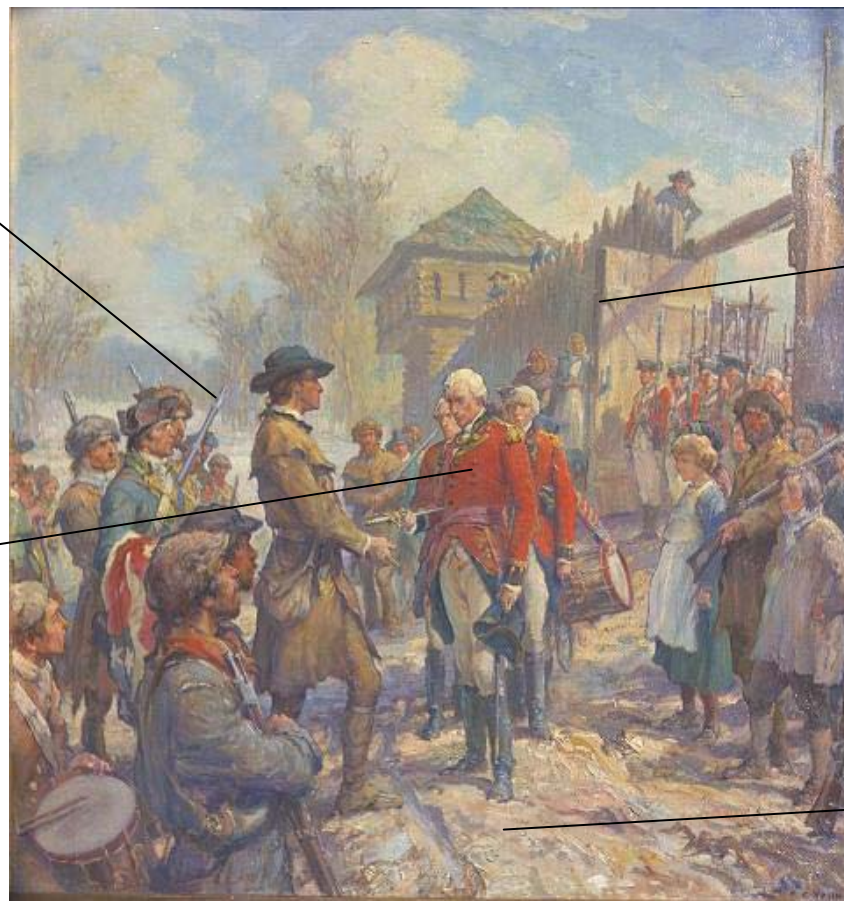


## WHAT COULD ARCHAEOLOGISTS LEARN IF THEY INVESTIGATED A SCENE LIKE THIS ?

Look at the weapons that are being carried. Archaeologists look for weapons, or parts of them, and ammunition such as musket balls in their excavations. The way they were made, their style, etc., can tell archaeologists much about the time they were used, and which groups were using them.

Military uniforms, and things like the buttons, colors, style and even fabric can provide archaeologists with invaluable clues. When George Rogers Clark's body was moved from one cemetery to another in 1869, something which helped positively identify the body were the remaining military buttons from the uniform in which Clark was buried.



Written records and other documents can often provide us with many clues about a site. Archaeologists, however, would be glad to discover the remnants of a fort such as this. Forts can leave behind much in the way of clues such as foundation lines, and artifacts related to the military and civilian use of the structure. Archaeologists use this type of information to attempt to reconstruct what was happening at the location.

Archaeologists also look at the landscape, the soils themselves, and the general topography. It is important to know why a location was chosen for the archaeological site. It makes sense strategically that a structure such as Fort Sackville was located on the bank of an important river.

For more information about archaeology and what we can learn from it, contact the DHPA at 317/232-1646 or visit our website at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic> *The Fall of Fort Sackville* by Frederick C. Yohn, courtesy of the Indiana Historical Bureau. Compiled by Amy Johnson, Archaeology Outreach Coordinator, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA).