

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



April 2020  
Volume IX, Issue 4

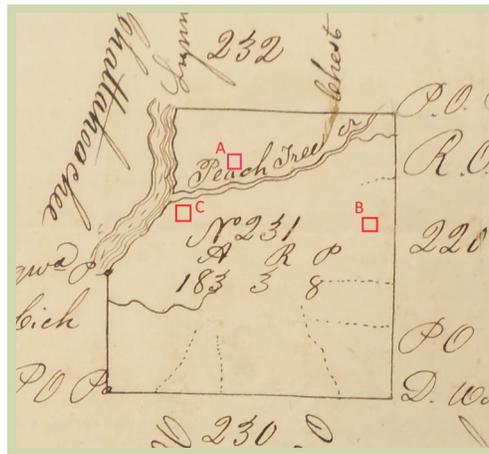
## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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### New Fort Peachtree Tidbits

Although historic research on Fort Peachtree and its vicinity carried out and published by Wayne Waldrip and I has been pretty thorough, more tidbits come to light every now and then. One such morsel came to me recently in an email from Don Rooney, Director of Exhibitions at the Atlanta History Center. In his email Don asked if I had ever seen the information that he had attached to the email: two documents pertained to the deeding of the Fort Peachtree site situated on Land Lot 231 in what was then Henry County. It was deeded to Alston Greene in 1833.

This was of interest to me because James Montgomery, who figures so prominently in the construction of Fort Daniel and Fort Peachtree,



Inserted on sketch of LL 231 from 1827 Greene deed, red squares approximately locate important features based on D'Angelo and Waldrip research: A) Civil War Artillery installation mistaken for Fort Peachtree; B) most likely location of Fort Peachtree based on James Montgomery's description; C) most likely location of boat works under Montgomery's supervision.

had wanted very much to use the fort after the war as his residence and perhaps as a trading post or as a permanent garrison or to continue as a station on the express mail system instituted during the war. He was also probably thinking of the area along the Chattahoochee as an ideal location for a ferry. On at least two occasions he had suggested something like this in letters to General Pinckney who he knew from being a wagon-master helping to supply troops between Fort Mitchell and Fort Hull along the Federal Road. Therefore, we have wondered what became of the fort and how that might be related to Montgomery's 1830s ferry.

As a "fractional" land lot, 231 was

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## GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **GARS MEETING:** Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) officers have decided to cancel the April meeting. Due to the concern in the spread of COVID-19 they decided to cancel the meeting. However, a digital alternative is in the works. More details will be available soon.
- **DIGITAL GARS:** Since the threat of COVID-19 is cancelling several events (including GARS meetings), GARS officers had to think out of the box—digitally and virtually. GARS President Anne Dorland and the other officers like to introduce the new GARS digital platform, [Digital GARS](#), which includes a blog and a members forum. The blog will feature monthly topics written by archaeologists on their recent research; this will replace monthly meetings (for now) because of the CDC regulations for social distancing. The forum will be for discussion among members that would ordinarily take place in monthly meetings. Topics for discussion include future events and research ideas to further the GARS mission of promoting archaeological research and protecting sites.
- **CONGRATULATIONS:** A big congrats to GARS Secretary/Treasurer Delana Gilmore on her new position as Project Manager-Historian at Environmental Corporation of America. She will be starting in early April. *Congrats, Delana!*
- **EVENTS CANCELLED:** Because of the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 many events occurring in the next couple of months have been cancelled. Those events concerning with GARS and Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) are College Day at the Fort in April and Fort Daniel Open House in May. Though these events are cancelled, some events might be rescheduled for the summer. The 12th Annual Frontier Faire is still on and is being planned at this time—save the date! (*See information below.*)

# Frontier Border

## 12th Annual Frontier Faire



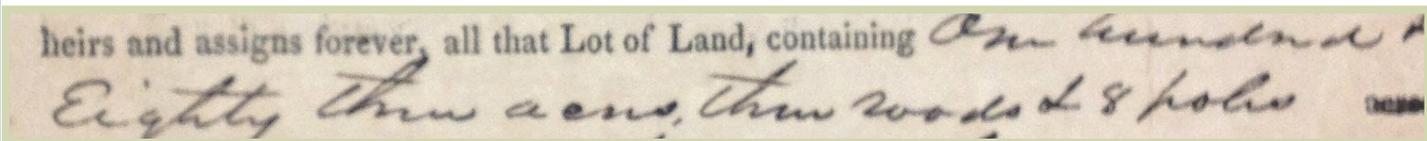
Saturday, October 17  
10AM-4PM

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

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not part of the original 1821 Lottery for Henry County. Greene's award of LL 231 was the result of the 1827 Act of Georgia's General Assembly to "dispose of the residue of lands heretofore reserved to the State." [By this time, this area was no longer Henry but Dekalb County.]

While it was disappointing not to see any mention of the old fort in the deed's description of the land—just as it had been disappointing that the men who surveyed the land in 1817 did not mention it then—there is a line in the deed (*pictured below*) which suggests that fort structures might still have been present in the description of the land as "containing . . . three roads, & 8 [unclear]."



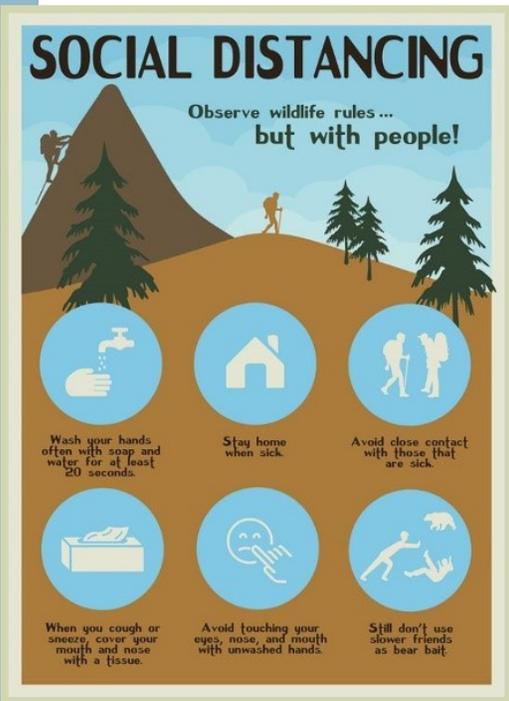
Writing about the construction of Fort Peachtree in his memoirs, Montgomery had written that "in two months built two large hew'd log block houses, six dwelling houses, one framed storehouse." It is possible that the original structures are included here in a hastily written "houses." What else that could be completely eludes me. The three roads cited would be: Peachtree Road, River Road, and the road to Stone Mountain. They are depicted as trails with dotted lines as the plat is derived from the original survey of the district—although they are labeled as these roads on adjoining plats. ■ **JJD**

## More Diggin's

Excerpt from article featured in the Society for Georgia Archaeology's The Profile Spring 2020 issue

We are living during a historic time. With COVID-19 spreading throughout the world many are bunkered down at home, and at the time of writing this we don't know how long this will last. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has given [suggestions](#) on how to prevent the spread, and additionally, new words have entered into the [dictionary](#): social distancing, self-quarantine, etc.

While you are social distancing, you can still participate in public history or archaeology programs right in your home. By digging deeper into the Web you can find some helpful tidbits to pass the time away.

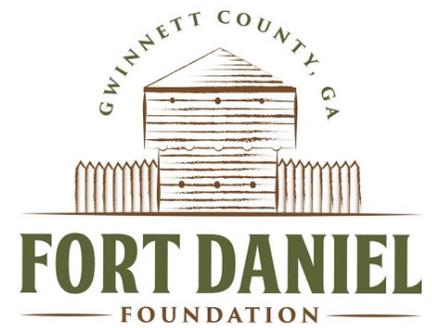


- [Become a Citizen Archivist!](#) While the National Archives is closed, you can help them out by contributing to the National Archives Catalog by tagging, transcribing, and adding comments to their records—making them more accessible and searchable online.

- Tour a museum or historic site virtually! Many museums and historic sites have closed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. However, they have turned to 21st-century technology to bring their exhibits and programs to the world wide web. Search social media outlets for your favorite museum or historic site or go to their Web site to see what they are offering virtually!

- Got cabin fever—GO OUTSIDE! Being with nature can be comforting, and when contemplating to visit a park, please act responsibly with regards to CDC, state, and local guidelines. Practice social distancing! (See picture left.) ■ **SGA**

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## “Watercourts” Stored Live Fish—Fueling Florida’s Calusa Kingdom

Excerpt from an article featured on [Heritage Daily Web site](#) on March 31, 2020

The mighty Calusa ruled South Florida for centuries wielding military power, trading, and collecting tribute along routes that sprawled hundreds of miles—creating shell islands, erecting enormous buildings, and dredging canals wider than some highways. Unlike the Aztecs, Maya, and Inca, who built their empires with the help of agriculture, the Calusa kingdom was founded on fishing. However, like other expansive cultures, the Calusa would have needed a surplus of food.

A [new study](#) points to massive structures known as *watercourts* (pictured right) as the answer. Built on a foundation of oyster shells, these roughly rectangular enclosures walled off portions of estuary and likely served as short-term holding pens for fish before they were eaten, smoked, or dried. The largest of these structures is about 36,000 square feet—more than seven times bigger than an NBA basketball court—with a berm of shell and sediment about



three-foot high. Engineering the courts required an intimate understanding of daily and seasonal tides, hydrology and the biology of various species of fish, researchers said. The watercourts help explain how the Calusa could rely primarily on the sea.

The fact that the Calusa were fishers, not farmers, created tension between them and the Spaniards, who arrived in Florida during the 16th century when the Calusa kingdom was at its zenith, said study lead author Victor Thompson, director of the University of Georgia’s Laboratory of Archaeology. Thompson and colleagues analyzed two watercourts along the southwest shore of Mound Key, an island in Estero Bay off Florida’s Gulf Coast and the seat of

Calusa power for about 500 years. These courts, still visible today, flank the grand canal, a marine highway nearly 2,000 feet long and averaging 100 feet wide, which bisects the key. Radiocarbon dating suggests the watercourts were built between 1300 and 1400AD. ■ HD

### 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)

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