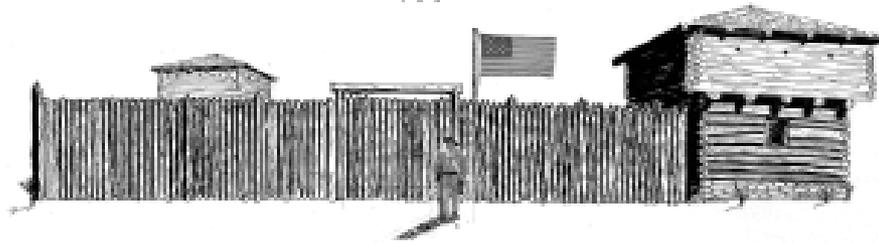


**FORT DANIEL**  
*at Hog Mountain*  
*c. 1799-1816*



**A Frontier & War of 1812 Fort**  
**In**  
**Gwinnett County, Georgia**



**Historical & Archaeological Investigations  
Preservation Efforts  
Public Archaeology and Educational Outreach  
2007-2012**



# Archaeological Investigations

- Archaeological investigations at the Hog Mountain site, undertaken by the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS), have confirmed the traditional location of the 1813 fort and, most likely, the “fort at Hog Mountain” that preceded it.



# Artifacts Date the Site

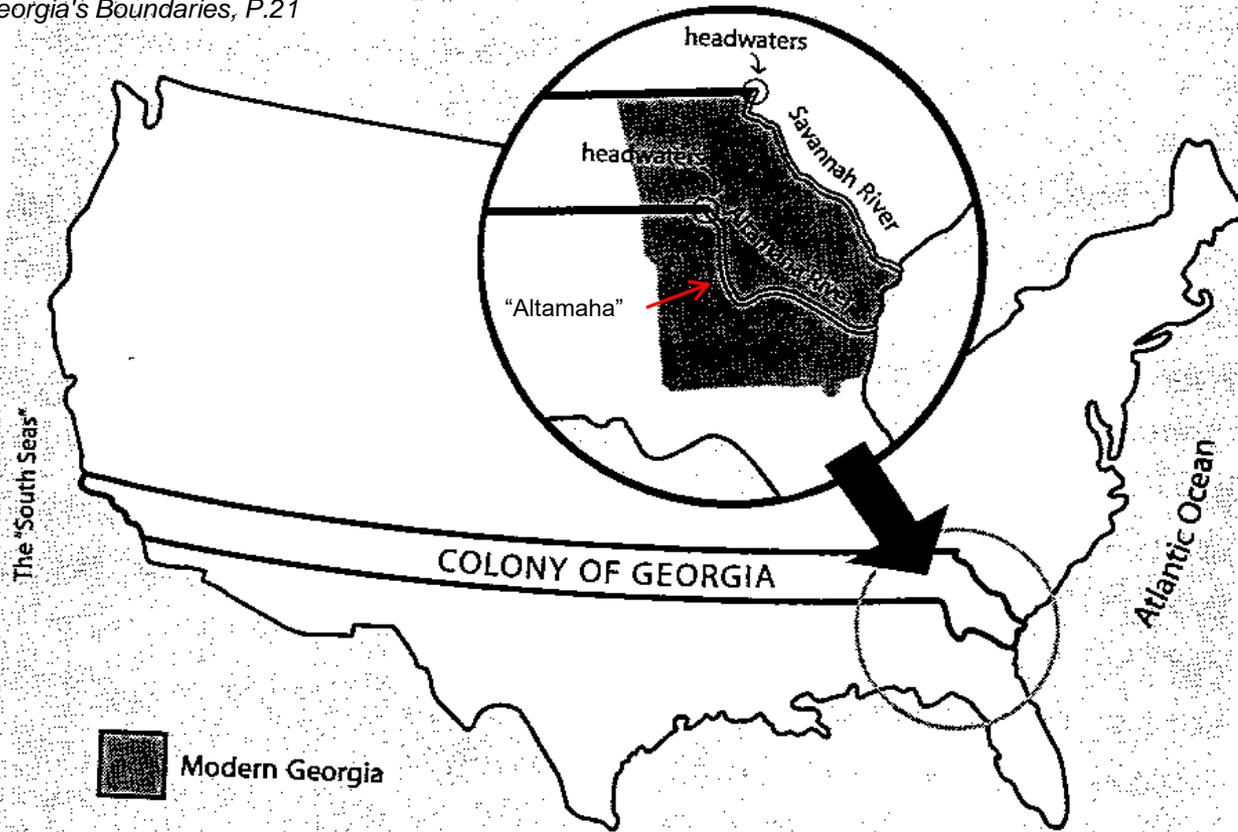
☞ Hundreds of artifacts, including late 18<sup>th</sup> c. wrought nails and post-1805 machine cut nails, musket shot and flints, ceramics, glass, buttons, jewelry, and brick are all dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century



# The Georgia Trustee's Charter Boundaries, 1732



Map from: Wm Morton's *The Story of Georgia's Boundaries*, P.21





# Westward Expansion *via* Treaty

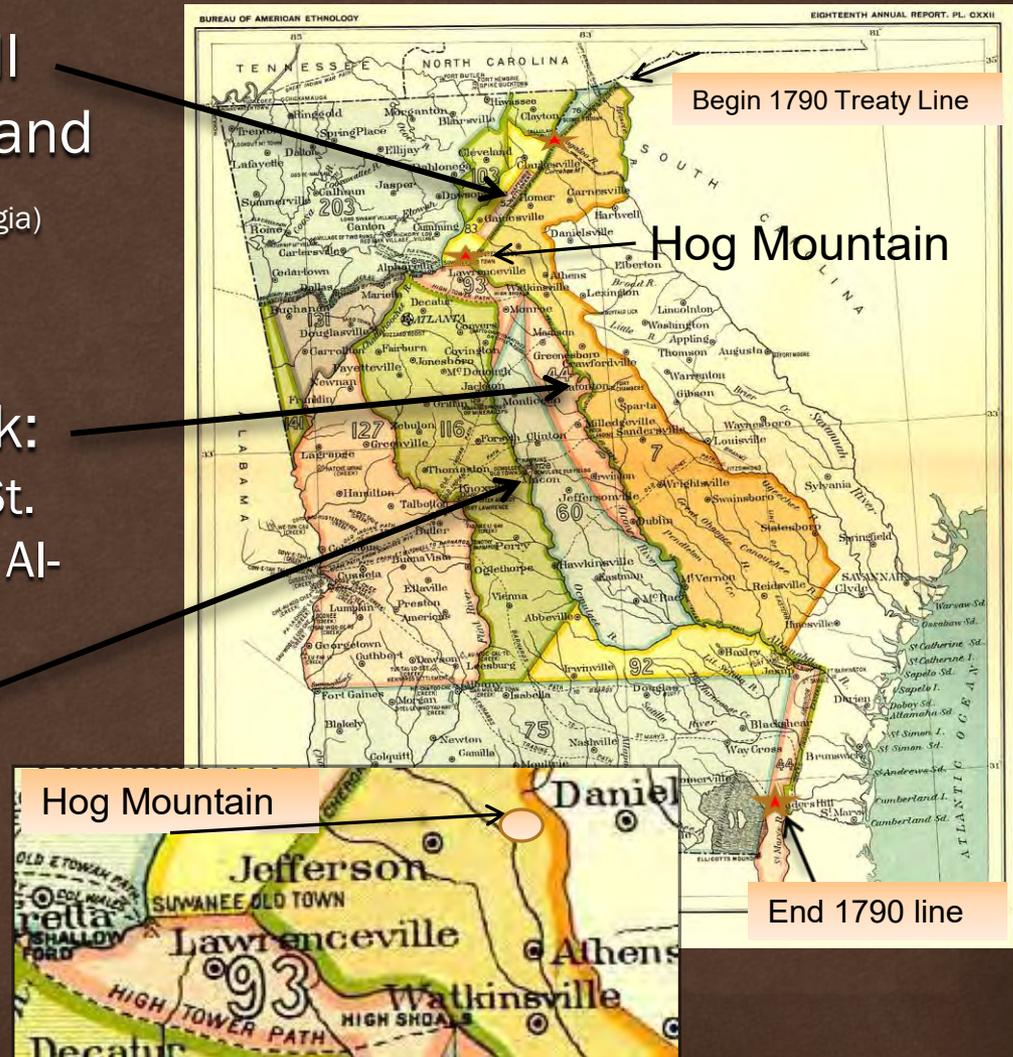
Georgia in 1812

☞ 1785 Treaty of Hopewell between United States and Cherokee & Creek: (in Georgia) Tug-a-loo to Head of Appalachee River.

☞ 1790 Treaty of New York: Head of the Appalachee to St. Mary's via the O-co-nee and Al-ta-ma-ha Rivers.

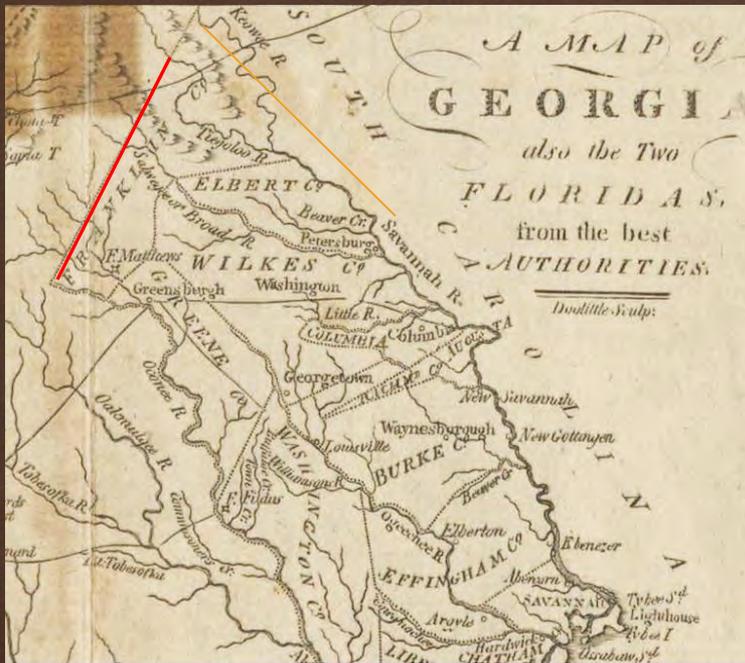
☞ 1802 Treaty of Fort Wilkinson: O-co-nee to

☞ Oc-mul-gee to Al-ta-ma-ha.

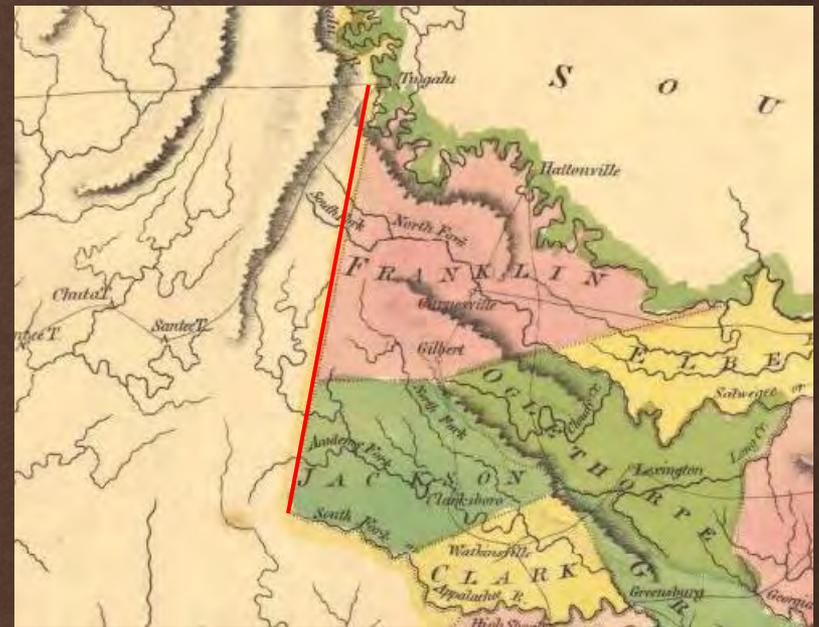


# Formation of Franklin & Jackson Counties

Franklin 1784

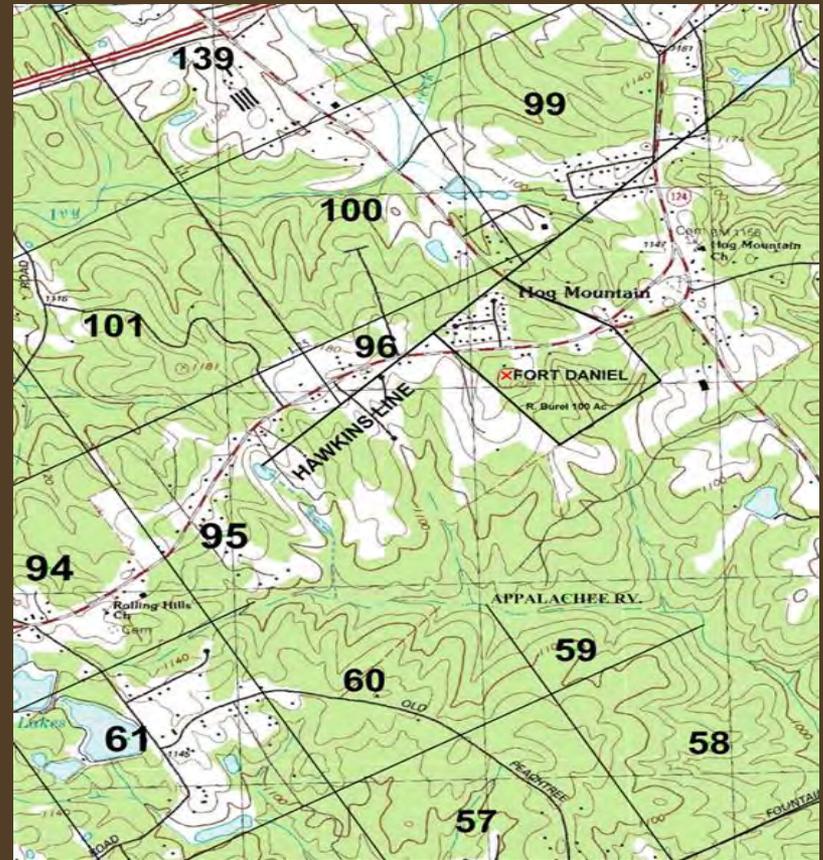


Jackson 1796



# The “Hawkins” Line

- The 1785 Franklin/Jackson County western frontier Treaty line was not surveyed until 1798 & was re-run in 1804 when discrepancies arose. The name of the line derives from Benjamin Hawkins, the Indian Agent who helped negotiate the Treaty and who ran the line in 1798.



Fort Daniel is situated near the south end of the Hawkins Line.

# Georgia's Frontier Forts

- As settlers moved into the 1785 and 1790 Treaty lands and lived amongst the Cherokee and Creek, there were problems.
- Until about 1812, forts were needed for protection of settlers from Indian “depredations,” but also to keep settlers from crossing the Treaty boundaries and trespassing on Indian lands, which was a frequent occurrence.
- After about 1812, forts were constructed or refurbished to protect settlers from the Creek Red Stick uprising inspired by Tecumseh & encouraged by the British. This Southern “theater” of the War of 1812 is known as the Creek Indian Wars.



Tecumseh

# A Defensive Plan of the Western Frontier

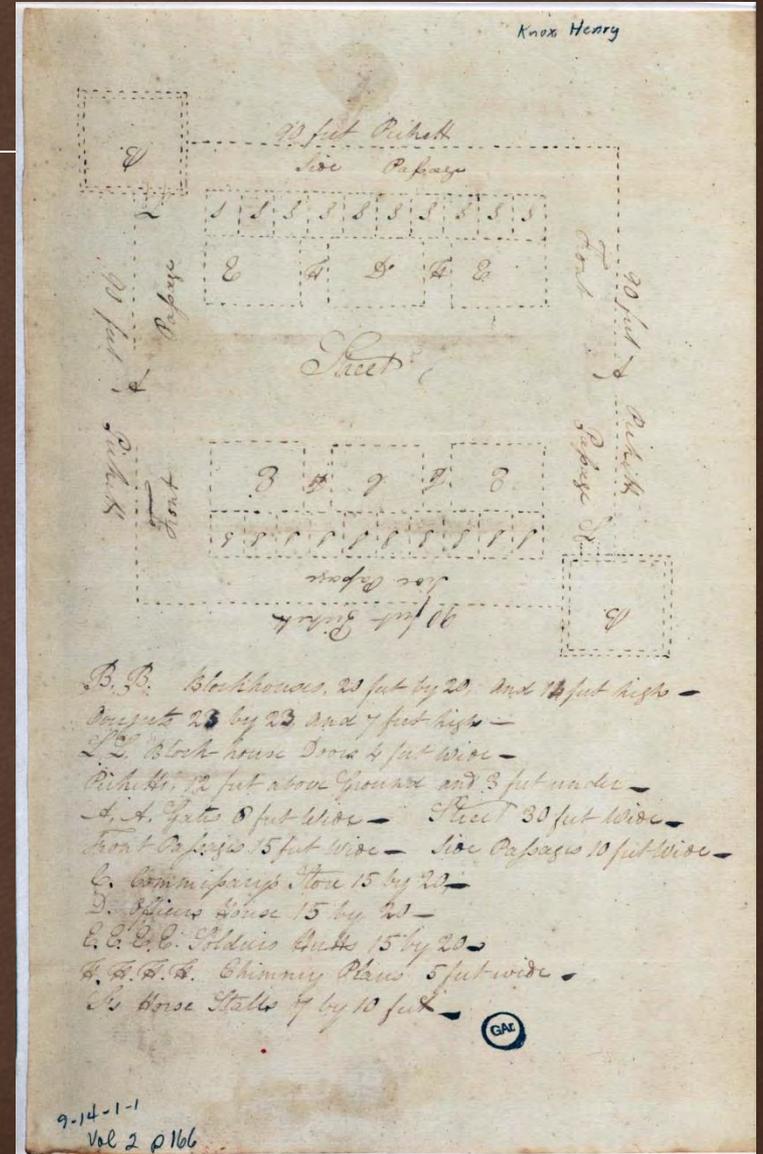
- In a 1793 letter\* to Georgia Governor Edward Telfair from Georgia Adjunct General Augustus Elholm, Elholm writes “I repaired to the Western Frontier for the purpose of Causing four Block Houses to be erected... for protecting the Inhabitants from the ravages of the Indians.”
- The communication includes a hand drawn map (next slide) that depicts the location of stations and block houses along the Georgia frontier (i.e. the 1785 Treaty Line) in 1792.
- Other maps from this effort depict the “Oconee” forts associated with the 1790 Treaty.
- (\*) Sometime after map was dated, December 31, 1792, and end of Telfair’s term, November 7, 1793.







# The Frontier Forts



May 1794 Sec. of War, Henry Knox, responds to Gov. Mathews: “The President of the United States consents to your... (plan) ...for defensive protection for the frontiers of Georgia so far as to the establishment of a Blockhouse every twenty-five mile of the line exposed to danger and garrisoning the same with One Subaltern, One Serjeant, One Corporal and fifteen privates ... of the Militia of Georgia...”

“Plan of the blockhouse follows.”

# 1795 Letter to Governor Matthews from Gen. S. Blackburn



- ✎ This 1795 letter is one example of the effort to improve the often poorly built and/or situated forts along Georgia's frontier. Blackburn reports the removal of a frontier station at Ward's Mill on the Tugaloo River, and informs the governor that he has selected a location about six miles from Ward's Mill and half a mile from the Georgia boundary line for a new fortification. This new fortification, along with additional spies along the frontier, will offer greater protection to the settlements along the upper Tugaloo River.
- ✎ He writes, "I have removed the Station from Wards Mill on Tugaloe and ordered one to be erected with two good Blockhouses and strong Stockade ninety feet square ...
- ✎ Fort sites were chosen for strategic reasons and were not necessarily right on the boundary. This is what we see at Fort Daniel.

# 1813 Fort Mims Massacre

- ❧ In the early 1800s, the loosely confederated tribes of the Creek nation primarily inhabited present day Alabama and western Georgia. Their territory was generally bounded by the Tennessee River on the north, the Gulf of Mexico on the south, the Oconee River on the east, and the Tombigbee River on the west and comprised about 300 square miles.
- ❧ The Creeks had signed four treaties with the American government by 1805, but animosity about America's continuing expansion into Indian territory by the followers of Tecumseh with the enabling of the British, sparked the Creek War as an extension of the War of 1812.
- ❧ In early August 1813, about 550 settlers and slaves from the surrounding area had crowded into a tiny stockade known as Fort Mims near the Alabama River. The fort consisted of 17 buildings, including one blockhouse and a log palisade.
- ❧ The Red Stick Creeks attacked the fort and massacred everyone inside.



News of the Fort Mims massacre spread quickly. The Creek victory raised the confidence of the Red Stick warriors and panicked settlers along the entire western frontier.

# Letter from Governor George Mitchell to General Allen Daniel

October 10, 1813

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- ✎ In this letter from Georgia Governor David B. Mitchell to Major General Allen Daniel, Mitchell requests that Daniel be careful not to falsely alarm frontier residents with incorrect information about "hostile" Creek Indians in the vicinity. Mitchell believes that the Indians will not cross the Chattahoochee into Georgia land, particularly since a large number of Cherokees have encamped adjacent to the Creek. Nonetheless, Mitchell requests that information be gathered about the presence of Indians by means of spies...
- ✎ "I must leave it to your own discession (as one) who (is) on the spot & can act as circumstances may require..."

# Letter From Allen Daniel to Brigadier General Frederick Beall at Hog Mountain

October 21, 1813



- ✎ This letter (see next slide) consists of divisional orders from Major General Allen Daniel, commanding the fourth division of the Georgia Militia, dated 11 days after the letter to him from the Governor. Daniel's orders pertain to the fortification and protection of the Georgia frontier (again, the western boundary of Franklin and Jackson counties). Daniel also directs the construction of a \*new fort\* at Hog Mountain and calls for the employment of spies to roam the Indian territory, and orders various forces to be mustered and kept in readiness in case of Indian attack.
- ✎ (\*) This letter is the only known reference to an earlier fort at Hog Mountain, and had been overlooked or not known by historians until now.

# How to Build the New Fort

☞ ...build a new fort...

☞ ...stockading will be at least ten or eleven feet above ground & well let into the Earth three feet...

☞ ... also build ... houses... blockhouses...

☞ Complete letter w/ transcription can be seen at the Fort Daniel web site.

Divisional order  
of the Georgia family  
October 17, 1783

Allen Daniel Major General Commanding  
the fourth division of the Georgia militia  
deems it expedient at this momentary crisis  
that some portion of the militia under his  
command should be held in constant  
readiness for actual service.

The brigade commanded by Brigadier  
General Bull having been lately closed  
It is ordered that the first class in said  
Brigade be mustered by their respective  
companies in every month by companies at their  
respective Regimental musters grounds  
and that each man will furnish himself  
with a knapsack, blanket, arms and  
equipments (until arms & equipments  
can be furnished them by Government)  
and hold themselves in readiness to take the  
field at a moment's warning.

The Major General having received communication  
from his Excellency the Governor of this  
instantly wherein he is authorized to take  
such measures as he may deem expedient  
for the security of the frontier settlements.  
In virtue of which authority, realizing  
the dangerous situation of our frontiers  
and the duties which he owes his country,  
deems it expedient to order — That Brigadier  
General Bull forthwith order out

# The Peachtree Connection

- ✧ In September 1813 Genl. John Floyd established Fort Mitchell (see next slide) on the Chattahoochee, in Alabama Territory, as a supply base and entered Alabama with his Georgia army to fight the Creek Red Sticks. After a success initial campaign, lack of supplies and a battle wound forced him to return.
- ✧ Although suffering from chronic supply problems he returned to Alabama Territory in 1814 but, following what he considered to be an unsuccessful campaign, abandoned his efforts in Alabama.
- ✧ It has been reported that Floyd had camped near the Indian village of Standing Peachtree and knew that this was an ideal location for what may have been his idea to improve the supply chain.



# Fort Mitchell

Contemporary sketch. Note fort plan



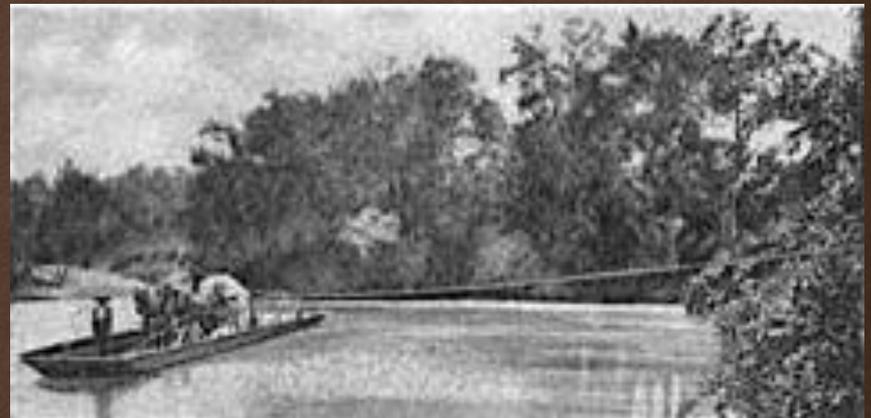
ENCAMPMENT, 6<sup>th</sup> JULY, 1864.

# Fort Peachtree

☞ The same month (October 1813) that work began on rebuilding Ft. Daniel, George Gilmer rec'd a commission of first Lt. in 43d regiment and, under orders from General Pinkney, Commander of the Southern Army, set out from Fort Washington on the Broad River with 22 regulars for Indian territory along the Chattahoochee to build... Fort Peachtree.

☞ Having never even seen a fort, Gilmer would rely on a Superintendent of Artificers, Sgt. James Montgomery, a Jackson County resident who had just served under Genl. Floyd.

☞ The purpose of the mission was to construct rafts to bring supplies down the Chattahoochee to Fort Mitchell to better facilitate supplying Genl Floyd and Andrew Jackson in Alabama & beyond. The boat yard would be protected by the new fort.

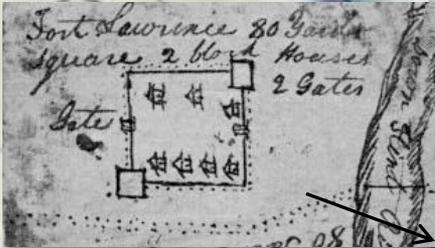
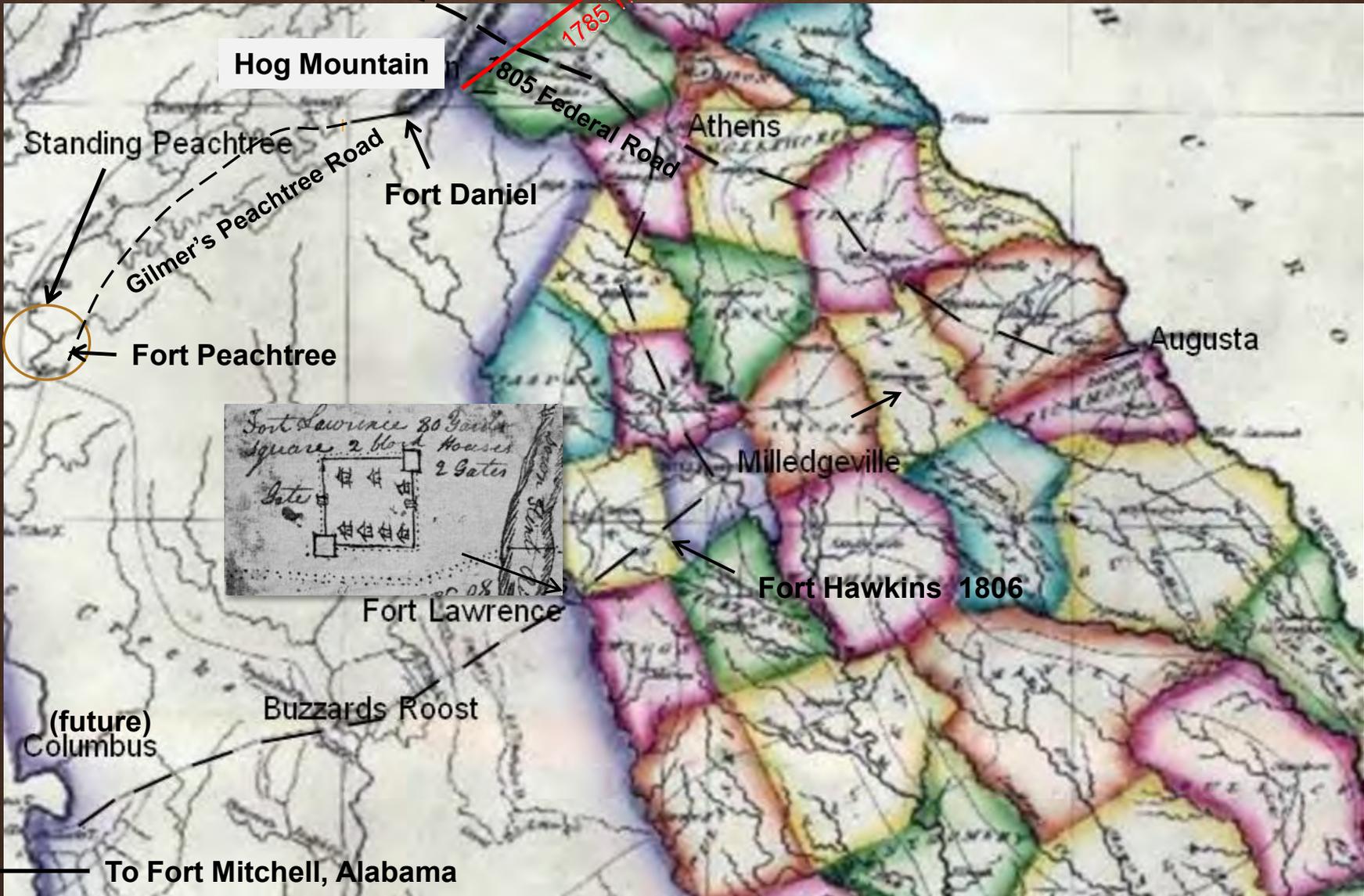


# Supplying the Troops from Fort Daniel

- ✧ At the same time Gilmer & Montgomery were constructing the fort and boat yard, men from Hog Mountain began to build a road from Fort Daniel to Fort Peachtree... the original Peachtree Road.
- ✧ The Plan: Supplies would be wagoned from Fort Daniel to Fort Peachtree and then loaded on the rafts. These would include fresh produce and meat from surrounding farmers, and military and building supplies from Fort Hawkins and businesses in Athens, Augusta, and Savannah as necessary (see next slide).
- ✧ Note: Gilmer had to pass through Fort Daniel on his way to Standing Peachtree, where he would have met up with Montgomery and where he would have arranged for the building of Peachtree Road.

# The Key Routes

1785 Treaty Line

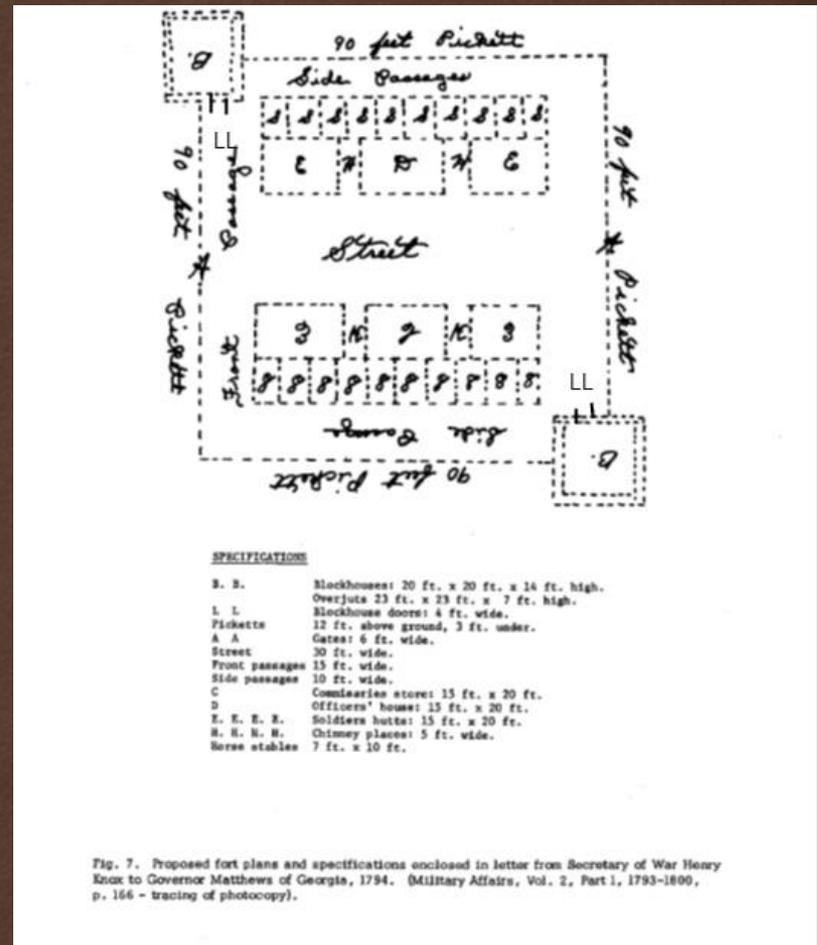


# Hugh Montgomery's Letter

- Since the Cherokee were allies of the Americans, and their lands were west of the Hawkins Line – western boundary of Franklin and Jackson – forts along this line were, by 1812, not really necessary.
- Because Fort Daniel was not only at the south end of this line, but the north end of the line separating the settlers from the real threat, the Creeks, Fort Daniel was thought to be a key fort.
- In January of 1814, Jackson County's, Senator Hugh Montgomery, brother of James, wrote the following to Governor Early: "I... write... on the subject of the Garrisons... established on the west and northwest side of... Franklin and Jackson – the one at Hog Mountain is Essential, the one at Federal Road...not so much... all north of that are intirely unnecessary...."

# And of Fort Peachtree?

- Of Fort Peachtree Montgomery wrote: "...in two months (we) built two large hew'd logg block houses, six dwelling houses, one fram'd store house,..
- Familiar?
- Soon after a successful supply raft experiment, and after a series of battles where General Jackson's army annihilated the main Creek force on March 27, 1814 at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in eastern Alabama, the war ended.
- Fort Daniel and Fort Peachtree were apparently abandoned sometime in 1815.



# The Search for Fort Daniel

- ❧ Summer 2007 – Anne Grant gives GARS\* permission to search for Fort Daniel on her land.
- ❧ Members of GARS work several weekends clearing a ~1-acre area at the highest point on Hog Mountain.
- ❧ (\*) *The Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society, a chapter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology continues to do the archaeology at Fort Daniel among its other projects. The 501(c)(3) Fort Daniel Foundation, Inc., was later created to preserve and development the site. Both groups are advised by Dr. James D'Angelo, RPA, SGA, GCPA.*



# What Could Remain?



Though the stockade walls and buildings long ago disappeared, and the area has since been cultivated, such things as metal and ceramic artifacts, although moved around by tilling, would still be present within the plow zone (12-15 inches deep), and the PZ would not have been deep enough to erase subsurface features like stockade wall trenches, post holes, trash pits, and the like. These features, indeed, have been revealed by archaeological investigations and have provided valuable information about the size and layout of the fort.

# Confirming the Fort's Location...

☞ After clearing the site, a 160' x 200' grid with 20'x20' grid units for horizontal control, was laid out over the highest portion of the hill with the highest elevation on Hog Mountain near its center.

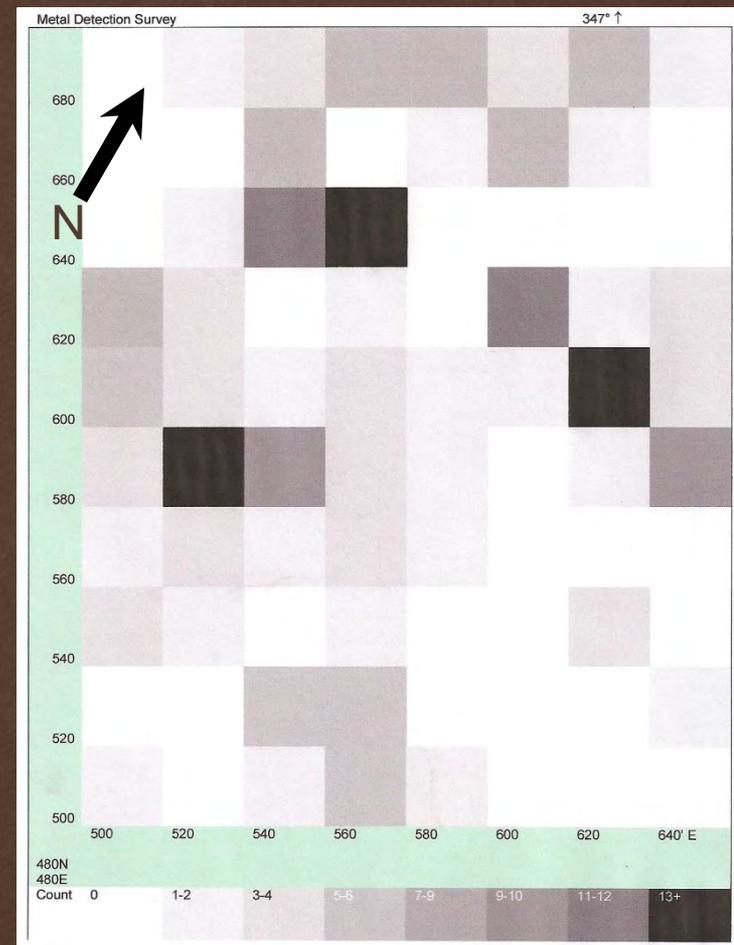
☞ This was followed by a rigorous Metal Detection survey and a Ground Penetrating Radar survey.



# Metal Detection Results

Based on MD “hits,” a gradient map of the relative density of metal artifacts within the study area was created.

The map was used as one guide for initial archaeological testing.



# Locating an Intact Buried Feature

Based on the Gradient Map and GPR results, and with the help of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, GARS conducted limited mechanical stripping followed by shovel scraping in order to demonstrate that there were intact buried features below the plow zone.

Subsequent excavations were done by hand.

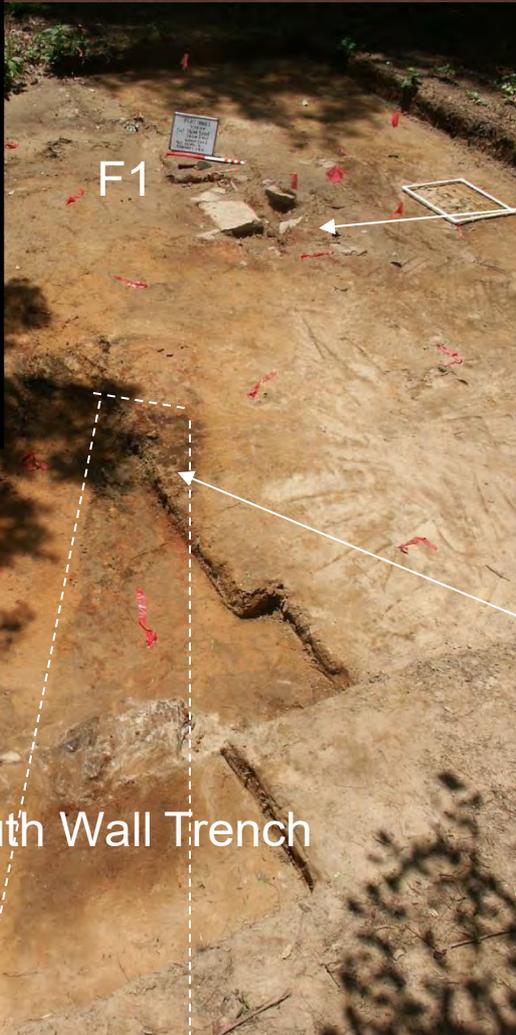


Excavation Highlights  
for NRHP Eligible,  
Georgia Site 9GW623



Five Years Worth

# 2007: S. Palisade Wall Trench & Hearth Were Uncovered



# 2007: E. Wall Trench Investigated



Trench feature exposed by mechanical stripping proved to be 14' long by 3' deep: a segment of the East stockade wall trench.



Bottom of trash pit truncated by plowing, & now known to be within the NE Corner Blockhouse, contained knife & other objects.



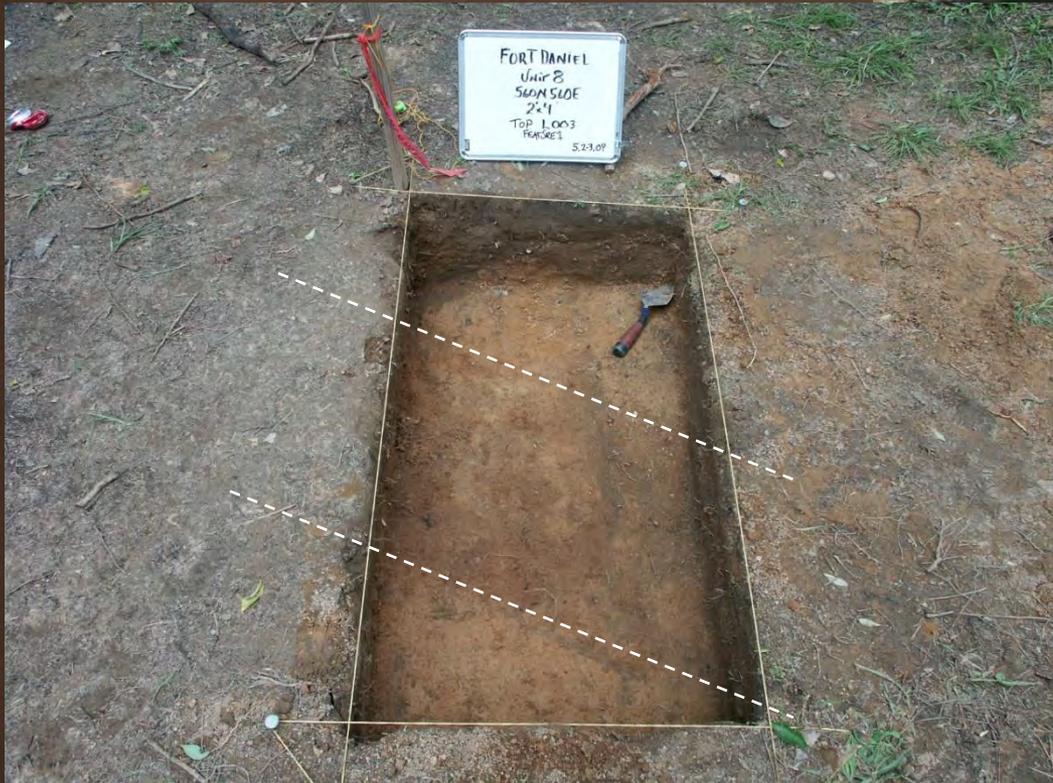
# 2008: S. Wall Trench Profiled



•Sectioning of Feature 2 shows a posthole mold consisting of surface soils, charcoal, brick fragments, large daub fragments, and ceramics, to a depth of about 36" with the surface soils factored in. That is the depth General Daniel indicated the stockade walls should be sunk in the ground.

•The trench ends short of the hearth feature in the background suggesting this is the location of a SW Corner Blockhouse.

# 2009: Several S. & W. Wall Segments Were Revealed



# 2010 S. End of West Wall Located, thus giving interior portion of blockhouse footprint.



With SW ends of the West  
& South Palisade Wall  
Trenches located..

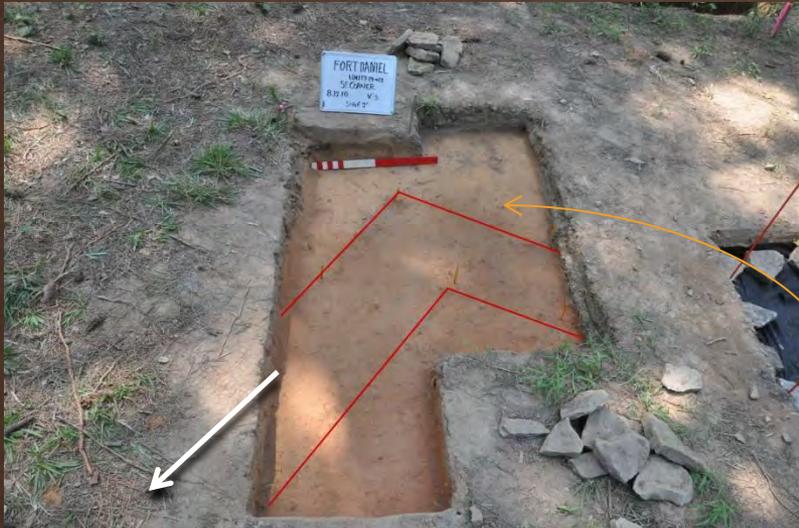
...the footprint of SW Corner  
Blockhouse is determined



# 2010 SE Corner Found



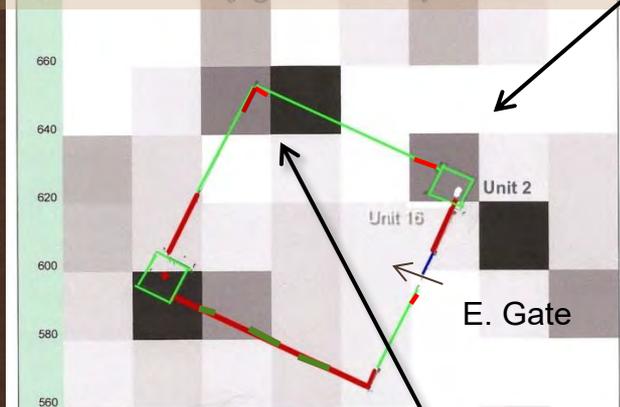
SW Corner Blockhouse



# We've Got A Match!

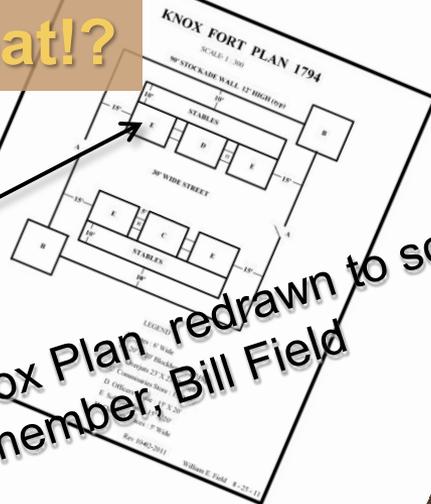


Fort footprint superimposed on 2007 metal detection survey gradient map.



Fort footprint based on excavations (red) and projections (green).  
And guess what!?

1794 Knox Plan redrawn to scale by GARS member, Bill Field



2011 Frontier Faire: Dr. Jeff Glover & Ga. State University students, ground-truthing a gradiometer survey by Georgia Southern's Sheldon Skaggs, find a brick concentration where Knox's plan shows a barracks.

# 2011: Presentation & Preservation of SW Blockhouse area



Installation of drainage system and 4x6 beam outline of Blockhouse footprint.

# Typical Artifacts



- ☞ Top Left – Cut nail showing clinch mark from machine heading (1805-1810).
- ☞ Top Center – Buck ‘n Ball musket buckshot (Rev. War through 1812 War to Civil War... see insert).
- ☞ Bottom Center – plated copper “penny button,” made in London. (Rev. War to Civil War.)
- ☞ Top Right– 2 wrought nails (1735-1790’s)

# Ceramic Sherds



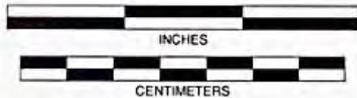
# Buttons, Bullets & Flints



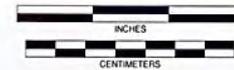
# This & That



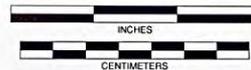
Wrought  
Horseshoe and  
nail



Daub with “wattle” impression



Black & Amber  
bottle glass

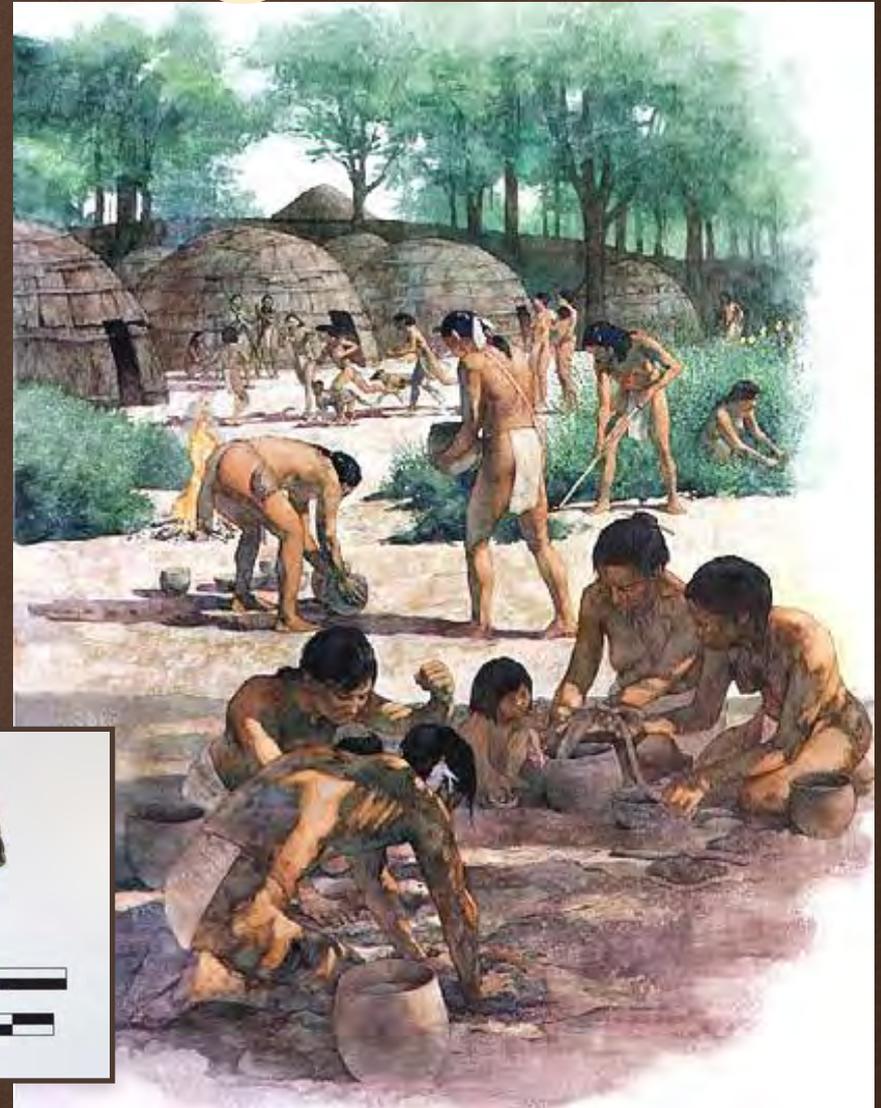


Clay Pipe Stem frag.



# Lest We Forget...

Because this is a ridge top location with nearby streams and springs, it was also an ideal location for prehistoric peoples. Woodland artifacts including pottery and quartz projectile points and debitage are found across the site.



# Contact Period Silver Earbob

Fort Daniel was possibly also a trading post...



# Plan for the Future



**THE GEORGIA TRUST**  
RECLAIM • RESTORE • REVITALIZE

ABOUT US NEWS WHAT WE DO HISTORIC

## 2009 PLACES IN PERIL: FORT DANIEL

**Story/significance:** Built in the late 18th century, Fort Daniel is a significant archaeological site located on Hog Mountain in Gwinnett County. The site has been the focus of many interested groups. Excavations have revealed a stone wall, brick and burned lumber, and a trash pile containing bottle glass, musket balls, musket flint, wrought iron, and other artifacts.

**Challenge/threat:** The site is located on private property. A developer has already sought a zoning change that would destroy this significant archaeological site.

- ❧ The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation places Fort Daniel on its 2009 *Places In Peril* list.
- ❧ The Friends of Fort Daniel apply for a \$10,000 grant from the GTHP.
- ❧ Grant awarded to jB+a to develop archaeological park master plan.

# Master Plan Completed

## April 2009



# The FDF Mission



- To teach children\* the value of our cultural heritage, particularly as it is contained in archaeological sites;
- To train and mentor archaeology students;
- To offer public archaeology opportunities;
- To maintain a field laboratory where artifacts will be processed and conserved;
- To create a field museum where artifacts and interpretive displays will be exhibited for the public.

# GARS & FDS Hold an Annual Frontier Faires & Public Archaeology Days



Public Archaeology Days

Robert Coffey Photography  
2009 Frontier Faire



# Come & See Us May 19

## Special Invitation to:

- Attendees of the 2012 Society for Georgia Archaeology Spring (Georgia Archaeology Month)
- Gwinnett County District 1 Educators
- Gwinnett County Commissioners and members of the Historical Restoration & Preservation Board
- Meeting at GGC, and Fort Daniel.

