

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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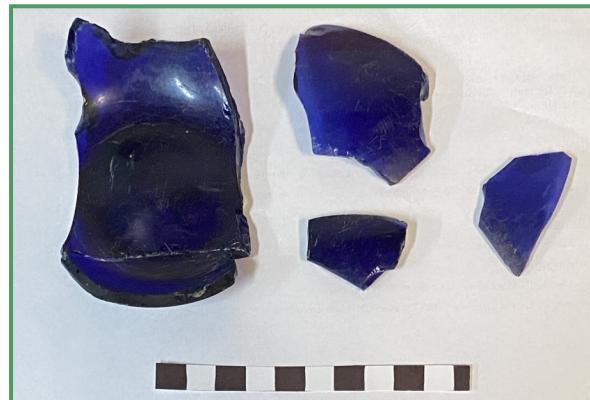
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From the Vault: Cobalt Blue Glass

After it rains, I usually like to walk about the Fort Daniel site and see if I can find any artifacts on the surface. During one of these walks, I happened to come across a piece of cobalt blue glass near the Southwest Blockhouse. Cobalt is a metal found in copper and nickel ores and was discovered in 1742 by Swedish chemist Georg Brandt.¹ The actual cobalt blue color did not exist until the early 1800s when the industrial chemist Louis Jacques Thenard created the pigment by using a combination of cobalt salts and a silver-colored compound, alumina.² Thenard borrowed this method from the Sevres potteries, which was used a mixture of cobalt smalt to produce a vivid blue glaze.

Several pieces of glass in various colors have been discovered throughout the site, and it makes you wonder what was inside these bright blue glass containers. Bottle colors are feebly connected to what function a glass container was used, but throughout the years color trends can usually help date the glass and determine its use. There are some colors

which were rarely used for one type of bottle but commonly observed in others (e.g.; cobalt blue for cylinder liquor bottles or for poison bottles from the mid 1800s).³ Hence, some information can be gathered from knowing what color is or is not likely to occur in a given category of bottles, which is useful in identifying bottle fragments. The wide application of the cobalt blue color for various products has limited dating and function. It can be found in any type of bottle from inks to beer bottles. However, the blue colors are more common in certain bottles used for cosmetics, poisons, or medicines. Because of this, we can assume that the cobalt blue



glass fragments found at Fort Daniel were probably used for medicinal purposes. ■ DMG

1. "Cobalt Blue Glass." Glass Encyclopedia. April 2023. <https://www.glassencyclopedia.com/cobaltglass.html>.
2. "The Weird and Wonderful History of Cobalt Blue." Daily Science Journal. April 2023. <https://www.dailysciencejournal.com/cobalt-blue-history>.
3. "Bottle/Glass Colors." Society of Historic Archaeology. April 2023. <https://sha.org/bottle/colors.htm#True%20Blues>.

EDITOR:

Delana M. Gilmore, MA, RPA
Email: gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:

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

More Diggin's

- **Archaeology Day at William Harris Homestead:** Visit the William Harris Homestead on April 15 from 10AM–3PM and watch students from Georgia Gwinnett College under the supervision of Dr. Kate Deeley conduct archaeological excavations. For more information visit the [William Harris Homestead Web site](#).
- **Way Back Winn:** Stroll back in time and enjoy the history at Elisha Winn House (908 Dacula Road, Dacula) on Sunday, April 23 from 2–4PM. For more information visit the [GHS Web site](#).
- **New South Archaeology Day:** In celebration of Archaeology Month New South Associates will host their annual Archaeology Day in-person on Saturday, May 6 from 10AM–2PM . For more details visit [New South Associates Facebook page](#)
- **Fort Daniel Open House:** The “gates” of Fort Daniel will be opened in May to celebrate Archaeology Month. (See flyer below.)
- **GARS Membership Online:** Good news! You can now join or renew your [membership online](#). Through the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) Web site you can use the online membership form to join or update your information and pay for your membership fees, which are \$20 for Family, \$15 for Individual, and \$8 for Student.



Defending the Frontier

Fort Daniel Open House

Saturday, May 20, 2023

10AM–2PM

Fort Daniel Archaeological Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Explore how archaeology reveals the ways people lived on the Georgia frontier during the War of 1812—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum and Archaeology Lab and active archaeological dig within the Fort!

Volunteer Dig at Poole Mountain Site

In March Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society facilitated a community-led archaeology fieldwork day at Poole Mountain for a private landowner. The community came together to complete a shovel testing, metal detecting, and surface collection survey that resulted in the identification of a multi-component site! They found Native American stone artifacts, above-ground features associated with a historic tub mill, and historic ceramics.



Volunteers enjoying the cool weather while searching for artifacts

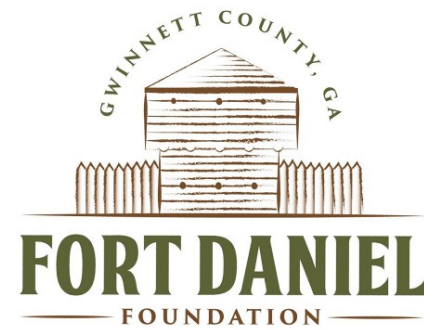


Historic Features at the Poole Mountain Site



Artifacts found at the Poole Mountain site (*from left to right*):
Lithic biface fragment, Metal fragment, and Creamware fragment

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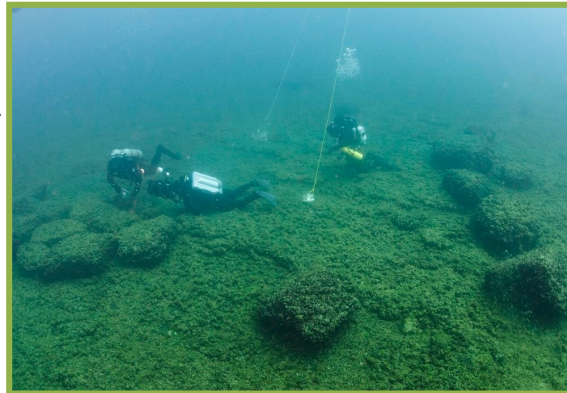
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Clues to Lives of North America's First Inhabitants Are Hidden Underwater

Excerpt from an article written by Sean Kingsley featured in the [Smithsonian Magazine](#) on March 29, 2023

Below the surfaces of freshwater springs, lakes and rivers, sunken landscapes hold clues about the daily lives, beliefs, and diets of the first humans to settle in what is now the United States. However, submerged prehistory, as the study of these millennia-old sites is widely known, is often overlooked in favor of more traditional underwater archaeology centered on shipwrecks.

“There’s tremendous work to be done,” says Barbara Purdy, author of *The Art and Archaeology of Florida’s Wetlands* and an emeritus anthropologist at the University of Florida. “Fast-developing technology holds great potential to explore what lies below. One day, the sunken world will unlock the answer to how America was really settled and how [our] ancestors lived.”



The potential for studying America’s sunken past is bottomless. Waterways’ oxygen-free environments keep archaeological finds astonishingly well preserved.

Wooden artifacts abound in Florida’s freshwater, from 185 canoes dating back 6,050 years to a statue of a seated figure recovered from a lake in Okeechobee County in 1921. Researchers are studying a sinkhole in the Aucilla River, south of Tallahassee, that served as a prehistoric watering hole for humans, mastodons, bison, bears, and dogs. To the northwest, in Michigan’s Grand Traverse Bay,

underwater archaeologist Mark Holley has discovered evidence of a more than one-mile-long line of boulders possibly used to herd caribou. Both sites hold enormous untapped promise, but the future study of submerged prehistory is far from secure. ■ **SM**

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