

**Board of Commissioners**

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770.822.7000 • www.gwinnettcounty.com

Charlotte J. Nash, Chairman  
Jace W. Brooks, District 1  
Lynette Howard, District 2  
Tommy Hunter, District 3  
John Heard, District 4



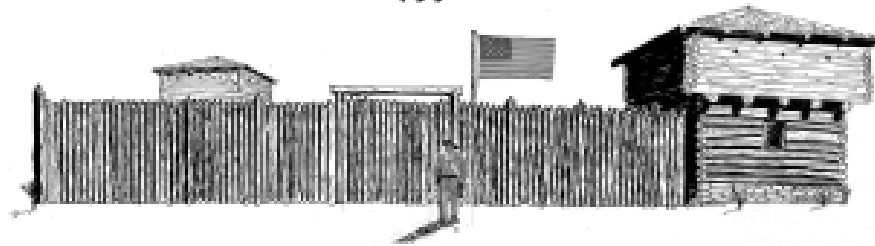
**Briefing Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2013 - 10:30 AM**

**Present:** Charlotte J. Nash, Jace Brooks, Lynette Howard, Tommy Hunter & John Heard

**I. Community Services**  
**Fort Daniel Presentation**

Phil Hoskins introduced Dr. Jim D'Angelo, President of the Fort Daniel Foundation, to give an overview of the Fort Daniels Foundation and the history of the Fort. Wayne Waldrip, Vice President, of the Foundation was also present for the presentation. No Official Action Taken.

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



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



**Gwinnett County's Oldest Historic Site  
&  
Only Archaeological Field Lab  
For Students and the General Public  
Since 2007**

# Fort Daniel's Location

- ❧ The traditional location of one of Georgia's early frontier & Creek Indian War forts, Fort Daniel, had been marked with a roadside historical sign for many years, but there had never been any physical evidence to support or pin-point the location... until now.



# Archaeological Investigations

- Archaeological investigations at the Hog Mountain site, undertaken by the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) since 2005, and continuing under the auspices of the Fort Daniel Foundation, 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.



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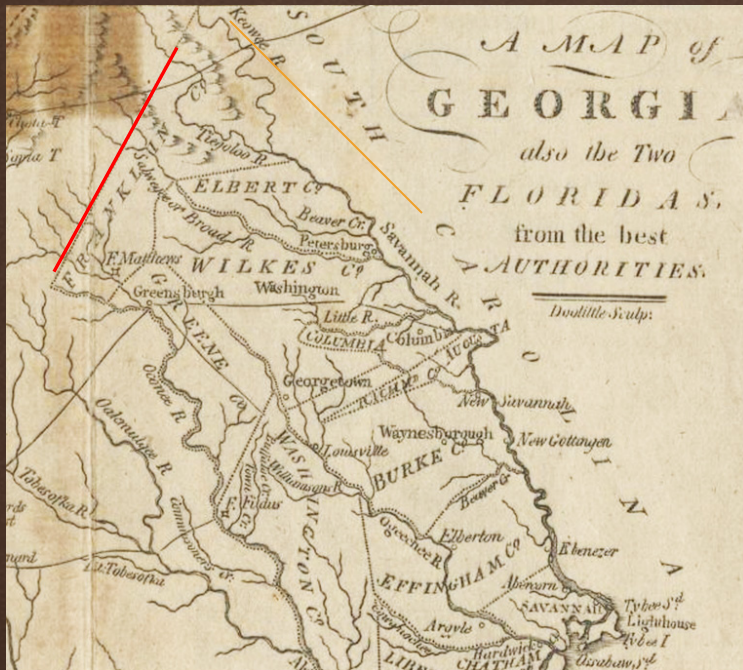
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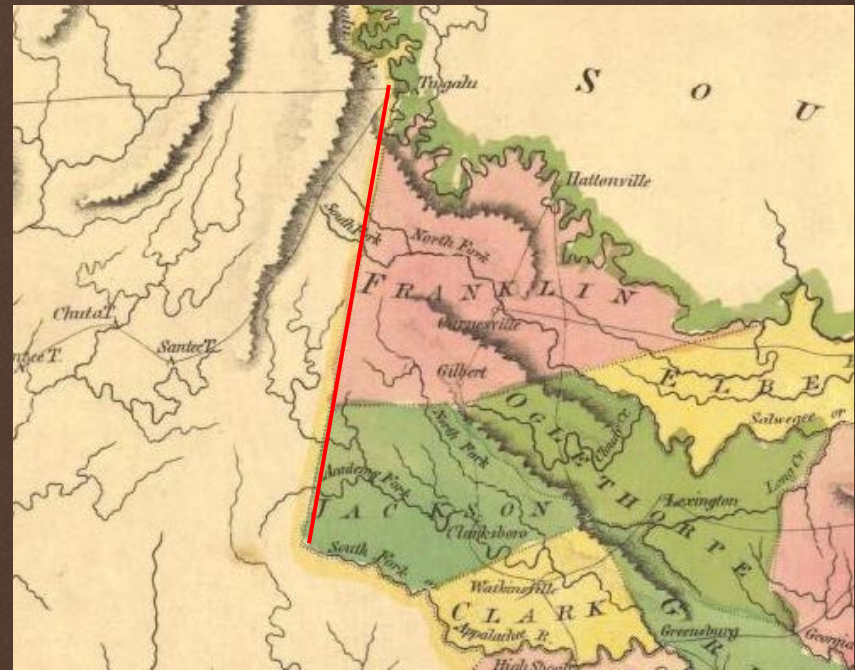


# Formation of Franklin & Jackson Counties

Franklin 1784



Jackson 1796



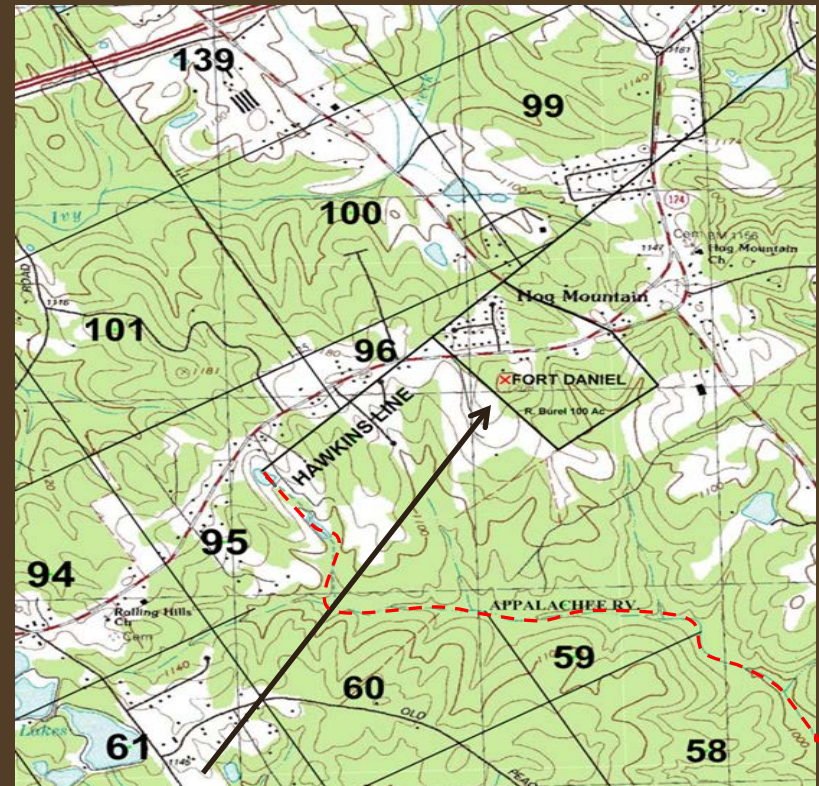


# The “Hawkins” Line

The name of the 1785 Franklin/Jackson County western frontier Treaty line (Black) derives from Benjamin Hawkins, the Indian Agent who helped negotiate the Treaty and who ran the line in 1798. The line begins at the headwaters of the Appalachian River and runs NE along the Continental Divide to the Tugaloo.

The 1790 Treaty line (Red) begins at the headwaters of the Appalachian and runs southwards to the Oconee, thence to the Altamaha to the Atlantic.

Thus, the “fort at Hog Mountain,” situated on the highest point of Hog Mountain, occupied the southwestern-most point of the United States from 1785 to 1818. It WAS the frontier.



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



# 1813 Fort Mims Massacre

- ❧ In the early 1800s, the loosely confederated tribes of the Creek nation primarily inhabited present day Alabama and Georgia, west of the Oconee.
- ❧ The Creeks had signed four treaties with the American government by 1805, but animosity about America's continuing expansion into Indian territory led to an uprising among a faction of the Creek nation, led by Tecumseh. Aided by the British, this rebellion 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 Red Stick Creeks attacked the fort and massacred all but two.



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

## October 4, 1813 - Benjamin Hawkins to General John Floyd, Commander of the Georgia Militia:

Hawkins reports that the second man of the Lower Creeks came to him with a report that the hostile Indians were preparing for war and inviting the Upper Towns in these words:

*We have had a successful enterprise westwardly [Mims]. We now point our course to the east, after red and white people. We will destroy Oswhichee and Cussetah, and then surround Tuckaubatchee and Cowetta... We then take the post road, enter Georgia, ravage all before us out round by Hog Mountain.*

Hawkins continues: *I believe all the regiments on the frontiers, from Hartford to Hog Mountain, should be apprised of the threats...*

## October 10, 1813 - Letter from Governor George Mitchell to General Allen Daniel:

In this letter Mitchell directs Daniel to gather information about the presence of Indians by means of spies...

## October 21, 1813 - Letter From Allen Daniel to Brigadier General Frederick Beall at Hog Mountain:

This letter consists of divisional orders pertaining to the fortification and protection of the Georgia frontier (the western boundary of Franklin and Jackson counties). Daniel directs the construction of a new fort at Hog Mountain, to replace the one that is poorly constructed and rotting, and calls for the employment of spies to roam the Indian territory, ordering 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...
- ❧ Letter courtesy of the Georgia State Archives. Entire 4-page document & transcription can be seen at the Fort Daniel web site.

Divisional order  
of the Georgia militia  
October 21, 1783

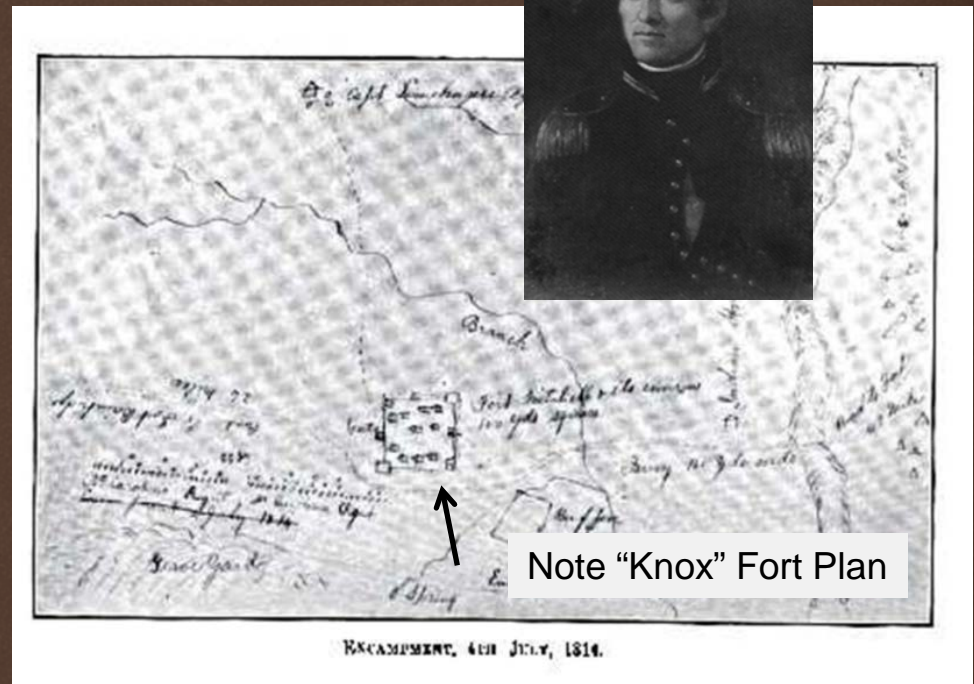
Allen Daniel Major General commanding  
the fourth division of the Georgia militia  
deems it expedient at this momentary crisis  
that some portion of the militia under his  
command should be held in constant  
readiness for actual service. —

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 muster 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 momentary warning. —

The Major General having received communication  
from his Excellency the Governor of the State  
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 (sketch right) in Alabama, on the Chattahoochee, as a supply base and entered Alabama with his Georgia army to fight the Creek Red Sticks. But lack of supplies (and a battle wound) forced him to return to Fort Mitchell.
- ✧ Though suffering from chronic supply problems he returned to Alabama Territory in 1814 with hope of getting supplies, by means of flat boats, from up-river at Standing Peachtree.



# 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... a fort and a boat yard.
- ❧ Having never built 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 *Via* 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, flour and meat from a supplier in Athens, and military supplies from Savannah *via* Fort Hawkins.
- ✎ Note: Gilmer had to pass through Fort Daniel on his way to Standing Peachtree, where he met up with Montgomery. Montgomery had already arranged with locals for the building of Peachtree Road, whose path had been blazed in January by the US Army's Major Thomas Bourke. Bourke was overall in charge of this whole project and had arranged for the construction, at Vann's Inn & Ferry, of the first river boat whose journey to the Falls at present-day Columbus was successfully completed by January 26.

# Hugh Montgomery's Letter

- Since the Cherokee were allies of the Americans, and their lands were west of the Hawkins Line – the western boundary of Franklin and Jackson – most 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...."

# Abandonment c. 1815

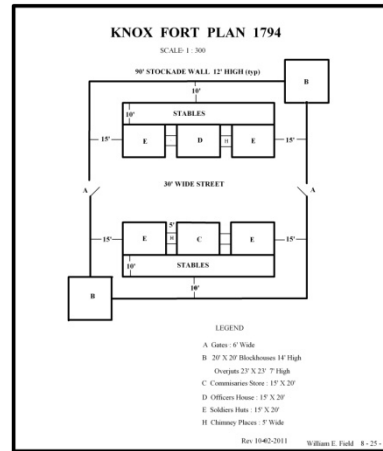
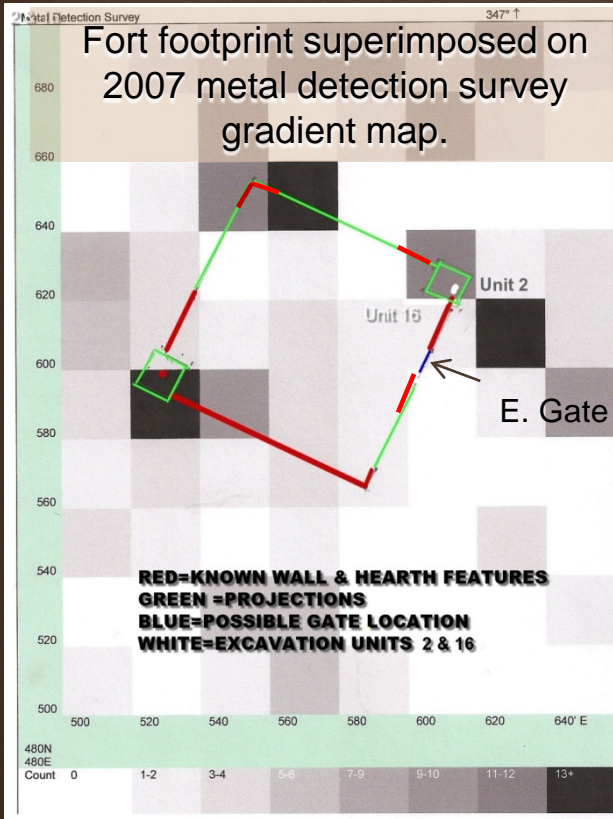


- Following the defeat of the Red Sticks by Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the Creek Indian War soon came to an end. Both Fort Daniel and Fort Peachtree were abandoned sometime in 1815.
- Documents pertaining to the important but brief tenure of the new Fort Daniel, including muster rolls and bills for supplies, located at the Georgia Archives have been reproduced in James Flanigan's History of Gwinnett County.
- In the summer of 2007, archaeological investigations began at the site.

# Archaeological Investigations: 2007-2012



# We've Got A Match!



Knox Plan redrawn to scale & flipped



# The Fort Daniel Foundation, Inc. Created in 2009 to Preserve and Develop the Site

## Our Mission

- To teach students 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.

# Through Annual Fairs & Public Archaeology Days

## Elementary School thru College Students



GSU Students



Scouts



Children



General Public



Fort Daniel  
Elementary School



Families

Placed on the Georgia Trust's 2009 *Places In Peril* list, and subsequently awarded a grant from the Trust, an Atlanta landscape architectural firm produced a proposed site master plan

