



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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Upcoming Events:

Col. Nahorn will present, “What is a Watershed: How Landuse Affects Water Quality & Streambank Integrity” at the Amherst Historical Society’s May 10th, 7pm meeting

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

Historic Building Restored at Haff’s Corners

This article may also be titled, “A Worthy Project of Historic Restoration.” With any such local project having this theme, there is a natural interest generated through local historians and especially the New Indian Ridge Museum.



In December 2015, when Col. Nahorn received word that the Jason Shaffer Photography studio was to take up residency in the historic building at Haff’s Corners in downtown Amherst, we wanted to learn more. Col. Nahorn was able to get into contact with then-acquaintance Jason Shaffer regarding this endeavor, and the wheels of the project began to roll.

Col. Nahorn initially aided in the demolition process, which included removing “updates” and poorly done renovations to the historic structure, in an effort to make way for historic restoration. Eventually, he became the self-professed and unofficial “project manager.”

With the help of a few others, Jason Shaffer, Col. Nahorn, and Bill Nahorn diligently worked for the next four months to restore the building, bringing back its historic character from 1894.



Original floors, ceilings, and the general layout of the building were carefully restored. We are extremely proud and pleased with the outcome of this important project, which blends historic preservation with local economic development for our downtown area.

Jason has now become a good friend of the Museum over this process of working together on his project, and we were very glad to be of assistance in this worthy restoration. This revitalized space will not only positively add to the downtown atmosphere, but it will be a perfect spot for the growth of Jason’s thriving business.



Above: Amherst icon Mrs. Mary (Powers) Miller and accomplished photographer Mr. Terry Jonasson, during the opening ceremony at the new photography studio. Mrs. Miller was Jason’s kindergarten teacher, and Mr. Jonasson was his photography professor.

Local History Update**Centennial of 'Great Amherst Train Wreck' Recognized**

Remembering a tragedy was the theme of the March 29, 2016 events at the Sandstone Museum Center of the Amherst Historical Society.

Jim Wilhelm, board member of the Amherst Historical Society, spent nearly two years researching in-depth the events that took place a hundred years ago on March 29th. There is not sufficient space to delve into all of the research, and if you are interested in learning the whole story, please visit the Historical Society; read the newly erected historic marker; and visit a Monday night research session.



Above: Jim Wilhelm, Board Member of the Amherst Historical Society stands beside the historic marker describing the horrific events of the 1916 Train Wreck, which occurred right in the area where the marker was erected.

The tragedy took place right in the area where the historic marker, commemorating the event, was erected to recognize its centennial. Three trains were involved, and 27 people died, while 47 were injured.

A morning ceremony to dedicate the historic marker included addresses by local historians, Mayor Costilow, a placement of a wreath at the historic marker, and the reading of those killed in the events by Amherst Historical Society Vice President, Col. Nahorn.

Later in the day, a ceremony for those unidentified from the wreck, was held at Crownhill Cemetery. In the evening, a well-attended open

house was held at the Historical



Society's Hickory Tree Grange hall, where informative displays and a large model train setup were placed throughout the building. The day was perfectly planned, and those who attended learned much about the events of that horrific day.

**Kitchen Island of Salvaged Historic Material**

Three, unrelated historic salvage projects merged and contributed to the construction of a feature piece of furniture for the Historic Shupe House. We recently finished and installed a "new" kitchen island and are very pleased with the outcome.

The **legs** were cut from a single hand-hewn structural beam collected from a house on Beaver Court here in Amherst. Thanks to a generous

**Contributors**

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Amherst History Advisors
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Kayak Consultants

donation by Ed Fridenstine, we were able to acquire a few nicely preserved hand-hewn beams. Renovations by Mr. Fridenstine led to the opportunity for us to salvage some of these structural items. Interestingly, several 19th century shoes were also found in this Beaver Ct. residence, as Mr. Uthe once operated a cobbler shop in a portion of this house. The **bead board** that comprises the sides was salvaged from Amherst's first town hall and union school building. Originally a two-story wood frame house, built c. 1830, the building was donated for use as a town hall and lecture room by early Amherst settler and prominent citizen, Justice of the Peace Josiah Harris. The structure, after having multiple uses over the years, had been moved once and suffered two large fires during its history, was demolished in 2015 to make room for the new Brew Kettle restaurant next to the Amherst Theatre. We were able to retain the original green/blue paint color and unique painted numbers on the boards, once we reassembled them on the cabinet. The **two drawers** were salvaged from the historic Wadsworth House in Wellington. D. L. Wadsworth built the house c. 1866, and after having been moved with intentions to save it, the house was demolished in 2012. We repainted the drawer fronts white and stripped most of the paint off of the unique metal drawer pulls, leaving some green paint as accents. The white drawers and hardware accent the other features of the island quite nicely. The only "new" and purchased item incorporated into the island is the beautiful green, white, and rust-colored granite top we ordered.

From planning stages to the finished item, the project took just a few months. We are very pleased to have been able to not only salvage these important items but to create a new piece of history with materials of such historic significance. Old history is now creating a brand new item. What a neat historically-oriented addition to the Homestead! We hope to continue to use and salvage items like these in the future.

Shupe Homestead Update Projects Continue

Numerous projects around the Historic Shupe Homestead and Wildlife Preserve are planned and have begun. These include invasive plant species control and eradication and continued restoration of the Historic House. We did add signage



denoting the Nahorn Arboretum, located in a portion of the Preserve. This arboretum contains Ohio native species and is continuously being added to and maintained.

Excursions Around Northern Ohio Watershed Open House A Success

In March, once again Col. Nahorn represented the Beaver Creek Watershed at the annual Watershed Open House and Free Wildlife Exhibit at the Historic Vermilion-on-the-Lake Clubhouse. It was the tenth annual such event. This is an important educational outreach component for the Museum, especially to share information on watershed awareness and related environmental issues.

It is always a pleasure to represent the Beaver Creek Watershed, the largest watershed (about 44 square miles of drainage) located entirely within Lorain County, having its mainstem (just over 12 miles in length) flow directly into Lake Erie.

Acquisition: Unique Piano Desk

The Museum continuously acquires unique items of various sizes, from a tiny, ancient fossil, to a giant grist stone. The subject of this

article is no different in its uniqueness and size.

On January 17th, we officially acquired a unique furniture item - a desk that had been made from the case of an antique piano. This square grand piano, converted into a desk, had been used in the real estate office of Raymond Haff, from 1975-1990 as Mr. Haff's main desk at his 101 Park Ave. downtown Amherst office. It had been acquired by Mr. Haff at an auction in South Amherst. After the real estate office closed in 1990 due to his retirement, the desk found a new home at the Haff residence, also in Amherst.

The Museum was recently given the opportunity to acquire this extremely different item. We soon made arrangements to acquire it, as we could not pass up this piece of art and history.

The acquisition became a reality, thanks to the generous financial donation to secure the item by Ms. Cindy Kohart, a friend of the Museum. We thank Mark Haff (son of Mr. Raymond Haff) and his mother, Mrs. Ruth Haff (wife of the late Raymond Haff) for offering the opportunity to acquire this interesting piece.

A special thank you to Museum board member Bill Nahorn for helping to move the item and engineer the move. Finally, thank you to local photographer Jason Shaffer, also a friend of the Museum, for his crucial aid in moving the desk into the Museum, down a set of very steep steps. Wow, what a great team!



An interesting feature of the desk includes inlaid lettering, the significance of which we are continuing to research.