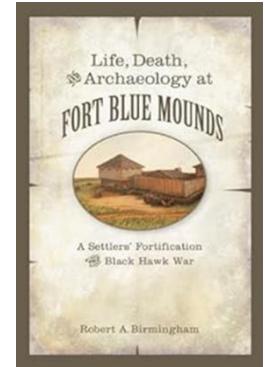


Life, Death, and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds: A Settlers' Fortification of the Black Hawk War

In the spring of 1832 a terrifying series of alarms spread like prairie fire throughout the lead mining region of northwestern Illinois and the part of Michigan Territory that is now southwestern Wisconsin: A large Native American force led by the Sauk warrior chief Black Hawk was headed north in that direction with the intent of attacking and driving out settlers. In response, the new settlers formed militia and built a series of fortifications to protect themselves. This course tells the dramatic and tragic story of one fortification, Fort Blue Mounds, occupied by lead miners and their families, that became entangled in the Blackhawk War. It also describes modern archaeological excavations by a large group of volunteers that led to the relocation of the fort and documented the lifestyle of the settlers during the conflict.



Thursday, May 15, 2025

1:00- 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid class: Online through Yuja and In-person at Tallent Hall, Room 201



ABOUT OUR PRESENTER: Robert A. Birmingham is the former State Archaeologist at the Wisconsin Historical Society and lecturer in the University of Wisconsin system. He is the author of several books and articles on historical and archaeological topics. Now retired, he continues to research and write from his home in Madison.

He is also an author and editor of many publications on Wisconsin archaeology, including his most recent Society Press books [Skunk Hill: A Native Ceremonial Community in Wisconsin](#), [Life, Death and Archeology at Fort Blue Mounds: A Settlers' Fortification of the Black Hawk](#)

[War](#) and [Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town](#), is the former Wisconsin State Archaeologist (1989-2004) at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann Cassani at maryann.cassani@att.net

Fee: \$10 for Member and \$20 for Guests

Register by: 5/12/25

To register [click here](#)

Once your registration is complete, you will receive a confirmation email.

You will then receive an email reminder a few days before the event.

If paying via check, register online, selecting "check" for your payment method, then make your

check payable to UW-Parkside/ALL and write the class name in the memo line on the check.

You can drop it off at the office or mail it in (note mail delivery is currently delayed 2-3 weeks).