



**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 Programs:**

**Col. Nahorn will give a talk on Lake Ridge Academy to the North Ridgeville Historical Society in Oct. and a talk on Indian Ridge Museum to Elyria Historical Assoc. in January.**

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 History Documented

### Shupe Homestead Signage

A cast aluminum historical marker has been erected at the Historic Shupe Homestead, by Col. Nahorn and the Museum, in an effort to permanently document the important historical aspects of the property.



It commemorates the Homestead, focusing particularly on Jacob Shupe and his house, which still stands today as the oldest in Amherst (one of the earliest in Lorain County) on its original foundation.

We are very excited to have this permanent marker now placed at the Homestead, in order to properly recognize the property and its significance. A special thank you goes to Museum contributor and Lorain County historian, Jeff Sigsworth for his assistance in reviewing and editing the marker's text.

The historical marker was purchased from the Southwell Company out of Texas, which has been in business since 1866. We are very pleased with the marker's quality, which

was erected at the Shupe Homestead September 18, 2014.

The text of the marker reads, "Shupe Homestead – Jacob Shupe, Amherst's founder, settled atop this hill in 1811, soon constructing the first sawmill, gristmill, house, and distillery in this vicinity. Participant in first funeral, father of first native-born pioneer child, and first farmer in Amherst. His house, the oldest in Amherst, still stands today as a private residence."

Furthermore, a "Preserved Land" sign, provided by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy was placed in the front portion of the property, also in September 2014, near the entrance to the property.

In September 2008, we signed a land conservation easement through the Land Conservancy, in cooperation with the Nahorn Family and Museum, in order to conserve in perpetuity the unique and important natural resources of the Historic Shupe Homestead situated along the Beaver Creek.



**Local History Preserved****Unique Sandstone Well Cover Acquired**

A very large, unique sandstone well cover from a local homestead has been acquired and moved to the Museum. It came from the front yard of a Brownhelm house, located at 1315 Claus Road, two houses north of the old Brownhelm Church (now B.H.A. museum).

After being alerted of the possibility of acquiring the stone, we visited it and decided because of the uniqueness of its design and connection to local history, we ought to preserve the piece locally.

On October 1, 2014, Museum Trustee Bill Nahorn and Paul Lutz worked with Col. Nahorn to move the stone. A detail view of the stone is below, showing its unique design. It is very large at 12" thick and 8' across, weighing 8,000 pounds.

**Amherst Gorget Preserved**

An important, local, prehistoric Native American Indian artifact has been acquired, documented, and is now on display in the Museum. While at a local garage sale in Amherst, looking over some antique bottles, Col. Nahorn learned that the gentleman having the sale had found an artifact in his backyard while gardening in 2000. A conversation then proceeded.

Mr. John McKitrick found this dark green banded slate gorget in the backyard of his home at 779 Cleveland Ave., Amherst. We were able to acquire this local piece and are very glad to be able to preserve it and its story here at the Museum.

The gorget measures 4 3/4" long and is 2" wide, at its widest part. The top is convex; whereas, the bottom is completely flat. Some engraving is evidenced on the piece.



The location of this find is significant and interesting in that it is on a portion of the "North Ridge," an ancient beach ridge often used by Native peoples in their travels and during hunting times.

Gorgetts are prehistoric stone ornaments that were often worn by Native American Indians on their upper arms as decoration. They resemble pendants, but have two, instead of one hole. This particular artifact, because of its style, most likely was made by people of the Glacial Kame Culture, c. 2,000 B.C.

Please note, a special thank you to Bill and Diane Nahorn and Ann Dolyk for their financial aid in procuring this important local piece.

**Wildlife Preserve Update****Invasive Species Control Continues!**

The projects continue! Non-native invasive species control continues with the work to eradicate these species such as Japanese honeysuckle, Canadian thistle, privet, and burning bush.

A thank you to Board member and contributor Andrew Robinson for his efforts to aid in our natural resource maintenance program here at the Homestead 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

*Chronicle-Telegram Correspondents*

-Larry Fuhrman

*Museum History Consultant*

-William and 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*

-Marilyn Fedelchak-Harley

*Museum Preservation Consultant*

-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 and Marilyn Brill

*Local History Advisors*

-Charlie Marty, Fay Van Nuys Ott,

Joan Rosenbusch, Jim Wilhelm, &

Ralph Zilch

*Amherst History Advisors*

### National History Acquired

## Custer's Boyhood Boot Preserved

General George Armstrong Custer's boyhood boot is now preserved at the New Indian Ridge Museum. An artifact of national significance, the boot resided in Col. Vietzen's Elyria Indian Ridge Museum for several years.

Gen. Custer's "boldness and daring during the Civil War won him the rank of Brigadier General in 1863. He later commanded the 7th Cavalry during the western Indian wars. Custer and his entire command died in the Battle of Little Big Horn Montana Territory June 26, 1876 (Ohio Historical Society historical marker)."

In 1984 the boot was acquired by Col. Vietzen, an historian who had closely studied Custer. This small, child-sized boot, with accompanying blacksmith-made spur was on display in one of Vietzen's Museum cases where he kept his prized Custer memorabilia.

A woman who lived in New Rumley, Ohio, Custer's birthplace, delivered the boot and spur as a donation to Col. Vietzen's Museum.



She had received the boot from a relative. This relative received the boot from a Custer family member. The accompanying spur was made by Custer's father, a blacksmith by trade. (At the New Indian Ridge Museum, we preserve a large portion of one of the original bellows from Custer's father's blacksmith shop, which was in Tontogany, OH.)

Col. Ron Sauer, a friend of and authority on Col. Vietzen and his

Museum, acquired the boot after the Museum was closed. Col. Sauer was personally told the aforementioned provenance of the boot and spur, by Col. Vietzen. In fact, Col. Sauer had visited Col. Vietzen's Museum on the same day in 1984 when Col. Vietzen acquired the boot.

On September 5, 2014, Col. Nahorn acquired the boot from the Col. Sauer collection. We are very pleased to preserve this important piece of documented national history.



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

Col. Nahorn continues to present talks and programs on local history topics in 2014 and 2015. In September he spoke to the Avon Lake Historical Society on Amherst's Old Spring and rediscovered Braun Brewery.

On Oct 15 he will present a new program, "Academy of the Ridges" at 7pm for the North Ridgeville Historical Society. The location is the Library on Bainbridge Road. Lake Ridge Academy, an independent school, opened its doors in



September 1963, recently celebrating 50 years of educating youth. Col. Nahorn will provide a brief overview of the School's history, with a bit of a personal touch, as he graduated from L.R.A. in 2008 and founded the School's Archives Department in 2006.

On October 28 he will present "A Thirst for History: Amherst's Old Spring & Rediscovered Braun Brewery" at 7pm for the Amherst Historical Society's General Membership Meeting. Location is the Grange Hall at the Sandstone Village Museum Center of the Historical Society on Milan Ave.

A program that has already been well-received throughout the greater Lorain County community, Col. Nahorn will trace the history of the Old Spring and a bit of its geology, while placing a secondary focus on the recently rediscovered Braun Brewery Cellars near the Spring site.

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 Starr 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!