

Kid's KOrner



Mark searches through the dirt looking for pieces of pottery or pipe that tells a history of the people who lived in the area.



The Hans Herr House was built in 1719.

Eleven-Year-Old Participates in Archeological Dig



Mark Graybill uses a trowel during the archeological dig.

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While other kids his age were swimming and fishing this summer, Mark Graybill was digging dirt.

The 11-year-old son of Dale and Joyce Graybill of Mount Joy was part of a team participating in an archeological dig at the Hans Herr House in Willow Street.

The Hans Herr House is the oldest house in Lancaster County that has been preserved and is open to the public to tour.

With spades and trowels, the team chipped away at the soil and sifted through it looking for clues to the past. The bits of pottery that they found enables archeologists to tell how old the pieces are.

"It's pretty interesting," Mark said. "If the pottery is glazed on one side it is very old, but if it is glazed on both sides, it is not as old."

The purpose of the dig was to locate remains of the exterior entrance that once led into the cellar of the 1719 Hans Herr House.

"You can only dig one layer at a time. You must be careful because some pieces break and the pieces are very fragile," he said.

He was most impressed with the ox shoe he found while digging in the soil.

After a summer of digging, Mark thinks he would like to continue work as an archeologist. He said that he watched a movie that taught him how to tell how old the pieces of pipe were that was found while digging.



Mark looks at a trench in front of the Hans Herr House.



Arya Porter is the archeologist dig coordinator and supervisor.



After the pieces are washed, they are catalogued to help historians find clues to the past.