Digital Ethnography for Sustainable Development in Indiana, PA

Applied Anthropology (ANTH 360)
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
What is Applied Anthropology?

• Use of qualitative analysis to solve practical problems
• Serves the needs of communities
• Often commissioned by organizations outside of academia
• Not passive research or mere social commentary
Indiana’s First Northern Appalachian Folk Festival

• How do Indiana residents view Appalachia?
• Informal interviews with members of the Indiana Community
• Understanding the social meaning of place
• Responses from interviewees
Northern Appalachian Folk Festival

The 1st Annual Northern Appalachian Folk Festival will be held in downtown Indiana, PA on September 6th and 7th, 2013.

It will feature the work of artists, craftspeople, and musical performers, including films, workshops, art exhibitions, excursions, and theater performances at numerous venues throughout the downtown area.

A new play by Si Kahn, starring Sue Massek, performed Thursday, 9/5 7pm at the Indiana Theater

Click here to check out our incredible music line up!
Freelisting

- There was not a defined cultural domain
- Gendered differences
- A platform for selecting places to profile
Underground Railroad
Memorial Park
White’s Woods
Community Garden
Indiana Theater
Jimmy Stewart Museum
IRMC Park
Hoodlebug Trail
Old Courthouse
INDIANA COMMUNITY GARDEN

VALUE TO COMMUNITY:

• Educational events
• Community engagement
• Cultural bridging
• Fortifies family & community ties
• Health-promoting
Growing different ethnic foods and preparing them is a fundamental way to bring together diverse ethnic and cultural groups. Each can impart aspects of their culture to the other, fostering cultural understanding.

**NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE**

The "Three Sisters" (corn, beans, and squash) is a classic Native American companion planting scheme. At the Indiana Community Garden, the Visiting Nurses Association demonstrated the planting in their garden plot. The corn grew tall, the bean vines climbed up the cornstalks for support, and the squash plants covered the ground, shading the soil and conserving soil moisture for the plants. The rough, scratchy leaves of the squash plants are thought to be a deterrent to raccoons in search of tender ears of corn.

The type of corn grown in this garden plot was popcorn. The gardeners harvested the corn and enjoyed fresh popcorn, and some of the beans picked were used in the Candlelight Dinner event at the community garden.
The Underground Railroad in Indiana

- Need for more inclusivity in historical representation
- Extensive history of involvement in the Underground Railroad
- Need for improved documentation of the movement’s history in Indiana
- Continued significance and social implications
The Underground Railroad in Indiana, PA

In the early 19th century, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, was known for its strong anti-slavery sentiment and willingness to aid fugitive slaves. The first anti-slavery societies were organized in the 1830’s, and in the decades before the Civil War, men, women and children of Indiana County, Black and White, of various religious beliefs and social stations, gave a helping hand to the freedom-seekers traveling on the Underground Railroad.

About

INDIANA COUNTY
AND THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

In the early 19th century, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, was

Stories

Ross Furnace was an Underground Railroad Site owned by Colonel Mathoity. A former fugitive slave, along with his wife "Aunt Katie" worked for him, operating as Underground Railroad conductors without his knowledge. They revealed this to him when they took in John Parker and his wife Catherine (Cem). John Parker escaped to Morgantown to free Cem. On the
What’s next?