



**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 continues to  
 present programs and talks to  
 area groups.**  
**Please refer to**  
[www.newindianridgemuseum.org](http://www.newindianridgemuseum.org)  
**for the most up-to-date  
 information - click on "News"**  
**for upcoming events & such.**
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## Front Page News

### Vietzen Family Homestead Demolished, Sandstone Well-Cover Acquired

The original Vietzen Family Homestead outlived Col. and Mrs. Vietzen's house and museum by more than 15 years. The original Homestead and barn were demolished March 28, 2017. Col. Nahorn visited the site to document this historic event. Some background history ought to be presented for future documentation:



John and Friederika Vietzen came to the United States c. 1868 from Northern Germany. Their son, Frederick Vietzen (b. 1864 was about 4 years of age when his parents brought him to America) married Elise Von Zimmerman c. 1890, inhabiting the Vietzen Family Homestead on West Ridge Road, at that time. The house may have (likely) been built before this date, and the Vietzens then purchased it in 1890. This is noted because, upon further inspection, a few structural beams were hand-hewn, bolstering the opinion that the structure likely pre-dated the 1890 inhabitation by the first of the Vietzen family. The location was 8772 West Ridge Road, Elyria (originally Township), on the west side of the East Marsh, a remnant of an ancient glacial lake fragment that covered this area. The fragment – a representation of a time when the lake was much farther south than today, thousands of years ago.

Raymond C. Vietzen (1907-1995), the 7th of 8 children of Frederick and Elise Vietzen, grew up at this Homestead. He later purchased, from his parents, the

northern corner of the original Homestead, the lot at 8714 West Ridge Road. More precisely, located on the corner of West Ridge and Fowl Roads, this is where he and his wife Ruth built their home and Indian Ridge Museum in 1930. The Museum closed and disbanded in 1995 with the passing of Col. Vietzen, and their homestead was demolished in late 2000. Col. Nahorn luckily had the opportunity to visit this homestead and Museum site before and after demolition, salvaging items.

The original Vietzen family house and barn, where Raymond grew up, were in the Vietzen family for many years, and Col. Nahorn had the opportunity to visit this original Homestead on August 16, 2016, when it was being offered for sale. The house was in rough shape and disrepair at that time. On March 28, 2017, Col. Nahorn was contacted by Bruce Bishop, photographer at the "Chronicle Telegram," who alerted us of the demolition of the house. Diane Nahorn and Col. Nahorn made a quick jaunt to the site and gained permission to enter via Gregory Trucking, the company in charge of demolition. The house was demolished at the time of our arrival, but we were able to collect a few



bricks and related items for the Museum. A sandstone well-cover, still in-situ in the basement, was noted. On March 29th, Gregory Trucking generously agreed to donate the well-cover to the Museum for preservation. The next day we moved it to the Museum. What a great acquisition!

**Local History Update****Well-Preserved Bottle Donated**

This well-preserved, Civil War-era 'medicine' bottle, with its original label and cork still in place, was found and donated by a local Amherst resident while working on their home basement foundation.

A "nostrum," developed by Dr. Jacob Hostetter, of Lancaster, PA., his son David put the formula in to large-scale production in 1853. It soon became a best-seller. It was used heavily during the Civil War and was marketed as "a protective against the fatal maladies of Southern swamps and poisonous tendency of impure rivers and bayous." The original formula



contained about 47% alcohol and was 94 proof. Often it was served in Alaskan saloons by the glass. The alcohol was sweetened with additives of sugar, aromatic oils, and vegetable bitters to provide medicinal 'flavor.'

The bottle, dating to the early- to mid-1860s, was found and donated by Kevin and his son Nathan Henceroth, while excavating in their basement on Park Avenue here in Amherst, January 10, 2017. Thanks very much to the Henceroths for this neat, local donation! We are pleased to preserve and maintain it at the Museum.

**Old Spring Site Update**

Maintenance and upkeep continue at the Old Spring historic site in the heart of downtown Amherst.

Multi-weekly visits are necessary to ensure that the drain is properly working, trash is collected, and the site is properly maintained. It has been an important site for those gathering water and/or just to enjoy

a unique natural seep spring unconfined aquifer site for nearly 200 years. Josiah Harris, the founder of the downtown area of Amherst permanently settled here in 1818. The cobblestone backdrop was completed for an Old Home Week Celebration and to "beautify" the area in 1914.

We were able to add a black metal refuse receptacle near the cobblestone walkway a few weeks ago so that visitors will have a place to dispose of any waste. Walking down to the site, visitors are literally walking on history as they traverse the cobblestone walkway or what once was the original Milan Avenue, which aligned directly with Park Avenue (or previously known as Elyria Street).

We thank the Timko Family, who owns most of the Old Spring site itself, for their continued support of our restoration and maintenance efforts of this historic site. Their cooperation and generosity are integral in the ways in which we can move forward with this important project.

With Spring and Summer, more projects will continue here, including the erection of a permanent metal sign at the entrance, plant care and trimming, and continued beautification of the overall site.

**From the Front Page**

The demolition of the Vietzen Family Homestead was covered in the local "Chronicle-Telegram" newspaper, and a link to this article may be found here: <http://www.chroniclet.com/Local-News/2017/03/29/Vietzen-home-now-history.html> However, for the most recent and up-to-date research, please refer to the history recorded in this article posted in this edition of our "NIRM Quarterly," as may be viewed on the front page.

The Museum wishes again to thank Gregory Trucking for allowing us to secure and preserve the original sandstone well-cover from the Vietzen Homestead. This is yet another piece of Vietzen family history that we are very proud to maintain and preserve.

**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  
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- Larry Fuhrman  
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*Museum History Consultant*
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- Ed & Marilyn Brill  
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- Charlie Marty, Fay Van Nuys Ott, Joan Rosenbusch, Jim Wilhelm, Ralph Zilch  
*Amherst History Advisors*
- Robb Koscho & Stephanie Moore-Koscho, Chris Nechols  
*Kayak Consultants*

### Shupe Homestead Update Maintenance Planned

It is a privilege and honor to reside in a two-century years old house. With that, many responsibilities follow, including painting. The Historic Shupe Homestead, c. 1813, maintains its original poplar wood exterior lap siding and other wood features, including entranceway, and in order to keep this more than 200 years old wood in proper preservation, continuous maintenance is necessary. Therefore, this summer we will be painting and focusing our work on the front of the House. The side may also be included, depending on our further assessments.

Furthermore, updates on the Wildlife Preserve and Arboretum are forthcoming. Watch for news in our next issue of the “NIRM Quarterly.”

### Excursions Around Northern Ohio Watershed Awareness Annual Open House

What is a watershed? How does land-use affect water quality and stream bank integrity? These were some of the broad-based questions that we attempted to address in the annual Watershed Open House held at the Historic Vermilion-on-the-Lake Community Clubhouse on April 1st.

The building, once a bustling dance hall, among several like it along the Lake Shore, is in the style of a rustic log cabin and is now nearly a century old. The event was long-organized by the late Bob Sasala, and now Barb Brady has generously taken a lead role in organizing and holding this important, educational event.

Col. Nahorn once again represented the Beaver Creek Watershed Group, an affiliate of the New Indian Ridge Museum, at this event. We displayed maps, documents, and graphics highlighting watershed awareness and particularly what landowners can do to reduce their impact on area watercourses.

“Education is key,” Nahorn stated, as he shared voluntary actions that landowners may take around their property, such as maintaining a well-vegetated riparian buffer along



all streams (both regularly and intermittently flowing); reducing lawn fertilizer use and using it at appropriate times; installing a rain barrel; using permeable surfaces and pavers instead of concrete; and using native vegetation in landscaping. We were very pleased with attendance both regarding display participants and those who came to visit the displays.

### Antler Match Set Found at Preserve

On April 5, 2017, while beginning our annual task of removing non-native invasive garlic mustard plants from the Historic Shupe Homestead Wildlife Preserve, Col. Nahorn spotted a match set of large deer antlers not more than five feet from each other.

The antlers are quite sturdy and heavy-duty in form. Of course, the bucks lose their antlers each season, shedding them across the landscape. We are very excited about this antler

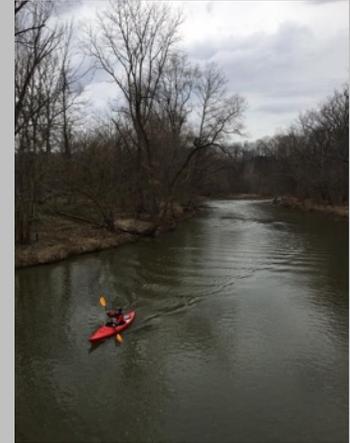


shed find right here at the Homestead — few of which we have

located on the property over the years.

### Outings Around Northern Ohio Continue — And A Kayak Race!

Now that the Spring season has arrived, we are very excited about the



opportunities to continue to explore the many unique spots around Northern Ohio.

We have fortunately been able to kayak at least once per month since January — in January we kayaked the Vermilion with Museum kayak specialist Vito Cammarata; in February we took an interesting kayak excursion on the Black River with Anthony Smith; and in March Col. Nahorn participated in the 49th Annual Keelhauler’s Canoe & Kayak Club’s Vermilion River Race, one of the oldest continuous races. He finished 5th in his class at 1:42. Participants finished within minutes of each other, so it was a rather close race. And it was a fun event for sure!

