



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

Vermilion River Watershed Document & More

Col. Nahorn worked diligently during the end of 2015 researching and compiling a watershed profile and historical overview document of the Vermilion River Watershed. The 35-page research document is the culmination of the New Indian Ridge Museum's continuing "expansion into Vermilion's history," as highlighted in our last newsletter, posted on our website.

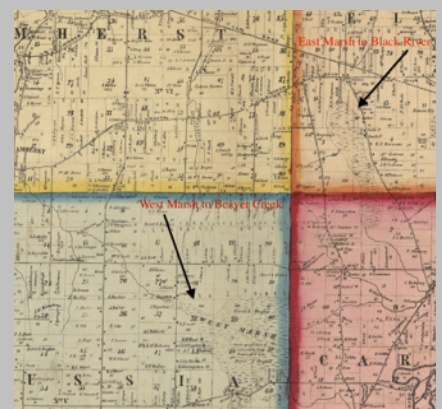
Final preparations are going forward to possibly post the document on the website, but for now we are restricting it as a research document in the Museum's research library. The Watershed profile and historical overview is divided into main sections, which include: Introduction; Geology, Geography, and Technical Overview; Native Vegetation; Prehistoric Overview; Early Historic History Overview of Towns; Current Environmental Issues and Recommendations; Conclusion. The intent of the document is not to provide a completely in-depth history and study of the entire Watershed, but rather it is to present an overview of the Vermilion's Watershed, its general history, geology, and environment. The document employs photos of views from the Watershed and copies of Vermilion-related postcards from the Museum's collection.

The accompanying photo documents a late 2015 winter/Christmas paddle by Vermilion River paddle enthusiasts, some from West River



Paddle Sports, including, Col. Nahorn, Terra, Hallie, Vito, and Joe. It was a fun and invigorating event, especially to experience the River during all seasons!

Another document in the process of being researched and prepared by Col. Nahorn, will outline the East Marsh, a natural feature that was located between the ancient glacial lake beach ridges of Murray Ridge Road and West Ridge Road. Col. Vietzen wrote about this marsh, which drained its water into



the Black River and was a sister marsh to the West Marsh, which drained into the Beaver Creek. Both are prominently marked and documented on the 1857 Lorain County Township Map (above).

Local History Update**Amherst's Smythe Door Preserved**

Atty. J. J. Smythe was a figure in the Amherst community for many years. Joseph Smythe, of 170 Woodhill Drive (1889-1966) lived in Amherst most of his life. An O.S.U. Law School graduate (1912), he started a law practice in Amherst in 1913. He served as Mayor of Amherst from 1913-16 and 1922-24. He was believed to be the youngest mayor in Ohio when he began service. He was Village solicitor for over 20 years and was appointed judge of Lorain County Common Pleas in 1956. He was a senior member of the firm Smythe & Muzilla. In 1939 he was president of the Lorain County Bar Association and chairman of its history committee. He also served as chairman of the Law Libraries Committee of the State Association and Lorain County Law Library Association. He was a former Vice President and attorney for the U.S. Automatic Corp. and a former director of A. Nabakowski Co. in Amherst. Further, he was a manager of the Amherst Water Company for 27 years and served as its secretary. He was part of the Amherst Hospital Association and many other civic groups. In 1948 he was president of the newly formed Amherst Planning Commission.

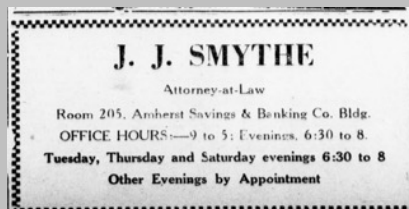
His law office was located above the bank building (now Cedar Pub) at Church & Park in downtown Amherst, room 205. A special thank you to Pam Merthe Kreger and Rick Kreger of Cedar Pub for donating this important door and its frame, including its original transom. Thanks to Bill Nahorn for making the necessary modifications.

Note mail slot and hand-painted lettering. This door is not only a local historical item, having been connected to Mr. Smythe, but it is a fine relic of that era's architectural history

for display in the Museum.



Above: the door and its frame replaced in the Museum. Below: note an advertisement from Smythe's law practice, which appeared in the "Amherst News-Times" in the 1930s.

**More from Vermilion:
Cloudy's Ferry**

Museum Board Member and Kayak Specialist Vito Cammarata and Col. Nahorn have been actively collecting Vermilion-related postcards. One that the Museum recently acquired captures an exceptional early view of "Cloudy" Lewis Noel's (a French-Canadian) ferry operation located on the (at the time) northwest corner of a swamp (today the Lagoons) or northeast bank of the Vermilion River. Cloudy rented boats to Linwood residents. He also sold beverages and snacks in the little store by the dock. The fare was a nickel to cross the River. The original ferry service actually predates the town's founding. The location was not too far south of the mouth, near the Vermilion Yacht area. Two "l"s spell Vermillion on this card. It was certainly a different time...how neat; what a great find!

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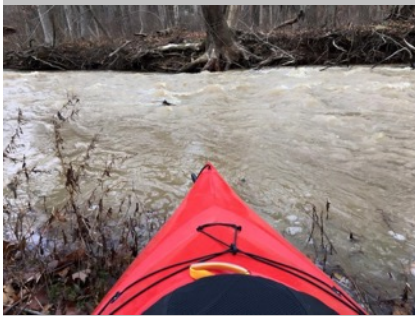
Shupe Homestead Update Projects Continue

Restoration efforts at the 1811 Historic Shupe Homestead continue. A few relatively minor projects are planned for the exterior of the Shupe House this Spring, and continuing maintenance of the Wildlife Preserve will resume this early Spring.

Along the serpentine driveway, we are planning to re-establish a native plants space, which will include milkweed, native grasses, and native shrubs, such as grey dogwood, along one perimeter. This area had been invaded with non-native invasive plants, which we cleared away in the Fall.

Excursions Around Northern Ohio Kayaked Beaver Creek

Col. Nahorn has lived along the Beaver Creek his entire lifetime. With his background in kayaking, he has watched the water rush over the glacial erratic rocks, eager to ride the currents from a point on the southern-reaches of the mainstem to



the mouth at Lake Erie.

On December 29, Col. Nahorn was accompanied by Museum Kayak Specialist and Advisor Vito Cammarata and Hallie, to make the highly anticipated run of about 4.7 miles in length. After a few issues along the route, we did successfully make it to the mouth, having put in at Sprenger Park, across from the Old Spring. A big thank you to Vito and Hallie for their much needed assistance during the trip. It would not have been successful without them. We may run this course in the Spring to gain a differing perspective of the Creek and its environment in that season. There is much more to be examined along this course.

Brief Salvage Dig at Capt. Flint Homestead

In October, Col. Nahorn was invited to participate in an historic archaeological salvage operation at the former Capt. Flint Homestead, located near the intersection of Middle Ridge Road and Route 2. The former c.1860s brick house had been demolished for a number of years, but the land was about to be re-excavated for a new building.

Brian DePalma, who is constructing his business on this lot, and a friend of the Museum, invited us to examine the property, using



metal detectors and other tools in an attempt to salvage items from this historic site. We located bottles, historic pottery sherds, and other related items. One of the most interesting artifacts found at the site was discovered by Brian — a metal boat cleat likely from Capt. Flint's era of occupying the site. He was a captain on Lake Erie vessels, so the connection is fascinating.

Crow Lumber Salvage Efforts

Although we have not completed researching the entire history behind the Crow Lumber Company in the Vermilion area near the Water Sphere, our salvage team from the Museum had to take quick action in late December in order to salvage important wood, glass, and metal items from this complex of buildings.

Thanks to the owners and our dedicated salvage team of Bill Nahorn, Col. Nahorn, and Vito Cammarata, we were able to remove corrugated metal roofing, thick red oak planks, miscellaneous wood pieces, weathered barn siding (red and blue), and a number of odds and

ends — all to repurpose in future projects. Some of these items will be repurposed in the construction and furnishing of the new retail space of the West River Paddle Co. business. Only a few short days later, after we worked on the buildings, they were completely demolished. A big thank you to the dedicated team!

A Base Can Tell A Lot

Col. Vietzen once wrote, "a broken or unfinished artifact is as good as the finest ever made. It tells a great story, if you are willing to listen to its spirits." Very true.

Just by holding a fragmentary piece, looking at how it was made, and then knowing that you are the first one to handle it since it was lost or discarded hundreds or thousands of years ago, is fascinating and astounding. By handling it, that time span or gap of however long, has been bridged, and in a way, a loop has been created — connecting yourself directly with that Native American Indian who last handled it.

How was it broken? Accidental? During manufacturing? While hunting? During a battle with another warrior? Was the other half left in an animal (or person)'s bone/body? Did the warrior or hunter bring the shaft back to the campsite with the broken base, un-haft the base, then re-fasten a newly knapped projectile, while discarding the base and simply throwing it aside? Your mind can wander and come up with so many scenarios!



The base of a triangular projectile point, *above*, indicates habitation of this site by the Erie Native Americans. It was found near the Franks Site, along the Vermilion River, an Erie village. *Photo courtesy Vito Cammarata.*