



The Captain's Log

Spring 2023

PRESERVING NORTHEAST OHIO'S PAST, WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN

[HTTPS://WWW.NEOSHIP.ORG/](https://www.neoship.org/)

History Events Coming Soon

June 3

9:00 AM to 1 PM

Time Traveler Trivia Tour

Are you interested in Northeast Ohio history? Do you enjoy walking the towpath? Consider combining the two at the Time Traveler Trivia Tour, sponsored by the Stewards of Historical Preservation. On June 3rd, from 9 AM to 12:45 PM, attendees can sign up for four different legs of a 6.5 mile walk of the towpath, with an historical tour

guide giving context, information, and demonstrations of the history of Akron and northeast Ohio. Interested attendees can sign up for an individual leg for \$15, or all four legs for \$30. Interested attendees can reserve a spot via Eventbrite

(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/time-traveler-trivia-tour-registration-626657769257>), or send an email to historiakron@gmail.com.

Participation is limited to 50 people per leg. T-Shirts are available with the trail route for

\$10 for those that reserve them ahead of time, and \$15 day of.

Leg 1 (1.1 Miles), 9 to 9:45 AM: Mustill Store to Memorial Parkway Trailhead

Leg 2 (1.9 Miles), 9:45 to 10:45 AM: Memorial Parkway Trailhead to Big Bend Trailhead

Leg 3 (1.1 Miles), 10:45 to 11:30 AM: Big Bend Trialhead to Second Sole

Leg 4 (2.4 Miles), 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM: Second Sole to Botzum Trailhead

June 11

12:00 PM

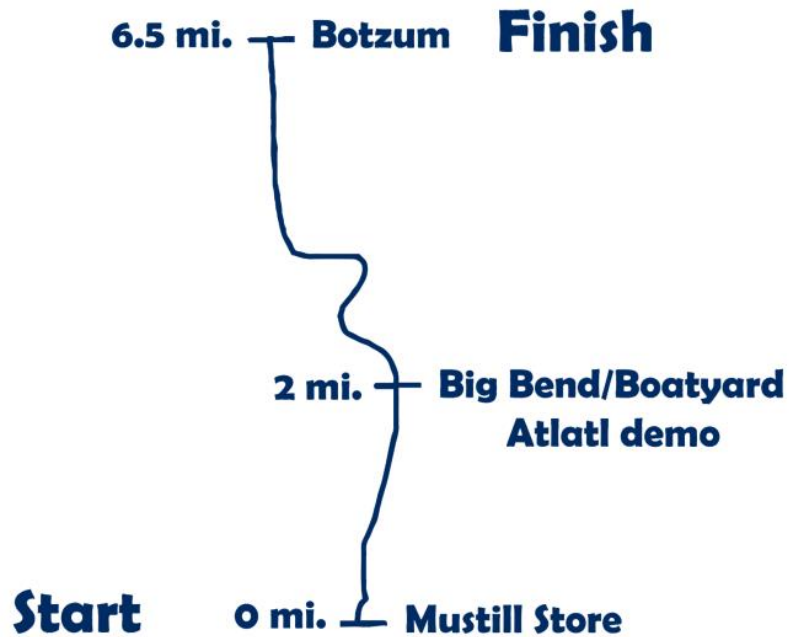
Akron Black Stockings vs. Cleveland Blues

It's Vintage Baseball season, and that means playing baseball the way it was in the mid-19th century. Join the Akron Black Stockings as they face off against the Cleveland Blues at Hale Farm and Village (2686 Oak Hill road, Bath, OH 44210). The rules and dress code for players will look different from the baseball of today, but the spirit of the game still remains.

You will be able to learn about the history of baseball, and the rules of the game while enjoying a live match!

For more information, visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/akron-black-stockings/home?authuser=0>

Time Traveler Trivia Tour



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the National Park Service's webpage for more information on what to do during National Preservation Month (annually every May): <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/preservation-month.htm>

Become a Shipmate!

Considering becoming a Shipmate? Shipmates are actively preserving the past through archaeological fieldwork, historical research, publication, inventory, and nomination of historic properties, and serving on committees. Dues are \$10 annually. Dues support the ongoing mission of SHiP, so consider joining today! For membership questions, contact Robert Trattner (rtrattner@ttmlaw.com), or go to <https://www.neoship.org/become-shipmate>

Small Cemeteries Initiative

by Larry Tucker & Klanssee Stevens, chairs of the Small Cemeteries Committee

In 2019 and 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic grew globally and within the United States, SHiP began the process of collecting and mapping all the cemeteries in Summit County Ohio. The goal had been to create and publish a reference text covering these cemeteries and further historical and archaeological history in Summit County Ohio. At that time, SHiP identified 144 cemeteries in the county. The breakdown by type was as follows:

- 55 active cemeteries;
- 34 cemeteries that are out-of-service, abandoned, destroyed, or consist solely of headstones with the spatial location still identifiable; and
- 55 cemeteries without spatial data but are recorded as existing alongside other cemeteries or are documented in historical periodicals.

Since 2020, little had been done with this data and the initiative; but that is now changing! Recently SHiP decided to restart work on this initiative, inviting some of the initial researchers back to take up the reins again. With the reinvigoration of the Small Cemeteries Initiative, the scope of the project has changed. The goal of the project is to create a digital archive or database as well as spatial data and locations of all of these cemeteries. This information will be readily accessible via the internet and should prove very useful to genealogists, historians, historical societies, veterans groups, family members, and students seeking to locate burial sites.

SHiP will also make forms accessible to landowners, locals, or anyone else who becomes aware of a small cemetery not already recorded in the database (or who learns of additional information about a recorded cemetery that others might find useful) so that the database can be supplemented.

So, look forward to more information about this exciting project that will capture existing data about known burial grounds and publish it in a web-based readily accessible format that will also incorporate new information about Summit County cemeteries as it becomes available!

The HHN #1 Site: Backyard Archaeology

By Eric Olson

Archaeological sites can be found just about anywhere, even in the backyard of a small residential lot in Akron. I discovered the HHN #1 site in the summer of 2022 while excavating for a new buried electrical line for my garage. The line needed to be buried at least 18 inches below the surface, according to the electrician. Rather than pay for someone else to excavate the trench, I opted to dig the trench myself, so that I could inspect the soil conditions of my backyard.

The trench was intended to run from the electrical panel at the back of the home, past a concrete patio, and roughly 50 feet to the detached garage, where a new electrical panel was being installed. I excavated the trench roughly 25 cm (9.8 inches) wide and 45 cm (18 inches) deep. I used hand tools, such as shovels, mattocks, and trowels. This was more daunting of a task than I had originally planned. Initially I had intended to screen the soil as I excavated the trench in 2-meter (6.5 feet) segments. However, this was quickly abandoned as I

struggled to excavate quickly through the clay layer beneath the topsoil. However, what I identified during this excavation was quite surprising. The soil less than 5 meters (16 feet) from the foundation of the home was relatively undisturbed. By this I mean the soil appeared to be unaffected by the construction of the home.

But this surprising discovery was soon overshadowed by the identification of a projectile point (Figure 1). In Ohio, the bow and arrow were introduced roughly around 800 C.E. (Common Era), so most projectile points that people colloquially call "arrowheads" are actually spear or dart points. However, in this case, what I had found was an arrow tip. The material was made of Flint Ridge Flint, which naturally outcrops in, Coshocton, Licking Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties.

With this discovery, I began to examine more critically the backfill piles during the trenching. I found the usual historic-era items, such as brick fragments, iron nails, pieces of "whiteware" (the generic term for most ceramics akin to the

coffee mugs in your cabinet), and several marbles. It is almost a guarantee that in most people's backyards there are a few marbles if the home is over 40 years old. In addition to the surprising arrow point, more precontact era (e.g. before 1650 C.E.) artifacts were found. At the corner of the concrete patio, not even 3 meters (9.8 feet) from the foundation of the home, I found a hammerstone that had evidence of use as either an early-stage nutting stone or an anchor for a bow drill. Unfortunately, this type of tool was used throughout the precontact era, and thus I could not associate this tool with the arrow point. Hammerstones are used to shape and work other stone tools in a process known as *flintknapping*. Likewise, nutting stones were used as anvils for crushing nuts, and used from roughly the Middle Archaic (6,500 B.C.E.) through to the historic era (C.E. 1650). The same is true for bow drills, which were used to create the friction necessary to make fire.

After I finished the trench, I decided to excavate a few *test units*, or square holes 50x50 cm (1.6x1.6 feet) in the yard. Roughly 10 meters (32 feet) from the house I found a piece of worked cannel coal. During the Late Woodland period (C.E. 800 to 1650) people would

work this raw material into jewelry, pendants, or sometimes more utilitarian items like fishing weights and plummets. I also identified three *flakes*, or the waste material from *flintknapping*. Think of flakes as pencil shavings. They indicate that someone sharpened a pencil (stone tool) here, but without the pencil (stone tool) we cannot identify what time period the pencil shavings (flakes) came from.

In total, from the precontact period, six artifacts were identified during excavations: 1 hammerstone, 1 piece of cannel coal, 3 flakes, and 1 arrow point. These finds led me to research the history of land use in my neighborhood, in the areas of Glenmount Avenue and Firestone Boulevard in South Akron. I soon learned through early U.S. Geological Survey maps that Firestone Boulevard had channelized and paved over two small creeks that flowed into Summit Lake. My home is roughly 160 meters (0.1 miles) from Firestone Boulevard. The route of the former creek passed the former location of three previously documented burial mound locations (Figure 2).

There is no way for me to know if either my backyard site or the mounds were



Figure 1: Precontact artifacts found at HHN #1 Site (From left to right, top to bottom): hammerstone with evidence of pitting, worked piece of cannel coal, a Flint Ridge Flint arrow point, and three flakes

contemporaneous; however, it is very common for archaeological sites to have associations and connections by common transportation and navigation routes, especially when there is previous historical use of those routes. This is commonly called *preferential attachment*, and it is the same reason that 20 percent of the carpet in most people's homes receives 80 percent of the foot traffic (also known as the *Pareto Principle*). The idea is that because there is a previously used and known path, people are likely to re-use it. Thus, if there is a water way that links my backyard to other known sites, the odds that that creek was used as a means of

navigating between the Tuscarawas River to the south and Summit Lake to the north seems likely.

It may seem surprising, particularly to some city planners or even other archaeologists, that precontact artifacts can be found even in a 0.15 acre residential lot. But sites can be found in backyards, and when people report these finds, it enhances not only our local knowledge of the area, but also improves our collective understanding of the movement of people and their settlement patterns through time. After all, most cities are not the result of someone just waking up one morning and picking a spot on the map to

make a dense urban environment. These decisions and actions are the collective work of many generations, sometime through millennia. There is a *preferential attachment* to revisit familiar places that past people have already discovered. However, the purpose, intent, and actions of those past peoples is not always the same as those of the present.

The people who dropped their stone tools in my backyard likely had no intention of erecting a permanent dwelling that they hoped to live in for decades. But there is at least one similarity: those people thought the place I call home was at the very least a good spot to spend some time. Whether that was an afternoon, a night, or a week is hard to interpret from the archaeological record. For all I know, the most interesting parts of the HHN #1 site were in my neighbor's yard, or where my house currently lies. In any event, the puzzle is incomplete because there are so many more pieces missing.

If you or someone you know happens to have a similar story of finding artifacts while doing yardwork, then I highly encourage you to reach out to someone at SHiP to learn more about your discovery, and to

allow SHiP to help document this discovery for the benefit of other archaeologists, historic preservationists, and future researchers.



Figure 2: William C. Mills *Archaeological Atlas of Ohio* (1914), showing the relative location of mounds near HHN #1. Note the small stream northeast of Swartz Corners. This stream is now Firestone Boulevard.

3D Scanning in Historic Preservation

By Jerrad Lancaster

“There’s an old saying about those who forgot history. I don’t remember it, but it’s good.”

– Stephen Colbert

Historical preservation is an important part of studying history for just that reason. What we do not preserve we do not remember. To many, historical preservation is maintaining and repairing old relics of the past in an effort to keep objects looking just as new, or in some cases used, as things were decades to centuries prior. This can be a timely and costly venture, two things that, unfortunately, we all find ourselves with so little of. However, with the accelerating progression of technology has arisen new forms of historical preservation that, while not necessarily without the necessity of time or cost, can mitigate those factors immensely.

Photogrammetry is the stitching together of photographs to create a three-dimensional model of an object. This can be done on objects

small and large with a camera (as simple as a cell phone or advanced as a drone (unmanned aerial vehicle)) and a computer with capable software. What photogrammetry does, in essence, is freeze in time an object digitally that can then be preserved away from the effects of time and man and shared across the world with just a few clicks of the mouse. Really. Try it for yourself by clicking on the link below.

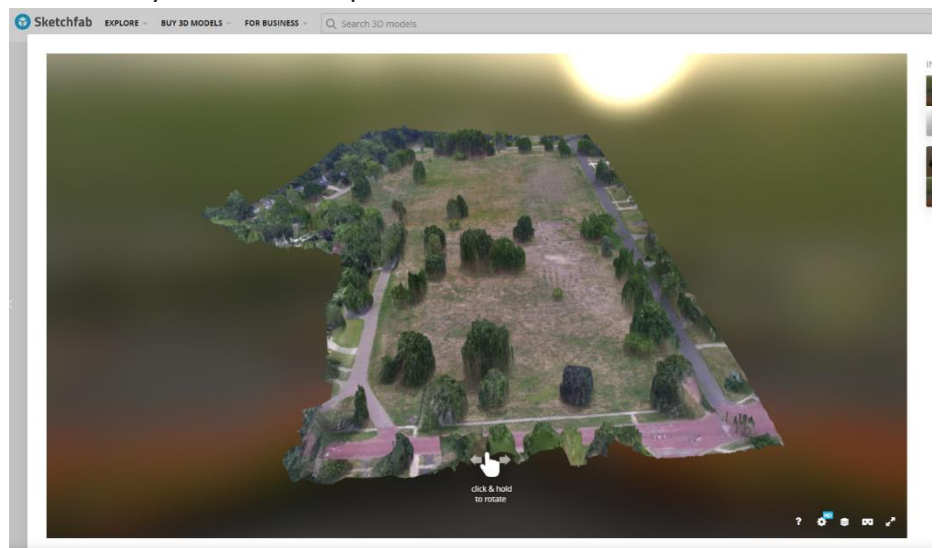
The collection presented on Sketchfab is of various objects with historical importance to NE Ohio and the country. While monuments are built by a community to honor important

individuals, equally as historically relevant are schoolhouses and personal residences that have stood long enough to see over a century of change. Oh, if their walls could talk...

If there is a structure that you find with fascinating historical value, please let us at SHiP know. It does not need to have national historical importance to be important to you. We all know too well that many things in our world seem permanent, but, whether through acts of nature or human, one day disappear. Let’s together preserve our history.

SHiP collection of objects:
<https://skfb.ly/oFXWT>

A collection of historical structures:
<https://skfb.ly/oENs7>



A 3-D model of Schneider Park in West Akron, viewable from the SHiP Sketchfab page..

In the next issue...

The next issue will be focused on the Small Cemeteries Initiative. This will coincide with other programming in the fall during Ohio Archaeology Month in October, and International Archaeology Day (also in October).

Likewise, look out for events during the first week of October, which is when Akron celebrates the Portage Path, usually with lectures, activities, and food!

In the meantime, Shipmates will be busy this summer working in the field. That is, so long as the weather cooperates!

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Preservation (SHiP)
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