When November begins, many people think about the celebrating Thanksgiving and carrying on family tradition and heritage. Since 1994 a Presidential Proclamation has been passed recognizing November also as National Native American Heritage Month. This year’s proclamation stated, “American Indians and Alaska Natives enrich every aspect of our country. As the first to live on this land, Native Americans and their traditions and values inspired—and continue to inspire—the ideals of self-governance and determination that are the framework of our Nation. This month, we recognize the contributions made by Native Americans since long before our founding, and we resolve to continue the work of strengthening government-to-government ties with tribal nations and expanding possibility for all.”

This month’s GARS meeting (and field trip—see below) focuses on celebrating Native American Heritage. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12 at Fort Daniel Archaeological Lab. Greater Atlanta Archaeology Society (GAAS) President Scott Goodlow will be our guest speaker. He will be talking about “Seasonal Celebrations of Native Peoples” by bringing some of Native America to our table. He will prepare foods for everyone to enjoy!

Additionally, at the November GARS meeting officers nominations will be accepted. You can volunteer yourself or another member. The annual GARS officers election will be held at the Christmas party, which will be held on Sunday, December 6 at Catherine Long’s house.

GARS meetings are opened to the public—gathering at 7pm with meeting beginning at 7:30pm.

GARS Field Trip

Continuing celebrating Native American Heritage Month, GARS members will be visiting the Etowah Mounds on Saturday, November 21. More information will be sent out at a later date; keep an eye on your email and the Facebook page. If you are interested, email Delana Gilmore.
Cultural Resource Management

Archaeological sites are being discovered and recorded all the time here in Gwinnett County. Of course, sites are being destroyed as well (See Georgia Heritage Loss). In each issue we focus on site discoveries in recent years and the context of those discoveries.

Most archaeologists will encounter at least one food pit of one sort or another in their career. In Near Eastern archaeology a common type of pit is the grain storage pit such as one at the Early Bronze Age (~3200 BCE) site of Khirbet Iskander, Jordan (pictured right) with which I have been associated since 1981.

In American Prehistoric Archaeology food storage pits begin to appear with the Woodland Period (about 1000 BC to AD 900), a period characterized not only by hunting and gathering but by early horticulture as well.

Pits for cool or cold storage are also well-known in the archaeological record and are not uncommon in historic early America. “Most homes needed a cool place to store root vegetable, fruits, pickles, dairy products, and barrels of salted meat, cider, beer, or wine,” writes Sandra L. Oliver, “and, in cold seasons, fresh meat for short periods to time. Archaeological digs on sites of slave dwellings have uncovered pits in cabin floors that are interpreted as food storage places.” [P.96 in Food in Colonial and Federal America, Greenwood Press: CT 2005].

Examples of food storage pits can be seen at two early American forts: Fort Snelling in Minnesota originally built in the 1820s and Arbuckle’s frontier fort in south central West Virginia. A Fort Snelling brochure says, “Archaeologists examined the commanding officers’ quarters in 1975, prior to restoration. Under the basement floor, they found remnants of handmade brick laid in a herringbone pattern and the cold storage pit which originally held foodstuffs.” Excavations at Arbuckle’s fort “revealed several large pits filled with refuse . . . These could have initially served as storage pits under small structures, then later filled with refuse when no longer needed for storage.” [P.21 in Frontier Defense: Colonized Contested Areas in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia by Kim and Stephen McBride.]

I would love to hear about the discovery of one of these in the floor of a blockhouse—for that is what our feature in Fort Daniel’s Southwest Blockhouse is beginning to look like! Based on the feature’s initial appearance when it was first uncovered in 2009, we have been calling the feature a centrally located hearth. These are not uncommon in British blockhouses from this same period. However, to my knowledge, this would be the first one documented in the Middle or Southern Colonies.

About two years ago, as we began to bisect and excavate the east half of the feature with Georgia State University (GSU) students, it started to look like something else. With the discovery of a large, collapsed rodent den in the Northeast Blockhouse into which the plow zone containing both historic Fort Daniel and prehistoric artifacts (including Woodland pottery) had come to rest—only to be subsequently covered by more artifact-laden plow zone—the possibility that the hearth might have likewise been undermined by rodents was entertained. That is, for a season.

As careful excavations have continued under the watchful guidance of GSU Professor Jeff Glover, the feature again looks like something else. As you will see in the photograph pictured left, the east side of the feature has been identified, and it is straight. This would not be

continued on the next page
the case had rodents made the depression or even if it were a dug trash pit. A cool/cold storage pit comes to mind. Situated below the floor in the center of the blockhouse, it was an ideal location for storage of the large quantities of meat supplied during the winter of 1813–1814 for which there are receipts at the Georgia Archives. Of course, until the northeast corner of the feature is exposed—where we would expect to find a similar north face of the pit—we cannot say for sure.

At the bottom of that excavated area—about a foot south of where Jeff and his students found the belt buckle and faceted button in May—they found the remains of a large spoon (*pictured right*). So fragile was the specimen that it was immediately moved to a freezer and has since been left for conservation with conservationist, Nancy Livengood, at her Atlanta studio. The spoon should make a handsome pairing with the bone-handled knife that we found in our early excavations in what would come to be known to be the rodent lodge in the Northeast Blockhouse. ■ JJD

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**More Diggin’s**

- **Georgia’s Native People at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (GEHC)** will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 10AM to 12PM. Discover the heritage of the Cherokee and Muskogee people through traditional stories and games. Learn about the 3 Sisters Garden and the significance of these vegetables. Hear how children help out their families and make your own cornhusk doll. For more information and to register please visit the [GEHC’s Web site](https://georgiaarchives.org).

- The next **GAAS meeting** will be on Tuesday, November 10 at Fernbank Museum beginning at 6:30PM. The guest speaker will be Jenna Pirtle speaking on her thesis topic: ceramic figures of ancient West Mexico.

- **Holiday on the Homefront 1861–1865 at McDaniel Farm** will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 10AM to 4PM. Experience the holidays in the 1860s through a living history demonstration at McDaniel Farm. Learn how soldiers and families at home celebrated the holiday season. For more information and to register please visit the [GEHC’s Web site](https://georgiaarchives.org).

- **Gwinnett Historical Society’s General Meeting** will be on Monday, November 16 at the Historic Courthouse downtown Lawrenceville beginning at 7PM. For more information visit the [GHS’s Web site](https://gwinnett历史委员会.org).

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**Archaeological Lab’s New Shelves**

The exhibiting of Fort Daniel artifacts and educational displays have been greatly enhanced thanks to the contribution and installation of a large shelving unit housed at the Fort Daniel Archaeological Lab and Meeting Room by John Hopkins. He also built and installed with the assistance of Charles Warbington shelves over the sink in the lab. ■
7th Annual Frontier Faire

Demonstrators enjoying a sunny fall day at the Frontier Faire

Archaeology at Fort Daniel

Reenactors helped to tell the story of Fort Daniel
Public Archaeology at the 2015 Frontier Faire

At this year’s Frontier Faire, four excavation units were opened: In the Northeast Blockhouse, Unit 39, a 4’x4’ (1.20 m x 1.20 m) unit designated for 4th graders thru 8th grade; adjacent to the Southwest Blockhouse, Units 40 and 41 (same size) were designated one for Boy Scouts and the other for students and visitors 9th grade and older; and excavation of the Southwest Blockhouse feature was continued. (More about that in the CRM article on page 2.) A “Progeny Archaeologists” area for youngsters 3rd grade and below was also created outside the fort footprint near the Northeast screening area.

Artifacts found in Units 39–41 included all the types of ceramics that we find at the Fort Daniel site—plus some brandy bottle glass, a pipe stem fragment, and “buck ‘n ball” musket shot. Only excavated to arbitrary level one (~ 4” or 10cm), these units will be finished at a later time. Prepared terra cotta and other pottery sherds were dug from the Progeny “salted” unit, bagged, and brought to the lab where they were used to demonstrate pottery mending. A large flower pot used for this was hand painted by Natasha D’Angelo and then unceremoniously crushed by Jim.

This year’s Faire also was the kickoff for the Boy Scout Merit Badge program with several Scouts—mostly from Charles Daniel’s Troop 305. [Troop 305 also continued in their tradition of providing the Color Guard for the Flag Raising.] Catherine Long is the designated merit badge counselor. The program’s schema consisted of: orientation to archaeological method and the history and archaeology of Fort Daniel; field orientation; and participation in excavation and screening. A fourth component (hands-on archaeology lab) was not included beyond the demos in the lab.

Orientation consisted of two media presentations that ran on a loop: The Society of Georgia Archaeology (SGA) CD entitled “What is Archaeology”, which was coproduced by GARS-FDF and SGA and is based on the Frontiers In the Soil curriculum material; and a presentation Jim put together on the history and archaeology of Fort Daniel.

Anyone (Boy Scout or other youth) who presented a sign-off sheet showing they had participated in these three activities, received a “I Dig Fort Daniel” pin. The Scouts will get credit on their official paperwork towards the Archaeology Merit Badge. We hope to have these Scouts and more back with us soon to work on their Merit Badge. ■ JJD

Artifact Processing

A new initiative for processing the Fort Daniel artifacts—from Conservation to Cataloging—that involves rotation of volunteers on the first and third Saturday of each month will begin on December 5. Volunteers may come once or twice a month, as their schedule permits. Jenna Pirtle will direct the effort, assisted by Jim D’Angelo, Hayley Cunningham, and others. The first meeting, though, will be on Saturday, November 14 at 10am in the Fort Daniel Archaeological Lab. Other dates may also be substituted during the course of the year—due to calendar conflicts. It will be important for volunteers to be at the November 14 orientation, if possible. The lab and all that is needed will be set up and ready. If you are not able to attend the orientation on November 14 and are still interested in helping in the lab, please email Jim D’Angelo. ■
Fort Daniel News

- An evaluation of the Jackson Cabin logs (donated by the Gwinnett Historical Society to the Foundation for use in constructing a blacksmith shop at the Fort Daniel site, and removed, gratis, by David Coffey to his saw mill in Flowery Branch) should be completed by the middle of November. An exhibit of log ends from unusable logs was displayed at the Faire (pictured right).

- Fifteen different species of trees [Black Gum; *Nyssa sylvatica*; Butter Nut; *Juglans cinerea*; Dogwood; *Cornus florida*; Hickory; *Carya tomentosa*; Holly; *Ilex opaca*; Locust; *Robinia pseudoacacia*; Maple; *Acer saccharum*; Mimosa; *Mimosa*; Persimmon; *Persimmon*; Pine; *Pinus taeda*; Poplar; *Populus*; Red Oak; *Quercus falcate*; Sweet Gum; *Liquidambar styraciflua*; Water Oak; *Quercus nigra*; White Oak; *Quercus alba*, and Wild Cherry; *Prunus serotina*] have been identified within or immediately adjacent to the Fort Daniel footprint by Wayne Stancel. ID tags for each of these were purchased by the Foundation, Jim made oak backings for them, and Wayne installed them prior to the Frontier Faire.

- In connection with the future Blacksmith shop, Jim has donated an antique anvil (pictured below) that he has been lugging around with him since he purchased it for about $5 in a barn sale in New Jersey around 1984. It is almost identical to an ALSOP Colonial Anvil that is in a collection in Williamsburg that is dated to the 18th century, and Cory Hendricks of Hawk’s Crossing Forge (our Blacksmith at this year’s Faire) agrees that it is at least that old. Some ships carried anvils as ballast so they are also known as “ship’s anvils.” Though the horn is broken, the break is masked by years of battering—showing that it continued to be useful. Unfortunately, there is no maker’s mark or weight (probably close to 200 pounds). The same barn yielded a hand wrought spike modified for use with hanging tack or a horse’s collar—also donated along with an late 1800s sledge hammer from Squaw Valley, California. That is another story.