

# CHAPTER FOUR

## METHODS



Figure 163. Initial laying out of east-to-west baseline. Start of Feature 2 Brick Scatter units underway. Photo by Dr. Eric Ritter on February 2, 2007.

## CHAPTER 4. METHODS

### HISTORICAL RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter provides a review of the archival historical research methods utilized concerning the study area, CA-TEH-2105H, as well as the archaeological field methods undertaken and subsequent laboratory and curatorial procedures completed.

The foundational archival historical data for this project began with Theodora Kroeber's *Ishi In Two Worlds* (1961), and ten years later, Eva Marie Apperson's *We Knew Ishi* (1971). Kroeber's book, especially, convinced this researcher that California Indians, such as Ishi, ". . . knew nature, which is always true" (Dr. Saxton T. Pope in T. Kroeber 1961:237). The California Indian tribes' acquired "sense of place" has been the result of centuries of detailed observing of nature. Their familiarity with their ancestral homelands, its geology, flora, fauna, and interdependent cycles made them wise. Part of what Eva Apperson wrote in her little book, was that many things said about Ishi were "just not so." An introductory Ishi book, published in 1990 by this author, and titled *Ishi: America's Last Stone Age Indian*, resulted in this writer making important contacts with several knowledgeable northern California families, of which three families were: the Marsene and Della (Dotherow) Speegle family of Vina, the Chester and Ruby (Speegle) Rose family of Chico, and the Clarence and Frances (Valente) Leininger family. Over time, this researcher had the rewarding experience of interviewing these families. The Vina Plain (Tehama County) just north of Chico (Butte County) is where these families have kept their roots. The rugged foothill country just east of them was Ishi's Yahi tribe's ancestral homeland. The 1908 discovery of Grizzly Bear's Hiding Place, the artifacts (Indian goods) taken that became private family museum collections, along with the fact that Ishi made his last appearance in Vina in May of 1914, all begat more history-learning and meeting more pioneer families.

In summary, collecting oral family histories "on location," inclusive of ethnomapping work (recording their local place names and landmarks), then corroborating and integrating this data from early newspapers on microfilm (most of which were accessed from the Tehama County Library (Red Bluff) and Meriam Library, CSU, Chico).

Tape-recording consultants (informants) inclusive of photographing select family album pictures and artifacts, and return "follow-up" interviewing comprise this researcher's methodology. Often a "hard copy" draft of a more lengthy interview was mailed back to the interviewee for editing purposes with mailer and sufficient return postage. This process has been effective in teasing out more long-term memory details.

Data obtained from the Keith Lingenfelter (1996) *Tehama County Pioneers Married and Unmarried Persons Volumes 1-3*, now available online, has been fruitful. His data, in some cases, was cross-referenced with U.S. Census reports preserved on microfilm. The records from five local cemeteries have been helpful. They include: the Tehama Cemetery (Tehama), the Chico Cemetery, Red Bluff's Oak Grove Cemetery, and the Cana Pine Creek Cemetery (located at 6195 Broyles Road, near the intersection of Broyles Road and State Highway 99).

About Harmon A. Good's and Alex R. Barrington's early family history, archival data was obtained from Pennsylvania and Ohio. Major sources of data came from: the Lehigh Valley Heritage Center & Museum (Allentown, PA); the Allen County Historical Society (Lima, Ohio), the St. Marys Historical Society, St. Marys Community Public Library, and the Auglaize County Common Pleas Court (Wapakoneta, Ohio).

Several visits about the greater study area's land history were made to Red Bluff's Tehama County Records, Tehama County Assessor's Office, and Tehama County Sheriff's Office. Documents

were obtained from the California Secretary of State- Archives, the California State Library (Sacramento), the Bureau of Land Management's Survey Records Office of the Geographic Services Branch (Sacramento), and from the National Archives and Records Administration (Washington, D. C.).

Next for undertaking a scientific study of the study area, a Research Project Design document was developed by this researcher during 2002 and 2003, inclusive of consultations and advice secured from Dr. Eric Ritter with Shasta College. Twenty test questions, called themes, were drafted. They are listed in Ch. 2, on pages 22-23. The test questions were distributed to the students enrolled in the excavation effort on January 19, 2004, and later.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS

To finalize the list of test questions and to best determine where to begin test unit excavations, survey visitations at the study area were conducted on April 10, 2003 and May 15, 2003. As a result, two site features were identified: Feature 1 Depression (Q. Is this an early hand dug well, root cellar or privy?); Feature 2, the concentrated surface brick scatter observed (Q. Is the brick scatter from a collapsed chimney with structure?). Preliminary metal detector sweeps took place and some collecting was begun. Pockets of ferrous and non-ferrous metal concentrations were pin-flagged.

The datum with base lines - On Day #1 (September 27, 2003) with students from Feather River College and Shasta College, Dr. Ritter chose a spot (at 366 feet above sea level elevation) adjacent and south of the greatest brick concentration (Feature 2) for the site's datum (Q. Was the Hi Good Cabin structure in this immediate area?). Dr. Ritter also made use of the solitary blue oak to the east by placing the west-to-east (cardinal direction) base line "just south" of its massive trunk (see site maps, Figures 4 & 8). The datum location afforded a 360 degrees, unobstructed view of the flat.

The north-to-south cardinal base line was aligned to Magnetic North (with declination of 17 degrees).

The grid with units - The grid relative to the datum was established in feet and inches, with all angles of the grid relative to Magnetic North (with declination of 17 degrees). Each unit was 5' x 5'. The placed datum and four cardinal points established the respective site quadrants: NW, NE, SW and SE. Also established from the datum was a 25' X 25' spaced grid, using rebar stakes pounded into the ground, each wrapped with survey tape for better visibility.

Metal detector sweeps - Density sweeps, using White metal detectors and recreational quality GPS products, were undertaken to help establish locations of large samples but not all of ferrous and non-ferrous metal artifacts or substances in each area. Surface sweeps, in arcs of approximately 5 feet, were undertaken.

Designated colors on the pin flags were assigned to distinguish red bricks, for instance, versus any ferrous item hits, etc. This aided the identification of different types of historic artifacts about to be collected, as well as provided clues for where the most promising test units for excavating should be for collecting. The metal detecting sweeps also helped determine the approximate limits of the site (See Fig. 8 site map's "upside down brackets" which precisely indicate the site's perimeter). There were also metal detector sweeps undertaken of the four quadrants surrounding the site datum (NW, NE, SW and SE) and observations written on the Trail Artifact/Feature Form sheets.

Site map - A site map (See Fig. 8 on page 19) was made, using graph paper, that recorded the land forms, such as road placement, outbuildings, depressions, corrals, fences, windmill, and site perimeters, and contour lines (each contour line interval indicates a 1-foot elevation difference).

Drawings - In addition to the site map, prepared in the course of the project were also: the superior view drawing of the Feature 2 exposed brick scatter (Fig. 339 on page 459); drawing of the Feature 5 collapsed structure (Fig. 362 on page 491); as well as sketches, with dimensions determined for the corral, feed shed, and windmill (filed in the Archaeological Field Notes Binder).

Collecting - Surface scrape/excavations of the 5 1/2 units (each 5' x 5' areas) were completed during four Saturdays (Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2004). Excavated, and collected as one unit, was Feature 1 Depression, and Unit 3N1E, Unit 3N2E, Unit 3N3E, Unit 4N10E, Unit 6N2E-E1/2 and Unit 2S12E. Note: The list of Units excavated in 2007 and 2008 may be found towards the bottom of page 5 of this report.

Forms of Archaeological Field Note Taking - Daily events and observations made and select artifacts deemed diagnostic enough to collect, were recorded on forms.

"Daily Field Record" - This form was completed by each student excavator for every day's work, inclusive of their name, the date, where they worked, a specific summary of objects found, their field observations and interpretations, and sketches made on its backside graph paper section of diagnostic artifacts collected.

"Trail Artifact/Feature Form" - This was filled out normally by the crew leader, whose team surveyed the four site quadrants and/or who observed and collected along a particular feature or road/trail segment. Often they recorded GPS marker locations. Environmental characteristics described involved noting vegetation, soil, land forms, and geologic aspects. Cultural materials collected were described as to their material type, color, embossing, measurements, etc.

"Archaeological Feature Record" - This form included the Feature #, a feature definition, noting what the matrix, stratification and associated objects observed. Supplemental sketches were drawn on the graph paper section on its backside, noting wall profiles etc. to scale. Any additional observations were noted including personal interpretations.

"General Notes" - Keeping with methods, at the start of every Saturday's field day, one student was assigned to write up a 2 to 5 page overview of that day's team archaeological field effort. They were also asked to complete and have enough copies of their report to pass out on the morning of the next Saturday's field class to all of the team participants. It was then read aloud. As a result, each General Notes group reading served as a "kind of reading of the minutes." Corrections or additions of what had transpired sometimes resulted. The General Notes instrument helped sustain amongst the field team members continued focus and instilled individual responsibility and group solidarity as well.

"Archaeological Field Notes Binder" - All of the completed forms were collected and assembled together into the one binder titled, "Archaeological Field Notes" of Hi Good Cabin (Acorn Hollow) Tehama County, 2003-2004." All of the photographic negatives and CD of the features were also placed into a plastic sleeve at the back of this binder. This data is part of the official published report and has been placed with the site's artifact assemblage at the Tehama County Museum.

Excavation Units, Levels and Stratigraphy - Feature 1 Depression had 0-48" for its Level 1. Feature 1 involved the deepest point of collecting at the site. The finalized levels for Feature 1 involving data recovery were:

- Level 1 (0-48")
- Level 2 (48-60")
- Level 3 (60-72")
- Level 4 (72 - 84")
- Level 5 (84-90")

The collecting during 2003-2004 came from 5 1/2 units, the Feature 1 Depression, from metal detector sweeps of the four road segments (Feature 4), and of the site's four quadrants (NW, NE, SW and SE). The standard depth of excavation undertaken of the units was 0 - 6" Bottom Surface, with two exceptions, namely: Feature 1 was excavated down to 90" bottom surface, and the NE 1/4 of Unit 6N2E excavated down to 12" bottom surface.

The screen boxes utilized in the units were 1/4 inch mesh, with 1/8 inch screening done at Unit 3N1E only.

Subsequent excavation work, 2007 and 2008 - Six more Saturdays in the early spring 2007 resulted in the completion of four additional units. They were: Unit 1S3E, Unit 2S6W, which was assigned Feature 9 Ash Deposit, as well as Unit 5N9E, and Unit 6N1E. In April of 2008, three more Saturday field classes were held, resulting in 4 1/2 additional units being excavated. They were: Unit 4N9E, Unit 2S5W, the N1/2 of Unit 3N9E and Unit 8S28E (thereabouts) which was assigned Feature 10, inclusive of a cache of rusted cooking vessels and one whole bottle.

Artifact Types Classifying Method - As already mentioned in the Ch. 1 Report Organization, all artifacts were grouped according to the outline instrument titled, "Historic Artifacts Analysis Categories. This instrument may be found on pages 9-11 of this report.

Features assigned (8) - All features were drawn and photographed (see Ch. 6 for Features interpretations).

Feature 1 Depression became a complicated archaeological endeavor when no definable well wall could be discerned. Removed from the depression were modern ranching debris (garbage) dating to about 1940 with the exceptions of a few older artifacts that crept into the deposit as well. The methods applied included a baseline string strung between the north and south edges of the depression. Eventually a "squaring" off of the irregular central pit was accomplished which was measured and mapped all in respect to the site's datum. It was decided to excavate this pit by arbitrary one foot (12") levels. Due to time limitations and mud the work here ceased. Plastic was laid into the feature prior to backfilling and returning it to its original condition to the extent possible, practical, and safe.

Feature 2 - Three side-by-side units were excavated to expose this rock and brick chimney scatter, with one subsequent detailed superior view drawing made and photographs taken.

Feature 3 - Unit 2S12E was chosen for excavating because of an exposed brick alignment observed.

Feature 4 - Feature 4 was assigned to the ranch road, which traversed the site study area. Four arbitrary segments were defined where intense metal detector surveys were conducted for each (see Ch. 6 pages 473-492). The artifacts collected from Feature 4, were recorded on the special "Trail Artifact/Feature Form" (described above).

Feature 5 - A "collapsed structure" with likely related footstones was assigned Feature 5 (located southwest of the large blue oak not far south from the Feature 1 Depression. A map of this matrix was made with measurements (see Ch. 6 Fig. 361).

Feature 6- Unit 4N10E was excavated along the westerly edge of the ranch road in an artifact and bone-laden ashy fill, Feature 6. (Q. Is this possible clean-out from the cabin hearth or burnt structure remains or both?)

Feature 7- Unit 6N2E-E1/2 contained a similar ashy fill zone with bone remains, assigned as Feature 7. It was farther excavated down to a 6-12" level to determine the depth of the ashy fill zone. Result: It was learned that Feature 7's ashy deposit did not exceed around 7" in depth, becoming sterile clay soil thereafter.

Feature 8 - The Corral, Feed Shed, and Windmill was the feature to be assigned. While only one artifact, a WW II canteen was collected from this feature, understanding of contemporary culture involving the Aermotor windmill's technology, livestock branding styles history, and more resulted.

Equipment used - One K. & E. transit and stadia rods were used to make the site grid map (Fig. 8). At the units were: 1/4" mesh screens (with the exception that unit 3N3E, a 1/8" screen was used). Other tools put to work at the site were: field-forms, clipboards, baggies, paper bags, artifact containers, line levels, ice picks, trowels, measuring tapes, whisk brooms, black coal scoop dust pans, standard 3 gallon metal utility buckets, tarps, magnets, Munsell's book with soil PH-test kit, and both digital and standard, single-lens, reflector cameras.

Methods for dating notion determinations - Regarding nails, counts were made for the number of cut (square) nails found versus the number of wire (round) nails found. Those without heads were counted based on whether they were cut or wire type (see below Ch. 7).

A separate count was made of amethyst glass fragments collected, and of their locations, because they are considered "an excellent pre-1920 indicator.

A separate count of aqua-colored glass was computed because they are dating notions for the years, 1880-1920.

## LABORATORY PROCEDURES

Initially, all recovered archaeological materials were taken to the Shasta College Archaeology Lab where they were cleaned, sorted, and catalogued. A provenience-based, cataloguing system was the method of inventorying the artifacts having shared characteristics in specimen groups or "lots." The "preliminary" specimens total count came to 613 collected during 2003-2004. However, upon review, this researcher added fourteen specimen numbers. Hence, the "finalized" specimens total count ended at 627.

Each of the specimens was listed with prefix accession number, 320 + its respective specimen number, along with its respective provenience reference, and a preliminary material type description (e.g., glass, metal, bone, tooth, brick, ceramic, wood, plastic etc.). This work was largely accomplished by Joyce Abbott, collections cataloger. Select artifacts were also drawn by Joyce Abbott on the backside pages of the "Specimens List" spiral bound binder.

The site's catalog of the objects collected was placed by this researcher (See below Ch. 5) according to the "Historic Artifacts Analysis Categories." It contains these five groups:

- A. Kitchen Group
- B. Personal Group
- C. Architectural Group
- D. Industrial Group
- E. Other Group\*

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\* Other Group - Inclusive of all items for which no specific use could be identified (e.g., amorphous lumps of metal, leather, rubber, sandstone, asbestos etc.).

Bottles and Glass Fragments - Because such a significant number of whole and/or partial bottles and glass fragments comprised the "Historic Artifacts" collected, a separate **unnumbered** section, titled "Bottles and Glass, was placed first in Ch. 5 (See pages 323-350).

Regarding the whole and partial glass bottle count, determinations were made as follows:

1. Bases that were at least 50 percent complete or were unique were counted first.
2. Finishes (lips) that exceeded the number of bases were added to the count.
3. Body fragments that differed in color or manufacture technique from any of the bases or finishes already counted (See final count of whole and partial bottles found in Fig. 172, page 321).

Ceramic vessel fragments - though minimal in number, were counted in a similar manner: mended vessels and bases of at least 50 percent complete were counted first; material types and decorated patterns that did not match any base fragments were added to the count.

Non specific use terms used - Adjectives used for the status of certain artifacts studied included: indefinite, undiagnostic artifacts, undistinguished and unidentified.

Laboratory faunal determinations were conducted under the direction of Dr. Frank Bayam at the Zooarchaeology Lab, part of the California State University, Chico's Anthropology Department. The systematic methodology for faunal remain determinations may be found in Ch. 8 on pages .

Regarding possible future laboratory analysis of the nine brick specimens collected, discussion may be found in Ch. 6 on pages 555 and 559.

Disposition and Curation of the Collection - The Tehama County Museum is the repository of the complete Assemblage (Collection) with Catalog (on CD), the Archaeological Field Notes Binder, one copy of the "Specimens List" (combed binder), and supplemental photographs of the project. Contact: Head Curator Darrell Mullins of Tehama County Museum Foundation, 275 C Street Tehama, CA 96090. Information: (530) 384-2595.

The museum accession number for the CA-TEH-2105H collection is No. 320, for the 627 specimens collected during 2003/2004. The artifacts themselves are protected in eight 15" x 10" x 12" plastic, "see-through" containers, and six smaller shadow display boxes. The list of contents of each plastic container is glued to the side of each.

By agreement, the artifacts were donated by property owners Fred Hamilton, Mike Hamilton, and Susan (Hamilton) Junge to the Tehama County Museum Foundation, Tehama, California, for final curation. It was pre-established that the artifacts saved for curation had to be diagnostic, unusual items or unique specimens, and/or artifacts that were suitable to illustrate the life ways of the inhabitants and their significance historical and/or as contemporary objects.

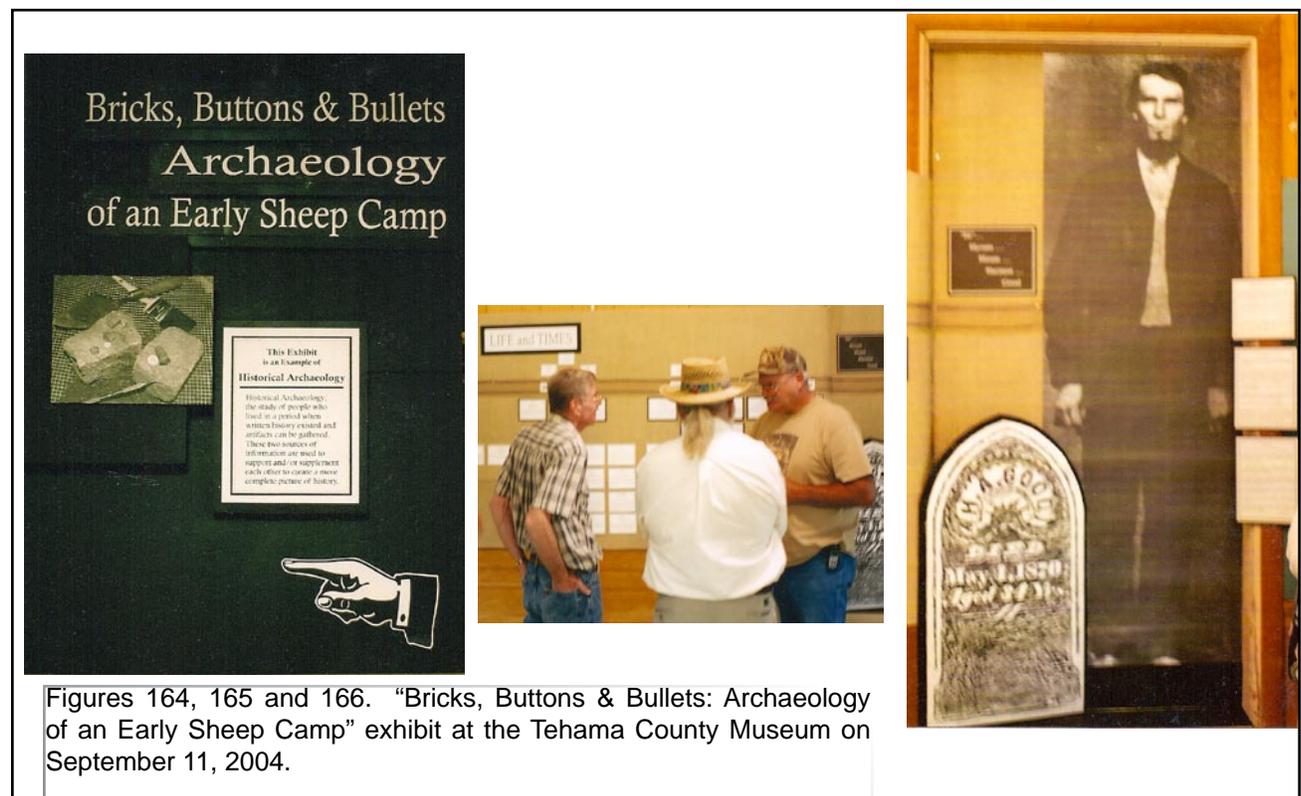
## Community Interest Regarding the Hi Good Cabin Site And Its History Continues To Grow

Exhibit: "Bricks, Buttons & Bullets: Archaeology of an Early Sheep Camp." As early as September 11, 2004 (through July 2006) the Tehama County Museum put up an exhibit (with the above title) of a sampling of the Hi Good Cabin artifacts, which was well received. Photos of the exhibit have been preserved on CD by the Tehama County Museum (See below Figures 164, 165 and 166).

### Newspaper Accounts

- C. Jerome Crow (2004, January 21) "Shasta Course to Research, Excavate Part of Hiram Good Cabin Site" *Red Bluff Daily News*.
- Steve Schoonover (2004, March 7) "Hunting for Hi Good" *Chico's Enterprise Record*, [also reprinted in the *Red Bluff Daily News* on March 9, 2004]. Its reprinting may be read below.

New movie film in progress - Titled "Ned's Draw or the Murder of Hi Good" became film director and producer Lee Lynch's thesis project for his Master of Fine Arts, University of Southern California. A preview / working copy of Lee Lynch's "art film" was shown in Oroville, California, on Friday, May 8, 2009 at the 8th Annual Ishi Gathering and Seminar, sponsored by the Butte County Historical Society. Lynch's "movie shoots" took place January 2-7, 2009, on both the Dye Creek Nature Preserve grounds (in Los Molinos) and adjacent the Hi Good Cabin site (in Vina's Acorn Hollow, Tehama County, California). Interesting highlights were: twenty actors dressed in period costumes, the 35mm camera rental, Lee Lynch's constructed homesteaders's cabin replica, and the four loud reports heard, using blanks, when "Hi Good" (played by David Nordstrom) used his Winchester rifle to shoot and kill the Mill Creeks' "Old Doctor" (played by actor Martin Jaquez, of Southern Ute / Pojoaque Pueblo heritage).



# ENTERPRISE RECORD

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## Hunting for Hi Good

Archaeology class probes cabin site for glimpse of past

By **STEVE SCHOONOVER**  
City Editor

**V**INA — For four Saturdays in February, an archaeology class from Shasta College surveyed a location that may have been the home of one of the most notorious Indians hunters of the 1850s and 1860s: Hi Good.

Harmon Good (or Hiram Good, in some records), was called the “(Daniel) Boone of the Sierra” by his contemporaries for his exploits in that era. He’s seen in a far different light these days.

Then, he was seen as a stalwart protector of women and children from marauding Indians. Today we’re disturbed by a man who’d line the quilt covering his bed with Indian scalps, as Good was reported to have done.

Again and again between 1857 and 1870, Good led parties of settlers into the hills to “punish” the Indians for “depredations.” Sometimes the raids were responding to the killings of settlers. More often, they were in response to thefts of cattle or other foodstuffs by the hungry natives. And sometimes, the Indian hunts seemed to be prompted by nothing more than



Photos by Steve Schoonover/Enterprise-Record

Shasta College archaeology student John Brooks documents a collapsed chimney that’s been exposed by an excavation at a site that might be the cabin of notorious Indian hunter Hi Good.

■ See EXCAVATION, 10A

-Continued on the next page-

Figure 167.

Steve Schoonover (2004, March 7) “Hunting for Hi Good” *Chico’s Enterprise Record*, p. 1A, 10A.

-continued-

boredom.

It was at Good's cabin near present-day Vina that the remnants of the Yahi Indians possibly including Ishi apparently attempted to surrender early in 1870, only to flee in fear of being hung when one of Good's men threw a rope over a tree branch.

And it was near there a few months later where Good was murdered by Ned, an Indian youth who worked for him. Ned was subsequently executed by one of Good's friends.

But where was that cabin?

It may be down a muddy track that turns off a private gravel road, a few miles out of Vina. There, in a pretty little draw, surrounded by low, rolling hills dotted by oaks, the remains of an old cabin have been found.

The area has been combed with metal detectors, with significant finds charted with GPS technology. A grid of strings, five feet apart, has been stretched across the most promising area, and turf and soil have been removed from several of the units thus marked.

The sifted soil from those holes has yielded a wealth of square nails, spent bullet cartridges, bits of animal bone, broken glass and other artifacts. In three adjacent units are an uncovered jumble of bricks and cobbles, apparently a collapsed chimney.

Four days of digging isn't enough to yield a complete picture of what lays under the soil at the site, so locations had to be picked that had promise of being representative of the rest of the area.

Picking where to dig is the responsibility of veteran archaeologist Eric Ritter, who works out of the BLM's Redding office and is teaching the Shasta College class.

He's providing guidance to Richard Burrill, a prolific writer on Ishi who obtained permission to dig at the site and will have the responsibility of writing up a report on what's found.

Ritter's teaching Burrill the caution required to do a professional archaeological report, reining in his enthusiastic rush to conclusions.

"Can we say this is the Moak Trail?" Burrill asked Ritter of the road running through the site.

"You're writing the report; you tell me," Ritter answered.

His message was clear: It's your job to find out for sure.

Ritter defers to Burrill on how he knows this is the site of Good's cabin, and it turns out the identification of the site isn't completely certain.

Decendents of long-time Tehama County families have told Burrill the flat is the location of Good's cabin, and one produced a very fuzzy photograph from 1920, supposedly of Good's cabin. Burrill can make out a brick chimney in the picture, and he believes the jumble of bricks unearthed at the site links the picture to the site.

But there is no official record of Good owning this piece of land, where he lived for at least three years before his death in 1870. That doesn't mean it's not the site, as record-keeping was more casual in those days.

And Burrill points to several accounts of Good's murder that had him traveling to his vegetable garden a mile and a half away, about the right distance to land Good was known to have owned.

It was upon his return from the garden that Good was ambushed by Ned, who feared trouble after he'd been caught searching for a rumored hidden cache of gold coins. Ned shot Good three times, dragged the dead man to a ravine, dumped him in and rolled some rocks onto the body.

It was several days before Good's body was found, and in the interim, Ned proved to be one of the most moronic murderers of all time. He paraded around the countryside, wearing Good's ring and carrying his rifle, and making comments that suggested he knew what had happened to the missing man.

When Good's body was finally found, Ned was confronted, he confessed and led Good's friends to the tree where he'd hidden in ambush. Ned was tied to the tree and Sandy Young, one of John Bidwell's foremen and a close friend of Good's, shot the youth to death.

The body was left there beneath the tree, until years later when "two young students from Colusa" came and took away the skeleton, according to Sim Moak's "The Last of the Mill Creeks," an account of the Indian battles of that era.

Burrill clearly wants the cabin to be Good's. "We'd be able to establish a sense of place about the history of Tehama County," he said.

But the joshing at the dig indicate others in the class don't believe, or don't care quite as much. When a metal detector sweep turns up a rusted spoon, someone calls out in a mocking tone, "Why look, she's found Hi Good's spoon."

"Well that's amazing," someone answers.

In the banter at the excavation site, broken bits of a clay pipe become Hi Good's pipe, fragments of boot sole come from Hi Good's boot, and so on. But when the artifacts are formally documented, Good's name isn't likely to be attached to them.

For Ritter, it's not important if the cabin is Good's. "If nothing else, it should provide a good look at a 19th century line shack," the archeologist said.

The silent artifacts speak to him. The rusted blade of an ancient sheer indicates a sheep-raising operation. Liquor bottles and spent cartridges the kinds of things that prompted one of Ritter's students to dub it an "ATF site," for alcohol, tobacco and firearms allow the location to be dated.

There is extensive research into the dates of manufacture of different types of items like bottles and cartridges. For instance, Henry rifle

cartridges were found, and that weapon was only manufactured between 1860 and 1866.

For Ritter, those kinds of things are as good as gold, as they allow reconstruction of the past, if interpreted properly.