Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project

2019 Annual Report

Edited by Dr. Michael S. Nassaney, Principal Investigator

With contributions by Lucile Clark, Miro Dunham, Erika K. Hartley,
Michael S. Nassaney, Hannah Rucinski, and Cameron Youngs

A field school student excavating an undisturbed bone midden. Photo by Mark Bugnaski.

Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5306

January 2020
Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2019 Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project’s annual report. Excavations continued to expose evidence of 18th century life, giving us a clearer picture of the size, scope, and hidden history of Fort St. Joseph— one of the most important archaeological sites in the western Great Lakes region. We were busy year-round; some of the highlights of our exciting new discoveries and accomplishments include:

- In May, we dug three backhoe trenches through the 20th-century landfill adjacent to Fort St. Joseph, excavated beneath the dump, and revealed undisturbed deposits of 18th-century artifacts, doubling the size of the site.
- The 10th annual lecture series held in the Niles District Library hosted Lynn Evans, Erika Hartley, Terry Martin, and Kelly Rectenwald, who discussed curation—the Project’s 2019 theme.
- The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project collaborated with the Niles History Center and the Niles District Library to host a historical walking tour for nearly 100 people along the St. Joseph River in July.
- The August Archaeology Open House welcomed 800 visitors who witnessed the excavations, viewed artifact displays, took site tours, participated in children's activities, and interacted with 18th-century reenactors.
- The Project hosted 27 students in our archaeology summer camp programs, where they were trained in archaeological field methods and learned about the history of the fort and its role in New France.
- We established the Fort St. Joseph Curatorial Fellowship and hired Erika Hartley to continue the process of organizing and making accessible the archaeological collections.
- And last, but not least, the long-awaited comprehensive book, *Fort St. Joseph Revealed: The Historical Archaeology of a Fur Trading Post*, was published by the University Press of Florida!

We hope you enjoy learning more details about our 2019 activities in this report.

2019 Field Season

Western Michigan University (WMU) conducted archaeological test excavations along the southern boundary of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) beneath a twentieth-century landfill in July and August 2019 in conjunction with their 44th annual archaeological field school (Figure 1).
The field school is organized under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (the Project), a long-term, multidisciplinary, community-based partnership between the city of Niles and WMU that is designed to investigate and interpret colonialism and the fur trade in the region. Over the past twenty years, the Project has contributed to our understanding of Native American and French interactions through its investigation of Fort St. Joseph, an eighteenth-century French mission, garrison, and trading post located in present-day Niles, Michigan, and related sites in the area (see Nassaney 2019).

![Map showing the locations of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), the contemporaneous Lyne site, (20BE10; Loci I-IV), and an eighteenth-century Potawatomi village. Drawn by Jason Glatz.](image)

Information recovered from archaeological excavations, historical documents, and oral traditions provide a glimpse of the various activities that occurred at the fort during its occupation (see Nassaney 2019 for an extensive list of publications). Initially established as a mission on the St. Joseph River in the 1680s, Fort St. Joseph became one of the most important frontier outposts in New France (Brandão and Nassaney 2006; Nassaney 2008, 2015, 2019; Peyser 1992). For nearly a century (1691-1781), this post served as a hub of commercial,
military, and religious activity for local Native and European peoples alike (Brandão and Nassaney 2006; Nassaney 2008, 2019). Not much is known about the site from its abandonment in 1781 until the early nineteenth century, which most likely contributed to the difficulty of locating the fort for over a hundred years. The land was settled and farmed from 1820s to 1866-67 when then owner Jacob Beeson sold the land to the Niles Water-Power Company (Cremin and Nassaney 1998: 24-25). Ten years later, under the leadership of the company’s president, J.W. French, a dam across the St. Joseph River was constructed by the Niles Water-Power Company, raising the river level some 10-12 feet (Cremin and Nassaney 1998: 25). This dam and a later expansion submerged much of the land that was once Fort St. Joseph, effectively creating a swamp.

In the 1930s, this swampy area, then owned by the French Paper Company, began to be filled in by dumping trash and covering it with layers of earth (Anonymous 1961). These activities continued and expanded until 1956 when the city of Niles entered into an agreement with French Paper, permitting the use of the land as a municipal dump without charge (Anonymous 1961; Sills 1963). The municipal dump was ultimately closed on June 1, 1963 (Sills 1963). French Paper maintained its ownership of the land until the early 1990s when the city of Niles obtained it in exchange for the city’s rights to the dam (Mary Ellen Drolet, personal communication, 2019).

For over twenty years, the Project has conducted excavations on the floodplain between the St. Joseph River and the twentieth-century landfill, now recognized as the location of Fort St. Joseph (Figure 1). Knowledge gleaned from these excavations have contributed to our understanding of eighteenth-century life at the fort, particularly in regard to adornment and dress, architecture, foodways, religion, cultural exchange, and the fur trade (see Nassaney 2019).
Research conducted in the past several years has been focused on identifying and investigating the architectural remains associated with the fort. This has allowed us to locate six buildings and establish some boundaries for the site (Figure 2; see Hartley and Nassaney 2019; Loveland 2017; Nassaney 2015). However, the area previously under investigation likely did not support all of the buildings that once existed at the site, indicating that the occupied space extends beyond the 2000 square meter area that has been explored thus far. Few archaeological remains have been identified through testing the area to the west. However, the site may extend downstream to the northeast and to the south beneath the landfill between the floodplain and Bond Street. To investigate its southern boundary, we conducted excavations this season beneath the landfill to gain a better understanding of the fort’s size and spatial extent.

Figure 2. Map of buildings found at Fort St. Joseph. The red lines denote their proposed outlines. Map created by Jason Glatz and Erika K. Hartley.
Preliminary investigations began on May 21, 2019 when we monitored the excavation of three 5 x 25 m trenches through the landfill to explore the underlying soil (Figure 3). The trenches were generally oriented perpendicular to the St. Joseph River, roughly diagonal to the previously established grid system. Excavations determined that the modern refuse was approximately 1.5-2 m thick and consisted of glass bottles, appliances, tires, and domestic and industrial debris. Underneath the landfill deposits, we encountered a plow zone similar to that observed on the floodplain. Efforts were made to dig only as deep as the base of the twentieth-century debris in order to expose the buried plow zone. This was made difficult because the trenches filled with water immediately upon excavation.

Figure 3. Backhoe excavation of Trench 1. Note the water beginning to fill the trench in the foreground. Photo by Erika K. Hartley.
Once the refuse was carefully peeled back by the backhoe, each trench was sampled with a series of three-inch PVC cores to detect the presence of artifacts. Five core samples were collected from Trench 1, while three core samples were collected from Trenches 2 and 3. Eight of the eleven core samples were positive for eighteenth-century artifacts including a silver ear bob, a clay pipe stem fragment, lead shot, seed beads, and wampum.

Due to high water levels in the trenches, a dewatering system was installed to lower the ground water table in the two trenches with the largest number of positive cores. Soil displaced during the installation of these pipes was selectively collected in Trench 1 and wet-screened through an 1/8” mesh. Somewhat surprisingly, we recovered the remains of charred corn cobs from one well point in Trench 1 (Figure 4). At Fort St. Joseph, charred maize—though infrequent—occurs in association with smudge pits used for hide processing (see Mendes and Nassaney 2019). Its recovery along with other eighteenth-century material provided some initial confirmation that remains of Fort St. Joseph extended beneath the landfill.

![Figure 4. Carbonized corn cobs recovered from the soil displaced in well point 1.2 during the installation of the dewatering system. Photo by Hannah Rucinski.](image)

In July and August, we returned to the site to conduct test excavations in the trenches as a part of WMU’s archaeological field school. Excavations were conducted in several locations
beneath the landfill in Trenches 1 and 2, though time did not allow for investigations in Trench 3 (Figure 5).

Four test units were located in Trench 1, each yielding numerous eighteenth-century artifacts and associated animal remains. One test unit was placed near the well point where charred maize was recovered during the installation of the dewatering system in the hopes of recovering a larger sample of maize to determine its context. Unfortunately, excavation was confined to the north half of this 1 x 1 m unit due to time constraints and we were not able to determine any additional spatial or contextual information. However, three structural stones,
approximately 10 to 15 cm in size, were exposed at the base of excavation. Two of these stones were located near the east wall of the unit where a lead seal was recovered, perhaps indicative of a feature. More excavation is needed to explore this area.

Further south in Trench 1, part of an intact trash midden designated Feature 29 was uncovered (Figure 6). The midden was concentrated in the northwest quadrant of a 1 x 1 m unit (S6 E18), so we expanded excavations to the northwest but did not determine the depth of the deposits. Notable eighteenth-century material recovered from the feature include copious amounts of wild animal bone, a catlinite pipe fragment, and another lead seal. More excavation is needed to establish the extent of this midden.

![Figure 6. Plan view of Feature 29, a trash midden. Note the large number of exposed, well-preserved animal bones. Photo by Hannah Rucinski.](image)

Three test units were opened in Trench 2 during the field season. Though no features were uncovered, two of the three units did reveal undisturbed deposits containing eighteenth-century material. The furthest unit from the floodplain, N3 E36, was located at the south end of
Trench 2 and did not contain intact eighteenth-century deposits. Additional test units are needed to identify the horizontal extent of these deposits and ultimately the site boundaries.

To conclude, the test excavations conducted in several locations beneath the landfill have led to the recovery of eighteenth-century artifacts, ecofacts, and a feature. The presence of these materials and their contexts indicate that undisturbed archaeological remains associated with the fort extend beneath the dump and effectively double the size of the site. As we continue to recover the past at Fort St. Joseph, information will be disseminated to professional and public audiences.

Public Outreach

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project uses a number of means to disseminate information to the Niles community and the general public, in order to invite their participation. By engaging the public, the Project can become receptive to the needs of the community and garner support from its members and organizations. This has fostered a reciprocal relationship between the public and the Project. The public supports the Project’s endeavors by contributing their time, talent, and treasures and the Project structures its goals by being responsive to public input. As the Project enters its third decade as a community service-learning partnership between the city of Niles and WMU, support from the Niles community and its focus on public education and outreach remain critical to its success and longevity.

Students and staff were given numerous opportunities throughout the summer to meet and engage with members of the community through events, museum visits, summer camps, community-sponsored meals, the lecture series, and the Archaeology Open House. These events allowed members of the Project to discuss the ongoing investigations at Fort St. Joseph with
interested parties. Through these initiatives, students learned how to share information about the archaeological process and discoveries with the public and obtain feedback that informs our work.

*Summer Archaeology Lecture Series*

The 2019 Summer Archaeology Lecture Series hosted four speakers who shared their knowledge about this year’s theme, *Curation: Preserving the Past for the Future*. Lectures were as follows:

- "Conservation, Curation, and Collections Management,” Kelly Rectenwald, Conservator, Cincinnati Art Museum
- "Preserving the Past at Fort Michilimackinac," Dr. Lynn Evans, Director of Archaeology, Mackinac Island State Parks
- "Curation Lessons Learned from Four Decades at the Illinois State Museum," Dr. Terrance Martin, Curator Emeritus, Illinois State Museum

The series was held in the Niles District Library rotunda on Wednesday nights at 7 pm (Figure 7). Near 200 guests attended the lectures. Refreshments were provided to attendees at each lecture by the Friends of the Niles District Library, Support the Fort, Inc., and the Niles History Center.
Figure 7. Dr. Nassaney began the summer lecture series by introducing our first lecturer, Erika Hartley. Photo by Hannah Rucinski.

Area Events and Outreach

This year’s field school participated in various outreach opportunities in the area, including the Mini Maker’s Faire in St. Joseph, MI, and Third Thursday in Niles, MI. Furthermore, the Public Outreach Coordinators also presented information to the Brothers of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, IN. Several area groups organized visits to the site for private pit tours, including area seniors and youth groups.

Summer Camps

Each year the public has the opportunity to participate in our summer archaeology camp. Students spend a week learning about Fort history and archaeology while participating in the
archaeological process (Figure 8). Campers come to the site after their morning lecture to have lunch with the University students. The program has mutual benefits: University students can reinforce their knowledge by teaching, while novice campers aspire to imitate and learn from University students who have more experience in the field.

![Middle school summer campers learning proper excavation techniques. Photo by Hannah Rucinski](image)

This year, 27 campers participated in our program over three consecutive weeks. One week was devoted each to middle schoolers, one to high schoolers, and one to lifelong learners.

**Community Meals**

From the start of the Project in 1998, community members have supported local archaeology by providing field school staff and students with meals. This practice continued in
2019, when various individuals and organizations assembled on nine separate occasions to host the field school. Staff and students reciprocated with a community meal to thank those who had contributed their time and resources during the field season (Figure 9). These opportunities are mutually beneficial, as both students and community members get to know each other and share information about Fort St. Joseph. Students are more than willing to discuss their discoveries, and community members enjoy engaging with students through these encounters. The Project is grateful to the following organizations and individuals for their contributions of community meals during the summer of 2019: Lynn and Meryl Christensen; Neil and Kathy Hassinger; the Daughters of the American Revolution; Mary Ellen Drolet; the Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce; the Niles Kiwanis Club; Stephanie Layman and family; Pizza Transit, and the Niles History Center.

![Community Meal Hosted by Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project](image)

*Figure 9. A community meal hosted by the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project for volunteers and supporters. Photo by Hannah Rucinski.*

**Archaeology Open House**

The outreach effort with the greatest impact each year continues to be the Archaeology Open House. The Open House, held on the first weekend of August (August 3-4), attracted
nearly 800 individuals of all ages from Niles and beyond. The numbers of visitors to the site have remained constant over the past few years, testimony to the interest in the Project.

The 2019 Open House saw the return of several activities from past years. With ten reenactors, six dancers, and two musicians, history came alive for event attendees (Figure 10). The St. Mary’s Boy Scout Troop returned to serve concessions. Dr. Terrance Martin displayed an array of bones and discussed zooarchaeology and the animals present at Fort St. Joseph. Colonial reenactors taught period dances to willing participants. Candace Skalla, former Chair of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee, recruited fourteen volunteers to work for a combined forty-two hours at the welcome table, where programs, surveys, and general information were distributed. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Niles History Center also hosted informational booths at the event.

Field school students managed several other tables with the help of volunteers. The merchandise table allowed attendees to purchase the 2019 season’s t-shirts as well as previous year’s t-shirts, booklets (Sheltering New France and The Fur Trade), and stickers. We sold out of t-shirts almost immediately!
The children’s table provided younger attendees with interactive activities related to archaeology and the fur trade, including a bead barter activity to teach them about the fur trade; the “Jr. Digger” activity which allowed children to screen for artifacts; a stratigraphy board matching game to explain soil strata and the information they contain; and an activity booklet with puzzles, coloring pages, and more. Students also ran an artifact booth, with two artifact cases exhibiting recent finds, and items aligning with this year’s theme, *Curation: Preserving the Past for the Future*. Three banners, sponsored by the *Conference of Michigan Archaeology* and the *Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France*, were featured, providing attendees with further information about curation (Figure 11).

![Field Director and Curatorial Fellow, Erika Hartley, posing next to a 2019 banner. Photo by Hannah Rucinski.](image-url)
Attendees could also enjoy wet-screening demonstrations throughout the day and two types of tours at the event. The historical walking tour was available four times each day of the open house. Two nearby monuments were visited: Father Allouez’s Cross and the commemorative Fort St. Joseph Boulder. As always, attendees could also participate in self-guided pit tours. A handful of students were stationed at the site, where attendees could observe the season’s excavation and ask questions about the fort, archaeology, area history, and student experiences, among other topics.

A number of lectures and presentations were also offered in the main tent. Dr. Nassaney spoke throughout the day to welcome guests and introduce the theme. We also had an “Ask an Archaeologist” opportunity throughout the day, in which an archaeologist would identify artifacts and answer archaeological questions posed by attendees! One of the most popular features of the event this year was the free canoe rides, which were sponsored by Support the Fort, Inc. This allowed people the chance to ride in a replica of a 36’-voyageur canoe and learn more about the French fur trade through an immersive experience.

The open house is always dependent on numerous volunteers. In 2019, eight volunteers contributed 42 hours of their time. Nearly 800 visitors attended the event and 98 surveys were returned. The surveys indicated that attendees were very satisfied with the Open House and anticipate the upcoming 2020 event. A satisfaction matrix for rating each aspect of the Open House saw ratings no lower than 3.6 out of 4.0, with the canoe rides ranking highest (3.86).

Social Media

This season, outreach through social media increased substantially. Staff and students utilized Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and Blogger to advertise Fort St. Joseph events; represent this year’s field season through blogs, photos, and videos; and coordinate with
community members that do not live in proximity with Niles. This year, our Facebook page saw a significant increase in reach and reactions (likes, comments, shares), which may have contributed to the overall increase in attendance at public events (e.g., lecture series, historic walking tour, media day, and open house).

In 2019 our Facebook page increased from 1,468 to 1,663 likes. Furthermore, Facebook, Instagram, and the Blogger reached more people in 2019 (3,386 people) compared with the previous year (2,929). The average number of people reached through social media increased dramatically this field season. In 2018, the average reach was 692 people over the course of seven weeks; 2019 saw average increase of 158% to 1,097. Blogger did not seem to attract as much attention, with 2,540 total views over 32 blogs (avg. of 79 views per blog). This may be due to the fact that the Blogger home page was advertised several times over the course of the season, which would not have required readers to click on individual blog posts, thus ultimately not allowing Blogger’s insights to be tracked.

Multimedia posts on Facebook and Instagram generally performed better than posts with only text or a link. Concurrently, blogs that included photos or video blogs (vlogs), attracted much more attention than blogs with little or no visual aid. This is likely due to the internet’s expansion and the population’s ever-changing interest with the visual world. Further expansion of various Fort St. Joseph social media channels through the use of multimedia may help the Project adapt to an online landscape.

**2019 Lab Activities**

During the 2018 and 2019 field seasons, thousands of artifacts were recovered from Fort St. Joseph. By the beginning of 2019, the artifacts from the 2018 field season had already been
inventoried, and by April they were integrated into the Niles History Center’s collections. During the 2019 field season, students were tasked with the processing of artifacts during the evening, after they had been recovered from the field. Artifact processing includes washing, drying, sorting, and bagging for storage. Between artifact recovery in the field and processing materials in the lab, students acquired the ability to identify a broad range of 18th-century artifacts.

Once excavations began at the fort site, students were told to be on alert for the presence of artifacts within the first few centimeters of soil. This was due to an initial unfamiliarity with the stratigraphy associated with the 20th-century landfill, and whether 18th-century artifacts would coincide with 20th-century detritus. Thus, sediments associated with 20th-century debris was removed and not screened. Once 18th-century artifacts were found, they were collected in cloth artifact bags marked with artifact tags which have identifying numbers. Information on the artifact tags include catalog number, site/project name, unit coordinates, level/depth, feature number, date, and the names of the excavators.

Sediments excavated from each of the units were collected in buckets that were taken to the wet-screening station. At this station, five tetrapods had been set up over a trench, each with its own 1/8” mesh wire-screen suspended from it. The buckets of sediment were dumped into these screens, and from there hoses were utilized to wash away the soil, revealing any undetected or minute artifacts (Figure 12). These artifacts were set aside on a table and left to dry with two corresponding artifact tags. Once dry, the artifacts and the tags were stored inside of the white artifact bags. They were then transported to the field house for lab processing.
After the transport, the artifacts from the field await laboratory processing procedures such as washing and sorting (Figure 13). During the washing process, students were informed about the fragility of 18th-century artifacts, and that washing is a delicate procedure taken with necessary precautions, especially in consideration to particular raw materials. For example, iron cannot be exposed to water, and thus it needs to be dry brushed. Also, during a curatorial workshop given by museum conservator, Kelly Rectenwald, we were informed that dental picks could be a potentially destructive tool for many artifact types. Instead, we were informed that we should utilize botanical thorns, which happen to be readily available throughout the site.
Figure 13. A field student washing artifacts in the lab. Photo by Hannah Rucinski.

After the washing process, artifacts were placed on a rack where they were left to dry and await sorting. Each shelf on the rack has two compartments, which have been designed to keep artifacts from separate proveniences apart during the drying process. Once the artifacts dried, they were sorted and placed into plastic artifact bags based on raw material type. Each individual artifact bag was given its own corresponding tag, which included the accession and catalog numbers, unit number, level, depth, and material type. Bags with metal artifacts were given silica packets to absorb damaging moisture and aid in their long-term preservation.

Occasionally there were a few days throughout the field season where there were only a small number of artifacts that were recovered from the field. During these few days, students utilized their time in the lab to revise their field notes, and to assemble two artifact display cases that were shown during the Archaeology Open House. One case was designed to highlight this year’s theme, while the other was designed to hold recent artifact finds. To showcase this year’s theme, *Curation: Preserving the Past for the Future*, numerous items and tools such as artifact
bags, tags, bamboo picks, and images depicting curatorial activities, were arranged inside one of the cases. The recent finds case contained various artifacts that had been discovered throughout the field season, such as beads, bones, ceramics, and pipe fragments, to show what we had discovered over the course of the summer.

After excavations concluded at the end of the 2019 field season, all of the artifacts that had been recovered were transported to the archaeology lab at WMU. The staff photographer, with the assistance of Dr. Nassaney, selected artifacts to be photographed for our digital records. The rest of the students edited their field notes, which were entered into a digital template, and stored onto the Project’s hard drive along with the artifact photographs. Dr. Nassaney also began to conduct a digital inventory for all of the artifacts from the 2019 field season. With the assistance of a student, the artifacts were counted, weighed, and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. By November, all of the artifacts from the 2019 field season had been inventoried. Artifacts will be ready to be integrated into the collections at the Niles History Center, once all of the artifacts have been labeled with an accession and a catalog number.

**Future Prospects and Challenges**

The excavation and recovery of archaeological materials from Fort St. Joseph is clearly an important aspect of the work we do under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. Equally, if not more important, is the dissemination of our results and the long-term preservation of the materials we collect, along with associated documentation. We continue to meet with school groups, present public lectures, and publish on our findings. We are also actively securing support for the Fort St. Joseph Curatorial Fellowship, now in its second year.
These activities are needed to ensure that people in the future can benefit from our work at Fort St. Joseph.

As we recover more information and reflect on the materials we have collected, we are reminded of the lessons we are learning from the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph. Let me close with some words from our recent publication, *Fort St. Joseph Revealed*.

Fort St. Joseph has been good for archaeologists and the public to think with and about for over a century. The ways we envision this place are assuredly a function of the discoveries revealed in the documents and in the ground. Yet, the meanings we ascribe to historical accounts, soil stains, trinkets, trifles, and other small things forgotten are dependent upon the social relationships in which we are embroiled. Whereas once we viewed the French at Fort St. Joseph as the literal saviors of the area’s original inhabitants, we no longer find such an interpretation tenable for epistemological, social, ethical, and moral reasons. An appreciation for cultural diversity and a recognition that both the French and the local Natives were active agents, conservative in their outlook, and resistant to cultural change, sheds new light on the detritus of over a century of occupation along the St. Joseph River and its environs. It demonstrates how they could be similar and yet so different (Nassaney 2019:243).

Finally, let me remind you that our work at Fort St. Joseph “is a serious enterprise that has implications for the ways we see the past, live in the present, and envision the future. Our investigations and reflections reveal that our understandings of Fort St. Joseph are constantly in flux and the next generation will be attracted to this place for reasons that we cannot imagine” (Nassaney 2019: 245). When you visit the site, read about our excavations, and ponder an object
on display, ask yourself what attracts you to Fort St. Joseph and why does it matter? Your answer may take you to places that you haven’t imagined before.

Appendix A

2019 Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee

Chair: Christina Arseneau

Vice Chair: Mollie Watson

Members: Bob Ahrens, Jamie Bennett, Matthew Bussler, Barbara Cook, Mary Ellen Drolet, Jessica Deckard Mann, Michael Nassaney, Jessica Nelson (Council Liaison), Larry Sehy, Candace Skalla, Mark Wagner

Appendix B

Financial Contributors to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project

LIFETIME: ($10,000+)

Anonymous
City of Niles
Michigan Humanities Council
Mary Ellen Drolet
Leighton-Oare Foundation
Mr. Gordon B. Marshall
Ms. Gale McCarty
Dr. Michael S. Nassaney and Mrs. Nadine Godin-Nassaney
Joseph Peyser Family
Society of Colonial Wars in Michigan
Western Michigan University

COMMANDANT: ($500-9,999)

Dr. Sharon L. Carlson and Mr. Thomas A. Dietz
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Dr. Terrance Martin and Mrs. Claire Martin
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Mr. Mark Barbeau
Mr. Dean Oliver Barnum
Mr. George and Ms. Patricia Burgoyne
Conference on Michigan Archaeology
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Mrs. Marybeth and Mr. Robert Smith

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Mr. James Crammond
Mrs. Patricia A. Zeien Foldesi and Mr. John M. Foldesi
Mr. Joseph A. Gatto
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Mr. Michael Towson
Mrs. Donna Jean Uphues
Mr. Mark Walczynski
Ms. Vivian Wood
Mr. Jim Wurtz
Mrs. Mary Wyber

Appendix C

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Volunteers and Supporters

Christina H. Arseneau
Richard C. & Nona L. Barron
Dallas W. Barkman
Dean O. Barnum
Victor P. Bella Jr
Lesley Bookout
Dr. José António Brandão
Karen L. Brininstool
Judith L. Brown
Robin Oare Brown
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Philip P. & Virginia A. Caruso
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Jim & Mary Ann Chellman
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Barb Cook
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Helen J. Coverdale
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Fort Saint Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee
Friends of the Niles District Library
Mr. Joseph A. Gatto
Dr. John S. Geisler
General Society of Colonial Wars
Dr. Richard A. Greene
Barbara J. Groner
Don Hamilton
Margaret Hansen
Neil & Cathy Hassinger
Leona Hein & Family
Laura Hollister
Russell A. Holm
Appendix D


Income

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TOTAL 18,161

**In-Kind Contributions**

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<td>Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern (Meghan Williams)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer hours (250 @ $25.43/hr)</td>
<td>6,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,358</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE** $50,519

**Expenses**

**Field School**

**Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>15,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer (Kelly Rectenwald)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer (Lynn Evans)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project zooarchaeologist (travel, meals, honorarium)</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,740</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transportation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental vehicles for the field school</td>
<td>2,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,883</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing (July-August 2019)** 6,200

**Open House**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical re-enactors (10 @ $200 each)</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live music (2 individuals)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable restrooms (includes field school usage for 6 weeks)</td>
<td>913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft supplies</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirts</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing curation banners</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,738</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Program Expenses

Field equipment replacement  50
Poster and photos for Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology  128
Lab supplies  175
Membership, Chamber of Commerce  79
Promotional advertising  739
*Fort St. Joseph Revealed* (3 copies)  143
Solicitation brochures (2019, 2020)  548

Sub-total  
1,862

TOTAL EXPENSES  $32,423

WMU Foundation Fort St. Joseph Project Account Reserve:  $14,748

Cash Reserve:  150

**Appendix E**

**2019 Project Outcomes**

**January**
- Erika Hartley began her appointment as the Fort St. Joseph Curatorial Fellow.
- Dr. Michael Nassaney and Dr. José António Brandão presented the paper “Measuring Success in the Jesuit Cause” at the 52nd annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, St. Charles, MO.
- Fort St. Joseph archaeological field school post card was distributed to over 50 colleges in Michigan and surrounding states and posted on our Facebook page.
- Nassaney completed the copyedits on *Fort St. Joseph Revealed*.

**February**
- An article about the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was submitted for WMU’s Intercultural and Anthropological Studies newsletter.
- The 2019 Summer Camp flyer was prepared and distributed to public schools.
- The Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee (February 21).

**March**
- Meghan Williams participated in the Society for Historical Archaeology’s Public Engagement survey.
- An ad for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was submitted for the 2019 Niles Chamber Guide.
- Erika Hartley, Fort St. Joseph Curatorial Fellow, visited Fort Michilimackinac on March 4 to discuss curation practices with Dr. Lynn Evans.
• The Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee (March 22).
• Erika Hartley, Fort St. Joseph Curatorial Fellow, visited the State of Michigan Archeological Repository to discuss curation practices with Dr. Dean Anderson, Stacy Tchorzynski, and Jessica Yann (March 26).
• Project representatives promoted the 2019 Archaeology Open House at the Living History Show in Kalamazoo.
• Dr. Terrance Martin participated in the Illinois State Museum Open House at the Research & Collections Center and exhibited animal remains from Fort St. Joseph (March 31).

April
• Dr. Terrance Martin met with Christina Arseneau and Erika Hartley in Niles, to discuss long-term curation of the Fort St. Joseph archaeological collections (April 2).
• Artifacts from the 2018 field season were integrated into the collections at the Niles History Center.
• The Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies at WMU welcomed 3rd graders from El Sol Elementary School to the archaeology lab, to participate in activities that focused on archaeology, Fort St. Joseph, and biological anthropology.
• We removed brush and trees to prepare the dump area south of the site for backhoe excavations (April 12).
• Dr. Terrance Martin conducted zooarchaeology workshops using animal remains from the Fort St. Joseph site at the ISM RCC for 36 undergraduate students at the University of Illinois-Springfield (April 24-25).
• Erika Hartley was awarded travel support for the Fort St. Joseph Curatorial Fellowship from the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France.
• We donated Fort St. Joseph paraphernalia to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s silent auction sponsored in Holland, MI.

May
• Dr. Nassaney presented the invited lecture “Twenty Years of Archaeology at Fort St. Joseph” at the 39th annual Statewide Preservation Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Holland, MI.
• The Fort St. Joseph Advisory Committee met (May 15).
• We monitored the excavation of three backhoe trenches in the twentieth-century landfill adjacent to the Fort site (May 21). Project members and volunteers sifted through core samples from each of the trenches, discovering positive results for eighteenth-century artifacts.
• The 2019 Lecture Series flyer was disseminated to friends and followers of the fort.

June

Cameron Youngs assisted Erika Hartley with artifact identification at the Niles History Center (June 19).

Mary Ellen Drolet helped Erika Hartley wash artifacts that Neil Hassinger collected from the site while he was checking on the trenches (June 19).

Dr. Terrance Martin consulted with Erika Hartley about curation of the Fort St. Joseph archaeological collections at the Niles History Center (June 25).

The 44th annual Western Michigan University Archaeological Field School began at Fort St. Joseph.

July

- Matthew Bussler (Pokagon Band) performed a smudging ceremony at Fort St. Joseph.
- Dr. Terrance Martin presented a zooarchaeology workshop at the University of Notre Dame for the University’s Summer Scholars Program using animal remains from Fort St. Joseph (July 1).
- Michael Nassaney organized the 10th annual Western Michigan University Summer Lecture Series focused on curation at the Niles District Library.
- The Project hosted a series of three week-long summer camps.
- Stephanie Layman and family hosted field school students and staff for a potluck.
- The Niles History Center hosted field school students and staff at the Chapin Mansion for dinner.
- The Drolet family hosted field school staff and students for dinner and a pool party.
- The Christensen and Hassinger families prepared a fish fry and taco night for field school staff and students.
- Erika Hartley kicked off the 2019 Summer Lecture Series with her lecture on curation at Fort St. Joseph.
- The Fort St. Joseph Advisory Committee met (July 17).
- Kelly Rectenwald discussed her museum work in the lecture series.
- Miro Dunham, Heidi Gartley, Shailee Kurowski, and Hannah Rucinski set up a booth at the monthly Third Thursday gathering to promote the Project (July 18).
- Dr. Lynn Evans presented a lecture on curation at Fort Michilimackinac (July 24).
- Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on Fort St. Joseph at the Berrien County Courthouse Museum (July 24).
- The Kiwanis Club of Niles provided lunch for field school staff and students at Fort St. Joseph.
- Dr. Terrance Martin presented a zooarchaeology workshop for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project field school students (July 30).
- Neil Hassinger designed and erected a ghost structure for the archaeology open house, based on the dimensions of a domestic structure discovered at the fort (July 30).
- Dr. Terry Martin gave a lecture on “Curation Lessons Learned from Four Decades at the Illinois State Museum” (July 31).
- Miro Dunham was interviewed by WJSM radio to promote the Archaeology Open House.
- Miro Dunham and Hannah Rucinski visited the Holy Cross Brothers and discussed religion at Fort St. Joseph.
- The Four Flags Chamber of Commerce hosted field school staff and students for dinner at Pizza Transit.
- The Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution provided field school staff and students with a picnic lunch.

**August**
- *Fort St. Joseph Revealed: The Historical Archaeology of a Fur Trading Post* edited by Michael S. Nassaney was published by the University Press of Florida. This collection contains 10 essays by Project faculty, staff, and former students including Rory Becker, Kelley Berliner, Joe Brandao, Cathrine Davis, Erica D’Elia, Brock Giordana, Joe Hearn, Allison Hoock, Mark Hoock, Terrance Martin, Eric Mendes, Michael Nassaney, and Sue Reichert. This volume synthesizes some 20 years of archaeological investigations at one of the most important French colonial sites in the western Great Lakes region.
- Fort St. Joseph held their annual media day to promote the open house (August 1).
- Dr. Terrance Martin presented a zooarchaeology workshop at the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project field school in Niles, Michigan (August 2).
- The Annual Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House welcomed 800 visitors. The Open House focused on the theme, *Curation: Preserving the Past for the Future* (August 3-4).
- Field school students completed washing and sorting all the artifacts from the 2019 field season.
- Field students completed digitization of all of the 2019 field notes.
- Erika Hartley attended a Museums for America grant workshop in hopes of applying for a collection management grant (August 14).

**September**
- Lucy Clark and Cecelia Foley enrolled in independent study at WMU to conduct work on Fort St. Joseph.
- Cameron Youngs was named the new Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern (2019-20).
- Cameron Youngs and Cecelia Foley attended Niles Apple Days at the Niles History Center to promote the Project. Erika Hartley and Mary Ellen Drolet had a table to represent the curation project.

**October**
- Dr. Nassaney presented the invited lecture, “Twenty-One Years in the Trenches: Fort St. Joseph Revealed,” at the annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies, Mackinac City, MI.
- Erika Hartley presented the invited lecture, “Curation Practices at Fort St. Joseph,” at the annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies, Mackinac City, MI.
- Fort St. Joseph was well represented at the annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies, Mackinac City, MI. Attendees included project supporters Lynn Christenson, Meryl Christenson, Mary Ellen Drolet, James Dunnigan, Erika Hartley, Neil Hassinger, Kathy Hassinger, and Michael S. Nassaney (October 4-6).
Lucy Clark, Cecelia Foley, Erika Hartley, Shailee Kurowski, and Cameron Youngs represented Fort St. Joseph at Michigan Archaeology Day, Michigan History Center, Lansing, MI.

Students from Lakeshore High School visited the Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies and the Niles History Center, for an introduction to the archaeology and history of Fort St. Joseph.

November
- The Project began sending monthly email updates to fort followers.
- The inventory of artifacts from the 2019 field season was completed.
- Fort St. Joseph students and faculty presented “Twenty-One Years in the Trenches: Student Discoveries at Fort St. Joseph,” in the WMU History Department’s Breisach Colloquium (November 18).

December
- Cameron Youngs, Lucy Clark, and Cecelia Foley spoke about archaeology and Fort St. Joseph to seventh graders at Comstock Middle School in Comstock, MI.
- Cameron Youngs and Lucy Clark attended STEAM night at Portage Lake Center Elementary to promote the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.
- Cameron Youngs and Cori Ivens updated the Project’s brochure to use for solicitation.
- The Institute of Intercultural and Anthropological Studies hosted Project volunteers, supporters, and students for a holiday bagel brunch.
- Erika Hartley hosted a behind the scenes tour of the Fort St. Joseph collection during the Niles History Center’s Evening Open House.

Appendix F

References

Anonymous

Brandão, José António, and Michael S. Nassaney

Cremin, William, and Michael S. Nassaney

Hartley, Erika K., and Michael S. Nassaney

Loveland, Erika K.

Mendes, Eric, and Michael S. Nassaney

Nassaney, Michael S.


Nassaney, Michael S., editor

Peyser, Joseph L. (editor and translator)
