

West Virginia University
Division of Sociology and Anthropology
Archaeology Field School
May 11 – June 12, 2009.

The Division of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University, in conjunction with the California University of Pennsylvania's Anthropology Program, is offering an archaeology field school for summer 2009. The excavation site is the Old Zollarsville "Indian Fort." The site is approximately 40 miles north of Morgantown near Marianna, PA. The commute will take approximately 45 minutes. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the site.

The WVU archaeology field school (Soca 493L) is intended to provide students with a local opportunity to participate in the scientific excavation of an archaeological site. The field school provides students with an intensive hands-on learning experience that cannot be obtained from a classroom or duplicated within a virtual environment. Interwoven into the class are lectures and field trips to nearby archaeological sites. Invited guest speakers will discuss topics such as ceramic technology, weaving and textiles, Ethnobotany, faunal analysis, and curation.

Participants will be trained in field excavation techniques, laboratory techniques, and data analysis. Site excavations will be designed to collect data to answer research questions about local and regional history, and historic and prehistoric behavior. Student writing, presentation, and publication possibilities may result from data collected from the archaeological field school. Specifically, students will learn to:

1. Locate and excavate an archaeological site,
2. Identify material culture
3. Use hand tools to both expose and excavate features
4. Draw the various types of maps needed to document the excavation of the site
5. Determine the appropriate methods for artifact recovery
6. Catalogue artifacts for later study, and work actively with our partners.

The origins of the site, and the site type are not well documented. Only a few minor references concerning the Zollarsville "Indian Fort" have been found:

One source describes the site as follows, "Zollarsville is on the north branch of Ten Mile Creek, 16 miles from Washington. It was laid out by Stephen Ullery in 1856, and is a small and thriving village. Near the residence of ex-sheriff R. Smith is the remains of an Indian fort. The entrenchment around the fort, which can yet be traced, is about 100 feet from the fort. Bones, pipes, arrows, & c, have been found." (Source: History of Washington County, From Its First Settlements To The Present Time, second edition, revised and corrected by Alfred Creigh, LL.D., Harrisburg, PA., B. Singerly, Printer, 1871.

Another source reads, "There was also a fort in West Bethlehem township, Washington county, at the village of Zollarsville, and directly in the rear of the dwelling house and store of Edward B. Smith, Esq., on the high bluff which overlooks the fort."

A third says, "West Bethlehem Twp is located northeast of the National Pike, in an area known as Ten Mile, after the creek of the same name which was once called Cusuthee by the Indians who lived here even after settlers began to come. Periodic uprisings and Indian raids caused settlers built stockade forts that were easily accessible by those living nearby. West Bethlehem had at least three forts: Enoch's Fort

(built ca. 1770 by Enoch) 1 mile from Lone Pine (northern section); McFarland's Fort (later the George Earnest farm); Milliken's Fort (built ca. 1772 near the Amwell Twp. line. Additionally, there was an Indian Fort at Zollarsville behind Ulery's Mill, which overlooked Ten Mile Creek."(Source: Report of The Commision To Locate The Frontier Forts of Western Pennsylvania, Clarence M. Busch., Volume I- Pages State Printer of Pennsylvania, 1896.)

CLASS & REGISTRATION

The class runs 5 days a week over 5 weeks. One day each week will be spent in the lab. If you are interested, you need to contact doug.sahady@mail.wvu.edu for approval.

For additional course details, please refer to the course syllabus linked below.

Please note: Volunteers are welcome to work alongside field school students. Volunteers younger than 16 should be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to volunteer but do not want to dig, we will also maintain our lab during the field season at the forensics complex on the Evansdale campus, where recently excavated artifacts will be washed as they come in from the field. Interested individuals can find out more about the field school by contacting Douglas Sahady, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, by email: doug.sahady@mail.wvu.edu, or by calling the Division of Sociology and Anthropology at 304.293.5801.