JMC Montgomery will always be linked with the construction of Peachtree Road (see map below) and his long time association with the area around Standing Peachtree. Fate often delivers strange turn to a story, and Montgomery’s is no different. When the War of 1812 and Creek Indian War broke out, Montgomery’s aims were in a much different direction. What began as a disappointment developed into a revenue stream and a near legendary among the first of Atlanta settlers—and now the rest of the story.

On October 10, 1813 JMC Montgomery sat despondent and drafted a letter to the governor of Georgia. Ironically, he was at Camp Hope near present day Macon, Georgia. Having served in the militia prior to the War and using his political connections he was certain that he would command soldiers as they mustered at Fort Hawkins. It was not to come to fruition. He expressed his disappointment to the Governor by writing: “I laid claim to command a battalion . . . but from cause or other, Major Groves a junior officer . . . gets the preference.” Montgomery proceeds to express his disappointment in being passed over for command. He explains that the current commanders from his district (Jackson County) had not been elected under the new militia law, and so the command should revert to him by seniority. Reluctantly, he took a position in the Quartermaster’s department but express his displeasure in this as he will not be allowed to

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**GARS News**

- **GARS Meeting:** Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will be meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at Fort Daniel Historic Site beginning at 7PM. Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Glover, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Georgia State University. The meeting is opened to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

- **Field Trip:** With the recent opening of the *Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama* at its new location, GARS members have an opportunity to see the new painting as part of the Atlanta History Center’s *Cyclorama: Big Picture* exhibit on Saturday, April 27 at 10AM. Space is limited. If you are interested, please email GARS President Delana Gilmore as soon as possible.

- **Archaeology Month:** Archaeology Month is coming in May. GARS will be participating in the New South Open House on Saturday, May 4 at Stone Mountain and will cosponsor the Fort Daniel Open House on Saturday, May 11. *(See below)*

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**The Forgotten Frontiers**

**Fort Daniel Open House**

**Saturday, May 11, 2019**

**10AM – 2PM**

**Fort Daniel Historic Site**

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Explore how archaeology reveals the ways people lived on the frontier during the War of 1812—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum, Archaeology Lab, active archaeological digs, and living history tours of the fort. For information go to www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.
serve outside the state. He closes the letter by assuring the Governor of his friendship and that he and his brother Hugh Montgomery are consistent supporters. The letter writing campaign continues on November 8 from Fort Lawrence, which is near present day Roberta, Georgia. Montgomery again pleads for some type of leadership role and expresses his displeasure of having to serve as a wagon master. Sometime between November and the end of 1813 JMC Montgomery returns to his home in Jackson County (just north of Jefferson) and ponders his next move. If the state does not have a position for him, perhaps the United States government does; therefore, he writes to General Pinckney of the 6th Military District.

General Charles Pinckney has a problem: He cannot supply all the troops that are operating in the 6th Military District. Fort Hawkins is a good supply depot, but the route overland is tenuous at best. On November 20, 1813 Pinckney orders Quartermaster General Bourke to leave Savannah return to Headquarters (probably Milledgeville) for new orders. What conversation occurred face to face we will never know, but by January 2, 1814 Bourke was in Jefferson, Georgia, making arrangements to build boats to float supplies down the Chattahoochee. Either by a letter requesting an appointment or by happenstance of location, JMC Montgomery found himself at the pinnacle of opportunity. On February 3, 1814 General Pinckney arranged for Montgomery to be paid as “Special Commissioner” with the role of assisting Bourke in the task of building boats and supplying the troops of the 6th Military District. Montgomery was apparently pleased with the appointment as he rapidly rode to assemble workmen and supplies to complete the task.

Although serving the US Army, Montgomery found opportunity to run a business. While building boats and handling the administration of supplying his artificers, he also supplied the troops at Fort Daniel. In June 1814 the State of Georgia with voucher number 162 (pictured right) issued JMC Montgomery $61.90 for supplying the Militia stationed at Fort Daniel. There is no doubt: Mr. Montgomery was a shrewd businessman taking advantage of the newly cut Peachtree Road to fulfill his Army service and make a few dollars on the side. There is much more to the story, and it may never be known.

From the downtrodden letter at Camp Hope, JMC Montgomery found redemption and lasting fame with success on the banks of the Chattahoochee. His loss of opportunity in one place became a launching pad for future glory. His willingness to attempt any endeavor—and be wise about the compensation for services provided—made his life one that led to a lasting legacy. ■ ES

2. ibid.
4. NARA M566. Letters received by the Adjutant General's Office during the period 1805-21, including many relating to the War of 1812.
5. ibid.
The Search for Fort Harrison

The GARS Metal Detection Survey at the supposed Fort Harrison site in Jackson County scheduled for March 23 was postponed when it became apparent the site was not what we thought it was. Historical documentation presented previously (see GAB VII.8 and issues referenced there) put the fort near the frontier line in Jackson County—150 meters north of the Federal Road (now Hwy 53). However, difficulty in determining the old Jackson/Cherokee Line is notorious, so we decided to look first at a hill about 400 meters south of the current Jackson Line—where the top of that hill located on the Lott family farm was exactly 150 meters due north of the road. While setting up the grid for the survey, Leslie Perry did some metal detecting, and some more detecting, and some more until a large area had been examined with not one hit. Not even a beer can tab or shotgun shell! Therefore, I decided to postpone the survey and not waste everyone’s time.

Hence, it became clear that the 1814 Jackson/Cherokee line was indeed somewhere further up 53. Leslie and I took a ride along 53 with Randy Holman. At about 2.5 miles we encountered another (and higher) hill that a Jackson GIS map would show was about 150 meters north of the road. We are calling this the “Cooper” location after the historic owners. No other hills like this were noted, though we are not done looking.

Since then, I have been working on old notes, chasing down old maps, and plotting lines. The product resulted in a busy map (pictured left) which uses a portion of the 1869 Frobel Map of Hall County as a base. Frobel produced this map from the original 1818 survey notes and District plats—all of which are housed at the State Archives. Gwinnett (District 7) is contiguous with Hall (District 8) as is the checkerboard of land lottery parcels (not reproduced here). The Federal Road in the surveyed portion of District 8 was fortunately plotted by the surveyors and was used to add that portion of the road to my map.

My wife, Natasha, stitched together all the Districts (7–9) which should have produced a nice overlay for the Frobel Map. It didn’t. In brief, headings do not match from one source to another, and because the Jackson portion was surveyed as headrights lands from 1785 on there were no Jackson maps to compare or plot from.

The resulting map is fairly accurate. North is not indicated on the Frobel map. However, assuming that the map is oriented with north at the top, the Gwinnett-Hall line is off as much as 30 or 40 degrees, and the axis of the Hall land lottery parcels on the Frobel map does not match (nor do the parcel numbers) with the original surveyor’s District maps (though you can’t see that on my map). My headings are taken from those original plats, not the Frobel map, and then added back in.

continued on the next page
It was James Nichols, who has been researching Jackson County and original grant boundaries for several years, that pointed out to me the old Jackson/Cherokee line had been moved further west in 1812—a line that had been surveyed by none other than Hugh Montgomery! Hence, we have to deal with that line as well. Was the 1814 fort closer to that line, or the Hawkins line based on the 1818 Gwinnett survey of that line (see insert in map on Page 4) projected into former Jackson? Or, neither since the actual line to Currahee Mountain is closer to 45 degrees!

About 1795 after Franklin County was created, Indian Agent Benjamin Hawkins was charged with establishing the line between Franklin and Cherokee and the Creeks. He hired the men to determine the waypoints between the Carolina boundary and the headwaters of the Apalachee (the northern extent of the Oconee) with Currahee Mountain as a prominent station. Then he set out to meet with members of both nations in villages and towns between those end-points, and well into Alabama lands, to explain what the government was trying to accomplish and to win their favor.

In February 1798 writing from Fort Wilkerson near Milledgeville, Hawkins wrote to Governor James Jackson that he had hired J. D. Kilpatrick, a public surveyor, “for his services in ascertaining the line from Apalachee to Tugalo.” In March he wrote that he was enclosing “a map of the line from the source of the Apalachee over the Currahee to Tugalo. I have sent forward to the Secretary of War a copy, with notes explanatory, and a journal of my whole proceedings in relation to it.” Wish we had that map! (Or, maybe not.)

While visiting with Native Americans along the line, Hawkins heard the complaints from Cherokees about settlers crossing the line. They were members of the Wofford group, who in 1787 had unknowingly settled across the line. He confronted the settlers, explained that they were trespassing, and that they had to leave. He told them that “they would do well to make arrangement to move by the spring; that in their neighborhood, on the east side the line, there was an extensive tract of unsettled country, to which they could easily remove. Jackson County, which borders on this line to the west, and the Apalachee on the south, has not more (I believe) than ten families in twenty-five miles square of its southermost corner (i.e. Hog Mountain!).” [Letters of Benjamin Hawkins 1796-1086, Vol. VI Collections of the GA Historical Society.]

The Wofford fiasco was largely due to improprieties in awarding grants during this period, as we have seen in such as cases as with Basil Jones and others around Fort Daniel. However, for the Wofford group, Governor Jackson initiated the 1804 “Four Mile Purchase” when the Native Americans ceded a strip of land four miles wide and twenty miles long which included these lands. This strip of land was then added to Franklin County (but now lies in Banks and Habersham Counties).

The four-mile treaty, negotiated with the Cherokee represented by James Vann, was never filed; so when Habersham was formed, resurvey of the Hawkins line was ordered to determine the true boundaries of the original purchase. Thus, it can be seen how there were problems from the start with this line. When I was emailing back and forth with James Nichols trying to figure out where the line was in 1814, when Fort Harrison was built, he wrote back at one point, ”My head hurts.” “Me too,” I replied.

This brings me back to the sketch map (pictured right) that started all of this, the one appearing in Elrod’s history of Jackson County, where I had surmised that whoever made this map had Fort Early confused with Fort Harrison. However, it is now clear that Fort Harrison is the unnamed fort between the Mulberry River and Middle Oconee! ■ JJ

April 2019

Page 5
Fort Daniel College Day Open House

April 13, 2019 (rain date 5.11) 2505 Braselton Hwy (124) Hamilton Mills (Hog Mountain)
10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Northwest Georgia area college and university undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in history and archaeology, are cordially invited to join us for an informal day of excavation and lab experience. Included will be an introduction to the history and archaeology of a site of this Creek Indian War (1813-15) frontier and militia fort. The site is owned by Gwinnett County, and leased to the Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) for program and site development.

In addition to the archaeological site, the Foundation, in league with the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) maintains an on-site archaeology lab, small museum and meeting room.

Among the seven members of the Foundation and GARS who hold graduate degrees in archaeology or history, several will be on hand that day to welcome you along with the Site Archaeologist, Dr. Jim D’Angelo, and other members of FDF/GARS.

Musket balls, buttons, horse shoe nails, sherds of dining ware and brandy bottles, and even a Spanish coin are among the thousands of articles so far uncovered, so we expect to have great day. If you can’t come the entire 5 hours, feel free to drop by and stay as long as you wish.

Free Pizza and beverages.
Admission Free
• **College Day at Fort Daniel:** An open house for archaeology and history college and university students from the greater Fort Daniel area is being planned for Saturday, April 13 from 10AM to 3PM. (See flyer on Page 6) This event will include an introduction to the history and archaeology of the site and hands-on archaeology and lab experience. Doc Watson also will be holding one of his class sessions that day, so that visitors will get to see our blacksmith operation in action. Invitations and posters have gone out to the six schools that serve students in this area.

• **Work Day:** On Saturday, April 6 a work day is being organized. Among the many projects that need to be addressed this Spring, which have been sent out to FDF members, is completion of the NE Blockhouse area, now that all excavation there has been accomplished. By the time of our Spring events—College Day and Archaeology Month Open House—we hope to have the NE blockhouse area done.

• **Sheep to Shawl:** The Atlanta History Center’s (AHC) annual Sheep to Shawl will be on Saturday, April 6 from 10:30AM to 4:30PM. Guests experience the process of cloth making though demonstrations and activities that range from sheep shearing and wool dyeing to spinning and weaving. Gather the entire family for a full day of fun that also includes open-hearth cooking, blacksmithing, candle making, live music, and more at Smith Family Farm. This program is included in the cost of general admission; free to members. For more information visit the [AHC Web site](http://www.atlhistory.org).

• **BRAG Meeting:** The next Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild (BRAG) meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10 at the Dahlonega Parks and Recreation Building (365 Riley Road, Dahlonega) beginning at 6PM. Guest speaker will be Dr. Jennifer Kirker, Senior Director of Development at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. She will be discussing her study of how archaeological data from the periphery can illuminate what is known about he cultural history of the ancient Maya kingdom of Piedras Negras. This kingdom was at its peak between 600 and 800AD—called the Late Classic Maya period. The meeting is free and open to the public.

• **Green Fest:** The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center will be hosting Green Fest on Friday, April 26 beginning at 5PM. Come and celebrate the Earth! Discover how to be more sustainable and environmentally conscious through crafts, games, tours, and activities that reconnect you with nature. Open to all ages. The price is $5 per person. You will need to [preregister online](http://www.gwinettchosegreen.org) with code EHC11610 or call (700) 904-3500.

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**Fort Daniel News**

**More Diggin’s**

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Preservationists often speak and write about saving historic buildings for the benefit of future generations. Insuring that our grandchildren receive the benefits of the beauty and sense of place provided by historic sites is the ultimate goal of our movement. Social and cultural trends clearly indicate that the generation of Americans born after 1980 (known as millennials) have a strong preference for urban areas and historic buildings, which is a very favorable scenario for our field.

Young adults are leading a return to cities across America and in Georgia in strong numbers. Planners and demographers sometimes refer to these young people as the “creative class” or members of the “knowledge economy.” What they all agree upon is that this generation has a strong preference for authenticity in where they live, work, shop, and eat. Decades of suburban sprawl and the growth of chain retailers and restaurants have created a desire in this generation for locally owned and sourced options which have architectural character that distinguishes them from what author James Howard Kunstler has called “Generica.”

Historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial centers offer what young professionals desire in the form of mixed land use. Historic commercial areas were built around the concept of living, working, shopping, and attending school all within a walking distance or a distance which can be negotiated by horse-drawn conveyances. Although the upper stories of downtown buildings were abandoned for years, we see a strong trend of downtown apartments now returning.

Millennials’ preferences for authenticity and livability can be a boom for historic preservation. 

According to recent research undertaken by the National Trust for Historic Preservation millennials “connect with the cause.”

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GARS OFFICERS

www.thegars.org

President: Delana Gilmore
Vice President: 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

President: Jim D’Angelo
Vice President: Leslie Perry
Secretary: Cindy Horsley
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

To stay up to date with the latest news from FDF follow us on Facebook and Instagram.