

Preserving History Through Archaeology



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GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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New Dates Suggest Clovis Culture Lasted Just 300 Years

Excerpt from [article](#) written by Keith Randall in Texas A&M Today on October 23, 2020.

There is much debate surrounding the age of the Clovis—a prehistoric culture named for stone tools found near Clovis, New Mexico in the early 1930s—who once occupied North America during the end of the last Ice Age. New testing of bones and artifacts show that Clovis tools were made during a brief 300-year period from 13,050 to 12,750 years ago.

Michael Waters, professor of anthropology and director of the [Center for the Study of the First Americans](#), along with Texas A&M anthropologist David Carlson and Thomas Stafford of Stafford Research in Colorado have had their work published in the current issue of [Science Advances](#).

Radiocarbon dated bone, charcoal, and carbonized plant remains from ten known Clovis sites in South Dakota, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Montana, and two sites in Oklahoma and Wyoming. An analysis of the dates showed

that people made and used the iconic Clovis spear-point and other distinctive tools for only 300 years.



Photo courtesy of Center for the Study of First Americans, Texas A&M University

The Clovis people first appeared 300 years before the demise of the last of the megafauna that once roamed North America, and the disappearance of Clovis from archaeological record at 12,750 years ago is coincident with the extinction of mammoth and mastodon, the last of the megafauna. Waters suggests that perhaps Clovis weaponry was developed to hunt these large beasts.

Until recently, Clovis was thought to represent the initial group of indigenous people to enter the Americas and that people carrying Clovis weapons and tools spread quickly across the continent. However, the short age range for Clovis does not provide sufficient time for people to colonize North America. Furthermore, strong archaeological evidence gathered over the

last few decades shows that people were in the Americas thousands of years before Clovis. ■ TAM

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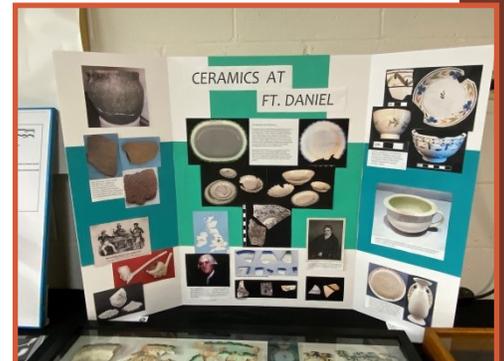
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GARS/Fort Daniel News

- **Hills Mill:** Join GARS for our second visit to the Hill's Mill archaeological site on Saturday, November 14! Hill's Mill, located on the Apalachee River in Gwinnett and Barrow Counties, was originally owned by Joshua Hill, an ancestor of GARS and FDF members Wayne and Eli Stancel. This site consists of a homestead and a stone mill dam constructed in 1866. GARS President, Anne Dorland, will direct the investigation with guidance from Dr. Jim D'Angelo. Fieldwork during the initial visit included clearing vegetation to expose above-ground features, photography, mapping, metal detecting, and shovel testing. Field efforts planned for the November 14 visit include additional shovel testing to define the site boundaries, detailed mapping of the mill dam and other features (*pictured right*), and test unit excavation to gain more information about the site chronology, function, and life-ways of inhabitants. All are welcome to attend this socially-distanced field investigation! *If you are interested, please contact [Anne Dorland](#) by Friday, November 13.*



- **DIGITAL GARS:** Since the threat of COVID-19 is cancelling several events, Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) officers had to think out of the box—digitally and virtually. Digital GARS was created to replace monthly meetings while still featuring topics written by archaeologists on their recent research. In celebration of Native American Heritage Month the latest blog topic written by GARS Vice President Jenna Tran focuses on the history and culture of [Cherokee basketry](#).
- **New Museum Display:** Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab Technician, Karen Medina-Lomba has been busy cataloguing the backlog of artifacts, and in the midst of that she was able to create a new display showcasing the many different ceramics discovered at Fort Daniel (*pictured right*). Karen graciously donated the materials and her time in making this new display. Thank you, Karen!
- **NRHP Listing:** Fort Daniel's application to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been submitted! NRHP is the office federal list of sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. This has been a long process, and if Fort Daniel becomes a NRHP-listed historic property, this will provide opportunities for federal grants and preservation incentives to continue the mission of Fort Daniel for generations.
- **Virtual Faire:** Though the 12th Annual Frontier Faire is over, you can still go to the faire! Visit [Fort Daniel Faire Web site](#) to see videos about history of North Georgia, frontier skills, and more. Thank you to Eli Stancel for putting this together.



12th Annual Frontier Faire

Last year many people braved the rainy weather to visit Fort Daniel, and this year a record-breaking attendance occurred—during a pandemic. Approximately between 400 to 500 people visited Fort Daniel on a beautiful, sunny fall day while social-distancing and observing CDC regulations. The purpose of Fort Daniel as an educational park and archaeological site reached many that day and will continue to teach the next generation about history and archaeology. Thank you some much to the vendors, exhibitors, and the visitors who came out!

SAVE THE DATE: 13th Annual Frontier Faire will be on Saturday, October 16, 2021.



Exhibitors and Visitors enjoying the beautiful weather

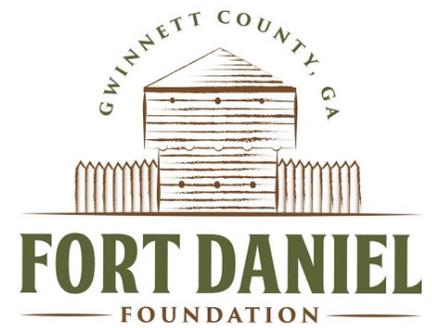


Public Archaeology at Fort Daniel during COVID



Reenactors help to tell the story of Fort Daniel, Gwinnett County, and Georgia

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Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month! The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native people. What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the US has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American or Indigenous Peoples Day, but it



continues to be observed without any recognition as a national legal holiday. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

Due to COVID many events celebrating the heritage of Native people have gone virtual. Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) has launched a [virtual field trip about the Cherokee Nation](#). However, with the rich Na-

tive people history here in Georgia, you will still be able to visit the state parks and tour historic sites: [Etowah Indian Mounds](#), [New Echota](#), [Chief Vann House](#), etc. Before visiting, please check their Web site or call regarding COVID precautions. ■

GARS OFFICERS

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

President: Vacant
Secretary: Cindy Horsley
Vice President: Leslie Perry
Treasurer: Betty Warbington

To stay up to date with the latest news from FDF follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).