IN THIS ISSUE
Happy Holidays .................. 1
GARS Meeting ................... 1
CRM ................................. 2
More Diggin’s .................... 3
Fort Daniel News ................. 4
Places of Peril .................... 4

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISER:
Jim D’Angelo, PhD RPA
451 Thornbush Trace
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Email: 4drdee@bellsouth.net

GAB NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Delana M. Gilmore, MA
Email: dgilmore@wordsmithquill.com

Don’t forget to like both
Gwinnett Archaeological
Research Society &
Fort Daniel Foundation on
Facebook.

Happy Holidays
from GARS & FDF

GARS Monthly Meetings

This month’s meeting will be the Annual Christmas Party to be held on Sunday, December 6 from 6–8pm at Catherine Long’s house (email Delana Gilmore for address). The party will be potluck; therefore, bring a covered dish that can feed up to 20. (There is a nut allergy, so please mark your dish if it has nuts.) Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) will be providing a turkey. 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!

At the last GARS meeting it was decided that the present officers to continue for another year; therefore, there will be no need to hold a special business meeting at the Christmas party. The GARS officers for 2016 are: President—Delana Gilmore; Vice President—Karen Lee; Treasurer—John Hopkins, Jr.; and Secretary—Christine Durgan. Nominations will be accepted until the meeting.

Additionally, an email was sent out to the GARS membership about changing the time of the month when GARS meets. It has been decided that in 2016 GARS will begin to meet the third Tuesday of each month. Therefore, the next GARS monthly meeting will be February 16, 2016.
This month’s article is a follow-up to the November discussion of the pit feature being uncovered in Fort Daniel’s Southwest Blockhouse (GAB IV.9.2–3; pictured left). The possibility of a food storage pit in the center of the Blockhouse was suggested by the vertical east face of the feature that was exposed during the 2015 Frontier Faire by Georgia State University (GSU) students. However, of course, until the northeast corner and a portion of the north face of the feature could be exposed—where we would expect to find similar vertical sides and squared corner—we could not say for sure.

After returning to the site with several of his students on November 6, and despite heavy rains, Jeff Glover and his students exposed the anticipated north face and northeast corner of the pit (pictured below). [Approximately 1/4 of the feature, the northeast quadrant, has now been excavated.]

Consequently, what was assumed to be a hearth feature (since its discovery in September 2007) has turned out to be—almost certainly—a root cellar or cool storage pit that would have been beneath the floor of the blockhouse. [I will give a brief presentation on the “history” of the feature entitled, “From Hearth to Cellar,” at the Annual Meeting on January 14].

It turns out that these kinds of root cellars are often found at cabin sites, particularly slave cabin sites (see photo below). I have also found examples of two such features excavated at fort sites: a West Virginia frontier fort and an 1820s military fort. Although not uncommon in these contexts, no such storage pits found in a blockhouse context are known to the several archaeologists queried, who are familiar with military sites—Scott Butler, Dan Elliot, and Pat Garrow.

In the September 2014 GSU bisection of the feature, several artifacts were recovered at or near the bottom. As previously reported (GAB III.10.2), these included an iron buckle (now thought to be a harness buckle based on an example from another site) and a black faceted glass button—incorrectly identified at the time as “lignite.” That was the second such button found at Fort Daniel, and research has shown it to be an early 19th century man’s (not a woman’s!) button.

As the bottom of feature was expanded during GSU excavations at the 2015 Frontier Faire, a large spoon was recovered very near to these.

---

Possibility of a storage pit in center of Fort Daniel’s Southwest Blockhouse was suggested by the vertical east face of feature.

Completed bisection in NE corner demonstrates that shape of pit is rectangular with vertical walls now partially exposed in NE corner. Previously apparent sloping sides were the result of process of filling the cavity: Upper subsurface soil had slumped into the cavity very soon after abandonment.

Excavation of slave quarters site at Carter’s Grove Plantation with root cellar feature in center.

continued on next page
The artifact is now being professionally conserved, as was the bone-handled knife found at the bottom of a rodent pit in the Northeast Blockhouse several years ago. As more of the floor of the cellar feature was exposed on November 6, another smaller spoon was recovered (see photos below). I am doing conservation work on the smaller spoon at the Fort Daniel lab and will present both spoons at the annual meeting and in the January GAB. ■ JJD

---

### More Diggin’s

- **Volunteer Day at the Fort Daniel Archaeology Lab** will be on Saturday, December 5 beginning at 10AM. Beginning in January volunteers can help out in the archaeology lab on the first or third Saturdays of each month.

- The **Daughters of the War of 1812** have invited FDF and GARS members to the grave marking ceremony for General Allen Daniel on Sunday, December 6 at 2:30PM in Danielsville, Georgia. The ceremony will held at his actual gravesite on Hwy 281, which is north of Danielsville.

- **Gwinnett Historical Society** will be hosting an open house at the **Elisha Winn House** on December 12 from 12-4PM.

- **Candlelight Tours of McDaniel Family Farm** (pictured right) will be held throughout the month of December. Discover historic customs and traditions celebrated during the holiday season. There is a program fee, and preregistration is required. Please visit the [Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Web site](#) for information and to register for this event.

---

*continued from previous page*

---

*Top left: Possible harness buckle. Top center: Black, faceted man’s button. Right: Large spoon, now with Atlanta object conservator, Nancy Livengood. Bottom left: Small spoon, being conserved at the Fort Daniel archaeology lab.*
Georgia Trust’s 2015 Places of Peril List

Recently, the Georgia Trust announced its 2016 Places of Peril list. The list includes historic schools, courthouses, old textile mills, and other endangered buildings. Many people pass by these buildings so much that now they no longer notice the swooping ornate marble, the 100-year-old brickwork, or any other type of architectural feature. These places face threats every day—perhaps more so because people have grown used to them.

That’s why the Georgia Trust brings attention yearly to ten places across the state and providing ways you can help in your community. Each site represents hundreds of similar sites throughout the state that are just as endangered and in need of community help as the ones identified in 2016. This year two Gwinnett places—the Hudson-Nash House and Cemetery in Lilburn and Norcross Woman’s Club Old Library (pictured above)—are on the list. For the complete list visit the Georgia Trust’s Web site.