

ARCH/BIOANTH LUNCH TALK

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021, 12-1 PM

JOIN US VIA ZOOM (LINK WILL BE SENT IN EMAIL REMINDER)

JACOB STONE

PHD CANDIDATE – UC SANTA CRUZ

*CONSTRUCTING CONTEXT BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER INTERNMENT
THROUGH JAPANESE-AMERICAN INCARCERATION AND THE HISTORIC
20TH CENTURY REDMAN-HIRAHARA FARMSTEAD*

This presentation covers my research on the archaeological context of Japanese American incarceration in the United States during WWII using the Redman-Hirahara Farmstead. Built in Watsonville, CA at the turn of the 20th century, this property showcases one family's unique experiential journey navigating this period: the Hirahara family, who moved into the Victorian farmstead in 1941. Following the war, the Hiraharas returned to their farm in Watsonville where they offered another Japanese family, the Hanes, to stay in their carriage barn. Excavations of the farmstead in 2005 revealed a collection of artifacts pertaining to this extended



legacy of the house, presenting new lines of evidence for how incarceration may shift consumer activities, alter material representation, and reveal avenues for exploring the post-incarceration time frame. These intertwined family stories, paired with ethnographic accounts from the region, reveal the complexities, challenges, and triumphs the Hiraharas, and other Japanese American civilians faced upon their return to their previous livelihoods, homes, and community.



Jacob Stone is a PhD candidate in the anthropology department at the UC Santa Cruz. He is an historical archaeologist, and his dissertation research focuses on the incarceration of Japanese Americans on the west coast of the United States during WWII. Major themes explored in his work include the Asian diaspora and the experiences of Japanese civilians as they moved across the globe, as well as how community, place, and material culture can enlighten us to the experiences of many who were held in incarceration centers. Jacob believes this research impacts a large breadth of detainees, refugees, and all displaced persons across the globe today who may similarly be forming communities and persevering during these disruptive circumstances. He also works in the CRM field, which encourages a critical look at how archaeologists manage, curate, and archive artifact collections. Thus, his research explores how archaeologists

can give back to the communities and present orphaned collections in a way that is informative, but also respectful and beneficial for all parties involved.