



During spring semester 2019, the University of Delaware (UD) Anthropology Department collaborated with the Archaeological Society of Delaware (ASD) to advance the Colonial Delaware Archaeology Project. This new collaboration uses archaeological techniques to learn more about the encounters among Lenape, Susquehannock, European, and African peoples in the lower Delaware Valley in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

The project started as a collaboration between UD Anthropology and the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (DHCA) in 1992. DHCA funded a location and identification survey along the Appoquinimink and Drawyers Creek drainages from Delaware Bay to Route 13, with a focus on early colonial sites. We found a partner in Mr. John Coleman, local farmer and avid avocational archaeologist. He generously shared his multi-generational knowledge of his family farm, and his extensive collections of artifacts assembled from decades of field walking. With Mr. Coleman's guidance and support, the UD and ASD team examined the area that has yielded the greatest concentration of seventeenth and early eighteenth-century materials.



Under the direction of Dr. Lu Ann De Cunzo, UD archaeology staff, and professional archaeologists active in ASD, UD students enrolled in an introductory archaeological field methods course partnered with ASD members seeking training and experience. Following an introductory orientation session, team members surveyed in a grid, located, mapped and collected hundreds of metal detecting 'hits' and surface artifacts and excavated 60 STPs and four larger excavation units. Soil scientist Philip King, USDA, donated time and equipment to complete a GPR survey of the area, locating two anomalies. Curtis McCoy, Dovetail CRG and ASD chapter president, directed site survey and mapping, and

produced GIS distribution maps to guide future research. The collections will be processed, analyzed, curated and returned to the Colemans to stay with the farm.

The fieldwork produced native lithic tools and debitage, nails, redwares, and other pre-Revolutionary ceramics and small finds documenting thousands of years of settlement on the ridge overlooking the creek and marsh. A possible cellar or well filled in the 18th century and stone fill stabilizing a possible landing will number among the targets of additional research. UD and ASD plan to engage the larger community in future projects.