Most of us who live in Centre County today are unaware of the archaeological riches beneath our feet. In fact, there are nearly 200 known sites in the county that date to the Archaic Period, most between 3000 and 1000 B.C.. The large number of sites from late in the Archaic Period suggests that the population here had substantially increased since 8000 B.C. Most of these sites are small, temporary camps. Some sites are larger, either because they were revisited often over time or because larger groups camped there. Several Centre County sites where Late Archaic people lived have been partially excavated.

**The Milesburg Site** is at the junction of Spring Creek and Bald Eagle Creek. Penn State students working there in 1975 found several cooking hearths and numerous stone tools. People who lived at the site could fish in the creeks and also collect plants and hunt animals in diverse habitats in Bald Eagle and Nittany Valleys. This site could also have been a stopping point for people traveling along the stream to other regions.

**The Jacks Mill Site** lies along Spring Creek near Boalsburg. Archaeologists from the Bald Eagle Archaeological Society and Penn State excavated the site in the early 1980s, before houses were built there. They found hearths, pits, and numerous artifacts. Some stone spear points date as early as 7500 B.C.. However, radiocarbon dates and the majority of the spear points indicate that more groups camped there between 3500 and 1000 B.C.. Many of the pits contained charred walnut, hickory and other nut shells. Late Archaic people may have settled at the site in the fall to gather and process these nuts for use during the winter. They would also have hunted deer, dried and smoked venison, and worked hides.

**The Mackey Run Bridge Site** in Linden Hall was recently excavated by archaeologists from Heberling Associates. People camped along this small stream so they could extract stone for tools from nearby quarries. Based on stone tool styles and radiocarbon dates, people periodically visited the quarries between 4000 and 1500 B.C.. Late Archaic people also performed other chores when camping there. Microscopic studies of the edges of stone tools found there showed that they were used for working bone, wood, antler, fresh meat, and animal hides. Wood had been planed, sawed, bored, grooved, and whittled. Hides had been cleaned, scraped, cut, and pierced. These activities probably took place at many Archaic sites.