

THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER AMACHE PROJECT

Volume XII Winter 2020

Message From the Director

~ Dr. Bonnie J. Clark

Happy New Year, friends of the DU Amache Project. The past year has been an exciting one for the Amache site and museum! Last spring, legislation passed by the U.S. Congress enabled the Amache Study Act. We are happy to include an article from the National Park Service in this newsletter, sharing information about the study and how you can be involved. This fall, the Amache Preservation Society (APS) acquired a new building in Granada. Helping the APS move into that new space will be a big part of our plans for the upcoming 2020 field school. Continue reading to learn more about the field school and how you can be involved.

Students and community members are the heart of the DU Amache Project and we are happy to feature two additional articles by students doing research on the site. First is Lucas Brown from the Geography Department at DU, who will be creating a 3D map Amache. You will also hear from Kylie Dillinger, an undergraduate studying archaeology at DU. Her research focuses on using 3D models to create replicas of archaeological finds.

We invite all our readers to reach out if they have ideas about the work we do or should do. As always, it is an honor to lead this collaborative endeavor to keep learning from Amache.

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



Newsletter contributor Kylie Dillinger screens with an Amache descendant at the 2018 Community Open House

Courtesy of DU Amache Project

Be a Part of the 2020 Field School!

This summer, the University of Denver (DU) will be returning to conduct research at Amache and the Amache Museum in Granada, Colorado. Crews will be in Granada from June 15 through July 17, 2020. Mornings will be spent doing archaeological research at the camp, while afternoons will be in the Amache Museum. We are especially excited to help the Amache Preservation Society (APS) employ strategies to best use their new building for meetings, exhibits, and collections storage.

How can you be a part of this important work?

- If you or a family member were at Amache we invite you to our special open house **Thursday, July 9 through Friday, July 10, 2020**. Activities kick off on Thursday evening with a talk about letters to and from camp by an Amache descendant. On Friday, there will be activities all day, including a chance to see the archaeology, individualized tours of camp, activities at the museum, socializing with other Amacheans, and a group dinner.
- Megan Brown, a DU anthropology student, is collecting data for her

MA thesis research on **play and playgrounds at Amache**. If you have insight into this topic, or photographs from camp documenting play or play spaces, please contact Megan via email at Megan.L.Brown@du.edu or leave a phone message at **(303) 871-2875**.

- If you are a member of the general public, please come see us during the public open house on **Saturday, July 11, 2020**. There will be site tours in the morning and activities in the museum in the afternoon.
- **Follow the progress of the field school on Facebook!** We will post regularly throughout the month we are in the field www.facebook.com/DUAmacheResearchProject/.

To reach DU with questions or comments about any of these opportunities, contact information is on the final page of the newsletter.



Visitors to the 2018 open house visit the Amache Boy Scout Headquarters
Courtesy of DU Amache Project

Amache Special Resource Study

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the launch of a special resource study of Amache. Congress authorized this study because of Amache's importance to the history of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

The NPS will evaluate Amache using congressionally established criteria for national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for direct NPS management. Based on the analysis, the NPS will determine whether the site meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System and will prepare the study for the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary will then submit the findings and a recommendation to Congress.

The process starts by listening to you! We hope you will take time to let us know your thoughts and ideas. We invite you to attend one or more public meetings. If you cannot attend a meeting in person, you can send us your comments.

How to Participate

We encourage you to learn more about the special resource study process and share your ideas during the comment period from February 11, 2020 thru May 31, 2020. Here are some ways to do so:

- Visit the study site at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Amache>
- Send us your thoughts, comments, and information:
 - Online. Visit the web address above and click the "Open for Comment" link
 - By mail. Send written comments to:
National Park Service, Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
- Call Project Manager Tamara Delaplane, (303) 969-2113
- Attend a public meeting on Amache (see meeting list below)

In your comments, we are particularly interested to hear your thoughts and ideas about the following:

1. What is your vision for preserving Amache? How would you like to see the site managed? What types of activities and experiences do you want to see as part of Amache's future?
2. Do you have any ideas or concerns that the NPS should be aware of and/or address in the study process?
3. What objects, buildings, remaining features, values, and stories do you believe are most important and why?

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4. What do you think differentiates Amache from the other nine Japanese American incarceration camps?
5. Do you have any other ideas or comments you would like to share with us?

Public Meeting Schedule

Sebastopol, California, Memorial Hall at Enmanji Buddhist Temple:

Monday, March 16, 10 A.M. - Noon
1200 Gravenstein Hwy. So.
Sebastopol, California
95472

Sacramento, California, Buddhist Church of Sacramento:

Tuesday, March 17, 10 A.M. - Noon
2401 Riverside Boulevard
Sacramento, California
95818

Merced, California, Merced County Library:

Wednesday, March 18, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
2100 O Street
Merced, California
95340

Oakland, California, Oakland Asian Cultural Center:

Wednesday, March 18, 6 P.M. - 8 P.M.
Pacific Renaissance Plaza
388 Ninth Street, Room 4
Oakland, California
94607

Los Angeles, California, Japanese American National Museum:

Thursday, March, 19, 3:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.*
100 N Central Avenue
Los Angeles, California
90012
*Two presentations will be offered for the Los Angeles meeting at 4 P.M. and 6 P.M.

Arvada, Colorado, Simpson United Methodist Church of Arvada:

Thursday, April, 9, 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.
6001 Wolff Street
Arvada, Colorado
80003

Additional California meetings are being considered. Keep up to date on all meetings at: <https://tinyurl.com/ryylueg>

Mapping the Walkways of Amache

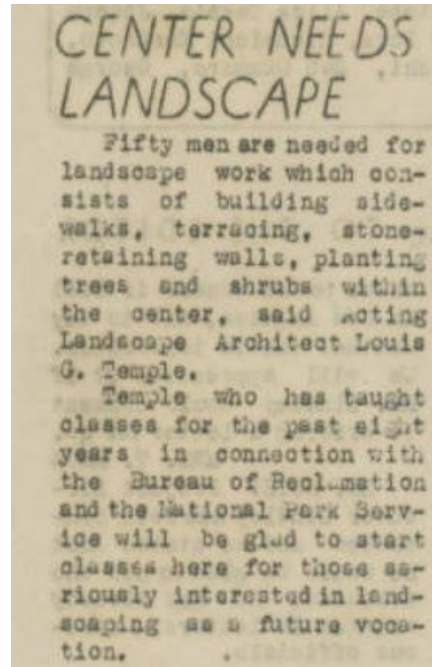
~ Lucas Brown

Graduate Student, DU Geography

While archaeologists have been investigating Amache for the last decade, it was only recently that researchers have identified certain features on the site that resemble sidewalks. These walks appear as linear mounds running parallel to roads and covered with crushed limestone. Some of these walks are very visible and clearly rise compared to the land around them, while others are much more subtle and hard to distinguish.

For my research I am attempting to create a map of all the sidewalks on the site. To do this I will be creating a Digital Surface Model (DSM) of the site. A DSM is a 3-dimensional model of the ground surface including vegetation and man-made structures. This kind of model can be made with multiple methods, ours will be created using images recently taken by cartographer Jim Casey and SenseFly (<https://mappingamache.wordpress.com/amache-from-above/>). The images will be combined together using special software to create a 3D model of the site. Once we have created that model, I will be able to map the sidewalks by looking for linear areas that are elevated compared to the areas around them.

Although space for sidewalks was accommodated in the plan for each block, it



Granada Pioneer article that mentions sidewalks
Courtesy of DU Amache Project

is thought that aside from the walks along the main north/south road, many of the walks were built on a block-by-block basis. Once I have created a map of sidewalks, I will compare how well the sidewalks overlap with areas of high activity as seen by surface object locations, landscaping features, and known historic locales like the elementary school block.

This research will serve several purposes. Not only will we have a reliable DSM and sidewalk map of the site, but we could also gain some understanding of



Co-Field Director April Kamp-Whittaker (left) and the author (right) collecting data with satellite links in our hats on-site, May 2019
Courtesy of DU Amache Project

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community priorities. By looking at places that the sidewalks go to, we can find out what areas the people of Amache thought needed to have formal and safe paths for everyone to access. This study can also provide insight into how different blocks on the site attempted to create neighborhoods and community by looking at where they built sidewalks and how they used them in comparison to the other blocks.

Amache Newsletter Edited and Formatted by
Nicholas Dungey

3D Scanning at Amache

~ Kylie Dillinger

Undergraduate Student, DU Anthropology

I attended the Amache field school two years ago in 2018 and was able to learn some amazing things while I was there. In addition to our fieldwork, I chose to 3D scan four pottery sherds we had found during the archaeological survey that were all a part of the same *yunomi* (teacup). 3D scanning archaeological artifacts is something I love doing, because there are so many options for what can be done with the digital data collected. You can 3D print another copy of the scanned object in plastic, you can share the digital version with others around the world, and, if it is fragmentary, you may even be able to create a model of what the complete object might have looked like. A 3D reconstruction was exactly what I accomplished that summer in 2018.



Pottery pieces aligned to show the outline of the entire original vessel
Courtesy of Kylie Dillinger

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Using my background in digital imagery, I was able to reconstruct the *yunomi* to scale based on the sherds collected. I also attempted to mimic the physical porcelain texture present on the original sherds. Now, not only does the Amache Museum have this reconstruction, but so does every former-internee or internee descendant that volunteered their time to work at the Amache site during the 2018 field school.

Having the opportunity to work with former internees that could show you exactly where they had lived in Amache, or talking with internee descendants about their families and what they had learned from them, were other aspects



3D reconstruction of Amache object created by the author
Courtesy of Kylie Dillinger



Reconstructed *yunomi* integrated into a centerpiece at the home of a 2018 volunteer
Courtesy of Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker

that reminded me that we aren't just working with artifacts and faceless previous owners - we are working with real people that are still alive today. Being able to present them with a reconstructed piece of Amache was one of the most emotionally fulfilling parts of my work. It reminded me of why I wanted to become an archaeologist in the first place. This thought keeps me firmly rooted in the reminder that archaeology affects more than just the physical site; there are communities of people who have investments in these sites. These people have stories, attachments, and personal involvement with the archaeological work. Having the chance to give back to this community through object reconstruction was incredible, and I hope to continue to do this as I move forward in my archaeological career.

Contact us:

The DU Amache project needs you! As we continue to 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, we would love to hear from you. Correspondence 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> or the project Facebook page www.facebook.com/DUAmacheResearchProject/.

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 email bclark@du.edu or send your mailing address to the address below.

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