

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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Volume VI, Issue 6

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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The Curious Mr. Kidd Part 1

Article by Eli Stancel

In recent research dealing with the militia in and around the Fort Daniel area I came across the newspaper story of Mr. Kidd. Various newspapers (*pictured right*) from Washington, Georgia to Savannah—and even others along the seaboard—ran the text of a letter received from the Western Frontier. As we know, the frontier would be along the Hawkins Line. It seems that Mr. Kidd's Store was attacked by Creek Indians, and now I'll let the printed text tell the tale...

The papers by last Western mail inform us, that the Indians have recently become very troublesome to the inhabitants of Jackson County, in the upper part of this state. On the night of the

MILLEDGEVILLE, (Geo.) Aug. 26.
By the Georgia Express we learn, that a gang of Creek Indians, are prowling the Jackson county, and have been some time laying out for the purpose of committing depredations upon the whites—four of them attacked the store of Messrs. Kidd, and Co. at the Hog mountain.—Mr. Kidd aware of their intention, prepared himself for their reception: and as soon as they entered the store, rushed in upon them and killed two, and compelled the remainder to fly. In consequence of which between 3 and 400 Creeks are stated to have crossed the Apalache, near the Hog mountain, to seek revenge for the murder of their comrades. Col. Harris has mustered 100 men, and marched to the defence of the inhabitants. —Should this be true, we hope that efficient measures will now be taken for a full and immediate redress of grievances. We shall never be secure from the scalping knife and tomahawk of the Creeks, so long as we remain satisfied with their protestations of peace and security, or place the power of punishment, upon the disaffected of their nation, into the hands of their Chiefs.

The incident at Mr. Kidd's Store proved to be worthy of repeated publication as evidenced by this article in a Richmond, Virginia Newspaper.

10th [August 10th, 1812] instant, four Indians made an attempt to rob the store of a Mr. Kidd, at Hog-Mountain but he repulsed them bravely having killed two and wounded a third and the fourth escaped unhurt. Between three and four hundred Creek Indians are said to have crossed the Apalachie (sic), with a view, it was thought, of revenging the death of their comrades. Colonel Harris had mustered upwards of one hundred men and was ready to receive them, should they make their appearance. Jackson County is represented to be in great confusion. Several families had left their homes and repaired to places of more security.¹

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Fort Daniel News

The past two months have been a busy time at Fort Daniel and for its members! Below are just a few things that happened:



- On May 29 several members of Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) and Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) marched in period clothing during the annual Dacula Memorial Day Parade. This is the second year that members participated. While some walked and passed out over 350 save-the-date cards for the upcoming Frontier Faire,

others sat in the trailer pulled by Charles Warbington's truck waving to the onlookers. This has become a favorite activity for several members—making it a perfect ending for Archaeology Month!

- Along with the Teachers Workshop in June (*See Page 6*) middle school-aged campers from Elachee Nature Center Summer Camp visited Fort Daniel on June 13. They learned about what archaeology is, and Frank Perry gave a tutorial on different types of vintage tools that might have been used to build Fort Daniel. Leslie Perry and Delana Gilmore gave the campers a tour of Fort Daniel—telling the history of the fort and the 10-year archaeological investigation at the fort. To cool down the campers came inside and had an introduction to the Archaeology Lab by doing a pottery mending activity. This is only the beginning—hopefully—of many school/camp field trips to Fort Daniel!



- The Tandy Key Blacksmith Shoppe has been going through some changes this summer. Fort Daniel Blacksmith Doc Watson and friends have been working hard in finishing Forge 1. They have been stacking stone during some of these hot summer days. Along with this Doc has received some donated items from Mike Adams to help in furnishing the

Blacksmith Shoppe. These items will be used to educate visitors to Fort Daniel and participants in the Blacksmith Apprentice Program that will be starting expectantly in fall.

Given the basics of the letter the general area of the store would be known. It would lie somewhere along Hog Mountain and East of the Apalachee. These locations are confirmed within the story as well with the descriptions of “Upper” and “Western” being used in reference to the paper’s publication location in Milledgeville. The exact location cannot be determined from this item alone, but the presence of Creeks in the area confirms it was probably somewhere near Fort Daniel.

In Flanigan’s *History of Gwinnett County* his description of Hog Mountain includes a store, and we also know that Elisha Winn’s daughter Philadelphia married the store keeper in Hog Mountain. With this in mind it can be concluded that there probably was some type of store close to Fort Daniel at the time of its construction and that the Fort’s location was influenced by the presence of Creeks nearby. The questions remain of who was Mr. Kidd, where was his store, and why has no evidence been discovered of a force of three hundred or more Creeks mustering to revenge the incident.

Newspapers appeared to have truncated the original story based on rumor. On August 29, 1812, the *Washington (Georgia) Monitor* published a letter from Mr. Kidd. Apparently, Kidd had heard of great excitement with the incident and felt the need to tell the whole story. The existence of the paper and Mr. Kidd’s response confirm Creek Indian activity in the area. Furthermore, although located on the frontier, the area was receiving not only basic mail service but service with some regularity and speed that included access to regular printed sources. The incident was apparently the result of more than one altercation. The writing from Mr. Kidd is worth review now before we slice more facts from it.

On the night of Monday the 3rd instant, there came to the store of Messrs Kidd & Co. at the Hog Mountain, Jackson County, four Indians of the Creek nation; no person being present but a young man (Mr. Heard) the Indians told him they wanted goods; Mr. Heard inquired of them what they had to give for the goods. One of them presented his gun and one his knife and got the goods they wanted, though but a small quantity.

On the 10th, about sunset, came the same four Indians, at which time myself and son and Heard were at home, they asked for entrance, which was refused—they appeared angry—observed at the time, that if I would let them in, they would pay for what goods they had taken from us a few days past. I let them in, proceeded to weigh and count their pelts which amounted to 23 dollars, and paid for the goods previously taken, and received the amount of the balance. Then about eight o’clock at night one of them, by the name of Charley, picked up a gun of ours, and presented it at my son. He seized the gun, a struggle ensued; one of the other Indians, by the name of Archy, drew his knife and jumped over the counter; Mr. Heard closed with him, the third laid hold of me. We at length got them pacified and agreed to be at peace. Before they left the inside of the counter, Charley and Archy took a piece of cloth and some lead; the one that had hold of me then proceeded to supply himself but was moderate.

They went out, packed up what they had got and were about to go away; they asked for salt and whiskey—I denied having any, although I had both. Two of them went to a hogshead, saw the salt, and filled two small bags. In order to get them back the next morning so that I could secure them, I told them that [they] should have whiskey the next morning, and it was likely to rain and they would get wet, they had better leave the salt and come in the morning. They agreed to do so provided I would let them take it then. I told them they should have it. They then went away. In the mean while I sent to request of my neighbors to attend and secure them on their return. Mr. Williams and Mr. Gresham came about with me, they took three guns which the Indians had brought, and the fourth gun an Indian got and endeavored to shoot me with, but one of our company [unintelligible] it from the Indian and knocked him down with it. Two Indians, Archy and his son Charley, closed with me, Archy

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endeavored to draw his knife to stab me, I prevented him, drew his knife myself and stabbed him and turned the knife and stabbed Charley, also twice, Charley ran away, but died a few days afterwards. Archy and the two remaining Indians we tied up and sent to Jackson goal. We learnt from a considerable chief in the Creek nation, that there were 27 indians in this body who have heretofore committed murder and robbery. The Indians have been fine since. The report of 3 or 400 Indians being about to attack out frontier is a mistake. I do not think much danger is to be apprehended from any other than a party who have been in the habit of it. A variety of incorrect reports having been circulated relative to the above affair, I feel bound to publish the account as it really occurred.

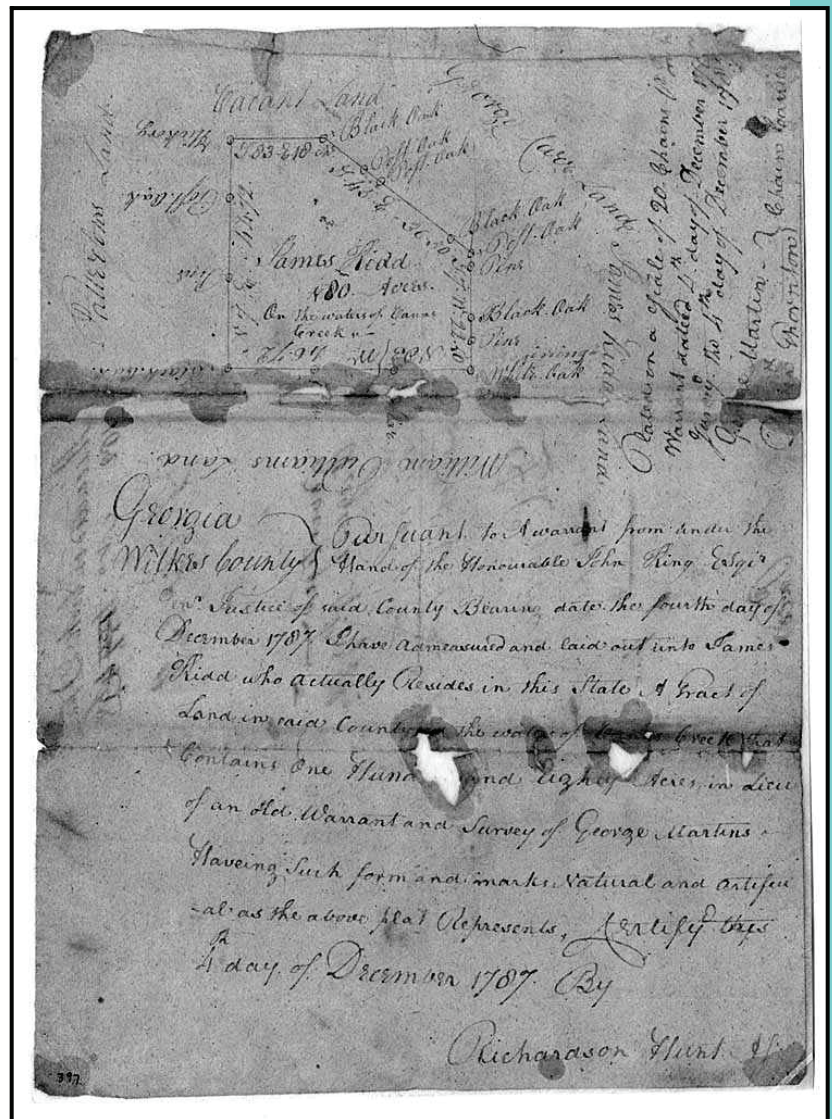
James H. Kidd

August 24, 1812²

Given Kidd's recollection of events we can see that the attack was more akin to a robbery than an Indian uprising. The story does confirm the general area of the store as he reports sending the captives to Jackson Courthouse—present day Jefferson, Georgia. Additionally, the article give us some new leads: a Mr. Williams and a Mr. Gresham. Both appear in various documents in the following years, but the best source for locating the store site is in the 1820 census. In that record, Mr. Williams and Mr. Gresham are listed as living only one residence apart in the Bogan District of Gwinnett County—placing them in the same area as Fort Daniel just 8 years after the incident at Kidd's Store. In the 1820 census James Kidd appears to have moved further down the Peachtree Road because he is listed in a different portion of the census.

One of the neighbors that James Kidd asks to come and assist on the evening of August 10 is Mr. Gresham. This is most likely George Gresham. In 1816 William Hamilton purchased a 240 acre tract of land from George Gresham with the notable feature of the "Hawkins Line" as one of the borders. The land on which the Hog Mountain House stood was apparently included in this purchase; thus, making it extremely close to the Fort Daniel site. Assuming that Mr. Gresham lived on his tract of land and knowing that he lived within walking distance of Kidd's Store (as he responded to Kidd), we can surmise that Kidd's store was close to the location of Fort Daniel.³

Another lead in the evidence of Mr. Kidd is that Flanigan lists him as a revolutionary war veteran.⁴ Next we turn to Mr. Kidd's service for clues. From the pension service records filed in 1831–1833 we learn that he was



This land grant to Kidd in 1787 is an example of the grants given to many former Revolutionary Soldiers as they moved west.

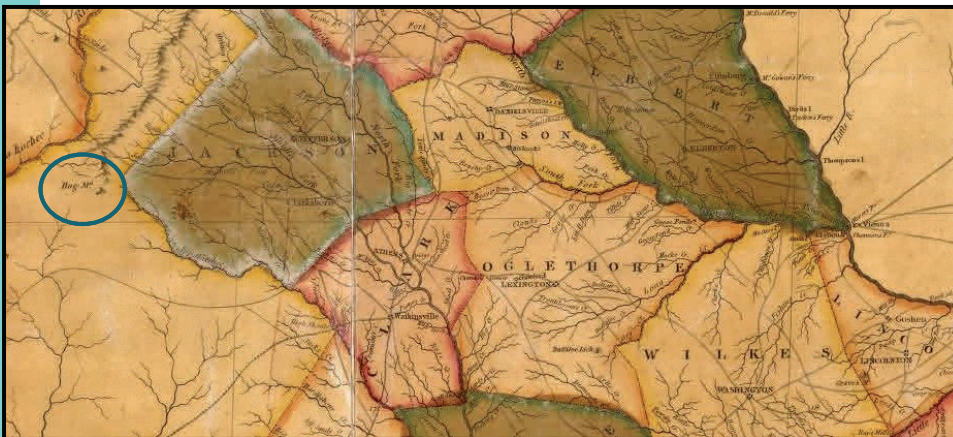
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born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in 1764 and served three different times in the war. First for a six-month period in 1779 when he participated in the Battle of Stono Ferry outside Charleston, South Carolina. The next year he enlisted for two months in January but apparently extended his enlistment as he was in the Battle at Ramsour's Mill near modern day Lincolnton, North Carolina. In 1781 he did his final stint with the army, did a three-month tour, and participated in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse near Greensboro, North Carolina. The dates and engagements were verified not only on James Kidd's sworn pension papers but also verified with his brother William Kidd's service pension since the two had served together.

One of the requirements of a pension application was to list places of residence since the war. Of this, James Kidd stated he came to Georgia in 1784; his brother William did not move to Georgia until 1799. To cross check this data the Georgia Archives proved valuable. In 1785 and 1787 James H. Kidd was given headright grants in Wilkes County. The second grant in 1787 (*pictured on Page 4*) was on Beaver Dam Creek near modern day Lexington, Georgia. This would show a progression up the road toward Athens and along the Hog Mountain Road. In 1793 he was granted a position as a tobacco inspector in Richmond County.⁵ This would mean he was travelling with some knowledge around the area of Augusta, Georgia, which is probably where he entered the state in 1784. The questions that now arise surround his change of station from a solid job around Augusta to a store operator on the edge of the frontier.

Newspapers prove to be a wealth of knowledge in tracking down Mr. Kidd and giving some insight into his



Portion of the Map of Georgia (1818) showing some of the counties where Kidd lived—with Hog Mountain circled.

personal and moral choices. Beginning in 1807 and lasting through 1824, Mr. Kidd appears in a plethora of legal advertisements in the state's newspapers. In 1807 his property is listed at the sheriff's sale for being a tax debtor. In 1809 Kidd himself advertises his home and lot in Lexington for sale by personal appointment with him in Lexington or via his agent in Augusta.⁶ He then appears in Richmond, Oglethorpe, Jackson, Wilkes, and Gwinnett counties as being a tax debtor, loan defaulter, and even as a land sale fraud. These cases overlap time and

location; therefore, it appears that as one location became saturated with his business tactics he would progress to another community and start anew. Kidd also hold the dubious honor of being in the first sheriff's sale in Gwinnett County where one of his slaves is sold to satisfy a tax debt to the county.

In the next GAB we will dig a little deeper into the connections of Mr. Kidd to the early founders of Gwinnett County: He is an Indian trader who fought in the revolution and is connected to Elisha Winn and his son-in-law, William Maltbie. ■ ES

1. "Indians" Washington Monitor (Georgia) August 26, 1812.
2. Kidd, James H. letter to the editor, Washington Monitor (Georgia) August 29, 1812.
3. D'Angelo, Dr. James, *History of Fort Daniel*, unpublished work.
4. Flanigan, James C., *History of Gwinnett County, Georgia 2nd Edition* (Moreno Press, Buford, GA), 66.
5. Georgia Archives, File Names II, loose papers, James Kidd.
6. "Advertisement" Augusta Chronicle (Georgia) September 2, 1809, 3.

More Diggin's

- **Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS)** will be **meeting on Monday, July 17** at the **Historic Courthouse** in downtown Lawrenceville beginning at **7PM**. Guest speaker Brad Quinlan will be presenting about the Union Soldiers from Georgia and Gwinnett County. For more information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).
- **Isaac Adair House and Lawn Ribbon Cutting/Open House** (455 South Perry Street) will be on **Tuesday, July 18** beginning at **4:30PM**. As one of the oldest houses in Gwinnett County, the Adair House was built around 1827 originally near Pike Street and Hurricane Shoals. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, and Gwinnett County agreed to move and preserve the historic structure when it bought the land for the Sugarloaf Parkway extension. For information contact [Steve Cannon](#).
- The **8th Annual Honeybee Festival** will be at the **Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC)** on **Sunday, August 27 from 1–5PM**. Come learn about this crucial hidden part of Georgia's agriculture and economy. Find out what is buzzing with bee games, crafts, and honey samples. There is a program fee of \$8. For more information visit the [GEHC Web site](#).



Fort Daniel Teachers Workshop 2017

Article by Catherine Long

Nine teachers joined Fort Daniel Foundation volunteers for the second annual Teacher Workshop on Monday, June 12 and Tuesday, June 13. Teachers enjoyed an engaging experience discovering the history and significance of the site. They were given the opportunity to learn about archaeology and how scientists unearth history. The teachers have great ideas on how to collaborate together to design in-house field trips where the volunteers will come to the classes and provide activities that meet curriculum.



a. Gwinnett County Teachers learning about local history; b. Teachers posing with Wayne Stancel (in the background) at the Key Blacksmith Shoppe; and c. Teachers getting dirty searching for artifacts—and finding some!

Teachers from Fort Daniel Elementary School and Twin Rivers Middle School were present and provided brilliant ideas for the on-site field trip. There is great excitement to pursue a pilot field trip program this fall.

Teachers spent time writing lesson plans and signed up to use the Teaching Trunk. It was a successful endeavor made possible by the Gwinnett County Public Schools Social Studies Department. Thank you to everyone who made this a great success! ■ CL

GARS News

- May was Archaeology Month in Georgia, and GARS members attended several events throughout the Atlanta-metro area. (See pictures below.)
 - ⇒ GARS along with FDF participated in the New South Associates Annual Archaeology Day.
 - ⇒ For this year's Archaeology Month celebration GARS and FDF held the annual Open House at the Fort Daniel Archaeological Site. Visitors were able to visit the archaeological lab, participate in archaeological digs, and learn about Fort Daniel's history.

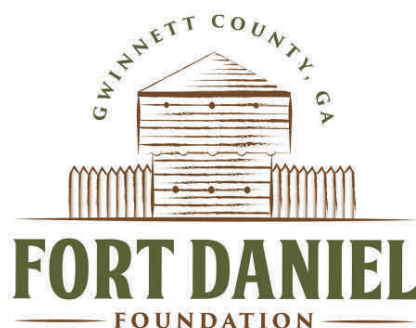


a. Scott Goodlow talking with GAAS members at New South; b. Leslie Perry and a visitor doing public archaeology during the Open House; and c. Eli Stancel telling visitors about the military history of Fort Daniel and the War of 1812.

- *The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, September 19 at Fort Daniel beginning at 7PM. The guest speaker will be Sarah Love, Archaeology Outreach Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division. She will be speaking about the archaeological investigation of the Fairview School in Cave Springs, Georgia—one of the 5,000 Rosenwald structures built in the 20th century in the Southeast. (See Page 8 about Fairview School recently being listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.)*

A poster for the 9th Annual Frontier Faire. The background features a map of the Georgia frontier with place names like 'Cusawadee', 'Chota', 'Tugaloo', 'Savannah', 'Broad', 'Tugaloo', 'Savannah', 'Broad', 'Tugaloo', 'Savannah', 'Broad'. The title 'From the Depths of the Frontier' is written in a large, stylized, red cursive font. Below the title, the text '9th Annual Frontier Faire' is written in a black serif font, followed by 'Saturday, October 21' and '10AM-5PM'. At the bottom, the text 'Fort Daniel Historic Site' is written in a black serif font, followed by '(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)'. The bottom of the poster shows a row of wooden palisade posts.

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Fairview School Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Fairview School has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is sponsored by the City of Rome and the Fairview-E.S. Brown Heritage Corporation. It is an approximately 3.5-acre campus located on Padlock Mountain Road—about one-half mile east of downtown Cave Spring. The property consists of a circa-1945 former classroom building—plus the remnants of other school buildings and structures that were constructed on multiple terraces on steep, previously cultivated agricultural land.

Fairview School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as significant in the areas of ethnic heritage (African American) and education and as a rare example of an entire African-American school campus constructed before the landmark 1954 US Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. It is the only remaining property of this type surviving in Cave Spring. The initial three-teacher

classroom building (not extant) was constructed in 1924–1925 with funding provided by the Rosenwald Fund, a philanthropic organization founded by Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington.



The school also has an association with the prominent Chubb family of Cave Spring. The Chubb family is significant because of their rarity and self-sufficiency as a free black family in Georgia prior to the Civil War. The Fairview School expanded to accommodate a growing student body, and three additional buildings were constructed on the

campus in the 1940s. Only the first-grade classroom building is extant; however, the foundations and chimney remnants of the three other classroom buildings remain, and their sites have produced material significant to understanding the development and use of the property as a whole. ■ GDNR

GARS OFFICERS

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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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President: Jim D'Angelo	Secretary: Vicki Watkins
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