



Investigating the Orchard Site (46MS61): A Protohistoric Fort Ancient Site in West Virginia



Speaker: Laura Ellis
When: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Time: 6 pm at Bellaire Public Library

The Orchard site is an important protohistoric Fort Ancient site in West Virginia. Avocational archaeologists first conducted excavations in the 1940s; the artifacts from these investigations are in private collections and are unfortunately not accessible for research. Professional excavations in the 1970's by the West Virginia Geological

Survey Section of Archaeology produced many additional artifacts; these are housed at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex and are available for study by researchers. This thesis research utilizes this collection to study ceramic attributes and burial attributes to examine if the Orchard people are in fact Fort Ancient individuals and if they are truly similar to the individuals living at Madisonville. Ceramics, particularly

diagnostic sherds, can provide significant information about cultural behavior. Burial attributes are likewise very diagnostic. It is therefore possible to examine ceramics and burial attributes to determine if there are close affiliations among groups.



Laura Ellis Biography:

Laura Ellis is the Records Management Coordinator for the Belmont County Records Center and Archives. She attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for her Master's Degree in Applied Archaeology and Ohio University for her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology. Laura is a Board Member of the Great Stone Viaduct Historical Educational Society, a member of the Society for American Archaeology, and a member of the Ohio County Archivists and Records Managers Association. She has also worked at multiple archaeological sites including a Monongahela village, an Early Woodland habitation site, and a historic home site.

