



The Captain's Log

Spring 2024

PRESERVING NORTHEAST OHIO'S PAST, WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN

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

Fieldwork

UA and Tri-C Field Schools

Both the University of Akron (UA) and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will be hosting field schools this summer in northeast Ohio. The results of these projects will further our understanding of past peoples in Northeast Ohio, as well as training students in the techniques and methods of archaeology. For more information about the University of Akron field school, contact Maeve Marino (mam377@uakron.edu). For more information about the Tri-C field school, contact Eric Olson (eric.olson@tri-c.edu).

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>

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>

Summer Events

June 15

10 AM (Registration) 11 AM start

Rockin' the Revolution

Bring a chair or blanket and spend the day listening to local artists at Fort Laurens' Rockin' the Revolution, a rock concert-based event featuring food, beer and live music. Between band performances guests can enjoy a variety of family activities, attractions and tours of the Fort Laurens Museum. The event is held outside at Fort Laurens State Memorial in Bolivar, Ohio.

Admission is \$7 and includes entry into the museum. All proceeds go toward educational programming and restoration of the Fort Laurens Museum.

For more information, contact Fort Laurens at 330-874-2059 or visit the website at www.fortlaurensmuseum.org.

July 13 & 14

10 AM to 4 PM each day

Akron Cup Vintage Base Ball Exhibition

It's Vintage Baseball season, and that means playing baseball the way it was in the mid-19th century. Join the Akron Black Stockings and other teams as they play on the Stan Hywet Grounds (714 North Portage Path, Akron, OH 44303). 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! The games are included in a "Garden & Grounds" admission.

For more information, visit: <https://stanhywet.org/events/akron-cup-vintage-base-ball-exhibition>

July 27

All Day

Zoar Antiques Show

Visit Historic Zoar Village during its annual Antiques Show where visitors can shop from high quality artisans and antique dealers, enjoy the juried craft and art show and tour historic buildings. Visitors will also learn new skills from a variety of historic demonstrators such as weaving, spinning, blacksmithing, butter churning and kraut making.

The Antiques Show features a variety of dealers, artisans and folk artists throughout the village showcasing Americana, country, primitives, stoneware, furniture, metalwork designs, watercolor painting and much more.

Cost to tour the Antique Show, artisan tent, historic museum buildings and all other activities is \$12 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Zoar Village

198 Main Street, Zoar, OH

From Prosperity to Peace: The Story of Elm Court

by Dana Best-Mizsak

Now known as the Akron Motherhouse for the Sisters of St. Dominic (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace), Elm Court in West Akron has had a storied history for 112 years. It is located on 33 acres between West Exchange and West Market Streets.

Originally home to Arthur Hudson Marks (1874-1939), a prominent figure in the Akron Rubber Industry, Elm Court was built by renowned architect Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1912. Van Doren Shaw also completed homes in Akron for Bertram G. Work (Grey Lodge), the president of BF Goodrich and Edwin C. Shaw (Wytchwood), a vice-president for BF Goodrich along with Marks. Elm Court is a prime example of Italian Renaissance Revival architecture. Unlike his contemporaries who were part of Tallmadge's rebels Chicago's commercial architects or the Prairie School which included architect Frank Lloyd Wright, Shaw



Figure 1: The Akron Motherhouse, 2024

subscribed to a more traditional architectural form while exploring the ideas of the Prairie School architects. Van Doren Shaw used landscape to influence his designs so that the visual connection of the natural landscape could be appreciated as viewed from the house and the relationship of a house to its gardens. Nineteen of his projects are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Figure 2: Elm Court Entrance, c. 1912

Whether you walk up to the house or drive, the grandeur of Elm Court can be recognized with the first glance through the stone pillars at the beginning of the driveway. And, although they are now gone, the pillars at the entrance to the original garage area also give the visitor a view into the style of the house.

The terrace is, quite simply, (then and still) breathtaking. In its heyday, the terrace included free-standing pillars and a pool with a nymph fountain by Willard Paddock. The nymph is the only known piece of artwork that Marks took with him when he sold Elm Court with all the furnishings.

From 1914 to 1918, the property also featured a working dairy that delivered milk and cream to West Akron and later, to East Akron. It was known as Elm Court

Dairy and became Elm Hill Dairy. That piece of property became the Elm Hill Estates.

In 1923, Arthur Marks sold Elm Court to the Sisters of St. Dominic who were then housed at St. Bernard's for \$320,000. In October of 1923, the property was renamed Our Lady of the Elms and became home to 67 sisters and the school, which is still in operation today. The sisters have made several modifications to the original house in the way of additions, including a chapel and dormitory wings. Very little of the original house has been modified.

Several artifacts from Marks' era still remain, including his desk.

Today, Our Lady of the Elms School continues to operate as an independent entity in two buildings added by the Sisters in 1948 and 1968. Although, separated from the Sisters in 2009, they remain sponsored by them and continue on in the Dominican tradition.

(Images continue on next page)

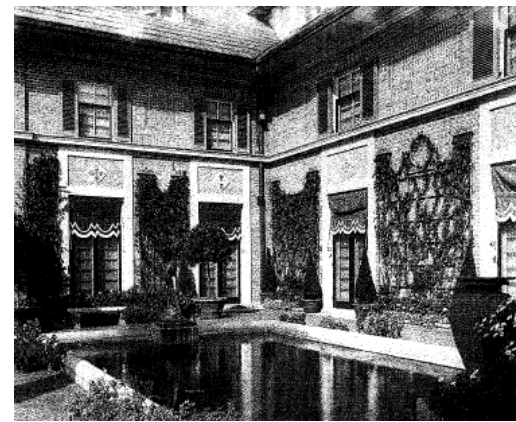


Figure 3: Elm Court Terrace, c. 1912



Figure 4: The Akron Motherhouse Dormitory, 2024



Figure 5: Arthur Hudson Marks Desk, 2024



Figure 6: The Akron Motherhouse Drawing Room, 2024



Figure 7: The Akron Motherhouse Main Hall, 2024

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