

Free Program Offerings from
Col. Matthew W. Nahorn & the New Indian Ridge Museum

If you are interested in having Col. Nahorn speak to your group, please contact us via the form on this website, www.newindianridgemuseum.com

Following is a list of programs provided:

"Indian Ridge Museum - From Old to New"

The signature program of the New Indian Ridge Museum, this talk traces the history of the original Indian Ridge Museum and the formation of the New Indian Ridge Museum, at the 1811 Historic Shupe Homestead by founder Col. Matt Nahorn.

"Prehistory of Northern Ohio"

Thousands of years ago, as the giant glaciers were receding, American Indians moved into this area. Local historian Col. Matt Nahorn sheds light on the major American Indian groups that lived in what we now know as Northern Ohio. A background of these American Indian groups will be provided, including information learned about these people from the tools they left behind and the sites they occupied.

"Residents of the Historic Shupe Homestead & the Mystery at Oak Point"

Local historian Col. Matt Nahorn sheds light on those who called Amherst's 1811 Historic Shupe Homestead their own home (still used as a private residence today) – oldest house in Lorain County. A brief background of those residents will be provided. A unique connection to mysterious plans for the land around nearby Oak Point will be discussed. Tips on how one may research their own home and property will also be provided.

"A Thirst for History - Amherst's Old Spring & Rediscovered Braun Brewery"

What is a major reason for the location of Downtown Amherst, Ohio? Amherst's Old Spring, a natural seep spring aquifer, is located in the center of Amherst and was a major source of drinking water for many years. The surprise rediscovery of the Braun Brewery, adjacent to the Old Spring, provides a unique twist to the story. Restoration efforts by local historian Col. Matt Nahorn, of features around the Spring, such as a stone arch, will be reviewed.

"What is a Watershed - Land-use Affects Water Quality and Stream Bank Integrity; Focusing on the Beaver Creek Watershed"

How we use the land around us greatly dictates water quality, how quickly erosion takes place, and the overall health of a watershed. We all live in a watershed, and in this talk, Oberlin College graduate Matt Nahorn will use his background in environmental studies to enlighten attendees on watersheds, particularly the Beaver Creek Watershed right here in Lorain County. Tips on what we all can do to better the environment around us will be provided.

"Lost Houses of Lorain County"

A Review of Selected Historic Houses & the Case for Historic Preservation

It is a tragedy when an "old house" is demolished. But, when a house is demolished, architectural salvage is important, as these structures contain beautifully hand-crafted features made of old growth wood. Over the last 25 years or so, Matt Nahorn has salvaged over 60 doors from old houses, mostly representing the 19th century.

Let's take a trip through early Lorain County history, reviewing some prominent early architectural styles. With that, let us review selected houses from which we have salvaged doors, windows, and other architectural features.

Archaeological Exploration of Glover's Cave: Its Formation, Exploration, and Ancient Life

Glover's Cave, a naturally formed limestone cave of Southwestern Kentucky, was a home for American Indians, for thousands of years. Archaeological work in the cave provides knowledge of these ancient peoples, specifically how they lived and met their environment.

Elyria archaeologist Col. Raymond C. Vietzen and his wife Ruth, explored the cave for 40 years, and subsequently authored a book, "The Saga of Glover's Cave" (1956). In 1957 he was named an honorary Kentucky Colonel.

In 2002, historian Matt Nahorn was able to visit the cave, doing so for eight consecutive summers, where he explored, studied, and photo-documented the site. Let's learn about the geology of the cave and the prehistoric American Indians who once called this site their home.

"Academy of the Ridges: A Brief History of Lake Ridge Academy"

The private school, L. R. A., sits on an ancient glacial beach ridge in North Ridgeville, Ohio. Three gentlemen had a vision to found an independent school that would provide unique educational opportunities to students. Prepared in anticipation of the School's fiftieth anniversary, in this talk, 2008 L. R. A. graduate Matt Nahorn outlines the founding of the school and its growth through the years.

Forgotten Claus Family Cemetery

In the early years of the founding of local communities, small family cemeteries often dotted the countryside, before major cemeteries consolidated many of these burial plots. The Claus Family Cemetery in Brownhelm became a forgotten and neglected family cemetery. Having driven by two white marble gravestones on a hillside overlooking a small creek and the busy highway of State Route 6, I knew that a story was to be told. As a local historian, I am proud to have initiated the restoration project of the Claus Family Cemetery. I thank Kate Rivet, and her Cemetery Restoration Services team of

Jane and Ron Crandall for making this restoration possible. Let's dive into the history of that cemetery and the restoration process!