

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



October 2024  
Volume XIII, Issue 7

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

From the Vault .....1	Finding the Great Road .....4
More Diggin's .....2	

### From the Vault: Tile Piece

Sometimes while walking around the site (especially near the house) people come across artifacts that have come to the surface due to rain. One type is tile. Now why do we come across tile at this site since it was a wooden structure? Most of the tile pieces that are found date to the late 1970s to early 1980s around the time that the house was built. Though it might not be as historic as the 19th century ceramic pieces that we find, these tile pieces still tell a portion of the site's story.

Tiles have been used for centuries as decorative touches inside and outside of structures. In fact, ceramic tiles are one of the oldest forms used for decorative art. The invention of tile is associated with the change of humans being nomadic to being settled in villages/cities. The earliest use of tiles was found in Egypt dating to about 4000BC.<sup>1</sup> Hand-painted tiles



decorated the entries to tombs and inside the tombs as well. Romans brought decorative tiles to Europe as they occupied lands in the Middle East and North Africa. It was the Uighur people of northwest China who developed geometric symmetry and botanical motifs into decorative tiles. The Turks were influenced by the Uighur in making their tile in the 13th century.<sup>2</sup> The Roman artform for tiles was rediscovered in the 12th century by Cistercian monks, who developed a pressed tile with an imprinted pattern with multiple colors. This method was lost later in the 16th century until it saw a rise in Turkey during the 17th century.<sup>3</sup>

During the mid-1700s and early 1800s, the popularity of the tile industry escalated in Europe. In 1843 Herbert Minton began encaustic-tile making again in

*continued to Page 3*

**EDITOR:**

Delana M. Gilmore, MA, RPA  
Email: [gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:gwinnettarchaeology@gmail.com)

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:**

Jim D'Angelo, PhD RPA  
Email: [4drdee@bellsouth.net](mailto:4drdee@bellsouth.net)

## More Diggin's

- **16th Annual Frontier Faire:** The annual Fort Daniel Frontier Faire will be on Saturday, October 19 from 10AM to 4PM. *See below for more information.*
- **Snellville-Turkey Creek Archaeological Dig:** Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will be returning to the Snellville-Turkey Creek site on Sunday, November 10 from 9AM to 2PM. The focus would be digging more shovel test pits along the creek and on the ridge. If you are interested in joining the dig, please email [GARS](#) by Thursday, November 7.
- **Society for Georgia Archaeology Meeting:** The date for the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) Meeting will be December 7. More details to come.

# Defending the Frontier

**16th Annual Frontier Faire**  
**Saturday, October 19, 2024**

*Rain Date: Saturday October 26, 2024*

**10AM–4PM**

**Fort Daniel Historic Site**

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

**FREE Admission**

★**Historic Interpretations** ★**Fort Daniel Museum**  
★**Frontier Demonstrations** ★**Public Archaeology**

For information visit Fort Daniel Foundation's Web site: [fortdaniel.com](http://fortdaniel.com)

continued from Page 1

England. This method was overtaken by machine pressing drier clay to mass produce tiles. Though solid color tiles were produced in central and south America as early as the late 16th century, tile making in the United States was not established; therefore, the United States imported tiles from Europe until 1870 when the tile industry was established in the United States.

The push for cleanliness and public health was popularized during the Victorian era, and the idea of tiles as a surface that could be cleaned and sanitized spread. Encaustic tiles were the dominant form of tiles, but Starting in the late 1800s, white and colored ceramic tiles were produced, followed by faience (variegated) glazed tiles.<sup>4</sup> During this time the American Encaustic Tiling Company was established. The Ohio-based company produced encaustic patterns, floral, and other decorative art tiles. They became the largest tile manufacturer worldwide by 1930.<sup>5</sup>

Today, we have three main types of tiles: glazed, floor, and wall tiles. Glazed tiles are coated with a protective matte or glossy finish; floor tiles have a matte finish to increase durability; and wall tiles have a glossy finish to be used best as backsplashes, accent walls, or shower walls. Ceramics still carry on the handmade tradition and continue to see regionally influenced decorative and mosaic tile designs.

We do not know for sure where the previous owners of the Fort Daniel house got their tile from, but we do know that these tile pieces showcase the trends of decorative tiles during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Additionally, they give us a glimpse into the later history of the occupation of the land that was once occupied by Fort Daniel. ■ DMG



American Encaustic Tiling Co. advertisement show tile designs from the mid

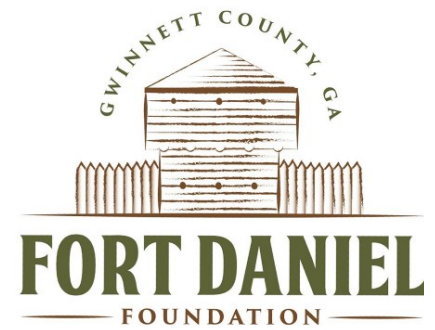
1. "A History of Ceramic Tile in the Western World." Explorematerial.com. <https://www.explorematerial.com/blogs/trends/a-history-of-ceramic-tile-in-the-western-world?srsltid=AfmBOooGXvTivloaIr0Q9KUvtGrDP2YwEkeI9MWBjaTgQO1KxZDWnX1v>. Accessed October 2024.
2. "Ceramic Tile History." TradionalBuilding.com. <https://www.tradionalbuilding.com/product-report/ceramic-tile-history>. Accessed October 2024.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. "A History of Ceramic Tile in the Western World."

## 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.



# Preserving History Through Archaeology



October 2024  
Volume XIII, Issue 7

## Finding the “Greate Road”

Excerpt from an article written on the [Jamestown Rediscovery Web site](#)

Many roads across the country have Indigenous roots. While waterways were the primary thoroughfares, Indigenous peoples across the continent also created paths across the landscape between hunting grounds, villages, and nations. When Europeans arrived in North America, they adopted these paths. (*The original Peachtree Road that began at Fort Daniel was also a Native route.*) In 1608 John Smith drew a map of the region around the English settlement of James Fort. The Fort is drawn as a three-sided structure (*pictured left*). The map is often referred to as the Pedro de Zuñiga map since he obtained one of the two copies made by Smith. Zuñiga was the Spanish ambassador to England. His map is the only surviving copy and contains crucial information about Virginia in the early 17th century.

If you look closely at the map, you can see dots extending from the fort. This depicts a possible road. The path depicted leads directly to Werowocomoco, the seat of power for



Wahunsenacawh—more commonly known as Chief Powhatan—who ruled over more than 30 tribal nations in the region. It’s likely that First Peoples used this path for hundreds of years before the Jamestown settlers arrived.

The English would co-opt this Indigenous route soon after arriving. Part of this existing path would become the “Great Road” (or “Greate” – spelling varies in the 17th century). For the Jamestown colonists, this was the earliest road established in English North America. It was the gateway to the Virginia’s interior and a fixture on the landscape throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. In later years, the Great Road would connect Jamestown with nearby English settlements, including Middle Plantation—modern-day Williamsburg. Archaeologically, roads and paths are key parts of understanding historic landscapes. The Great Road, as an Indigenous path and then an English highway, is the way thousands of people first experienced Jamestown Island, and it defined the landscape for both groups. ■ SH

**GARS OFFICERS**  
[www.thegars.org](http://www.thegars.org)

**President:** Vice President:  
Katie Ahern Josh Herrin  
**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Delana Gilmore

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

**FDF OFFICERS**  
[www.fortdaniel.com](http://www.fortdaniel.com)

**President:** Secretary:  
Eli Stancel Cindy Horsley  
**Vice President:** Treasurer:  
Tyler Holman Betty Warbington

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