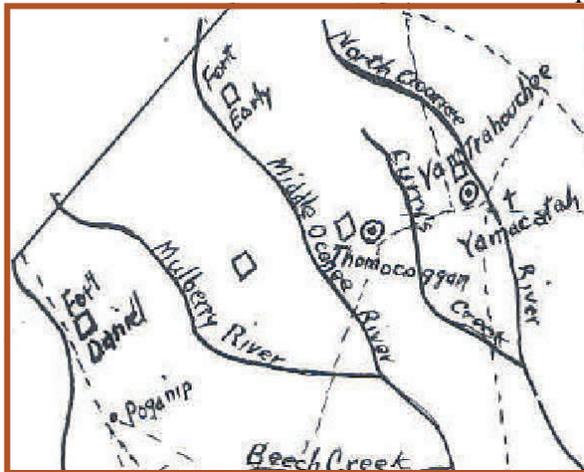
GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Cultural Resource Management: Fort Harrison

As reported in the March and April 2017 issues of the *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin* (Vols. 3 & 4), research into the organization of militia in Georgia during the Creek Indian War of 1814–1815 has led to the conclusion that besides Fort Daniel there were several forts in Jackson and Franklin Counties. In Jackson these were Forts Floyd and Harrison and in Franklin Forts Early, Washington, and Madison. Subsequent research by Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) member Tyler Holman, an archaeology/history student at University of North Georgia (UNG), and me indicates: 1) that the locations of Forts Early and Harrison have been mixed up, and we think we know where Harrison was and roughly where

Early was; 2) that there was a Fort Washington on the Apalachee; and 3) that Fort Madison may also have been on the Apalachee—both being in Franklin County at the time. In this and subsequent articles, we'll try to unpack this and present an update on what we think we know about all these forts.



Segment of the "Elrod" map showing both Fort Early and Fort Daniel

In the April 2017 issue, I wrote about the location of Fort Early. The basis for this was a sketch map that appeared in Frary Elrod's *Historical Notes on Jackson County* (pictured left) and a letter from Hugh Montgomery to Governor Early in

which he identifies the

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Defending the Frontier

10th Annual Frontier Faire

Saturday, October 20, 2018

10AM-5PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

Admission:

Individual—\$2 Family—\$5

Public Archaeology ★ Fort Daniel Museum ★ Archaeology Lab
ArchaeoBus ★ Reenactors ★ Demonstrations

For information visit www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.

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Native American

Heritage Celebration

Saturday, November 10

10AM-5PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)



GARS Update

- **MEETING:** *The Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will NOT be meeting in October due to the many fall activities—especially the 10th Annual Frontier Faire at Fort Daniel! (See Page 2.)*
- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OPPORTUNITIES:** During the last GARS meeting Dr. Jim D’Angelo gave an overview of upcoming archaeological digs. This month a group of volunteers will be participating with Dr. Kate Deeley at the William Harris Homestead. During November a group of GARS members will be conducting a survey at the Hill Mill site. (Members will be notified with more specific details.) We will be continuing with the Wynne-Russell project and arranging to survey the supposed location of Fort Harrison in Jackson County. (See Page 1.) Other projects might include returning to previously recorded sites: Graves Soapstone and Fort Peachtree! Keep an eye on your email and GARS Facebook and Web site for more details.
- **ARCHAEOLOGY LAB:** Work on the Fort Daniel artifacts will continue through the fall and winter, but there will also be opportunities to work on other archaeological sites’ artifacts. If you are interested in helping with working in the Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab, please [email Delana Gilmore](#).
- **DONATIONS:** *Soft drinks donations are needed for the upcoming Frontier Faire. If you can, please drop them off on Saturday, October 13, Friday, October 19, or Saturday, October 20 (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.*



More Diggin’s



- **Gwinnett Historical Society** will be **hosting the 40th Annual Elisha Winn Fair on October 6–7 from 10AM to 5PM**. The Winn House (*pictured left*) and all of the out buildings will be open and attended by many volunteers and reenactors. The fair will also have food vendors, crafters’ booths, exhibitors, musical entertainment, and War of 1812 reenactors. For more information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).

- **Southern Perspectives Book Club: A Bicentennial Literary Celebration** will be meeting on **Wednesday, October 17** at the **Isaac Adair House** in downtown Lawrenceville **beginning at 2PM**. Explore the elements that shaped uniquely Southern viewpoints through short stories and historical fiction of noted Georgia and Southern authors. For

more information contact the Gwinnett County Public Library at (770) 978-5154 or email bspruill@gwinnettpl.org.

- **Haunted Halloween at the Atlanta History Center** will be on **Friday, October 19 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. Enjoy food for purchase and visit one of several cash bars for your favorite libation. The special holiday program is \$15 for members; \$20 for nonmembers; and \$10 for children. For information visit the [Atlanta History Center’s Web site](#).

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location of the next fort northeast of Fort Daniel along the Hawkins line, which according to the Elrod sketch was assumed to be Fort Early.

The Elrod sketch map, which is problematic for a number of reasons (not the least of which is its unknown source), puts Fort Early near where the Middle Oconee River crosses the Hawkins Line—the boundary between Jackson and Cherokee lands to the northwest, later between Jackson and Hall. In fact, it is placed on the north side of the Middle Oconee.

According to Hugh Montgomery's letter to Governor Early the fort next in line from Fort Daniel along the Hawkins Line (which he does not name) was located along the Federal Road and, as a frontier fort, would be somewhere south of but close to the Hawkins line. As I recounted in the April issue, in January 1814 Montgomery had written to Early: "I...write...on the subject of the Garrisons...established on the west and northwest side of...Franklin and Jackson—the one at Hog Mountain is Essential, the one at Federal Road¹...not so much...all north of that are intirely (*sic*) unnecessary."

The first instance of the Montgomery letter that I had encountered was in a 1994 issue of the old *Hog Mountain Herald*, where the author cited it thusly: "the one at the Federal Road about 15 meters north of it." The next encounter with this letter was in a 1969 issue of the *Gainesville Daily Times*, which was an article about the elusive Fort Early. The author, Cybil McRay, cites it as: "the one at the Federal Road about 15 miles north of it." That is a big difference: 15 meters vs. 15 miles!

At the State Archives, where much of the original documents and letters were transcribed during the 1930s WPA (Works Progress Administration), the typed transcript of this letter has "15 meters." So, the Hog Mountain Herald was right.



The above is from a letter of Hugh Montgomery to Peter Early, Georgia Archives, F2MontbomeryHugh038C

However, at Tyler's suggestion, I checked out the original handwritten document. As pictured left, at first glance it appears that Montgomery did write *15 meters*, but on closer examination it appears that he wrote *150 meters*!

I had previously identified a likely area for a fort on the north side of this road just below the Jackson-Hall line (the old Hawkins Line). Now, knowing that it would have been about 150 meters (~492') north of the road, Tyler drove the area and was able to identify a low hill as the likely candidate. On Google Earth Maps he measured the distance from the road to the top of the hill as 149.5 meters! The top of the hill is flat with an area just over 1 acre, which is the size of the Fort Daniel site. The elevation of the hill above that of the road is about 12 meters (40'), and it is about 380 meters south of the Hawkins Line. That compares favorably with Fort Daniel being 400 meters south of the Hawkins Line and about 1,000 meters from the south end of the Hawkins Line at the source of the Apalachee River.

As the precise location of the possible site of Fort Harrison must remain confidential for the time being², the Google Earth image is not being presented here. However, the general location of the site we are looking at is indicated with a red circle on the map pictured on Page 5. The road highlighted with red is the old Federal Road coming out of Jefferson that crossed the Chattahoochee at Vann's Ferry.

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Descendants of General Daniel Visit Fort Daniel

On a warm sunny afternoon in September family members from West Georgia and East Alabama converged on Fort Daniel to hear the stories of how it was preserved and see the place that was named after their ancestor. These descendants of General Allen Daniel made it a day full of sightseeing the locations of where their ancestor lived, buried, and the fort that held his name. Starting in Danielsville, Georgia, this family of General Daniel descendants (*pictured right*) were given a tour and saw where General Daniel was buried. After the tour of Danielsville, the Hudson-Jackson-Maddox family (consisting of three sisters with the maiden name Daniel and their children) came to Fort Daniel, and John Hopkins (a descendant of General Daniel as well) along with Delana Gilmore gave a tour of Fort Daniel site and Museum and the Archaeology Lab. As they were leaving, the Hudson-Jackson-Maddox family stated that some are definitely coming back for the Frontier Faire to see other descendants of those stationed at the Fort and more of their distant cousins. ■ DMG

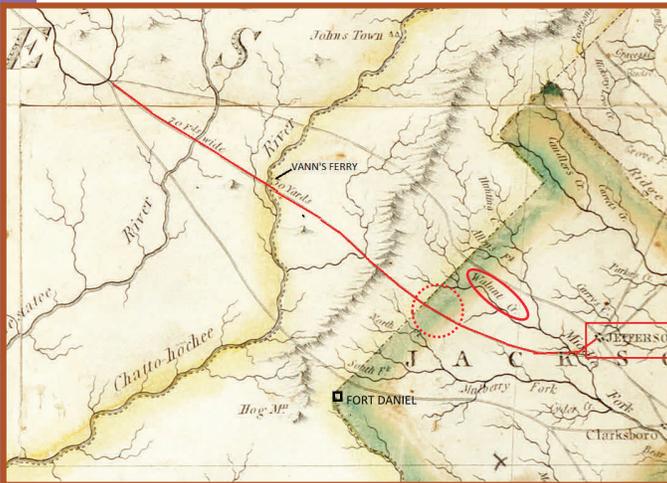


MEMBERSHIP FEES:

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



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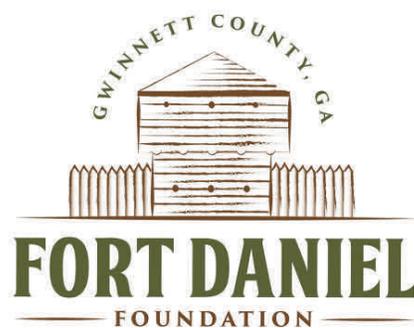
By this time (1818) there were alternatives to the Federal Road. The northern most route, as depicted, passed between the two major streams that form the headwaters of the Middle Oconee: Walnut Creek to the south and Allen Creek to the north. This route, present-day US 129, will become part of the discussion of the possible location of Fort Early in the next part of this series. ■ JJD

The above portion is from the *1818 Sturges and Early Map of Georgia* (fieldwork completed in 1814). Though an excellent map for the time, note that the map incorrectly depicts the relationship of the Jackson County boundary with the mountain chain ending at Hog Mountain—which is the Continental Divide in this part of Georgia. They were actually concurrent. Hog Mountain Road, aka Hwy 124, aka Braselton Hwy runs along the Continental Divide.

1. “About a mile north of Flowery Branch, Georgia, where U.S. Highway 23 veers from the Southern Railway, is a place known locally as the Federal Crossing. At this spot a country road leads from the pavement over the railroad tracks and disappears in the hills and woods to the west. This nondescript little byway is a remnant of the Old Federal Road, an historic highway that once joined Georgia and Tennessee across the Cherokee Nation. Eastward from the Federal Crossing, on the eastern boundary of the Cherokees, now the Hall-Jackson county line, it joined roads that in turn had connections leading from many parts of upper and lower Georgia via Jefferson and Athens. Westward across the Chattahoochee, this former thoroughfare was the first white mans road of northwest Georgia, a route for reaching such widely separated places as Knoxville and Nashville.” From: “Retracing the Old Federal Road,” pp. 349-360, in *Placenames of Georgia: Essays of John H. Goff*, Edited by Francis Lee Utley and Marion R. Hemperley, University of Georgia Press, Athens.

2. *Tyler Holman and Jim have been engaged in discussions with the owners of the hypothetical location of Fort Harrison to determine whether GARS will be permitted to conduct an archaeological survey there. Stay tuned!*

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Major Discovery Upends Long-held Theories

Excerpt from an article by Ben Guarino as featured in the [Washington Post](#) on September 27.

A couple of years ago surveyors took flight over the ancient Maya empire and mapped the Guatemala forests with lasers. The 2016 survey, whose first results were published the last week in September in the journal [Science](#), comprises a dozen plots covering 830 square miles—an area larger than the island of Maui. It is the largest such survey of the Maya region ever.

The study authors describe the results as a revelation. “It’s like putting glasses on when your eyesight is blurry,” said [Mary Jane Acuña](#), director of El Tintal Archaeological Project in Guatemala.

In the past archaeologists had

argued that small, disconnected city-states dotted the Maya lowlands—though that conception is falling out

of favor. This study shows that the Maya could extensively “exploit and manipulate” their environment and geography, Acuña said. Maya agriculture sustained large populations, who in turn forged relationships across the region.

Combing through the scans, Acuña and her colleagues, an international 18-strong scientific team, tallied 61,480 structures. These included: 60 miles of causeways, roads and canals that connected cities; large maize farms; houses, large and small; and, surprisingly, defensive fortifications.

For the rest of the story you can read it on the [Washington Post Web site](#). ■ WP



A photograph (above) and a reconstructed lidar image (below) of Maya ruins (Luke Auld-Thomas and Marcello A. Canuto/PACUNAM)

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](#).

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