Digging in Fort Jefferson

Fort Jefferson was built by the army of General Arthur St. Clair in October 1792. It was used as a military post during the campaign against the Northwest Indian tribes. At the time when the log fort was built, a 14 Star American flag was flown over Ft. Jefferson. The fort was named after Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State, who later became President.

In the summer of 1930, H. R. MacPherson, curator of parks for the Ohio State Archaeological and historical Society, and with the cooperation of the Greenville Historical Society, made an extensive exploration of the Fort Jefferson site.

What they located were the approximate location of the four blockhouses and the location of an underground magazine. It was partially faced with logs, 25 feet deep and eight feet square in the lower section, with a tunnel six feet deep, three feet wide and 80 feet in length, leading from the upper part of the magazine to the interior of the fort.

Also found were traces of another passageway leading from the southwest blockhouse to an enclosed spring box 90 feet down the slope of the hill. There were indications of a passageway leading from the northwest blockhouse. Also found were traces of the foundation of the northeast blockhouse, ash pits outside the walls and considerable partially burned timbers and a rope windlass.

Among the large assortment of small relics found were bullets, metal military buttons, brass buckles, gun parts, flints, axes, knives, forks and spoons, and fragments of crockery and table dishes.

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This information was generated by The Garst Museum

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