

Preserving History Through Archaeology



April 2019
Volume VIII, Issue 4

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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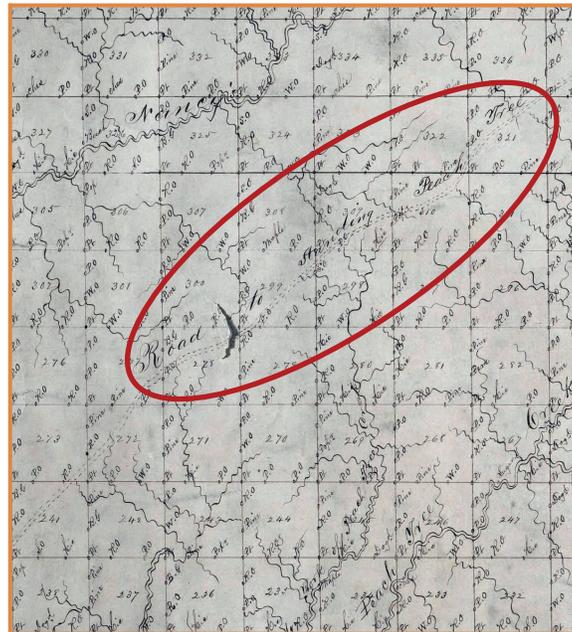
The Rest of the Story

Article by *Eli Stancel*

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."¹ 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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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISER:

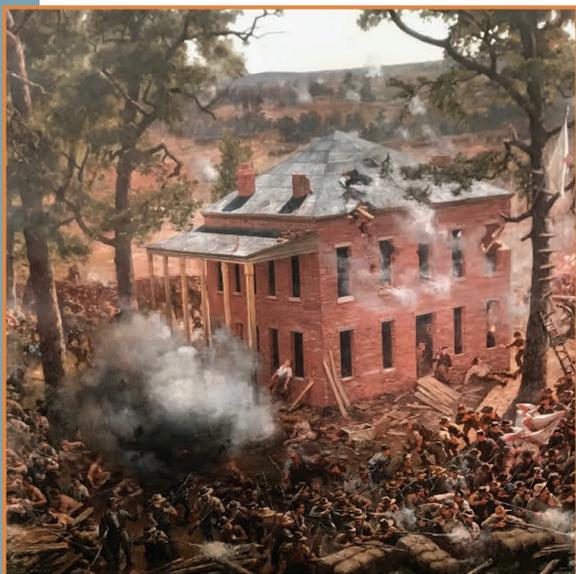
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GARS News

- **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](mailto:delana.gilmore@garsociety.org) 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)

The Forgotten Frontier

Fort Daniel Open House

Saturday, May 11, 2019

10AM-2PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

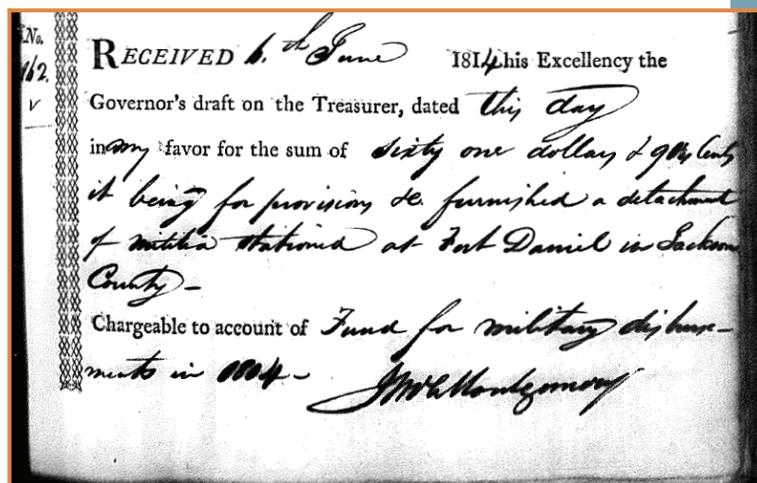
May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! Explore how archaeology reveals the ways people lived on the frontier during the War of 1812—including tours of the Fort Daniel Museum, Archaeology Lab, active archaeological digs, and living history tours of the fort. For information go to www.thefortdanielfoundation.org.

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serve outside the state.² 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.³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵

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.⁶ 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

1. Georgia. Office of the Governor. Letter Books 1786-1897., 1786.

2. *ibid.*

3. NARA, Records Group 98. Records of United States Army Commands 1784-1821. Letters Sent, March 1813-June 1815, Vol. 1.

4. NARA M566. Letters received by the Adjutant General's Office during the period 1805-21, including many relating to the War of 1812.

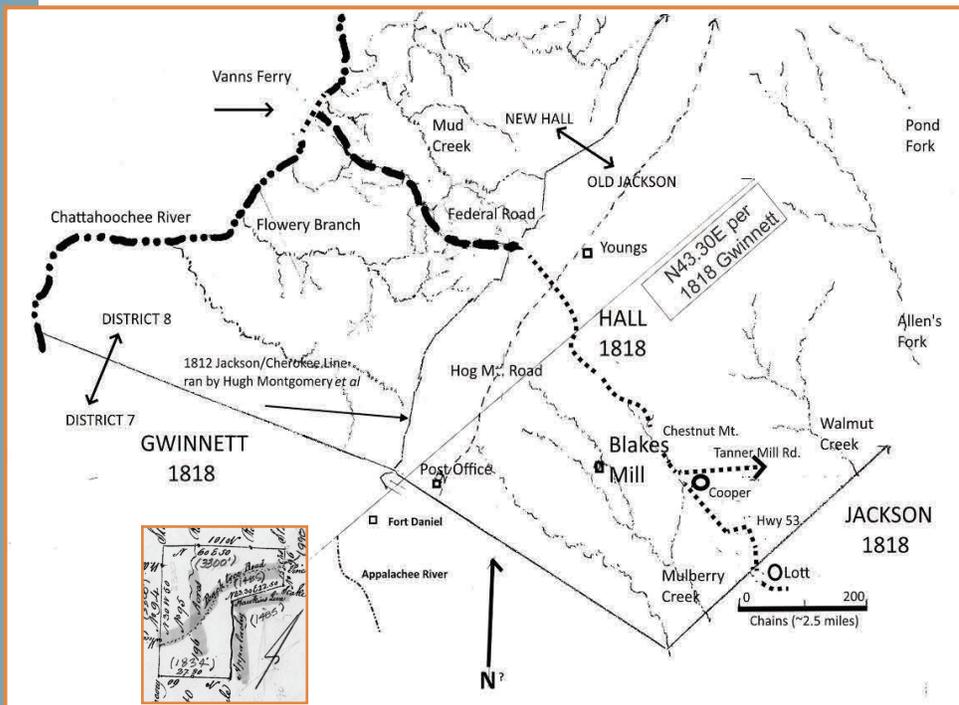
5. *ibid.*

6. Georgia. Office of the Governor. Executive Department Minutes, 1778-1989., 1778.

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.



Sketch map using portion of 1818 Frobel Map of Hall County, showing Lott and Cooper locations, Old Federal Road between 1818 Jackson/Hall line and the Chattahoochee River, the approximate projected location of the Hawkins Line as it was reshot in Gwinnett County in 1818 (see insert of District 7 Lot 95 at the head of the Apalachee), Hog Mountain Road, and Jackson/Cherokee Line survey in 1812. Location of Fort Daniel approximated.

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.

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Fort Daniel



2019 College Day Open House sponsored by the Fort Daniel Foundation, Inc. (FDF) the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS)

Fort Daniel College Day Open House

April 13, 2019 (rain date 5.11)
10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2505 Braselton Hwy (124) Hamilton Mills (Hog Mountain)

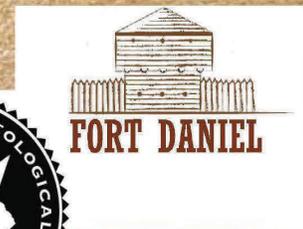
Northwest Georgia area college and university undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in history and archaeology, are cordially invited to join us for an informal day of excavation and lab experience. Included will be an introduction to the history and archaeology of a site of this Creek 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



GARS is a chapter of Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA)

Fort Daniel News

- **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.



More Diggin's

- **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 through 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](#).



- **BRAG Meeting:** The next Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild (BRAG) meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10 at the Dahlenega Parks and Recreation Building (365 Riley Road, Dahlenega) 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 the 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](#) with code EHC11610 or call (700) 904-3500.

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Millennials and Preservation

Excerpt from an article featured in *The Georgia Trust's Rambler Spring 2019*.

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 "Generic."



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

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 apart-

ments now returning.

Millennials' preferences for authenticity and livability can be a boom for historic preservation. ■ GT

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
Secretary: Cindy Horsley
Vice President: Leslie Perry
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

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