



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:

Col. Nahorn will give the Museum's signature program, Indian Ridge Museum: from Old to New to Elyria Historical Assoc. on January 28 at 7pm at the Lorain County History Center Starr House.

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 Preserved

Museum Adds Third Room

A third room has officially opened at the New Indian Ridge Museum. This space allows us to expand our display and preservation space while also providing ample room for our Museum library and research center.



Two wooden cases originally from Col. Vietzen's Indian Ridge Museum in Elyria are now housed in this new room as well. The New Indian Ridge Museum now maintains five cases from Col. Vietzen's original Indian Ridge Museum.

The two cases in the third room are made of extremely rare American Chestnut wood. While we were restoring the cases, we were able to reveal the maker's name and related information on the backside of both cases. The stamped information reads: "W. B. McClean Mfg. Co., Pittsburgh, PA. 1922."

In the restoration process, we decided to refit one case with mirror glass and accompanying glass shelves. Regarding the other case, we took it completely apart, sanded the Chestnut boards, and left them natural as part of

the display. The case was then reassembled in the Museum.

Thanks to Bob and Lisa Stanley, the shelves for this case are made out of wood from floorboards of the original St. Joseph Church building which was located at the northwest corner of Forest and Tenney in Amherst. (Please see an article highlighting the preservation of material from this historic structure later in this edition.) Of note, this wood was cut on an up-and-down style sawmill, as is evidenced by the saw marks on the boards.

One case is devoted half to historic and/or "antique" items from the Museum's collection, and the other half for prehistoric artifacts. The Museum's "Amherst's Old Spring" display is now housed in the other case described above.

One main feature of the new room is a bottle collection shared with us by Chip Rathwell. Another feature is space dedicated to our research library, particularly for local history research. Local history research and preservation are important functions of the Museum.



Local History Preserved St. Joseph Church Materials Preserved

Thanks to Bob and Lisa Stanley, and their original salvage efforts, we are able to preserve and display original 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 and served 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 and repurposing, such as wide-plank



flooring of American Chestnut, leaded glass stained windows, a couple original pews, floor joists, and other related items. Much of the flooring from the church was used in an addition to their home - and that repurposing project turned out great!

In the summer of 2014, the Stanleys visited the Museum and decided to donate some extra items from the church salvage project, for which they did not have use.

We gratefully picked up these donated items, including original Chestnut wide-plank floor boards, a couple of long floor joists, and even a disassembled original pew from the Church,

which was found in the basement by the Stanleys during their salvage operations.

As the third room opened at the Museum on November 27th, we were pleased to employ some of these original Church materials in that space. Some of the Chestnut floorboards are being used as shelving in one of Col. Vietzen's cases. One of the floor joists from the Church was turned into support columns for this case as well. Finally, the original



pew is in the process of being reassembled and will be a main feature-piece in this room. The wood that comprises this piece maintains a nice patina.

Photo of the original St. Joseph Church courtesy of Amherst historian Fay Van Nuys Ott.

Local History Documented: More on the Shupe Homestead

A story highlighting the newly erected cast aluminum historical marker at the base of the long country lane that is used to access the Shupe Homestead, appeared in the November 6, 2014 edition of "The Amherst News-Times." Reporter Jason Hawk visited the Homestead and marker in order to write a fine story regarding its significance. We are glad the local paper chose to document this important piece of history that is recognized through the new marker. Copies of the newspaper article are available upon request.

Contributors

-Jami Anderson

Chair, Amherst History Watch Program

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Lake Ridge Academy Archives Manager

-Brian Kohart

Wildlife Preserve Observer and Reporter & Displays Engineer

-Brad Dicken & Adam Wright

Chronicle-Telegram Correspondents

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Area Watershed Advisor

-Ed and Marilyn Brill

Local History Advisors

-Charlie Marty, Fay Van Nuys Ott,

Joan Rosenbusch, Jim Wilhelm, &

Ralph Zilch

Amherst History Advisors

Wildlife Preserve Update Wildlife Abounds at Homestead

Wildlife certainly does abound at the Shupe Homestead Wildlife Preserve along the banks of the Beaver Creek here in Amherst.

Of note, we have documented 7 white-tailed bucks of varying age, numerous does, wild turkeys, a fox, coyotes, Great-horned owls, and active Pileated woodpeckers throughout the mature woodlots.

Numerous conservation and maintenance projects continue across the grounds.

More on Local History

Local History Documented: Onstine Burying Ground Visited

Frederick Onstine (1760-1837) came to the Amherst area, settling in 1817 upon Original Lot # 3, off of Milan Ave. (the North Ridge). It must be understood, however that by this time, Amherst's founder Jacob Shupe already had his saw and gristmills operating along Beaver Creek and had established his homestead there, 1 1/2 miles north of Amherst, in 1811.



Jurg Friederich Onstine, born Dec. 21, 1760 in Tioga, York Co., PA. and died April 7, 1837 in Amherst, OH. Jurg Friederich married Elizabeth Walker (3/1/1762-1/6/1842) in 1782 in New York.

It is noted that the family originally settled in the hills of Pennsylvania. Several of the family fought in the American Revolutionary War. Frederick and his wife moved to Lancaster Co., PA. where he was involved in the brewing

business. The family, comprising of 5 sons at this time, then migrated to near Long Point (Ontario Province), Canada in 1793. The children were: Daniel, Frederick, George, Michael, Henry, John, Phillip, Elizabeth, and Christina. Interestingly, Henry is said to have been born on a boat on Lake Erie (9/15/1793) as they were heading to Canada.

In 1812, the Onstines walked across the ice of Lake Erie, in order to fight on the U.S. side during the War of 1812. For their patriotism to America, the British government confiscated the Onstine lands in Canada. The family moved back to America, this time settling in New York state. The U.S. government gave the Onstines a great tract of land in the Black Swamp area, in the Northwestern Ohio area. This land was found to be poor for farming. The Onstines then traded this land for several hundred acres (approximately 900) in the Amherst, Lorain County area. This became the Onstine Family Homestead, and the seven sons settled here starting in 1817 and thereafter.

The main farmstead was located on Original Lot #3, the location of the house built by Frederick Onstine c. 1832, atop the ancient beach ridge.

As was customary in some early settlements, the family homestead contained the family burying ground. The original Onstine family burying ground, as is described in Williams' "History of Lorain County" (1879), "is upon a sandy knoll at the end of a rocky ridge." The graves were relocated in 1960 to the present Kendeigh Cemetery because of vandalism to the original Onstine Cemetery. The earliest grave dated to 1823.

A contact of the Museum offered to show us to the original burying grounds so that we could properly document the site. On December 10, 2014, we visited the site and made photographs (one seen on left). The site is essentially squarely located within the former Clough Quarry District. Quarrying operations of those bygone days are still evident in the area. A special thank you to our tour guide, Mr. Joel Powers Miller, who grew up in the Frederick Onstine family Homestead.

The "sandy knoll" is just as it was described in Williams' narrative, and the soil composition is quite interesting, as it truly is sandy.

Col. Nahorn Continues to Promote Local History on the Speaking Circuit

Col. Nahorn continues to present talks and programs on local history topics in 2015. He presented several programs during the Museum's local history outreach program in 2014.

On January 28 he will present the Museum's signature program, "Indian Ridge Museum - from Old to New" at 7pm at the Lorain County History Center's Star House. This will be a very appropriate program for the Elyria Historical Association as Col. Vietzen's original Museum was located in Elyria Township for 65 years. As a native Elyrian, Col.



Raymond C. Vietzen graduated from Elyria High School ('26) and founded the Indian Ridge Museum in 1930, on a corner of the Vietzen family homestead on W. Ridge Rd. He spent 65 years in archaeology, both in the field and laboratory. An author of 17 books, his work is still referenced today.

Col. Nahorn founded the New Indian Ridge Museum in 2000 to preserve and re-establish the original Museum while working closely to preserve local historic and prehistoric artifacts at the Shupe Homestead.

Hope you can attend this upcoming talk!