

# Friends of Camp Security



A Revolutionary War Era Prison Camp  
1781 - 1783

2016, Edition 3

## What Are We Looking For?

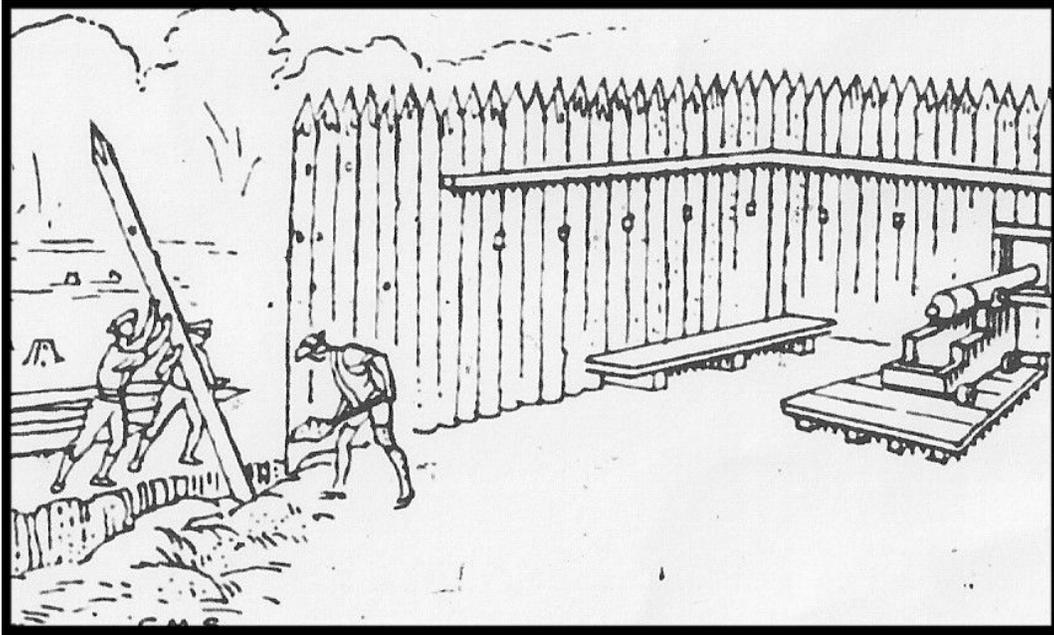
by Steve Warfel

Having just completed our third year of archaeological investigation in search of the Camp Security site, the question often arises, "What are we looking for?" Of course, finding 18th century artifacts and noting where they are concentrated is vital to understanding where activities occurred in the past. However, our main focus is discovery of structural evidence, especially the trench dug to construct the stockade wall that surrounded the camp. When found, it will identify the actual footprint of Camp Security.



**John Crawmer, Assistant Archaeologist**

According to written accounts, we know that Camp Indulgence, a second camp in the Camp Security prison complex, existed outside the stockade. Camp Indulgence was located during a 1979 dig done by the State Museum, Historic York, and Springettsbury Township. Therefore, the present project continues to search for the stockade trench that defines the Camp Security site.



**Construction of a stockade wall. (Charles M Stotz)**

But, how will the stockade be identified archaeologically? To answer this question we have to understand how the stockade wall was built. Typically in the 18th century stockade posts stood between 8 feet and 10 feet above the ground surface. A trench, approximately 1 ½ feet to 2 feet deep was dug by hand. Posts, between 10 feet and 12 feet in length, were then placed next to one another in the trench. The soil removed to create the trench was then thrown back into the trench and packed around the bottoms of the posts, thereby anchoring them in place.



**Soil "stain" of the Fort Loudoun stockade trench, discovered and excavated in 1981. Fort Loudoun was a French And Indian War period fort constructed in 1756.**

Because the site's dark brown topsoil is only about 8 inches 12 inches deep, the trench dug for the stockade wall penetrated and disturbed the underlying subsoil. Subsoil is an inorganic soil layer that is orangish-brown in color at the Camp Security site. When the two soils topsoil and subsoil – were excavated from the trench, they were not separated nor were they separated when they were thrown back into the trench to anchor the stockade posts. Hence, the trench will appear as a dark linear disturbance in the site's otherwise light subsoil. It will be denoted by mixed soil colors that result from backfilling the trench during construction. Even though the site was not inhabited long enough for the posts to rot in place, the "stain" of the trench does survive for us to discover and map.

## Steve Warfel Update

As many of you know, our Camp Security archaeologist, Steve Warfel, recently underwent knee replacement surgery. Many of the Friends of Camp Security have asked about his recovery. Here is an update on Steve's progress in his own words:



I do appreciate the concern expressed by many of our Camp Security project participants. As of this time, I am 19 days post-surgery and doing well. At first my progress was encumbered by atypical swelling and concern for a blood clot. An ultrasound study, however, determined that no clot was present. In-home physical therapy has really helped me regain my range of motion. I am now able to walk with the assistance of a cane and do exercises to strengthen and stretch leg muscles several times a day. This past weekend I was able to pedal a bicycle mounted on a stationary stand. That felt like a real breakthrough! Today I begin out-patient physical therapy which will be more aggressive and eventually result in walking without the assistance of a device or a limp. From all that I have read and been told by others who have had a knee replacement, it will take several months to realize full function healing. And... finally... I have begun to work with the artifacts collected during the May-June field study. All-in-all, things are starting to return to normal.

Thanks for your concern and interest. Hope to see you soon.

Steve

## **Public Day**

The 2016 Camp Security Public Day on June 17th was our most successful Public Day to date. Jonathan Stayer, supervisor of record services at Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, presented the history of the camp to approximately 90 people throughout the day. In addition, Steve Warfel, our Camp Security Archaeologist, and John Crawmer, Assistant Archaeologist, explained the archaeological work that has been done, past and present. Steve and John then led the attendees to the actual site to observe the volunteers at work. At the end of the day, \$218 was donated for the continuing archaeological research. It proved to be an informative, productive, and pleasant day!



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