

October was Archaeology Month in PA

The Millbrook Society recognized archaeology month with a special program at the historic Moland House on Sunday, October 14th, 2018. The Moland House, located off York Road in Jamison PA, served as General George Washington's headquarters while his troops encamped in central Bucks County for 13 days in August 1777. Millbrook leads the archaeology activities on this site.

Visitors joined the staff in screening for artifacts, finding several fragments of articles from earlier days at Moland. Staff showed and discussed equipment used in archaeology and displayed several trays of artifacts found over the years.

Tools of the Trade



Sybil Johnson, who heads Millbrook's Archaeology Department, laid out a 5' x 5' mock archaeology unit where she displayed and discussed items typically found in the archaeologist tool box, many of which were used during excavations at Moland.

Some of the tools include: **plumb lines/bobs**, which is used to map and layout the area and depth of excavation levels; **tape measure**, which is used in conjunction with the plumb lines to ensure accurate measurements of the excavation area and accurate perspective from other dig sites and historical structures; **site maps**, which shows site measures and measurements; **ground penetrating radar reports**, which shows the results generated from using ground penetrating "x-ray" equipment; **Munsell soil color book**, which helps the team evaluate the type of soil that is present in the dig area; **trowel and dustpan** used to carefully scrape and collect sediment in order to uncover artifacts. Other tools include **kneeling pad**, **buckets**, **pencil and log book** to record accurate details, and **digital camera** to capture images recording a historical perspective of the area, site, people, processes and findings.

Hands-on History!



Millbrook staff and visitors screened a soil pile representing excavations from different spots on the property. Over the years, the archaeology team have uncovered artifacts dating back to pre-colonial through the 20th century, and continue each season to find artifacts that contribute to the story of the Moland House property. Several containers housing a representation of the many and diverse artifacts found at Moland were on display during this program.

You can see in the pictures above more archaeology equipment being used such as: **screens**, which help separate dirt from potential artifacts, **wheelbarrows and buckets** to collect screened soil and rocks, and **plastic trays** to store artifacts that will be cleaned and processed after the dig.