

Relics of Greene Ville's Past

Relics from the past can teach us a great deal in the hands of someone who can read the details. Garst Museum has a collection of artifacts from the encampment of Anthony Wayne and his legion. Native American metal, stone and other implements are also featured.

The Archaeology Committee of the Treaty of Greene Ville Bicentennial Commission sponsored archaeological excavations on Wayne's fort at Greene Ville during 1994 and 1995 under the direction of professional archaeologist, Tony DeRegnaucourt. a total of six localities within the fort area (which covered almost 60 acres of about eight modern city blocks) were tested by the Archaeology Committee and volunteers. The fortification was built of rough heavy logs set and rammed upright in a trench and extended some fifteen feet above the ground with a strip of timber pinned near the top to keep them in position. Some of the exterior walls were probably formed, in part, by the outer, or back walls of the barracks and larger building of the fort.

In late June of 1995, a 10 by 18 foot area of a church parking lot was examined. It contained an undisturbed trash midden area that was probably near the soldiers' huts close to the South Gate of the fort. This midden area yielded over 1,000 artifacts diagnostic to the 1793 to 1797 occupation of the fort.

Artifacts identified include a Charlesville flintlock, a felling axe, a fascine knife, part of a 3 pound howitzer cannonball, shoe buckles, a heel plate, wagon cleat, numerous buckles used on uniform and clothing. Particularly significant finds include an officer's sleeve links, one set with flying eagles, French and English gunflints brass collar clasp plates, uniform buttons with the distinctive frog-legged eagle motif which belonged to Anthony Wayne's Legion.

Recent exploration of an area to the west of what is thought to be the western boundary of the original Greene Ville fortification, have uncovered what is thought to be the remains of one of the outer block houses (exterior redoubts that defended the fort.

Tradition says that the pioneers who settled in the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio, following Wayne's treaty, are credited with burning many of the buildings of the fort, after its abandonment in the fall of 1796, in order to get the hand-wrought hinges, locks, nails and other hardware to be used in constructing their homes.

This information was generated by The Garst Museum

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