

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



April 2021

Volume X, Issue 4

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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## GARS Continues Investigating at Historic Hills Mill

Article by Anne Dorland, GARS President

Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) has continued their volunteer efforts to investigate the historic Hills Mill site in north-eastern Gwinnett County. Under the direction of Anne Dorland, GARS President and New South archaeologist, a team of volunteers returned to the site in November 2020 to define the site boundaries and collect more data. Defining the site boundaries north of the Apalachee



Feature 1, Mill Dam, at Hills Mill Site

Gwinnett County that will "... include a combination of offices, research facilities, public spaces and residences. It will offer unique opportunities

that are rooted in science, informed by history, and anchored by the natural resources found in the Georgia Piedmont." To learn more about Rowen, visit <https://www.rowenlife.com>.

GARS is working closely with the Rowen team and Gwinnett County to preserve and mitigate impact to the Hills Mill site. R. S. Webb and Associates assisted Gwinnett County in evaluating the alignment of future gravity sewer to the south and west

River was a priority for this phase of investigation, as construction for the proposed Rowen Project may impact the area. The Rowen Project is an entrepreneurial development planned in eastern

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EDITOR:

Delana M. Gilmore, MA

Email: [gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com)

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:

Jim D'Angelo, PhD RPA

Email: [4drdee@bellsouth.net](mailto:4drdee@bellsouth.net)

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GARS Members bagging artifacts

about cultural resources and historic preservation for Rowen and the County. The main topic for the meeting was the Hills Mill project: the historical background and importance of the site, what has been found to date by GARS's Phase I archaeological investigation of the site, and what future work is anticipated for the site.

In an email thanking all the participants, the meeting organizer, Mason Ailstock, who is President and CEO of Rowen, wrote that "we look forward to working with you all in determining next steps and future work that Rowen can lead to highlight these unique assets."

GARS is proud of their contribution to the understanding and mitigation of historic Hills Mill. The site has great significance to Gwinnett County residents and GARS is grateful for the opportunity to continue their research at this incredible site. Future work recommended by GARS includes background research of similar sites, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to identify buried features, ground-truthing of GPR anomalies, and test unit excavation across the site to identify subsurface features (*e.g.; the stone footer pictured right*) and to explore the mill dam construction. ■ AD

of the Apalachee River. As part of this evaluation, a limited corridor Phase I Cultural Resources Survey was conducted, and the southern boundary of the Hills Mill site was delineated. This work supplements GARS ongoing efforts to define the site boundaries in all directions to minimize potential impacts to Hills Mill and allow this valuable cultural resource to continue to inform us about Gwinnett County's rich history.

Principal organizers of the Hills Mill Project, Jim D'Angelo, Eli Stancel, and Anne Dorland (Principal Investigator for the project), recently participated in a virtual meeting with several Gwinnett County officials, Rowen Foundation members and others, in an ongoing conversation



Feature 7, Stone Footer

# GARS/Fort Daniel News

## MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact Delana Gilmore; and for FDF membership please contact Cindy Horsley.



## *Defending the Frontier*

**Fort Daniel Open House**

**Saturday, May 15, 2021**

**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. Due to COVID-19 social distancing and CDC guidelines will be observed. For information go to [www.thefortdanielfoundation.org](http://www.thefortdanielfoundation.org).

## 13th Annual Frontier Faire

**Saturday, October 16**

**10AM–4PM**

**Fort Daniel Historic Site**

**(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)**

# Legacy Corner: Full Circle

*Stories of the people who were stationed at Fort Daniel and their descendants*

Article by Cindy Horsley, Fort Daniel Foundation Legacy Member and Secretary

**A**bout five years ago I joined Ancestry to hopefully learn more about my family. Back in the day, high school Georgia history and my mother's story of her family fell on my deafen ears. The Beatles were far more real than stories about pioneer farmers or the Confederacy.

As I started tracing the family tree, I learned about Fort Daniel as a real place with real people and history. One of the Captains serving under Major General Allen Daniel and Major Tandy Key was Captain Nehemiah Judge Garrison. He was born in the year 1776 on the Dan River near the state lines of North Carolina and Virginia. At that time in our country representatives from Georgia signed the Declaration of Independence, and George Washington and the other Founding Fathers were involved in our emerging country's new beginnings.

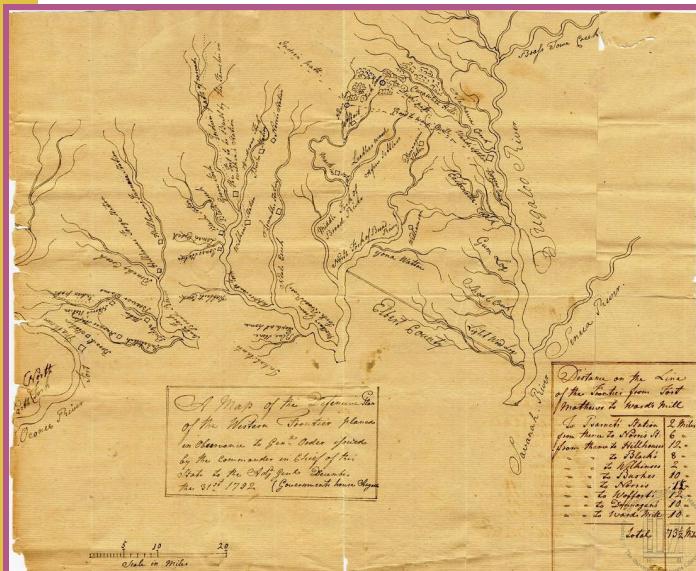
The physical journey for the Garrison family possibly began along the Lower Cherokee Trading Path/Upper Road—originally native trading paths and trails through Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This was probably the path Nehemiah's mother and father traveled. His mother Elizabeth Barksdale Garrison was one of the daughters of the prominent Barksdale family of Virginia. Other Barksdale siblings made their way eventually to Georgia as well.

Born 1745 in Pittsgrove, New Jersey, David Charles Garrison (an American Revolutionary soldier like so many of the Fort Daniel soldiers' fathers) came to settle on the new land of South Carolina as payment for his military service. Outside Greenville, South Carolina is the Saluda River where Nehemiah and his siblings grew up. Literally, the Garrison Shoals on the Saluda River was their homestead. (Water was essential for the livelihood of the people.) The Garrison family was made up of farmers, blacksmiths, military leaders—including future family members who would become future pioneers, statesmen, Freemasons. Georgia and South Carolina received their statehood in 1788 when Nehemiah would have been around 12 years old.

Today family lands and family cemeteries around the Fort Daniel community are just a minor footnote as the lands and streams of the lands disappear forever into another subdivision or place to shop. In South Carolina a small cemetery is what's left of the homestead to represent their lives.

Back to Nehemiah's story as an adult. The neighboring Evans family in South Carolina had a wonderful daughter named Sarah, who went by the name Sally. Sally and Nehemiah married in 1799. The Census of 1800 records the new couple living in the Greenville, South Carolina area.

There were irregularities in awarding early land grants. The new settlers were homesteading on the wrong side of the line—the land belonging to the Cherokee Nation. In 1787 William Wofford purchased land from Joseph Russell, who had been granted it illegally by the state of Georgia. Fort Daniel was also erected on a land that had also been part of one of these illegal grants. Due to this inconsistency, Georgia bought a strip of land from the Cherokees so as to take in the Wofford's Settlement (*see above picture of the "Woffard Map"*). The Hawkins Line, also known as "the Four Mile Purchase Line", was the boundary between Georgia and the Cherokee Nation from 1804 to 1818.



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The Treaty of Tellico in 1798 with the Cherokees and the Treaty of Washington in 1805 with the Muscogee Creeks provided the government the right to build and operate federal roads through Cherokee land heading northwest and through Muscogee Creek land heading southwest. The Federal Road on Cherokee Land was originally called the *Georgia Road* in Jackson County. This is important as the families who built and served at Fort Daniel used this road. These folks lived along this valuable trail. From tavern owners, mill owners, farmers to cattlemen, blacksmiths, hog farmers these Fort Daniel families became part of the fabric of Jackson County. Today, a portion of what is known as the Old Federal Road leads to the bottom of Lake Lanier in Hall County.

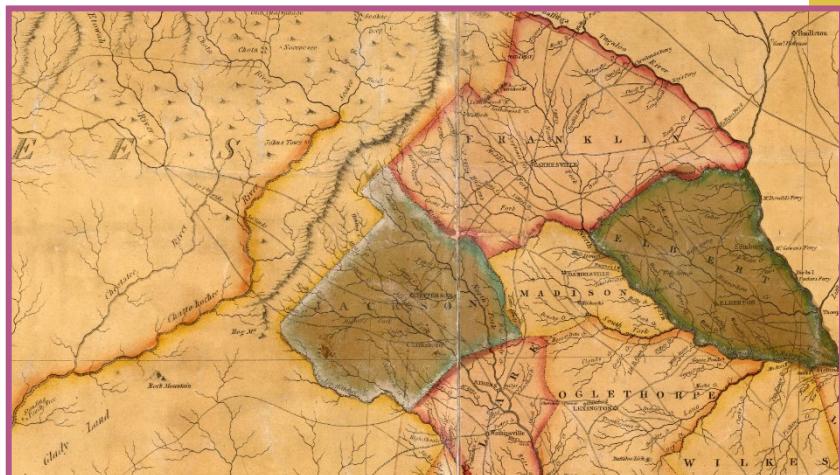
Pioneers like the Garrisons traveled into Georgia from South Carolina through Franklin County where part of this county later became Jackson County. While researching the 1809 Jackson County Tax Digest, Nehemiah Garrison was listed as a Jackson County Militia Captain. His children born in Georgia/Jackson county were Ellender, Savilla, Mary, Elizabeth, John, David, Russell, Nehemiah, and Frances Independence as well as many of their spouses. They too would marry into families that carved out the history of Jackson, Gwinnett, and Hall counties.

The War of 1812 pension records shows Nehemiah Garrison as Captain in the Fourth Regiment of Booth's Georgia Militia 1813-1815. Where did he live? Early Census records have *county* but little else. According to the Jackson County Georgia Deed Abstracts, 1808-1822 page 318 "December 1815, Rene Cole & William Cole of Jasper & Wilkes Cos, GA, to Nehemiah Garrison of Jackson Co, \$200 for 500 acres, originally granted Wm. Cole dated Feb, 22, 1794, lying on the Walnut fork of the Oconee River".

Another 1815 record states in the Jackson County Deed Book F, 1812- 1818 page 318 (regarding Nehemiah Garrison) "November 20, 1815, Jackson Co. Aaron Springfield of co. aforesaid, attorney in fact for John Anderson, to Nehemiah Garrison of co. aforesaid, \$50 for 21-3/4 acres on the waters of the walnut fork of the Oconee river having such shape, form, courses & distances as will more fully appear by the plat hereunto annexed (small plat drawn at the bottom of page 215), part of a tract granted to James King".

As a novice, all these years I have wondered and searched trying to find a morsel clue, and Dr. Jim D'Angelo dug it up for me. He located the Deed Books of Jackson County and found the books for me to excavate pieces of Captain Garrison's Fort Daniel past. Thanks to Jim Nicholls in his research for confirming a possible location of the headright system of land grants. Thanks to Tyler Holman for the research he is involved in with Hills Mill.

After the 1818 division of Jackson County into Gwinnett, Hall, and Walton counties, the Hall County Census in 1820 and 1830 indicate Captain Nehemiah Garrison's neighbors from the Fort Daniel Roster of 1813 were still landowners in the region. Nehemiah went on to represent Hall County in the Georgia Senate in the 1820s. The Journal of The Senate of the State of Georgia at an annual session of the General Assembly (held at Milledgeville in November and December 1821) states from the county of Hall the Hon. Nehemiah Garrison on page 119 introduced "a bill to be entitled an act to establish a ferry on the Chattahoochee river, in the county of Hall, on the Federal road, at a place known by the name of Vann's ferry." On page 40 "a bill to be entitled an act to make permanent the site of the public buildings at the village of Gainesville, in the county of



1818 Map of Georgia Showing a Closeup of Jackson County

## More Diggin's

- **Georgia State Archives:** Beginning March 23, the Georgia Archives will resume onsite access to the Reference Library, Microfilm Library, Computer Terminals, and Original Records by appointment. Appointments can be scheduled Tuesdays through Saturdays: Morning 9AM–12PM; Afternoon 1–4PM. Please use *Ask an Archivist* at [www.georgiaarchives.org/research/archivist\\_form](http://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/archivist_form) or call (678) 364-3710 to schedule your appointment or enquire about resources.
- **Georgia State Archives Virtual Program:** *From Field to Mill Town: Cotton and Textile Culture in Georgia* will be a virtual program hosted by the State Archives on Saturday, April 3 beginning at 9:30AM. The link for the live event is <https://tinyurl.com/ygqjnje>. It will also be posted on the [Georgia Archives' Facebook page](#). Please try the link before the day of presentation. If the link works, you will see “From Field to Mill Town.” If you prefer to watch on the Web, when the link asks you to open Microsoft Teams, click cancel and then click “Watch on the Web instead.”



*From Field to Mill Town: Cotton and Textile Culture in Georgia* will be a virtual program hosted by the State Archives on Saturday, April 3 beginning at 9:30AM. The link for the live event is <https://tinyurl.com/ygqjnje>. It will also be posted on the [Georgia Archives' Facebook page](#). Please try the link before the day of presentation. If the link works, you will see “From Field to Mill Town.” If you prefer to watch on the Web, when the link asks you to open Microsoft Teams, click cancel and then click “Watch on the Web instead.”

- **BRAG Meeting:** Sister Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Chapter Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild (BRAG) will be meeting through Zoom on Wednesday, April 14 beginning at 6PM. This meeting will be recorded and available soon after the presentation at the BRAG [YouTube Channel](#). For more details regarding this meeting, please visit [BRAG Facebook page](#).
- **Art on the Chattahoochee:** The tradition continues with arts, crafts, food trucks, live entertainment, chalk art contest, and more at Jones Bridge Park on Saturday, April 17 beginning at 10AM. Admission is free! For more information visit the [Gwinnett County Park Web site](#).
- **Granite Outcrops of GA:** Granite outcrops provide a unique ecosystem for many plants and animal species. Explore some of the granite outcrops located at Harbins Park on Saturday, April 24 beginning at 2PM. Attendance is limited, so please preregister [online](#) two days prior to the event or call (770) 904-3500.



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Hall, and to incorporate said village.” It was known at that time as Mule Camp Springs. The former Fort Daniel militia soldier Hon. George Reid from the county of Gwinnett on page 19 entered “a bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the town of Lawrenceville, in the county of Gwinnett, and to make permanent the site of the public buildings of said county.

The Cherokee Leader James Vann provided the first ferry to cross the Chattahoochee River, Vann’s Ferry, along the Federal Road. Today, Lake Lanier covers the path of the Federal Road. There is a park, Old Federal, on one side of the lake and Vann’s Ferry location on the other side of the lake.

Researching land deeds for Jackson, Hall, Gwinnett counties is not an easy task. It seems like they keep changing as I research. In 1812 Governor William Rabun signed a bill increased the size of Jackson County stating “all the land lying west and northwest of the Hawkins line, and on the waters of the Oconee, up the ridge dividing the waters of said Oconee from the waters of Chattahoochee river.” The 1830 Hall County Census noted above Nehemiah Garrison the name *Wm. Redwine* and the 1820 had the name *McEver*. This is of interest in research maps as the Redwine Creek joins the Walnut Creek where what is known today as the Elachee Nature Science Center. *Elachee* is from the Cherokee language which means *New Green Earth*. These Chicopee/Elachee woods are one of Georgia’s largest protected green space areas. It is part of the 6,000-acre upper Walnut Creek watershed. It is the transition zone marking the northern boundary of the Southern Piedmont and the southern boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The grounds secure an Old Growth Forest there along the hiking trails. The Elachee Web site states “according to archaeological findings circa 3,000 BC, Archaic Indians were the earliest human inhabitants in the area. Woodland and Mississippian tribes took their place, and by the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the area became home to the Creek and Cherokee nations. During the late 1700s small frontier farms dotted the landscape. Because the Walnut Creek watershed’s geography was not ideal for farming, the area escaped the 1800’s cotton cultivation phenomenon.” An interesting note: Captain Nehemiah Garrison’s direct descendant Dr. Sarah Horsley works for the Old Growth Forest and is very familiar with this location.

About 1828 the missionary Samuel Worcester in New Echota was involved in the publication *Cherokee Phoenix*. Elisa Botinot, the editor, printed in English and Cherokee Sequoyah’s syllabary making it possible to read and write in Cherokee. At the time of creating the symbols in 1821, he never adopted white man’s dress, religion, or customs. He spoke only the Cherokee language *Tsalagi*, a member if the Iroquoian family spoken by the Cherokee people from Virginia throughout the south and Georgia.

As with many Fort Daniel community pioneers, Nehemiah and his many extended family members moved on to the Cherokee lands ceded in 1832. Among the counties formed, Captain Nehemiah Garrison’s family made their homesteads in Milton, Cobb, Cherokee, Fulton, and Dekalb counties. Nehemiah Garrison is buried in the historic Riverview Cemetery in Canton, Georgia along with some of his children who became leaders in their community.

Therefore, the full circle has occurred. As a tree hugger, my favorite species to hug is the family tree. My part of the Captain Nehemiah Garrison family is now back in Gwinnett County with a rich story to share—if the Beatles music isn’t playing.

*If you are a Fort Daniel Legacy member and would like for your story to be featured, please email [Cindy Horsley](#). Your family stories are a part of the legacy of Fort Daniel. ■ CH*

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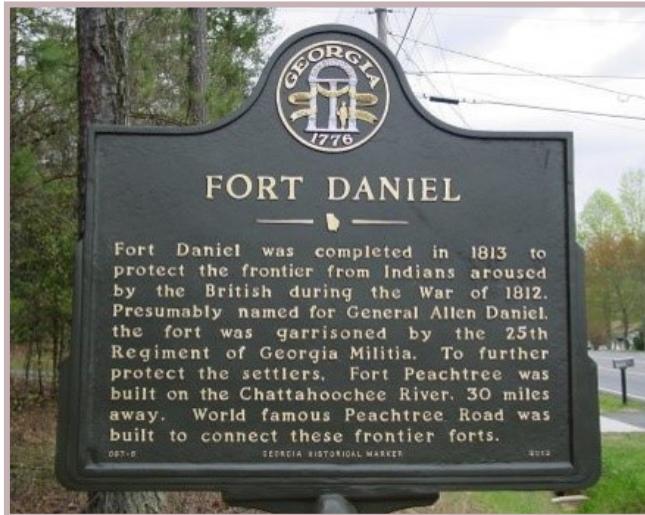
## Fort Daniel NRHP Eligibility

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which oversees the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) applications for Georgia sites, has determined that while the Fort Daniel Site still appears to be NRHP-eligible the original application must be updated due to the change in property ownership and increased size of the original parcel.

As the author of the original application, Dr. Jim D'Angelo will oversee the reworking of that document and its submission for review to the GA-DNR but would welcome some help in putting together the new application. This is a project for one or more persons that will entail some typing, cutting and pasting from the "old" application, and editing of the final draft. No new

research will be required.

The process involves submission of this draft to our DNR representative, any revisions that they may require, their submission of the final draft to the National Park Service and, waiting for the Park Service's final determination. In the meantime, Gwinnett County (as owner of the site) will be kept in the loop and will actually need to sign-off on the application. Any Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) or Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) member wishing to help



with this project should contact Dr. D'Angelo at [4drdee@bellsouth.net](mailto:4drdee@bellsouth.net). ■ JJD

### GARS OFFICERS

[www.thegars.org](http://www.thegars.org)

President: Anne Dorland  
Vice President: Jenna Tran  
Secretary/Treasurer: Delana Gilmore

To keep up with the latest digs and activities from GARS follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

### FDF OFFICERS

[www.thefortdanielfoundation.org](http://www.thefortdanielfoundation.org)

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

To stay up to date with the latest news from FDF follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).