



**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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### Of Note:

#### **Upcoming Program:**

**This summer, we look forward to formally dedicating the Shupe Homestead historical marker and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy Preserved Land signage. Stay tuned for more information on a ceremony.**

*Please refer to*

*[www.newindianridgemuseum.org](http://www.newindianridgemuseum.org) for the most up-to-date information from our various Museum offices. Click on the "News" tab.*

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### Local Environment & History Updates

## Welcome Spring with Watershed Open House

The annual Watershed Open House held each March at the V.O.L. clubhouse, is what we often refer to as an event formally welcoming the Spring season.

awareness through monitoring water quality; sharing and acting on this water quality data; and educating residents and landowners living within the watershed on best management practices." Individuals could then take this information and apply it to their own watershed - we all live in a watershed!

Included in the display were several stone tools from a local Native American's tool kit, such as ground stone tools and flint projectiles. We also brought a few fossils that may be found in our local watersheds.

The open house was well-attended, and we were pleased to be accompanied by the LoCo 'Yak Kayak Group. Their present and upcoming project is to continue clean up efforts of the lower Black River. More information is contained within this newsletter about their Black River Cleanup '15 event coming up in May.



Col. Nahorn once again participated in the event, representing the Museum and its affiliate, the Beaver Creek Watershed Protection Group. There, he presided over a display highlighting the natural aspects of the Beaver Creek Watershed, specifically providing information on "what is a watershed" and how we might have less of a negative impact on water quality. Watershed awareness and understanding that land-use affects water quality and stream bank integrity are part of the goals of the Museum's affiliate Group. This event provides a great educational outreach opportunity.

By focusing directly on a local watershed (Beaver Creek), those who visited the display were able to understand the Group's mission, which is, "to improve and protect the Beaver Creek Watershed by promoting low impact development and watershed



Above is the Beaver Creek Watershed display at the historic Vermilion on the Lake Community Center Clubhouse (built 1919).

**Local History Preserved****St. Joseph Church Pew Restored**

With the help of the Museum's Bill Nahorn, Col. Matt Nahorn has restored and made usable an original pew from the 19th century Amherst St. Joseph Church.

Thanks to Bob and Lisa Stanley, and their salvage efforts, we are able to preserve and display materials from the old St. Joseph Church, which was located at the Northwest corner of Tenney and Forest, in Amherst. The building was constructed c. 1864, serving as the original church building. It was demolished in 1996.

The Stanleys purchased the salvage rights for the old Church, and they were able to obtain materials for preservation, including pieces of original pews. In the summer of 2014, the Stanleys visited the Museum and decided to donate some extra items from their salvage work. The pieces of an original pew were found by the Stanleys in the basement of the old Church during their salvage operations.

Over the past few months we have been working to restore this pew, with the pieces we acquired, assembling them in a unique, historically accurate manner. The newly restored pew now rests, as a usable seat once again, in the Museum's new third room. We are very pleased to maintain this



important piece of early Amherst history - thanks to the Stanleys and Bill Nahorn!

**Oberlin's Lothrop Items Acquired**

Mr. Richard P. Lothrop is a well-known figure in the Oberlin area. He was the first librarian at Lake Ridge Academy from 1968-88. There, he began archiving the School's history. He served on the Oberlin City Council for ten terms and acted as the town's unofficial archivist for years. He maintained files on numerous topics and was always eager to share information.

Lothrop was named "Oberlinian of the Year" in 1996. In an editorial that appeared in the "Oberlin News-Tribune," he was known around town as "helpful, kind, and dedicated."

In 2007 Col. Nahorn had the opportunity to meet Mr. Lothrop because of a shared interest in local history and historic preservation. Col. Nahorn continues Mr. Lothrop's archival work at Lake Ridge Academy today.

An auction was recently held at Mr. Lothrop's "shingle style" family homestead, the "Sweet-Lothrop" home, on Elm Street. Edgar Sweet, a professor at Oberlin College, had the house built by Charles Glenn, known as the "busiest builder in Oberlin," in 1889. Oberlin College Chemistry Professor Alfred P. Lothrop (Oberlin College '07), Richard's father, purchased the house just after W.W.II. Richard grew up there, and he returned to the family home, purchasing it in 1960.

We were pleased to purchase several items from the Lothrop collection, including an antique stacking bookcase, antique game table, and miniature clock that Alfred used as a student at Oberlin College. The clock's wooden case came from "an old house in Plymouth, MA."

**Contributors**

- Jami Anderson  
*Chair, Amherst History Watch Program*
- Michael Shaulis  
*Lake Ridge Academy Archives Manager*
- Brian Kohart  
*Wildlife Preserve Observer and Reporter & Displays Engineer*
- Brad Dicken, Adam Wright  
*Chronicle-Telegram Correspondents*
- Larry Fuhrman  
*Museum History Consultant*
- William & Bonnie Cutcher  
*Museum History Consultants*
- Drew Severs, Richard Lothrop  
*Lake Ridge Archives Consultant*
- Jack B. Scaife  
*Museum History Consultant*
- Dr. Lorna Middendorf  
*Amherst History Consultant*
- Dr. C. Herdendorf, Jim Doyle  
*Museum Advisory Council*
- Dan Gouch  
*Beaver Creek Env't'l Consultant*
- T. Jack Smith  
*Museum History Consultant*
- William Bird, Jeff Sigsworth  
*Museum Advisors/Lorain County History Consultants*
- Col. Ron Sauer  
*Museum Curatorial Advisor*
- Gene Edwards, Tim Edwards  
*Museum Archaeologists/Advisors*
- Helen Goodell  
*Amherst-Area History Advisor*
- Andrew Wright, Jennifer Wasilk  
*Environmental Consultants*
- Brian Scanlan  
*Archaeological Advisor*
- Lisa Underwood  
*Museum Travel Consultant*
- Andy McDowell, Pete McDonald, Kate Pilacky  
*Land Conservation Advisors*
- Robert Nordstrand  
*Shupe Family Historian/Authority*
- Diane Chesnut  
*Vermilion Area Historian*
- Bob Sasala  
*Area Watershed Advisor*
- Ed & Marilyn Brill  
*Local History Advisors*
- Charlie Marty, Fay Van Nuys Ott, Joan Rosenbusch, Jim Wilhelm, Ralph Zilch  
*Amherst History Advisors*
- Robb Koscho, Vito Cammarata  
*Kayak Consultants*

### Wildlife Preserve Update

#### Projects Begin

Spring seems to be quickly approaching (don't mind the recent snow we've experienced) here at the Historic Shupe Homestead Wildlife Preserve, along the Beaver Creek. Numerous projects are planned, and some have already begun.

Our fruit tree pruning and maintenance program is underway. Plans for the eradication of non-native, invasive plant species, found throughout the property, are formulated and will continue this season. Treatment of trees in the Nahorn Arboretum and throughout the Preserve will be underway soon.

### More on Local History

#### Projects Planned for Homestead & More

This Spring and Summer, many projects are planned for the Historic Shupe Homestead. One major project includes continuing maintenance of the Historic Shupe House, the oldest house in Amherst, and among the oldest still standing in Lorain County. We will need to paint the front and side of this historic structure. Restoration of the staircase, using wood cut from a dead ash tree, will also take place early this season. We will be constructing a piece of kitchen furniture for the Homestead, using local historic materials, including hand hewn beams salvaged from an old Amherst house and handmade drawers from the Wadsworth House which stood in Wellington.

Exploration of the site of the temporary residence of the Shupe family, which is located in the Nahorn Arboretum, will continue this upcoming season as well. Last season we began archaeological exploration in this area and found numerous historic potsherds, square nails, and window glass fragments. We have determined this is where the Shupes temporarily settled before the frame house on the hill here at the Homestead was constructed. We will keep you updated on the latest with this interesting story.

A complete narrative of the "founding of early Amherst" was recently finished and is on file in the

Museum library. We hope to make it available on our website at some point. This unique historical perspective traces the very early days of Amherst, when its first settlers came here, paying close attention to the manner in which the Shupes met the natural environment they faced upon arrival. It is a narrative cobbled together of historical facts, being historically accurate.

#### Excursions Around Lorain County

We likely will make this a constant, quarterly column in the upcoming newsletters. Here, highlights of tours and excursions both on foot and in the kayak will be recounted. These tours will have a common theme of local history (geologic, Native American, &c).

It was very nice to get together with Daryl Smith recently, when we toured some areas of the Vermilion River, noting its unique geologic history along with certain spots along Chance Creek, a tributary of the Vermilion. The lighting was not perfect, but we were still able to capture a few beautiful scenic views on the camera.

Excursions, via kayaks, are planned for the Black and Vermilion Rivers and Beaver Creek, with Vito Cammarata and Robb Koscho. Watch future issues to learn more!

#### Welcome New Contributors

We welcome Robb Koscho and Vito Cammarata as our newest contributors to the Museum. Robb and his wife Stephanie started the LoCo 'Yak kayak group (Lorain County Kayak & Paddle Sports) here in Lorain County. As local kayak enthusiasts, they run kayak tours on the Black River. A short while back, Robb toured the Museum to learn more about local Native people's history and Bungart Island. He plans to weave some of this information into the tours they provide.

Of note, their group is also heading up their 3rd annual Black River Cleanup '15, event held May

2-3. Contact them by visiting <http://blackrivercleanup.webs.com> for more information or if you'd like to help with the cleanup efforts. Many hands are needed for this worthy cause.



Vito Cammarata started the West River Paddle Sports business along the Vermilion River in Vermilion.

His business offers great paddling opportunities along the scenic Vermilion River. Plan to check this place out soon, as they are opening a new paddle sports "showroom" near the historic water tower in Vermilion.

One of his interests is the "turtle rock" or separation concretion that may be found along the Vermilion River or Beaver Creek. It was very nice to get together the other afternoon with Vito and discuss numerous topics, including the plans for his new business expansion, turtle rocks, and the local history that surrounds the location of his business (seen below - note Route 6 bridge).



With both Robb and Vito's enthusiasm for local history and geology and expertise in the field of kayaking, we are pleased to have them on board as "kayak consultants."