

## Investigating Leisure

### Furthering the Archaeological Examination of Apple Island

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During the summer of 2013, with the support of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, Dr. LouAnn Wurst and I co-instructed a unique anthropology class for Western Michigan University students using Apple Island as our classroom, so-to speak. One reason this class was unique is that most college classes are not conducted completely outside much less on an uninhabited island. The setting was not, however, the only factor that made this opportunity distinctive. All who participated were given the opportunity to engage in a thorough investigation of the history of the Campbell family, owners of Apple Island from 1856 to 1915. During this field season we collected a sample of artifacts from the Campbell's privy, two cottages belonging to guests of the Campbells, and a large dump located just west of one of those cottages. The scale of this investigation left many of us fixated on the island and its inhabitants.

Dr. Wurst and I returned to the island the following summer to teach another class and conduct more research. However, this time the experience was more personal for me. During that previous year I had found the research potential of the Campbell family and their vacation getaway an excellent topic to pursue for my doctoral dissertation as a PhD candidate from American University in Washington D.C. That second year we added to our collection of artifacts associated with the Campbell household, as well as artifacts associated with Jessie and John Harvey's cottage, the Campbell's daughter and son-in-law, respectively.

The artifacts yielded from Apple Island during these two field seasons, that help us understand what the Campbells and their island guests were doing on the island, demonstrated reoccurring themes. These themes include: Presbyterianism and their religious worship, their Scottish heritage, their curiosity in local Native American groups and practices, their interest in sportsmanship, gender roles, and middle-class life in the 19th and early 20th century in addition to, or rather in conjunction with their vacation customs and routines.

I returned to Apple Island this June and September to continue investigating the Campbell Family's vacation setting and the themes that attended their retreats. During the 2017 field season, my goal was to further investigate an area that had the potential of yielding artifacts reflecting vacationing in the later part of the 19th century. Therefore, I set out to explore the area on the east side of the island where Colin and Caroline's son Forrest established his own cottage, since it was likely that he occupied his cottage during that period.

A preliminary analysis of the artifacts found after excavating around the Forrest Campbell cottage has shown that there are some similarities between the area associated with the cottage and the historical dump (located about 250 feet southwest of the cottage), from which we collected a sample of artifacts in 2013. These artifacts included small canning jar fragments, milk bottle fragments, and ceramic sherds, all similar to material discovered at the dump.

This does not mean that these artifacts were dissimilar from those found at the Campbell and Harvey locations. It does however; suggest, given the similarity in artifacts and proximity, that there is a connection between the historical dump and Forrest Campbell's cottage. Therefore, we can talk about Forrest Campbell and vacationing during the late 19th and early 20th centuries using the multitude of artifacts collected from the dump in 2013.

My overall goal, in part, is to track the themes I mentioned earlier, consider how they connect to vacation and how they were acted out by the Campbells and their guests. Given this, the collection of artifacts both from the Campbell and Harvey households, as well as the east side of the island including Forrest Campbell's cottage, help us understand if and how their behaviors on the island changed from the mid-19th century and into the 20th century, a period of drastic change in the United States stemming from the Industrial Revolution, an influx of immigration, and rapid population growth in American cities.

The Campbell's opportunity to escape the anxieties of urban life during this period, even temporarily in the form of vacation, is unique. Yet, they were urban dwellers, small business owners, immigrants who came to the United States to achieve some form of success which is the goal for many members of the middle class. Investigation of the Campbells' experience on Apple Island has the potential to help us understand the importance and meaning of vacation for those who were a part of the rapidly growing United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

There will be a presentation about the research being conducted on Apple Island on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 7 pm at the WB Library Main Meeting Room. Apple Island researchers Dr. David Brose and Mark Hooch, PhD. candidate, will share their findings on island use by early Native American and 20th century summer vacationers, respectively. Sponsored by the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society with West Bloomfield Township Library. No charge.