Archaeology of Mark Twain’s Comstock
Virginia City, Nevada
July 13th-August 13th, 2009

University of Nevada, Reno

Course Title: ANTH 448A.787: Field School in Archaeology

Credits: 6 Semester Hours

Instructors: Dr. Donald Hardesty, Professor of Anthropology, UNR
Dr. Carolyn White, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, UNR

Emigrants traveling along the California Trail in 1850 discovered placer gold at the mouth of Gold Canyon on the Carson River in what is now northwestern Nevada and led to the discovery of the Comstock silver lode in 1859. The Comstock emerged as a world famous center of precious metals mining with an urban corridor that stretched from the Comstock Lode down Gold Canyon to the Carson River Valley. Industrialization of its mines and mills in the early 1860s revolutionized the mining industry around the world. Famous author Mark Twain lived on the Comstock in the early 1860s. In this five-week field school, students will locate and explore archaeological sites associated with the earliest period of Comstock history while learning the methods of historical archaeology. They will conduct research on such questions as the location and social and cultural characteristics of the earliest Comstock mining camps; boardinghouses, brothels, and households; patterns of gender and ethnicity; and commercial development.

Learn Fundamentals in Archaeological Survey and Excavation

- Survey
- Mapping
- Excavation
- Recording
- Field Laboratory Methods

Program Cost: $960

Program cost includes tuition, fees, field supplies, and transportation between the University of Nevada, Reno, and the field school site.

Application deadline: June 15th, 2009
Apply online at: www.unr.edu/cla/anthro/field.htm

The field school is limited to 25 students.

For more information: Contact Dr. Donald Hardesty or Dr. Carolyn White, Field School in Historical Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, 1664 North Virginia MS0096, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0096, or by email, hardesty@unr.edu or clwhite@unr.edu.