

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



March 2018

Volume VII, Issue 3

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### Remembering the Trail of Tears

A recent article entitled, "In Their Footsteps" by Melania D.G. Kaplan with photography by Kristina Krug, which appeared in National Park Conservation Association's magazine *National Parks* (Winter 2018), recounts a 950-mile bike ride along a portion of the infamous Trail of Tears. The ride was both inspirational and life-changing for the participating Cherokee descendants.

At the Fort Daniel Foundation we focus on the Creek Indian War of 1813–1815 and what led up to it. We don't often get into the aftermath of that war when these allies were betrayed by the US government and removed, *en masse*, from Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas to satisfy the Euro-American hunger for land.



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail map. ©Karen Minot

In 1830 President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which along with the Treaty of New Echota, set the conditions for the removal of Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Muscogee (Creek) tribes from their homelands. For several years the Cherokee refused to leave so in 1838 US soldiers began forcefully removing them to Oklahoma. Some 12,000 Cherokee traveled by foot, horse, and wagon some 800 miles, and

thousands died along the trail with hundreds more after arriving at their destination. [For some insight into this complex and controversial President and the 1930 Act see *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, a 2008 biography by Jon

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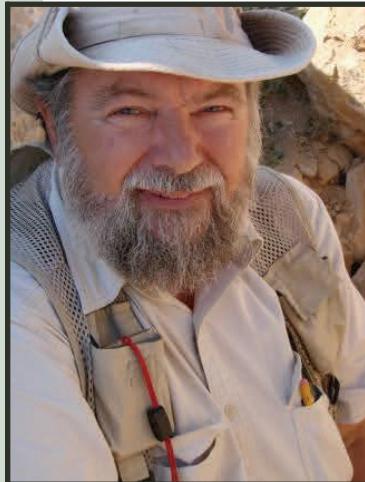
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# GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Lithic Identification Workshop:** On March 10 GARS and FDF will be sponsoring a lithic workshop with ERM archaeologist, Bill Stanyard. We are looking forward to a successful workshop with several preregistrations from members, other Society of Georgia chapters, and the public.



- **Meeting:** *The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20 at Fort Daniel Meeting Room beginning at 7PM.* GARS Archaeological Advisor Jim D'Angelo (*pictured left*) will be speaking on “Exciting New Finds in Near Eastern Archaeology.” Jim has a Master’s Degree in Near Eastern Archaeology and worked in Israel during the 1970s and Jordan between 1981 and 2007
  - **Georgia Archaeology Month** is coming up in May. As part of Gwinnett County’s Bicentennial Celebration GARS and FDF will be hosting once again an Open House at Fort Daniel. You can learn how this archaeological site provides fascinating artifacts that help archaeologists and historians discover daily life. Additionally, you can visit the modern-day archaeology lab and participate in hands-on activities. For more information please contact [Delana Gilmore](#) or [Fort Daniel Foundation Web site](#).

## MEMBERSHIP FEES\*:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact [John Hopkins](#); and for FDF membership please contact [Betty Warbington](#).

\*Those who became members at the Frontier Faire are good until the end of 2018.



## Macon's Grand Opera House

New South Associates is assisting the Grand Opera House of Macon through researching its history and photo-documenting the Opera House, including its second balcony seating. During the era of Jim Crow and segregation the second balcony was where African Americans were required to sit when attending events at the Grand.

New South's documentation includes large format archival photographs to the standards of the Historical American Building Survey as well as digital photographs. This history and the photographs address segregation and the existence of separate and—as the photographs testify—unequal facilities, a legacy of Jim Crow. ■



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Meacham, and A. J. Langguth's 2011, *Driven West: Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears to the Civil War.* ]

The several routes that the Cherokee took are collectively known as The Trail of Tears. In 1987 the National Park Service designated The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail—some 5,043 miles in length traversing nine states (*pictured on Page 1*). As the capital of the Cherokee Nation at the time, and where the Trail of Tears officially began, New Echota in Calhoun, Georgia, served as the starting point for the bike ride.

One of the many historic stops along the route was at Mantle Rock in Kentucky (*pictured right*). The main feature of Mantle Rock Nature Preserver is a 30-foot high natural sandstone bridge spanning 188 feet that is embellished by bluffs, shelters, and honeycomb formations. During the harsh winter of 1838–1839, approximately 1,766 Cherokee spent about two weeks in the Mantle Rock area while waiting for the Ohio River to thaw and become passable.

"I can't imagine turning to my kid and saying, 'We're not going home. I don't know where we're going. I don't have any food,'" said one participant. "'Then I was angry at myself for griping about walking in mud with my expensive shoes with my expensive bike.'" Another—his last name Vann by the way—said his mom kept asking him, "'What would you do if that was us on the trail?' My dad said, 'That was us on the trail; that was our ancestors.'" ■ **JJD**



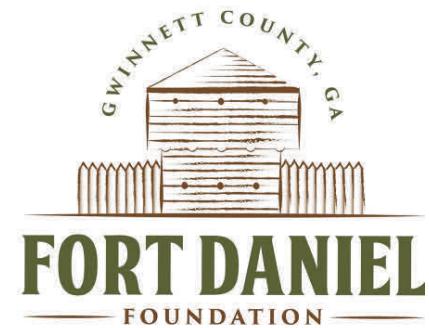
Mantle Rock. ©Kevin Palmer

## More Diggin's



- During the month of **March** the **Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies** event will be occurring. Several events throughout the metro area will highlight the history of Atlanta. For more information visit the [Atlanta Preservation Center's Web site](#).
- **Gwinnett Historical Society** will be **meeting on Monday, March 19** at the **Historic Courthouse** in downtown Lawrenceville beginning at **7PM**. Guest speaker Elliott Brack will be presenting about 366 facts about Gwinnett County. For more information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).
- **Sheep to Shawl at Atlanta History Center** will be on **Saturday, April 7 from 10:30AM to 4:30PM**. Get a unique view into the process of cloth making through demonstrations and activities ranging from sheep shearing and dyeing to spinning and weaving. Gather for a full day of fun that also includes open hearth cooking, blacksmithing, candle making, and much more at Smith Family Farm. *This is included in the cost of general admission.* For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center Web site](#).
- **Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:**
  - ⇒ May 5: New South Associates Archaeology Day in Stone Mountain
  - ⇒ May 19: Society of Georgia Archaeology Spring Meeting in Milledgeville

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## Native American Burial Site Discovered Off Florida Coast

*Excerpt from Atlanta Journal Constitution March 1, 2018 news article*

In June 2016 a diver who was searching for Megalodon teeth accidentally discovered an ancient Native American burial site. He came across a human jawbone with a single smoothed molar in it. The find was reported to the state's Bureau of Archaeological Research, which began investigating.

The Manasota Key Offshore archaeological site, nearly 21 feet beneath the Gulf of Mexico and about 900 feet from shore, is remarkably preserved. Researchers have unearthed wooden tools, pieces of clothing and the remains of six separate people, and anticipate that's just the beginning.

"There's probably going to be a lot more," Ryan Dugins, with Florida's Bureau of Archaeological Research, told National Geographic. "What we currently are thinking is that when an individual passed, they



would have been wrapped in handwoven fibers and sunk to the bottom of the pond. A series of fire-hardened and sharpened stakes would be pounded into the pond bed around the body with the tops of those stakes protruding above the water line." The artifacts date to the early Archaic period, about 7,000 years

ago, when the area was an inland freshwater pond. At that time, the area was about 10 feet above sea level. As the sea level rose, the burial grounds were covered by the Gulf of Mexico and despite flooding, erosion and hurricanes, have remained well-preserved.

While other pond burial sites have been found throughout the state, this is the first offshore one. The unprecedented find is the only submerged burial ground in the United States. Other underwater burial sites have been discovered in Israel and Denmark. ■ AJC

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

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