

Vanished Monuments: The Lost Prehistoric Mounds and Landscapes of the Upper Ohio Valley



Presented by Hank D. Lutton

Wednesday, February 27, at 6 pm
Grave Creek Mound, Moundsville, WV

In the late eighteenth century as European and American settlers began entering the Ohio River Valley, they were astounded by the numerous burial mounds and geometric earthworks they encountered. Many of these ancient monuments were constructed on floodplains where they were wantonly obliterated by relic hunters, plowing, urbanization, and industrialization.

This presentation will explore some of the mounds of the Upper Ohio Valley that were eradicated from the landscape are today largely lost to public memory. After highlighting some of the mounds that were once in our communities, the presentation will illustrate how many of these mounds were components of broader, intricately designed ceremonial landscapes.

A native of Jefferson County, Ohio, Hank D. Lutton is an archaeologist and historian with nearly twenty years of professional experience. He is a Registered Professional Archaeologist who specializes in historical archaeology, particularly the artifacts, lifeways, and landscapes of the colonial and Early Republic periods. He has directed major urban excavations in Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Hampton, Virginia where he studied town formation and urbanization from the late seventeenth century onward. Hank has worked as a curator at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex for the past three years. Prior to that he was a project archaeologist at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. As an undergrad at George Washington University, he majored in political science and minored in history and literature. Hank received a MA in historical archaeology from the College of William and Mary's Anthropology Department. He was a Presidential Teaching Fellow in the Archaeology Department at Boston University while enrolled in the doctoral program. Hank has had a life-long fascination with the past, especially architecture, landscapes, and the First World War. He is also passionate about historic preservation and dogs. He is a member of the Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society and lives in Yorkville, Ohio.