

# THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER AMACHE PROJECT

Volume IV

Spring 2012

## Message From the Director

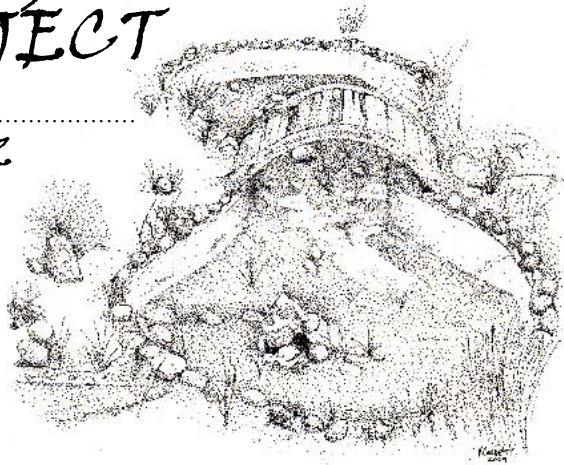
This has been an exciting year for everyone associated with the University of Denver (DU) Amache project. We have had many opportunities to share our research on the physical remains of Amache with people all over the country. My students and I spoke about the camp at conferences from Berkeley to Baltimore. The project was even featured in *Archaeology* magazine! Perhaps the greatest honor this year was the chance to speak about Amache at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles. We were pleased to be joined by so many former Amache internees at that talk and the community meeting that followed. We stayed in LA for several days of interviews graciously given to assist student research on the camp. In the pages that follow you can find out more about those thesis projects. Inside is also a preview of our upcoming field season at Amache, scheduled to take place this summer. It is always a privilege to be visited by members of the

Amache community during the field school and we hope that some of you can join us at the open house, or any time during the month-long field school. It is only with your help that this project succeeds. We thank all of you for your continuing support.

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



*Dr. Bonnie Clark with former Amacheans at JANM*



## *DU Returning to Amache*

Once again, archaeologists from DU will be returning to Amache. From June 18 to July 17, 2012, an archaeological and museums field school will be held on the site of the former internment camp and associated museum. Dr. Bonnie J. Clark will again be leading the project with assistance from new staff member Anne Coates who will oversee the museum component. Field school participants will include graduate and undergraduate students from DU and other institutions, former internee volunteers, and high school interns from the Amache community and the Amache Preservation Society (APS) in Granada.

During the 2012 field school we will return to the work of intensively surveying barracks blocks and investigating gardening and landscaping features. In 2010 we successfully added the analysis of pollen from the gardens to our studies. This yielded evidence of an amazingly wide diversity of plants grown at Amache including cattails and dogwood! In 2012 we will continue to collect soil from landscaping features for analysis of pollen, other plant remains, and soil chemistry. We will also continue to use Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations to help us “see” below the ground to better plan our excavations. In part because of the interests of Master’s student Christian Driver (his research is featured later in the newsletter), we will for the first time conduct excavations inside some barracks buildings.

Plans are currently underway for the return of an Amache barracks building from a local farm back to the camp. We will focus some of our research on the area where the barrack will hopefully be returned, which will aid future site development. By better understanding the physical remains associated with the barrack foundation, reconstruction can be planned in a way that it avoids harming individual objects or landscaping features. Once again, work in the field will be paired with work at the Amache museum in Granada, Colorado. We will process newly donated materials while improving the condition of and research on existing collections.

We plan to survey several barracks blocks, including 7K, 8F, 9L, 11G, and 11H. If you or your family lived in those barracks, we would love to hear from you! Photographs, memories, and stories of life in your block make our work so much more relevant.



*2010 field crew using digital mapping equipment*



*Field school participants Walter and Anita excavate a garden*

## Master's Research Update

University of Denver students David Garrison and Paul Swader continue work on their master's theses and plan to finish by this summer. Both David and Paul conducted archaeological research and helped run the 2010 field school at Amache. David and Paul have been involved with various Amache related outreach projects including presentations at the Colorado Archaeological Society and Society for Historical Archaeology conferences. David and Paul's research is informed by the Japanese Americans who endured incarceration, written history, as well as the objects left behind. The students' work has helped build upon the growing field of internment archaeology and contributed to a better understanding of what daily life was like at Amache.

Paul's research focuses on the re-use and modification of objects at Amache. Through the use of archaeology, archival research, and oral histories, Paul's thesis investigates the ingenuity and resourcefulness of internees through their salvaging and reprocessing of materials for household objects and use in daily activities. Paul's research examines how Japanese American internees formed a productive community that was able to obtain supplies to participate in social activities, such as the production of saké, carpentry, and gardening. In addition, his research explores the factors that initiated the production and use of these materials. Such factors include the introduction to an unfamiliar climate, restrictions enforced by the internment camp, and the attempt to preserve personal identity and culture. Analysis of objects such as homemade flowerpots, Go tokens, and a wheel from a wheelbarrow reveals the types of activities internees brought to the camp, the hobbies people could not live without, or the tools needed to adapt to the camp.



*David Garrison and Paul Swader at Amache in 2010*



*A possible handmade possible flower pot with holes punched for drainage*

These objects have revealed the efforts by Japanese-American internees to adapt and overcome the treatment experienced in the camp and their ability to maintain a connection to their lives before forced relocation.

David's research investigates the diverse landscaping and gardening works at Amache. Using archaeological evidence, oral history, and archival research, David reveals how internees adapted a legacy of agriculture and improved the landscape of internment. David's research is concerned with how many Japanese Americans brought agricultural skills with them to the internment camps, and continued to practice these skills primarily through hobby when not working on the farm. The remnants of internee built gardens, landscaping works, and planted Chinese Elms were all found during the 2010 field school. One buried garden excavated during the 2010 field season was particularly interesting. The garden featured a unique use of brick, river cobbles, and a repurposed ceramic pipe used as a planter.

### My Amache Internship By Ava Tamiko Hawkinson

I am so grateful that I was able to participate in the Amache Field School. It was not only highly informative, but very rewarding. Two years ago I was a high school student interested in archaeology. However, I did not have any knowledge of working outside of a lab. The field school provided me with this, and did much more. It taught me field techniques and exposed me to the rich Japanese American culture. Every morning, all of the participants would work at the Amache internment camp, and everyday we would learn something new through excavation, surveying, and using a GPR machine. Then, in the afternoon, we would go to the



*Example of a handmade bucket using a tin can and wire*



*Water pipes used as gardening features outside of a barrack*



*Example of a ceramic planter*

local Amache museum. There, we would see slides, read documents, and peruse letters that pertained to the interned. Working at the internment camp, gave us a physical knowledge of the interned. However, working at the museum, gave us a psychological look into their everyday life. Furthermore, the people at the field school are incredibly supportive. I was sixteen at the time and very nervous. However, all of the people I met were extremely welcoming. Overall, I highly recommend the field school to other high schoolers. It was a fantastic experience which only heightened my love for archaeology.

The DU Amache project is looking for a high school student intern from the Amache community for the 2012 Field season! To apply go to: <https://portfolio.du.edu/amache> or call 303-871-2875

## Experiencing Amache By Christian Driver

The last time I visited Amache is very special to me. A fellow student and I drove down to use Ground Penetrating Radar for my research project, and as we made our way past Pueblo Colorado, we started to encounter a strong wind from the south. However, it was not until we arrived at Amache and got out of our car that we realized what we were in for. The sky was dark with dust and we had to put on sunglasses and scarves to keep it out of our eyes and mouths as we began to work.

While we worked, I was reminded of all the times that I had talked to former internees and the subject turned to the extreme weather conditions that they experienced. To be out there during that dust storm made all the stories that I had heard even more powerful as I literally got a taste of what it must have been like to live there for those years. In a way I wish every visitor could experience something like what I did so they could have a better understanding of what the people who lived at Amache went through.



*Ava makes spam sushi with Anita Miyamoto Miller*



*Former internee Eugene Tademaru returns to the site of his barrack during the 2010 site open house*

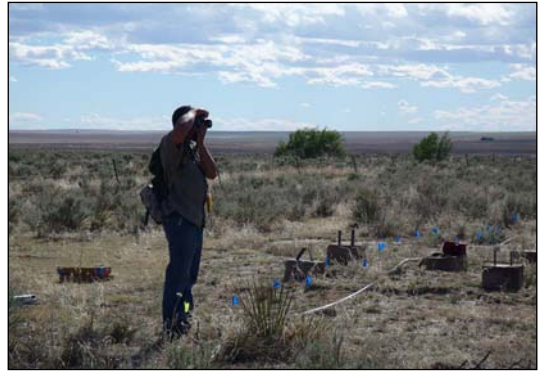
## New Thesis Research

Master's degree student Christian Driver will be serving as crew chief while also conducting research at Amache during summer 2012. Christian's thesis expands on the work of Michelle Slaughter who focused on the production and consumption of saké at Amache and April Kamp-Whittaker who studied the roles of children in the camp. Christian's research approaches the material culture of saké and children's artifacts through a focus on spatial patterning with regard to the location of guard towers. He is interested in the ways that surveillance and lack of privacy affected people's daily lives.

Questions about the locations that adults practiced saké consumption and where children played are intended to address the severity of the internment experience. By examining where these types of objects were found, Christian hopes to assess both the conscious and unconscious effects that internment had on Japanese Americans.

In order to evaluate these research questions, Christian will be using photography, digital mapping, and Ground Penetrating Radar or GPR. Digital photography and mapping will be used to reconstruct the view from the guard towers which will be used to evaluate which objects are located in places that the guards could have seen. GPR will be used to evaluate whether internees used subfloor pits to conceal contraband and other items in order to assert their own independence.

Christian is extremely grateful to the former internees in the LA area who were willing to talk to him about the guard towers and contraband in the camps. If you were not able to join us, but you would like to contribute to his research, Christian would love to hear from you!



*Christian Driver photographing from the 12G/H guard tower*



*A yellow marble found on the road south of Block 12H*



*A funeral with a guard tower prominently in the background. Photo in memory and courtesy of the Suyeichi and Owai Okamura family.*

## Recent Events

### *Dr. Bonnie Clark wins Award*

Dr. Bonnie Clark, Director of the DU Amache project was presented by DU with the United Methodist Scholar/Teacher of the Year award for 2011. Dr. Clark was selected by the committee in large part because of her work at Amache, which has been both a highly regarded research endeavor and an important resource for the education of students at DU.

### *NPS Grant Funds Tower Reconstructions*

Early last summer, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the award of \$291,025 to Colorado Preservation, Inc (CPI) for the reconstruction and restoration of the water tower and the 12G/H guard tower at Amache. The money comes from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program designed to further education on the injustices of the internment period. CPI is currently moving ahead with the project and construction is anticipated to be completed this year.

## Upcoming Events

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### *2012 Field Season Open House*

Once again, the DU Amache project will be conducting archaeology at Amache. An Open House will be held Saturday July 14th for visitors to learn about the results of this summer's research. From 9am-1pm visitors are encouraged to come out to the site and see what the field crew is doing during site tours. From 1pm-5pm visitors can tour the Amache Preservation Society museum in Granada where they can view objects and documents related to Amache and learn about lab and museum procedures. The town of Granada will pitch in by providing signs that mark and describe the Amache era buildings in town, such as that which housed the Granada fish market.

### *Amache Featured in Magazine.*

The site of Amache was featured in the May/June 2011 issue of *Archaeology* in a story about the archaeology of World War II. The article devotes a sizable section to the discussion of internment in general and specifically the incarceration of Japanese Americans at Amache. To read the article go to: [http://www.archaeology.org/1105/features/world\\_war\\_II\\_internment.html](http://www.archaeology.org/1105/features/world_war_II_internment.html)

### *DU Class Contributes to Site Protection*

In preparation for the reconstruction of the guard and water towers, students in Dr. Clark's course Applied Heritage Management created a monitoring plan for the project. The plan strives to protect the site's important physical remains - such as objects and landscaping features - during construction and provides for trained staff people to be on hand at critical moments during the project.

### *Cattle to be Permanently Removed*

For many years the town of Granada has been leasing the land that the site of Amache is on to a rancher to graze his cattle. However, after extensive consultation, the city has declined to renew the grazing lease and has instead agreed to a 99 year preservation easement lease to protect the site. The Amache Preservation Society will be responsible for maintaining the new lease, which is expected to cost about \$3500 per year. The APS is planning a number of events to generate the necessary funds. If you would like to donate to the preservation easement fund, please contact The APS at [amache@](mailto:amache@)

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 memories or opinions, 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. Correspondence can be sent to Dr. Bonnie Clark via email at [blark@du.edu](mailto:blark@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](mailto:amachedu@du.edu) or the address below with your mailing address and /or e-mail address.

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