

Preserving History Through Archaeology



November 2017

Volume VI, Issue 9

GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

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Cold Cellar Treasures

During the 9th Annual Fort Daniel Frontier Faire Feature 1 (the Cold Cellar in the Southwest Blockhouse) continued to produce interesting finds. Georgia State University (GSU) students excavating this unique (for military sites apparently) blockhouse feature have uncovered another spoon! This makes the third spoon from this feature. Last year GSU students found a three-tined bone-handle fork (*pictured on Page 4*) and two spoons in 2015. With the bone-handle knife (plus second identical knife blade) found in the Northeast Blockhouse in 2007, we now have one complete flatware setting!

For the remainder of the place setting one can take their pick from among the hundreds (or is it thousands,

by now?) of glass and ceramic sherds, which represent a half-dozen plate and cup designs popular in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as at least one engraved glass tumbler.* Additionally, the many sherds of brandy bottles suggest what the tumbler held!

The spoon was in very bad shape and crumbled as it was being lifted. It has been stabilized by soaking in Acetone, followed by soaking in Acryloid B-72; so that the object is permeated by this thermoplastic acrylic resin. This not only stabilizes the object but prevents further rusting. As with the fork, it can also be

used as glue to wed fragments that have broken off. A project for another day!

continued on Page 4



Georgia State University students excavating in Cold Cellar Feature within SW Blockhouse.

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More Diggin's

- Gwinnett Historical Society will be meeting on Monday, November 13 at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Lawrenceville beginning at 7PM. Guest speaker Gene Ramsay will be presenting about World War I impact on Gwinnett County. For more information please visit the [GHS Web site](#).
- Gwinnett Historical Society will be hosting a Christmas Open House at the Elisha Winn House on December 9 from 12–4PM.
- The Atlanta History Center's Candlelight Nights will be on December 15 and 22 from 5:30–9:30PM. Experience Christmas past with a candlelit stroll through beautifully decorated gardens and grounds and be transported into the warm glow of the holidays. Visit the three historic houses to experience how Southerners celebrated Christmas during the pioneer days (*pictured right*), the Civil War era, and the 1930s. Holiday traditions of years past come alive with interpreters, music, and special activities. This special holiday program is \$20 for the general public; \$15 for members; \$10 for children. For more information visit the [Atlanta History Center's Web site](#).



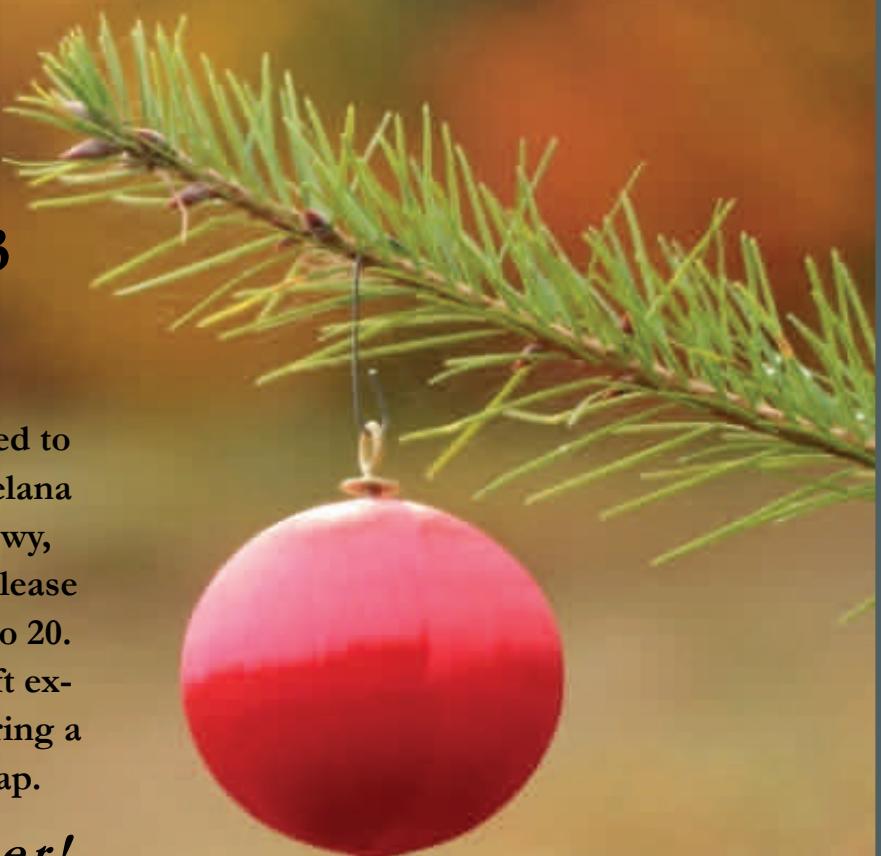
Christmas at Fort Daniel

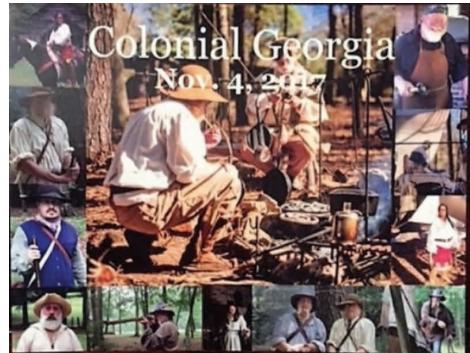
Sunday, December 3

6–8PM

All GARS and FDF members are invited to the Christmas Party at the home of Delana and Chris Gilmore (2505 Braselton Hwy, Buford). It will be potluck; therefore, please bring a covered dish that can feed up to 20. There will be the traditional snag-a-gift exchange (AKA Dirty Santa), so please bring a wrapped gift to participate in the swap.

Let's be merry together!





Homestead Happenings in November and December

Georgia Colonial Frontier Life

Saturday, November 4 from 10AM to 4PM



Decorate for a Victorian Christmas

November 27 and 28



Victorian Christmas at the Harris Log House

Saturday, December 2 from 10AM to 2PM



Historic Christmas Food for Thought

Saturday, December 16 from 10AM to 2PM

For information about events at the William Harris Homestead visit
www.harrishomestead.com.

continued from Page 1

As pictured right, this artifact is our second example of a large spoon; what today we would call a “tablespoon.” (The third spoon probably being a “dessert” spoon, smaller than today’s teaspoon; although it probably was used in the same way.) The relative size can be determined by what is left of the bowl [2.5cm = 1inch]. It is metal and probably carbon steal, as the only thing left is rust (pewter and silver do not rust). The handle is missing. The only other diagnostic feature is the distinctive manner in which the stem of the handle was extended to the back of the spoon, which is not seen on the other large spoon. An example of this type of attachment on a 1775 Georgian spoon is seen in picture’s insert A. Likewise, insert B shows another popular design from the early Georgian period (1714), known as a “rat tail.” As the 19th century progressed, the “rat tail” was shortened until it became the simple “drop” or “heal” seen in “A” and our new spoon.



Spoon remnant from Feature 1 showing “heel” (arrow) and two examples of 18th c. Georgian spoons with diagnostic (A) “heel” on 1775 Scottish spoon and (B.) “rat tail” on 1714 English spoon.



Unit 50 artifacts: A. possible spoon handle tip; and B. spoon handle stem.

Ancillary to this find, in Unit 50 a spoon handle(?) and stem, recovered (*pictured left*). The stem is not a clear match with the handle tip (if that is what it is), nor is it a match with the spoon pictured above. If “A” is a handle tip, it does not match with any 18th–19th century spoons that I have seen but seems to be “modern” (i.e.; 20th century). Unlike the cold cellar artifacts, which are in a “sealed” locus, these come from the plow zone; so we cannot be sure what period they represent—probably early 19th to mid-20th century.

The cold cellar feature (which is being excavated in “slices,” so that we can maintain a cross-section view) is almost 2/3 completed. What excavations have shown is an approximately 6x6’ square and, allowing for a floor with trap door in the Blockhouse, 2.5–3’ deep earthen storage area that was subsequently filled with stone from the foundation of the Blockhouse (as well as other debris) when the fort was dismantled and the area prepared for cultivation. Charcoal and actual burned milled lumber fragments as well as burned chinking fragments indicate that all of this was then burned.

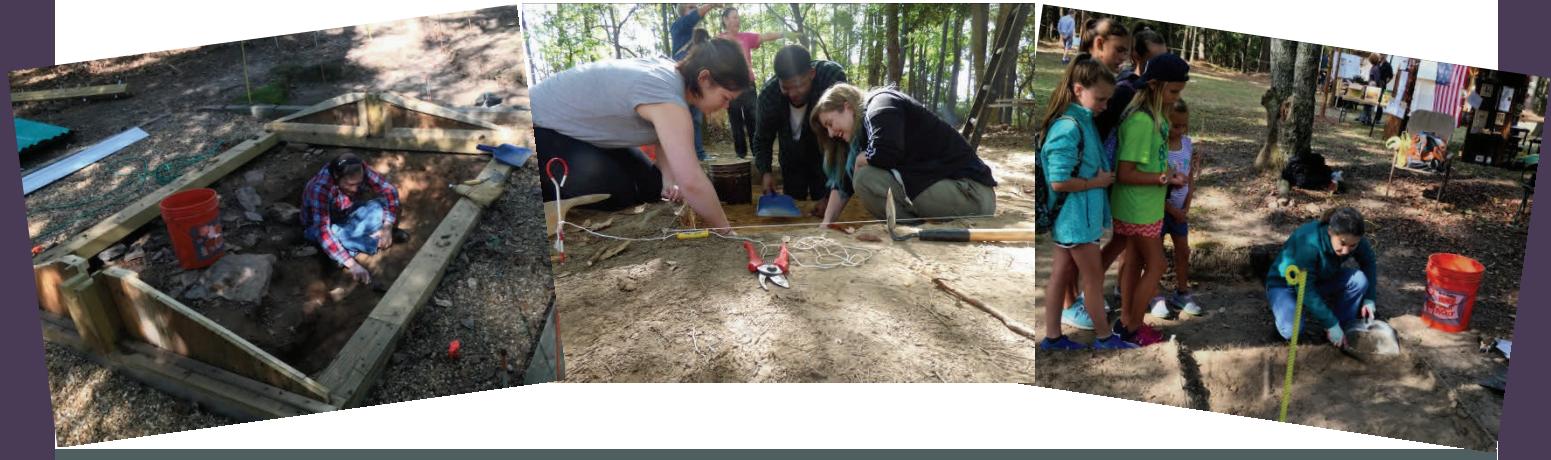
The first two spoons, fork (*pictured right*), and other personal items—such as two men’s shirt buttons of black faceted glass and a soapstone marker—were found on the floor of the cellar indicating they were there before the rest of the debris was thrown or pushed in. However, the most recent spoon was found within the rock fill—about 30cm (1ft) from the floor. Although the “stratigraphy” of the feature was created in essentially one drawn out event, there is nothing significant to say about the different locations of the flatware, except that one deposition occurred before the other—perhaps hours or days or even weeks apart. ■ JJD



Bone-handled, 3-tine fork, recovered 2016 by GSU from bottom of SW cold cellar. Third tine is broken and fused to middle tine and difficult to discern in photo.

* The photos of the tumbler fragments are now with Laura Leigh Antiques of Gloucestershire, UK (specialists in fine English and Irish Antique Glass) who can hopefully be able to tell us more about this piece. The next issue of the GAB will feature this artifact and the results of my inquiry with David Leigh.

9TH ANNUAL FORT DANIEL FRONTIER FAIRE



Archaeology at Fort Daniel Faire



Guests, demonstrators, and vendors enjoyed a sunny fall day at the Frontier Faire



Reenactors retelling the story of Fort Daniel

Fort Daniel School Day

Article by Catherine Long, Fort Daniel Foundation Vice President

Crisp cool temperatures and falling leaves welcomed the first group of students to the field trip program at Fort Daniel on October 20. Volunteers amassed to provide their expertise through hands-on activities. Up-



on arrival students were placed in rotations and learned about frontier life from a woman's perspective, examined the local militia perspective, and met Major General Allen Daniel. Cherokee culture and the role of women were also taught through interpretive pieces. Students participated in excavations of the Northeast Blockhouse and discovered that archaeology requires lots of patience. Students did a lab activity (*pictured left*) that showed the hard work that goes into cleaning, counting, measuring, and examining the artifacts recovered. The experience was framed within a Passport to History that used primary documents and questions to engage students. The day ended with an exciting blacksmith demonstration and many smiles as students returned to school.

Special thanks to all volunteers who made this educational program possible and a special thank you to Principal Paul Willis and 4th grade teacher Jennifer Coffield from Fort Daniel Elementary. The Fort Daniel Foundations looks forward to the continued growth of the field trip program! ■ CL

Apprenticeship Program at Key Blacksmith Shop

At this past Frontier Faire the Blacksmith Apprenticeship Program was featured for the first time. The training sessions have taken place at three local forge sites: William Harris Homestead in Monroe, Elisha Winn House in Dacula, and Fort Daniel. It focuses on hands-on applications of the Blacksmith trade and is designed as an educational approach. Curriculum used for this course follows the Forging Fundamentals Program, created by Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA).

The program is divided into beginner and advanced. In the beginner sessions apprentices learn basic knowledge of the equipment and skills used in the Blacksmith shop—including historical knowledge of the Blacksmith trade, tools, and techniques. In the advanced sessions students acquire more detailed knowledge of the skills and techniques of Blacksmithery.

The Apprenticeship Program's goal is to preserve the skills of the Blacksmithery trade for a new generation! ■

Blacksmith Apprentices Learning the Trade at Fort Daniel Faire



Fort Daniel News

- Last month Dr. Jim D'Angelo spoke at Barrow County Historical Society about Fort Daniel's history and the continued archaeological investigation at the site.
- FDF welcomed three new student volunteers who helped at the School Day and the Frontier Faire:
 - ⇒ Lauren Silvers, the recent Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) student grant recipient. She is a History major and Anthropology minor at University of North Georgia.
 - ⇒ Tyler Holman, History major and Anthropology minor at University of North Georgia.
 - ⇒ McKenzie Culberson, History major at Georgia State University. She will also be helping Delana Gilmore in organizing artifacts and working in the Archaeology Lab.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact John Hopkins; and for FDF membership please contact Betty Warbington.



GARS News

- On November 6 Dr. Jim D'Angelo will be speaking at Mercer University about GARS projects and Fort Daniel to members of the Ocmulgee Archaeological Society.
- ***The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14 at Fort Daniel beginning at 7PM. The guest speaker will be author and historian, Susan Kessler Bernard.*** She will share the history of Native American tribes who lived along the Chattahoochee River. For the first 25 years of her career Susan served as a surgery assistant. Her second career came from working at the Atlanta History Center where she worked in the library-archives and learned to do historical research. This led her to become an author and a history enthusiast. She was a historical columnist for the *Atlanta Buckhead* and *Atlanta Midtown* newspapers and served as the chairman of the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society. She has authored three books: two histories on the Buckhead community and a history of First Presbyterian Church-Atlanta. She has also published two articles on the Muscogee (Creek) Indians in *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* (University of Georgia).
- It is that time of the year again! ***Nominations are being accepted for GARS officers.*** The names will be presented and voted on at a special business meeting during the annual Christmas Party. If you are interested in becoming an officer to GARS, please [email Delana Gilmore](#).
- ***The Annual Christmas Party will be held this year at the home of Delana and Chris Gilmore—also known as the house at Fort Daniel. The party will be on Sunday, December 4 from 6–8PM.*** The party will be potluck; therefore, bring a covered dish that can feed up to 20. There will be the traditional snag-a-gift exchange (AKA Dirty Santa), so please bring a wrapped gift to participate in the swap. ***All GARS and FDF members are welcomed, so let's be merry together!***

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FORT DANIEL
FOUNDATION

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Historic Tax Credit Eliminated

Urgent message from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

On Thursday, November 2 the House Ways and Means Committee released a proposed tax reform bill that eliminates the federal historic tax credit (HTC) as part of a sweeping effort to both pay for tax cuts and simplify the tax code. While not unexpected, this policy proposal deals a significant blow to historic preservation. The HTC has a four-decade track record of success in saving our nation's historic buildings, creating over 2.4 million jobs, and actually *generating* revenue for the US Treasury—returning \$1.20 for every taxpayer dollar spent.

President Ronald Reagan praised the HTC as “economic good sense” by leveraging private

sector investment. Developers have completed over 42,000 challenging historic rehabilitation projects using the HTC. Without this powerful incentive historic rehabilitation across the nation will halt—as will significant reinvestment in our communities.



Introduction of the House tax reform bill represents the beginning of a difficult legislative process. The National Trust will continue to advocate vigorously in support of this vital preservation tool to ensure a critical redevelopment incentive is preserved in the final tax reform bill, but they cannot do

it without you.

Please use their sample message to [contact your members of Congress NOW](#) to help save the historic tax credit. ■ **National Trust**

GARS OFFICERS

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Secretary:
Vicki Watkins

Treasurer:
John Hopkins, Jr.

To keep up with the latest digs and activities from GARS follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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