



NASIG NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Conference News

Fun Facts About Atlanta

David L. Bradley, Atlanta resident and casual historian
Introduction by Eleanor Cook, CPC member

Here, for *NASIG Newsletter* readers is the first of several original contributions by Mr. David L. Bradley, who happens to be friends with NASIG Atlanta CPC member and former president (2002/2003), Eleanor Cook.

As David describes himself on his [LinkedIn](#) page: “My talents lie at the intersection of education and entertainment, and I excel at bringing the diorama to life ... My specialties include researching, emplotment of historical facts and events, dramatic writing, script doctoring, nonlinear film and sound editing, producing, and directing. I have a terrifying knowledge of what we once called social studies, and people love the way I tell a story.”

We hope that these fascinating stories about our next conference location (and one that we expect to return to again in the future) will convince you that you just must attend the 2018 conference so you can soak up even more of the place! David has a deep well of tales that we will offer up in each issue of the *Newsletter* between now and June.

So how does it come to pass that Atlanta has soooo many Peachtree Streets?

David writes:

Visitors frequently ask about the Peachtrees. Not the trees themselves, which come from China; they want to know why there are seventy-one streets with some part of Peachtree in their names. The answer is that in 1814,

a young lieutenant supervised the building of a small wooden fort. It was his first fort, modeled after a plan in an army manual. He built his fort near an existing native village known as the place of the Standing Peachtree.

Accordingly, Lt. George Gilmer named his construction Fort Peachtree. Forty miles to the northeast, Fort Daniel had been built at Hog Mountain, and the road connecting the two was named Peachtree Road, when it could just as easily been called Daniel or Hog Mountain Road. The fort was miles north of downtown, and when, eventually, a town sprang up along the rail lines and people needed to start naming things, the dirt road heading northward out of town, which connected with the Peachtree Road at Buckhead, was named Peachtree Street. Done. Let the Peachtrees arise: Peachtree Creek, Peachtree Battle, Peachtree-Dunwoody, Peachtree Industrial Boulevard ... It’s a lovely thing to imagine, peach trees popping up all over metro Atlanta, but it’s just as likely a simple case of frontier illiteracy. There is strong evidence that the native settlement was actually called Standing Pitch Tree, marked by a mighty pine tree that had been tapped for its sap, or “pitch.”



Photograph by Jasper Bradley and
Photoshop by Amanda McLellan

The granddaughter of a man who had served at Fort Peachtree told her that it had been named for a pitch tree. Hiram Casey, one of the area's earliest settlers and for many years a justice of the peace, told another judge that indeed, the name had been derived from a pitch tree. On the other hand, George Washington Collier, another early settler, told a story about a huge mound at the village atop which grew a beautiful peach tree. Of course, when he told his tale, he finished by saying that although he remembered it clearly and fondly, nothing remained of it. Well ... pine trees being indigenous to Georgia, and peach trees being decidedly not, I tend to accept the pitch tree story, but certainly not because I think seventy-one "PitchTrees" would be an improvement. Seventy-one "Hog Mountains," though... that kind of tickles me to imagine!