



The 1811 Historic Shupe Homestead
Drawing courtesy of Neal Jenne

The New Indian Ridge Museum --Quarterly

...Preserving, Interpreting, and Teaching the Past...

...to Prepare and Build for the Future...

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- Vito Cammarata
*Kayak Specialist, Museum
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Of Note:

Upcoming Events:

The Museum celebrates 15 years of preservation & education in November. We are planning a ceremony dedicating the Shupe Homestead marker this Spring.

Please refer to www.newindianridgemuseum.org for the most up-to-date information from our various Museum offices. Click on the "News" tab.

Local History

Expansion into Vermilion-Area History

The work of the New Indian Ridge Museum might rightly be referred to as a project of "regional historical research and preservation." Col. Nahorn's broad interest in local history certainly has led him beyond the bounds of Amherst. More generally, the Museum focuses its preservation and documentation efforts



on this general area of North Central Ohio. Specifically, some of our most recent historical research and environmental studies have taken place along the scenic Vermilion River. Our efforts have broadened slightly to this area, and we are very proud to call the Vermilion area a "second home town,;" second to Amherst.

Vermilion is a unique and interesting town where both history and local watershed awareness mesh well together, just as in Amherst (Beaver Creek). As a naturalist and guide at the West River Paddle Sports in town, Col. Nahorn has found it necessary to "brush up" on the aspects of local history and environmental issues of the Vermilion River Watershed. From the prehistoric Erie village of the Franks Site located along the River and often-mis-reported

history behind Swift's Hollow, to Septarian nodules ('turtle rocks') readily found in the River, there are numerous little-known bits of trivia and factoids one can find of interest throughout the Watershed.

Learning, documenting, and preserving Vermilion-area history fits well with our Museum goals, which guide preservation efforts at the Museum. Since our first official meeting early in 2015, working with Museum Board Member Vito Cammarata, we've learned much about the town, and we recently acquired 19th century maps of Vermilion; early 20th century postcards; books on Vermilion history for our research library; a very unique metal matchbook holder (below); and even an antique silver "souvenir" spoon from the town.

Another "thank you" to Daryl Smith for sharing his knowledge of and



interest of the Vermilion River Watershed and also to Rich Tarrant, who operates the Vermilion News Print Shop Museum - a most interesting place to visit and highly recommended!

We look forward to continuing our expansion into Vermilion's history!

Local History Update Winckles Homestead Salvage Efforts

Thomas Turland Winckles was noted as "one of the grand old men among [Lorain County's] native citizens" by George F. Wright in his "A Standard History of Lorain County Ohio (1916)." He was a son of Thomas T. and Ann (Buck) Winckles, both from Northamptonshire, England. The family immigrated to the United States in 1836, settling briefly in New York City. They soon moved to Avon Township, settling there the year T. T. Winckles, Jr. was born. The father was a farmer. In 1845 they moved to North Ridgeville, where a "fine estate" was constructed. The farm encompassed 187 acres of land along the Center Ridge, an ancient beach ridge and important geologic formation - particularly prized for farming.

In N. Ridgeville, T. T. Winckles Sr. was active in the community where he served in public office as a township trustee and justice of the peace. His family consisted of three sons and four daughters. Of note: Cary was a graduate of Oberlin College, who enlisted in the army during the Civil War. He began as a private and was promoted to orderly sergeant. Later he became a first lieutenant, but this was just a few days before his death in 1863 while serving with the 103rd O.V.I.

Another, T. T. Winckles, Jr. was educated largely in Elyria and was enrolled at Oberlin College (1858-59). His schooling and work on the family farm led to his eventual farming of the family homestead. At 20 years old, Winckles Sr. passed away. Until 1881 he worked on the family property, when he bought the Homestead.

This "fine farm" was noted as "easily one of the best in Lorain County" by Wright (1916).

At the time Wright wrote this, the farm had been acquired by T. T. Jr.'s son, Cary T. Winckles. It is noted that T. T. Jr. operated the farm until c. 1900 when he moved to Elyria and was "almost retired." In Elyria, his home was located at Cleveland and Winckles St. There, as in Ridgeville, he was active in public life, serving on council. He was active at the Congregational Church in Ridgeville since he was 20 - more than 50 years of service.

Mr. Winckles married Lucy Hurst in 1861. The son, Cary T., was president of The Elyria Construction Company and operated the dairy portion of the family farm. The farm contained a large bank barn used for hay (the earthen bank, outlined in stone, still evident today - the barn burned twice and was not rebuilt). It was known as the largest "plank and beam" barn in northern Ohio and was Amish-built. Numerous alterations to the Homestead were made over the years, and these are noted in our files.

In the early 1960s, the farm was purchased by the Barber family. William J. Barber operated Barber Motors in town. A large parcel of the Winckles' farm was sold/gifted for the Lake Ridge Academy campus in 1965. The Gower family purchased the homestead in the late 1970s. Gower was a salesman at Barber motors. Lake Ridge added this property to their campus in August, and we had the opportunity to salvage items from the house before demolition, including the original carriage step (below). *A special thank you to Mr. Shaulis.*



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Shupe Homestead Update Projects Continue

Restoration efforts at the 1811 Historic Shupe Homestead continue. The Ash tree wood steps have been installed; an antique late 19th century fuel oil lamp was retrofitted for electricity and hung; and the door for the Shupe Homestead front entrance was restored and hung.

Excursions Around Lorain County Black River Kayakathon

The 5th Annual Black River Kayakathon was held Saturday, August 8, 2015. Col. Nahorn participated in the race, representing West River Paddle Sports in Vermilion. He serves as naturalist and a kayak tour guide at West River.

He participated in the 6-mile race, which proceeded from Grumpy's Boat Launch, up river, past Bungart Island, turning around, and back to Grumpy's. In a little over an hour, Col. Nahorn was able to complete the race, earning second place in his division.



Firelands Country Store

Motorists on Route 113 have driven by the store, seeing merchandise rest in the same spot for over 30 years, wondering what had happened and if they might ever get a chance to return to the store.

That rare opportunity was made available for local residents when the store was reopened for liquidation of its contents in August 2015. Col. Nahorn learned of the store's "reopening," and he quickly made his way there to get a glimpse of a store he had only driven by - a store that had been closed longer than he has been alive.

The Firelands Country Store opened in 1958 and became well-

know to offer a variety of "country" style items - everything from furniture, glassware, and ceramics to cheese, wines, and spices. A recent article noted Ohio's largest selection of plastic flowers was offered at the store.

Family disagreements led to the longterm closure of the store in 1981. Jack Smith, a friend of the Museum, earlier this year gained ownership of the property and decided to hold this giant sale. Jack, son of Joseph and Maxine Smith, bought out his brother to reopen.

Upon entering the expansive, single-story building on August 18, one could easily get lost, making his way along the handmade wooden shelves, covered with merchandise marked with handwritten price tags. Baskets hung from the ceiling, as did numerous differing light fixtures. A slightly musty smell filled the air, and light poured into the building through giant glass paneled garage doors that line several sides of the rambling building. Finally, in the



rear, we noticed the remaining, large selection of plastic flowers - most still priced under \$1.

After taking in the experience of entering, we found a few items to purchase for the Museum. We were mostly interested in the act of simply entering the building and "poking around" a store that had been closed since 1981. Of particular note, we were able to acquire a plaster sign, made in 1968 with the name of the store across the front. Originally an item he did not wish to sell, Mr. Smith decided to part with it so that it may now be a part of a new display at the Museum.

Sheffields Celebrate 200!

The 3 Sheffields of Lorain County are celebrating their collective bicentennial this year. Founded as one in 1815, as Sheffield Township, it was eventually split into the 3 entities we know today. The original proprietors and settlers of Sheffield were Capt.s Jabez Burrell and James Day. Other settlers were the Root and Smith families.



Bicentennial events were held August 1-2, at the Burrell Homestead where remnants of a rare 4,000 year old prehistoric Native American Indian house structure were found and at the Sheffield Village Hall grounds where a monument was unveiled (above), this ceremony presided over by Historical Society President Dr. Herdendorf. Please enjoy a copy of "Bicentennial History of Sheffield, Ohio 1815-2015" (Herdendorf).

Welcome New Board Member

The Museum officially welcomes Vito Cammarata, our newest addition to the Board of Trustees. We thank him for agreeing to be a part of the Board as kayak consultant and Museum general advisor. We look forward to his continued insight and varied knowledge on local history and kayaking. Thanks Vito!



Col. Matt and Vito converse in the Museum's newly opened third room.