

## Time Line for the South Amherst, Ohio Area

- 1795 South Amherst as part of the Connecticut Western Reserve is sold to the Connecticut Land Company by the State of Connecticut for \$1.2 million. The funds are used to start the Connecticut Public School System.
- 1805 According to the Treaty of Fort Industry, Indians allow settlers in the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga River but retain hunting and fishing rights to the area..
- 1808 The first mail route from Cleveland to Maumee goes through the area on foot, then later by horseback.
- 1811 The South Amherst area is in Dover Township, Cuyahoga County with Cleveland as the county seat. T6-R18 (Township 6 in Range 18) is used to designate Amherst Township.
- 1813 During the War of 1812, a road is put in between Ridgeville and Florence, later to be named South Ridge Road (Rt. 113).
- 1814 First settlers arrive, Reuben Webb and his family. In 1815, he buys 433.33 acres in lots 1,91 & 100 and settles on lot 91 along South Ridge Road.
- 1815 First death in the township is a Webb child buried in the Webb family cemetery off of South Ridge Road. (The cemetery was moved in the 1960s to Evergreen Cemetery.)
- 1815 Stephen Cable and Chiliab Smith come to the area with their families. Smith builds the first tavern where settlers can stay until their cabins are finished.
- 1815 South Amherst is now in Vermilion Township, Huron County. The county seat is Huron.
- 1817 South Amherst is now in Black River Township, Huron County with Huron as the county seat.
- 1817 August 25: Aretus Gilmore and Orra Nichols, a foster daughter of Reuben Webb, are the first couple married in Amherst Township. The wedding is officiated by David Abbott, J.P.
- 1817 The first election in Black River Township is held in October. Reuben and Adoniran Webb, Steven and Samuel Cable, and Chileab Smith; all living along South Ridge Road; cast their ballot with 12 other Black River Township voters.
- 1818 Captain Eliphalet Redington and his family arrive and settle on South Ridge Road at the center of South Amherst. He builds the first sawmill here and, in 1820, builds the first taxable house in the South Amherst area.
- NOTE: Personal property taxes included horses, cows and houses. Log cabins were not taxed. When settlers arrived they met the taxman who collected license fees, land and personal property taxes.
- 1819 Jonas Stratton arrives in the South Amherst area.
- 1820 The first post office in what will be Amherst Township is established in South Amherst. The post office is named Brooks. Eliphalet Redington is Postmaster.
- 1820 The 1820 census shows 110 people from 18 families living along South Ridge Road. Some families that lived in the area have already moved away before this census.
- 1820's The first school on South Ridge Road is taught by Sophronia Blair.
- 1824 Lorain County is organized from parts of Huron, Cuyahoga, and Medina counties.
- NOTE: From 1769 to 1824, South Amherst was in two different states, one territory, and eight different counties.
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- 1824 The Methodist Episcopal Church of South Amherst is formed. The first church house was built in 1838 and is replaced with a new church in 1842 on land donated by Jonas and Lucy Stratton.
- 1824 The Brooks Post Office becomes the Black River P.O. E. Redington is still Postmaster.
- 1825 Russia Township is organized and removed from Black River Township.
- 1827 The first stage coach goes through South Amherst on a regular schedule between Cleveland and Lower Sandusky (Fremont).
- NOTE: Cross roads were frequently called "Corners." Webb's Corners was the intersection of Quarry Road and Rt. 113. It was later renamed Wyatt's Corners. Hurlburt's Corners was at Rts. 58 and 113 and is now referred to as Whiskeyville. Kirkbride's Corners was the crossing of Oberlin Road and Rt. 113 and Kendeigh's Corners was Middle Ridge Road and Quarry Road.
- 1830 By special act of the Ohio legislature, Black River Township is divided in two and a new township is formed. Jonas Stratton suggests the name of Amherst for the new township.
- NOTE: This is the first use of the name Amherst in the county. From 1830 into the 1900's, all residents of the township would say they were from Amherst.
- 1830 The Black River Post Office is renamed the Amherst Post Office with E. Redington as Postmaster.
- NOTE: During this time temperance societies were being formed because many men and women were strongly against drinking alcohol. These groups were often called Cold Water Societies.
- 1830 The Bryant family from England settles in the South Amherst area.
- 1830 The Mormon Church finds converts in the township and later the members leave for the west.
- 1832 Capt. Loring P. Harris and Sgt. Alva T. Johnson turn out members of the Second Company, Second Regiment, Second Brigade, Ninth Division of the Ohio militia for parade on September 7. Parades are a regular occurrence.
- 1833 Eliphalet Reddington, acting as land agent for the owners, sells land to Oberlin College. He becomes a college trustee, charter member and treasurer of Oberlin College 1834-5.



- 1834 The Congregational Church of South Amherst is organized. The first church is built in 1838-9.
- 1837 The Ohio Gazetteer describes Amherst as a post office on South Ridge Road. This road is called the Great East-West Daily Mail Route. South Amherst has one store, two taverns, and 15 or 20 dwellings in the area.
- 1847 Sandstone which had been quarried in the township since 1818 is now being quarried for large commercial sales.
- NOTE: The quarries south of Middle Ridge are pit quarries where stone is raised out of the ground. The Clough and Quigley quarries to the north were hillside quarries where stone is taken from the sides of stone hills up to 70 feet high.
- 1848 The telegraph lines between Buffalo and Detroit are put up along South Ridge Road by the Lake Erie Telegraph Co. The line was later buried and used up until the early 1990's.
- 1850's G.C. Prince builds and operates a steam sawmill in South Amherst.
- 1852 H.B. Bryant and his brother-in-law, H.D. Stratton, from S. Amherst organize the Bryant and Stratton Mercantile College in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1854 Dr. J.C. Bryant, brother of H.B., founds the Bryant and Stratton College in Buffalo, N.Y.
- 1857 South Amherst has two blacksmith shops, one store, one wagon shop, and 20 to 30 homes.
- 1860's The South Ridge Evangelical Association Church is on South Ridge Telegraph Road at the east Township line.
- 1868 The Cleveland Stone Company begins operations.
- 1874 There are six sandstone quarries being worked between Middle Ridge and South Ridge Roads.
- 1874 Eggleston, Braman & Co. start a cheese factory. By 1878 they are producing 200,000 lbs. of cheese and 35,000 lbs. of butter a year.
- 1874 South Amherst had a store, post office, blacksmith, harness shop, shoe shop, and carriage shop along with a steam sawmill and cheese factory and about 30 homes.
- 1886 Several quarry companies are incorporated into the Cleveland Stone Co.
- 1887 A two-story frame school building east of the Congregational Church is moved and a one-room stone school house is built in its place.
- 1888 The German Evangelical Church is organized. The church house is built in 1901. The church is now known as St. John's United Church.
- 1889 Wm. H. Bryant, owner of the Turkey Rock Quarry, received a patent for a channeling machine and begins manufacture of the machines.
- 1891 Another one-room stone school house is built; this one at Wyatt's Corners (Quarry and South Ridge Telegraph Road).
- 1891 The Swiss Lodge of South Amherst is organized as a fraternal group.
- 1895 The Knights and Ladies of Security Council #265 is instituted as a fraternal insurance group.
- 1896 A room is added to the rear of the 1887-built school for grades 5 through 8.
- 1901 The Amherst Post Office in South Amherst is discontinued.
- 1903 The Ohio Quarries Co. is organized. It employs 400 quarrymen and ships 6,000 rail carloads of stone a year out of the Buckeye Quarry.

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- 1906 The Lorain & Ashland Railroad (Ramsey) begins and operates until 1924.
- 1906 The Lorain & W. Virginia Railroad (Walbash) begins and operates until 1979. Both rail lines haul coal for the Lorain steel mill.
- 1910 An eight-room sandstone school house is built for grades 1 through 8.
- 1918 Four men from South Amherst die in World War I. They are Melvin Matson, Elmer Anderson, Henry Holle, and Dr. Ralph E. Powers.
- 1920 The village of South Amherst is incorporated. Fred Ruth serves as the first mayor.
- 1922 A sandstone addition to the eight-room school building is completed and is used as the high school.
- 1922 Quarry Road north of South Ridge Road is moved to the east so the Buckeye Quarry can be enlarged. The Buckeye Quarry becomes the deepest sandstone quarry in the world.
- 1923 South Amherst High School has the first High School graduation.
- 1933 The Nativity B.V.M. Catholic church is organized in South Amherst. An unused stone school house at Quarry Road and South Ridge Road is used as a church.
- 1934 A stone fire station is built next to the Village Hall.
- 1936 Class rooms and an auditorium/gym are added to the high school by the Federal Public Works Administration.
- 1936 South Amherst has 2 grocery stores, 2 restaurants, 1 meat market, 2 filling stations, 1 repair garage, 1 barber shop, 1 school house, 4 churches, and 2 foreign lodges (Swiss & Hungarian.).

Compiled by Frank A. Nesbit, April 1997  
Corrections & Additions Welcomed!