

Preserving History Through Archaeology



September 2021
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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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The Woodward-Mayfield Site

*Article by Tyler Holman,
Member of the FDF Board of Directors*

Earlier this year an executive from QuikTrip Corporation reached out to tell the Gwinnett Historical Society that an old chimney had been discovered on company property off SR 20 and Laurel Drive near the Mall of Georgia. The chimney was slated to be demolished within the next few months to make way for a new, expanded store location. Historical research by Beverly Paff revealed that the chimney was associated with a house that stood on the site until the 20th century and that the property had once belonged to the



Woodward and Mayfield families who were historically prominent in the area. The house was still

occupied up to the 1960s or later, and aerial photographs show that it was still standing as late as the 1990s.

In April Beverly, my father Randy Holman, and I visited the site to photograph the chimney. The chimney was in very good condition and constructed from unmodified gneiss fieldstone (*pictured left*). It was notable that it included two hearths—one facing east and another facing west—presumably to heat two separate rooms.

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EDITOR:

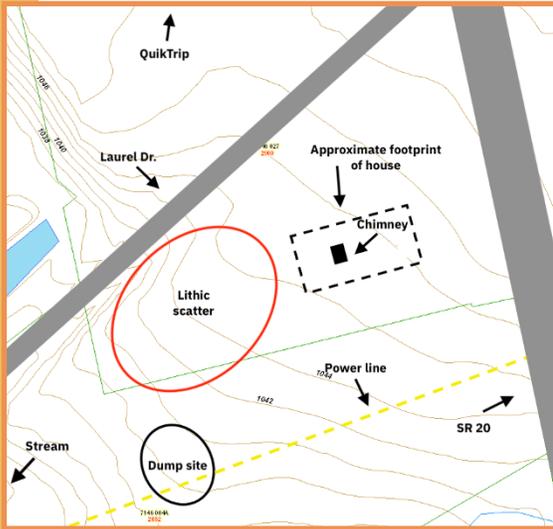
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Although there was little evidence of the associated structure, I was able to outline its rough dimensions using historic aerial imagery. Dr. James J. D'Angelo, former archaeological advisor for GARS, determined from photographs that the chimney was likely constructed between 1818 and 1840 during the early years of Gwinnett County. Later the chimney was repaired and reinforced using daub and concrete.



Due to liability issues, QuikTrip would not allow any subsurface testing, but I was able to record several surface features on the site in addition to the chimney. Just west of the chimney I noted a lithic scatter with non-diagnostic prehistoric quartz debitage, and an early 20th century garbage dump site was located southwest of the house (*pictured left*). I collected representative samples from both features (*pictured below*). The chimney and these other features were officially recorded as archaeological site 9GW709 (that is the 709th recorded archaeological site in the County).

While the chimney itself could not be preserved, thanks to the efforts of Beverly Paff, QuikTrip Corporation collaborated with Gwinnett County to preserve its stones. After demolition, the stones were taken to a county storage facility and will later be used to construct interpretative signage around the remains of nearby Woodward's Mill. ■ TH



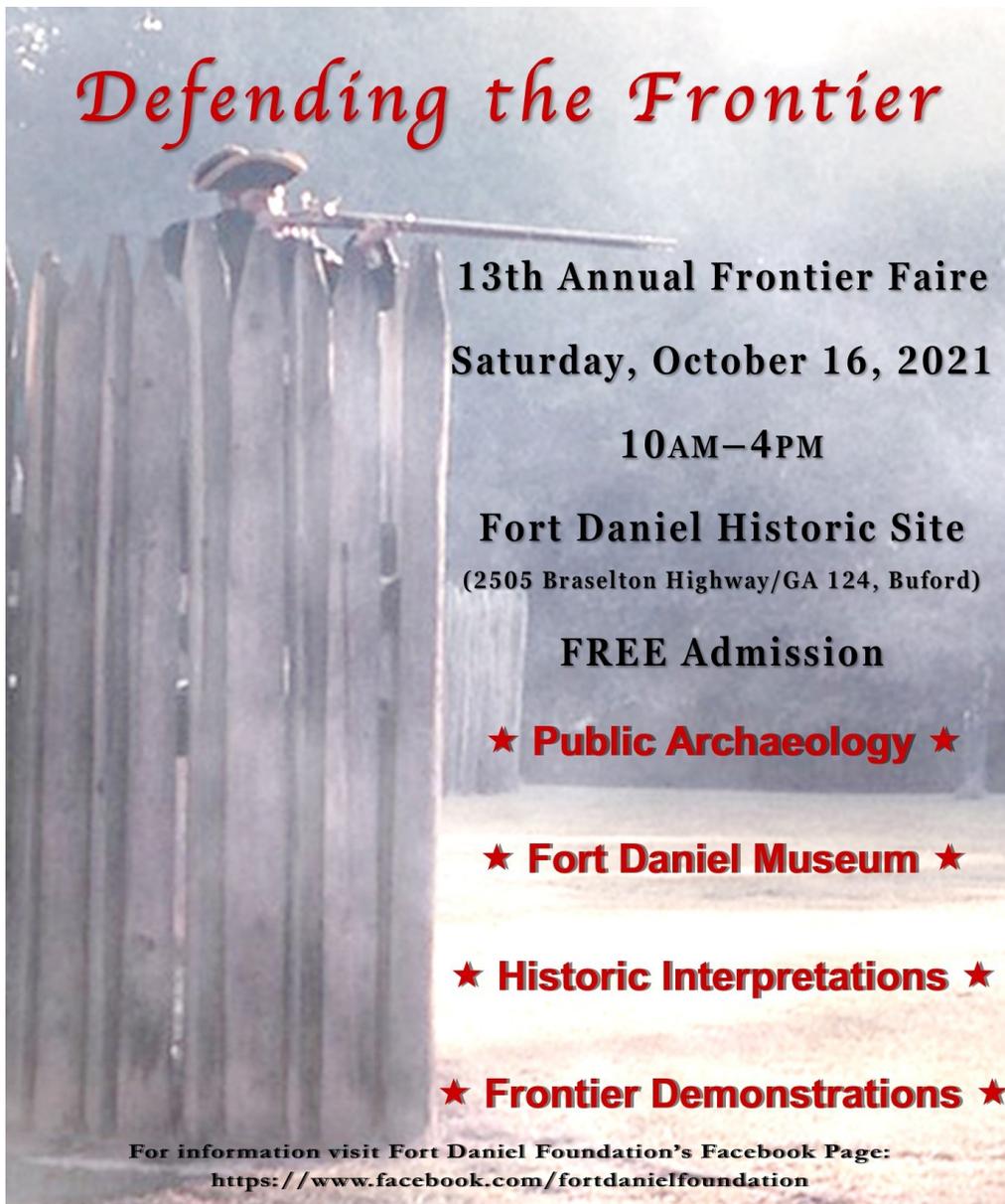
A selection of artifacts recovered from the site, including (1) a partially reconstructed McCoy or Shawnee style 'USA' mug*, (2) quartz biface fragments, (3) window glass, (4) vulcanized rubber, and (5) a fragment of a clay molded pipe

GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Monthly Meetings and Shenanigans:** Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will be starting to have in-person meetings beginning in September. Additionally, more social activities (field trips, happy hour, etc.) are in the planning stages. More details about the social shenanigans will be provided.

The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14 at Fort Daniel Historic Site (2505 Braselton Highway, Buford) beginning at 7PM. The guest speaker will be Johannes (Jannie) Loubser, archaeologist/rock art specialist at Stratum Unlimited LLC. Entitled “Precontact Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Georgia and Neighboring States,” Mr. Loubser will be presenting the background context on Georgia rock art and its Indigenous significance. Additionally, he will discuss the conservation and management concerns for preserving Georgia rock art.

Though we are meeting in-person once again and to be considerate of those attending, we highly recommend only those who have been vaccinated to attend and to please wear a mask.



Defending the Frontier

13th Annual Frontier Faire
Saturday, October 16, 2021
10AM–4PM

Fort Daniel Historic Site
(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

FREE Admission

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

For information visit Fort Daniel Foundation's Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/fortdanielfoundation>

National Park Service Awards \$1.9 Million for the Return of Native American Remains and Sacred Objects

The National Park Service today announced \$1.9 million in grants to nine Indian Tribes, one Native Hawaiian organization, and 22 museums to assist in the consultation, documentation and repatriation of ancestral remains and cultural items as part of the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) (NAGPRA).

“The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grants help ensure the longevity of Native American cultural heritage and the National Park Service is committed to supporting the critical work of Tribal consultations, documentation, and repatriation,” said NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé.



Osage Nation Representatives review collections during a NAGPRA consultation.

(Photo courtesy of The Osage Nation)

Eleven grants will fund the transportation and return of 11 cultural items, more than 4,000 funerary objects, and human remains comprising 82 ancestors. One recipient, the Delaware Tribe of Indians of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, will repatriate the remains of individuals and burial objects removed from the Abbott Farm Historic District, a National Historic Landmark archaeological site in Mercer County, New Jersey. The Delaware Tribal Historic Preservation Officer will travel

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to the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts to reunite the remains of 35 ancestors with over 600 funerary objects and prepare them for the journey to their final resting place. Additional representatives from the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Oklahoma, and Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin, will travel to Morrisville, Pennsylvania to respectfully reinter the ancestors at a designated site on the banks of the Delaware River near the Abbot Farm site.

Twenty-two consultation and documentation grants will fund museum and Tribal staff travel, consultation meetings and research, all in support of the repatriation process. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will conduct a collections review and host a consultation event to address NAGPRA-eligible cultural materials and ancestral remains recovered from Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. Located near East St. Louis, Illinois, Cahokia Mounds is the largest pre-contact site in North America and is a designated National Historic Landmark and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The consultation meeting will bring together representatives from Indian Tribes and other collecting institutions with an interest in or holdings from Cahokia and will determine tribally driven strategies for cultural affiliation, curation, repatriation, and reburial under NAGPRA.

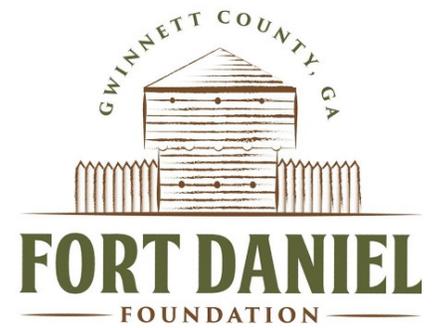
The University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology was also a recipient of the National Park Service FY2022 NAGPRA Consultation/Documentation Grant. They have partner with the Muscogee Creek Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and Coshatta of Louisiana Department of Cultural, Historical, and Natural Resources. The grant will help the Laboratory to continue to reassess, reorganize, digitize, and create a NAGPRA specific database. ■ NPS

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.



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America's First Engineers

Excerpt from an article featured online at [Science Daily](https://www.sciencedaily.com) Web site on September 2, 2021

The Native Americans who occupied the area known as Poverty Point in northern Louisiana more than 3,000 years ago long have been believed to be simple hunters and gatherers. However, new Washington University in St. Louis archaeological findings paint a drastically different picture of America's first civilization. Far from the simplicity of life sometimes portrayed in anthropology books, these early Indigenous people were highly skilled engineers capable of building massive earthen structures (*pictured right*) in a matter of months—possibly even weeks—that withstood the test of times, the findings show.

“We as a research community—and population as a whole—have undervalued native people and their



ability to do this work and to do it quickly in the ways they did,” said Tristram R. “T.R.” Kidder, lead author and the Edward S. and Tedi Macias Professor of Anthropology in Arts & Sciences.

The Poverty Point World Heritage site consists of a massive 72-foot-tall earthen mound and concentric half circle ridges. The structures were constructed by hunter-gatherers approximately 3,400 years ago from nearly 2 million cubic yards of soil. Amazingly, this was done without the luxury of modern tools, domesticated animals or even wheeled carts.

According to Kidder, the site was likely an important religious site where Native Americans came in pilgrimage, similar to Mecca. It was

abandoned abruptly between 3,000-3,200 years ago—most likely due to documented flooding in the Mississippi Valley and climate change. ■ SD

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