



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...

Board of Trustees

-Col. Matthew W. Nahorn

Director/Curator/

Founder/Board President

-William Nahorn

Building Maintenance

-Diane Nahorn

Refreshments, Generally

Keeping Things Straight

-Jean Rounds

Official Photographer

-Jay Rounds

Tour Guide Overseer

-Ann Dolyk

Museum Special Advisor

-Zack Sweebe

Marketing, Security, &

Website Design/Management

-Andy Milluzzi

Telecommunications,

Institutional Advancement,

& Security

-Deb Filbert

Human Resources, Chief

Organizer of Displays

-Mike Filbert

Technological Advancement

-W. Zack Dolyk

Legal Advisor

-Wendy Dolyk

Admission Donations

-Andrew Robinson

Wildlife Control, Management,

and Preservation Consultant &

Kayak Specialist

-Vito Cammarata

Kayak Specialist, General

Advisor

-Jason Shaffer

Museum Photography &

Documentation Advisor

Upcoming Events:

Col. Nahorn continues to present programs and talks to area groups.

Please refer to

www.newindianridgemuseum.org

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

Front Page News

Reports Completed; Projects & Outreach Continue — Welcome 2018!

It is impossible to review all of the projects, outreach, and such that we have completed and continue to work on, as we welcome the new year. Many are ongoing.

Some of these include: recent acquisition inventory; create new/update displays; publish and post reports; and update research library and file systems. Some of these projects will be further reviewed in this latest newsletter.

Once again this quarter, we are choosing to use a more stream-lined format and will likely return to the longer, 3-page format, next quarter. As this is a gratuitous newsletter, and for the benefit of recording history of the Museum, its projects, and other aspects of local history, we are confident that readers will be pleased with whatever format with which they are presented.

Two reports were completed by the end of 2017, and they will or have been posted on our website for your review, under the tab entitled: "Research Documents & Studies." The studies are entitled, "A Comprehensive Study of the Burrell Homestead" and "Lorain County's Great White Oak Tree." A final update is being made to the white oak tree report, and it will be posted very soon.



Furthermore, all reports completed by the Museum are printed, bound, and maintained in our research library for the future, in the event that anything might happen to our electronic files or website access.

The Museum now preserves a total of 9 blades from the prehistoric Elk Lick Cache. We have written about this ancient Cache in previous newsletters, and it is documented in several places on the website, therefore it is not necessary to review the entire situation once again. We are very pleased to maintain a collection of 9 of the 70 blades that Col. Vietzen uncovered in Kentucky during an archaeological exploration in May 1964. Upon the disposition of the Indian Ridge Museum, the blades were all sold separately.

Another important acquisition includes an interesting flint blade (pictured below, left) from Kentucky, which is well-documented by Vietzen.

We also acquired a fine cache of 21 Flint Ridge blades found by Col. Vietzen on the P. Morrison Farm in the heart of Ohio's Flint Ridge region (photo on Page 2).

Please see Page 2 under the heading "Continued" for the rest of this article.

Please take note: As we have done in the past, the Museum and our affiliate group, the Beaver Creek Watershed Protection Group, will once again participate in the Vermilion-on-the-Lake Watershed Open House. This important outreach program aids in the further edification of local residents and property owners, providing valuable knowledge in a welcoming and friendly environment. We set up a watershed-oriented display informing visitors of how land-use affects water quality and stream bank integrity of the watercourses receiving runoff from local properties. Many maps, charts, and useful items are on display.

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 7th, 10am-4pm at the Historic Vermilion-on-the-Lake (VOL) Community Center for this program!** Many other nature and environmentally-oriented and informative groups will be present. It is always a fun day.

Local Updates**Projects at Shupe Homestead Planned**

Even though snow and sub-zero temperatures (which actually provide some positive contributions to certain environmental issues we are facing) surround us at this time of the year, planning and preparations for projects that need to be completed in the warmer weather are well underway.

Being two centuries old, the Shupe Homestead is understandably in need of continued maintenance and restoration, especially in order to maintain its current positive attributes. Exterior paint projects are planned along with a restoration effort of the exterior entrance to the basement.

We also look forward to working with local metal detecting experts, Bruce Bishop and Jim Larkin to further explore an historic site in the front portion of the Shupe Homestead, originally located when we were planting a tree in the Nahorn Arboretum. More information and news on this project are forthcoming!

Not only must the Historic House be maintained, but maintenance of the conserved wildlife areas throughout and along Beaver Creek must be constantly done — eradication of non-native invasive plant species continues. It is no doubt the warm weather days will be full of these projects.

Continued from Page 1...

The Museum recognized 17 years of preservation and education on November 24th. With that, we are also pleased to report the acquisition of an important flint knife, from Col. Vietzen's Indian Ridge Museum. It is a fine example of a notched knife, with calcium deposits (photograph on Page 1).

The knife was found by Vietzen and his team during archaeological work in the southwestern Kentucky area, and the artifact is well-documented by Vietzen. It was acquired and donated to the Museum by the Rounds Family honoring our 17 years' anniversary.

See final page for a complete report on the Morrison Flint Ridge Cache, which is now preserved at the N. I. R. M.

Loss of Local Historian...at age 104

Ms. Valerie Eppley Jenkins Gerstenberger witnessed Amherst in many ways over 104 years living in her family homestead. Her family roots in the area date back to the Dute family, circa 1834. Her Uncle C. E. Cooper was mayor of Amherst. She was deeply involved in local theatrics and worked as a teacher and librarian at the Amherst Schools for many years. She was the foundation of the formation of Workshop Players Theatre. This just briefly reviews her long and varied life.

I had the honor and opportunity to serve briefly on the board of her Amherst Heritage House organization in 2006-07 — where she had created a museum of local and family items within her family homestead — a “family museum.”

Viewing the collection provided a unique cross-section of not only Amherst life, but lifestyles in the Lorain County area, from c. 1870 through c. 2000. Valerie once stated that she and her family almost literally had “never thrown anything away” and saved items for many years, including some family furniture dating back to the 1890s, when the family purchased the house. Only two families have inhabited the house over the years. Interestingly, like the Isaac Shupe Homestead next door, the original front once faced Elyria Ave.

**Contributors**

- Jami Anderson
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 & Bonnie Cutcher
Museum History Consultants
- Drew Severs
Lake Ridge Archives Consultant
- Jack B. Scaife
Museum 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
- 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
- Ed & Marilyn Brill
Local History Advisors
- Charlie Marty, Fay Van Nuys Ott, Joan Rosenbusch, Jim Wilhelm, Ralph Zilch, Mark Haff
Amherst History Advisors
- Robb Koscho & Stephanie Moore-Koscho, Chris Nechols
Kayak Consultants

Continued from Page2: Morrison Flint Ridge Cache

The Flint Ridge flint (in a group geologically known as chert) material was highly prized by early Native Americans, and today it is Ohio's state gemstone. The material is naturally occurring in southeastern Ohio and is a sedimentary structure, mostly being of silica. It was formed millions of years ago, when what we now know as Ohio was covered with a warm, shallow ocean environment. As sediments and microscopic ocean life collected at the base of these waterbodies, and over millions of years of heat and pressure, the beautiful colorful Flint Ridge material was formed. Native peoples traveled and traded for it because of its beauty and the very fine way that it chips – with its unique conchoidal fracturing, very similar to the structure of our modern-day window glass. Native peoples would walk miles and miles, utilizing ancient foot-pathways high above the rivers, and also use waterways with dugout or birchbark canoes as their mode of travel to gather this material. Trading with it, for exotic materials such as obsidian, was also common.

Here we see a fine cache of 21 unique blades of Flint Ridge material. Note the variety in texture and color that is exhibited in this collection, which is offered by the material. At the quarry sites, where the Flint Ridge outcroppings were encountered by the native peoples, blocks of this material were reduced to blades such as these: The blades were then taken back to their campsites, stored, and often buried for future use. They were stored for safekeeping (in case the camp was ambushed — sometimes the Native peoples never came back to finish fashioning the blades into tools or projectile points) and also, to keep the material fresh and from becoming hard and brittle. Burial of the material allowed the blades to be more easily shaped in the future, keeping them out of the general environment.

As is noted on the tag, handwritten by Col. Vietzen, this collection was found by Col. Raymond C. Vietzen, of the Indian Ridge Museum, on the P. Morrison Farm in Licking Co., Ohio in 1945. Licking County is directly in the heart of what is today known as the area that produces the Flint Ridge material. The Flint Ridge general area encompasses about five and one half miles wide by seven and one half miles long of land in the Licking and Coshocton County area. The important collection was displayed at Vietzen's Elyria Indian Ridge Museum for many years, until its closure in 1995. It was recently acquired and donated by the Rounds family, to the New Indian Ridge Museum. We are very pleased to be able to preserve and document this important collection.

