



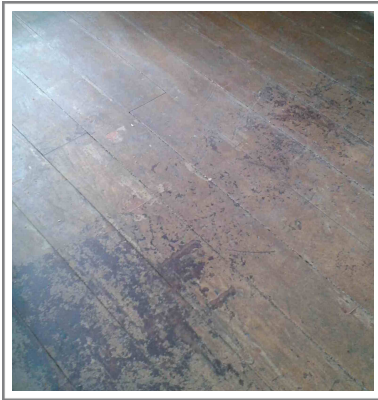
Historic Shupe Homestead

The Historic 1811 Jacob Shupe Homestead is situated on a picturesque, spacious, natural property along the winding Beaver Creek. It contains the oldest house in Amherst, which ranks among the oldest in Lorain County.

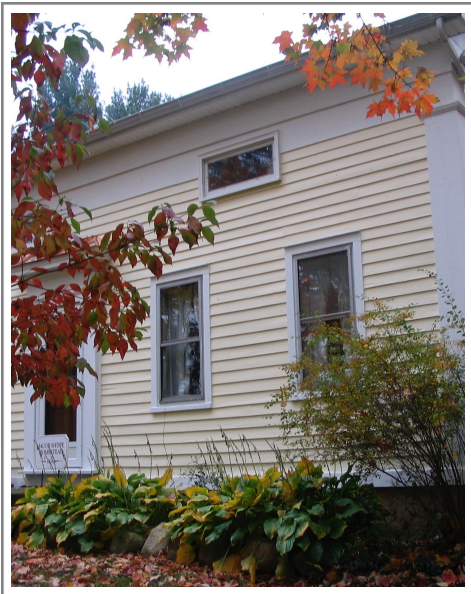
In 1810, Jacob Shupe, his wife Catharine, and their children loaded their covered wagon and departed the hills of Pennsylvania for the Far West of Ohio's wilderness, where a squirrel could travel on the treetops, from the Lakeshore south to the mighty Ohio River, without ever touching the ground. The Shupes traveled lightly and took with them only necessities. Mr. Shupe was eager to view the vast lands containing several hundred acres that he had purchased, which encompassed the waters of a watercourse that would be named Beaver Creek, a direct tributary of Lake Erie.



Over 200 years of history clings to this original floor joist in the Shupe House - just as the original bark still clings to this "tree."



Original wide-plank oak floors are retained on both the ground and upper floors of the house - the very same floors upon which the Shupes walked.



The early Greek Revival frame structure was finished a few years after the Shupes arrived in 1811.

Ralph Lyons, a hired carpenter, accompanied the party, joining the Shupes in the western part of Pennsylvania, and they were off.

The traveling was slow, and the unimproved, narrow “roads,” if you are bold enough to call them such, were treacherous, especially when the group had to ford a river or encountered one of the ubiquitous swampy spots. Whenever possible they would follow the old Indian trails, usually located on the well-drained ancient sandy beach ridges. It was always a dangerous attempt, but after some time of this traveling, they made it through the unbroken forest of giant American chestnut, beach, maple, and various oak species, intermixed with swamps, to temporarily settle on a piece of flat land south of where they were to permanently settle.

They made it to this area in the later part of 1810. A small, crude log house was hurriedly constructed in the wilderness, in the area that would later become known as Russia Township, near the present site of the Lorain County Regional Airport (of course this place at the time was known as Black River Township, whereas Russia would not exist until it was detached and created in June 1825). Most of the logs of this structure were still rounded and only squared off where one had to meet the other in order to create a relatively strong wall



Hand cut blocks of sandstone comprise the Shupe house basement. These were quarried from a local outcropping of sandstone on Shupe's property.

construction. The family only spent a very short time here.

At this temporary spot Mr. Shupe began to plan his next major project. The party soon scouted the land, traversing northward and frequenting the Perry trading post at the mouth of the Black River. A few months later they removed from that place, going northward and settling just south of the Black River/Amherst line into what would become the northern portion of present-day "Amherst." The Shupes settled on a high hill overlooking the Beaver Creek. This hill, "Shupe's Hill," or "the Homestead," at one time was known as "Mt. Pleasant."

Mr. Shupe, along with Mr. Lyons (and others in the area when available to aid) cleared land and worked together to erect the early mills, the first of their kind in this vicinity. At this spot, in early Spring 1811, just a mile and a half north of present-day downtown Amherst, axe blows of the American iron axe were heard for the very first time here, trees were girdled, and their stumps burned out. Small plots of land were cleared; the blacksmith-made plow was sunk into the deep, rich soil; and the area was begun to be "developed." The precise location is just west of the intersection of present day Cooper Foster Park Road and N. Main Street, on both the north and south sides of Cooper Foster



The original Shupe log house, a small, crude, temporary structure, as it sat at Indian Ridge Museum, was originally located in Black River Township. Now lost to history.



An original griststone from Jacob Shupe's gristmill. Now back "home," at Jacob Shupe's homestead. It started off as a glacial erratic boulder.

(or Hollstein Road as it was called at one time later on). Of course no road as we know it today, existed there, at this time. It was simply the width of a footpath.

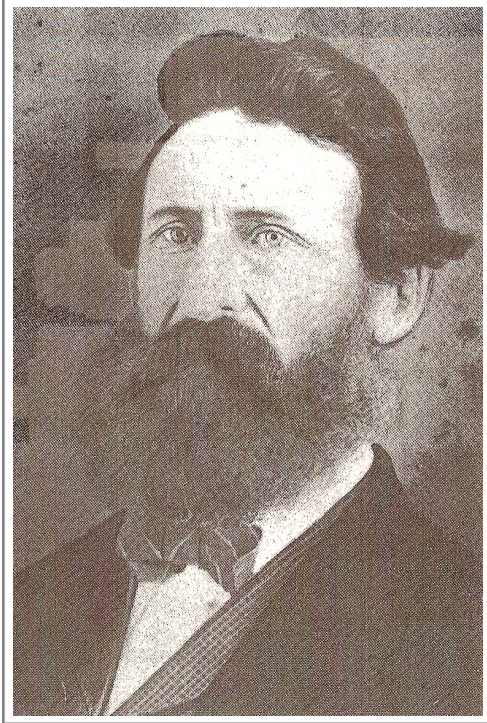
This was the first clearing in the Township of what would become Amherst (of course before there was a Village of Amherst), and here the first farm field of wheat was established in this general area. Tree stumps littered the field, and it did not resemble the farm fields of today. During that Spring of 1811 the first clearings in the towering, unbroken forests were made in these parts, in the valley where the mills would be located and on the hill where the Shupe house is located, just west of the Cooper Foster Park Road bridge that spans Beaver Creek. A permanent settlement was begun here, and it quickly took root. A tiny rude log house, the first in this area of square cut logs, was quickly erected, in less than three weeks.

In that year, 1811, Catharine Shupe gave birth to the first native-born pioneer child in Amherst, a girl, named Betsy. This was a main reason Mr. Shupe wanted his more permanent frame house to be finished as soon as possible – his family was growing. More hands were needed, as the farm was growing (as more land was cleared) and to aid in the operation of the mills, as well. Betsy Shupe was born in the crude hand cut-log structure connected with



Col. Nahorn admires the historical marker he had erected at the base of the long country lane that accesses the Shupe Homestead.

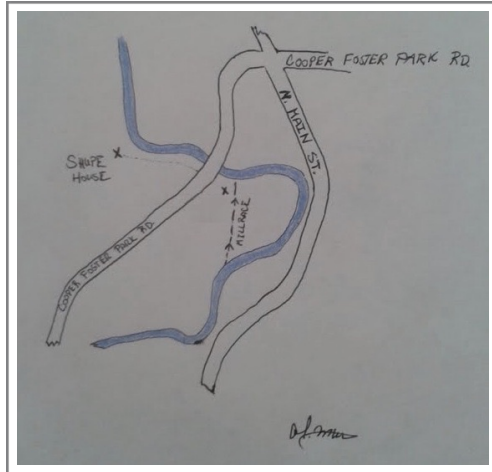
the Shupe's overturned wagon, in which they were residing during the construction of the frame house. This log house was located in what today is the front yard of the Shupe Homestead, between the frame house and Road (or "trail" at that time). In all, the Shupes had eleven children. Isaac was the youngest, being born in 1824 and the last of the Shupes born in the frame house that still stands today.



Isaac Shupe, the Shupe's youngest son, was born in 1824 in the Shupe house that stands today.

Mrs. Shupe decided she wanted to bring her daughter Betsy to see Catharine's mother (Betsy's grandmother) in Westmoreland County, PA. This was about six months after giving birth to Betsy. So, Mrs. Shupe carried Betsy in her arms while on horseback all the way through the dense woods back to the old family place in Pennsylvania, to visit her mother. Catharine Shupe was well-known as a superb rider. Her saddle horse was described as "resembling Poe's raven in color." Her friends often borrowed the horse, and she was always charitable in this fashion. Her saddle was later kept for many years by her son Isaac, at his house.

While Catharine Shupe was off visiting her mother with Betsy Shupe, work on some important, early ventures had quickly continued, which improved the area and set important standards for early arriving settlers. A trench was cut across the Beaver Creek



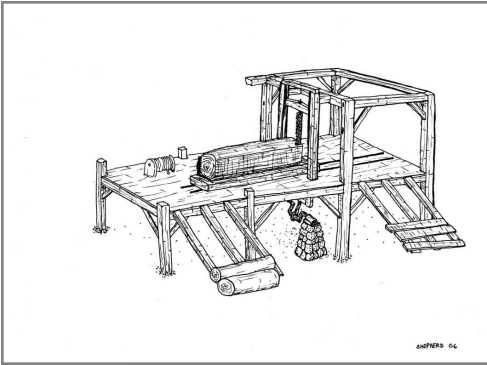
Map showing Beaver Creek and the millrace dug in order to better direct the water and operate the Shupe saw and gristmills.

valley, on the South side of Cooper Foster Park Road, after a section of land was cleared there. This trench served as a millrace to direct the waterpower of Beaver Creek, to power the mills. The raceway was a time-consuming project as hundreds of years of roots had to be cleared, by chopping, burning, and digging out these ancient roots from the soil. The team worked quickly though, and in late 1811 the crude sawmill structure was erected and in operation. Shupe had brought in and ordered the necessary metal parts for the workings of the mill. These pieces took a little while to arrive at the Perry trading post. An undershot waterwheel powered the sawmill, which was an early up-and-down sash style mill.

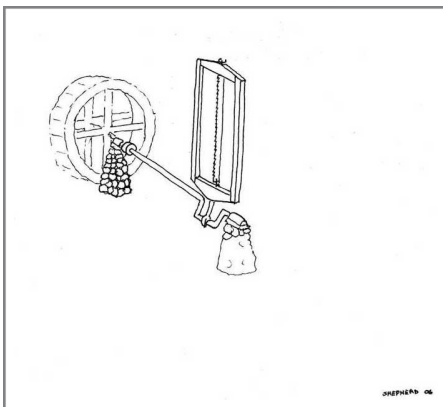
As stated, the sawmill was constructed in that year (1811), and soon after, by 1813, the structure was expanded with a good-sized gristmill, both powered by an undershot waterwheel, which was run off of the Beaver Creek's waterpower. At this time the Creek was quite powerful, and Shupe was smart to harness this free and clean power source. The imposing forests, with their numerous swales, wetlands, springs, and log-jammed sluggish watercourses slowly released the water, helping to maintain a strong and uniform flow in the Creek-bed. The large wetland at the mouth of the Creek also aided in keeping constant water

flow. Beaver Creek was early on referred to as a 'river' and was later named Beaver Creek because of where Mr. Lyons originated in Pennsylvania (Beaver Falls) and because of the abundance of Beavers found here. Mr. Lyons settled just north of Mr. Shupe, where he built one of the first brick houses in the vicinity. A Mr. Kolbe later acquired the place, demolished it, and built a model farmhouse in its place.

As noted, by 1813 the gristmill was added to the sawmill and was up and running as well, operating off of the same undershot waterwheel. They constructed this wheel themselves, from splitting large timbers. Mr. Shupe and Mr. Lyons worked to fashion large glacial erratic boulders of granite into mill buhrs, and two of his original grist stones are still extant in Amherst today - one at his Homestead (it had been a monument at Central School in Amherst from 1934-2013) and one found at the mill site and set up in the ground there by the present property owners. Being able to fashion and dress these boulders into grinding stones, with their grooves cut into them at just the right size and interval, was a skill in itself. These boulders were readily accessible down by the Creek, but they were not easy to move into place in the mill. They were shaped at the Creek-side, but then the time



An early up-and-down sash style sawmill, similar to the kind Shupe built and operated. These often used several parallel-facing blades. The undershot waterwheel would be connected to the mechanism under the log, as shown. (Diagram via Stephen Shepherd <http://www.fullchisel.com/blog/?p=80&cpage=1#comment-91341>)



came to haul them into the mill. Man, horse, and oxen power were employed.

These early mills helped to bolster and promote settlement in the early community. The humble log house could give way to a more elegant frame structure, and wheat and corn could be ground locally, allowing for further settlement and the development of the community. Shupe made it more practical for others to live here. Previous to this, early settlers in the vicinity had to travel to the Huron River or Chagrin Falls to grind their grain or saw lumber. By 1815, Jacob Shupe had established a distillery – an important venture in those early days. It was located near the Road and his milling operation.

The mills and distillery were a popular place for people to gather in these early days, as there was no “downtown” Amherst in these first years. And so, because of a lack of a formal downtown, this settlement was one of several “corners” of settlements in the early days of the community. It was a necessity to visit the saw and gristmills, so people would naturally stay for a time and discuss the news of the day there, often meeting new “neighbors” (albeit, at a great distance from each other) who had recently come to the area. The milling operations were located near the small lane (Cooper Foster Park Road), which was certainly

not busy. The proximity of the mills to the Road made the area readily accessible to those frequenting the mills. Many would often stop by to check out the mills, as they were the first of their type in this immediate area.

It was known that Mrs. Shupe was a very capable pioneer wife, and while Mr. Shupe was away tending the farmstead or at the Perry Trading Post, she would help to operate the gristmill, raising the gate to grind the grist for a patron who was also a far-away neighbor.

The Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813 was not only an event of national importance, but it caused ripples in local life as well during that stressful time. As Perry's Victory unfolded, Mrs. Shupe received word of the possibility that a group of Indians was in the area and planned to destroy the Shupe Homestead. (They were already aware of a local, temporary settlement of Indians just north of what later was Clough's Quarry.) As a result of this and to take proper precautions, she gathered a few valuables, placed her children behind her on her saddle, and they were off to the Fort at the Black River. There she learned of Perry's victory. Jacob Shupe stayed at the Homestead during this event in an effort to protect the area.

Once Mr. Shupe had finished his frame house, he would often invite his friends and

acquaintances he met at his mills up to the house for dinner and a drink from his distillery. Often the house was open to all of those he met frequenting his mills during the day, and they would converse and share news of the day there in the new house. The door was always open to those whom the Shupes befriended, and he soon knew many souls, as they often frequented his mills.

The house was an early meeting place, and news of the day was passed on there. Candles were often lit in the front windows of the house to welcome visitors. As one entered the front or side doors, they were greeted with a medium sized wooden drop leaf farmhouse style table (nothing fancy) and a couple of Kilburn-style farmhouse kitchen chairs where most visitors would be entertained. The formal space or parlor is on the right, and the informal sitting space is on the left - the window molding reflects this delineation in room layout. The large, open space with wide oak planks comprising the floors was and is welcoming and could accommodate a small but comfortable group of visitors at one time. Think of all those who passed through the front door and all of the conversations from the early days that transpired within the walls of the structure. Settlers often gathered here at Mt. Pleasant, and area residents still do today.

Facing the front of the house, to the left, out the side door, which is to the general south and west direction, was the exterior kitchen, located in a separate building. Oppositely, to the right, out the old “funeral” side door, to the north, was actually an entranceway used more often than the front door. The grade of the hill acted like a natural stepping-stone, so one was never set here. Upstairs are the bedrooms, and they are still located there today. Originally just two rooms - one smaller and the rest of the space was one large room. Remember, each room in those early days was taxed separately. No heat was up there, and so bricks were heated downstairs over the cook-stove fire, wrapped in blankets, and brought up to be placed in the rope beds, during cold weather.

In the very early days, Jacob Shupe found it necessary to create a rude bridge of logs so that he and others could easily access his mills (and his home) from both sides of the Creek. This old bridge stayed in use for several years, as there was no money and little manpower to erect an upgraded structure. But it did the job just fine. And since the traffic was not of great volume, the effort to construct a grander structure was not warranted. Some years later, a bridge with sandstone pilings on either side was finally built here and stayed in use for a longer stretch of

time. After several upgrades over the years, a new bridge replaced it in 1997-1998.

Not long after the sawmill was in operation (1811), Jacob and Catharine Shupe's frame house was completed. Small by today's standards, at the time it was built it was a comfortable, cozy domicile, especially when compared to the temporary, tiny log houses and overturned wagons that the family became accustomed to inhabiting just months earlier. This sturdy frame house was commenced early on, before even the sawmill was completed in 1811, and it was finished by the end of 1813. (An exterior kitchen was constructed, and because of fear of fires, it was not connected to the house until years later). The Jacob and Catharine Shupe House was the first frame house to have been constructed in Amherst, as confirmed in the early histories and is undoubtedly the oldest in Lorain County today. The foundation and frame of the structure were completed early; then the milled wood was added to the structure - all moldings were handmade.

Location was key in those days. A fine spot was chosen for the house, high above the Beaver Creek, where never a risk of flooding would threaten the Homestead, and where one could easily look down upon the mills and front property. Livestock grazed in the front yard

space, along with a field of wheat, both of which were between the tiny lane (Cooper Foster Park Road, today) and the Shupe house. The field eventually extended just west of this area as well. It must be understood that much of these early fields were littered with stumps, and the corn was planted around the stumps. Built about 1812, the Shupe house still stands on its original foundation today, laid down by Shupe and his helpers some two hundred years ago, just down the Creek from the site of the old mills, on the north side of Cooper Foster Park Road, and immediately west of the Beaver Creek bridge, about six hundred feet from the Road.

Recalling how this first house in Amherst was constructed, large, straight oak trees were selected and felled right on-site and blocks of sandstone were crudely fashioned for the foundation, having come from a nearby outcropping of sandstone. A small hole was cut into the clay rich ground for use as the half basement/half crawl space. The large support beams of this early post-and-beam structure were hand-hewn of red and white oak, and by the time the sawmill was fully operating, the abundant whitewood trees were milled for the clapboard siding on the house and associated molding and window casings. The interior and exterior moldings were handmade. Panes of

glass were imported, as were the early square nails, all brought in at the Nathan Perry trading post, at the mouth of the Black River. This place was a frequent stop for Jacob Shupe. Good-sized white oak trees were milled just there at the sawmill, for the wide, thick plank floorboards of the house that one can still walk upon today. One large white oak tree is still living in the woods here at the Shupe Homestead, and it was alive when the first set of white man's eyes looked upon the spot, those being Shupe's, of course.

Jacob Shupe had his hired man, Ralph Lyons, and others in the area, aid him in these early commercial ventures of saw and gristmills, and he focused on getting his house built early on so that Mrs. Shupe and their children could have a fine place to live. It did not take very long for the house to be built, once the sawmill was in full operation. Trees that had been felled to clear the nearby farm field and space for the mills, were piled up and prepared to be milled. Some beams, such as those that were hand-hewn and may easily be noticed in the Shupe House today, came from right about where the house is located. The trees were felled here, hewn with hand tools into the necessary shapes, and put into place once the sandstone foundation was laid. The men working on the house, including Shupe,

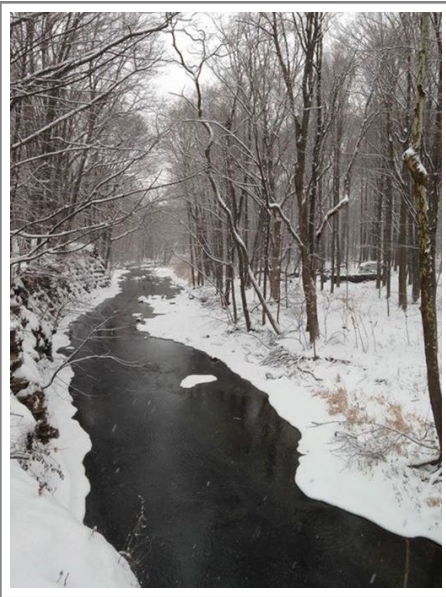


A detailed-view of one of the exposed, hard oak hand hewn beams in the house, showing a hole where a wooden peg ties together a cross-member.

were well-versed in hewing logs, and it would have taken more time and effort to haul them down to the sawmill, square them up, then bring them back up the hill for use in the house. Instead they were cut, shaped, and placed into the house's shell, directly on-site. Abundance of wood was not an issue in those days.

Again, the house's construction coincided simultaneously with the completion of Shupe's sawmill. Shupe had to wait until he had all of the necessary parts to run the mill, such as the metal blades that had to be shipped in to the area. (So, by using these hewn logs, they were able to get a good head-start on the house's construction before having to finish the sawmill.) Much of the mill workings however were actually made on-site as well, such as the waterwheel, as previously mentioned, and other associated parts that could be manufactured of wood. The men involved in these operations knew how to not only build houses and barns but understood the intricacies in the operations involved in sawmills and gristmills, and their associated water-powered accessories.

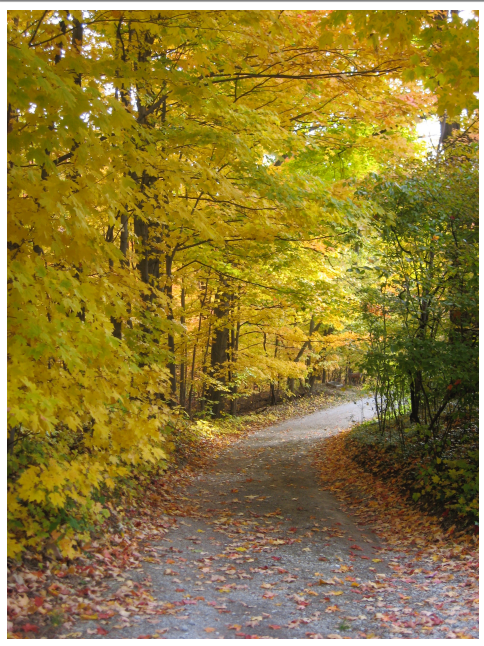
Jacob Shupe's house was built in a lesser bold Greek Revival style, the earliest post-and beam structure of that style to have been built in this vicinity. (In Huron County, it appears on the 1819 tax list, and when Lorain County was



A winter scene along Beaver Creek at the Shupe Homestead.

formed, it was taxed in 1826 for \$250.) In later years, the exterior kitchen structure was attached to the main house during a renovation sometime early in the house's history. (A cook-stove had also been used in the early days of the house, for cooking and heating.) This connection of the exterior kitchen and main house was done in a rather crude and poorly constructed manner, certainly not done by Shupe, and because of this, it eventually required elimination in 1998. But, the original house that Shupe built was saved, of course. This is a clear testament to the superior fashion in which he assembled the original structure.

It should be noted that back in 1810, a few other families came into the Black River area, including Joseph Quigley, who later purchased Original Lot #4 from Shupe (which included a sandstone quarry, and it would be the first one located within the Town's limits). The Onstines, coming from Canada, had been given much land for their patriotism and efforts fighting in the War of 1812 on the American side, arrived here a few years after the War, in 1817, initially constructing a log house. Joseph Quigley built his house of hand cut stone (after an initial log house) on the corner across from the Walker House, another stone house. Quigley visited Shupe a couple of times at Shupe's "new" frame house on the hill; this is where Shupe sold



Fall at the Shupe Homestead, looking down the drive from the top of the hill.

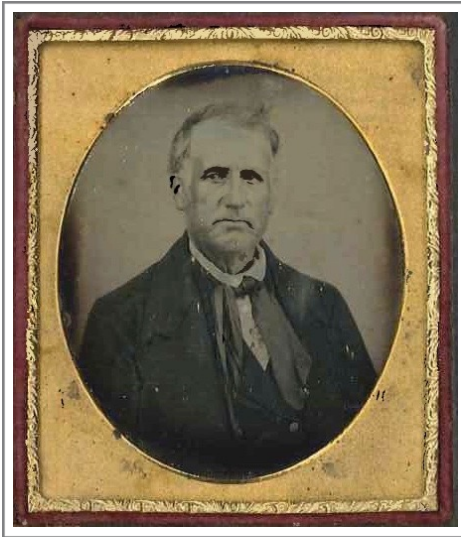
Quigley Lot #4. And some years later, in the early 1830s, Frederick Onstine built his frame house just west of Quigley's Corners, set a ways off of the north side of the Road.

On July 4, 1818 the first Fourth of July was celebrated in Amherst between Jacob Shupe and newly arrived pioneer Josiah Harris. When Shupe heard axe blows in the forest, he and his hired carpenter Mr. Lyons, went to investigate, following a tiny path through the woods, along Beaver Creek. They conjectured that this noise proceeded from a new settlement. Little did they know that this was the settlement that would become the nucleus of downtown Amherst.

Around noon they came upon Judge Harris clearing land, in the midst of constructing a small log house on a high piece of land overlooking a large seep spring, gently flowing out of the side of the sandy hillside and emptying into Beaver Creek. This spot would later become known as the Old Spring in downtown Amherst. Shupe brought with him whiskey from his distillery, and here the first Fourth of July was celebrated in Amherst. Mr. Harris was greeted in true Western hospitality and treated to the whiskey from Shupe's distillery. After greeting the party, they repaired to the Spring, celebrating "Independence Day in patriotic style, but

without cannon or buncombe,” as Mr. Otto Mischke described the event.

It should be noted that Judge Josiah Harris, a pillar of the early town, a philanthropist and integral leader in the infant community, who donated land for the early schools and town hall, the first sheriff of Lorain County, an early tavern owner, and a politician, ought to be considered the “founder” of the “downtown Amherst area,” as Shupe is considered the founder of “Amherst.” He and Shupe became good friends, and Shupe later provided for his tavern the spirits produced at the Shupe distillery. They would often visit in one or the other’s houses. It is curious that if Harris had not preempted Shupe in opening the early ordinary, Shupe would have done so himself.



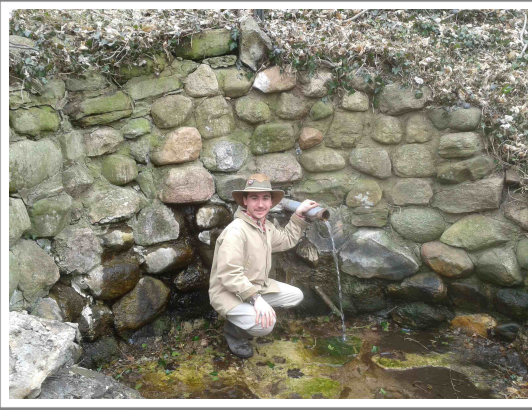
Judge Josiah Harris (1783 - 1868), local philanthropist, Justice of the Peace, politician, businessman, and first Lorain County Sheriff.

When Mr. Harris arrived, he and his small party immediately began clearing the land, and as noted, was in the midst of constructing his small, temporary log house when Mr.s Shupe and Lyons found him. After meeting each other, Shupe and Lyons aided in constructing Harris’ home, which was a rude, rough log structure being fourteen feet square with puncheon floor, having blankets for doors and windows. Helping a fellow settler raise his new home was customary in those days. Conflicting stories cannot tell us the exact location of Mr. Harris’ log house – Otto Mischke said it was located in

the hollow there where now runs Milan Street and which since has been filled to twenty feet to establish the road. Others note that he settled above the Old Spring, overlooking the valley below, just west of the Commons area. We may never know the precise spot.

The Spring certainly proved to be very valuable for many purposes and is still flowing today. The Old Spring is as old as Beaver Creek itself, and its history flows from the beginnings of Amherst as a town through today and into the future. The old Brewery operated by Braun, which was a large sandstone building and associated underground cellars, by 1908 had “commenced to crumble.” It was begun by Wilhelm Braun about 1860 and closed in the early 1890s. The Brewery and Spring area were an important social hub of the downtown Amherst area. This spot was chosen for the brewery operations because of the Spring. Its cool, clear water fed this endeavor, and when its beer was in existence it was claimed to be the best of any brand on the market. Wagons from bottling companies came to collect the spring water and then sell it, and villagers collected it with jugs of all sorts. The Spring still flows today.

Just across from the Spring it must be noted, Fred Beesing settled, and in 1862 built his house there. When Milan Avenue was filled in



Down at Amherst's Old Spring.

and raised, in the early 1890s, this event threatened the old house and so as not to waste the sturdy structure, it was moved by horse and oxen up Milan Street Hill, down Cleveland Avenue to its present location, at 818 Cleveland Avenue. Moving structures was common in those days.

Also in 1818, the first funeral in Amherst took place. The Webb family settled temporarily near the Shupe family for safety and comfort. Their one child passed away at this time, and Jacob Shupe, being the kind soul he was, made a crude wooden coffin and carried it, containing the young body, to the Webb's property in the southern part of the township near what would become known as Whiskeyville. This was the first funeral and burial in Amherst. A small, simple ceremony was held, and this concluded the first burial of a pioneer settler in Amherst.

Over the years, the Shupe mills were used quite often in the development of the early community. During times of drought and low-flow of Beaver Creek, their operation was challenged, but the businesses were necessary to the sustainability of the community, and these early business ventures survived. Most of the early settlers of this area visited the mills and knew Jacob Shupe as an energetic and driven soul, always looking towards a new project or to better himself and the community

he helped construct, literally. The City today is built upon his initial achievements and endeavors. This should not be forgotten.

This block quote found within Oberlin College's President J. H. Fairchild's writing of the early history of Brownhelm, where he resided in those early years, describes well the early years that faced the Shupe family and how well they adapted to these adverse situations:

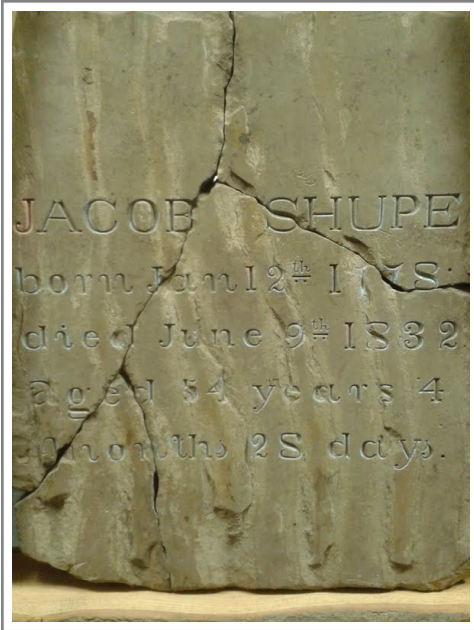
"It is not easy to realize the severity and simplicity of the first years in such a wilderness, and the rapidity of the progress made. No colonists in the world have surpassed these thrifty New Englanders in making their way from the forest to the farm with the many appurtenances of civilization. They cleared the ground, built their homes, produced the food, opened up the highways, and had energy enough without resting to begin work upon the schoolhouse and the church. It is not surprising that such communities should rear up and send forth earnest, practical, and successful men and women, eager for the important work to be done in the world."

Life at the Shupe Homestead was like many of those in the early years of the Western Reserve. They made their own candles and soap, dyed their own fabrics, and spun their own wool - their loom was often busy in the main room of the house. The women in the families would sit for long periods of time beside the spinning wheel to make clothing. Mrs. Shupe had skillful fingers, which she employed in the creation of blankets and linens. Even shoes were made



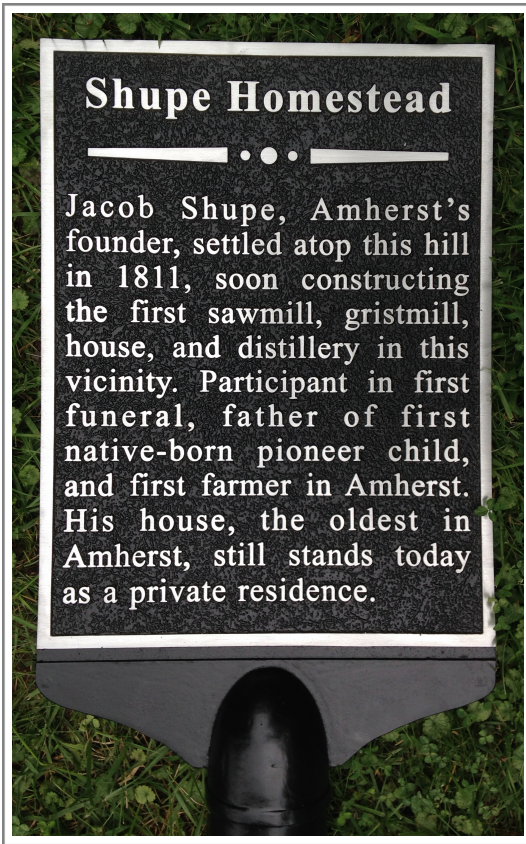
Beaver Creek at the Shupe property.

from the pelts of animals that were harvested from the woods. It was easier to make these things rather than try to travel to a trading post and purchase the items, some of which were expensive or difficult to obtain.



The original grey sandstone grave marker of Jacob Shupe as it rests at the New Indian Ridge Museum at the Historic Shupe Homestead.

On Saturday, June 9, 1832, the day started like many others that summer, with Jacob rising early to tend to his farmstead and work in his mills. He had been planning an extension to his sawmill. While working on this extension to his mill, a timber fell on him, and he was killed instantly. He was brought up to his house, and a funeral was held in his home, only about a thousand feet downstream from where he was killed. The house was filled with early settlers, now as mourners. His body was brought by wagon, in a wooden coffin, to the Cleveland Street Cemetery or “God’s Green Acre,” and there this first settler of Amherst, was laid to rest. A simple burial service was held there, grave-side. The town lost one of the most energetic and inspiring souls it would ever see. A modest stone of gray sandstone was erected to mark his gravesite, but it would be removed when his wife Catharine died, nearly forty years later. It was replaced with the stone that still stands there today, and the original stone was given to Isaac Shupe, who lived in Amherst at the time. This original stone sat in Isaac’s yard for many years and was later



Historical marker which was proudly raised by Col. Nahorn at the Shupe Homestead.

broken into four pieces. In 2000 it was given to Col. Nahorn for preservation at the New Indian Ridge Museum, located at Jacob Shupe's house.

Catharine Shupe would live in the original Homestead for several more years, and she spent her final ones with her son Isaac in his North Amherst house, which still stands today in the old Shupe allotment. She lived to be nearly ninety-one years old, which was an accomplishment for that time.

By 1874 Jacob Shupe's sawmill was retrofitted with a steam engine and can be noted on maps as a "steam sawmill." The reliability of the waterpower of Beaver Creek was diminishing, and it was becoming more of a "thunder shower mill." By fitting the operation with a steam engine, the power source was thus much more reliable. Shupe's mills were later operated by Ephraim Towne, then by a Dute, whose old farmstead was located on Cooper Foster, just east of the old Shupe place. The Dutes came here in 1834, settling originally up by the Lakeshore. Nine years later they moved south into Amherst near the Shupes. This Dute farmstead was later acquired by the Hollstein family. Nothing of this early 1843 homestead remains today other than photos and wood salvaged from the barns, now at the Shupe Homestead. Also, here near the intersection of N. Main St. and Cooper Foster Park Rd. was

once located the old cheese factory/creamery, there on top of that hill.

In 1992, the Nahorn family purchased the Shupe Homestead from the Engelhardt family, who had been stewards of the old place for the last 30 years. Historical restoration eventually commenced. Many original aspects remain, and these have been carefully cared for during restoration. It was at this time that Matt Nahorn began his lifelong research project, which continues today.



The Shupe house sets back from the main Road, "like some serene elder statesman, full of years and confidence."

The Jacob and Catharine 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.

This document, with historically accurate stories, anecdotes, and other researched 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 Town's early years; and the creation of their Homestead. This Homestead, which retains numerous original features and reminiscences of those early years, emits for

the visitor, a positive feeling upon entering the old house. Being in such a state of preservation, it ought to be a privilege for any visitor, to be in the walls of such an historic building. The importance here is local history. Local history gives way to national history. The Shupe Homestead is a gem of local history, with ties to our national history via the history of the Shupe family. And that early pioneer history is no more clearly preserved, presented, or better experienced than through the Shupe's small pioneer house atop Mt. Pleasant, providing a vivid glimpse into early local pioneer life.

Jacob Shupe's house still stands today, and it is a fine testament to his workmanship. With simply the necessary required maintenance, the house looks just as fine as it did when it was built some two hundred years ago, but with a few modern updates. Its use remains as a private residence. If continued to be cared for properly, it will be here another two hundred – if Jacob Shupe's spirit can continue to convince that those who live here are not necessarily the owners but rather are the caretakers of his house and Homestead.



Looking into the future, with a perspective from the past.