



The 1811 Historic Shupe Homestead
Drawing courtesy of Neal Jenne

The New Indian Ridge Museum --Quarterly

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...to Prepare and Build for the Future...

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Upcoming Events:

**The Museum Celebrates 16
Years of Preservation &
Education on November 24th.
Thank you for your support.**

Please refer to

www.newindianridgemuseum.org

**for the most up-to-date
information - click on "News"
for upcoming events & such.**

Local History

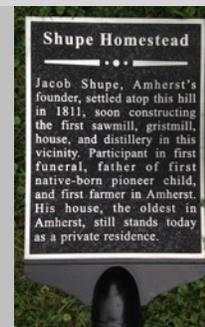
Shupe Homestead Historical Marker Dedicated

The Jacob and Catherine Shupe Homestead, like some serene elder statesman, full of years and confidence, sits well back from the road that was just a narrow trail cut by Jacob Shupe through the woods, more than two hundred years ago.



The previous statement was adapted from an article written about another early Lorain County house, but it fits perfectly here with the Shupe Homestead. It is further an excerpt from, "The Founding of Early Amherst," which Col. Nahorn compiled in 2014. This document, with historically accurate stories, anecdotes, and other research information describing the early days of Amherst's founding, is the first of its kind to aggregate such information focusing precisely on the Shupe family; their important contributions to the early years; and the creation of their homestead. The document is available for viewing on our website here: <http://newindianridgemuseum.org/about/research-documents-studies/>

On Sunday, September 25th, at 2pm, while standing on the original sandstone steps of the Shupe Homestead, Col. Nahorn delivered a speech to a group of local historians and other interested individuals gathered directly in front of the house. The weather was beautiful and perfect for a dedication. The group was gathered to dedicate and officially unveil the cast aluminum historical marker that has been



erected at the base of the Shupe Homestead driveway. Shupe was responsible for many first events in the area.

The Nahorn family took possession of and moved into the Shupe House in 1992. The history behind the importance of this site was not widely known or documented. Beginning in 1998, spending years of historical research, sifting through tax records, detailed histories, and maps, Col. Nahorn along with his core group of researchers from the Museum, including Diane Nahorn and Jeff Sigsworth, determined the Shupe House is the first frame house constructed in Amherst and likely the oldest in Lorain County, having been built between 1812-1814 - a time before Lorain County was formed, and the area was rather known as Huron County.

Giant bark-covered logs serve as floor joists supported by a hand-cut sandstone foundation. Many original aspects of the house remain today and have been carefully restored and maintained. The early post-and-beam frame structure was built with the help of Shupe's early up-and-down sash style thundershower sawmill operated by an undershot waterwheel powered by Beaver Creek. The mill, started in 1811, was expanded with a gristmill operation in 1813.

Jacob Shupe was responsible for starting industry and spurring development in this northern Lorain County area and ought to be recognized for such. Previous to this, area settlers were compelled to travel great distances to get their grain ground and wood sawn. (First photo courtesy Jason Shaffer Photography.)

Local History Update

Longtime “Angelo’s” Building Demolished

The southeast corner of Church St. and Tenney Ave. in Amherst has been home to numerous businesses over the years. Most recently, from about 1973-2001, it was home to the famous Angelo’s Pizza restaurant (301 Church St.). Col. Nahorn recalls enjoying many tasty pizza-related dishes in that establishment over the years. Previously, the building - and lot, itself - was home to several businesses.

Years before, a grain elevator operated on this spot. The first grain elevator-grist mill combined operation was built on this site c. 1858. It has been noted that farmers came there to grind, store, and sell their grain from this operation, which was steam-powered. It is documented in early newspapers that the building burned down in 1864 when



a coal-fired train engine came by, spewing out sparks, leading to a fire. (The newspaper article appeared in the Thurs., June 9, 1864 edition of the “Cleveland Daily Leader” under the headline “Fire in North Amherst.”) At this time, the train tracks were still at ground level. The steam grist mill and saw mill, owned by Mr. M. S. Hitchcock, of Elyria, and the Foundry and Plow Factory, of the Kendeigh brothers, were completely destroyed by fire “Tuesday night” (June 7). The loss, at that time, was estimated to be \$10-12,000, and they were uninsured.

The grain elevator was then rebuilt in a different building style, as an impressive three-story steam gristmill. In May 1897 this structure, owned by John Gerlach, caught on fire and was also destroyed. It had been rented from Gerlach to Ben Wiegand (Wiegant), and Kinsey and Bivins had interest in the operation. The area was cleaned up, and a building was moved to this site, likely from next door, to the east. It is possible but not confirmed that this building was the original Amherst Fire barn, where the Fire Department once operated sometime in the mid-1800s.

Brucker’s Blacksmith shop then occupied this “new” building. Later, some highlighted businesses that occupied this building and site include, but are not limited to: Zilch Transfer Line (trucking business); Dangle Dairy; Baetz Dairy (1922-1952); Amherst Photo Studio; Brown’s Studio & Camera; a few beauty shops, music shops, and finally Angelo’s.

After the building was condemned, it was demolished in July 2016. We were able to save a window from the oldest portion of the building. Square nail construction was witnessed, confirming the age of the structure. A special thank you to local historians for their aid in preparing this article and salvaging the window for display. Read more about this story on our “News” page.

Lorain Block Bricks Discovered

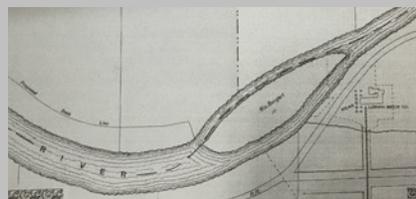
The Lorain Brick Co. and Kilns were located across the Black River from Bungart Island. This company made road paving bricks. The Brick Company was incorporated Feb. 13, 1904 (but is shown on the 1896 Lorain County map, below).

Bricks made at this factory, marked “Lorain Block,” are relatively rare finds. We located a few of these bricks at the Shupe Homestead in a long-forgotten pile of bricks. This was a very exciting find, and we thank our brick advisor and specialist Mrs. Debbie Slavik for her information and insight into this brick company and other local brick history she has furnished for the Museum.



Above: Bricks from the Lorain Block Company found at the Shupe Homestead.

Below: 1896 property tax map showing “Brick Kilns” near Bungart Island and Black River.



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Shupe Homestead Update Projects Continue

Projects around the Historic Shupe Homestead and Wildlife Preserve continue this season. From trimming and maintaining trees in the Nahorn Arboretum to working to propagate American Chestnut trees, we have been busy. Continued maintenance and restoration of the Historic Shupe House are ongoing.

Excursions Around Northern Ohio Col. Nahorn Continues Programs, Outreach

As Part of the Museum's continuous educational outreach programming, this postcard has been developed and is in the process of being personally distributed to the greater Amherst-area.

LOCAL HISTORIAN	ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD	LOCAL EDUCATION
New Indian Ridge Museum - Founder	Local Wildlife Preserve Manager "Keeper of Amherst's Old Spring" - Mainstem Historic Site	Oberlin College - B.A. Environmental Studies Attended BGSU Firelands Lifelong Amherst Resident
Amherst Historical Society - Volunteer - Curator - Board of Director - Local History Speaker	Beaver Creek Keeper - Watershed Awareness Proponent	Environmental Awareness Speaker

To learn more about local history and receive my newsletter please visit
www.newindianridgemuseum.org to sign up.

Honoring Our Past - Preparing For A Strong Future

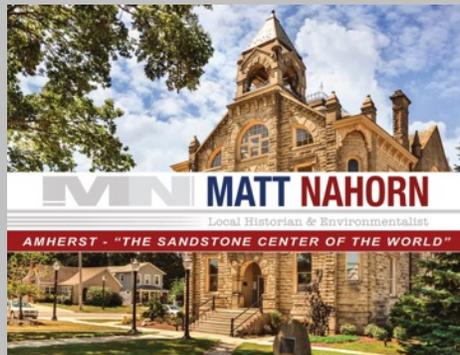
Residents of the Amherst area may have seen Col. Nahorn or will see him around town this Fall season personally passing out this postcard - it is a way of introducing himself to our community as a local historian and environmental steward.

Most of our area residents are aware of the Museum, but not everyone is aware of the free quarterly newsletter posted on this website and the educational lectures Col. Nahorn has developed and presents, such as the one on watersheds that he recently presented in Pittsfield.

The goal is to widen our community outreach and let area residents know about this newsletter and the educational programs that the Museum offers. If you or your organization is interested in having Col. Nahorn speak, please contact us via our website.

A special thank you to local photographer Jason Shaffer for his

aid in the development of this postcard.



Acquisitions: Additional Col. Vietzen Paintings

The Museum has acquired a number of paintings done by Col. Vietzen. Over the years, Col. Raymond C. Vietzen was quite the artist, completing several hundred paintings with which he decorated his own museum and gave to friends and acquaintances. Many were Native American portraits.

One painting features the West Falls and Shelter Cave under those Falls in Cascade Park, on the Black River - this was once a campsite for Native peoples. Another painting is a portrait of J. Alex Justice, whom Col. Vietzen termed as "Lorain County's last pioneer."

John Alexander "J. Alex" Justice was born in 1838 in Brighton Township. (Brighton was settled in 1820.) By 1840, the population there was about 1,000 people. The area was still much of a wilderness. Alex Justice lived at the Northwest corner of Gore Orphanage and State Route 18 on the western edge of this township. His 70 acres property was eventually cleared of its trees, which was quite a job for Mr. Justice.

The 1860 census records John "Alex" Justice as 22 years old, in Brighton, with a profession in artifacts. He was well-known for his large collection of "curious items," and he was known statewide. He traveled as far as Florida, into the South, to gather these curious items, usually traveling on foot. By walking, he could easily gather artifacts along the way. He would live off of the land and camp during his journeys.

Alex acquired many unique flint projectile points and tools, all of which he labeled so that he could recall the stories of their acquisition, &c. He also worked in taxidermy (mostly birds), and his home that he built was filled with stuffed animals and artifacts - a museum. Guns were in every corner and on pegs on the walls.

When not traveling, he kept busy at home as well. Alex constructed his own casket after selecting a fine, local black walnut tree. Stories have it that he slept in it for 25 years or when he felt poorly. He passed away in 1926 and was buried in this very casket in the Brighton Cemetery. The grave was marked with a unique stone, also from his land and collection.

Alex Justice kept to himself but allowed those in the area to use his land for picnics and gatherings. In the early 1900s, Brighton's own "Rough and Ready" baseball team played their games there. Brighton Township held its 4th Annual Picnic at "Justice's Grove" on August 31, 1904.

A friend of Col. Vietzen when he was in high school, Justice gave Vietzen a few items which were on display at the Indian Ridge Museum (and now New Indian Ridge Museum - including portions of a locally found mammoth skeleton). The majority of the Justice collection is now maintained by the Spirit of '76 Museum in Wellington. It is definitely worth a visit and highly recommended. J. Alex Justice was one of the last true pioneers in the area.

Other paintings acquired for the Museum more of the impressionistic style, being landscape views. One captures the Vietzen property and Indian Ridge Museum grounds, another, a scene from Put-in-Bay.

Outings Around Northern Ohio Continue

Fall is here, and we've taken time to visit some historic and environmentally significant spots in the area, including Blue Hole #2 in Castalia; areas in and along Chance Creek at the Vermilion River; Swift's Hollow; and portions of the Franks Site (ancient Erie village) overlooking the Vermilion River.