

## Peachtree Road Historical Marker

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*The following paper was prepared under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Dickey at Kennesaw State University for an Introduction to Public History course.*

The Peachtree Road historical marker was erected in 1958 by the Georgia Historical Commission and is located at Buford Highway in northern Duluth. The marker is in front of a business complex near where the historic road used to connect with the present highway. Peachtree Road was a road used by the militias to transport supplies during the Creek Wars of the early 1800s. When the road was built, it was to run supplies from Fort Daniel on Hog Mountain to an area near the Chattahoochee at Standing Peachtree.

Before the road construction began, militia leaders wrote to higher ups and complained of the structural issues of the original Fort Daniel. Shortly after, construction of the new Fort Daniel began and the construction for Fort Gilmer at Standing Peachtree was set into motion. The two new forts created a need for a road to connect the fortifications. Thus, the construction of Peachtree Road began. With Lieutenant George Gilmer in charge, “Robert Young, William Nesbit, and Isham Williams were hired to execute the construction” of the road. <sup>1</sup>

Peachtree Road and Fort Daniel are very local to where I grew up and something that I had never really heard of before historically. Fort Daniel and Peachtree Road are both within 30 minutes of my hometown. I never knew that there was such rich history of the early beginnings of the country surrounding the county that I grew up in. I had heard

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<sup>1</sup> Barnard, K. Susan, Grace M. Schwartzam. “Tecumseh and the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814 in North Georgia.” *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* 82, no. 3 (1998): 503.

of Peachtree Road, but I did not know that it was originally built in the 1800s for military purposes. I had no knowledge that it originally ran through Gwinnett County either. On the other hand, I had never heard of Fort Daniel or had any knowledge of any military fortifications in Gwinnett County. The role of these Gwinnett County forts was very important in the protection of the Georgia frontier in the early 1800s. Exploring Peachtree Road and its construction, I noticed that neither the Fort Daniel marker nor the Peachtree Road mentioned the previous existence of the original road, or the original Fort Daniel.

It was clear that the construction of this road was very important to local white settlements' future of defending the land from Creek Indians. The original Fort Daniel structure was inadequate, and Major General Allen Daniel wrote that "the fort at the hog mountain is not only formed of old, dry and insufficient timbers, but is also badly constructed," and that it would need to be completely rebuilt.<sup>2</sup> The reconstruction of the fort on Hog Mountain and the construction of Fort Gilmer were the key factors in deciding to build Peachtree Road.

The fort at Standing Peachtree is the reason that Peachtree Road was so helpful. Prior to the construction of Peachtree Road and the two forts, the town of Standing Peachtree was surveyed in order to see if it would be fit to use the town and the "Chattahoochee River to float supplies down to General Floyd, 150 miles south, at Fort Mitchell."<sup>3</sup> The construction of the fort at Standing Peachtree allowed supplies to be moved there to send downstream. Without the infrastructure provided by the Fort at Standing Peachtree, Peachtree Road would not have been able to be used as transport.

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<sup>2</sup> D'Angelo, James J. "Fort Daniel" *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, (July 2011): 1.

<sup>3</sup> Barnard, Susan K, Grace M. Schwartzam. "Tecumseh and the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814 in North Georgia." *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* 82, no. 3 (1998): 502.

Peachtree Road, Fort Daniel, and the Fort at Standing Peachtree were important in each other's success for the United States militiamen in the early 1800s while they protected the frontier from the Creek Indians. The three created a way for militiamen to easily maneuver the local frontier. This historical marker points to the deep history between Peachtree Road, Fort Daniel, and the Fort at Standing Peachtree.

Bibliography

Barnard, Susan K, Grace M. Schwartzam. "Tecumseh and the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814 in North Georgia." *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* 82, no. 3 (1998): 502.

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