

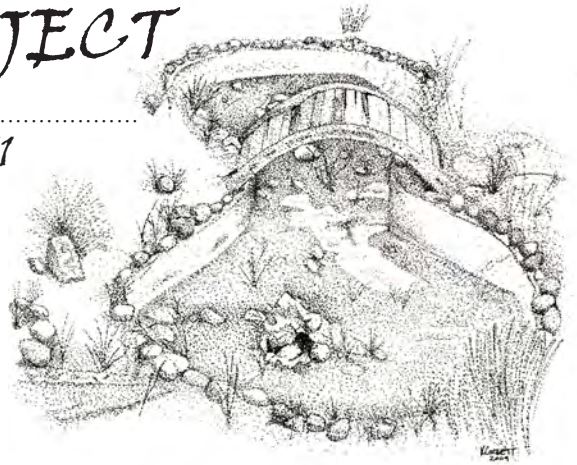
THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER AMACHE PROJECT

Volume III

Winter 2011

Welcome From the Director

Looking back on another year of the University of Denver (DU) Amache project and all the people who help research, interpret, and preserve the physical remains of the Amache Japanese American internment camp is humbling. Last summer we once again were hosted by the Town of Granada, who opened their doors and their kitchens to our field school in historical archaeology and museum studies. With help from the DU Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, we were able to support the participation of two dedicated high school students in the field school. Jordan Kemp, a Granada native and member of the Amache Preservation Society was our local guide, while Ava Tamiko Hawkinson joined us from the San Francisco Bay area. These students are amazing ambassadors for Amache and the project and we plan to continue the High School intern program for our 2012 field school. The dedicated university students who enrolled in the field school were also joined by four community volunteers: former Amache internee Anita Miyamoto Miller and her husband Duncan



The 2010 field crew at the Historic Landmark plaque

Kelley, and another former internee Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker and her friend Judy Speer. Helping these diverse individuals learn about archaeology and Amache together was the highlight of the summer – that and our big spam musubi party at the crew house. At our two site open houses, the project hosted over 100 visitors from the local and the larger Amache community, including the Tademaru and Uno families. We remain awed by the power of Amache to bring people together and thank you all for your support.

Dr. Bonnie J. Clark
Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of Denver

Field School Wrap-up

From mid-June until the end of July, Dr. Clark and graduate students David Garrison, Kellen Hinrichsen, and Paul Swader ran the 2010 summer field school in archaeology and museum studies. With a crew of eight students from across the country, the group conducted research in four barracks blocks at Amache. Amache-related preservation groups were awarded three Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants by the National Park Service prior to the field school. These grants have been used to help fund research prior to future reconstruction of a guard tower at the site, the renovation and return of the historic water tower, and hopefully barracks or other historic buildings. We concentrated much of our research in the areas of the site that could be impacted by these developments.

For the first two weeks, students conducted intensive surface survey where they walked systematically across four barracks blocks (7G, 12G, 12H, and 12K), taking notes and mapping the location of objects of interest. We saw a wide range of items including fine porcelains, gardening materials, and children's toys. Features built by former internees were flagged as well and drawn in detail by the students.

Historic photographs suggested the location of several gardens which we were interested in excavating. One was a very complex entryway garden in block 7G, built by Mataji Umeda and featured in our last newsletter. The other was a large vegetable garden located very near the water tower foundations in block 12K.

In addition, during survey of block 12H, crews found a previously undocumented entryway garden in the area of the site that may be the future location of returned barracks.



Field School students pose with Dr. Bonnie Clark



Students excavate the 7G garden



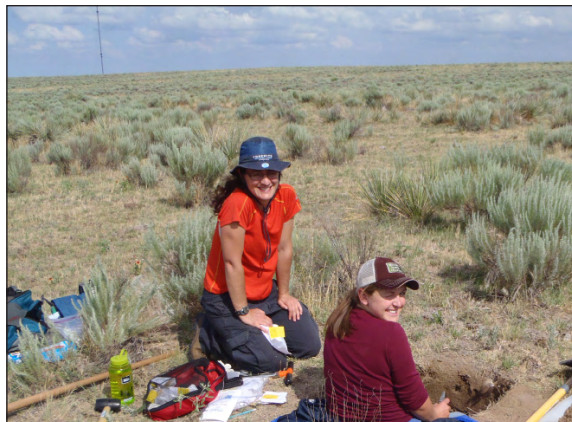
Ground-Penetrating Radar was used to locate interesting areas to dig

Visiting instructor, Dr. Lawrence Conyers from the University of Denver taught the field crew about the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR) in archaeology. By sending energy into the ground and recording how it returns to the surface, researchers can “see” what is beneath the ground. GPR suggested these areas had intact buried remains and so test excavation proceeded.

Joined by our community volunteers, the students opened up their first archaeological units during the third week. The crew learned how to identify soil changes in the ground and sift through dirt while looking for interesting objects, all while measuring, drawing, and describing their results.

Dr. Erika Marín-Spinotta from University of Madison, Wisconsin taught the crew about soil science and how to collect samples that could later be tested in a lab to find out whether internees were amending the soil in their gardens. Archeobotanist Steven Archer taught students about landscape archaeology and how to “float” soil, which separates out small botanical remains. Using this information, along with pollen analysis, we will be able to find out what kinds of plants were being grown in gardens during the internment period.

In the Amache museum in Granada students learned how to manage the many items in a small historical museum—photographs, historic documents, and objects. Students used the collections to research Amache and then created new displays for future museum visitors. Gail Tanaka wrote a wonderful article about her family’s visit to the field school in Nichi Bei weekly, published in San Francisco. The project was also written up locally in the Lamar Ledger newspaper, was featured on a Denver-area newscast, and was also the subject of a Colorado Public Radio broadcast. Links to these stories are available through the DU Amache project website: (<http://portfolio.du.edu/amache>).



Soil chemists Erika Marín-Spinotta and Emily Eggleston take a soil sample



Children help screen during a field trip to Amache



Visitors tour the site during an open house

Ongoing Master's Research

Graduate students David Garrison and Paul Swader, who served as crew chiefs during the 2010 field school, conducted research during the summer field season and have begun analysis and writing on their Master's theses. Both students are interested in internee ingenuity and creativity but are studying this through different forms. David is focusing on landscaping efforts and how internees used gardening to change their site of internment while Paul is focusing on the role of re-use, recycled materials, and modified objects under internment.

David has plenty of work ahead of him as he begins to analyze and review data collected from the summer field season. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), a tool that allows archaeologists to get an idea of what lies beneath the soil was used to predict where gardens were at Amache. David will be using this information to compare with the excavations to show the usefulness of GPR in locating gardens at archaeological sites and at Amache. Botanical, pollen, and soil chemistry analysis were used to try and identify possible plants used in the gardens and whether internees were amending the soil in their planting efforts. In addition to these scientific tools, David will be analyzing artifacts collected from the garden excavations, which include objects as diverse as ceramic planters to homemade barbed wire used to keep pests out.

During the field season, Paul collected a great number of objects that showed signs of re-use, jury rigging, and modification. Metal cans with punctured holes used as flower pots and watering buckets, metal wire bent to form handles, and sheet metal used as building material are among the objects collected. Many recycled materials are found in the formation of garden and landscaping features, such as water pipes and domestic tiles. Current research is focused on how objects were modified and where internees obtained these materials.



David and Paul pose with former DU students Dana and April



Block 12H excavation of an internee garden



Modified can possibly used as a watering bucket

Amache: Fact or Fiction by Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker

Since I was only three years old when we were relocated to Amache, my memories of my life there were very few and vague. What I knew about Amache was based on my reading, talking to former internees, and visiting the Japanese-American National Museum in Los Angeles. If I tried to talk with my parents about their experiences in Amache, they quickly changed the subject. To this day, I do not know what my parents thought or felt about Amache, but I suppose it wasn't good. A chance to find out what Amache was really like came during my participation in an Amache Reunion, held in Las Vegas, May, 2009. While there, I met Dr. Bonnie Clark, Associate Professor of Anthropology, at the University of Denver. Attending her workshops, I discovered a lot about Amache and found that I could volunteer on her next Amache archaeological field season, in 2010. So, with a friend, Judy Speer, I went to Amache as a volunteer.

Our assignment was to assist the students and their professors in digging for artifacts in the areas, which had been outlined the previous two weeks. So, besides having to endure hot, dry temperatures of 100 degrees or more, we carefully dug a few centimeters at a time, looking intently for any artifacts that would be evidence of gardening. Furthermore, we sifted the dirt as it was shoveled to see if other items appeared.

I worked in the area around Block 7G. This unit was chosen because we had a photograph showing a gentleman with what we surmised was his ornamental garden. Luckily, we did find lots of things, such as pieces of wire, nails, ceramic pieces and clay pots. We also came across pieces of lumber, which might have been part of shelving used to display bonsai plants.



Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker as a child poses in front of her barrack



Carlene takes a measurement in her excavation unit

In the afternoons, Judy and I joined the students as they worked in the Amache Preservation Society's Museum, in Granada and/or assisting the students as they "floated" the soil samples we collected to see if any seeds or other artifacts were in them. Needless to say, I learned a lot about archeology. The best part for me was to learn about life in Amache from the students with whom I was digging. Each morning, before we left for the field, Dr. Clark would brief us. These sessions were instructive and contributed a great deal to my search for information about Amache. In the evenings, we listened to the various professors about the methodology to be used to interpret the data collected.

It was during the Open Houses, however, where I met several former internees and being interviewed by the media that Amache became a reality for me. Walking to my barrack/room--Block 11G-4C—and standing in the very room where I lived with my parents, I could visualize and recall a lot about my early years. Imagine this, I was able to "see" where my parents' cots were, where the pot belly stove was located, where I slept behind the blanket that was strung over a clothes line to give my parents privacy. This was a very emotional moment as visions were forming. I was also able to remember my time in nursery school and being carried on my father's shoulders to the mess hall (with a scarf over my face to keep the dust off). This was absolutely amazing! The longer I stood in that "room" (there are no barracks left, only the concrete foundations, so, one needs to have a good imagination), there were other things that I now could remember. Amache was now fact, not fiction!



Carlene, John Hopper, and Anita Miller pose



Carlene is interviewed for a segment on Colorado's 9 News



Volunteers Carlene and Anita Miller in the field

Recent Events

Du Student Graduates

This past June, DU graduate student Jennifer Otto-Cronk, finished her Master's paper, "Negotiating Preservation: A Case Study of the World War II Japanese Internment Camp of Amache." After graduating, Jennifer was the lead consultant on the Aurora History Museum's exhibit, "Amache: Colorado's Internment Camp," which ran from late July until the end of October.

John Hopper Wins Award

Head of the Amache Preservation Society and Granada High School teacher, John Hopper, was recently awarded the Second Annual History Colorado President's award. The award is given to "a person, project, or program that enriched and educated other's about our state's history and heritage and demonstrated a commitment to archaeology and historic preservation."

Former Internee Wins Award

Retired school counselor, DU Amache Project volunteer, and former internee, Carlene Tinker, was awarded the Henry Madden Library Award for Advocate of the Year. Carlene won the award for her donation of her uncle, George Shitara's, collection of Grana Pioneer Newspapers. Carlene has also been dedicating her time to digitize the collection for future generations.

Upcoming Events

This May the DU Amache project will hit the road to California. On May 6, Dr. Clark will speak about Amache as one of the two plenary speakers for the Theoretical Archaeology Group meetings on the UC Berkeley campus. The week of May 22 Dr. Clark, David Garrison, and new graduate student Christian Driver will travel to Los Angeles. Dr. Clark has been invited to speak at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Co-sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Department, the talk will take place on Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm. During the visit Dr. Clark and her students plan to meet with members of the Amache Historical Society and others interested in research and preservation work at Amache. If you live in the Los Angeles area and want to participate in these conversations, please let us know!

Recent Presentations

Requests for public presentations as well as professional conferences have kept our students and faculty busy. This Fall Dr. Clark was asked to speak about the DU Amache project for the incoming class of DU freshman, as well as an adult education class on internment. With Mary Brown, a graduate student in Museum Studies at DU, Dr. Clark worked with K-12 teachers on how to use the archaeology of Amache to teach about internment. Dr. Clark travelled to Indianapolis to present on the Amache project for a conference on service learning and community engagement in higher education. She also spoke about Amache for two panels at the Society for Historical Archaeology conference, one on the archaeology of institutional life, and one on the archaeology of neighborhood and community. Graduate students David Garrison and Paul Swader presented on the project and their thesis research at the Colorado Archaeological Society's 75th Annual Meeting. The entire Anthropology Department at DU was involved in the 2011 Denver area Day of Remembrance event, along with a Teacher's Education workshop held the day prior. Both of these events were co-sponsored by the Mile Hi Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.


Contact us:

The DU Amache project needs you!! As we move forward, we want you to be a part of our work, whether through sharing your history or opinion, through planning future research, or through public events. If you are interested in joining us as a High School intern or volunteer for the 2012 field season, we would love to hear from you. Inquiries can be sent to Dr. Bonnie Clark via email at bclark@du.edu or at the mailing address below.

For more about the Amache Project please visit the project website at <https://portfolio.du.edu/amache>

The DU Amache project will continue to update the community through newsletters and other correspondence. For additional copies of the newsletter or to join our mailing list please contact us at amachedu@du.edu with your mailing address and /or e-mail address.

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